CLAIMS: MARINE TRANSPORTATION AND LITIGATION
(KNOCK-FOR-KNOCK AGREEMENT)

Agreement and exchange of notes signed at London December 4, 1942
Entered into force December 4, 1942
Modified by agreements of March 25 and May 7, 1946,¹ and June 17
and 27, 1947 ²

56 Stat. 1780; Executive Agreement Series 282

AGREEMENT

The Government of the United States of America and the Government
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland being desirous
of defining, in so far as certain problems of marine transportation and litigation
are concerned, the manner in which shall be provided mutual aid in the
conduct of the war including the aid contemplated by the Agreements conclu-
ded between them at Washington on the 23rd February, 1942,³ and the
3rd September, 1942,⁴ have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

(1) Each contracting Government agrees to waive all claims arising out
of or in connection with negligent navigation or general average in respect
of any cargo or freight owned by such Government and in respect of any
vessel (including naval vessel) owned by such Government against the other
contracting Government or any cargo, freight or vessel (including naval
vessel) owned by such other Government or against any servant or agent
of such other Government or in any case where such other Government rep-
resents that such claim if made would ultimately be borne by such other
Government.

(2) Each contracting Government agrees on behalf of itself and of any
organisation which is owned or controlled by it and operating for its account
or on its behalf to waive all claims for salvage services against the other con-

¹ TIAS 1558, post, p. 792.
² TIAS 1636, post, p. 818.
³ EAS 241, ante, p. 603.
⁴ EAS 270, ante, p. 617.
tracting Government or against any cargo, freight or vessel (including naval vessel) owned by such other Government or in any case where such other Government represents that such salvage claim if made would ultimately be borne by such other Government.

(3) Each contracting Government agrees to waive all claims for loss of or damage to cargo owned by such Government and arising out of the carriage thereof or for loss of or damage to any cargo or vessel owned by one contracting Government and caused by the shipment or carriage of cargo owned by the other contracting Government against such other Government or against any servant or agent of such other Government or against any vessel (including naval vessel) owned by such other Government or in any case where such other Government represents that the claim if made would ultimately be borne by such other Government.

(4) Each contracting Government undertakes not to make any claim in respect of any vessel or cargo insured by it to which it may be entitled by virtue of any right of subrogation either—

(a) directly against the other contracting Government; or
(b) in any case where such other Government represents that such claim if made would ultimately be borne by such other Government.

(5) Each contracting Government agrees to extend the principles of this Agreement to such other maritime claims as may from time to time be agreed between them.

**Article 2**

Where in any case claims arise which are not required to be waived by this Agreement in addition to or in conjunction with claims which are so required to be waived and it is necessary in any proceedings including proceedings for the limitation of liability that claims be marshalled or for the proper assessment of any salvage or general average that values should be estimated, the provisions of this Agreement shall not apply but claims which would otherwise be required to be waived under this Agreement shall be asserted. Any recoveries, however, shall be waived by the Government entitled to such recoveries or at the option of such Government shall be dealt with in such other way as will give effect to the purposes of this Agreement.

**Article 3**

(1) For the purpose of this Agreement the expression "vessel owned by a contracting Government" includes a vessel on bare boat charter to a contracting Government or requisitioned by a contracting Government on bare boat terms or otherwise in the possession of a contracting Government (except to the extent that the risk of loss or liability is borne by some person other than either contracting Government).

(2) In order to carry out the full intention of the provisions of Article 1
of this Agreement each contracting Government will so arrange in connection
with bare boat charters to it that the owners or persons interested through
such owners shall not have or assert any claims of the character specified in
Article 1.

**Article 4**

Each contracting Government upon the request of the other will provide
undertakings for the release of vessels or cargo owned by the other contracting
Government from judicial proceedings in Courts in the United States of
America or in the United Kingdom as the case may be where such release
will promote the war effort and the requesting Government so represents,
upon compliance with the following conditions:

(a) upon the tender of such request due authority will be conferred by
the Government interested in such vessel or cargo upon the law officers of the
Government furnishing the undertaking to appear on their behalf and to
conduct the defence of such proceedings in so far as such vessel or cargo is
concerned, to settle or compromise any such suit, to assert or settle and com-
promise any claim to which the requesting Government may be entitled
in respect of the subject-matter of the suit and to make and receive payments
in respect thereof; and

(b) the requesting Government upon tendering such a request will assure
the other Government of its full co-operation in making defence to such suit
and asserting such claims including the making available of witnesses and
evidence and including preparation for trial.

Unless otherwise agreed, each contracting Government will reimburse or
account to the other for any payment made or received by the one Govern-
ment on behalf of the other.

**Article 5**

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of the right of
either contracting Government in appropriate cases to assert sovereign
immunity.

**Article 6**

(1) This Agreement, which shall come into force on the date of signature,
shall apply in respect of all claims arising before the date of this Agreement
but remaining unsettled at such date or which may arise during the currency
of this Agreement.

(2) This Agreement shall remain in force until the expiration of six
months from the date upon which either of the contracting Governments
shall have given notice in writing of their intention to terminate it.

*For an understanding relating to art. 4, see exchange of notes, p. 634.*
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised to that effect by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in London in duplicate, this fourth day of December, 1942.

JOHN G. WINANT [seal]
ANTHONY EDEN [seal]

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

The American Ambassador to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Embassy of the
United States of America,
December 4, 1942

No. 2253

SIR:

With reference to Article IV [4] of the agreement signed today between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America relating to certain problems of maritime transportation and litigation, I have the honor to state that for the present and until further notice it is the intention of my Government that the accounting contemplated by that Article will be accomplished under the Act of Congress of March 11, 1941 * to the extent authorized under that Act.

Accordingly, the Government of the United States will in appropriate cases make such payments as are necessary in the course of operations under the agreement according to its procedure in the administration of that Act and will receive any moneys which may accrue in the course of such operations as a benefit under that Act and Article VI of the agreement between our two Governments dated February 23, 194.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

JOHN G. WINANT

The Right Honorable
ANTHONY EDEN, M.C., M.P.,
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office, S.W. I.

*55 Stat. 31.
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
4th December, 1942

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of to-day's date referring to Article IV of the agreement signed to-day between our two Governments relating to certain problems of marine transportation and litigation. In reply I wish to state that for the present and until further notice my Government intends that the accounting required by Article IV shall be on the same basis as the payments contemplated in Your Excellency's note and that the Government of the United Kingdom will make any payments required by the agreement and receive any moneys accruing under it as reciprocal aid according to the terms of the agreement between our two Governments dated the 23rd February, 1942.

I have the honour to be with the highest consideration,

Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

ANTHONY EDEN

His Excellency
The Honourable,
John G. Winant,
etc., etc., etc.,
1, Grosvenor Square,
W. 1.