

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 22nd, 1939.

No. 1446

My Lord,

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With reference to my despatch No. 1354 of the 2nd December regarding the recent amendment of the United States Neutrality Law making it unlawful for United States citizens to travel on belligerent ships and through combat areas except as provided by rules and regulations made by the Department of State, and to my despatches Nos. 1256 and 1313 of the 11th and 20th November, respectively, transmitting copies of Departmental Orders issued on this subject, I have the honour to enclose herein copies of a further Departmental Order issued by the State Department on the 14th December announcing a concession in the case of United States citizens possessing a foreign nationality who habitually reside in the State of their second nationality.

2. It will be observed that such individuals who hold foreign passports may, while en route to and from the State of their second nationality, travel on a belligerent ship across the English Channel, the Irish Sea or St. George's Channel without obtaining specific authority and without an American passport endorsed as valid for such travel. In doing so, however, they must look to the country of their second nationality for protection.

3.

The Right Honourable,

The Viscount Halifax, K. G.,

etc., etc., etc.

FRHM:JCT:CL

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3. In reply to a semi-official enquiry, the State Department have explained that the purpose of the new Order is to place persons having dual British and United States nationality on the same footing as persons having, say, dual French and United States nationality, who under Orders previously issued have been able to travel from this country on neutral ships to the State of their second nationality (via Marseilles in the case of Franco-Americans).

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble servant,

(SGD) LOTHIAN