

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
BELGIUM

Exchange of Notes constituting an agreement relating to the waiver by the Belgian Government of most-favoured-nation provisions of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement between the United States of America and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, signed on 27 February 1935, with respect to advantages accorded by the United States of America to the Philippines. Washington, 4 May and 11 July 1946

English official text communicated by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America at the seat of the United Nations. The registration took place on 3 March 1948.

ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
et
BELGIQUE

Echange de notes constituant un accord relatif à la renonciation par le Gouvernement belge à la clause de la nation la plus favorisée contenue dans l'accord concernant les relations commerciales intervenu entre les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et l'Union économique belgo-luxembourgeoise, signé le 27 février 1935, en ce qui concerne les avantages accordés par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique aux Philippines. Washington, 4 mai et 11 juillet 1946

Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le représentant permanent des Etats-Unis d'Amérique au siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 3 mars 1948.

No. 200. EXCHANGE OF NOTES¹ CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND BELGIUM RELATING TO THE WAIVER BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT OF MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION PROVISIONS OF THE RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE BELGO-LUXEMBOURG ECONOMIC UNION, SIGNED ON 27 FEBRUARY 1935, WITH RESPECT TO ADVANTAGES ACCORDED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PHILIPPINES. WASHINGTON, 4 MAY, AND 11 JULY 1946

I

The Acting Secretary of State to the Belgian Ambassador

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1946

Excellency:

With reference to the forthcoming independence of the Philippines on July 4, 1946, my Government considers that provision for a transitional period for dealing with the special tariff position which Philippine products have occupied for many years in the United States is an essential accompaniment to Philippine Independence. Accordingly, under the Philippine Trade Act approved April 30, 1946, goods the growth, produce or manufacture of the Philippines will enter the United States free of duty until 1954, after which they will be subject to gradually and regularly increasing rates of duty or decreasing duty-free quotas until 1974 when general rates will become applicable and all preferences will be completely eliminated.

¹ Came into force on 11 July 1946, by the exchange of the said notes.

Since the enactment of the Philippine Independence Act approved March 24, 1934, my Government has foreseen the probable necessity of providing for such a transitional period and has since then consistently excepted from most-favored-nation obligations which it has undertaken toward foreign governments advantages which it might continue to accord to Philippine products after the proclamation of Philippine independence. Some thirty instruments in force with other governments, for example, permit the continuation of the exceptional tariff treatment now accorded by my Government to Philippine products, irrespective of the forthcoming change in the Commonwealth's political status.

With a view, therefore, to placing the relations between the United States and Belgium upon the same basis, with respect to the matters involved, as the relations existing under the treaties and agreements referred to in the preceding paragraph, I have the honor to propose that the most-favored-nation provisions of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement between the United States of America and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union signed February 27, 1935,¹ shall not be understood to require the extension to Belgium of advantages accorded by the United States to the Philippines.

In view of the imminence of the inauguration of an independent Philippine Government, I should be glad to have the reply of Your Excellency's Government to this proposal at an early date.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Dean ACHESON
Acting Secretary of State

His Excellency Baron Robert Silvercruys
Belgian Ambassador

II

The Belgian Ambassador to the Acting Secretary of State

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

Washington, July 11, 1946

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 4th, by which you kindly advised me that the Government of the United States of America considers that provision for a transitional period for dealing with the

¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CLX, page 27.

special tariff position which the Philippines products have occupied for many years in the United States, is an essential accompaniment to Philippine independence.

Accordingly, under the Philippine Trade Act approved April 30, 1946, goods the growth, produce or manufacture of the Philippines, will enter the United States free of duty until 1954, after which they will be subject to gradually and regularly increasing rates of duty or decreasing duty-free quotas until 1974 when general rates will become applicable and all preferences will be completely eliminated.

Upon instructions received from my Government, I am pleased to advise you that, on behalf of the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union, they agree that the most-favoured-nation provisions of the Reciprocal Trade Agreement between the United States of America and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, signed February 27, 1935, shall not be understood to require during the above mentioned period, the extension to the Economic Union of advantages accorded by the United States of America to the Philippines.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

SILVERCRUYS
The Belgian Ambassador

The Honorable Dean Acheson
Acting Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.