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U. S. POSTAL
CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

EDITION OF APRIL 13, 1942

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1942

POSTAL CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS

REGULATION 1—DEFINITIONS

As used in Regulations 2 to 9, inclusive,

(a) The term "enemy national" shall mean:

(1) The government of any country against which the United States has declared war (Germany, Italy, and Japan) and the Governments of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania, and any agent, instrumentality, or representative of the foregoing Governments, or other person acting therefor, wherever situated (including the accredited representatives of other governments to the extent, and only to the extent, that they are actually representing the interests of the Governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan and Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania), and

(2) The government of any other blocked country having its seat within enemy territory, and any agent, instrumentality, or representative thereof, or other person acting therefor, actually situated within enemy territory (a blocked country is one to which the provisions of the Freezing Order—Executive Order No. 8389, as amended—have been extended), and

(3) The government of any country which has declared war against the United States.

(4) Any individual within enemy territory and any partnership, association, corporation, or other organization to the extent that it is actually situated within enemy territory, and

(5) Any person whose name appears on The Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nationals, as revised and supplemented, and any other person acting therefor.

(b) The term "enemy territory" shall mean:

(1) The territory of Germany, Italy, and Japan; and

(2) The territory controlled or occupied by the military, naval, or police forces or other authority of Germany, Italy, or Japan.

(c) The term "communication" shall mean:

Any letter or other writing, book, map, plan, or other paper, picture, sound recording, or other reproduction.

REGULATION 2—MAIL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

The sending or transmitting out of the United States, including its Territories and possessions, in the ordinary course of the mail of any

communication is hereby permitted provided that *both* of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) Such communication complies with all the provisions of Regulations 3 and 4.

(b) Such communication, if addressed to, or intended for, or to be delivered, directly or indirectly to an enemy national, complies with all the provisions of Regulations 5 and 7.

Nothing contained in this Regulation shall be deemed to limit the authority of the Director of Censorship to cause to be censored in his absolute discretion, any communication by mail passing between the United States and any foreign country.

REGULATION 3—RULES GOVERNING MAIL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

All mail directed to foreign countries shall comply with the following rules:

(a) The full name and complete address of the sender must be shown both on the outside of the envelope and in the letter itself.

(b) Communications will be written in English, if possible. If English is not used, the name of the language will be written in English on the face of the envelope.

(c) Codes, unless authorized, ciphers, secret inks, and other secret writings will not be used in international mail.

(d) No person, except as stated in (e) below, shall act as an intermediary or agent for the receipt and transmission of mail on behalf of persons in foreign countries.

(e) Any member of the United States Armed Forces corresponding with a person in a foreign country, other than another member of such Forces, shall not give, either in the letter or on the envelope, the name of his post, camp, or station. He will give the name and address of a friend or relative in the United States to whom a reply can be sent for forwarding.

(f) Any communication to a foreign country which includes technical or scientific data requires a license from the Board of Economic Warfare. Application should be made to the Technical Data Division, Office of Export Control, Board of Economic Warfare, Washington, D. C.

REGULATION 4—MATTERS PROHIBITED IN MAIL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

(a) The following matters are prohibited in all communications to foreign countries:

(1) Information regarding United States, other United Nations, or neutral vessels if it reveals:

(a) Details of convoys, their assembly ports, anchorages, or methods of routing;

(b) Time of departure or arrival of any ship more specific than 1 week's time. Approximate dates such as "next week," "soon," "about the first of next month," etc., are permissible.

(c) Any abnormal assembly or movement of shipping in a particular locality.

(d) Movements of particularly large or important vessels.

(e) Nature of cargo, except in necessary official shipping documents.

(2) Weather conditions and meteorological data, other than local as it appears in the press.

(3) Any data whatever concerning military or naval communications or intelligence methods or results.

(4) Propaganda which is to the detriment of the war efforts of the United States or other United Nations.

(b) The following matters are prohibited in communications to foreign countries, unless the information has been officially released or the export thereof licensed, where required, by the proper government agency:

(1) The location, identity, description, test, performance, production, movement, or prospective movement of defensive or offensive weapons, installations, supplies, reserves, materials, or equipment of military or naval nature of the United States or other United Nations.

(2) The location, description, production, reserves, capacity, or specific output of existing or proposed private or Government-owned-or-controlled plants, yards, docks, dams, structures, experimental or other facilities, or contracts, plans, and rates of industrial activity in connection therewith. This extends to any process, synthesis, or operation in the production, manufacture, or reconstruction, or use, of any article the export of which is prohibited or limited by the Government.

(3) The military, naval, or diplomatic plans of the United States or other United Nations, or the official plans of any official thereof.

(4) The employment of any naval, military, or civil defense unit of the United States or other United Nations.

(5) Reports on production and conditions in the mining, lumbering, fishing, livestock, and farming industries, and shortages or surpluses in connection therewith.

(6) The effect of enemy operations, or casualties to personnel, or damage to property, suffered by the United States or other United Nations.

(7) The fact or effect of our military or naval operations against the enemy.

(8) The number, description, location, or identity of prisoners of war.

(9) Any sketch, photograph, drawing, blueprint, map, or chart of which the denominator of its representative fraction is less than 500,000, disclosing any information prohibited by this Regulation.

(10) Any other matter, the dissemination of which might directly or indirectly bring aid or comfort to the enemy, or which might interfere with the national effort of, or disparage the foreign relations of, the United States or other United Nations.

REGULATION 5—MAIL TO ENEMY NATIONALS

The sending of any communication to an enemy national requires a license from the Office of Censorship, except as provided in Regulation 7 and in paragraphs (a) and (b) below:

(a) The American Red Cross has been authorized to transmit, after censorship, short messages of a personal nature to residents in enemy territory. Letters, documents, and messages of a business nature cannot be sent by this means. Application should be made to any one of the local Red Cross chapters, where full instructions can be obtained. No other organization or individual, unless duly authorized, will transmit communications to enemy territory.

(b) Communications which relate to, or are a part of, a commercial or financial transaction authorized by Treasury Department license may be sent to enemy nationals provided that the communication is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the license relating to it. In such cases the original Treasury Department license, a duplicate original, or photostatic copy thereof, should be enclosed with each such communication, and the communication posted in the usual manner. (Among communications to enemy nationals requiring a Treasury Department license are notices of stockholders' meetings, proxies, powers of attorney, authorizations to transfer funds, patent applications, trade-mark and copyright registrations, financial statements, accounts of sale, and any instructions which are an integral part of a business, financial, trade, or commercial transaction.)

Communications of a general business nature, as a rule, will not be licensed. In special cases, however, where it appears that the communication would be of advantage to the United States, or the application is made by a governmental agency, a license permitting such communications may be granted. In such cases, application should be made to the Office of Censorship, Washington, D. C. The application may be made in letter form and a separate application should be made for each license.

REGULATION 6—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN NATIONALS IN ENEMY TERRITORY

The Department of State has made arrangements for financial assistance to American nationals in enemy territory. Persons desiring information concerning the means of making funds available to such American nationals should apply to the Special Division, Department of State, Washington, D. C.

REGULATION 7—MAIL TO PRISONERS OF WAR AND INTERNEES

Mail may be sent to prisoners of war and internees confined in the United States, in enemy countries, and in other foreign countries. All such communications should be addressed to the person concerned at the address furnished by the confinee, or by the Government or other agency authorized to furnish such information. No postage will be required unless such communications are sent by air, registered or insured mail, in which case postage must be fully prepaid. The communications should be deposited in the mails in the usual manner. (All such communications will be strictly censored.)

REGULATION 8—FILMS

(a) Film, prints, and plates will not be exported or imported unless they have been examined and approved by designated authority. After approval, material of this type may be mailed in the usual manner.

(b) Exposed and undeveloped film received in the mail will be developed at the expense of the correspondent in the United States, prior to release.

(c) Importation of unexposed film, except from Canada, is prohibited unless authority is procured in advance from the Office of Censorship.

(d) The exportation of unexposed film, except to Canada, is prohibited unless a license is secured in advance from the Board of Economic Warfare.

REGULATION 9—NON-WAIVER OF LICENSES REQUIRED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Nothing in Regulations 1 to 8, inclusive, shall be interpreted as constituting a waiver of the regulations of other Government agencies with respect to license requirements.

BYRON PRICE, *Director.*

APRIL 13, 1942.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
April 15, 1942.

Approved:
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT