

NARCOTIC DRUGS

*Exchange of notes at Vienna April 10 and July 24, 1931
Entered into force July 24, 1931*

Department of State files

*The American Minister to the Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister
of Foreign Affairs*

No. 108

VIENNA, April 10, 1931

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have been instructed by my Government to invite the attention of the Austrian Government that in an endeavor to bring about stricter control of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, the Treasury Department of the United States has requested an effort be made to establish closer cooperation between the appropriate administrative officials of the United States and certain foreign countries.

To aid in the accomplishment of this purpose, it would be appreciated if arrangements could be made with the Austrian Government for:

1. The direct exchange between the United States Treasury Department and the corresponding office in Austria of information and evidence with reference to persons engaged in the illicit traffic. This would include such information as photographs, criminal records, finger prints, Bertillon measurements, description of the methods which the persons in question have been found to use, the places from which they have operated, the partners they have worked with, etc.

2. The immediate direct forwarding of information by letter or cable as to the suspected movement of narcotic drugs, or of those involved in smuggling drugs, if such movements might concern the other country. It will be readily realized that to have any value such information must reach its destination directly and speedily.

3. Mutual cooperation in detective and investigating work.

The officer of the Treasury Department who would have charge, on behalf of the United States Government, of the cooperation in the suppression of the illicit traffic in narcotics is the Commissioner of Narcotics, whose mail

address is Treasury Department, Washington, D.C., and whose telegraphic address is "Narcotics", Washington, D.C.

The proposed informal arrangement has already been accepted by the governments of twenty countries.

If the proposed arrangement meets with the approval of Your Excellency's Government, I am instructed to transmit to the Department of State the signed original of the Austrian note of acceptance. Accordingly it is requested that such note be accompanied by a signed duplicate for the files of the Legation. I am furthermore instructed to ascertain whether the Austrian Government, if it accepts, would have any objection to the publication by the United States Government of such note.

As of interest in this connection, there is attached a copy of the Department of State's BULLETIN OF TREATY INFORMATION No. 5, of July 31, 1929,¹ containing the texts of the arrangements entered into between the United States and other Governments, except the Cuban, Egyptian, and Mexican Governments, with whom arrangements were concluded subsequent to the issuance of this BULLETIN. It should also be added that final details have been completed in respect of the agreement with Yugoslavia, the preliminary correspondence concerning which appears in the enclosed BULLETIN OF TREATY INFORMATION.

In view of the Department of State's instruction that certain of the information desired of the Federal Chancellery, Department for Foreign Affairs, be telegraphed to Washington, it would be very much appreciated if I might receive a reply from Your Excellency at as early a date as possible.

I take this occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

G. B. STOCKTON

His Excellency

Dr. JOHANN SCHÖBER,

Vice Chancellor and

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs.

*The Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs
to the American Minister*

[TRANSLATION]

THE VICE CHANCELLOR AND
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 177.459-14 a

VIENNA, July 24, 1931

EXCELLENCY:

With reference to the Legation's note No. 108 of April 10, 1931, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Austrian authorities charged

¹ Not printed here.

with the prevention of the traffic in narcotic drugs, consider a direct exchange of pertinent information a very important means by which the struggle against the illicit trading in such drugs may be rendered more effective, and are prepared to enter into a direct exchange of information in accordance with the proposals contained in the above mentioned note.

The competent department with which to communicate for such an exchange of information is the Police Direction in Vienna, which functions as the "Zentralevidenzstelle" (central record department) in matters pertaining to the control of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs (narcotic drug department). Its address is: Polizeidirektion, Rauschgiftstelle, Vienna, IX., Rossauerlände 7 (Police Direction, Narcotic Drug Department); the telegraphic address is: Vienna, Polizeidirektion.

I have the honor further to inform Your Excellency that the Austrian Government has no objection to the publication of the documents which have been exchanged in regard to the aforementioned matter.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration.

SCHOBER

His Excellency

Mr. GILCHRIST BAKER STOCKTON,
*Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the United States of America,
Vienna.*