

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

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EXPORTS & IMPORTS
APR. 1944

785015

MEMORANDUM
No. W 850-11)
 Seen: Mr. Chas. A. D. J. 3255
 Lt. Verby (W 850-11) 4658

 WAR DEPARTMENT
 Washington 25, D. C., 5 April 1944

 IMPORTATION OF ARTICLES MADE FROM BIRD PLUMAGE AND OF CERTAIN LIVE
 BIRDS AND ANIMALS

1. In order to discourage military personnel from spending their money for certain types of souvenirs and live birds which cannot be delivered to their relatives and friends, but which must be seized by customs officers upon arrival in the United States, it is desired that you inform all personnel under your command concerning the laws which prohibit the importation into the United States of articles made from the plumage of wild birds and certain live birds and mammals.

2. (1) a. No foreign animals may be brought alive into the United States without proper permits and because of their known destructiveness to agriculture or their danger to public health, permits for certain species are not issued.

b. The pertinent provisions of law are as follows:

That the importation of birds of paradise, aigrette, egret plumes or so-called osprey plumes, and the feathers, quills, heads, wings, tails, skins, or parts of skins, of wild birds, either raw or manufactured and not for scientific or educational purposes, is hereby prohibited; but this provision shall not apply to the feathers or plumes of ostriches or to the feathers or plumes of domestic fowls of any kind: Act 17 June 1930 (46 Stat. 590; 19 U.S.C., sec. 1001, par. 1518). * * *

The importation into the United States, or any Territory or District thereof, of the mongoose, the so-called "flying foxes" or fruit bats, the English sparrow, the starling, and such other birds and animals as the Secretary of the Interior may from time to time declare to be injurious to the interests of agriculture or horticulture, is hereby prohibited; and all such birds and animals shall, upon arrival at any port of the United States, be destroyed or returned at the expense of the owner. No person shall import into the United States, or into any Territory or District thereof, any foreign wild animal or bird, except under special permit from the Secretary of the Interior. * * * Act 4 March 1909 (35 Stat. 1137; 18 U.S.C., sec. 391).

c. In addition to the forms of animal life mentioned in the above citation, which may not be imported into the United States, all members of the parrot family are now prohibited because of their potential menace to public health. (A.G. 091.311 (24 Nov 43))

By order of the Secretary of War:

OFFICIAL:

 ROBERT H. DUNLOP,
 Brigadier General,
 Acting The Adjutant General.

 G. C. MARSHALL,
 Chief of Staff.

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