

MILITARY SERVICE

Exchanges of notes at Washington March 31, July 31, and October 10 and 16, 1942

*Entered into force October 16, 1942; operative from August 4, 1942
Terminated March 31, 1947¹*

56 Stat. 1889; Executive Agreement Series 304

The Acting Secretary of State to the Belgian Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
March 31, 1942

EXCELLENCY:

With reference to your Excellency's note no. 1685 and previous correspondence with respect to the enlistment of residents of the United States in the armed forces of Belgium, I have the honor to inform you that special consideration has been given to the views of your Government in the discussions which have taken place between officers of this Department, the War and Navy Departments, and the Selective Service System on the general problem of the application of the United States Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended,² to nationals of co-belligerent countries residing in the United States.

As you are aware the Act provides that with certain exceptions every male citizen of the United States and every male person residing in the United States between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five shall register. The Act further provides that, with certain exceptions, registrants within specified age limits are liable for active military service in the United States armed forces.

This Government recognizes that from the standpoint of morale of the individuals concerned and the over-all military effort of the countries at war with the Axis Powers, it would be desirable to permit certain classes of individuals who have registered or who may register under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, to enlist in the armed forces of a co-belligerent country, should they desire to do so. It will be recalled that during the World War this Government signed conventions with certain associated

¹ Upon termination of functions of U.S. Selective Service System (60 Stat. 341).

² 54 Stat. 885.