

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Exchange of notes at Brussels February 6 and June 13, 1928
Entered into force June 13, 1928

Department of State files

The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

No. 97

BRUSSELS, *February 6, 1928*

MR. MINISTER:

Pursuant to the instructions of my Government, I have the honor to inquire whether it would be agreeable to the Royal Belgian Government to arrange for the establishment of a closer cooperation between the appropriate administrative officials of our two countries with a view to bringing about stricter control of the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs.

The arrangement which I am instructed to present for the consideration of Your Excellency's Government contemplates:

1) The direct exchange between the Treasury Department of the United States and the corresponding office in Belgium of information and evidence with reference to persons engaged in the illicit traffic. This would include such information as photographs, criminal records, finger prints, Bertillon measurements, description of the methods which the persons in question have been found to use, the places from which they have operated, the partners they have worked with, etc.

2) The immediate direct forwarding of information by letter or cable as to the suspected movements of narcotic drugs, or of those involved in smuggling drugs, if such movements might concern the other country. Unless such information as this reaches its destination directly and speedily it is useless.

3) Mutual cooperation in detective and investigating work.

The officer of the Treasury Department who would have charge, on behalf of the United States Government, of the cooperation in the suppression of the illicit traffic in narcotics is Colonel L. G. Nutt, whose mail and telegraph address is Deputy Commissioner in Charge of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.

In case the proposed arrangement meets with the approval of the Royal Belgian Government, I should be grateful if I might be informed of the name of the Belgian official with whom Colonel Nutt should communicate.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

HUGH GIBSON

His Excellency
Monsieur PAUL HYMANS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Ambassador

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BRUSSELS, *June 13, 1928*

MR. AMBASSADOR,

Referring to my note of April 27, 1928, I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency the enclosed copy of a report ¹ addressed to the Minister of Justice by the Attorney General of the Court of Appeal of Brussels.

The Attorney General considers that the agreement suggested by the American Government regarding the control of the drug traffic responds to a real need; he is of the opinion that it is the judiciary police of the Court of Brussels that would be the best qualified to enter into correspondence with the Treasury Department of the United States.

In communicating to me this report, the Minister of Justice adds that he concurs in the opinion of the Attorney General.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my very high consideration.

HYMANS

¹Not printed.