

No. 31862

**NEW ZEALAND
and
VANUATU**

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement regarding the arrangements for Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 to be held from 15 September to 3 October 1990. Port Vila, Vanuatu, 28 August 1990

Authentic text: English.

Registered by New Zealand on 1 June 1995.

**NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
et
VANUATU**

Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif aux arrangements en vue de l'Opération TROPIC MERCURY 90 devant avoir lieu du 15 septembre au 3 octobre 1990. Port Vila (Vanuatu), 28 août 1990

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par la Nouvelle-Zélande le 1^{er} juin 1995.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND VANUATU REGARDING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXERCISE TROPIC MERCURY 90 TO BE HELD FROM 15 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER 1990

I

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION
PORT VILA

Port Vila
Vanuatu

28 August 1990

Excellency

I have the honour to refer to the talks between officials from New Zealand and Vanuatu in June 1990 concerning the visit of a contingent of the New Zealand Armed Forces to Vanuatu for Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 to be held 15 September to 3 October 1990. The purpose of the exercise is to give New Zealand Service personnel practice in communication techniques and experience in a tropical environment, and to provide signals training to members of the Vanuatu Mobile Force as requested by the Government of Vanuatu.

I now propose on behalf of the Government of New Zealand that an agreement be reached between our two governments relating to this exercise on the following terms:

1. The Government of New Zealand will send a contingent of up to 90 Army personnel to Vanuatu between 15 September and 3 October 1990 to take part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90. The contingent will include a public relations officer. The contingent will deploy to and from Vanuatu by RNZAF Hercules aircraft.

¹ Came into force on 28 August 1990, the date of the letter in reply, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

2. For the purposes of the Agreement and unless the context otherwise requires the terms set out below shall have the following meanings:

"New Zealand contingent" means that group of New Zealand servicemen who will be visiting Vanuatu for the purpose of taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 in Vanuatu.

"New Zealand servicemen" means individual members of the contingent of the New Zealand Armed Forces who will be visiting Vanuatu for the purpose of taking part in Exercise Tropic MERCURY 90.

"New Zealand Service authorities" means the authorities empowered by the law of New Zealand to exercise command or jurisdiction over members of the New Zealand contingent while they are participating in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90.

3. The New Zealand contingent taking part in TROPIC MERCURY 90, shall be permitted to:

- a. conduct HF communication techniques on Santo.
- b. conduct communications in close country on Santo.
- c. conduct infantry minor tactics and survival training on Santo.
- d. conduct basic signal training for 15 members of the Vanuatu Mobile Force on Santo.
- e. use the old British Camp at Luganville as a base and transit camp.

4. The Vanuatu Government shall make available 25 Vanuatu Mobile Force Personnel to assist and exercise with the New Zealand contingent during Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90. The New Zealand contingent taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 shall supply rations and blank ammunition for Vanuatu Mobile Force personnel.

5. The Government of New Zealand shall facilitate the movement to and from Vila of those VMF personnel taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90.

6. The Government of Vanuatu shall not levy landing charges against the Government of New Zealand for the use of airport facilities in Vanuatu in connection with Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90.

- 7 a. The Government of Vanuatu shall facilitate the admission of the New Zealand contingents for the purpose of taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90.
- b. The following documents shall be required to be in the possession of members of the New Zealand contingent for entry into Vanuatu for purposes of taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90:
- (1) a personal identity card issued by the appropriate authority of the Government of New Zealand showing the full name, date of birth, rank and number, Service and photograph of the holder;
 - (2) an individual or collective movement order issued by an appropriate authority and certifying to the status of the individual or group as a member of a New Zealand contingent.
- c. Passports shall not be required by members of a New Zealand contingent for entry into Vanuatu for the purpose of taking part in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90.
8. All freight and exercise stores and equipment required by a New Zealand contingent for purposes of the exercise in which it is participating shall be given entry free of all duties and taxes by the Government of Vanuatu provided that a detailed list of New Zealand stores and equipment is forwarded to the Government of Vanuatu in advance of the exercise. The New Zealand contingent participating in Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 shall also provide to the Government of Vanuatu a list of weapons by type and serial number.
9. Each New Zealand contingent shall be permitted to take with it upon departure all equipment brought by it into Vanuatu for the purpose of Exercise TROPIC MERCURY 90 free from export duties and related charges and restrictions.
10. The New Zealand contingents will provide their own 24 hour ration packs which shall comply with the agricultural requirements of Vanuatu.
11. For the purpose of the command and control of members of the New Zealand contingent participating in TROPIC MERCURY 90 and for exercise purposes, the Government of Vanuatu shall permit the New Zealand contingent to establish and operate HF and VHF radio stations using frequencies approved by the Vanuatu Government.