

CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR EMPLOYEES

*Exchange of notes at The Hague and Washington February 1, 1947,
and August 20, 1948, amending agreement of April 7, June 17,
August 20, and September 19, 1930
Entered into force August 20, 1948*

Department of State files

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the American Embassy

No. 5225

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and, with reference to the Ministry's note No. 95666 dated December 13th 1946, has the honour to inform the Embassy that the Netherlands Government is prepared, on a basis of reciprocity, to recognize extension of the Agreement of 1930¹ in the manner indicated in the Embassy's Memorandum of November 1, 1946.

In view of the foregoing, the Ministry of Finance has authorized the Collectors of Customs, Excise and Taxes to extend the privilege of freedom from certain taxes and duties enjoyed by Diplomatic and Consular Officers to all Employees in the diplomatic and consular offices provided that they are nationals of the United States, not engaged in business or the exercise of a profession in the Netherlands.

The privilege includes exemption from the payment of customs duties, import tax (turn-over tax on goods imported), statistical duties, all excises, including those on tobacco and spirits, and the tax on gold and silverware on goods imported by the aforementioned employees for their personal use, official use, or that of their family.

In consequence of the above, the interim arrangement mentioned in the Ministry's note, No. 86526 of November 28th, 1946,² should be regarded as having been cancelled.

THE HAGUE, 1st February, 1947

[SEAL]

TO THE EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

¹ Exchange of notes at The Hague and at Washington Apr. 7, June 17, Aug. 20 and Sept. 19, 1930, and exchange of memorandums at Washington May 19 and June 30, 1931 (*ante*, p. 105).

² Not printed.

The Secretary of State to the Netherlands Ambassador

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of the Netherlands and has the honor to inform him that the American Embassy at The Hague notified the Department of State in February, 1947, that the Netherlands Minister of Finance had authorized the extension to all American employees in the diplomatic and consular offices in the Netherlands the same exemption from duties and certain taxes as those enjoyed by American diplomatic and consular officers stationed in the Netherlands.

Immediately upon the receipt of this information the Treasury Department was informed that on a basis of reciprocity this Department would request for employees of Netherlands nationality at the Embassy at Washington and at the consulates in the United States, as well as for the members of their families living with them, who are not engaged in any private occupation for gain, the privilege of free importation.

It is regretted that through an oversight the Embassy was not formally notified of this action. However, upon the request of the Embassy in each instance, this Department will be glad to request the extension of these privileges, which will include the free entry of the baggage and effects of members of these groups upon arrival in the United States and upon return from leave, and the free entry of articles imported by them during official residence, provided the importation of such articles is not prohibited by the laws of the United States.

Under the provisions of Public Law 58, 77th Congress,³ exemption from the payment of internal revenue tax on importations of liquor and tobacco will also be requested for employees of Netherlands consulates in the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, *August 20, 1948*

³ 55 Stat. 184.