

WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

*Exchange of notes at Brussels November 26 and December 15, 1930,
supplementing agreement of April 2 and 8, 1927*

Entered into force December 15, 1930

*Terminated March 11, 1940*¹

Department of State files

The American Chargé d'Affaires to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BRUSSELS, November 26, 1930

No. 556

MR. MINISTER:

I have the honor to refer to the reciprocal agreement dating from April 1927² and now in effect between the United States and Belgium which provides on the one hand for the waiver of fees for non-emigrant visas and applications therefor for Belgian non-emigrants proceeding to the United States, and, on the other hand, for the waiver of visa requirements for citizens of the United States of a similar class proceeding to Belgium.

In concluding this agreement Your Excellency will recall that the Belgian Government stipulated that the terms were not to apply to the American citizens entering the Belgian Congo. No express interpretation, however, was placed by my Government on the territory to be covered by the agreement.

I now take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the American Government, with a view to giving the broadest interpretation possible to its legal authority in connection with the agreement in question, has now ruled that it considers the agreement to be applicable to Belgian subjects proceeding to the United States and to its insular possessions including the Philippine Islands. I need not add that my Government would view with greatest satisfaction a decision by the Belgian Government to modify the existing agreement so that American citizens may be permitted to enter the Belgian Congo for temporary residence without the payment of passport fees, or upon payment of substantially reduced fees.

¹ Pursuant to notification of termination given by the United States on that date.

² Exchange of notes at Brussels Apr. 2 and 8, 1927, *ante*, p. 543.

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

WARDEN MCK. WILSON
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency
Monsieur PAUL HYMANS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the American Chargé d'Affaires

[TRANSLATION]

MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BRUSSELS, *December 15, 1930*

MR. CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES,

By your letter of November 26, 1930, No. 556, you were good enough to inform me that the American Government has decided that the agreement between Belgium and the United States, dated April 1927, and relating to the waiver of consular visas on the one hand and to the waiver of the fees for said visas on the other hand, is applicable to Belgian citizens proceeding to the United States and its insular possessions, including the Philippine Islands.

In bringing the foregoing to my attention you add that your Government would view with great satisfaction the modification by the Belgian Government of the existing agreement in order to permit American citizens to proceed to the Belgian Congo for a temporary visit without having to pay the required fee for the visa or on payment of a substantially reduced fee.

I have the honor to inform you that it is not possible for me to consider the waiver of fees for visas, this latter being applicable to all foreign subjects.

But I have decided that in future American citizens might obtain visas for the Colony, good for a maximum of three months, upon payment of a fee of ten francs *gold*.

The fee pertaining to the visa good for more than three months remains fixed at ninety francs *gold*.

Accept, Mr. Chargé d'Affaires, the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

For the Minister:
The Director General:
M. COSTERMANS

MR. WARDEN MCK. WILSON,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the
United States of America,
Brussels.*