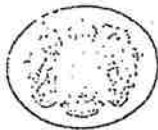


WBC 2/1



COMMONWEALTH OFFICE,
London, S.W.1.

BERMUDA

12 September, 1968.

My Lord,

I have the honour, in accordance with the undertaking given at the Constitutional Conference held in London in November 1966, to address you on the subject of the external affairs of Bermuda.

2. It was recognised at the Conference that the United Kingdom Government must continue to be responsible for the external relations of Bermuda. In carrying out their general responsibility, however, the United Kingdom Government will of course seek the fullest consultation with the Bermuda Government and will at all times have special regard to the interests of that Government. In addition, subject to the stipulations set out in paragraph 4 of this despatch, the United Kingdom Government hereby delegate to the Bermuda Government, with effect from the date specified in paragraph 5 of this despatch, executive authority to conduct external relations on behalf of the United Kingdom Government as follows:-

- (a) Authority to negotiate and conclude trade agreements with other countries, whether bilateral or multilateral, relating solely to the treatment of goods.
- (b) Authority to arrange or permit visits of up to thirty days for trade or commercial purposes by representatives or residents of Bermuda to any other country, and by representatives or residents of any other country to Bermuda (but questions relating to the establishment of permanent or temporary representation of other countries in Bermuda or of Bermuda in other countries will continue to be determined by the United Kingdom Government after consultation with the Bermuda Government).
- (c) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements of purely local concern with any independent member of the Commonwealth or the United States of America or such other authorities as the Bermuda Government may request and the United Kingdom Government approve.

/(d)

GOVERNOR,

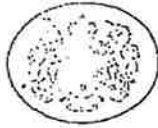
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD MARTONMERE, P.C., K.C.M.G.,

ETC.

ETC.

ETC.

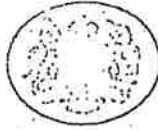


- (d) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements for technical assistance or of a cultural or scientific nature with any independent member of the Commonwealth or the United States of America or such other authorities as the Bermuda Government may request and the United Kingdom Government may approve.
- (e) Authority to negotiate and conclude agreements with other countries, whether bilateral or multilateral, relating to emigration from Bermuda to those countries and to emigrant labour schemes.

In addition the United Kingdom Government will give sympathetic consideration to any request by the Bermuda Government for authority to take action on individual questions of external relations not covered by this despatch.

3. The authority conferred by paragraph 2 above does not extend to the negotiation and conclusion of trade agreements relating to establishment matters (i.e. those affecting the rights of persons and companies of the contracting parties) or agreements relating to civil aviation and shipping, which will continue to be dealt with in accordance with the present practice whereby the United Kingdom Government engages in the fullest consultation with the Bermuda Government. The United Kingdom will also consider the inclusion of a representative of the Bermuda Government, either as an adviser or as an observer or in some similar capacity, in any United Kingdom delegation attending international discussions about civil aviation, shipping or finance in which the interests of Bermuda are materially involved.

4. In view of the general responsibility of the United Kingdom Government for the external affairs of Bermuda, it will be necessary for the Bermuda Government to inform the United Kingdom Government in advance of any proposal for the exercise of the authority to conduct negotiations delegated to the Bermuda Government by paragraph 2(a), (c), (d) and (e) of this despatch and to keep the United Kingdom Government informed of the progress of any such negotiations. The United Kingdom Government will inform the Bermuda Government if it should appear that the actions or proposals of the Bermuda Government in this field conflict with, or are likely to lead to conflict with, the international commitments, responsibilities or policies of the United Kingdom Government. In that event it will of course be necessary for the Bermuda Government to abide by the decision of the United Kingdom Government.



5. I should be grateful if you would acknowledge the receipt of this despatch and confirm that the Bermuda Government accept the authority delegated in paragraph 2 of this despatch subject to the understandings and stipulations set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 in relation to such delegation, which shall become effective on the date of receipt in the Commonwealth Office of your acknowledgement and confirmation of acceptance.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most
obedient Servant,

E. S. ...
