

EXEMPTION OF PLEASURE YACHTS FROM NAVIGATION DUES

Exchange of notes at Stockholm October 22 and 29, 1930
Entered into force October 29, 1930

47 Stat. 2655; Executive Agreement Series 21

*The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim*

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

STOCKHOLM, *October 22, 1930*

MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES:

By a letter dated January 3, 1930, you kindly informed my predecessor that the United States Government is disposed to conclude an arrangement with the Swedish Government with a view to exempting on a basis of reciprocity the pleasure yachts of the two countries from all navigation dues in their ports.

Referring to this letter, I have the honor to inform you that, according to the provisions of section 126 of the Swedish Customs Regulations and of the Royal Decree dated October 7, 1927, yachts belonging to yacht clubs of countries where the same facilities are accorded to Swedish yachts are exempted in Swedish ports from all navigation dues—except dues of pilotage when they have actually a pilot on board—provided that they be furnished with a certificate delivered by the authorities of the country and on the understanding that they are not equipped for commercial purposes.

If your Government consents to grant upon a basis of reciprocity the same facilities to pleasure yachts belonging to Swedish yacht clubs, I permit myself to propose that the present note and the reply which you may make thereto will serve as an agreement reached between our two countries.

Please accept, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

RAMEL

MR. EDWARD SAVAGE CROCKER

*Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of the United States of America
etc., etc., etc.*

SECTION 126 OF THE SWEDISH CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

[TRANSLATION]

A master of a vessel belonging to a public yacht club or other similar association and which is not equipped for commercial purposes (pleasure yachts) shall, when the vessel arrives or departs from a port in the customs territory without being used for conveying goods other than food-stuffs and articles necessary for the vessel during the journey, be exempt from the duty to submit to the customs authorities a written report regarding the vessel and from obtaining a permit for it from the customs authorities.

When arriving from a port outside of the customs territory, the master may not visit any other port with the vessel than a customs port or a place where coast-guards are stationed. When arriving from and departing to a place outside of the customs territory, it is the duty of a master to report personally to the nearest customs office or coast-guard station and to submit a certificate, issued by a public authority or the board of the association, showing the name of the vessel, number and tonnage, the name of the owner of the vessel and domicile, as well as the name of the association to which the vessel belongs.

If the owner or master of a pleasure yacht has here in the country been found guilty of illegal import or export of articles, the provisions granted in this section shall not apply to any of the vessels belonging to the association as long as he owns or commands the vessel. However, the advantages shall be discontinued not earlier than fifteen days after the General Customs Board has informed the board of the association of the misdemeanor committed.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to vessels belonging to an association in Sweden, provided His Majesty has not granted the association similar rights for its vessels, and shall not either apply to vessels belonging to a foreign association, unless Swedish pleasure yachts enjoy the same advantages in the respective country.

ROYAL DECREE OF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT

[TRANSLATION]

No. 394

ROYAL DECREE

REGARDING EXEMPTION IN CERTAIN CASES FOR SALVAGE VESSELS AND
PLEASURE YACHTS FROM PAYMENT OF MARITIME DUES

Given at the Palace of Stockholm, October 7, 1927

His Royal Majesty has deemed fit to decree that salvage vessels and pleasure yachts referred to in sections 124 and 126 of the Customs Regulations, under the conditions mentioned in these sections, shall in Swedish ports be exempt

from all those fees which are generally assessed for vessels in such ports, with the exception of pilotage fees where a pilot is employed.

This decree shall enter into force on May 1, 1928, on and from which day the regulations in the letter to the Board of Trade of April 24, 1863 (No. 23), relating to the exemption from certain fees in Swedish ports accorded vessels intended for diving and salvage activities, shall cease to be effective.

Let all concerned duly comply herewith. In faith whereof, We have signed this with Our own hand and have caused it to be confirmed by Our Royal Seal. The Palace of Stockholm, October 7, 1927.

GUSTAF

(L. S.)

FELIX HAMRIN

(Department of Commerce)

The American Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STOCKHOLM, *October 29, 1930*

No. 56

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's note dated October 22, 1930, in reply to my note dated January 3, 1930, addressed to Your Excellency's predecessor, relating to the desire of my Government to obtain an agreement on the part of the Swedish Government to accord to American yachts in Swedish ports treatment in the matter of the payment of various port charges reciprocal to that which is now enjoyed by Swedish vessels calling at ports of the United States.

Your Excellency is so good as to inform me that, according to the terms of Section 126 of the Swedish Customs Regulations and of the Royal Decree dated October 7, 1927, yachts belonging to yacht clubs of countries where the same facilities are accorded to Swedish yachts, are exempted in Swedish ports from all navigation dues—except dues of pilotage when they have actually a pilot on board—provided that they be furnished with a certificate delivered by the authorities of the country and on the understanding that they are not equipped for commercial purposes.

In conclusion Your Excellency states that, if my Government consents to grant upon a basis of reciprocity the same facilities to pleasure yachts belonging to Swedish yacht clubs, Your Excellency proposes that the note under reference and the reply which I may make thereto will serve as an agreement reached between our two countries.

In reply I have the honor to state that, inasmuch as the provisions of the Statutes of the United States for the collection of tonnage and light dues (U.S. Code, Title 46, Sections 121 and 128) permit the suspension of those

charges in behalf of vessels of foreign countries which accord national treatment to vessels of the United States, I am accordingly gratified that there appears to be no further obstacle to the enjoyment by the pleasure yachts of each country of treatment reciprocal to that enjoyed in the ports of the other.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

EDWARD SAVAGE CROCKER

His Excellency

FREDRIK RAMEL

*Royal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Stockholm*