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SECRET

INWARD TELEGRAM  
TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

*original on PMD 138/30/04*

FROM BRITISH GUIANA (Sir P. Renison)

Cypher (O.T.P.)

D. 8th April, 1958.  
R. 8th " " 22.05 hrs.

IMMEDIATE  
SECRET  
No. 107.

Your secret telegram No. 312 of the  
27th September, 1957.

Oil.

Negotiations with SOCOL have been concluded and oil exploitation licence will be issued to the Ruahine Oil Company (British Guiana) Ltd. on the 15th April. Licence covers an area approximately 16,000 square miles of coast and continental shelf of the Colony. In defining the North Western and South Eastern boundaries area for the purpose of the licence, we have used the lines described in paragraph 5 of your secret telegram No. 212 of the 27th June, 1957. No mention is made anywhere in description that these lines represent lateral boundaries of our territorial seas, there being continental shelf with Venezuela and Surinam respectively. As requested by you, provision has also been made in the licence for the revision of the boundaries area in the light of the results of negotiations with the Governments of adjoining territories, and a declaration has been included denying the responsibility of this Government for any loss which the Company may incur by reason of their activities in areas of the continental shelf claimed by other territories.

2. Copy of licence issued to Company will be forwarded to you.

3. Above information also provides answer to last paragraph of Scarlett's secret letter WIS 220/440/01 of the 20th September, 1957, to Jakeway, regarding the Surinam boundary.

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