

TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
ARRESTED IN SYRIA
(WEYGAND-KNABENSHUE AGREEMENT)

Exchange of notes at Beirut September 3 and 17, 1924

Entered into force September 17, 1924¹

Agreed procedure approved by Department of State November 5, 1924

Department of State files

The American Consul General to the French High Commissioner

SEPTEMBER 3, 1924

His Excellency

THE FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER,
Beirut.

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to my letter of September 3, 1924, relating to the case of Mr. Maroon A. Ina, an American citizen, who is being confined in the prison at Zahleh on the charge of highway robbery.

This case gives rise to several questions involving the arrest, trial and imprisonment of American citizens under the mandatory regime, and which I hope Your Excellency will take under consideration with a view to establishing a procedure more compatible with a system of justice to which foreigners have been accustomed and to which they are entitled.

May I ask, therefore, that:

1st. When a person is arrested who declares to the Police authorities, upon his arrest, that he is an American citizen, the said authorities should immediately communicate the accused's declaration of nationality through appropriate channels to the nearest American Consulate for confirmation?

2nd. Upon the establishment by the Consular authorities of the American nationality of the accused, his case should be immediately examined or at

¹ Existing rights of the United States and its nationals were recognized and continued in effect by the agreement between the United States and Syria of Sept. 7 and 8, 1944 (EAS 434, *post*, SYRIA).