

USE AND DISPOSITION OF RECAPTURED VESSELS

*Exchange of notes at Washington May 7 and June 15, 1945, with
annexed memorandum*

Entered into force June 15, 1945; operative from October 22, 1943

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60 Stat. 1908; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 1556

The British Ambassador to the Acting Secretary of State

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.,
May 7th, 1945

Ref: 826/S/45

DEAR MR. GREW,

With reference to recent conversations which have been held between this Embassy and the State Department I now enclose a memorandum entitled "Memorandum relating to the use and disposal of United Nations vessels captured or found in the course of operations for the liberation of Europe".

2. It is the understanding of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that the United States Government are willing to apply the principles of the annexed memorandum to vessels of all the United Nations on a reciprocal basis and, with this end in view, will enter into similar agreements with all other United Nations willing to do so and will further take such steps as may be necessary to insure that claims in the nature of prize salvage will not be advanced in the United States courts against British vessels recovered in the course of the operations covered by the memorandum or against other vessels so recovered being vessels of other United Nations entering into similar arrangements. I take this opportunity of recalling to your attention the Prize Salvage Act, 1944, whereby His Majesty's Government took power to control and prevent prize salvage claims.

3. On these understandings and with these expressions of intent the present memorandum meets with the approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. If it likewise meets with the approval of the United States Government, this note, together with your reply, indicating such approval