

Society of Milk Products
Anonymous Society with Limited Liability

Exclusive Sellers of
NESTLE PRODUCTS

[checked] Lisbon Office

Avanca Office
[the main office]

Porto Office

Lisbon, Aug 1, 1940.

Air mail

received Aug 14th 10:30 AM

Mr. Waitstill Sharp
American Consulate
Madrid

Dear Sir:

We acknowledge receipt of your telegram from Barcelona of the 31st, reading lastly: "Milk not arrived Cerberes noon, July 30. Will be hotel Oriente today." To which we have responded telegraphically as follows: "Have only learned today that box cars are held at Portuguese border—customs complications. Have arisen. Stop." Doing the impossible to resolve them and I will telegraph you tomorrow."

We were truly upset to learn that the two boxcars destined for the French Red Cross hadn't already reached Cerberes, and we put ourselves immediately in contact with the Manoel B. Vivas Agency, Ltd., to which this shipment had been assigned. We have also gotten in contact with Madame Amee Leroy. We have learned from this that the two box cars were blocked at the Portuguese border because customs demanded payment for the right to export. When the box cars had departed, the director of customs in Lisbon had assured that the merchandise would be exempt from these duties; unfortunately, by a truly regrettable omission, the necessary orders were never given to Customs at the Portuguese border. In any event, the affair could have been rectified yesterday and as far as the house of Manoel B. Vivas Ltd. Has just confirmed to us, the box cars leave today from Vilar Formoso (the Portuguese border), with its destination for Cerberes.

We are distressed by this involuntary delay—all the more so, since from our side, we had taken all necessary measures so that no difficulty would arise. But, now that all has been resolved, we hope that the merchandise in question will arrive at destination in short order to your entire satisfaction.

In good form, we take this opportunity to inform you of the receipt of your second telegram of yesterday, from Barcelona, the contents of which were: "MANY THANKS ARRIVING AMERICAN CONSULATE MADRID AFTERNOON AUGUST FIRST BUT TELEGRAPH ME ONLY IF I CAN HELP YOU WITH SPANISH CUSTOMS MADRID STOP COMING TO LISBON RIGHT AWAY." And confirm to you ours of that day as follows: "THANKS FOR TELEGRAM OF LAST NIGHT FROM BARCELONA WE CONFIRM TO YOU OUR TELEGRAM OF YESTERDAY STOP. DIFFICULTIES RESOLVED BOXCARS LEAVE TODAY CERBERES."

Always at your complete disposition we ask you to present our respectful wishes to Madame Sharp and to believe in our best wishes.

The Milk Products Society
Administration

HL [illegible signature]