



Heads of Agreement between the Icelandic and British Governments on the subject of Reykjavík Aerodrome, (effect back to 14.11.40)

Bjarni Benediktsson – Heads of Agreement between the Icelandic and British Governments on the
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Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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Heads of Agreement between the Icelandic and British Governments
on the subject of Reykjavík Aerodrome

1. Agreement to have retrospective effect back to 14.11.40
2. The Icelandic Government to arrange for the British Forces to have the use for the period of the war, of all the land included in the brown line on the attached plan, this being that portion of the land now occupied purely for civil aviation purposes, and to be responsible for the removal of such houses thereon or adjoining as it is agreed to be necessary to demolish for safety reasons.
3. The Icelandic Government consequently to refund to the British Government at the end of the war, all monies paid out by the latter for the acquisition of land and for the acquisition, demolition and re-erection the houses in question, particulars of which are to be set forth in an agreed schedule. The Icelandic Government to be similarly responsible for the provision of any land or demolition of any houses which it may be hereafter agreed are similarly necessary for purely civil aviation purposes.
4. The Icelandic Government to prohibit, for the period of the war, access to or the erection of any building on the area bounded by the red line, except by permission of the British Forces, this being the area now occupied for military reasons connected with the aerodrome, but the British Government to defray the cost of compensation (if any) to individuals for these purposes.
5. The Icelandic Government similarly to prohibit for the period of the war, access to or building on any further area which may be required by the British Forces for military reasons from time to time, the probable maximum extent of which is indicated by the green lines on the plan, subject however to similar payments by the British Government, and to the British Forces arranging for responsible persons to have access under suitable control to the Shell Oil Depot in connexion with that Company's commercial activities.
6. The Icelandic Government also to arrange, in the event of the British Forces being unable to make suitable arrangement with the owners concerned, for the compulsory acquisition at the expense of the British Government of land or houses and for any other action which may be required as a result of paragraph 5 above, and equally in the area bounded by the yellow line, being the area which, in the event of the extension of the aerodrome over the areas bounded by the green lines, will be temporarily unfit for occupation by civilians.
7. The British Government to agree to permit use of the aerodrome, subject only to necessary control by R.A.F. Station Commander, by any Icelandic aircraft licenced by the Icelandic Government, without charge, except for any out of pocket expenses directly caused by the user.
8. The British Government to agree to hand back to the Icelandic Government at the end of the war, the whole of the land occupied by them within the brown line, and ~~any~~ Icelandic Government land

occupied by them, within the red, green or yellow lines, together with the runways, roads, water supply, electric light and drainage mains as then existing thereon, but reserving the right to remove, or sell for removal, all buildings erected by them or by the U.S. Forces other than the Control Tower and garage for fire tender and ambulance. The British Government to leave the sites of buildings removed by them clean and free from rubbish, but not to be required to remove concrete floors, foundations and other work below ground level.

9. The Icelandic Government to take possession at the end of the war of all land that may have been acquired by the British Government within any of the areas mentioned above and of all houses which have been similarly acquired but have not been demolished and to refund to the British Government the cost thereof, fair wear and tear and delapidations excepted.

10. The Icelandic Government to agree then to grant to any person or company, to whom the British Government may transfer their rights in the ownership of, the petrol tanks and pipe lines erected by them, a lease and way-leave at a suitable ground rent, to be agreed by arbitration if necessary.

11. For the purpose of this agreement the war to be deemed to end 6 months after the signature of a Treaty of peace between Great Britain and Germany, or at such earlier date as can be agreed to hereafter by the British Government in view of the military and political situation then existing.

12. The British Government to have the right to transfer to the American Government its rights and liabilities under this agreement up to the end of the war.