

JURISDICTION OVER CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED BY U.S. ARMED FORCES IN BEL- GIAN CONGO

*Exchange of notes at Washington March 31, May 27, June 23 and
August 4, 1943*

Entered into force August 4, 1943

Expired October 28, 1952,¹ in accordance with its terms

58 Stat. 1215; Executive Agreement Series 395

The Secretary of State to the Belgian Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1943

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's note of March 12, 1943 concerning an agreement between the United States and Belgium relating to the jurisdiction of American Service courts over members of the armed forces of the United States in the Belgian Congo.

It is the desire of the Government of the United States that the Service courts and authorities of its military and naval forces shall, during the continuance of the present conflict, exercise exclusive jurisdiction over criminal offenses which may be committed in the Belgian Congo by members of such forces.

If cases arise in which for special reasons the Service authorities of this Government may prefer not to exercise the above jurisdiction, it is proposed that in any such case a written statement to that effect shall be sent to the Belgian Government through diplomatic channels, in which event it would be open to the Belgian authorities to assume jurisdiction.

Assurance is given that the Service courts and authorities of the United States forces in the Belgian Congo will be willing and able to try and on conviction to punish all criminal offenses which members of the United States forces may be alleged on sufficient evidence to have committed in the Belgian Congo, and that the United States authorities will be willing in principle

¹ Six months after entry into force for the United States of treaty of peace with Japan (3 UST 3169; TIAS 2490).