

Circular No. 0118

FOREIGN OFFICE, SW1  
16<sup>th</sup> October 1950

POSITION OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND ISLE OF MAN IN RELATION TO  
TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Sir,

I have to inform you that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have recently had under consideration the position of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in relation to treaties and international agreements applicable to the United Kingdom.

2. Although in municipal law the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man do not form part of the United Kingdom, His Majesty's Government have hitherto regarded such treaties and international agreements as applying to those Islands unless, in the case of any particular treaty or agreement, the contrary has been expressly stated in the instrument itself.

3. His Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that it would be more consistent with the constitutional position of these Islands to regard them for international purposes as not forming part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. Accordingly, any treaty or international agreement to which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom may become a party after the date of the present despatch will not be considered as applying to the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man by reason only of the fact that it applies to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and any signature, ratification, acceptance or accession on behalf of the United Kingdom will not extend to the Islands unless they are expressly included. For the purpose of any treaty or international agreement to which His Majesty's Government may become a party hereafter, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will, unless the contrary is expressly stated in each case, be included among the territories for whose international relations His Majesty's Government are responsible.

5. I have to request that you will notify the Government of the country in which you reside of this decision, conveying to them the information contained in the preceding paragraphs of this despatch. You should also inform them that a note in similar terms bearing this day's date has been addressed to their diplomatic representative in London and that all other foreign Governments with whom His Majesty's Government are in diplomatic relationships, the United Nations, the International Labour Office and other international organisations have been similarly informed.

6. I have to add that you should explain, if the question is asked as to the position of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man under existing treaties, that the step now being taken does not affect the application of existing treaties to those islands.

I am, with great truth and regard,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant  
ERNEST BEVIN