

Stock Control Of Gen. Aniline Seized by U. S.

Pat 2/17/42
By the Associated Press

Treasury Secretary Morgenthau announced today he had taken over personal control of 97 per cent of the stock of General Aniline and Film Corporation of Delaware, large American chemical and photographic supply concern which he said was formerly owned by Germans.

General Aniline has 8000 employees and has been doing about 60 million dollars' worth of business annually. Some of its products were described as "essentials for the war effort."

Morgenthau said in a statement that the action was intended to protect the investment of the American bondholders.

"While over 95 per cent of the common and preferred stock of the corporation was foreign-owned, approximately 95 per cent of the outstanding bonds and debentures of the corporation are held by the American public," he explained.

The statement said the Secretary's action was temporary and "the question of ultimate disposition of the property is being left open and claims may be filed with the Secretary of the Treasury."

Officials of General Aniline & Film Corporation said in New York Secretary Morgenthau's action gave them "great satisfaction and a feeling of relief."

At the same time, election of William C. Bullitt as chairman of the formerly German-controlled company's board of directors was announced. Bullitt, who has been President Roosevelt's envoy on a number of diplomatic missions, had been a director since last December 5.

"We've been praying for a long time that someone would act and clear us of uncertainty," Vice President H. H. Williamson commented. "It's a pleasure to be working for Uncle Sam."

General Aniline's president, Judge John E. Mack, was understood to be in Washington.