

**DEFENSE**

**Status of Forces**

**Agreement Between the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and GABON**

Effected by Exchange of Notes at  
Libreville November 26 and December 1, 1999



NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966  
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“ . . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”

**GABON**

**Defense: Status of Forces**

*Agreement effected by exchange of notes at  
Libreville November 26 and  
December 1, 1999;  
Entered into force December 1, 1999.*

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 098

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon and has the honor to refer to recent discussions between representatives of our two Governments regarding issues related to United States military and civilian personnel of the United States Department of Defense who may be temporarily present in Gabon in connection with "Gabon 2000" and other activities as may be agreed upon by the two governments.

As a result of these discussions, the Embassy proposes that such personnel be accorded the status equivalent to that accorded to administrative and technical staff of the United States Embassy under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of April 18, 1961, and that they may enter and exit Gabon with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders.

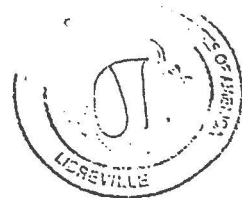
The Embassy further proposes that such personnel be authorized to wear uniforms while performing official duties and to carry arms while on duty if authorized to do so by their orders; and that the government of Gabon accord duty-free importation and exportation as well as exemption from internal taxation on products, property, material, and equipment imported into or acquired in Gabon by or for the United States Government in connection with its official activities. Vehicles, vessels, and aircraft owned or operated by or exclusively for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing or port fees, pilotage charges, navigation, overflight or parking charges or light and harbor dues,

while in Gabon; however, the United States armed forces shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received.

Finally, the Embassy proposes that both governments waive any and all claims (other than contractual claims) against each other for damage, loss or destruction of the other's property or injury or death to personnel of the two Governments arising out of the performance of their official duties.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of Gabon, the Embassy proposes that this Note, together with the Ministry's reply, shall constitute an agreement between the two governments which shall enter into force on the date of the Ministry's reply.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon the assurances of its highest consideration.



Embassy of the United States of America,

Libreville, November 26, 1999.





Enfin, l'Ambassade propose que les deux gouvernements renoncent à toutes les réclamations (autres que les réclamations contractuelles) contre l'un ou l'autre, pour les dégâts, pour les pertes ou destructions de la propriété appartenant à l'un ou l'autre qui surviendrait pendant une mission officielle, pour blessure ou décès d'un militaire ou d'un civil survenant en plein exercice de sa fonction.

Si ce qui précède trouve l'approbation du Gouvernement gabonais, l'Ambassade a l'honneur de proposer que cette Note, avec la réponse du Ministère, constituent un accord entre les Gouvernements, qui entrera en vigueur à la date de la réponse du Ministère.

L'Ambassade des Etats-Unis saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération de la République Gabonaise les assurances de sa plus haute considération. »

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération et de la Francophonie informe l'Ambassade que la présente <sup>lettre note</sup> Note, numéro 098 du 26 novembre 1999 constitue un accord entre les deux Gouvernements et entre en vigueur à la date de réponse.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération et de la Francophonie saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis d'Amérique en République Gabonaise l'assurance de sa haute considération.



## Unofficial Translation

Libreville, December 1, 1999

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America, and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of its Diplomatic Note Number 098 of November 26, 1999, which reads as follows:

"The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon and has the honor to refer to recent discussions between representatives of our two governments regarding issues related to the United States military and civilian personnel of the United States Department of Defense who may be temporarily present in Gabon in connection with "Gabon 2000" and other activities as may be agreed upon by the two governments.

As a result of these discussions, the Embassy proposes that such personnel be accorded the status equivalent to that accorded to administrative and technical staff of the United States Embassy under the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations of April 18, 1961, and that they may enter and exit Gabon with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders.

The Embassy further proposes that such personnel be authorized to wear uniforms while performing official duties and to carry arms while on duty if authorized to do so by their orders; and that the government of Gabon accord duty-free importation and exportation as well as exemption from internal taxation on products, property, material, and equipment imported into or acquired in Gabon by or for the United States Government in connection with its official activities. Vehicles, vessels, and aircraft owned or operated by or exclusively for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing or port fees, pilotage charges, navigation, overflight or parking charges or light and harbor dues, while in Gabon; however, the United States armed forces shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received.

Finally, the Embassy proposes that both governments waive any and all claims (other than contractual claims) against each other for damage, loss or destruction of the other's property or injury or death to personnel of the two Governments arising out of the performance of their official duties.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Government of Gabon, the Embassy proposes that this Note, together with the Ministry's reply, shall constitute an agreement between the two governments which shall enter into force on the date of the Ministry's reply.



The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon the assurances of its highest consideration.”

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon has the honor to inform the Embassy of the United States of America that this Note and the Diplomatic Note Number 098 of November 26, 1999 constitute an agreement between both Governments and enters into force as of the date of this response.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Gabon avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.