

No. 1294

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**BELGIUM**  
**and**  
**NETHERLANDS**

**Exchange of letters constituting an arrangement for the reciprocal settlement of Belgian claims on the Netherlands army and Netherlands claims on the Belgian army which originated during the war owing to the presence of Netherlands troops in Belgium and of Belgian troops in the Netherlands. Brussels, 6 February and 15 March 1951**

*Official text: Dutch.*

*Registered by Belgium on 10 July 1951.*

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**BELGIQUE**  
**et**  
**PAYS-BAS**

**Échange de lettres constituant un arrangement pour le règlement réciproque des créances belges sur l'armée néerlandaise et des créances néerlandaises sur l'armée belge causées pendant la guerre du fait de la présence de troupes néerlandaises en Belgique et de troupes belges aux Pays-Bas. Bruxelles, 6 février et 15 mars 1951**

*Texte officiel néerlandais.*

*Enregistré par la Belgique le 10 juillet 1951.*

## TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION

No. 1294. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS FOR THE RECIPROCAL SETTLEMENT OF BELGIAN CLAIMS ON THE NETHERLANDS ARMY AND NETHERLANDS CLAIMS ON THE BELGIAN ARMY WHICH ORIGINATED DURING THE WAR OWING TO THE PRESENCE OF NETHERLANDS TROOPS IN BELGIUM AND BELGIAN TROOPS IN THE NETHERLANDS. BRUSSELS, 6 FEBRUARY AND 15 MARCH 1951

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## I

## NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

Brussels, 6 February 1951

S/AE  
Jur.—V.B. 5—645

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the Netherlands Government, in order to facilitate the settlement of Netherlands claims on the Belgian army and Belgian claims on the Netherlands army which originated during the war owing to the presence of Belgian troops in Netherlands territory and of Netherlands troops in Belgian territory, undertakes to apply the provisions which, as you have notified me, meet with the agreement of the Belgian Government and the text of which reads as follows :

1. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall settle and, on behalf of the Belgian Treasury and in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in the Netherlands, pay for :

(a) any requisitions, purchases or services whatsoever which were made or contracted for during the military operations in 1940 for the benefit of the Belgian army in the Netherlands;

(b) any damage to billets caused by the Belgian army in the Netherlands during these operations.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 6 February 1951, in accordance with the terms of the said letters.

If a Netherlands creditor does not agree to the compensation awarded to him by the Netherlands authorities, he may appeal to the Commission referred to in article 12 of the Billeting Order of 10 November 1893 (*Staatsblad* No. 253) to the exclusion of any other body; the ruling of this Commission shall be final so far as the claimant is concerned, and no appeal shall lie therefrom to any higher authority.

2. The Belgian Government shall settle and, on behalf of the Netherlands Treasury and in conformity with the laws and regulations in force in Belgium, pay for :

(a) any requisitions, purchases or services whatsoever made or contracted for during the military operations in 1940 for the benefit of the Netherlands army in Belgium;

(b) any damage to billets caused by the Netherlands army in Belgium during these operations.

In any appeal by a Belgian creditor concerning these matters, the respondent shall invariably be the Belgian State.

The time limit of three months prescribed in the penultimate paragraph of article 15 of the Military Requisitions Act of 12 May 1927 shall begin to run as from the date of the publication of this Arrangement in the *Moniteur Belge*.

In the case of claims presented after the publication of this Arrangement, the said time limit shall not begin to run until the date on which the application for compensation is lodged with the communal authority.

3. The sums paid by either party in pursuance of the foregoing articles shall, even if payment was made before the conclusion of this Arrangement, be entered in special accounts to be settled later by a clearing arrangement.

4. The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shall assume responsibility for damage caused in Netherlands territory by vehicles of the Belgian army.

For its part, the Belgian Government shall assume responsibility for damage resulting from accidents caused by vehicles of the Netherlands army in Belgian territory.

5. The competent Netherlands and Belgian authorities shall consult with one another with a view to solving any practical difficulties to which the settlement may give rise.

If you agree, this letter and your letter informing me of the Belgian Government's agreement shall be deemed to constitute a formal undertaking.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) VAN HARINXMA THOE SLOOTEN

To His Excellency Mr. P. van Zeeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Brussels

## II

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND FOREIGN TRADEOffice of the Director-General of Policy  
Office of the Director of International Organization  
and Peace Settlement

Brussels, 15 March 1951

No. P.II/R.19.2/51/2434

Subject:

*Military requisitions in 1940*  
*Agreement between Belgium and the Netherlands*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 6 February 1951, S/AE, Jur. — V.B. 5, No. 645.

The Belgian Government states that it agrees to treat the contents of the said letter as an arrangement respecting the reciprocal settlement of the requisitions made in 1940 by Netherlands armed forces in Belgium and by Belgian armed forces in the Netherlands, and considers the date of the said communication, that is to say 6 February 1951, as the date of the conclusion of the arrangement.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) VAN ZEELAND

His Excellency Baron van Harinxma thoe Slooten  
Netherlands Ambassador  
Brussels

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