

CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

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The British Ambassador to the Secretary of State

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
16th February, 1949

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SIR:

With reference to the Convention regulating the position of consular officers between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed this day,¹ I have the honour to refer to the terms of Article 14, which provide for exemption from taxes and duties imposed upon, or by reason of, importation in respect of articles required exclusively for the use of a consular officer or employee and members of their families.

2. It will be noted that Article 14 provides only for free importation of articles by a consular officer or employee himself, whether on first or subsequent arrival at his post, or by consignment to him at his post. His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are aware that under an arrangement, the terms of which were communicated orally to the United States Embassy in London in July, 1941, it was agreed that certain articles required for use of the staff of the Embassy might be imported in bulk free from customs duties and supplied to the staff through the Embassy. It is understood that the benefit of these arrangements is, at present, in the United Kingdom, extended to Consuls-General, Consuls and Vice-Consuls of the United States and other employees of the United States provided that they are permanent and pensionable employees of the United States Government and are United States citizens not engaged in any private occupation for gain.

¹ Unperfected; for text, see S. Ex. A, 81st Cong., 2d sess.