

CUSTOMS INSPECTION ON THE HIGH SEAS

Exchange of notes at Berlin August 27 and September 5, 1931

United States notified of German ratification August 17, 1933

Entered into force August 31, 1933

Not revived with Federal Republic of Germany

Department of State files

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

[TRANSLATION]

FOREIGN OFFICE
W. 3409

BERLIN, August 27, 1931

MR. AMBASSADOR:

Following up the conversations between the Foreign Office and the Embassy of the United States of America concerning the customs inspection of travelers and their baggage on board German and American ocean liners on the high seas, I have the honor to recapitulate the results on which the Reich Government and the Government of the United States of America have agreed, as follows:

The German Reich and the United States of America agree that customs inspection of passengers and their baggage on vessels flying the flag of one of the parties and approaching the port of the other party may be carried out by the customs officers of the last named party on the high seas, before the ships enter the territorial waters of this party. The legal provisions which would apply if customs inspection of passengers and their baggage were attended to in the harbor, apply on the ships mentioned; from the beginning of customs inspection, the customs officers may undertake all official acts, serving to carry out these provisions, in the same degree and with the same effect as in the harbor itself.

This agreement may be terminated by each of the two Governments on three months written notice.

The Agreement is subject to ratification by Germany. It goes into effect 14 days after the day on which the delivery of the German ratification document to the Embassy of the United States of America in Berlin has taken place.