NARCOTIC DRUGS

Exchange of notes at Madrid February 3, March 10, and May 24, 1928
Entered into force May 24, 1928

Department of State files

The American Chargé d’Affaires ad interim to the Minister of State

MADRID, February 3, 1928

No. 435

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Treasury Department has requested that an effort be made to establish closer cooperation between the appropriate administrative officials of the United States and certain European countries. To this end, I am instructed to ascertain whether the following system would be agreeable to His Majesty’s Government:

1. The direct exchange between the Treasury Department and the corresponding office in the foreign country 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, 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 of the United States who would be in charge, on behalf of my 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 His Majesty’s Government, immediately communication may be established with Colonel 684
Nutt, and I should be grateful if Your Excellency will cause me to be supplied with the name of the Spanish official with whom Colonel Nutt should be familiar.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express assurance of my high consideration.

STUART E. GRUMMON
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

His Excellency
MARQUES DE ESTELLA
Minister of State, Madrid

The Ministry of State to the American Ambassador
[translation]

Num. 68

Madrid, March 10, 1928

EXCELLENCY: Dear Sir:

In reply to your Embassy's kind note No. 435 of February 3 last, relative to the mutual cooperation of the competent authorities of the two countries in the investigation and repression of the illicit traffic in narcotics, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the competent Service regards as very efficacious towards lessening or repressing the international illicit traffic of narcotics the measures that have been proposed by the Government of the United States, but at this time Spain is unable to name the person or entity that would have to be in relation with the officer of the Treasury Department of the country Your Excellency so worthily represents, Colonel Nutt, because there is now awaiting the decision of the Government of His Majesty a project connected with the narcotic traffic and measures for the repression of illicit traffic, whereby it is aimed to eradicate in our country the social vice of toxicomania, a fight in which Spain takes a keen part, not only for the purpose of promoting her national interests, but also by giving her help towards solving those problems from the international viewpoint.

As soon as the entity which is to take up the subject of the traffic in narcotics, in accordance with the new project above referred to, is organized, I shall hasten to make it known to Your Excellency for the purpose in which your office is interested.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration.

B. ALMEIDA
The Ministry of State to the American Ambassador

[TRANSLATION]

No. 153

MADRID, May 24, 1928

EXCELLENCY: My dear Sir:

Supplementing my note of March 10th last, in which I informed Your Excellency that, pending the solution by His Majesty's Government of a project relating to the traffic in narcotics and the means of suppressing its illegal traffic, I could not at the moment designate the person or the office in Spain which could be addressed by the official of the United States Treasury, Colonel Nutt, I have the honor to enclose herewith to Your Excellency the GACETA DE MADRID in which is published the Royal Decree-Law concerning narcotics, on reading which Your Excellency will see that Colonel Nutt can address the Director del Instituto Técnico de Comprobación for the work of mutual cooperation toward the suppression of illegal traffic in narcotics.

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

B. ALMEIDA

His Excellency

Mr. Ogden H. Hammond

Ambassador of the United States of America