

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CONCERNING RECIPROCAL PROVISION OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES OF JAPAN

TITLE OF AGREEMENT

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Japan concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Armed forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan.

COMMAND PAPER NUMBER: 9442

SUBJECT MATTER

This bilateral Agreement concerns Defence logistic cooperation between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of Japan. It was signed in London on 26 January 2017.

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish basic terms and conditions for the reciprocal provision of supplies and services, between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the United Kingdom Armed Forces, necessary for exercises and training, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, internationally coordinated peace and security operations, humanitarian international relief operations, or operations to cope with large scale disasters in the territory of either Party or a third country, protection measures or transportation of nationals of either Party or others, if appropriate, for their evacuation from overseas in case of exigencies of the situation, communication and coordination or other routine activities (including visits of ships or aircraft of the forces of either Party to facilities in the territory of the other Party), with the exception of exercises and training conducted unilaterally by the forces of either Party, any other activity in which the provision of supplies and services is permitted under the laws and regulations of the respective countries.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for policy concerning the United Kingdom's relations with Japan. The Secretary of State for Defence has overall responsibility for policy matters relating to Defence logistic cooperation.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom and Japan made a joint statement (01/05/14) on Defence where the United Kingdom welcomed a more active role for Japan in international efforts to secure peace, stability and prosperity. To support this the PMs announced the intention to negotiate an Agreement which would allow the Japanese Self Defence Forces to conduct logistic exchanges with the United Kingdom armed forces in the UK and Japan as well as on joint operations and exercises around the world.

This type of logistic agreement (also known as a Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement (MLSA)) provides the basic framework for military logistic support between two nations on a world-wide basis covering support to exercises, operations and humanitarian support missions. Having a generic standing logistic arrangement of this type means that specific support requirements can then be agreed at a much lower level. We have MLSAs in place with key allies and they are used to cover a wide variety of logistic support, from airlift and sealift to fuel and Real Life Support (RLS). MLSAs offer the ability to provide support on a cash repayment basis, like for like replacement or an equal value exchange.

The Agreement, like other MLSAs currently in place or being pursued with other states by the Ministry of Defence, supports the department's objective to improve the logistic support the UK armed forces receive overseas including greater ease of access, basing and over-flight.

The Agreement also refers to a subordinate Procedural Arrangement (PA) which is used by practitioners at the tactical level to complete the specific processes and procedures required to realise the desired effect of the Agreement. This includes details ordering processes and forms as well as listing specific points of contact for different branches of Defence responsible for logistic exchanges. The PA is likely to be signed in February 2017.

FINANCIAL

There are no direct financial implications for the United Kingdom or Japan. The Treaty provides for financial procedures and principles to govern logistic exchanges as and when they are agreed. The sharing of the logistics burden with international partners can have an indirect cost saving through economies of scale.

RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Not applicable.

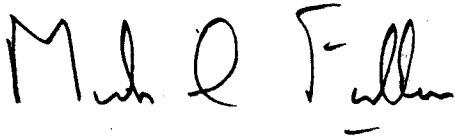
IMPLEMENTATION

The Agreement will come into effect when notifications have been exchanged between both countries informing each other that their respective internal procedures necessary to give effect to the Agreement have been completed.

No new legislation is required in the UK to implement the Agreement. The One-in, Three-out Rule has been considered as part of the process of concluding the Agreement, but is not applicable.

CONSULTATIONS

Relevant Government departments were consulted throughout the negotiations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Fallon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence