

## MILITARY SERVICE

*Exchange of notes at Washington May 10 and 11, 1945*

*Entered into force May 11, 1945*

*Terminated March 31, 1947*<sup>1</sup>

59 Stat. 1602; Executive Agreement Series 476

*The Acting Secretary of State to the Venezuelan Ambassador*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

*May 10, 1945*

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to refer to conversations which have taken place between officers of the Venezuelan Embassy and of the Department of State with respect to the application of the United States Selective Training and Service Act of 1940,<sup>2</sup> as amended, to Venezuelan nationals residing in the United States.

As you are aware, the Act provides that with certain exceptions every male citizen of the United States and every other male person between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five residing in the United States shall register. The Act further provides that, with certain exceptions, registrants within specified age limits are liable for active military service in the United States armed forces.

This Government recognizes that from the standpoint of morale of the individuals concerned and the over-all military effort of the countries at war with the Axis Powers, it is desirable to permit certain nationals of cobelligerent countries who have registered or who may register under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, to enlist in the armed forces of their own country, should they desire to do so. It will be recalled that during the World War this Government signed conventions with certain associated powers on this subject. The United States Government believes, however, that under existing circumstances the same ends may now be accomplished

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<sup>1</sup> Upon termination of functions of U.S. Selective Service System (60 Stat. 341).

<sup>2</sup> 54 Stat. 885.

through administrative action, thus obviating the delays incident to the signing and ratification of conventions.

This Government has, therefore, initiated a procedure permitting aliens who have registered under the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, who are nationals of certain cobelligerent countries and who have not declared their intention of becoming American citizens to elect to serve in the forces of their respective countries, in lieu of service in the armed forces of the United States, at any time prior to their induction into the armed forces of this country. This Government is also affording to such nationals, who may already be serving in the armed forces of the United States, an opportunity of electing to transfer to the armed forces of their own country. The details of the procedure are arranged directly between the War Department and the Selective Service System on the part of the United States Government and the appropriate authorities of the cobelligerent government concerned. It should be understood, however, that in all cases a person exercising an option under the procedure must actually be accepted by the military authorities of the country of his allegiance before his departure from the United States.

Before the above-mentioned procedure is made effective with respect to a cobelligerent country, this Department wishes to receive from the diplomatic representative in Washington of that country a note stating that his government desires to avail itself of the procedure and in so doing agrees that:

(a) No threat or compulsion of any nature will be exercised by his government to induce any person in the United States to enlist in the forces of his or any foreign government;

(b) Reciprocal treatment will be granted to American citizens by his government; that is, prior to induction in the armed forces of his government they will be granted the opportunity of electing to serve in the armed forces of the United States in substantially the same manner as outlined above. Furthermore, his government shall agree to inform all American citizens serving in its armed forces or former American citizens who may have lost their citizenship as a result of having taken an oath of allegiance on enlistment in such armed forces and who are now serving in those forces that they may transfer to the armed forces of the United States provided they desire to do so and provided they are acceptable to the armed forces of the United States. The arrangements for effecting such transfers are to be worked out by the appropriate representatives of the armed forces of the respective governments;

(c) No enlistments will be accepted in the United States by his government of American citizens subject to registration or of aliens of any nationality who have declared their intention of becoming American citizens and are subject to registration.

This Government is prepared to make the proposed regime effective im-

mediately with respect to Venezuela upon the receipt from you of a note stating that your Government desires to participate in it and agrees to the stipulations set forth in lettered paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) above.

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

For the Acting Secretary of State:

JULIUS C. HOLMES

His Excellency

Señor Dr. Don DIÓGENES ESCALANTE,  
*Ambassador of Venezuela.*

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*The Venezuelan Ambassador to the Acting Secretary of State*

[TRANSLATION]

EMBASSY OF VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON

May 11, 1945

No. 1434

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that I have received instructions from my Government to accept the administrative arrangement regarding the application of the United States 1940 Selective Training and Service Act to Venezuelan citizens in this country, an arrangement proposed in the note addressed to me by Your Excellency on the 10th of the current month.

The Government of Venezuela agrees, on reciprocal terms, to the option proposed on behalf of the Venezuelan citizens who have registered under the said Act, or who have already entered the service of the United States Army, to apply for transfer to the Venezuelan Army. In this respect, my Government likewise accepts the guarantees indicated in paragraphs a), b), and c) of the aforementioned note.

I deem opportune to point out that, in keeping with the compulsory Military Service Law of Venezuela, Venezuelan citizens abroad who have attained the corresponding age are obliged to register in the respective consular offices of the Republic, in order to serve in the armed forces of Venezuela, and that failure to comply with this obligation involves, without further process, the corresponding penal sanction.

My Government hopes that compliance with this legal obligation by a Venezuelan citizen will not be interpreted as an infraction of the guarantee stipulated in paragraph a) of the note I am now answering, since it applies no *ad hoc* pressure on any single individual.

The Venezuelan Government is ready to enforce at once the agreement in question, and to go over the details for its application with the authorities of the United States Government.

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

DIÓGENES ESCALANTE

His Excellency JOSEPH C. GREW,  
*Acting Secretary of State,*  
*Washington, D.C.:*