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XV. Agreement With Belgium Providing Aid to the United States and Its Armed Forces

(Department of State Bulletin, February 6, 1943, Vol. VIII, No. 189)

An agreement specifying the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid to the United States and its armed forces by the Government of Belgium was concluded January 30 by an exchange of notes between the Secretary of State and the Belgian Ambassador, Count Robert van der Straten Ponthoz. The Government of Belgium, without awaiting the signature of the agreement, has for some time been extending such aid.

The texts of the notes, which are similar to those exchanged on September 3, 1942 with the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, follow:

The Belgian Ambassador to the Secretary Of State

JANUARY 30, 1943.

SIR:

In the United Nations declaration of January 1, 1942, the contracting governments pledged themselves to employ their full resources, military and economic, against those nations with which they are at war; and in the Agreement of June 16, 1942, each contracting government undertook to provide the other with such articles, services, facilities or information useful in the prosecution of their common war undertaking as each may be in a position to supply. It is further the understanding of the Government of Belgium that the general principle

to be followed in providing mutual aid as set forth in the said Agreement of June 16, 1942, is that the war production and the war resources of both Nations should be used by the armed forces of each and of the other United Nations in ways which most effectively utilize the available materials, manpower, production facilities and shipping space.

With a view, therefore, to supplementing Article II and Article VI of the Agreement of June 16, 1942, between our two Governments for the provision of reciprocal aid, I have the honor to set forth the understanding of the Government of Belgium of the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by the Government of Belgium to the armed forces of the United States and the manner in which such aid will be correlated with the maintenance of such forces by the United States Government.

1. The Government of Belgium, retaining the right of final decision in each case in the light of its potentialities and responsibilities, will provide the United States or its armed forces with the following types of assistance as such reciprocal aid, when it is found that they can most effectively be procured in Belgium or the Belgian Congo:

(a) Supplies, materials, facilities and services for the United States forces, except for the pay and allowances of such forces, administrative expenses, and such local purchases as its official establishments may make other than through the official establishments of the Government of Belgium as specified in paragraph 2.

(b) Supplies, materials and services needed in the construction of military projects, tasks and

similar capital works required for the common war effort in Belgium or the Belgian Congo, except for the wages and salaries of United States citizens.

(c) Supplies, materials and services needed in the construction of such military projects, tasks and capital works in territory other than Belgium or the Belgian Congo or territory of the United States to the extent that Belgium or the Belgian Congo is a more practicable source of supply than the United States or another of the United Nations.

2. The practical application of the principles formulated in this note, including the procedure by which requests for aid are made and acted upon, shall be worked out as occasion may require by agreement between the two Governments, acting when possible through their appropriate military or civilian administrative authorities. Requests by the United States Government for such aid will be presented by duly authorized authorities of the United States to official agencies of the Belgian Government which will be designated or established by the Government of Belgium for the purpose of facilitating the provision of reciprocal aid.

3. It is the understanding of the Government of Belgium that all such aid, as well as other aid, including information, received under Article VI of the Agreement of June 16, 1942, accepted by the President of the United States or his authorized representatives from the Government of Belgium will be received as a benefit to the United States under the Act of March 11, 1941. In so far as circumstances will permit, appropriate record

of aid received under this arrangement, except for miscellaneous facilities and services, will be kept by each Government.

If the Government of the United States concurs in the foregoing, I would suggest that the present note and your reply to that effect be regarded as placing on record the understanding of our two Governments in this matter and that for clarity and convenience of administration these arrangements be made retroactive to June 16, 1942, the date of the Agreement of the two Governments on the principles of mutual aid.

I avail [etc.]

Count R. VAN DER STRATEN PONTHOZ

*The Secretary of State to the Belgian
Ambassador*

JANUARY 30, 1943.

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of today's date concerning the principles and procedures applicable to the provision of aid by the Government of Belgium to the armed forces of the United States of America.

In reply I wish to inform you that the Government of the United States agrees with the understanding of the Government of Belgium as expressed in that note. In accordance with the suggestion contained therein, your note and this reply will be regarded as placing on record the understanding between our two Governments in this matter.

This further integration and strengthening of our common war effort gives me great satisfaction.

Accept [etc.]

CORDELL HULL