

JURISDICTION OVER PRIZES

*Exchange of notes at Canberra November 10, 1942, and May 10, 1944
Entered into force August 12, 1944
Applicable only during World War II*

58 Stat. 1390; Executive Agreement Series 417

The American Minister to the Minister of State for External Affairs

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
*Canberra, A.C.T.
November 10, 1942.*

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my note of February 19, 1942 and to the reply of May 29 of the then Acting Minister for External Affairs, the Right Honorable John Curtin, relating to the question of changing the present procedure with respect to prizes taken by the United States naval forces in foreign waters remote from ports of the United States.

I am now in receipt of instructions from the Department of State amplifying the information contained in my note of February 19.

Public Law 704—77th Congress, an Act to facilitate the disposition of prizes captured by the United States during the present war, and for other purposes was approved on August 18, 1942.¹ A copy of the Act is enclosed.

It will be perceived that the Act relates only to prizes captured during the present war, a matter raised in the note from the Acting Minister for External Affairs. It may be added concerning the other matter inquired about that the special prize commissioners which the district courts of the United States are authorized to appoint may exercise abroad the duties which are prescribed by law for such commissioners and such additional duties as the district courts may confer on them for carrying out the purposes of the Act. The duties of prize commissioners are set out in Title 34 U.S.C. Section 1138 which reads as follows:

“§ 1138. Duties of prize commissioners. The prize commissioners, or one of them, shall receive from the prize master the documents and papers, and

¹ 56 Stat. 746.