

ARRANGEMENT *between Great Britain and France, respecting the Independence of the New Hebrides Group. January—February, 1878.\**

No. 1.—*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

SIR,

*Foreign Office, February 1, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a communication received from the French Ambassador at this Court, calling attention to certain articles which have recently appeared in the Australian newspapers, advocating the annexation of the islands of the New Hebrides to the British Crown, and stating that, although the French Government do not attach any great importance to this movement in favour of annexation, still, as they themselves have no intentions with regard to this group, they would be glad to receive an assurance to this effect from Her Majesty's Government.

I am now to state that Lord Derby proposes, with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, to inform the French Ambassador, in reply to his Excellency's communication, that Her Majesty's Government have no intention of proposing any measures to Parliament with a view of changing the condition of independence which the New Hebrides Islands now enjoy.

*W. R. Malcolm, Esq.*

I am, &c.,

T. V. LISTER.

(*Inclosure.*)

M. LE COMTE,

*Ambassade de France, le 18 Janvier, 1878.*

IL s'est établi entre l'île de Nouvelle Calédonie et le groupe des Nouvelles Hébrides des rapports d'ordre commercial qui se sont rapidement développés en raison de leur voisinage et qui présentent pour la prospérité de notre établissement colonial une importance considérable.

Mon Gouvernement, qui attache beaucoup de prix à ce que ces relations continuent sur le même pied, se préoccupe dans une certaine mesure d'un mouvement d'opinion qui se serait produit en Australie dans ce dernier temps. Les journaux de ce pays auraient dénoncé l'intention qu'ils attribuent à la France de réunir les Nouvelles Hébrides à ses possessions et demanderaient qu'afin de prévenir cette éventualité l'archipel dont il s'agit fût placé sous la souveraineté de la Couronne d'Angleterre.

\* Laid before Parliament by the Colonial Office in 1884, with "Correspondence respecting New Guinea and other Islands, and the Convention at Sydney of the Representatives of the Australasian Colonies."

Sans attacher à ce mouvement de l'opinion une très-grande importance, mon Gouvernement tient toutefois à déclarer que pour ce qui le concerne il n'a pas le projet de porter atteinte à l'indépendance des Nouvelles Hébrides, et il serait heureux de savoir que de son côté le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté est également disposé à la respecter. Veuillez, &c.,  
*S.E. le Comte de Derby.* D'HARCOURT.

No. 2.—*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*

SIR, *Downing Street, February 20, 1878.*  
 IN reply to your letter of the 1st instant, I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acquaint you that he concurs in the terms of the reply which the Earl of Derby proposes to give to the inquiry of the French Ambassador at this Court with reference to the intentions of Her Majesty's Government in respect of the New Hebrides group.  
 I am, &c.,  
*T. V. Lister, Esq.* W. R. MALCOLM.

FORMS of Statements to be furnished by British Subjects born in France who claim British Nationality, and of Certificates delivered to them accordingly.\* November 4, 1878.

(1.) *Statement to be made by a British Subject whose Father was born in France, or in any other Country out of the British Dominions.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—  
 1. I am the son of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ The certificate annexed hereto and marked A is the certificate of the marriage of the said \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the certificate annexed hereto and marked B is the certificate of my birth.  
 2. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was the son of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ The certificate annexed hereto and marked C is the certificate of the marriage of the said \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the certificate annexed hereto and marked D is the certificate of the birth of the said \_\_\_\_\_

\* See French Circular. Page 914.

3. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was a natural-born British subject by reason of having been born in Her Majesty's dominions. The certificate annexed hereto and marked E is the certificate of the birth of the said \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Neither I nor any of my parents or grandparents have done or suffered anything whereby I have become deprived of my nationality as a natural-born British subject.

(2.) *Statement to be made by a British Subject whose Father was born in the British Dominions.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

1. I am the son of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

The certificate annexed hereto and marked A is the certificate of the marriage of the said \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and the certificate annexed hereto and marked B is the certificate of my birth.

2. The said \_\_\_\_\_ was a natural-born British subject by reason of having been born within Her Britannic Majesty's dominions. The certificate annexed hereto and marked C is the certificate of the birth of the said \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Neither I nor my father have done or suffered anything whereby I have become deprived of my nationality as a natural-born British subject.

(3.) *Form of Certificate for a British Subject whose Father was born in France or in any other Country out of the British Dominions.*

I hereby certify that L. \_\_\_\_\_ has satisfied me—

1. That his nationality by origin is that of a natural-born British subject, by virtue of M., \_\_\_\_\_ his paternal grandfather, having been a natural-born British subject.

2. That the said L. \_\_\_\_\_ still preserves such nationality.

A.B., *one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.*

Home Office, Whitehall,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

18 . . . . .

I certify the above to be the signature of A.B.,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

C.D., *Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*  
or E.F., *Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*

Foreign Office, the  
day of 18 .

Vu pour la légalisation de la signature ci-dessus de C.D.,  
Principal Secrétaire d'État de Sa  
Majesté Britannique au Département des Affaires Étrangères  
(ou de E.F., Sous-Secrétaire d'État au  
Département des Affaires Étrangères).

Fait à , le 18 .

*Le Consul*  
*Le Vice-Consul de la Grande Bretagne.*  
*L'Agent Consulaire.*

G.H.

(Traduction.)

Je certifie par les présentes que L.  
m'a prouvé:—

1. Que sa nationalité d'origine est celle de sujet Britannique,  
son grand père paternel M. étant  
né sujet Britannique.

2. Que le dit L. conserve  
encore cette nationalité.

A.B., *l'un des Principaux Secrétaires d'Etat*  
*de Sa Majesté Britannique.*

Ministère de l'Intérieur,  
Whitehall, le , 18 .

Pour traduction conforme à l'original.

*Le Consul*  
*Le Vice-Consul de la Grande Bretagne.*  
*L'Agent Consulaire.*

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M., son père, étant né sujet Britannique.
2. Que le dit L. conserve  
encore cette nationalité.

A.B., *l'un des Principaux Secrétaires d'État de Sa Majesté Britannique.*

Ministère de l'Intérieur,  
Whitehall, le 18 ,

Pour traduction conforme à l'original.

*Le Consul*  
*Le Vice-Consul de la Grande Bretagne.*  
*L'Agent Consulaire*

G.H.

Fait à , le 18 .