

No. 8192

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**VENEZUELA**  
**and**  
**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Agreement to resolve the controversy over the frontier  
between Venezuela and British Guiana. Signed at  
Geneva, on 17 February 1966**

*Official texts : Spanish and English.*

*Registered by Venezuela on 5 May 1966.*

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**VENEZUELA**  
**et**  
**ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE**  
**ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Accord tendant à régler le différend relatif à la frontière  
entre le Venezuela et la Guyane britannique. Signé à  
Genève, le 17 février 1966**

*Textes officiels espagnol et anglais.*

*Enregistré par le Venezuela le 5 mai 1966.*

No. 8192. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> TO RESOLVE THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND OVER THE FRONTIER BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND BRITISH GUIANA. SIGNED AT GENEVA, ON 17 FEBRUARY 1966

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The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Government of British Guiana, and the Government of Venezuela ;

Taking into account the forthcoming independence of British Guiana ;

Recognising that closer cooperation between British Guiana and Venezuela could bring benefit to both countries ;

Convinced that any outstanding controversy between the United Kingdom and British Guiana on the one hand and Venezuela on the other would prejudice the furtherance of such cooperation and should therefore be amicably resolved in a manner acceptable to both parties ;

In conformity with the agenda that was agreed for the governmental conversations concerning the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom over the frontier with British Guiana, in accordance with the joint communiqué of 7 November, 1963, have reached the following agreement to resolve the present controversy :

*Article I*

A Mixed Commission shall be established with the task of seeking satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which has arisen as the result of the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award of 1899<sup>2</sup> about the frontier between British Guiana and Venezuela is null and void.

*Article II*

(1) Within two months of the entry into force of this Agreement, two representatives shall be appointed to the Mixed Commission by the Government of British Guiana and two by the Government of Venezuela.

(2) The Government appointing a representative may at any time replace him, and shall do so immediately should one or both of its representatives be unable to act through illness or death or any other cause.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 17 February 1966, the date of signature, in accordance with article VII.

<sup>2</sup> *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 92, p. 160 (see also United Kingdom : *Treaty Series No. 5* (1897), C. 8439, for text of Treaty of 2 February 1897).

(3) The Mixed Commission may by agreement between the representatives appoint experts to assist the Mixed Commission, either generally or in relation to any individual matter under consideration by the Mixed Commission.

### *Article III*

The Mixed Commission shall present interim reports at intervals of six months from the date of its first meeting.

### *Article IV*

(1) If, within a period of four years from the date of this Agreement, the Mixed Commission should not have arrived at a full agreement for the solution of the controversy it shall, in its final report, refer to the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela any outstanding questions. Those Governments shall without delay choose one of the means of peaceful settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(2) If, within three months of receiving the final report, the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela should not have reached agreement regarding the choice of one of the means of settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, they shall refer the decision as to the means of settlement to an appropriate international organ upon which they both agree or, failing agreement on this point, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. If the means so chosen do not lead to a solution of the controversy, the said organ or, as the case may be, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall choose another of the means stipulated in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, and so on until the controversy has been resolved or until all the means of peaceful settlement there contemplated have been exhausted.

### *Article V*

(1) In order to facilitate the greatest possible measure of cooperation and mutual understanding, nothing contained in this Agreement shall be interpreted as a renunciation or diminution by the United Kingdom, British Guiana or Venezuela of any basis of claim to territorial sovereignty in the territories of Venezuela or British Guiana, or of any previously asserted rights of or claims to such territorial sovereignty, or as prejudicing their position as regards their recognition or non-recognition of a right of, claim or basis of claim by any of them to such territorial sovereignty.

(2) No acts or activities taking place while this Agreement is in force shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying a claim to territorial sovereignty in the territories of Venezuela or British Guiana or create any rights of sovereignty in those territories, except in so far as such acts or acti-

vities result from any agreement reached by the Mixed Commission and accepted in writing by the Government of Guyana and the Government of Venezuela. No new claim, or enlargement of an existing claim, to territorial sovereignty in those territories shall be asserted while this Agreement is in force, nor shall any claim whatsoever be asserted otherwise than in the Mixed Commission while that Commission is in being.

*Article VI*

The Mixed Commission shall hold its first meeting at a date and place to be agreed between the Governments of British Guiana and Venezuela. This meeting shall take place as soon as possible after its members have been appointed. Thereafter the Mixed Commission shall meet as and when agreed between the representatives.

*Article VII*

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature.

*Article VIII*

Upon the attainment of independence by British Guiana, the Government of Guyana shall thereafter be a party to this Agreement, in addition to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Venezuela.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Geneva this 17th day of February, 1966, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authoritative.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland :

Michael STEWART  
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

L. F. S. BURNHAM  
Prime Minister of British Guiana

For the Government of Venezuela :

Ignacio IRIBARREN BORGES  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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