

C O P Y

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform them that the following regulations governing the censorship of mail and other forms of communication entering and leaving the United States have been put into force.

1. MAIL

Uncensored correspondence is permitted between embassies and legations and their respective governments, when under official seal.

Uncensored correspondence is permitted between embassies and legations in the United States and embassies and legations of the same power situated in countries other than enemy or enemy-occupied countries, when under official seal.

The same applies to similar official correspondence in transit through the United States.

Private letters addressed to or by chiefs of mission in the United States will not be submitted to censorship.

No private correspondence whatsoever of individuals or firms may be forwarded to or from diplomatic officers under official cover or seal; personal correspondence of diplomatic and consular officers may not contain enclosures forwarded on behalf of third persons.

2. CABLE, RADIO AND TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES

Embassies and legations are privileged to send to and receive from their respective governments cable, radio and land wire messages in secret cipher and code as well as in clear in their native language; such incoming messages must be addressed to the mission or to the chief thereof, and outgoing messages must be signed by the chief of the mission or such other official representatives of his government as he may designate.

Chiefs of mission are therefore urgently requested to notify the Department of State at once of the full names, full titles and official status of all such persons connected with their respective government who may seek to employ secret cipher or code in any messages on behalf of such government, and at the same time to supply the State Department, for transmission to the censorship authorities, with the facsimile signature of the chief of mission and the officer or officers thus designated by him to sign such outgoing messages. In the case of embassies it is requested that the ambassador designate no more than two other officials to sign outgoing messages and that in other missions only one person in addition to the chief of mission shall be so designated. The missions concerned will readily understand that no message in secret cipher or code can be passed by the censorship unless the signature on the message and the statement thereon as to the mission from which it emanates are sufficient to identify clearly the official concerned as being among those with respect to whom the State Department

has received due notification as aforesaid.

Uncensored cable, radio and land wire correspondence is permitted between embassies and legations in the United States and embassies and legations of the same power situated in countries other than enemy or enemy-occupied countries. Such messages destined to a mission in the United States must be addressed to the mission or to the chief thereof, and when sent from such mission may be signed only by the chief thereof; the signatures of other officers designated to sign outgoing messages directed to their respective governments, as set forth in the preceding paragraph, cannot be accepted for messages of the nature described in this paragraph.

3. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION

International telephonic communications between the diplomatic missions in Washington and their respective governments should be on a station-to-station basis and can only be conducted through the building of the embassies or legations in Washington by the chief of mission and a limited number of officials designated by him as in the case of cable and radio communications. So far as financial and other attachés of diplomatic missions, or other non-diplomatic governmental representatives, in New York are concerned, these missions may specifically designate one or more officers / a limited number as aforesaid / to transmit such international telephone calls; it is urgently requested that the names of these officers be notified by the chiefs of mission of their respective

governments to the Department of State which in turn will notify the censorship authorities. The local censorship officials in New York will personally get in touch with the designated diplomatic representatives there and arrange for a system of identification for telephone calls.

Telephone communication between the diplomatic missions in Washington and their respective governments may take place in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese; in addition telephone communications between the Swiss Legation and the Swiss Government, the protecting power for American interests abroad, may take place in the German language.

Owing to the necessities of the military situation the Government of the United States is compelled to request the different governments interested to give written assurances that the forgoing conditions for exemption from censorship will be strictly observed.

Department of State,

Washington, March 7, 1942.