

SPECIAL TARIFF POSITION OF PHILIPPINES

Exchange of notes at Washington May 4 and July 4, 1946

Entered into force July 4, 1946

Became obsolete upon entry into force of treaty of amity and economic relations of September 7, 1951¹

61 Stat. 2444; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1572

The Acting Secretary of State to the Ethiopian Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
May 4 1946

SIR:

With reference to the forthcoming independence of the Philippines on July 4, 1946, my Government considers that provision for a transitional period for dealing with the special tariff position which Philippine products have occupied for many years in the United States is an essential accompaniment to Philippine independence. Accordingly, under the Philippine Trade Act approved April 30, 1946,² goods the growth, produce or manufacture of the Philippines will enter the United States free of duty until 1954, after which they will be subject to gradually and regularly increasing rates of duty or decreasing duty-free quotas until 1974 when general rates will become applicable and all preferences will be completely eliminated.

Since the enactment of the Philippine Independence Act approved March 24, 1934,³ my Government has foreseen the probable necessity of providing for such a transitional period and has since then consistently excepted from most-favored-nation obligations which it has undertaken toward foreign governments advantages which it might continue to accord to Philippine products after the proclamation of Philippine independence. Some thirty instruments in force with other governments, for example, permit the continuation of the exceptional tariff treatment now accorded by my Government to Philippine products, irrespective of the forthcoming change in the Commonwealth's political status.

¹4 UST 2134; TIAS 2864.

²60 Stat. 141.

³48 Stat. 456.

With a view, therefore, to placing the relations between the United States and Ethiopia upon the same basis, with respect to the matters involved, as the relations existing under the treaties and agreements referred to in the preceding paragraph, my Government proposes that the most-favored-nation provisions of the Treaty of Commerce between the United States and Ethiopia signed June 27, 1914,⁴ shall not be understood to require the extension to Ethiopia of advantages accorded by the United States to the Philippines.

In view of the imminence of the inauguration of an independent Philippine Government, I should be glad to have the reply of your Government to this proposal at an early date.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

DEAN ACHESON
Acting Secretary of State

Mr. GETAHOUN TESEMMA,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian Minister to the Under Secretary of State

IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN LEGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

No: 2318/GO/2

JULY 4, 1946

SIR:

With reference to your Note of the 4th May last and subsequent reply No: 2073/GO/2 of the 10th May, I have the honour to inform you that the Imperial Ethiopian Government are in agreement that the most-favored-nation provisions of the Treaty of Commerce between the United States and Ethiopia signed June 27, 1914, shall not be understood to require the extension to Ethiopia of advantages accorded by the United States to the Philippines.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to you, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

RAS H. S. IMRU
Minister

Honourable DEAN ACHESON
Under-Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C.

⁴TS 647, *ante*, p. 660.