

WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchange of notes at Brussels November 26 and December 15, 1930,
supplementing agreement of April 2 and 8, 1927
Entered into force December 15, 1930
Terminated March 11, 1940*¹

Department of State files

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

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BRUSSELS, November 26, 1930

No. 556

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to refer to the reciprocal agreement dating from April 1927² and now in effect between the United States and Belgium which provides on the one hand for the waiver of fees for non-emigrant visas and applications therefor for Belgian non-emigrants proceeding to the United States, and, on the other hand, for the waiver of visa requirements for citizens of the United States of a similar class proceeding to Belgium.

In concluding this agreement Your Excellency will recall that the Belgian Government stipulated that the terms were not to apply to the American citizens entering the Belgian Congo. No express interpretation, however, was placed by my Government on the territory to be covered by the agreement.

I now take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the American Government, with a view to giving the broadest interpretation possible to its legal authority in connection with the agreement in question, has now ruled that it considers the agreement to be applicable to Belgian subjects proceeding to the United States and to its insular possessions including the Philippine Islands. I need not add that my Government would view with greatest satisfaction a decision by the Belgian Government to modify the existing agreement so that American citizens may be permitted to enter the Belgian Congo for temporary residence without the payment of passport fees, or upon payment of substantially reduced fees.

¹ Pursuant to notification of termination given by the United States on that date.

² Exchange of notes at Brussels Apr. 2 and 8, 1927, *ante*, p. 543.