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The thoughts and opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of the U.S.

Government, the U.S. Department of the Navy or the Naval War College.

Admiral Hoover and Mr. Samuel Reber, Assistant Chief of the Division of European Affairs, Department of State, arrived at Martinique the morning of May 9.

Admiral Hoover is authorized to propose an arrangement whereby the French flag may continue to fly over the French Caribbean possessions and French sovereignty there will remain unchanged, and whereby Admiral Robert will continue to be recognized as the ultimate governing authority of French Caribbean possessions.

Should mutually satisfactory arrangements be reached with Admiral Robert as High Commissioner, assuring that the French authorities in the French Caribbean-Atlantic coast area will not furnish aid or comfort to Axis forces, the United States is prepared to safeguard the interests of France in these areas, to maintain their economic life, and to assure that all assets of the French Government in the French Caribbean possessions be held for the ultimate use of the French people.

XLIV. TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN ENEMY ALIENS AND PRISONERS OF WAR

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 152, May 23, 1942)

Upon the outbreak of war in Europe the Government of the United States, actuated by humanitarian motives, expressed the earnest hope to the British, French, and German Governments that they could give thought to avoiding harsh treatment of enemy aliens. It was pointed out that there had grown gradually among civilized states the conviction that there should be no retaliation against prisoners of war for acts of their governments. This

conviction received international sanction in the Prisoners of War Convention which was signed at Geneva in 1929. It was suggested that the same reasoning should apply to civilian enemy aliens unfortunate enough to be caught under enemy jurisdiction and that just as the nations had abandoned the idea that prisoners of war are hostages for the good behavior of the enemy so the same idea in respect to civilians might be held. It was recognized that belligerents might feel it essential to maintain surveillance and some restrictions upon the acts of civilian enemy aliens. These ideas were in general accepted and applied by the three belligerents to whom the American Government addressed its communication.

Upon the entry of the United States into the war the Government of the United States with reference to its declaration to the British, French, and German Governments informed the German, Italian, and Japanese Governments that it intended on its part to apply the principles set forth in its declaration and in line therewith to apply to civilian enemy aliens as liberal a regime as was consistent with the safety of the United States. This Government declared that enemy aliens whom it might be found necessary to intern would be treated at least as favorably as prisoners of war. To that end this Government informed the German, Italian, and Japanese Governments that it intended to apply to civilian enemy aliens taken into custody by it the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, so far as those provisions might be adaptable to civilians, and that it expected the enemy governments to extend like treatment

to American citizens taken into custody by them. The Italian Government replied that it would be glad reciprocally to apply the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention to American civilians interned by it. The Japanese Government replied that it would extend the provisions of the Convention reciprocally to American civilian internees provided that the American Government did not make use of the provisions of the Convention to compel Japanese civilians in its hands to work against their will—to which this Government agreed. The German Government stated that pending the completion of negotiations which were going on between the German and American Governments for the mutual repatriation of each other's nationals, it preferred not to undertake additional international obligations, especially since it hoped that it would be possible to substitute repatriation for internment. This Government replied that, as it had stated at the outbreak of the war, it did not desire to effect general internment of German nationals and preferred that citizens of the other country whose presence in either country appears prejudicial to the national safety should be repatriated. It added that pending the repatriation of German nationals held in custody in the United States the Government of the United States would in accordance with its previous declaration to the German Government apply to them the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and that it had taken note from reports received by it from official neutral sources that the German Government was apparently applying the provisions of this Convention to American civilians held in custody by it.

Upon the declaration of war between the United States and Germany and the United States and Italy, the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, to which all three countries are parties, was put into effect as regards prisoners of war. Japan, which is not a party to the Prisoners of War Convention, has agreed to apply it reciprocally to American prisoners of war.

The Geneva Prisoners of War Convention lays down in general terms the rights and duties of prisoners of war. The prisoners may be interned in towns, fortresses, or enclosed camps but they may not be imprisoned except as an indispensable measure of safety nor held in unhealthful regions. They must be lodged in buildings or in barracks affording all possible guaranties of hygiene and healthfulness and given generally the same accommodations and food as the depot troops of the holding power. They must receive medical treatment and be given liberty in the exercise of their religion. Sports and intellectual recreational diversions organized by them are to be encouraged by the holding powers. Officer prisoners must receive from the holding power the same pay as officers of corresponding rank in the armies of that power, provided this pay does not exceed that to which they are entitled in their own army. The labor of private soldiers may be utilized by the holding power with payment of wages in accordance with the rates in force for soldiers in the national army doing the same work or, if no such rates exist, according to rates in harmony with the work performed.

The Convention also provides that prisoners of war may be allowed to correspond with friends and relatives and that their correspondence shall enjoy

the postal frank. They may receive parcels containing foods, books, and other items. They may deal with the authorities through men of confidence or agents appointed by them from among themselves. The Convention specifies the procedure to be followed in imposing disciplinary punishments on prisoners of war and in their trial and punishment for crimes. Sick and wounded prisoners are to be repatriated.

The Convention further provides for the establishment of official information bureaus to exchange lists of prisoners among the belligerent powers and for work by relief societies in the prisoner-of-war camps. It also provides that representatives of the protecting powers shall visit camps to insure compliance with the provisions of the Convention and permits the carrying out by the International Red Cross Committee, with the consent of the interested belligerents, of its recognized humanitarian work.

The German, Italian, and Japanese Governments are apparently abiding by their undertakings to apply to prisoners of war the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and, so far as they are adaptable, to extend the application of the provisions of that Convention to American civilians.

The Japanese have permitted official neutral observers to visit American prisoners of war in Japan and American civilians interned in Japan and in a number of places which were in Japanese hands at the outbreak of the war between the United States and Japan. The Japanese have permitted these official neutral observers in some cases to speak alone with the Americans and in other

cases to speak with them in the presence of Japanese officials. American prisoners of war and civilian internees so interviewed have made no serious complaints of infractions of the Convention. The prisoners are reported to be receiving standard Japanese Army rations. The private soldiers at the camp at Zentsuji are being given employment in agriculture for which they receive pay. Civilians are in part interned under similar conditions in camps, in part under forced residence in their own houses, and in part at large under parole.

The Government of the United States, however, still remains without information from official neutral sources regarding the condition of Americans in the Philippines, in parts of occupied China, in Hong Kong, in Malaya, and in the Netherland East Indies, to which the Japanese Government has not yet admitted official neutral observers. Efforts have been made and are currently being continued to obtain Japanese consent to admit to these places also official neutral observers for the purpose of investigating the condition of American citizens, both interned and not interned.

Americans interned in Germany are accommodated in heated buildings and are reported to receive the rations of German depot troops. They are permitted to receive visits from their relatives and are allowed to exchange mail with friends and relatives and to receive parcels and supplementary food and clothing. They receive good medical attention, and in most cases the aged and sick are reliably reported to have been released. Their general health is stated to be good.

Americans interned in Italy are reliably reported not to be confined in camps but to be under orders to remain in certain towns and districts.

This Government is endeavoring to fulfil its undertakings with regard to the Geneva Conference and at the same time is insisting that the full benefits of the Convention be reciprocally granted by the enemy countries to American citizens in their hands.

XLV. AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA FOR LEASE OF DEFENSE SITES

(Dept. of State Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 152, May 23, 1942)

The Governments of the Republic of Panama and the United States of America have reached an important agreement covering the use by the armed forces of the United States of numerous defense areas in the Republic of Panama. The agreement, to enter into effect when approved by the National Assembly of Panamá, was signed at Panamá on May 18 by the Ambassador of the United States, Edwin C. Wilson, and the Panamanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Octavio Fábrega.

At the same time announcement was made of the satisfactory settlement of certain outstanding problems in the relations between the two countries, as embodied in notes exchanged May 18, 1942 between the Secretary of State and the Panamanian Ambassador in Washington, Señor Don Ernesto Jaén Guardia. Among the various points on which agreement has been reached, those of particular significance follow: The withdrawal of the Panama Railroad Company from real-estate opera-