

SWNCC 091 - TRINIDAD MISCELLANEOUS



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CONFIDENTIAL

091 Trinidad  
msa

P&O 680,4 (11 Jul 47)

Lt Col Gerety/2407/mhg

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State

30 JUL 1947

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to your letter of 11 July 1947, concerning the Trinidad Memorandum of Agreement, I feel that the results of the Trinidad Conference were highly satisfactory from the War Department standpoint and I am very much pleased to learn that the end achieved also met with your approval. In this connection, I am especially gratified that assistance of the representatives of the War Department was of value to you.

I consider that the terms of the Agreement constitute a most satisfactory solution of the problems in Trinidad which concern the Leased Naval and Air Bases Agreement. However, I should like to suggest that the first clause of paragraph 4, Form of Supplemental Lease, be changed to read as follows:

"In the event that the Government of the United States should terminate the right to the use of the area by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago or its assignees by reason of the license being revoked under the terms of this lease . . . . ."

I would appreciate being advised of the views of the United Kingdom concerning the Memorandum of Agreement when this information is available.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Howard C. Peterson

Secretary of War

AUG 5 1947



WAR & NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SWNCC

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- SWNCC SECRETARIAT
- State Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Army Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Navy Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ass't State Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ass't Army Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ass't Navy Member \_\_\_\_\_
  - Executive Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ass't Exec. Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
  - State Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
  - Army Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
  - Navy Adm. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_
  - File \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL

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091  
June

Op-35W-hed  
Serial  
0283735  
(20)44-2/HX

CONFIDENTIAL

6 JUN 1947

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to your letter SO 511.3454/1-2947 of February 12, 1947 concerning a supplementary lease on an area of land adjoining Edinburgh Field in Trinidad, W.I., which was requested in my letter of 10 September 1945.

This site was turned over to the U. S. Coast Guard for the operation of a high frequency direction finder station in connection with air/sea rescue operations in the Caribbean Sea. On May 5, 1947, the Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard, advised the Chief of Naval Operations that the uncertain future of high frequency direction finder stations for search and rescue purposes, particularly in the light of appropriation reductions, makes it improbable that the station in Trinidad will ever be reactivated by the Coast Guard, and that under the circumstances, it would appear that there is no justification for the Navy to seek to obtain a lease for the property. The Coast Guard will take steps to withdraw equipment from the existing station as soon as possible in order that it may be disposed of.

In view of the above, the Navy Department is no longer interested in obtaining a supplementary lease for the site in question. Arrangements are being made to return the site to the Government of Trinidad when the surplus property thereon has been disposed of by the GPO.

Sincerely yours,

SWNCC SECRETARIAT

3033

The Honorable  
The Secretary of  
Washington, D. C.

→ SWNCC

cc: Comdt. USCG  
SineLant  
ComCaribbean  
Com NUS Trinidad  
BuYards & Docks

Original by Capt. Gladney, Op-35W, X2078  
5-14-47 - H. C. Daugherty

- State Member
- Army Member
- Navy Member
- Ass't State Member
- Ass't Army Member
- Ass't Navy Member
- Executive Secretary
- Ass't Exec. Secretary
- State Adm. Assistant
- Army Adm. Assistant
- Navy Adm. Assistant
- File

JAMES FORRESTAL

JUN 10 1947



NAVY COORDINATING

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**SECRET**

Lt Col Gerety/2407/ee

The Honorable

4 - JUN 1947

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of 14 May 1947, concerning the proposed conference with representatives of the United Kingdom and the Colonial Government of Trinidad, to be held in Trinidad, B.W.I., on or about 12 June 1947. I am happy to learn that you share my opinion that this appears to be a propitious opportunity to settle the outstanding controversial issues concerning the Trinidad problem.

Since practically all of these issues can probably be resolved at the forthcoming conference, I agree that the United States delegates should be vested with the authority to initial, ad referendum, the conclusions of the conferees. Subsequently, you will doubtless desire to incorporate these findings into an exchange of notes. I have, therefore, designated Brigadier General John A. Sanford, Commanding General, 24th Composite Wing, San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the War Department delegate to this conference. In addition, I have designated Lieutenant Colonel John S. Gerety, Plans and Operations Division, War Department General Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Harmon Lamley, Headquarters, Army Air Forces, and Major William G. Downey, Judge Advocate General's Department, as special advisers to Brigadier General Sanford.


Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

~~SECRETARY~~

- State Member
- Army Member
- Navy Member
- Ass't State Member
- Ass't Army Member
- Ass't Navy Member
- Executive Secretary
- Ass't Exec. Secretary
- State Adm. Assistant
- Army Adm. Assistant
- Navy Adm. Assistant

JUN 5 - 1947



NAVY DEPARTMENT  
-MITTED

SWNNC ✓

3918

**SECRET**



The Secretary  
of the Navy

Serial 090P21  
(SC)L11-7/EF13  
Dec. 196761

*091 Trinidad*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**-4 MAR 1946**

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to your letter, BC 811.34544/1-1646, of 18 February 1946, in which you indicate that you intend to instruct the Consular Officer in Charge at Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I., not to take any official notice of statements by private individuals regarding the terms of the Base Lease Agreement, but to continue to keep this Government informed of the general trend of public opinion in this regard.

The Navy Department fully concurs in the proposed instructions, and considers that any statements in the nature of a reaffirmation of the Base Lease Agreement should be confined to a governmental level.

Sincerely yours,

**JAMES FORRESTAL**

Hon. James P. Byrnes,  
Secretary of State.

CC: SWNCC Secretariat

**MAR 28 1946**



STATE WAR & NAVY COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE

2362

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Colonel A. D. Reid	<i>ADR</i>
Commo. B. L. Austin	<i>BA</i>
Mr. R. E. Cox	-----
Colonel Schulgen	-----
Comdr. Richardson	<i>WR</i>
Mr. H. W. Moseley	-----
Mr. J. P. Gardiner	-----
Lt. Col. V. F. Field	-----
Major H. W. Karbel	-----
1st Lt. T. W. Weiner	-----
Ens. F. Whiteside	-----
File	-----



The Secretary of  
the Navy

Serial 0114P21  
(SC)N28-8

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*091 Trinidad*

SWNCC	
Colonel A. D. Roi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commo. B. L. Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. R. E. Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>
Colonel Schulgen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Richardson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. E. W. Moseloy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. J. P. Gardiner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lt. Col. V. F. Field	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major H. W. Karbel	<input type="checkbox"/>
1st Lt. W. Weiner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. F. Whiteside	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sir:

13 DEC 1945

Reference is made to the letter BC 011.34544/10-145 of 29 October 1945 enclosing a copy of a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary, Trinidad, stating that the agreement between the Government of Trinidad and the Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd., has been concluded.

It is noted that the Acting Colonial Secretary requests that the United States authorities give assurance that adequate facilities for the operation of the Company's services will continue to be afforded and that, in the event of the complete exclusion of the Company from the Leased Area being contemplated at any time, adequate notice will be given to the Trinidad Government by the United States authorities so as to afford an opportunity for prior consultation.

As stated in the letter of 9 February 1945 from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of State, the Navy Department considers it inadvisable to give the Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd. any greater protection than that provided in the Bases Agreement.

Respectfully,

**JAMES FORRESTAL**

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

cc: Com IO  
ComNOB, Trinidad  
JAG  
SWNCC

Prepared by Lt. Comdr. Farnum  
ACNO (Admin.) Op-21  
30 Nov. '45 - D. O. Purnell

(6)



The Secretary  
of the Navy

Serial 030P21  
(SC)JJ56

*Handwritten:* *initials*  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

SWNCC	
Colonel A. D. Reid	<i>add</i>
Commo. B. L. Austin	<i>add</i>
Mr. R. E. Cox	<i>was</i>
Colonel Schulgen	-----
Comdr. Richardson	-----
Mr. H. W. Moseley	-----
Mr. J. P. Gardiner	-----
Lt. Col. V. F. Field	-----
Major H. W. Karbel	-----
1st Lt. T. W. Weiner	----- 3.0
Ens. F. Whiteside	-----

3.0 JAN 1946

Reference is made to the letter, BC 811.34544/10-3045 of 19 November 1945, and to the letter, BC 811.34544/12-345 of 13 December 1945, from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Navy concerning the feeding of non-American personnel employed on the United States bases in Newfoundland.

There are no messes operating at the Naval Operating Base, Bermuda, for other than members of the United States forces or civilian employees of the United States who are nationals of the United States and employed on the base. Under certain emergency operations, however, such as on tugs and floating derricks, it has been necessary at times to feed non-American employees on a non-profit basis for one or more meals.

Information has been received from the Commander, Naval Operating Base, Trinidad, that non-American personnel employed at the Naval Operating Base are furnished meals from duty-free supplies as follows:

- (a) One hundred and eight employees of the Native Guard Force of the Naval Operating Base are provided messing facilities on the Base. Meals are furnished on a non-profit basis.
- (b) Thirty-six non-American employees of the Commissioned Officers' Mess are furnished meals by the Mess on the Base on a non-profit basis.
- (c) Fifty-three household servants employed by officers at their quarters are fed at such quarters by their respective employers.
- (d) In addition to the foregoing, four non-American laborers, employed by the U. S. Army at Carlsen Field, are fed by the Navy in the General Mess at Carlsen Field on a non-profit basis.

FEB 7 1946 The Navy Department's position is, as it has been heretofore, that under Article XIV(1)(a) of the Base Lease Agreement foodstuffs imported into Newfoundland for consumption at messes run on a non-profit basis by the military or naval authorities or by contractors for employees engaged in work on the American bases are free from import duties regardless of the nationality of the employees and of whether the food is sold to them on a non-profit basis or furnished gratuitously.



STATE WAR & NAVY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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The Secretary  
of the Navy

Serial OSOP21  
(SC)JJ56

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Navy Department, however, is instructing the Commander, Naval Operating Base at Argentina, to keep to a minimum the furnishing of meals from duty-free stocks to non-American personnel employed on the base.

Respectfully,

**JAMES FORRESTAL**

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

CC: ✓SWNCC Secretariat  
ComNOB Argentina  
War Dept.  
JAG  
BuSanda



The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 438921  
Op-21-1/dop  
10 Dec. 1945

091 Trinidad

SWNCC	
DOL. McC	HY
COMDR. RICHARDSON	
MR. R. E. COX	
LT. COL. PENNOYER	
LT. <del>COMDR.</del> SILFUSS	
MR. H. W. MEELEY	
MR. J. P. BARDINER	
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER	
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD	
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER	
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL	
ENS. F. WHITESIDE	
FILE	

Sir:

Reference is made to the letter RC 811.34544/8-1145 of 21 October 1945 from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Navy concerning the payment of harbor and quay dues in connection with the arrival or departure of vessels carrying cargo to or from the leased bases in Trinidad.

The Navy Department is of the opinion that the United States claim under the Lend Lease Agreement for exemption from the payment of harbor dues by War Shipping Administration vessels should be limited to those which load or discharge full or part cargoes at the leased areas, and to those which discharge full military cargoes at Trinidad Government docks.

The Navy Department concurs in the view that there appears to be no ground under the Lend Lease Agreement for continuing the suspension of the payment of harbor dues on War Shipping Administration tankers loading Army and Navy Petroleum Board cargo at the Trinidad oilfields for other ports. It appears, however, that the use of harbor facilities by tankers carrying petroleum for use in the prosecution of the war should be granted without charge by the Trinidad Government to the War Shipping Administration as has been done generally throughout the world. It is considered, however, that this is a matter for determination by the Department of State and the War Shipping Administration.

It is the opinion of the Navy Department that the changes in the certificate recommended in the memorandum of 24 April 1945 from Captain T. C. Hagan, Navy Department to the Chief, Division of British Commonwealth Affairs, Department of State, are desirable in order not to prejudice the rights of the United States.

Respectfully,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Originated by Lt. Cdr. Furness (Op-2111)  
AGNO (Admin.) 10 Dec. '45 - D. G. Furnell

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

cc: War Dept.  
Com 10  
ComNAV Trinidad  
Op-216  
2133C

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Y

The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 0204613  
(SC)A4-2/NX  
Op-13-1-E/bbb  
27 August 1945

# CONFIDENTIAL

Sir:

Reference is made to the letter BC 811.34544/6-445 of 18 June 1945 from the Acting Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Navy, in which it is stated that the area of land adjoining the north side of Edinburgh Field, which the Navy has occupied under the provisions of the Defense Regulations, has now been acquired by the Crown, and that any proposal for the continued use of the site beyond the period provided by the Defense Regulations will be a matter of negotiation with the Government of Trinidad.

The direction finder station located on the site in question has been transferred to the Coast Guard for use in connection with Air/Sea Rescue operations in the Caribbean area. The responsibility for this activity has been delegated by the Navy to the Coast Guard as an extension of its permanent functions. Because of the operational requirements of the direction finder service in the Caribbean, the Coast Guard desires to retain the station on the site north of Edinburgh Field for operation on a permanent basis.

It is requested, therefore, that the Department of State make appropriate representations to the Government of Trinidad for occupancy of the 184 areas adjoining the north side of Edinburgh Field for the remainder of the 99-year period covered by the Base Lease Agreement, for use as the site of a direction finder station to be operated by the Coast Guard.

Respectfully,

The Honorable,  
The Secretary of State.

cc: CG  
ComNOB Trinidad  
Com 10  
SWNCC

COL. McCARTHY	SWNCC	<i>[Signature]</i>
COMDR. RICHARDSON		<i>[Signature]</i>
MR. R. E. COX		<i>[Signature]</i>
LT. COL. PENNOYER		<i>[Signature]</i>
Prepared by: <i>[Signature]</i>		
ET. COMDR. KEILFUSS	Central Division	<i>[Signature]</i>
MR. H. W. MOSELEY	Operations	<i>[Signature]</i>
MR. J. P. GARDNER		<i>[Signature]</i>
LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER		<i>[Signature]</i>
LT. COL. V. F. FIELD		<i>[Signature]</i>
MAJOR W. E. GUNTHER		<i>[Signature]</i>
1ST LT. E. SPITTALL		<i>[Signature]</i>
ENS. F. WHITESIDE		<i>[Signature]</i>
FILE		<i>[Signature]</i>

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The Secretary of the Navy  
 Serial 0208413  
 (SC)H2-8  
 Op-13-1E/dop  
 7 Sept. '45

*091 Trinidad*

*APU  
 JCB  
 JFM  
 JHM  
 NC*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

20 SEP 1945

Sir:

Early in 1942 arrangements were made with the Trinidad Government ~~by~~ the Department of State for the establishment by the United States Coast Guard of certain aids to navigation in the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad, inasmuch as present naval postwar plans provide for maintaining Trinidad as an active naval operating and air base, the Navy Department desires that the operation of these lights be continued in the postwar period for the safety of fleet operations in this area.

The following lights were established on sites outside the area leased by the United States for 99 years with the understanding that the Trinidad Government would have the option to purchase and maintain the lights after the war:

- (a) Cronstadt Island Light on south center of Island, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 39' 17''$  N., Long.  $61^{\circ} 37' 50''$  W.
- (b) Gaspar Grande North Light, on northwest end of Island, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 39' 59''$  N., Long  $61^{\circ} 38' 55''$  W.
- (c) Gaspart Grande South Light, on southwest side of Island, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 39' 25''$  N., Long.  $61^{\circ} 39' 06''$  W.
- (d) Teteron Rock Light on Teteron Rock, in Lat.  $10^{\circ} 40' 45''$  N., Long.  $61^{\circ} 40' 02''$  W.
- (e) Point De Cabras Light in position Lat.  $10^{\circ} 40' 56''$  N., Long.  $61^{\circ} 43' 16''$  W.

It is requested that the Department of State ascertain from the Trinidad Government whether it now wishes to take up its option to purchase and maintain these lights. If the Trinidad Government does not wish to acquire the lights, it is requested that arrangements be made for the United States Coast Guard to continue to maintain the lights as long as operations in that area require their use.

Respectfully,

**JAMES FORRESTAL**

The Honorable,  
 The Secretary of State.

cc: USCG ComNOB, Trinidad  
 Com 10 Cominch  
 ✓ SWNCC Op-30

Prepared by Lt. Farnum, Central Div.,  
 Operations

*(2)*



STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE

STATE

W Mr. Cox  
W Mr. Moseley  
W Mr. Gardiner

WAR

W Col. Whitson  
W Col. McCerthy  
W Major Field  
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NAVY

W Comdr. Nutting  
W Comdr. Richardson  
W Lt. Comdr. Rockefeller  
W Lt. Geilfuss  
W Ens. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Note  
\_\_\_\_ Circulate  
\_\_\_\_ File

REMARKS:

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The Secretary of the Navy

Serial 013613  
(SC)N1-13/ND10  
Op-13-1-E/sld

**CONFIDENTIAL**

17 February 1945

Sir:

Reference is made to the letter BC 811.34544/12-544, of 14 December 1944, from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Navy, enclosing a revised draft lease between the Government of Trinidad and the Bethlehem Steel Company.

The Navy Department considers that the two modifications given below should be made in the lease in order to protect the interests of the Navy in Trinidad:

- (a) In Clause 2 (9), line 1, change "may" to "shall"; in line 13, delete the word "substantially"; in the last line after "operating", insert "thereto or".
- (b) In Clause 2 (27), line 1, after "leased area" add "or the surrounding waters"; in line 4, after "operating", insert "thereto or"; add the following new sentence to the Clause: "The lessee shall comply in all respects with all rules and regulations promulgated by the Commanding Officer of the United States Naval Operating Base in respect to any area which is designated as a Fleet Anchorage Area."

It is considered also that the exchange of notes between the United States Government and the British Government on this matter should be made before the lease is consummated, and that in the exchange of notes a clear delineation should be made of the reservations under which Gasparillo Island is excised conditionally from the leased area. The Navy Department considers that the following points should be included in the exchange of notes:

- (a) Recognize the lease of the island for ninety-nine years to the United States and that its exercise as to Gasparillo and Gasparillo Islet is only held in abeyance during such time as the United States shall not require them.
- (b) Recognize that Gasparillo Island is within the United States Fleet Anchorage area recently declared and published, and that as such is subject to the regulations and rules promulgated by the Commander, Naval Operating Base, Trinidad, at any time.

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# CONFIDENTIAL

- (c) Recognize that any use of the island shall be at all times subject to the approval of the United States and to review and withdrawal of such approval at any time that changed circumstances indicate the necessity therefor.
- (d) Recognize the absolute right of the United States to abate any operation not approved which in the opinion of the Navy Department interferes with the use or operation of the naval base.
- (e) Recognize that any movement of ships and any harbor rules or orders of the Harbor Master within or applying to the fleet anchorage shall at all times be subject to regulations or orders which the commanding officer of the naval base shall make; this to include the placing of buoys, declaration of channels and pilotage.
- (f) Recognize that no license for reclaiming land, dredging or filling on or around Gasparillo Island shall be issued to Bethlehem Steel unless approved by the United States.
- (g) Recognize the right of the United States to take the land without compensation for the lease as agreed with Bethlehem Steel Company.
- (h) Recognize the right of vessels of the United States to use the Island and all facilities thereon without compensation in any emergency determined as such by the commanding officer of the naval base.
- (i) Recognize that no use of the island or surrounding waters which in any way interferes with the operations of the United States naval base operating thereto or therefrom shall be permitted.

Respectfully,

The Honorable,

The Secretary of State.

cc: ComNOB Trinidad  
JAG  
BuDocks  
Miss Borjes (State Dept.)  
SWNCC

Prepared by: Lt. Farnum, Central Div.,  
Operations.