



Headquarters British Troops in Iceland May 20th 1942, bréf til Geirs G. Zoëga

Bjarni Benediktsson – Headquarters British Troops in Iceland May 20th 1942, bréf til Geirs G. Zoëga

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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Headquarters
British Troops in Iceland
May 20th, 1942.

Dear Sir,

1. With reference to the meeting which took place on the aerodrome on 18.3.42 between Mr. Ólafur Thors, then Minister for Foreign Affairs and yourself, with Air Commodore Primrose and Brigadier Bliss, I write to request you to approach your Government with a view to the execution of an agreement between the Icelandic and British Governments on the question of Reykjavík Aerodrome.

2. As you will remember you stated in your letter dated 14.11.40 that your Government agreed to acquire the land within the blue line on the attached plan, which was then thought to be the total area required for the aerodrome, and to permit of its occupation by the British Forces without charge. The area required for occupation has however been very considerably increased and may require to be still further increased, partly for military reasons, but also largely owing to the very rapid development of the purely civil aspect of aviation itself. It appears to me to be necessary to regularize the position and that it is desirable that this should be done by formal agreement.

3. I therefore propose that an agreement should be entered into on the lines of the Heads of Agreement set out in the attached paper, which have been based on the assumption that it is reasonable for the Icelandic Government firstly:-

To provide free of charge to the British Government all land which will eventually be required as a civilian aerodrome after the war, the British Government however providing the land required to meet temporary military necessities

and secondly:-

To take over from the British Government at the end of the war all land consequently acquired by them and any houses similarly acquired but which it has not been found necessary to demolish and to refund their cost to the British Government.

4. In this connection I would mention that there are at present three houses which may come into this class viz:- the buildings marked 13 (Haukland), 15 (Breiðaból) and 16 (Pig Farm) etc., but that there will very probably be many more.

5. With reference to clause 2 of the suggested Heads of Agreement, it will be necessary to establish the area required for civil aviation purposes, and I suggest that in order to do so, a Committee be constituted forthwith which might consist of two persons nominated by the Icelandic Government, and of the A.O.C. and one other to represent the British Government. The position of the brown line shown on the attached plan is only approximately correct.

6. It will also be necessary to arrange for representatives of the

Icelandic Government to act with the British Hirings Dept in valuing land and houses acquired by the British Forces, so that the amount of the refund to be made at the end of the war under clauses 3 and 9 may be settled now or at the time of acquisition of further land etc., and not left until the end of the war. I shall be glad of your suggestions as to the best way of arranging for this both now and in the future.

I shall be away till the 25th, but suggest a meeting should be held as soon as possible thereafter to go further into this matter.

I shall in due course suggest that an agreement on similar lines be entered into for Kaldabarnes.

Lt.Col.,
D.A.A. & Q.M.G. for
Brigadier,
Commanding British Troops in Iceland.

Hr. G.G. Zoëga
State Engineer