

PRINCIPLES OF RECIPROCAL AID BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM AND U.S.A.

The following Notes have been exchanged between the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America on the Principles Applying to Reciprocal Aid in the Prosecution of the War Against Aggression.

No.1.

Viscount Halifax to Mr. Cordell Hull.

British Embassy,
Washington, September 3, 1942.

In the United Nations Declaration of the 1st January, 1942 (i) the Contracting Governments pledged themselves to employ their full resources, military or economic, against those nations with which they are at war, and in the Agreement of the 23rd February, 1942 (ii), each Contracting Government undertook to provide the other with such articles, services, facilities or information, useful in the prosecution of their common war undertaking, as each may be in a position to supply. It is further the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that the general principle to be followed in providing mutual aid as set forth in the said Agreement of the 23rd February, 1942, is that the war production and the war resources of both Nations should be used by the armed forces of each, and of the other United Nations, in ways which most effectively utilise the available materials, manpower, production facilities and shipping space.

With a view, therefore, to supplementing Article 2 and Article 6 of the Agreement of the 23rd February, 1942, between our two Governments for the provision of reciprocal aid, I have the honour to set forth below the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the armed forces of the United States and the manner in which such aid will be correlated with the maintenance of those forces by the United States Government.

1. While each Government retains the right of final decision, in the light of its own potentialities and responsibilities, decisions as to the most effective use of resources shall, so far as possible, be made in common, pursuant to common plans for winning the war.

2. As to financing the provision of such aid, within the fields mentioned below, it is the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that the general principle to be applied, to the point at which the common war effort is most effective, is that as large a portion as possible of the articles and services which each Government may authorise to be provided to the other shall be in the form of reciprocal aid so that the need of each Government for the currency of the other may be reduced to a minimum. It is accordingly the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that the United States Government will provide, in accordance with the provisions of, and to the extent authorised under, the Act of the 11th March, 1941, the share of its war production made available to the United Kingdom. The Government of the United Kingdom will provide, on the same terms and as reciprocal aid so much of its war production made available to the United States as it authorises in accordance with the Agreement of the 23rd February, 1942.

3. The Government of the United Kingdom will provide the United States or its armed forces with the following types of assistance, as such reciprocal aid, when it is found that they can most effectively be procured in the United Kingdom or in the British Colonial Empire:-

(a) Military

- (a) Military equipment, munitions and military and naval stores.
- (b) Other supplies, materials, facilities and services for the United States forces, except for the pay and allowances of such forces, administrative expenses, and such local purchases as its official establishments may make other than through the official establishments of the Government of the United Kingdom as specified in paragraph 4.
- (c) Supplies, materials and services needed in the construction of military projects, tasks and similar capital works required for the common war effort in the United Kingdom or in the British Colonial Empire, except for the wages and salaries of United States citizens.
- (d) Supplies, materials and services needed in the construction of such military projects, tasks and capital works in territory other than the United Kingdom or the British Colonial Empire or territory of the United States to the extent that the United Kingdom or the British Colonial Empire is a more practicable source of supply than the United States or another of the United Nations.

4. The practical application of the principles formulated in this note, including the procedure by which requests for aid by either Government are made and acted upon, shall be worked out as occasion may require by agreement between the two Governments, acting when possible through their appropriate military or civilian administrative authorities. Requests by the United States Government for such aid will be presented by duly authorised authorities of the United States to official agencies of the United Kingdom which will be designated or established in London and in the areas where United States forces are located for the purpose of facilitating the provision of reciprocal aid.

5. It is the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that all such aid, as well as other aid, including information, received under Article 6 of the Agreement of the 23rd February, 1942, accepted by the President of the United States or his authorised representatives from the Government of the United Kingdom will be received as a benefit to the United States under the Act of the 11th March, 1941. In so far as circumstances will permit, appropriate record of aid received under this arrangement, except for miscellaneous facilities and services, will be kept by each Government.

If the Government of the United States concurs in the foregoing, I would suggest that the present note and your reply to that effect be regarded as placing on record the understanding of our two Governments in this matter.

I have, &c.

HALIFAX.

(i) Treaty Series No.5(1942). Cmd. 6388 (ii) Cmd. 6341.

No. 2.

Mr. Cordell Hull to Viscount Halifax.

Washington, September 3, 1942.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of to-day's date concerning the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the

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armed forces of the United States, the terms of which are as follows:-

(As in No. 1)

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the United States agrees with the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as expressed in that note, and that, in accordance with the suggestion contained therein, your note and this reply will be regarded as placing on record the understanding between our two Governments in this matter.

Accept, &c.

CORDELL HULL.

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DIVISION

No.2.

Mr. Cordell Hull to Viscount Halifax.

Washington, September 3rd, 1942.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of today's date concerning the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the armed forces of the United States of America.

In reply I wish to inform you that the Government of the United States agrees with the understanding of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as expressed in that note. In accordance with the suggestion contained therein your note and this reply will be regarded as placing on record the understanding between our two Governments in this matter.

This further integration and strengthening of our common war effort gives me great satisfaction.

Accept, &c

CORDELL HULL

FOREIGN OFFICE NEWS DEPARTMENT