

## CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

*Exchange of notes at Brussels February 26 and May 28, 1948, with  
Belgian ministerial decree and instructions  
Entered into force May 28, 1948*

Department of State files

*The American Chargé d'Affaires to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No. 1390

AMERICAN EMBASSY

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to Your Excellency's kind Note no. 95/107 of December 30, 1947, of the Secretariat General, Section du Personnel, with which you informed me that the Belgian authorities are agreeable on the condition of reciprocity that as soon as the Customs Union between the Netherlands and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union becomes operative, that is to say January 1, 1948, exemption from all duties and import taxes will be granted not only to the chiefs of diplomatic missions of the United States accredited to Belgium but also to diplomatic personnel (Counselors, Secretaries and Attaches) and career consuls, as well as to employees of Embassy and Consulates on the condition that they are of American nationality and that they do not have a private lucrative profession in Belgium.

The Ministry's kind Note under reference was forwarded to the Department of State at Washington which has replied with a telegram dated February 17, 1948, that upon the request of the Belgian Embassy at Washington the Department of State will request for consular officers, diplomatic and consular personnel at the Belgian Embassy and Consulates, and members of their families living with them the privilege of free importation on the basis of reciprocity. Exemption from the payment of internal revenue tax on importations of liquors and tobacco will also be requested for Belgian consular officers and consular personnel. This matter has already been discussed with the Treasury Department and the latter has approved such a procedure. Accordingly, the Department of State requests that agreement on this point become effective forthwith.