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PAYMENT OF DEATH DUTIES ON ESTATES OF FRENCH SUBJECTS

1920
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Previous Paper.

Requests reconsideration of decision as to exemption from, refers to taxation on French Traders which raised the question of the infringement of the same treaty

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My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of 13th January enclosing correspondence with the Foreign Office relative to the question of payment of death duties on the estates of French Subjects in the Coast Area of this Protectorate.

2. I gather from the tenour of the correspondence that Lord Curzon took the view that the questions of the administration of the estates of French nationals and that of their liability to payment of death duties stand or fall together, and that, as it has not been possible to obtain the consent of the French Government to the abrogation of the Mascat Treaty of 1844, it follows that payment of death duties cannot be enforced.

3. I would however enquire whether this view cannot be reconsidered. It is of course well established that the administration of the estates of their deceased nationals is expressly reserved to the French Consular Authorities by virtue of their treaty rights and of the Exchange of Notes of 13th and 18th May, 1904.

RIGHT HONOURABLE
ALBERT MILNER, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c., &c.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.