

In the first two cases this Department is awaiting a reply from Mr. Mathieu.⁴⁰ The third case is dealt with in your memorandum[†] but the final act in that case was a letter on September 24th, 1942,[†] stating that a decision had not yet been reached. The Netherlands Minister not unnaturally inquired if a decision had since been reached and if not, if he might be informed of the nature of the difficulties.

N. A. ROBERTSON

1523.

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*Le sous-secrétaire d'État au sous-secrétaire d'État
aux Affaires extérieures*

*Under-Secretary of State to Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs*

Ottawa, February 25, 1943

I received in due course your letter of the 17th and have discussed it with the officers in the Custodian's Office.

I am quite agreeable to the proposed consultative committee. I think that for the present I myself had better be named as the representative of the Custodian on this committee, with the understanding that G.W. McPherson, Executive Assistant in the Custodian's Office will be my substitute at meetings which I may find it impossible to attend.

I am writing you a separate letter[†] concerning the matter raised in the Netherlands Minister's note 550 of March 24, 1942.[†] We cannot, however, locate a copy of note 2731 of October 17, 1941.⁴¹ I wonder if you can supply a copy of this note. We have wondered whether by any chance it is confused with note 2704 of the 24th October, 1941.

I suggested in my memorandum[†] that I should like to mention the Rembours-en Industriebank case to the Netherlands Minister. If, however, the Minister will forward an official note that the seat of this company was transferred from occupied territory and that the Netherlands Government is satisfied that there is no enemy interest, we shall be disposed to release the funds.

As I mentioned in the conversation which I had with you in your office, we have on the file a report from Price Waterhouse & Co. in London which was of an unfavourable nature concerning some of the individuals who purported to control the company and it appeared to be a case where we should proceed cautiously. The amount involved, however, is not large and if the Netherlands Government is prepared to take responsibility along the lines I have suggested, I see no reason why we cannot release.

E. H. COLEMAN

⁴⁰ Séquestre adjoint suppléant des biens ennemis.

⁴¹ La note 2731, non reproduite, était datée du 27 octobre 1941.

⁴⁰ Assistant Deputy Custodian of Enemy Property.

⁴¹ Note 2731, not printed, was dated October 27, 1941.