

No. 552

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 23rd, 1940.

Sir,

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I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st November regarding an enquiry made by the Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada at San Juan, Puerto Rico, regarding a report which he has heard to the effect that certain United States nationality legislation would provide that British subjects born in Puerto Rico on or after 1899 would become American citizens on the 14th January 1941.

I know of no such legislation but have no doubt that the Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada has in mind the Nationality Act of 1940 which was passed on the 14th October last and of which I enclose a copy herein. Section 322 of this act provides that persons born in Puerto Rico of alien parents who have not already exercised the privilege granted to them in certain circumstances of becoming a citizen of the United States may become citizens by making a certain declaration. I shall be glad if you will forward the text of this section to the Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada with the intimation that so far as this Embassy is aware his fears regarding British subjects in Puerto Rico are unfounded.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Godfrey Haggard, Esq.,  
C.M.G., C.V.O., O.B.E.,  
British Consul General,  
New York City.

(SIGNED) N. BUTLER

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