

2. English vessels engaged in hunting seals within the aforesaid zones beyond Russian territorial waters may be seized by Russian cruisers, to be handed over to English cruisers or to the nearest British authorities. In case of impediment or difficulty, the Commander of the Russian cruiser may confine himself to seizing the papers of the afore-mentioned vessels, in order to deliver them to a British cruiser, or to transmit them to the nearest English authorities, on the first opportunity.

3. Her majesty's Government engage to bring to trial before the ordinary Tribunals, offering all necessary guarantees, the English vessels which may be seized as having been engaged in sealing within the prohibited zones beyond Russian territorial waters.

4. The Imperial Government will limit to 30,000 the number of seals which may be killed during the year 1893 on the coasts of the Islands of Komandorsky and Tulénou (Robben Island).

5. An agent of the British Government may visit the afore-mentioned islands (Komandorsky and Tulénou) in order to obtain from the local authorities all necessary information on the working and results of the agreement arrived at, but care should be taken to give previous information to these authorities of the place and time of his visit, which should not be prolonged beyond a few weeks.

6. The present arrangement has no retroactive force as regards the British vessels captured previously by the cruisers of the Imperial Marine.

These terms being based upon the notes previously exchanged between our two Governments, as well as upon the text of the latest English proposals, we hope, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, that Her Britannic Majesty's Government will consider the understanding between us to be entirely established from this time forward as regards the regulation of seal fisheries during the present year.

Accept, &c.,

(Signed) CHICKKINE.

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*The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Howard.*

(Telegraphic.)

FOREIGN OFFICE, May 29, 1893.

I have received your despatch of the 23rd instant, inclosing a note from M. Chichkine, defining the terms of the arrangement for the protection of the Russian seal fisheries during the present year, to which the Russian Government are prepared to agree.

I have to instruct you to address a note to the Russian Government in reply, stating that this arrangement is accepted by Her Majesty's Government as a temporary agreement for the current year, and that they will take immediate steps to procure the legislation necessary for carrying it into execution.

With regard to the reservations made in M. Chichkine's note, you will state that Her Majesty's Government have taken note of them, but do not at present propose to discuss them; that, on the other hand, they must adhere to the reservation previously made by them, and contained in your note of the 12th of this month, and that it is understood that the rights and position of either Power are in no way affected by the conclusion of this provisional arrangement.

You should inform the Russian Government, at the same time, that we propose to lay the correspondence at once before Parliament.

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