

CIVIL AFFAIRS: ADMINISTRATION AND JURISDICTION

Agreement signed at London May 16, 1944

Supplemented by agreement of April 2, 1946 ¹

Replaced by agreement of April 29, 1948 ²

Department of State files

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BELGIUM RESPECTING THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVIL ADMINISTRATION AND JURISDICTION IN BELGIAN TERRITORY LIBERATED BY AN ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

The discussions which have taken place between the representatives of the United States of America and Belgium concerning the arrangements to be made for civil administration and jurisdiction in Belgian territory liberated by an Allied Expeditionary Force under an Allied Commander in Chief have led to agreement upon the following broad conclusions.

The agreed arrangements set out below are intended to be essentially temporary and practical and are designed to facilitate as far as possible the task of the Commander in Chief and to further our common purpose, namely, the speedy expulsion of the Germans from Belgium and the final victory of the Allies over Germany.

1. In areas affected by military operations it is necessary to contemplate a first or military phase during which the Commander in Chief of the Expeditionary Force on land must de facto exercise supreme responsibility and authority to the full extent necessitated by the military situation.

2. As soon as, and to such extent as, in the opinion of the Commander in Chief the military situation permits the resumption by the Belgian Government of responsibility for the civil administration, he will notify the appropriate representative of the Belgian Government accordingly. The Belgian Government will thereupon, and to that extent, resume such exercise of responsibility, subject to such special arrangements as may be required in areas of vital importance to the Allied forces, such as ports, lines of communication and airfields, and without prejudice to the enjoyment by the

¹ *Post*, p. 615.

² *Post*, p. 661.