

NEW HEBRIDES
BRITISH SERVICE GAZETTE

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I have the honour to refer to recent discussions concerning the operation and powers of the Representative Assembly in the New Hebrides, and to propose that the schedule to the Exchange of Notes of 15 September 1977 between the Governments of the French Republic and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as modified by the Exchange of Notes of 18 September 1979, shall be as follows :

1. Article 13 shall be replaced by the following :

1. The Assembly shall hold two ordinary sessions each year one of which shall be devoted to examining the Budget and shall end not later than 31 December. However, the date by which the examination of the budget for 1980 must be completed shall be 30 April 1980.
2. Ordinary sessions shall be convened by the chairman of the Assembly. The Assembly shall prescribe annually the opening dates and the duration of these sessions. The duration of each session shall not exceed two months. Each session shall be opened and closed by order of the chairman. If the Assembly has not fixed the date of the opening of an ordinary session, this date shall be decided by the chairman after consulting the Council of Ministers.

2. Article 14 shall be replaced by the following :

The Assembly shall meet in extraordinary session either at the written request of at least two-thirds of all its members submitted to the chairman of the Assembly or at the request of the Council of Ministers, or upon the initiative of the Chief Minister. Extraordinary sessions shall be convened, opened and closed by order of the chairman of the Assembly who shall prescribe the agenda thereof. In exceptional circumstances and notably of serious disorder, the Resident Commissioners may convene an extraordinary session of the Assembly by a joint decision which shall determine the date and the agenda. Such a session shall also be closed by decision of the Resident Commissioners. The duration of each extraordinary session shall not exceed one month.

3. Article 19 shall be amended in paragraph 1 by substituting the words "High Commissioners" the words "Resident Commissioners". Paragraph 2 of Article 19 shall be deleted.
4. Article 23 shall be amended by replacing the words "Articles 25 and 26" by the words "Article 25".

5. Article 25 shall be replaced by the following :

"The decisions of the Assembly in the matters of penal, civil, and commercial legislation and of control of immigration shall be subject to the approval of the Resident Commissioners".

6. Article 26 shall be deleted.

7. Paragraph 1 of Article 28 shall be replaced by the following:

"Debates on matters that fall within the competence of the Representative Assembly may be initiated either by members of the Assembly or by the Council of Ministers".

8. Article 29 shall be deleted.

9. In Article 30, the last sentence of paragraph 1 shall be deleted.

10. Articles 31 and 39 shall be deleted.

11. In Article 40 the words "High Commissioners" shall be replaced by the words "Resident Commissioners" and the words "Joint Court" by the words " Supreme Court".

If the foregoing also represents the understanding of the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as to the terms of the agreement that our two Governments have reached, I have the honour to propose that this note and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of your reply."

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the foregoing proposals are acceptable to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which approves the suggestion of your excellency that your note and the present reply constitute an agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force this day.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to your excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Hibbert.