

April 11, 1934

310 Riverside Drive, New York

Mr. Joseph L. Mahoney,  
Dept. of Agriculture,  
Building P.,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

Please find enclosed the Bond duly signed by Professor Roerich  
and witnessed.

I have been at Fiala Inc., and they are to-day mailing me  
the prices for the equipment itemized in my list. As soon as it  
reaches me, I will send it on to you. I understand that Dr. MacMillan  
was at Fiala's to-day and regret that I did not see him.

With cordial greetings, believe me,

Sincerely yours,



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April 12, 1934  
310 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.

Mr. Joseph L. Mahoney,  
Building F., Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

Please find enclosed a list of equipment from Fiala Outfits, Inc. In the case of the Colt revolver they can give an extra discount of 10% on an order from the Department of Agriculture. I shall appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding this list, for some of the items would require a couple of days for preparation, especially with regards to the films for the camera.

I enclose a bill of \$5, representing the cost of the execution of the Bond for Professor Roerich.

Thanking you for your attention to these matters, believe me,

Very cordially yours,

Enclosed \$5.



310 Riverside Drive,

New York, N.Y.  
April 16, 1934

Mr. J.L. Mahoney  
Senior Administrative Assistant,  
Division, Plant Exploration and Introduction,  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

I am sending you herewith the various forms enclosed in your letter of April 11th, which reached me to-day. In regard to the salaries, we would request you to make the following disposition. For Professor Roerich, kindly send the salary to the Bank of Chosen, Harbin. As to myself, kindly forward the first month's salary, as arranged, to Mrs. Sina Lichtmann, 310 Riverside Drive, N.Y., and all subsequent salaries should be sent also to the Bank of Chosen, Harbin, Manchukuo.

I am sending back the forms in the hope that they are all correctly made out. As you know we are leaving by rail on Sunday for Seattle, and therefore would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible regarding the equipment and other matters.

With cordial good wishes, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures:

Four Cards "Application for Advance of Funds"  
Public Voucher for reimbursement of travel  
Four questionnaires, Personal Data



As time did not permit the transportation request to reach me before my departure for Washington, D.C., I am submitting the attached statement for reimbursement of funds advanced by me for my trip to Washington to confer with Bureau officials with reference to plans, preparation, etc. of botanical studies to be conducted abroad.

April 16, 1934

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]



.310 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y.  
April 31, 1934

Mr. J.L. Mahoney,  
Senior Administrative Assistant,  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 19th containing Checks No. 5,191,134 and 5,191,135 in the amounts of \$2,500 to N. de Roerich and myself; also your letter of April 20th, enclosing the expense voucher which I herewith return duly signed. I also enclose the two Memoranda for our two steamship tickets from Seattle to Yokohama.

I take this opportunity to thank you again for your kindness in facilitating the preparation of this Expedition, and for your personal visit which so greatly expedited matters.

With the greetings of Professor Roerich and myself, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

P.S. Mr. Fiala informed me that , in order to obtain the Colt revolvers, I would have to produce either a permit or some sort of certificate. Since I was not clear on the matter, I have asked Mr. Fiala to add the two revolvers, complete with holsters and ammunition, to the equipment to be brought by Dr. MacMillan. I mentioned the matter to Mr. Ryerson who was here this morning.

Enclosed:  
Expense voucher  
two memoranda for steamship tickets/




July 13, 1934

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GEO. DE ROERICH

Gentlemen:

We are sending you inclosed copy of Budget and Finance Circular No. 1. dated June 23, 1934, with reference to reimbursement that is lost by exchange on the part of employees travelling in foreign countries. This memorandum is self-explanatory, and any loss caused by the exchange as indicated in this memorandum should be submitted by you on separate accounts as indicated.

Very truly yours,

  
J. L. Mahoney,  
Senior Administrative Assistant.

JLM:G

Inclosure.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Budget and Finance  
Washington, D.C.

June 23, 1934.

Budget & Finance Circular No. 1.

Reimbursement of loss by exchange on the part of  
Department employees stationed or travelling in foreign countries.

Executive Order 6657-A of March 27, 1934, copy attached, sets up regulations under which reimbursement may be claimed by employees of the United States in foreign countries due to the appreciation of foreign currencies in their relation to the American dollar. The appropriation for this purpose was authorized by the act of March 26, 1934; the appropriation for the current fiscal year, immediately available, is furnished in the Legislative Appropriation Act for 1935 of May 30, 1934.

It will be seen by the Executive Order that the payments subject to the benefit are salary and allowances. The latter term comprises quarters, heat and light allowances for officers with permanent foreign station and per diem in lieu of subsistence. It is important to note that, par. 3(c) of the order, "in the case of employees travelling in foreign countries under official orders, not employed in or on assignment or detail to a post of duty in a foreign country, no part of the employee's salary shall be included in the loss referred to for the purposes of these regulations." The quarters, heat and light allowance is also excluded in this case, since this is contingent upon permanent foreign station. Thus the per diem in lieu of subsistence is the only allowance upon which the benefit is claimable by employees travelling abroad, but not assigned to foreign duty.

A special form will be required for the exchange reimbursement on salaries and the quarters, heat and light allowance. Pending submission to the Comptroller General for approval of such special form for this Department use may be made by employees of the Department of State Department Forms Nos. 275A, "Payroll for personal services," and 314, "Pay voucher for allowance for living quarters, heat, fuel, and light." Certain cancellations and substitutions will be required, too obvious to be detailed.

As to exchange loss on per diem in lieu of subsistence, claim therefor may be made on G.A.O. Form No. 1012, "Public voucher for reimbursement of travel and other expenses, including per diem." Beneath the entry of per diem proper there may be added an additional amount following the caption "Loss by exchange - Executive Order No. 6657-A of March 27, 1934." This should be supported by a showing on the face of the voucher in the following form (in the example the per diem proper is \$60, the foreign currency the French franc):



Statement of loss by exchange --

Basic rate \$.039243, \$1 equals Fr. 25.50  
Selling " .06493, \$1 equals Fr. 15.40

Loss on \$1 . . . . . Fr. 10.10  
Loss on \$60. . . . . Fr. 606.00

Loss on Fr. 606. at selling rate

equals 606 or . . . . . \$39.35  
15.40

The selling rate should be supported by the best evidence obtainable. This is ordinarily the original broker's exchange receipt, showing the two currencies involved and the rate.

If the voucher covers travel in more than one foreign country the losses in the different currencies should be separately figured as above.

It should not be forgotten that the loss by exchange is payable from a different appropriation than that chargeable with the other salary or expenses. The title of the current exchange appropriation is "Payment to officers and employees of the United States in foreign countries due to appreciation of foreign currencies, 1934 and 1935." The symbol is 04/5602. Bureau accounting officers should, therefore, be sure that there is an appropriation analysis on the voucher showing the correct title of the fund chargeable with the loss by exchange. Disbursing officers should, of course, requisition for advances under this appropriation before charging it.

*W. A. Jump*  
Director.



EXECUTIVE ORDER

REGULATIONS FOR PAYMENT OF LOSSES SUSTAINED BY OFFICERS, ENLISTED MEN, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES DUE TO APPRECIATION OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES IN THEIR RELATION TO THE AMERICAN DOLLAR

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the act entitled "An Act to authorize annual appropriations to meet losses sustained by officers and employees of the United States in foreign countries due to appreciation of foreign currencies in their relation to the American dollar, and for other purposes", approved March 26, 1934, and in order to afford immediate relief, I prescribe the following temporary regulations, which shall apply to all officers, enlisted men, and employees of the United States while in service in foreign countries.

DEFINITION

1. The words in the act "while in service in foreign countries", for the purpose of these regulations, shall be understood to mean (a) while employed in or on assignment or detail to a post of duty in a foreign country, (b) while en route through a foreign country or on a foreign vessel to or from such post, (c) while, during such assignment or detail abroad, on leave of absence with pay in a foreign country, (d) while traveling in foreign countries under official orders, or (e) while attached to and serving on board United States vessels stationed in foreign waters for not less than 30 consecutive days.

PURPOSE OF REGULATIONS

2. The purpose of these regulations is to provide for reimbursement to officers, enlisted men, and employees of the United States (hereinafter referred to as employees), for losses sustained from appreciation of foreign currencies in their relation to the American dollar, as authorized under the aforesaid act.

METHOD OF COMPUTATION OF PAYMENT OF LOSSES

3. (a) The loss above referred to is that calculated on the basis of conversion into foreign currency of the employee's net salary and net allowances, except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(b) In case of employees serving under the War and Navy Departments (with the exception of military and naval attachés and other employees attached to their offices, who shall be governed by paragraph (a) of this section), the loss is that calculated on the basis of conversion into foreign currency of the employee's net pay and allowances.



(c) In case of employees traveling in foreign countries under official orders, not employed in or on assignment or detail to a post of duty in a foreign country, no part of the employee's salary shall be included in the loss referred to for the purposes of these regulations.

(d) In case of employees who sustained losses arising from the conversion of salaries or allowances (including those paid from fees either in foreign or American currency) during the period from July 15, 1933, to the effective date of this order, the losses shall be calculated as provided in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section. Claim for reimbursement for such loss shall be accompanied by the best evidence, available to the employee, of the rate at which conversion was made.

(e) As used in this section:

The term "net salary" means the base salary less any deduction for contribution to the retirement or other fund, or on account of percentage deductions in compensation.

The term "net allowances" means allowances paid to the employee.

The term "net pay and allowances" means the employee's full pay, including extra or additional pay, and all allowances (other than those furnished in kind) less deductions therefrom on account of allotments, fines and forfeitures, clothing, hospital, Civil Service Retirement Fund, percentage deductions in compensation, and other sundry checkages.

#### BASIC EXCHANGE RATES FOR COMPUTATION OF LOSSES

4. For the basis of computation of losses as referred to in the aforesaid act, the following rates are prescribed as the basic rates for foreign currencies:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Monetary Unit</u>	<u>Basic Rate</u>
Albania	Gold Fr.	19.303
Argentina	Peso	29.529
Austria	Schilling	14.0177
Belgium	Belga	13.9315
Bolivia	Boliviano	36.5
Brazil	Milreis	7,8883
Bulgaria	Lev	.7187
Canada	Dollar	93.5456
Chile	Peso	10.1827
China	Yuan	23.5143
Colombia	Peso	95.743
Costa Rica	Colon	25.00
Cuba	Peso	100.00
Czechoslovakia	Koruna	2.9631
Danzig	Gulden	19.4052
Denmark	Krone	22.6408



<u>Country</u>	<u>Monetary Unit</u>	<u>Basic Rate</u>
		100.00
Dominican Republic	Dollar	20.00
Ecuador	Sucre	428.6069
Egypt	Pound	50.00
El Salvador	Colon	26.6161
Estonia	Kroon	21.6288
Ethiopia	M. T. Dollar	3.9243
France	Franc	3.9243
France (Possessions)	Franc	3.9243
Algiers	Franc	3.9243
Martinique	Franc	3.9243
Saigon	Franc	3.9243
Tahiti	Franc	3.9243
Tunis	Franc	2.0674
Finland	Markka	23.74
Germany	Reichsmark	417.9441
Great Britain	Pound	31.4953
Great Britain (Possessions)		346.1882
Aden	Rupee	76.36
Australia	Pound	100.00
Barbados	Dollar	31.5507
Belize	Dollar	423.4492
Colombo	Rupee	417.9441
Gibraltar	Pound	25.8643
Hamilton, Bermuda	Pound	31.1568
Hong Kong	Dollar	417.9441
India	Rupee	422.1153
Kingston, Jamaica	Pound	423.0069
Lagos	Pound	417.9441
Malta	Pound	423.2107
Nassau	Pound	100.00
Nairobi	Pound	357.9337
Newfoundland	Dollar	48.2202
New Zealand	Pound	48.2202
Penang	Dollar	100.00
Singapore	Dollar	1.0784
Trinidad	Dollar	100.00
Greece	Drachma	20.00
Guatemala	Quetzal	50.00
Haiti	Gourde	17.4601
Honduras	Lempira	415.5385
Hungary	Pengo	417.9441
Iraq	Pound	5.1804
Irish Free State	Pound	39.7627
Italy	Lira	19.2915
Japan	Yen	399.00
Latvia	Lat	9.9969
Liberia	Pound	2.69
Lithuania	Litas	35.5555
Luxemburg	Franc	3.84
Mexico	Peso	
	Franc	



<u>Country</u>	<u>Monetary Unit</u>	<u>Basic Rate</u>
Netherlands	Florin	40.2597
Netherlands (Possessions)		
Surabaya	Florin	40.2597
Curacao	Florin	40.2597
Batavia	Florin	40.2597
Medan	Florin	40.2597
Nicaragua	Cordoba	100.00
Norway	Krone	22.4995
Palestine	Pound	414.0787
Panama	Balboa	100.00
Paraguay	Peso	1.52
Persia	Rial	5.539
Peru	Sol	29.723
Poland	Zloty	11.1939
Portugal	Escudo	3.8608
Portugal (Possessions)		
Lourenco Marques	Pound	478.24
Rumania	Leu	.5957
Siam	Baht	37.78
Spain	Peseta	9.3863
Switzerland	Gold franc	19.3961
Sweden	Krona	22.8103
Syria	Syrian Lb.	78.54
Turkey	Lira	47.1906
Union So. Africa	Pound	463.2315
Uruguay	Peso	59.1743
U.S.S.R.	Ruble	51.74
Venezuela	Bolivar	18.71
Yugoslavia	Dinar	1.6923
Yunnanfu	Piaster	38.00

#### METHOD OF PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES

5. From and after the effective date of this order, each employee shall be entitled to receive in foreign currency such amount as he would have received by converting into such foreign currency, at the basic rates specified in section 4, his net salary and net allowances, or his net pay and allowances, as provided in section 3.

#### AUTHORITY TO MODIFY

6. The foregoing regulations are temporary and subject to change hereafter, and for the purpose of further adjustment future orders or regulations may, with respect to compensation for exchange losses, be retroactive to the date of this order to to July 15, 1933.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

7. This order shall take effect as of April 1, 1934.

The White House,  
March 27, 1934.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

[6657-A]



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY  
WASHINGTON

DIVISION OF  
FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTION  
PLANT EXPLORATION AND INTRODUCTION

September 12, 1934

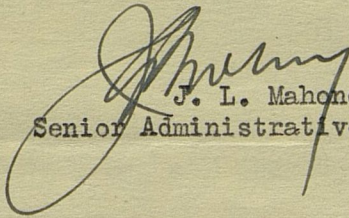
Doctor Georges de Roerich,  
Care of Tschurin & Co.,  
Torgovaya, Pristan,  
Harbin, Manchukuo.

Dear Doctor de Roerich:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of July 28 and am glad to learn that you received the copies of your respective L/As. I was under the impression that I had left ample expense account forms with you while in New York to handle your first accounts and trust by this time you will have have received the supply from Doctor MacMillan so that these accounts can be sent in and the different Letters of Authority balanced off.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
J. L. Mahoney,  
Senior Administrative Assistant

JLM.ims