SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

American Journal of International Law

VOLUME 12

1918

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED FOR

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

 \mathbf{BY}

Oxford University Press: 35 West 32d Street, New York, U.S.A.

Agent for Great Britain: Oxford University Press, Amen Corner, London Agent for Toronto, Melbourne and Bombay: Oxford University Press

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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for Foreign Affairs	,	and requests the Netherland Govern- ment to treat such ships as vessels of war	234
Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the German Legation	Sept. 7	Replies that Netherland Government regards armed merchant ships as assimilated to belligerent warships and denies that any such ships have been admitted to Dutch ports during the war	235
French Legation to Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1917 Mar. 15	Contends that belligerents have the right to arm merchant ships for self-defense against submarines; declines to admit contention of Netherland Government that the admission of merchant vessels armed for self-defense is a question of neutrality to be settled by each country as its interests demand irrespective of the principles of international law; and maintains that only such merchant ships as are converted into warships according to the Hague Convention may be assimilated to warships and treated as such in neutral ports.	236

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Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs to the French Legation	1917 April 26	Replies that Holland's peculiar geographical situation made it necessary, in order to insure respect for its neutrality, to forbid armed merchant vessels from entering its dominion; defends the legality of its action in view of the Hague Conventions and maintains the distinction between the right of a belligerent merchant ship under the law of war to arm and defend itself against attack, and the right of a neutral to refuse admittance of such armed merchant ships to its ports under the law of neutrality; declines to change its attitude of assimilating armed merchant ships to warships.	238
American Legation to the Netherland Min- istry for Foreign Af- fairs	Mar. 13	Inquires whether American vessels armed for self-protection will be permitted to enter and depart from Dutch ports	24 2
American Legation to Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Mar. 17	Asks whether, in the treatment accorded to armed neutral vessels in Dutch ports, any distinction will be drawn between vessels armed privately by their owners and ships which carry an armed guard placed on board by the United States Government	243
Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs to American Legation	Mar. 22	Replies that presence of warships or vessels assimilated thereto of foreign Powers is not permitted in Dutch waters, regardless of whether the armament is provided by the owner of the vessel or his Government.	243
American Legation to the Netherland Min- istry for Foreign Af- fairs	April 2	Assumes that above attitude of Holland refers to armed merchant ships of belligerents and not of neutrals, and asks confirmation of this view	244

Name	Date	Subject	Page
Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs to American Legation	1917 April 14	States that belligerent warships and armed merchant vessels assimilated thereto are not permitted within the jurisdiction of the state, including colonies and overseas possessions, while such vessels of neutral Powers are barred only from the dominion of the Kingdom in Europe	244
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