

## NARCOTIC DRUGS

*Exchange of notes at Washington June 29, August 7, and December 12 and 28, 1923*

*Entered into force December 28, 1923*

*Extended to the Philippine Islands and the Straits Settlements by agreement of October 22, 1927, and January 16 and November 15, 1928<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

*The British Chargé d'Affaires to the Secretary of State*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
*June 29th, 1923*

No. 540

SIR,

I have the honour to inform you, in view of the great interest taken by the United States Government in opium questions and the work of the Opium Committee of the League of Nations, that, at its Fourth Session, held at Geneva from the 8th to the 14th of January, 1923, the Advisory Committee on the traffic in opium made the following recommendation, which was adopted by the Council on February 1st last:

“That the Governments be asked to extend the arrangement for the mutual exchange of information in regard to seizures to include information in regard to the proceedings and movements of persons who are known to the authorities to be engaged in carrying on an illicit traffic in drugs.”

This recommendation has been accepted by His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Secretary-General of the League of Nations has been so informed.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has addressed a circular despatch to the Governors of all Colonies and Protectorates, in which he expresses the hope that each of them will be able to cause this recommendation to be put into force so far as his own administration is concerned; and

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<sup>1</sup> *Post*, p. 470.

he has further directed them to cause any information of the nature indicated, which may be of immediate importance to neighbouring administrations, to be communicated to the British Consul in the country concerned.

In order that the United States authorities may have the benefit of any information which is communicated to His Majesty's Consular Officers in the United States in this connection, I have taken pleasure in instructing His Majesty's Consular Officers to forward any such information to the local authorities in the districts under their supervision.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration

Sir,  
your most obedient,  
humble servant,

HENRY GETTY CHILTON

The Honourable  
CHARLES E. HUGHES,  
*Secretary of State of the United States,  
Washington, D.C.*

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*The Secretary of State to the British Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*

AUGUST 7, 1923

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 540 of June 29, 1923, in which you informed me that His Britannic Majesty's Government had accepted a recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Opium at its Fourth Session to the following effect:

“That the Governments be asked to extend the arrangement for the mutual exchange of information in regard to seizures to include information in regard to the proceedings and movements of persons who are known to the authorities to be engaged in carrying on an illicit traffic in drugs.”

Your note further stated that His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies has addressed a circular despatch to the Governors of all Colonies and Protectorates in which he expresses the hope that each of them will be able to cause this recommendation to be put into force so far as his own administration is concerned; and that he has further directed them to cause any information of the nature indicated, which may be of immediate importance, to be communicated to the British Consul in the country concerned.

You add that in order that the United States authorities may have the benefit of any information which is communicated to His Majesty's Consular Officers in this connection, you have instructed His Majesty's Consular

Officers to forward any such information to the local authorities in the districts under their supervision.

Your note was immediately referred to the Department concerned, and I have received a reply to the effect that such information coming to the attention of British Consular Officers in the United States may be communicated to the nearest Collector of Customs. A list of the Collectors of Customs is appended hereto.<sup>2</sup>

I take pleasure in assuring you that the Government of the United States is deeply gratified by the action of His Majesty's Government, and is prepared to cooperate to the fullest extent in transmitting information of the character suggested. To this end, the Department of State is desirous, if agreeable to your Government, of instructing its Diplomatic and Consular Officers to cooperate with their British colleagues, or the competent British authorities (if in British territory) in collecting and forwarding information that will lead to the seizure of illicit narcotic drugs and the detection or apprehension of persons engaged in this traffic.

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

CHARLES E. HUGHES

Enclosure:

As stated.

Mr. HENRY GETTY CHILTON,  
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim*  
*of Great Britain.*

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*The British Chargé d'Affaires ad interim to the Secretary of State*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON.

*December 12th, 1923*

No. 1059

SIR:

With reference to the note which you were so good as to address to me on the 7th of August last, with regard to the extension of the arrangements for the mutual exchange of information concerning seizures of drugs so as to include information regarding the activities and movements of persons known to be engaged in such illicit traffic, I have the honour, under instructions from His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to state that His Majesty's Government welcome the proposal contained in the final paragraph of your note under reference, and that instructions are being issued to the competent authorities in the British Empire and to His Majesty's Diplo-

<sup>2</sup> Not printed here.

matic and Consular representatives abroad to co-operate with the United States authorities in the manner proposed.

His Majesty's Government would be grateful if, in pursuance of this arrangement, the appropriate United States authorities would communicate the information in question to the following British officials:

In Great Britain . . . . .	His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Home Affairs; in cases of special urgency, the local police authorities or Customs officials may also be communicated with direct.
In Ireland . . . . .	The Ministry of Home Affairs, Dublin.
In India . . . . .	His Majesty's Collectors of Customs.
In Australia . . . . .	Department of Trade and Customs, Melbourne.
In Canada . . . . .	Deputy Minister, Department of Health, Ottawa.
In New Zealand . . . . .	Comptroller of Customs, Wellington, New Zealand.
In the Union of South Africa . . . .	Secretary for Public Health, Department of Public Health, Union Building, Pretoria.
In Newfoundland . . . . .	Minister of Finance and Customs, St. John's, Newfoundland.
In British Colonies not possessing responsible Government, in British Protectorates and in Tanganyika territory.	The Chief Customs officer in each case.

I am instructed to enquire whether the United States Government would entertain any objection to the communication by His Majesty's Government to the League of Nations of the present correspondence.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

HENRY GETTY CHILTON

The Honourable

CHARLES E. HUGHES,  
*Secretary of State of the  
United States,  
Washington, D.C.*

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*The Secretary of State to the British Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.*

DECEMBER 28, 1923

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Note No. 1059 of December 12, 1923, in regard to arrangements for the mutual exchange of information regarding seizures of illicit narcotic drugs and the activities and movements of persons known to be engaged in such traffic, and note with pleasure that your Government welcomes more extended cooperation between officials to this end. Appropriate instructions are being sent to the Diplomatic and Consular officers of this Government in this sense.

This Government has no objection to the communication of this correspondence (your Note No. 540 of June 29, 1923, my reply thereto of August 7, 1923, your note under acknowledgement, and the present communication) by His Majesty's Government in the manner indicated in the final paragraph of your note.

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

CHARLES E. HUGHES

Mr. HENRY GETTY CHILTON,  
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim  
of Great Britain.*