

SETTLEMENT OF AWA MARU CLAIM

Agreement and agreed terms of understanding signed at Tokyo April 14, 1949

Entered into force April 14, 1949

63 Stat. 2397; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1911

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE AWA MARU CLAIM

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America and the Japanese Government reached an agreement during the recent hostilities that the Japanese Government would provide vessels which would transport supplies for the relief of Allied nationals in various areas of the Pacific then under Japanese control and the Government of the United States of America would guarantee the immunity of vessels on such missions from attack by Allied forces on both the outward and homeward voyages; and

WHEREAS the Japanese passenger-cargo vessel *Awa Maru* was sunk on April 1, 1945 while homeward bound from such a mission; and

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America acknowledged responsibility for the sinking of the vessel and assured the Japanese Government that it would be prepared after the termination of hostilities to consider the question of indemnity; and

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America and the Japanese Government sought to reach an equitable and mutually satisfactory solution of this claim; and

WHEREAS General of the Army Douglas MacArthur has extended his good offices as intermediary between the Government of the United States of America and the Japanese Government in an effort to facilitate agreement:

The undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments for that purpose, have reached the following agreement through the good offices of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

ARTICLE I

The Japanese Government, mindful of the equities of the situation as they have developed since the inception of the Occupation of Japan under General of the Army Douglas MacArthur and in appreciation of the assist-