

DANZIG

APPOINTMENT OF AN AMERICAN COMMISSIONER, OCTOBER 6, 1919

123D322/59b

*The Director of the Consular Service of the Department of State
(Carr) to Consul William Dawson*

WASHINGTON, October 6, 1919.

SIR: You are hereby designated as American Commissioner at Dantzig, and you are instructed to proceed to Dantzig and assume your duties as early as possible.

Mr. Albert Halstead, Jr., who is now in the United States, has been offered the position of clerk at Dantzig and has been instructed to arrange to proceed with you.

You are authorized to purchase necessary furniture and furnishings for the opening of the office, keeping these expenditures as low as practicable, and not exceeding a total of \$500. You will, as early as practicable after your arrival at your post, submit an itemized estimate of the expenses of conducting the office.

I am [etc.]

WILBUR J. CARR

123D322/70

The Commissioner at Danzig (Dawson) to the Secretary of State

[Extracts]

No. 1

DANZIG, November 29, 1919.

[Received December 23.]

SIR: I have the honor, with reference to my despatch of October 30, 1919,¹ reporting my departure from the United States on the U.S.S. *George Washington*, to state that Mr. Albert Halstead, jr., and myself landed at Brest, France, on November 12th and proceeded to Paris the same day. We arrived at Paris on the 13th instant and reported immediately to the American Peace Mission. Following the advice of the Mission, we left Paris for Warsaw on November 17th by the French Military Train which makes the journey via Switzerland and Vienna. Upon my arrival at Warsaw on the afternoon of November 20th, I reported to the American Legation in that city and arranged to proceed to Danzig by the

¹ Not printed.

first available train leaving Warsaw on the 25th. Mr. Halstead and myself arrived in Danzig on the morning of November 26th.

Under the circumstances it would seem that I shall have no immediate occasion to perform the usual consular services and, inasmuch as I cannot for the present be regularly accredited and recognized, the situation is in this respect fortunate. However, this state of affairs is undoubtedly only temporary and, as soon as conditions both locally and in Poland become more settled, Danzig should develop into an important and active center. Judging from a cursory survey of the situation, I have arrived here none too soon for a considerable amount of preparatory work and investigation.

I have already called on the principal German authorities who are, of course, for the present still in charge at Danzig. On all sides I have received a very courteous reception and several of the officials, to whom I have duly explained my status, have offered to assist me in every way possible. I am rather inclined to believe, this being of course but a first impression, that the feeling towards Americans is more friendly than towards other allied nationals and I imagine that this may be due in part to the fact that American participation in the future development of the city may be expected to be free from any attempt at political advantage.

I have [etc.]

WILLIAM DAWSON

123D322/77

The Commissioner at Danzig (Dawson) to the Secretary of State

No. 12

DANZIG, January 2, 1920.

[Received January 31.]

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of the Department copy of a communication dated January 2, 1920, addressed to the American Minister at Warsaw, Poland, with reference to the question of securing recognition for an American consular representative at Danzig after the coming into force of the Treaty of Peace.

I have [etc.]

WILLIAM DAWSON

[Enclosure]

The Commissioner at Danzig (Dawson) to the Minister in Poland (Gibson)

DANZIG, January 2, 1920.

SIR: Under date of December 13, 1919, the Legation informed me confidentially of a resolution of December 3, 1919, of the Council of

the Heads of Delegations in Paris to the effect that during the period between the coming into force of the Treaty of Peace and the constitution of the Free City of Danzig the exequaturs of foreign consuls should be delivered by the representative of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers.

It seems to me advisable that I or such other consular officer as may be here when the Treaty of Peace goes into effect secure recognition as promptly as possible.

I may state in this connection that no commission has been issued to me by the Department to act as either consul or commissioner at Danzig. My only written authority is to be found in an instruction of October 6, 1919, informing me that I was designated American Commissioner at Danzig and instructing me to proceed to this city and assume my duties. I was verbally informed by the Department that my status was that of an unofficial representative of the United States for trade purposes but that I might, if deemed advisable and in the absence of objections from the local authorities, perform consular functions under my general commission as Consul of Class Five, which I have in my possession. I have not considered it advisable or for that matter practicable to act as consul as long as Danzig remains in the hands of the German authorities. The situation will, however, change when the Treaty of Peace goes into effect and the Temporary Administrator arrives.

I do not know whether or not any special procedure has been arranged for the granting of exequaturs by the Temporary Administrator. Inasmuch as we shall presumably have no diplomatic representative at Danzig, it seems to me that application for the granting of the exequatur could be made by me, provided I had from the Department of State a written or cable instruction directing me to secure recognition and act as American Consul at Danzig.

In case you agree with me as to the advisability of taking steps to facilitate my early recognition by the Temporary Administrator, I should be very grateful if you would take the matter up by telegraph with the Department.

Under the circumstances it does not appear practicable to cable the Department from Danzig. A telegraphic instruction from the Department directing me to secure recognition from the Temporary Administrator and act as consul could, however, perhaps be sent in plain language to me at Danzig. Such an instruction might also include the designation and recognition as vice consul of Mr. Albert Halstead, jr., who is with me at Danzig.

I have [etc.]

WILLIAM DAWSON

123D322/77: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Minister in Poland (Gibson)

WASHINGTON, March 29, 1920, 5 p.m.

145. Instruct Dawson Dantzig to apply to High Commissioner for Free City of Dantzig for recognition for himself and Halstead as Consul and Vice-Consul respectively. See Dawson's letter January 2, 1920, to you. As High Commissioner cannot of right refuse recognition to American Consular Officers, it is understood that such application is mere formality.

Report promptly to Department conclusion of treaty between Poland and Dantzig provided for by Article 104 of German treaty, as according to Despatch No. 80 [8] of December 29, 1919, from American Commissioner, Dantzig,² such treaty will give Poland power to grant exequaturs to foreign consuls at Dantzig.

COLBY

² Not printed.