

ARREST AND DETENTION

Informal arrangement signed at Panama September 18 and October 15, 1947

Entered into force October 15, 1947

Department of State files

The American Embassy to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with a view to assisting the Panamanian authorities as well as the American citizens concerned, has the honor to present for the Ministry's consideration the suggestion that the Embassy (or the Consulate in Colón as the case may be) be promptly advised when American merchant seamen or American tourists are brought before a Magistrate's Court for infraction of some law or regulation.

It is the Embassy's understanding that generally when an American merchant seaman or an American tourist is brought before a Magistrate's Court it is for some minor charge and that the Magistrate has the option of imposing either a jail sentence or a fine. Naturally the Embassy has no desire to interfere with the course of justice. The Embassy's only desire is that through the notification suggested some authorized United States official may present himself at the Court without delay and perhaps assist in the speedy settlement of the case to the satisfaction of the Magistrate and at the same time obviate any possibility that the American citizen might miss his connections for onward travel.

The foregoing suggestion has been made by way of supplementing the procedure followed by the Police authorities of Panamá with the Shore Patrol and Military Police of the armed forces of the United States in cases involving members of the United States armed forces.

It is hoped that this suggestion will be considered by the Panamanian authorities concerned only as an effort of this Embassy further to develop the cooperative and happy relations which exist between the Courts and the Police of Panamá on the one hand and the Embassy and the Consulate in Colón on the other.

PANAMÁ, R.P.,

September 18, 1947.