

FREE CITY OF DANZIG

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COMMUNICATION, DATED FEBRUARY 4TH, 1939, FROM THE HIGH
COMMISSIONER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AT DANZIG TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

[Translation.]

Danzig, February 4th, 1939.

HIGH COMMISSARIAT
OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

I have the honour to transmit herewith the following:

(1) List of international agreements to which the Free City of Danzig became a contracting party during 1938;

(2) Report from the President of the Danzig Harbour and Waterways Board concerning the activity of the Port of Danzig during 1938.

For the High Commissioner:

(Signed) P. LAMBERT.

I. LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS TO WHICH THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG BECAME A CONTRACTING PARTY DURING 1938

1. Treaty signed on February 20th, 1937, concerning the renewal of the Commercial Treaty between Poland and Germany, and the annexes to that Treaty.

2. Commercial Agreement between the Republic of Poland and Iraq, signed on March 6th, 1937.

3. Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the Polish Republic and the French Republic, signed at Paris on May 22nd, 1937.

2. REPORT ¹ FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DANZIG HARBOUR AND WATERWAYS BOARD CONCERNING THE ACTIVITY OF THE PORT OF DANZIG DURING 1938

[Translation.]

Danzig, January 26th, 1939.

I have the honour to forward to you, as usual, particulars regarding the activity of the Port of Danzig. This information covers the calendar year 1938.

A. TRAFFIC IN THE PORT

I. Vessels.

	1938		1937	
	Arrivals	Net tonnage	Arrivals	Net tonnage
January	450	340,045	381	279,348
February	380	278,626	433	289,884
March	466	331,161	394	271,437
April	504	349,491	443	279,628
May	569	394,097	511	335,986
June	598	437,347	503	390,557
July	681	503,984	587	376,196
August	569	417,619	552	362,297
September	582	410,939	543	374,283
October	588	418,842	537	345,524
November	640	457,571	559	369,332
December	574	429,035	492	351,240
	6,601	4,768,757	5,935	4,025,712

¹ For the last report, see *Official Journal*, March-April 1938, page 243.

	1938		1937	
	Departures	Net tonnage	Departures	Net tonnage
January	452	341,077	414	304,378
February	383	270,168	397	258,120
March	450	336,261	390	271,858
April	511	347,014	446	296,815
May	563	396,688	490	303,790
June	602	447,474	531	397,496
July	663	488,179	582	388,648
August	592	437,548	574	380,625
September	584	407,254	540	373,660
October	582	420,234	533	344,899
November	661	466,554	547	357,185
December	542	389,217	498	357,621
	6,585	4,747,668	5,942	4,035,095

II. Goods

(In tons).

	1938		1937	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
January	119,639.8	461,022.9	64,972.4	57,742.2
February	112,794.9	380,698.3	41,749.4	410,717.1
March	141,016.0	442,285.3	89,067.9	464,220.4
April	138,534.2	434,321.1	98,850.3	476,806.4
May	161,491.0	431,444.4	121,584.4	361,056.6
June	168,024.7	469,011.2	178,522.7	515,052.8
July	199,674.2	507,008.4	152,779.4	493,593.4
August	145,107.8	472,949.5	137,830.2	433,900.3
September	126,083.4	434,557.2	175,875.5	449,329.0
October	63,414.7	485,291.9	155,739.0	458,022.2
November	95,466.6	570,369.3	159,199.5	491,457.5
December	92,711.1	474,277.0	139,755.1	552,951.6
	1,563,958.4	5,563,236.5	1,515,928.8	5,684,849.5

B. HARBOUR INSTALLATIONS

The work done during the year 1938 comprises that necessary for the normal upkeep of structures and the execution of measures for improving harbour installations (sheds and warehouses, service premises and living-quarters, streets and open spaces, quays, buttresses and other works for strengthening the banks, loading-bridges, bollards and moles, dunes, beacons and signals, etc.); current upkeep and repair work on the Vistula and the Elbing and Nogat waterways; current work for the upkeep and repair of the buildings and fleet of the Harbour Board (ice-breakers, steamers, motor-boats, dredgers, "prams" [lighters], etc.), harbour premises, and construction and repair shops at Danzig-Krakau and Neufahrwasser.

I shall note hereunder more particularly the work done in the inner harbour. The following constructional work has been carried out for the repair and improvement of the harbour:

- (1) Restoration of bank supports on the Dead Vistula;
- (2) Construction of timber transshipment facilities on the Dead Vistula in front of the Waggonfabrik, by installing two 7-post and two 5-post dolphins;
- (3) Construction of a shed at the Weichselbahnhof;
- (4) Construction of a refinery in the Free Zone;
- (5) Transformation of the office premises for the cranes at the Weichselbahnhof;
- (6) Repairs to the quay-walls and caulking of the wooden framework below the quay-wall in the Holmhafen;
- (7) Installation of a 9-post dolphin on the Dead Vistula, in front of the Weichselmünde fortress;
- (8) Shifting of a buoy in front of the Weichselmünde fortress;
- (9) Installation and shifting of three supports for the quay-walls, in front of the new grain silo at the Weichselbahnhof;
- (10) Dredging operations in the harbour by the "Hummer" dredger:
 - (a) Further dredging in the Kaiserhafen;
 - (b) Other dredging operations at the mouth of the Striessbach, above the Neisser-Hafen, in the Weichselmünde dock, the Hafenkanal and at the entrance to the Free Zone;

- (11) Shifting of cables in the Hafenkanal from the Lotsenberg to the Westerplatte;
- (12) Shifting of the Lotsenweg and extensions to shed H;
- (13) Further extension of the Weichselmünde-Est dock for 100 metres, and execution of the necessary dredging operations;
- (14) Dredging the channel between the harbour entrance and the Weichselmünde dock to a depth of 11 metres;
- (15) Transforming and widening the quays at the Hafenkanal Neufahrwasser a distance of 200 metres;
- (16) Erection of a "Schwojestelle" at the entrance to the Free Zone;
- (17) Completing the erection of the new grain silo at the Weichselbahnhof.

C. FINANCE

Table of Revenue collected during 1938.

	1938 Danzig gulden		1937 Danzig gulden
January	611,049.29	January	667,772.60
February	482,090.01	February	456,639.13
March	566,804.90	March	510,377.67
April	554,850.55	April	574,315.14
May	552,241.34	May	509,380.37
June	642,073.63	June	681,782.84
July	651,576.10	July	695,288.87
August	667,707.32	August	605,139.—
September	580,180.55	September	593,720.82
October	554,739.—	October	656,680.38
November	664,241.31	November	651,433.38
December	622,241.31	December	643,365.08

The ordinary budget for the past financial year 1937/38—April 1st, 1937, to March 31st, 1938—fixed at 9,738,500 gulden, was, on the strength of the larger volume of traffic, increased by three supplementary votes, totalling 801,500 gulden, to 10,540,000 gulden. During the past financial year, the Harbour Board collected the sum of 431,560.38 gulden in excess of the estimates in the ordinary budget, and saved the sum of 77,580.80 gulden on the expenses side; thus reducing by 509,141.18 gulden the contributions due from Danzig and Poland. Since, however, 372,000 gulden from the amounts paid by the two States was transferred from the ordinary budget to the same item in the extraordinary budget, only 137,141.18 gulden could be placed at their disposal.

The extraordinary budget for the financial year 1937/38 had included the item of 1,400,000 gulden for the erection of a silo at the Weichselbahnhof and the lengthening of the Weichselmünde dock. As only 1,546,100 gulden had been spent in the financial year 1936/37, out of the 2,000,000 gulden appropriated for these two works, the difference, amounting to 453,900 gulden, had to be found for 1937/38 by means of a supplementary vote. In addition, the sum of 732,000 gulden was appropriated for the above-mentioned works under later supplementary budgets, so that a total of 2,585,900 gulden was entered in the extraordinary budget for the financial year 1937/38. The amount of 732,000 gulden had been added to enable additional urgent work to be executed, to permit of the extension of machinery, and to cover Customs duties. The Board obtained this sum of 732,000 gulden by taking 360,000 gulden from the surplus for 1936/37 and by transferring, as already stated, the sum of 372,000 gulden, forming part of the contributions paid by the States, from the ordinary budget under the same items in the extraordinary budget.

The sum of 137,000 gulden from the surpluses for the financial year 1937/38 was appropriated for the following works:

	Gulden
1. Special dredging operations in the harbour channel	66,000
2. Extensions to shed H on the Lotsenberg (second instalment)	20,000
3. Repaving the Weichselmünde-Westerplatte road	25,000
4. Improving the Einlage-Schiewenhorst road (second instalment)	23,500
5. Surveying certain parts of the Nogat	2,500
	137,000

The ordinary budget for the financial year 1938/39 was accordingly increased by the supplementary vote of June 30th, 1938, as follows:

	Original figure. April 1st, 1938- March 31st, 1939	Increased by supplementary vote of	Total
		Gulden	
Revenue	10,943,000	137,000	11,080,000
Expenditure	10,943,000	137,000	11,080,000

Revenue and expenditure balance exactly.

The grants made by Danzig and Poland towards the Harbour Board's expenditure for the year 1938/39 amount, according to the budget, to 2,880,000 gulden; this amount was not increased by the supplementary vote.

On November 12th, 1937, the Harbour Board decided to carry out a programme of extensions, including the following works and purchases, which are entered in the extraordinary budget:

	Gulden
1. Further lengthening of the Weichselmünde dock	360,000
2. Purchase of five 7-ton cranes for the Weichselmünde dock	1,250,000
3. Dredging of the channel between the harbour entrance and the north Holmspitze to a depth of 11 metres	800,000
4. Widening of the quay at the Hafenkanal, first instalment	630,000
5. Erection of a "Schwojestelle" at the entrance to the Free Zone	700,000
6. General expenses for Customs charges and unforeseen outlay	100,000
	3,840,000

To meet this expenditure, the Harbour Board, as I explained in my report of January 17th, 1938, obtained a credit from the Danziger Hypothekenbank Akt. Ges.

Interest and redemption payments in respect of the credit of 2,396,200 gulden granted by the Deutsche Bank und Diskonto-Gesellschaft, Danzig, were made on the appointed dates.

In regard to the 1927 loan of the Harbour Board, it should be observed that, in order to effect the interest reduction already mentioned in my report of January 17th, 1938, the coupon for July 1st, 1938, was paid in full by the trustee of the loan (the Chase National Bank of the City of New York) out of the resources available in the reserve fund.

For the President of the Harbour Board:

(Signed) P. F. OOSTERHOF.