

Bel Eau,
Mahe,
Seychelles.

11 - 10 - 63.

Dear Lee,

Also many thanks for the letter which you wrote to Bob White ref. their failure, (ARRL), to grant Agalega separate country status. I think that the way they handled that affair was regrettable, to say the least about it. And now I hear that Howard's club, (W2AGW), are again making representations to ARRL - pointing out that only a short time before I sailed to Agalega Howard had met Bob White and that they then did discuss, amongst other things, the status of Agalega: that it was stated then that its separate country status, (as well as that of Aldabra), would remain. I remember that during a QSO with Leny and myself at that time Howard did mention this.

Anyhow; as you remarked, I knew nothing about any 500 mile limit applying to Agalega; and although I had many, many QSOs then with people in the USA and elsewhere, no one mentioned anything about this ruling. And all these people knew that I was going to try to make that Dxpdx. after Gus had completely failed to obtain his licence.

It is being said around now, by the way, that if Gus had made this Dxpdx. then there would have been no question about the separate status of Agalega. And I hope that this is not true!

As you know, there is an American tracking station here now. Some of the boys up there applied for ham licences. They were turned down and were told that OM Gus had screwed the whole thing up for everybody and that ^{they} ~~that~~ were applying the regulations to the letter - 'that no foreign national was entitled to a ham licence in any British territory.' That they were taking exactly the same line as VQ8, in fact. I do not know how ARRL is going to view this because it makes Gus's trip to Aldabra 'nul and void' as the Authorities now take the line that he should not have been issued with a licence at all!

The boys up at the tracking station are real mad and they say 'just let W4BPD land here again and see what we are going to do to him!' Hi! Poor old man Gus. All this is on account of Gus having operated 'pirate' down at Chagos, of course.

Many thanks again for the efforts which you made, (not only on my behalf but also for the boys in general), and lets hope that ARRL will reconsider and grant us this concession - which I think we deserve after all the efforts which we made at such great expense, and (in your own case), such disappointment, all to reach Agalega. Surely they are not able to let us down after all this. Tell Bob White that I have written the whole thing up and that Les. G8KS has sent the article to CQ Magazine, (I had asked him to submit it to the S.W. Magazine - probably he thought CQ wud pay better). If Bob sees that article he will understand that the affair was not easy - especially as I had such modest equipment and such meagre funds available.

Y Sincerely - Harvey