



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 13, 1994

Mr. Stephen Lysaght
British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-3600

Re: Salvage of Deadlight Fleet subs

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 1994 regarding certain sunken German submarines.

I have the honor to advise you that the United States is now in a position to respond favorably to the request of Her Majesty's Government, set out in the note attached to Ewan Buchanan's letter of 20 May 1993, that the United States confirm that it has no objection to the United Kingdom's allowing those ex-German submarines forming part of the so-called Deadlight Fleet sunk by the Royal Navy in 1945/46 pursuant to the recommendations of the Tripartite Naval Commission Recommending the Allocation of the German Surface Navy and the German Submarine Fleet of 6 December 1945, title to which passed to Her Majesty's Government at the end of the war, to be raised for scrap metal.

The United States is of the view that it never acquired title to any of the German Deadlight Fleet submarines not seized by U.S. forces at the end of World War II.

Since the purpose of the sinking of these submarines at sea was to ensure they not be useable in the future as weapons of war, the United States would be pleased to be assured that these submarines will be cut up before being raised.

Please accept my apologies for the time it has taken to reply to your government's request. We think the foregoing is consistent with our shared views on the acquisition of title to enemy warships during wartime and loss of title to sunken warships.

Sincerely yours,

J. Ashley Roach
Captain, JAGC, USN (ret.)
Office of the Legal Adviser