

No. 512

BELGIUM
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning the establishment of American cemeteries in Belgium. Brussels, 6 June and 23 July 1947

French and English official texts communicated by the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations. The registration took place on 11 August 1949.

BELGIQUE
et
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Echange de lettres constituant un accord concernant la création de cimetières américains en Belgique. Bruxelles, 6 juin et 23 juillet 1947

Textes officiels français et anglais communiqués par le représentant permanent de la Belgique auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 11 août 1949.

No. 512. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF BELGIUM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN BELGIUM. BRUSSELS, 6 JUNE AND 23 JULY 1947

N° 512. ECHANGE DE LETTRES CONSTITUANT UN ACCORD¹ ENTRE LES GOUVERNEMENTS DE LA BELGIQUE ET DES ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE CONCERNANT LA CREATION DE CIMETIERES AMERICAINS EN BELGIQUE. BRUXELLES, 6 JUIN ET 23 JUILLET 1947

I

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

N° 927.

Brussels, June 6, 1947

Excellency,

I have the honor to inquire whether Your Excellency's Government would be willing to accord to the United States Government the concessions set forth below. These concessions are desired in order to facilitate the interment in Belgium, or the removal to their own country, of the bodies of American nationals killed in the World War of 1939-1945, or whose death in the European theater of operations can be directly attributed to that war, or who died in this theater of operations while employed or otherwise engaged in activities contributing to the prosecution of that war, and to permit the establishment, construction, improvement and proper maintenance of permanent cemeteries for the final burial of, and memorials in commemoration of, American nationals who lost their lives in the above-mentioned war.

I

The Belgian Government grants to the United States of America the right to establish and maintain temporary cemeteries within Belgium subject to such control as is necessary, for the burial of persons who so lost their lives, and to make exhumations therefrom or from other locations for return to the United States or for concentration in permanent cemeteries within Belgium including

¹ Came into force on 23 July 1947, by the exchange of the said letters.

¹ Entré en vigueur le 23 juillet 1947, par l'échange desdites lettres.

movement of bodies from other countries into Belgium. In view of the limited area of Belgium and the large number of military cemeteries therein already established, the Government of the United States will limit as much as possible the number of bodies of American nationals to be moved into Belgium from other countries. No mass movement of bodies from other countries to cemeteries within Belgium for permanent interment will be undertaken by the Government of the United States.

II

The Government of the United States shall be exempted from generally applicable laws and regulations of the Belgian Government relating to hygiene and the securing of permits in connection with the burial, disinterment for reburial and movement of bodies. However, the Government of the United States engages to conduct such work in a manner which will in no way constitute a danger to public health and to make such sanitary arrangements as are necessary for the purpose. Exhumations, burials and movements of bodies shall be exempted from all Belgian taxes, excepting stamp taxes.

III

The Government of the United States may import into Belgium from any country, and re-export therefrom after use thereof, free of customs duties and other taxes, excepting stamp taxes, the equipment, supplies and materials, including means of transportation by air, land or water, as are necessary for the accomplishment of any of the purposes of this agreement. None of such equipment, supplies and/or materials will be sold in Belgium or be left in Belgium after completion of the mission in which it is used, excepting with the express permission of the Belgian Government.

American personnel designated by the Government of the United States shall be permitted free entry into, and departure from, Belgium.

IV

The Government of the United States shall be permitted the use of railroads, highways, navigable waters, ports, port installations and buildings for office, warehouse and billet purposes, together with the necessary services and Belgian labor to the extent required for the accomplishment of the purposes of this agreement, subject only to payment of the established rates of compensation therefor.

V

The Belgian Government will acquire such sites for permanent cemeteries (Fields of Honor) and/or memorials, as are deemed necessary by the Government of the United States, with usage thereof in perpetuity reserved