

MILITARY SERVICE

*Exchange of notes at Washington March 31, July 2, and September 24
and 30, 1942*

Entered into force July 8, 1942

*Terminated March 31, 1947*¹

56 Stat. 1900; Executive Agreement Series 306

The Acting Secretary of State to the Netherlands Minister

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1942

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to conversations which have taken place between officers of the Netherlands Legation and of the Department with respect to the application of the United States Selective Training and Service Act of 1940,² as amended, to Netherlands subjects residing in the United States.

As you are aware, the Act provides that with certain exceptions every male citizen of the United States and every other male person residing in the United States between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five shall register. The Act further provides that, with certain exceptions, registrants within specified age limits are liable for active military service in the United States armed forces.

This Government recognizes that from the standpoint of morale of the individuals concerned and the over-all military effort of the countries at war with the Axis Powers, it would be desirable to permit certain classes of individuals who have registered or who may register under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, to enlist in the armed forces of a cobelligerent country, should they desire to do so. It will be recalled that during the World War this Government signed conventions with certain associated powers on this subject. The United States Government believes, however, that under existing circumstances the same ends may now be accomplished through administrative action, thus obviating the delays incident to the signing and ratification of conventions.

¹ Upon termination of functions of U.S. Selective Service System (60 Stat. 341).

² 54 Stat. 885.