

1974 No. 1272

INCOME TAX

**The Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income)
(Seychelles) Order 1974**

Laid before the House of Commons in draft

Made - - - - 25th July 1974

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 25th day of July 1974

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Whereas a draft of this Order was laid before the Commons House of Parliament in accordance with the provisions of section 497(8) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970(a), and an Address has been presented to Her Majesty by that House praying that an Order may be made in the terms of this Order:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by section 497 of the said Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, as amended by section 98(2) of the Finance Act 1972(b), and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1. This Order may be cited as the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Seychelles) Order 1974.

2. It is hereby declared—

(a) that the arrangements specified in the Supplementary Arrangement set out in the Schedule to this Order, which vary the arrangements set out in the Schedule to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Seychelles) Order 1947(c), as amended by the arrangements set out in the Schedule to the Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (Seychelles) Order 1969(d), have been made with the Government of Seychelles with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to income tax or corporation tax and taxes of a similar character imposed by the laws of Seychelles; and

(b) that it is expedient that those arrangements should have effect.

N. E. Leigh.

(a) 1970 c. 10.

(b) 1972 c. 41.

(c) S.R. & O. 1947/1778 (Rev. X, p. 486; 1947 I, p. 1165).

(d) S.I. 1969/379 (1969 I, p. 1029).

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SEYCHELLES TO AMEND THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT MADE IN 1947 FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME, AS MODIFIED BY THE ARRANGEMENT MADE IN 1969.

1. The Arrangement made in 1947 between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Seychelles for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income as modified by the Arrangement made in 1969 shall be amended—

(a) by the deletion from Paragraph 1(1)(b) of the phrase "and land sales tax", and by the deletion of the proviso thereto;

(b) by the substitution for Paragraph 6 of the following new Paragraph—

"6.—(1) (a) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom to a resident of the Colony may be taxed in the Colony.

(b) Where a resident of the Colony is entitled to a tax credit in respect of such a dividend under sub-paragraph (2) of this Paragraph tax may also be charged in the United Kingdom, and according to the laws of the United Kingdom, on the aggregate of the amount or value of that dividend and the amount of that tax credit at a rate not exceeding 15 per cent.

(c) Except as aforesaid, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom to a resident of the Colony who is subject to tax in the Colony on them shall be exempt from any tax in the United Kingdom which is chargeable on dividends.

(2) A resident of the Colony who receives dividends from a company which is a resident of the United Kingdom shall, subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (3) of this Paragraph and provided he is subject to tax in the Colony on those dividends, be entitled to the tax credit in respect thereof to which an individual resident in the United Kingdom would have been entitled had he received those dividends, and to the payment of any excess of such credit over his liability to United Kingdom tax.

(3) Sub-paragraph (2) of this Paragraph shall not apply where the recipient of the dividend is a company which, either alone or together with one or more associated companies, controls directly or indirectly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividend. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph two companies shall be deemed to be associated if one is controlled directly or indirectly by the other, or both are controlled directly or indirectly by a third company.

(4) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of the Colony to a resident of the United Kingdom who is subject to tax in the United Kingdom in respect thereof shall be exempt from any tax in the Colony which is chargeable on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable in respect of the profits or income of the company.

(5) The term "dividends" as used in this Paragraph means income from shares, or any other item which under the law of the territory of which the company paying the dividend is a resident, is treated as a dividend or distribution of the company.

(6) If the recipient of a dividend is a company which owns 10 per cent or more of the class of shares in respect of which the dividend is paid then sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) or, as the case may be, sub-paragraph (4) of this Paragraph shall not apply to the dividend to the extent that it can have been paid only out of profits which the company paying the dividend earned or other income which it received in a period ending twelve months or more before

the relevant date. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph the term "relevant date" means the date on which the beneficial owner of the dividend became the owner of 10 per cent or more of the class of shares in question:

Provided that this sub-paragraph shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividend shows that the shares were acquired for bona fide commercial reasons and not primarily for the purpose of securing the benefit of this Paragraph.

(7) The provisions of sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) or, as the case may be, sub-paragraph (4) of this Paragraph shall not apply where a resident of one of the territories has in the other territory a permanent establishment and the holding by virtue of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a business carried on through that permanent establishment. In such a case the provisions of Paragraph 3 shall apply.

(8) Where a company which is a resident of one of the territories derives profits or income from sources within the other territory, the Government of that other territory shall not impose any form of taxation on dividends paid by the company to persons not resident in that other territory, or any tax in the nature of an undistributed profits tax on undistributed profits of the company, by reason of the fact that those dividends or undistributed profits represent, in whole or in part, profits or income so derived."

2. This Supplementary Arrangement shall enter into force when the last of all such things shall have been done in the United Kingdom and the Colony as are necessary to give the Supplementary Arrangement the force of law in the United Kingdom and the Colony respectively and shall thereupon have effect—

(a) in the United Kingdom:

for any year of assessment beginning on or after 6th April 1973.

(b) in the Colony:

for any year of assessment beginning on or after 1st January 1973.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

The Supplementary Arrangement scheduled to this Order makes two amendments to the Arrangement which was made in 1947 and amended in 1969 between the United Kingdom and Seychelles.

The first deletes the reference to land sales tax which was added to the Arrangement in 1969 in anticipation of the introduction of legislation in Seychelles for the levying of such a tax. The proposed legislation was subsequently abandoned.

The second follows from the introduction of the new United Kingdom corporation tax system which, so far as it relates to the tax treatment of dividends paid by a United Kingdom company to an overseas shareholder, came into operation on 6th April 1973. The Supplementary Arrangement provides that where a United Kingdom company pays a dividend to a resident of Seychelles other than a company which controls 10 per cent or more of the voting power in the paying company, the recipient is, subject to certain conditions, to receive the tax credit to which an individual resident in the United Kingdom and in receipt of such a dividend would be entitled less income tax at a rate not exceeding 15 per cent on the aggregate of the dividend and the tax credit.

The Supplementary Arrangement is to take effect in the United Kingdom for 1973/74 and subsequent years.

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