

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM AND BETWEEN THE UNITED  
STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND BELGIUM RE-  
GARDING THE ACQUISITION AND CONTROL OF  
URANIUM

Lot File 55D540, Box 2

*Agreement Between the United States and the United Kingdom for  
the Establishment of the Combined Development Trust*

THIS AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST is made the 13th day of June 1944 by FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, and by WINSTON LEONARD SPENCER CHURCHILL on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The said Governments are hereinafter referred to as "the Two Governments;"

WHEREAS an agreement (hereinafter called the Quebec Agreement<sup>1</sup>) was entered into on 19 August 1943 by and between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS it is an object vital to the common interests of those concerned in the successful prosecution of the present war to insure the acquisition at the earliest practicable moment of an adequate supply of uranium and thorium ores; and

WHEREAS it is the intention of the Two Governments to control to the fullest extent practicable the supplies of uranium and thorium ores within the boundaries of such areas as come under their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland intends to approach the Governments of the Dominions and the Governments of India and of Burma for the purpose of securing that such Governments shall bring under control deposits of the uranium and thorium ores within their respective territories; and

WHEREAS it has been decided to establish a joint organization for the purpose of gaining control of the uranium and thorium supplies

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<sup>1</sup> Documentation on the Conference at Quebec between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, with their advisers, August 17-24, 1943, is scheduled for publication in a subsequent volume of *Foreign Relations*.

in certain areas outside the control of the Two Governments and of the Governments of the Dominions and of India and of Burma;

NOW IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND DECLARED AS FOLLOWS:

1. (1) There shall be established in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, a Trust to be known as "The Combined Development Trust."

(2) The Trust shall be composed of and administered by six persons who shall be appointed, and be subject to removal, by the Combined Policy Committee established by the Quebec Agreement.

2. The Trust shall use its best endeavors to gain control of and develop the production of the uranium and thorium supplies situate in certain areas other than the areas under the jurisdiction of the Two Governments and of the Governments of the Dominions and of India and of Burma and for that purpose shall take such steps as it may in the common interest think fit to:

*a.* Explore and survey sources of uranium and thorium supplies.

*b.* Develop the production of uranium and thorium by the acquisition of mines and ore deposits, mining concessions or otherwise.

*c.* Provide with equipment any mines or mining works for the production of uranium and thorium.

*d.* Survey and improve the methods of production of uranium and thorium.

*e.* Acquire and undertake the treatment and disposal of uranium and thorium and uranium and thorium materials.

*f.* Provide storage and other facilities.

*g.* Undertake any functions or operations which conduce to the effective carrying out of the purpose of the Trust in the common interest.

3. (1) The Trust shall carry out its functions under the direction and guidance of the Combined Policy Committee, and as its agent, and all uranium and thorium and all uranium and thorium ores and supplies and other property acquired by the Trust shall be held by it in trust for the Two Governments jointly, and disposed of or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the direction of the Combined Policy Committee.

(2) The Trust shall submit such reports of its activities as may be required from time to time by the Combined Policy Committee.

4. For the purpose of carrying out its functions, the Trust shall utilize whenever and wherever practicable the established agencies of any of the Two Governments, and may employ and pay such other agents and employees as it considers expedient, and may delegate to any agents or employees all or any of its functions.

5. The Trust may acquire and hold any property in the name of nominees.

6. All funds properly required by the Trust for the performance of its functions shall be provided as to one-half by the Government of the United States of America and the other half by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. In the event of the Combined Policy Committee ceasing to exist, the function of the Committee under the Trust shall be performed by such other body or person as may be designated by the President for the time being of the United States of America and the Prime Minister for the time being of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

8. The signatories of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust will, as soon as practicable after the conclusion of hostilities, recommend to their respective Governments the extension and revision of this war-time emergency agreement to cover post war conditions and its formalization by treaty or other proper method. This Agreement and Declaration of Trust shall continue in full force and effect until such extension or revision.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
WINSTON CHURCHILL

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*The Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Spaak) to the American Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Winant)*<sup>2</sup>

[BRUSSELS,] September 26, 1944.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: With reference to the discussions which have been taking place between representatives of the Belgian Government and of the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom on the subject of uranium and thorium ores, I now have pleasure in sending herewith a Memorandum of Agreement annexed to this letter setting out the arrangements which have been agreed as a result of these discussions.

I am authorized to inform you that the provisions of the annexed Memorandum of Agreement meet with the approval of the Belgian Government. I therefore propose that, if they also meet with the approval of the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom, this letter together with your reply so informing me shall constitute an Agreement between the three Governments which will come into effect from today's date.

Please accept [etc.]

P. H. SPAAK

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<sup>2</sup> Copy obtained from the Department of Defense; an identical letter was sent on the same date to Sir John Anderson, British Chancellor of the Exchequer.

[Enclosure]

*Memorandum of Agreement Between the United States, the United Kingdom, and Belgium Regarding Control of Uranium*

1. The Government of Belgium agrees with the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it is desirable that during the present war against Germany and Japan and in the future all uranium and thorium ores wherever located should be subject to effective control for the protection of civilization, and to this end the Government of Belgium will insure effective control of said ores located in all territory subject to the authority of Belgium.

2. As a result of the discussions which have accordingly been proceeding between the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom on the one hand and the Government of Belgium on the other hand it has been agreed that a contract shall be entered into between the Combined Development Trust acting as agent for the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and the African Metals Corporation acting for the producing company (Union Minière du Haut Katanga) for the delivery by the said corporation to the said trust of uranium ore and ore concentrates containing approximately 3,440,000 pounds of uranium oxide.

3. The Belgian Government undertake to insure the delivery of uranium ore concentrates containing approximately 3,440,000 pounds of uranium oxide in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned contract.

4. The Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom undertake to insure that the Combined Development Trust take delivery of the said uranium ore and ore concentrates in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned contract.

5. The Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom undertake to facilitate the delivery to the producing company (Union Minière du Haut Katanga) of such materials as the parties to the contract agree to be necessary for the reopening and development of the mine at which the said ore and ore concentrates will be produced.

6. For the period required for the completion of the contract referred to in paragraph 2 above and for a further period of ten years the Belgian Government grant to the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom the first refusal of all uranium and thorium ores produced in the Belgian Congo, subject to the right of the Belgian Government to reserve such reasonable quantities of the said ores as may be required for her own scientific research and for her own industrial purposes exclusive of any process involving

the use of such ores as a source of energy except as provided in paragraph 9 below.

7. The Belgian Government undertake to control in accordance with the agreement recorded in paragraph 1 above the use of ores reserved as provided for in the preceding paragraph.

8. During the periods referred to in paragraph 6 above the Belgian Government undertake to use their best endeavors to supply such quantities of uranium and thorium ores as may be required by the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom solely for military and strategic purposes.

9. As regards the use of the above mentioned ores as a source of energy the following arrangement shall apply:—

(a) In the event of the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom deciding to utilize as a source of energy for commercial purpose ores obtained under this agreement the said Governments will admit the Belgian Government to participation in such utilization on equitable terms.

(b) The Belgian Government undertake that, in the event of their contemplating the use of such ores as a source of energy, they will so use them only after consultation and in agreement with the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom.

10. This Memorandum of Agreement shall be treated as a military secret in keeping with its purpose.

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*The American Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Winant) to the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Spaak)*<sup>3</sup>

LONDON, September 26, 1944.

SIR: I have pleasure in acknowledging receipt of your letter of today's date in which you communicated to me the text of a Memorandum of Agreement setting out certain arrangements which have been agreed on the subject of uranium and thorium ores as the result of discussions between representatives of the Belgian Government and of the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom.

In reply I have pleasure in informing you that the Governments of the United States of America and of the United Kingdom approve the arrangements proposed in the Memorandum of Agreement annexed to your letter and agree that our present exchange of letters shall constitute an Agreement between the three Governments with effect from today's date.

Please accept [etc.]

JOHN G. WINANT

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<sup>3</sup> Copy obtained from the Department of Defense; an identical letter, except for a reversal of the order in which the United States and the United Kingdom are named, was sent on the same date by Sir John Anderson to Mr. Spaak.