

## JURISDICTION OVER PRIZES

*Exchange of notes at London October 1 and November 3, 1942*  
*Reciprocity proclaimed by the President of the United States January 30,*  
*1943*<sup>1</sup>

*Entered into force January 30, 1943*  
*Expired at conclusion of World War II*

58 Stat. 1207; Executive Agreement Series 393

*The American Embassy to the British Foreign Office*

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
*London, October 1, 1942*

MY DEAR WARD,

With reference to your letter of March 18, 1942 (No. W 2555/247/49), to Shantz concerning the proposed legislation to enlarge the jurisdiction of the United States Courts in certain cases of prize, I wish to inform you that Public Law 704—77th Congress, enacted 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. A copy of the Act is enclosed.<sup>2</sup>

This Act, it will be noted, relates only to prizes captured during the present war.

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 inventory thereof, and shall take the affidavit of the prize master required by section 1134 of this title, and shall forthwith take the testimony of the witnesses sent in, separate from each other, on interrogatories prescribed by the court, in the manner usual in prize courts; and the witnesses shall not be permitted to see the interrogatories, documents, or papers, or to consult

<sup>1</sup> 57 Stat. 729.

<sup>2</sup> See 56 Stat. 746.