

Table of Contents.

-----

League of Nations Publications.

VIII. Transit.

1. Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit- Action taken by Governments on the Recommendations adopted by the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports.  
(C.133.M.48. 1929.VIII.) (C.C.T.384.) 1929.VIII.4.  
57p.
  
2. Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit- Action taken by Governments on the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit concerning Identity and Travelling Documents for Persons without Nationality or of Doubtful Nationality.  
(C.245.M.84. 1929.VIII.) (C.C.T.373(1).) 1929.VIII.8.  
24p.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**Advisory and Technical Committee  
for Communications and Transit**

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS  
ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED**

BY THE

**SECOND CONFERENCE**

ON THE

**INTERNATIONAL REGIME  
OF PASSPORTS**

GENEVA 1929

Series of League of Nations Publications

✓ VIII. TRANSIT ✓  
1929. VIII. 4.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT**

---

**Action taken by Governments on the  
Recommendations adopted by the  
Second Conference  
on the International Regime of Passports**

---

In accordance with the request of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations forwarded to Governments, under date April 20th, 1928, a circular letter, as follows :

(C.L.65.1928.VIII.)

Geneva, April 20th, 1928.

At the request of the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, I have the honour to ask you to be good enough to inform me what action has been taken in . . . on the recommendations adopted by the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports, held at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926.

At its twelfth session (February 27th to March 2nd, 1928) the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit expressed the desire that this information might be received, if possible, before October 1st, 1928.

*(Signed)* DUFOUR-FERONCE,  
*Under-Secretary-General.*

FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM  
REPLIES RECEIVED, AS A RESULT  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENQUIRY

**AUSTRALIA**

August 1928.

SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

A. ISSUE OF PASSPORTS.

1. *Type of Passport.* — The "international type" is used by the Commonwealth of Australia.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — The practice has been adopted of making Australian passports valid, as a rule, for a period of five years from the date of issue.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — The practice is being followed of making passports available at the time of issue for all the countries that the grantee is likely to travel to or through during the currency of the passport.

4. *Fees.* — The practice in the Commonwealth of Australia conforms to this recommendation.

B. VISAS.

1. The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia is a party to arrangements made by the British Government with a number of other Governments for the mutual abolition of visa requirements.

2. Subject to compliance with the ordinary immigration regulations, no difficulty is raised in regard to travellers who arrive in Australia from parts beyond this country, landing for transshipment, even though their passports bear no transit visas.

3. There are facilities for obtaining Australian visas at each port of embarkation in Australia, and no difficulty has arisen in regard to the practice prevailing here of requiring applicants to appear in person.

4. The attitude of the Commonwealth of Australia is in accordance with this recommendation.

5. No objection is raised in principle by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia to the period of the validity of visas being raised to two years, except in respect of certain classes of emigrants who wish to settle in Australia and whose migration to this country the Commonwealth Government desires to regulate through the visa system. Entrance and transit visas for Australia are given by His Britannic Majesty's Consular or Passport Officers and are governed by the British regulations so far as fees are concerned.

6. The recommendation does not affect Australia.

7 to 10. As the charge for visas given by the Australian authorities is at present only two shillings, it has not been thought necessary so far to make any alteration of practice in connection with these recommendations; but if it is decided at any future time to vary the fees, the recommendations will be borne in mind.

*Abolition of Exit Visas.* — Compulsory exit visas have been abolished for nationals and also foreigners in cases where the Commonwealth of Australia is a party to reciprocal arrangements for the abolition of visa requirements. If the proposal for total abolition be generally adopted, the Commonwealth Government would be prepared to give the matter further consideration as regards other classes.

#### C. FACILITIES FOR THE OBTAINING OF PASSPORTS AND VISAS.

As indicated in B 3, there are facilities in Australia for travellers to obtain visas at all the ports of embarkation for overseas, and there is therefore no necessity for applicants to make special journeys merely to obtain visas. The practice is also followed of granting visas with the least possible delay.

#### D. CONTROL AT FRONTIERS.

This matter does not affect Australia.

## SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

### ANNEX.

The type of passport in use in Australia is similar to that used in England, which, it is observed, is specially recommended by the Conference.

Suggestions such as mentioning the passport-holder's name with every visa and underlining the holder's surname have been adopted.

*Renewals.* — As passports are now issued in Australia for a period of five years from the date of issue, and may be renewed up to five years at one time, the provision of half a page for renewals is found to be sufficient for Australian passports, and it has not therefore been considered necessary to make any change.

*Place of Origin* is shown on Australian passports.

*Family Passports.* — The Commonwealth agrees with the rule that the head of a family may travel alone with a family passport, but that it cannot be used by the wife and children travelling without him. This practice is generally followed in Australia, exception being made only in very special circumstances.

*Additional Pages prohibited.* — The practice is followed in Australia of cancelling or withdrawing a passport when all pages have been used, and of issuing a new passport if required.

*Collective Lists* in lieu of separate passports have been issued by the Commonwealth authorities to special parties, such as Boy Scouts and student tourist parties, subject to arrangements being made to ensure landing without difficulty in the country of intended destination.

---

## AUSTRIA

September 1928.

The Federal Government has introduced new types of passport.

In bringing out the new model, the Austrian authorities have followed as far as possible the recommendations embodied in the " Report of the Conference

on Possible Improvements in the Standard Passport (International Type) ” (Annex to the Final Act of May 18th, 1926), more especially in the following respects :

1. The cover bears the series number of the passport, as well as the words 

Republik Oesterreich
République d'Autriche

 and the name of the holder ;
2. The number of pages has been increased from 36 to 48 ;
3. The system of perforation has been improved ;
4. The binding has been strengthened by affixing a piece of cloth on the back of the cover ;

5. A special paper has been employed to obviate all risks of erasures or falsifications by the use of chemicals (the text is printed on rough paper which is glossed only after printing ; the blank spaces for the written entries are not finished like the other parts, so that these entries are made on the rough grain of the paper and are extremely difficult to remove).

These passports may be issued for a period of validity not exceeding five years, and as a rule for all European countries.

The necessary instructions have been given to all the Austrian passport authorities in Austria and abroad.

The other recommendations embodied in the Final Act of May 18th, 1926, had almost all already been adopted by Austria before the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports ; moreover, the Federal Government is endeavouring more and more to extend all desirable facilities in this matter, having, in particular, abolished visas under agreements with the following countries : Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark and Iceland, Finland, Germany, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Netherlands (excluding colonies), Norway, Portugal (excluding colonies), Sweden, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

---

## **BELGIUM**

April 1928.

The recommendations of the Passport Conference, held at Geneva in May 1926, have already been fully applied in Belgium, with the exception of those relating to the maintenance of the consular visa and the limitation of its duration in the case of nationals of certain countries.

Since April 1921, indeed, the compulsory Belgian consular visa has been abolished for nationals of most foreign countries.

Nevertheless, considerations of security and public order do not permit the conclusion, at the present time, of new agreements with countries whose nationals are still required to obtain consular visas, nor the general issue of visas valid for two years, or at least for the full duration of validity of the passport; visas valid for one year and for an unlimited number of journeys to Belgium may, however, be obtained by manufacturers, merchants and business-men who require to make frequent journeys.

With regard to the issue and duration of validity of passports, and the places for which they may be used, the measures recommended by the Conference have been in force in Belgium for a long time past, while the booklet passport system has recently been adopted.

---

## **BRAZIL**

April 1929.

Regulations concerning the issue of passports by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were approved by Decree No. 18408, of September 25th, 1928.

These regulations established new models for passports, very similar to the international model recommended by the Second Passport Conference.

All ordinary passports are valid for one year. This period may be extended for two successive periods of one year. Diplomatic passports are valid for one year only and their validity cannot be extended.

Visas are valid for one year.



In virtue of bilateral agreements visas are no longer required between Brazil and France or Brazil and Czechoslovakia.

The new Brazilian passport embodies certain recommendations of the 1926 Conference.

These recommendations have been followed as far as possible, in connection, for instance, with precautions against fraud and the number of pages. The views of the Passport Conference have also been taken into account in regard to certain other points.

---

### **BULGARIA**

February 1929.

The Kingdom of Bulgaria accepts, with the following reservations, the recommendations adopted by the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports :

1. The abolition of visas (p. 164 B— visas, No. 1) is not agreed to ;
2. The recommendations regarding visas contained in (4), (5) and (6) (pp. 164 and 165) are not accepted.

---

### **CANADA**

May 1928.

As Canadian practice, with trifling exceptions, corresponds with that recommended by the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports, it was not found necessary to take any new measures to give effect to the recommendations in the Dominion.

---

### **CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC**

March 1929.

Czechoslovakia has applied the following principles and recommendations of the Conference :

1. Adoption of a passport in conformity with the "international type" model (II, A 1).

2. The adoption in principle, by the Law of March 29th, 1928, No. 55 in "Collected Laws and Decrees" (paragraph 3, section 3), of the period of five years for the validity of passports (II, A 2).

3. Czechoslovakia as a rule issues passports valid for all foreign countries, or at least for as large groups of countries as possible (II, A 3).

4. The fees charged for the issue of passports are not of a fiscal character; they represent merely the expenditure involved in the preparation of the passports and their issue to the persons concerned (II, A 4).

5. Czechoslovakia has abolished visas for Austria, Belgium, Danzig, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Saar Territory, Switzerland, and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The abolition of visas for England, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Estonia, Japan, etc., is under consideration (II, B 1).

6. A stay of three days is allowed to foreigners passing through Czechoslovakia (with the exception of the nationals of certain States) (II, B 2).

7. Recommendation II, B 3 has been applied in Czechoslovakia since the Passport Agreement concluded at Gratz (158/1922 of "Collected Laws and Decrees").

8. As regards Recommendation II, B 4 also Answer 7 applies.

9. Recommendation II, B 5 has been applied in Czechoslovakia except as regards the two years' period of validity of visas. (They are valid for twelve months at most.)

10. Visas in Czechoslovakia are valid for all frontiers save for special or exceptional reasons which are justified by conditions of public health, or by considerations of national safety (II, B 6).

11. The fees charged for visas do not exceed 10 gold francs. The Czechoslovak Government has, by means of mutual agreements, in several cases reduced the rates of the fees (II, B 7).

12. Fees charged for visas do not vary according to the itinerary followed by the passport holder, or to the flag of the ship upon which he travels (II, B 8).

Total exemptions from fees or reductions in fees are provided for in public and official regulations defining the categories of persons entitled thereto (II, B 9).

13. The official representatives of Czechoslovakia abroad apply the "Instructions on Taxes", Chapter 8, Article 15 (Supplement 42 to "Collected Regulations", page 12), according to which a new visa may, in exceptional cases, be granted on the application of the person concerned if he proves that, for genuine and legitimate reasons, he has not been able to use the visa which has expired.

The Czechoslovak authorities within the country cut off from the old book any visa which has not yet expired, and stick it in the new book so that the holder may use the visa during the whole of its validity.

14. The issue of passports is facilitated and formalities are simplified so that applicants for passports are not made to wait long, and it is not necessary for them to attend personally for this purpose at offices issuing passports (II, C).

15. Passport control at the frontier is carried out in Czechoslovakia, save for rare exceptions (Poland), at the frontier stations of entry or exit, in most cases while the trains are in motion.

The police inspections of the two countries concerned are effected simultaneously or, at least, one immediately after the other (II, D).

It should be added that Czechoslovakia also issues family passports, has prohibited additional pages and permitted collective lists.

As regards improvements in the standard passport (international type), Czechoslovakia has adopted the following model :

1. On a thick cover is represented the State seal between the inscription " Republika Československá " and " République Tchécoslovaque ". On the first page of the book there is an opening big enough to allow to be clearly seen the series number of the passport and the name of the bearer, which appear on the first page.

2. Page 1 of the new passport is thus arranged : the inscription in French " République Tchecoslovaque " is printed on one line, leaving the space necessary for the inscription of the name of the holder, as required by the Geneva Conference. Under the heading " Nationality " are inserted the words " Place of origin " (" *Indigénal* ").

3. The renewal or extension of the passport is not shown on page 4 but on page 5. For this reason, the text of page 5 reads " Renewals and prolongations ", and below " Renewals and extensions ". The remainder of page 5 is divided by horizontal lines into three equal parts where may be shown the renewal or extension of the passport.

All pages of the passport are perforated in the top right-hand corner by the letters " R. C. S. ".

The National Printing Works are also authorised to print, besides the usual books of 32-page passports, passports of 16 pages ; the latter must bear the same stamps on the first five pages.

Only a very small number of 16-page books will be used.

---

## DENMARK

November 1928.

### RECOMMENDATION I.

The Danish Government would draw attention to the circular of the Ministry of Justice, dated July 4th, which introduces facilities for Danish subjects in so far as the issue of collective passports is concerned. Furthermore, the Danish authorities, on a large scale, permit aliens — especially Norwegians, Swedes and Germans — who hold collective passports to enter Denmark.

It should also be pointed out that in recent years permission has very frequently been granted for the landing of passengers arriving in Denmark on board ships making pleasure cruises, and to whom a collective passport had been issued.

Moreover, Swedish nationals benefit by a special arrangement which enables them to enter Denmark

and stay there for three days without having the usual passport, provided they hold a special form of ticket.

## RECOMMENDATION II.

A. Instructions regarding the issue of passports are contained in the circulars of the Ministry of Justice, dated June 29th, 1926, and March 4th, 1927, as well as in an order issued by the same Ministry on March 31st, 1928. In virtue of these regulations, information as to the purpose of the journey and identity certificates are no longer required.

B. Since the Passport Conference, Denmark has concluded agreements for the abolition of visas with the following countries: Austria, Finland, Germany, Japan and Portugal. Further, the order of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of July 28th, 1926, to a great extent complies with the recommendations contained in this paragraph.

C. As the Danish authorities have always endeavoured to issue passports and visas with the least delay possible, special steps for the application of this recommendation have not been considered necessary.

D. Examination of passports at Danish frontiers is carried out:

- (1). On the Gedser-Warnemünde route: in the through carriages whilst on board the ferry;
- (2). On the Malnø-Copenhagen and Helsingborg-Elsinore routes: in the through carriages;
- (3). At Padborg.

In the through trains leaving Denmark, passports are examined in the carriages. In the case of other trains, the examination is carried out after travellers have taken their seats in the German trains.

In through trains arriving in Denmark, passports are examined in the carriages during the stop at Padborg Station. In the case of other trains, the examination is carried out at Padborg Station.

---

## ESTONIA

November 1928.

### SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

I. The Estonian Government has acted as far as possible in accordance with the general recommendations of the Conference as to the facilities to be granted for the passage of frontiers, both in general and by means of bilateral agreements. It has pursued this policy hitherto, and will continue to do so in so far as the particular circumstances of Estonia's geographical position render this possible.

II. The Government would make the following statement concerning the specific recommendations of the Conference as to the facilities to be granted under the passport regime :

#### A. ISSUE OF PASSPORTS.

1. The Estonian authorities have selected a type of passport in conformity with the recommendations of the 1920 and 1926 Conferences.

2. The duration of validity for passports for foreign travel is one year; the Ministry of the Interior has, however, no objection to prolonging this period up to two years.

3. The extent of validity for passports is not subject to any rigid restriction. The Ministry of the Interior issues, on request, passports valid for all foreign countries.

4. The competent Estonian authorities do not see their way to act on the recommendation that the fees charged for the issue of passports should not be in excess of the expenditure involved in the preparation of the passports and their issue to the persons concerned.

#### B. VISAS.

1. Current legislation affords facilities for the conclusion of agreements with foreign countries concerning the abolition of entrance and transit visas. Agreements of this kind providing for the complete abolition of visas, subject to reciprocity, have already been concluded with Italy, Latvia, Finland and the Netherlands.

2. In actual practice the competent Estonian authorities authorise the entrance of foreigners even when, for any reason, they have been unable to procure the necessary entrance visa. It is, of course, understood that this is only the case where the authorities responsible for the maintenance of order and public security are not in possession of compromising information concerning the person in question, and where there is no doubt as to his identity and intentions.

3. The method recommended under this number is that actually practised by the Estonian authorities concerned.

4. The remarks under No. 3 also apply here.

5. The Estonian authorities see no obstacle to the proposals under this number being put into effect through the conclusion of agreements between countries on a basis of reciprocity. It should, however, be pointed out that in Estonia the period of validity of a visa for a single journey is usually somewhat brief, and that it is only visas for any number of journeys that have a longer period of validity, not, however, exceeding one year.

6. The regulations in force in Estonia conform in all respects to the proposal set forth in this recommendation.

7. Estonian practice in the matter of visa fees is not uniform, but is controlled by reciprocal arrangements concluded with foreign countries for this purpose. We could, however, mention that the fees specified in such arrangements are for the most part identical with those proposed by the Conference; for certain countries they are even lower, and for certain others they are higher.

8. The fees for visas are fixed by the Estonian authorities on the basis of reciprocal agreements.

9 and 10. The Estonian authorities are willing to settle the questions raised in No. 9 and No. 10, paragraph 1, in accordance with the principle of reciprocity.

The exit visa (No. 10, paragraph 2) is generally required in Estonia, but the Estonian authorities would raise no objection to its abolition by means of separate reciprocal agreements, as already effected in the case of Great Britain and Denmark.

### C. FACILITIES FOR THE OBTAINING OF PASSPORTS AND VISAS.

The competent Estonian authorities have carefully considered the Conference's recommendation as to facilities for the obtaining of passports and visas. The system of issuing passports, identity documents and visas in Estonia has been simplified as much as general conditions in the country permit.

### D. CONTROL AT FRONTIERS.

Under an agreement concluded in 1928, on the Esto-Latvian frontier there is joint control, viz., the police and Customs inspections are carried out simultaneously while the trains are in motion by the police and Customs authorities of the two countries.

On the Esto-Russian frontier, control formalities are also carried out while the trains are in motion, but by the frontier authorities of the two countries acting separately.

## SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

2 and 3. The practices recommended by the Conference under these two numbers are already followed in Estonia.

The Estonian authorities desire to make the following observation on the report of the Conference on possible improvements in the standard passport (international type):

### I. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FRAUD.

The Estonian passport for foreign travel has been constructed on the lines of the standard passport devised by the 1920 Conference and amplified in conformity with the recommendations of the 1926 Conference. The only difference is that the Estonian passport does not bear on its cover the name of the holder and the series number of the passport, and that its pages are not perforated, as recommended by that Conference. The Estonian authorities do not consider that there is any advantage in entering the names and numbers on the cover, as these particulars would very soon be effaced, while the method of inscription employed by Great Britain for this purpose would be very costly.



The Estonian authorities are in favour of the proposal that the name of the holder of the passport should be entered on visas granted to him. (Under the Estonian regulations, the name may be written along the top margin of the visa.)

## II. NUMBER OF PAGES, VISAS AND STAMPS.

1. The number of pages in the Estonian passport is 32, as required in the recommendations of the 1920 Conference.

2. The recommendations under this number meet with the entire approval of the competent Estonian authorities, who have given instructions with a view to securing the fullest possible compliance with these decisions of the Conference.

## III. VARIOUS ENTRIES.

The Estonian passport regulations make provision for all the suggestions grouped under this head, and they are thus put into effect as far as possible.

## IV. RENEWALS.

Estonian practice is in conformity with the decision of the Conference recommending that a full page should be left for renewals immediately following that on which the period of validity of the passport is shown.

## V. QUESTION OF PLACE OF ORIGIN (INDIGÉNAT).

Estonian passports for foreign travel only contain general information as to the place of origin (*indigénat*). They merely show the country or, in the case of a person born in Estonia, the district of origin. A place has been left under the heading "Remarks" for any other indications which the competent authorities may deem necessary.

## VI. FAMILY PASSPORTS.

The competent Estonian authorities approve the suggestion of the Conference with regard to family passports.

## VII. ADDITIONAL PAGES PROHIBITED.

No objection is raised to this recommendation by the Estonian authorities, who will take the necessary steps for its enforcement.

## VIII. COLLECTIVE LISTS.

The use of collective lists in lieu of passports for journeys by members of clubs or societies travelling for a common purpose has for a long time past been admitted and recognised in Estonia.

---

### FINLAND

November 1928.

As Finland had, even before the International Passport Conference held at Geneva in 1926, organised the issue of passports in a manner corresponding to paragraph A of Chapter II of the first part of the recommendations of the Conference, regarding facilities to be granted in this connection, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has devoted its particular attention to paragraph B of that chapter, concerning facilities to be granted in the obtaining of visas and to the carrying out of the recommendation for the abolition of visas. Up to the present, Finland has concluded agreements for the abolition of visas with the following countries (the dates when agreements take effect are shown in parentheses) : Denmark (December 1st, 1926) ; Iceland (December 1st, 1926) ; Germany (June 1st, 1927) ; Estonia (June 1st, 1927) ; Latvia (June 1st, 1927) ; Austria (August 1st, 1927) ; Japan (April 1st, 1928) ; Sweden (May 1st, 1928) ; Czechoslovakia (May 1st, 1928) ; Netherlands (June 1st, 1928) and Belgium (June 30th, 1928). Finland has also concluded agreements for the abolition of diplomatic visas with Switzerland (December 1st, 1927) and Italy (June 12th, 1928). According to the terms of the last agreement, moreover, ordinary visas are issued free.

The recommendation that diplomatic and consular authorities should be able to grant visas to persons not domiciled in their area, and that these authorities

should not require the applicant to appear in person, has been observed. In the case of transit visas, the applicant is only required to appear in person if the authority granting the visa has doubts regarding the case. At every application for a visa, however, a form must be filled up in duplicate.

The recommendation that the applicant for a visa should not be obliged to prove the necessity of the journey has always been observed.

The recommendation that both entrance and transit visas should be valid for a period of one or two years has been observed. Visas are granted conferring the right to make several journeys in a period of six months, a year or two years.

Visas are valid at all legal points for crossing the frontier.

As regards the fees charged for visas, these were, in a general way, fixed in accordance with the terms of the recommendation. In the case of certain countries, however, it has been necessary for reasons of reciprocity, to fix charges slightly higher than those suggested in the recommendation. On the other hand, for several countries, and especially in the case of transit visas having a short period of validity, it has been possible to agree that visas should be granted free. In all these arrangements, the principle of reciprocity laid down in the recommendation has been observed.

Exit visas have been abolished. Travellers have only, during the period between their entering and their leaving the country, to report to the police authorities of the district in which they are staying.

Paragraph C of Chapter II relating to facilities for the obtaining of passports and visas has been carried out. In order to simplify formalities and spare travellers long and costly journeys for obtaining the visa, applicants may, after having filled up the afore-mentioned forms, obtain the visa without being compelled to appear personally before the competent authority, either through a representative or by sending by post the passport for which the visa is required.

As regards paragraph D, referring to the examination of passports at the frontier, the majority of travellers arrive in Finland by boat. To avoid waste of time on

arrival, arrangements have been made to examine passports on board before the ship arrives in port, whilst the Customs examination must necessarily take place in the port.

## FRANCE

May 1929.

### *Passports.*

The French Government has adopted a model passport in conformity with the international type, which will be distributed when the stock of passports at present in use is exhausted.

The French passport is valid for only one year. This is according to law and can only be modified with the approval of Parliament. The question of extending the validity to two years is being investigated.

French passports are, as a rule, valid for all countries. Only in exceptional cases are restrictions made in this respect.

The fee for the issue of a passport is higher : 20 French francs.

### *Visas.*

Instructions have been given to all French diplomatic and consular offices to issue visas without delay and undue formalities.

As a rule, visas are valid for two years for an unlimited number of journeys. If the validity or the unexpired validity of the passport is less than two years, the validity of the visa is limited to that of the passport.

Visas are valid for all frontiers.

Except in the case of countries which have a higher tariff, the fee for long-period visas is 10 gold francs, and for a transit visa with right to two weeks' stay, 1 gold franc. Consular regulations permit of visas being issued free of charge to destitute persons and at half the usual rates to persons who cannot afford to pay the full amount.

### *Control.*

Passport examination in stations and while the train is in motion has been simplified as much as possible with a view to reducing delay and inconvenience.

*Students.*

Every possible facility is extended to students, who are given visas at reduced rates and very often free of charge.

---

**GERMANY**

October 1928.

Some of the resolutions of the International Passport Conference held at Geneva in 1926 have already been given effect to in the German passport regulations, and the rest will be taken into account, so far as possible, in the forthcoming revision of the German passport system. Meanwhile, we would submit the following observations as regards the recommendations :

**SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.**

**I. PASSPORT REGIME.**

The German Government endeavours to mitigate the passport regime, in particular, by means of agreements with the neighbouring countries providing special facilities for the frontier traffic. Such agreements have been concluded with almost all the adjacent countries. An agreement with France is now in preparation.

**II. FACILITIES.**

**A. Issue of Passports.**

1. *Type of Passport.* — Germany has already adopted a model which is virtually identical with the international standard passport proposed by the Paris Conference held in 1920.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — German passports are regularly issued for a period of five years.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — German passports are regularly issued for "inland and abroad", except in cases where there are special reasons for restricting the area of validity.

4. *Fees.* — The fee for the issue of a passport with five years' validity is 3 RM. (Before the war the charge for a German passport, valid for *one* year only, was 3 marks.)

### B. *Visas.*

1. The visa has been abolished between Germany and the following countries : Austria, parts of the British Empire (Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Irish Free State, Canada, Newfoundland, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Haiti, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Portugal, the Republic of San Domingo, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

2. Adequate facilities are provided for breaking the journey in transit traffic through Germany, particularly in commercial ports.

3. The German visa authorities are allowed, in cases deserving special consideration; to grant visas to persons not domiciled in their area.

It will be a general principle of German passport legislation in future that the authorities shall be entitled, in all unexceptionable cases, to grant a visa without the applicant appearing in person.

4. For a long time past the German passport regulations have ceased to require proof of the *necessity* of the journey. The applicant is only questioned as to the *purpose* of the journey.

5. Besides the ordinary visa for a single journey, the German passport regulations provide for a " permanent visa " entitling the holder to an unlimited number of journeys into or through Germany over a period of two years.

6. German visas entitle the holder to cross the frontier of the Reich at all the officially recognised points throughout the duration of their validity, unless, in exceptional cases and for some special reason, a particular point is prescribed in the visa.

7. In future, the fees charged will be for the grant of one visa :

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (a) For a single transit journey, including return .....                    | 1 RM. |
| (b) For a single entry, or re-entry ..                                      | 4 RM. |
| (c) For an unlimited number of entries, re-entries or transit journeys .... | 8 RM. |

8. The German visa charges are levied at a fixed uniform rate, *i.e.*, regardless of the nationality of the passport-holder. Higher fees are only levied on the principle of reciprocity.

9. The fees to be levied in respect of passports are laid down in a special Decree, which is published in the *Reichsgesetzblatt* (*Reich Legal Gazette*).

10. No decision has yet been taken regulating the charge for a new visa when the old visa expires before it has been used.

### C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

In order so far as possible to simplify the formalities for obtaining passports and visas, it is proposed to increase the number of authorities empowered to issue them, and to allow these authorities to dispense in all unexceptionable cases with the appearance of the applicant in person. Further, the authorities in question will be instructed to deal as promptly as possible with all applications for passports and visas.

### D. *Control at Frontiers.*

The inspection of passports in international traffic will be carried out in future according to the following principles :

1. The inspection must be conducted courteously and considerately and with as little inconvenience as possible to the travellers. Any petty interpretation of the rules should be avoided.

2. On entry, the inspection of passports must still be continued so long as the passport system exists. In the case of nationals of the Reich and of countries in relations with which the visa has been abolished, it will be confined to occasional random verifications.

3. Holders of diplomatic and ministerial passports will take precedence over other travellers.

4. On exit, there will be no inspection unless for special reasons action has to be taken by the police.

5. When frontiers are crossed by rail, transit travellers will have their passports inspected in the train, so far as circumstances permit.

In sleeping-cars, the inspection of passports at night will take place with as little inconvenience to travellers as possible. The following method is recommended :

The passports may be collected by the guard or sleeping-car conductor and handed to the passport inspection authorities at the frontier station. The inspection will consist simply in checking them against the passenger lists. The passports may be returned through the guard or sleeping-car conductor, unless either the person or passport of any particular traveller calls for special measures on the part of the passport-inspection authorities.

6. In the case of journeys by sea, the inspection of passengers' passports will, as a rule, take place on board.

The passports of the passengers and crews of ships plying between German ports will not be inspected.

As regards crews of ships plying between German and foreign ports, a convenient method of carrying out passport inspection will be for the authorities to ask the ship's master to produce the passports and the ship's lists, and to rely as a rule on random verification of identity.

7. In inter-State air traffic, the passports of passengers and crew will be inspected, on entry, at the first and, on exit, at the last German air port or regular landing-place at which the aircraft is scheduled to call.

In the case of aircraft flying over Germany, coming from and bound for abroad and making a forced landing at places other than the air-ports or regular landing-places, passengers not carrying the necessary papers and visas must be instructed to obtain them, unless the flight is resumed within the next 24 hours.

8. Passport and Customs officials must co-operate as far as possible for purposes of frontier formalities.

9. The custom still obtaining in some German States of keeping lists of persons crossing the frontier (travellers being entered in special lists on crossing the frontier) will be abolished in future.

10. On various sections of the Reich frontier, frontier formalities are carried out jointly with the authorities of the neighbouring countries, in some cases for practical reasons and in others under the terms of international agreements.



#### SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

The German Government has no particular comments to make.

##### WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STANDARD PASSPORT (INTERNATIONAL TYPE).

The suggestions of the Passport Conference, as regards entering the holder's name and the series number of the passport upon the cover and stating the number of pages will be taken into consideration when a new German model is introduced.

In the German visas, the name of the passport-holder is already mentioned.

*Number of Pages, Visas and Stamps.* — The German passport contains 32 pages.

The German visa authorities are instructed to place visas in order of issue.

*Various Entries.* — The League's suggestions will be adopted so far as possible.

*Renewals.* — The German model already leaves a whole page for the renewal of the passport.

*Question of Place of Origin (indigénat).* — This question has no bearing on conditions in Germany.

*Family Passports.* — The German passport regulations concerning family passports give effect to the League's recommendations.

*Prohibition of Additional Pages.* — The insertion of extra pages in booklet passports is not allowed by the German passport regulations.

*Collective Lists.* — Under the German passport regulations, collective lists are used for groups of persons crossing the frontier in a party, provided the journey is undertaken for some educational, economic or other purpose of importance to German interests, and that there are no objections of a political nature.

---

## GREAT BRITAIN

July 1928.

The recommendations generally represent the existing practice of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, save in the matter of visa fees, in regard to which they have not felt able to depart from the policy introduced as a result of the conference held at Paris in 1920, whereby ordinary and transit visas are granted, both valid for one year and for any number of journeys, at fees of ten gold francs and one gold franc respectively, save in the case of nationals of States, whose Governments levy higher fees from British subjects.

Nationals of the following countries do not require visas to enter the United Kingdom : Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The visa requirement has also been abolished in the case of inhabitants of the Saar Basin.

---

## GREECE

January 1929.

### SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. PASSPORT REGIME.

For entry into Greece, both foreigners and nationals must have their passport endorsed by a Greek consular authority.

Many facilities are granted to various categories of foreign nationals entering Greece.

Greece has concluded agreements with Albania and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes respectively, whereby nationals inhabiting the border provinces may enter the territory of the neighbouring country without the formality of passport and visa simply on presentation of their identity card. They cannot, of course, engage in any lucrative occupation. This facility is granted more particularly to persons possessing on the frontier line and beyond it property which they can thus cultivate without restriction, and to traders

and industrialists living near the frontier who can enter the territory of the neighbouring country in order to make the necessary purchases for their particular trade or industry.

## II. FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED.

### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. Accepted and applied.

2. Greece has adopted the duration of validity of two years for passports for certain categories of her nationals. Nevertheless, she still issues passports for one year and passports valid for a single journey within three months. These various categories of passports are all renewable on application by the persons concerned.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — Valid for all European countries ; non-European countries are mentioned specially at the request of the persons concerned.

### B. *Visas.*

1. There are special reasons — more particularly the establishment still in process of completion of a million and a-half Greek refugees from Asia Minor — which prevent Greece from concluding inter-State agreements with a view to the abolition of entrance and transit visas.

2. Facilities are granted to foreign nationals passing in transit through the territory. Travellers do not require a Greek visa in ports of call.

3. Accepted and applied.

4. Exceptional conditions prevail owing to the large number of refugees who have entered Greece and cannot yet find work, so that the Government is obliged to ask foreigners to prove the necessity of their journey ; no further formality is required as regards the granting of a visa to persons who do not intend to pursue a lucrative occupation.

5. Greece is unable to comply with this recommendation.

6. Visas granted are valid for all frontier posts.

7. Visa fees are levied on terms of reciprocity.
8. No distinction is made as regards the fees charged for passport visas according to the itinerary followed or the flag of the ship by which the traveller reaches Greece.
9. Under consideration.
10. Cannot be accepted.

C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

The Government administrative authorities competent to issue passports and the consular authorities abroad have received instructions to simplify, as far as possible, all formalities in connection with the issuing of passports and to spare persons desirous of obtaining visas for long and costly journeys, both in Greece and abroad.

D. *Control at Frontiers.*

The control instituted in Greece is entirely in conformity with the recommendation passed by the Conference on May 18th, 1926.

SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

Greece is in agreement.

**Annex.**

*Precautions against Fraud.* — The Greek Government has for some considerable time adopted the procedure recommended by the Conference.

*Number of Pages, Visas and Stamps.* — The same applies to this heading.

*Various Entries.* — These points have been duly noted.

*Renewals.* — This procedure is applied in Greece.

*Question of Place of Origin (indigénat).* — The points have been duly noted.

*Family Passports.* — Greece is in agreement.

*Additional Pages prohibited.* — Instructions to this effect have been given to the Greek administrative and consular authorities.

*Collective Lists.* — Accepted.

---

## **HUNGARY**

September 1928.

Hungary has given effect in every respect to the recommendations adopted in the matter of passports and visas by the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports, held at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926.

---

## **INDIA**

October 1928.

The recommendations adopted by the Conference generally represent the existing practice of the Government of India, except in the matter of visa fees and the mutual abolition of entrance and transit fees.

In regard to visa fees and the period of duration of visas, the Government of India have followed the policy introduced by His Majesty's Government in Great Britain as a result of the Conference on Passport Questions held in Paris in 1920. As regards agreements for the mutual abolition of visas, the Government of India have not found it possible to be a party to any arrangement of this nature with any foreign State.

---

## **IRISH FREE STATE**

September 1928.

The present practice of the Government of the Irish Free State in regard to passports is, on practically all points, in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference.

The type of passport used is the "international" model, with an initial validity of five years and renewable for an additional five. Travel endorsements are given for as many countries as requested at time of issue, and for any countries subsequently desired by the holder at a small fee for each additional endorsement.

As regards visas, these are now abolished with most European countries.

---

## ITALY

May 1929.

### *Form of Passport.*

On the cover of the new Italian passport which came into force in 1928 are the words " Regno d'Italia " (Kingdom of Italy), the serial number and the holder's name. The book consists of 24 pages, and the fraudulent replacement of these is impossible. The book may contain, in addition to the name of the head of the family, the names of the wife and children and, in special cases, of other relatives under age.

The passport may be made valid, according to the case, not merely for one specific country but for a number of foreign countries.

### *Validity of Passports.*

The passports of Italians resident abroad and coming to Italy on a temporary visit may be made valid for two years.

The recommendation that the cost should not exceed the actual expenditure involved in the preparation, establishment and issue of the passport has been applied to Italians from abroad returning to Italy and to poor persons in general.

### *Visas.*

The policy adopted by the Italian Government is towards the abolition of entrance and transit visas. Such visas have already been abolished for nationals of the following States :

Albania	Germany	Norway
Argentine	Hungary	Portugal
Belgium	Japan	Saar
Brazil	Latvia	Salvador
Chile	Liechtenstein	Spain
Cuba	Luxemburg	Sweden
Denmark	Mexico	Switzerland
Estonia	Monaco	United States
France	Netherlands	Uruguay
Great Britain		

The Italian Consular Authorities are authorised not to require the applicant to appear in person, and also to visa the passports of foreigners not domiciled in their Consular area.

Proof of the necessity of the journey is required only in the cases mentioned in the recommendations.

Visas affixed to foreign passports are valid for all frontiers, save in the cases mentioned in the recommendations.

Fees, exemptions and reduced fees are established on the same basis as those applied to Italian citizens by the State of which the holder of the passport is a national. Certain facilities are granted by the Italian Government in special cases, as for entry into Italy for the purpose of treatment at a specific place or for purposes of study (summer courses, study tours of societies, etc.).

The system of issuing passports to nationals and entrance visas to foreigners is extremely simple. Inspection takes place as a rule on the international trains crossing the frontiers and in virtue of agreements concluded with the countries concerned.

This inspection consists simply in ascertaining that the documents submitted by passengers are in order. Customs formalities are also simplified as far as possible, so as to assist passengers passing from one country to another.

---

## JAPAN

October 1928.

### SECTION I. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. PASSPORT REGIME.

Even before this recommendation was made, Japan had adopted the principle of abolishing passports by means of international agreements, and the regulations concerning the admission of foreigners into Japan contain specific provisions to that effect. This principle is in operation as between Japan and China.

## II. FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED.

### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. *Type of Passport.* — Japan has adopted and introduced the model established by the Paris Conference.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — At present, Japanese passports are valid for the entire period from the time the holder leaves Japan up to his return to Japan, and accordingly have no uniform duration. The question whether a definite period of validity should be adopted is now under consideration.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — In principle, the Japanese Government favours the issue of passports valid for all foreign countries or for groups of countries; nevertheless, it takes the view that the question of putting this recommendation into practice should first be exhaustively considered.

4. *Fees.* — The fees charged for the issue of Japanese passports are 5 yen in Japan and 2 to 10 yen abroad, according to the general cost of living. The question of a reduction of fees is now under consideration.

### B. *Visas.*

1. *Abolition of Entrance and Transit Visas.* — Japan had already adopted the principle of providing for the abolition of entrance and transit visas by inter-State agreements before this recommendation was made. Not only do the regulations concerning the admission of foreigners into Japan contain express provisions to that effect, but the principle has already been applied as between the Empire and most European countries.

2. *Facilities for breaking the Journey.* — The Japanese Government is prepared to apply the principle of this recommendation so far as possible, whenever serious drawbacks would not be entailed.

3. *Granting of Visas.* — The Japanese Government is quite prepared to give effect to the recommendation.



4. *Proof of the Necessity of the Journey.* — The Japanese Government will endeavour, so far as possible, to apply the principle of the recommendation.

5. *Period of Validity of the Visa.* — In Japan, the period of validity of entrance and transit visas is now one year, during which time the entrance visa is good for an unlimited number of journeys, unless an express restriction is provided for, while the transit visa is good only for a single journey.

The questions of fixing the duration of validity of entrance and transit visas at a uniform period of two years and of making the transit visa valid for an unlimited number of journeys through the country are now under consideration.

6. *Validity of Visas for all Frontiers.* — The rule is that entrance visas are valid for all frontiers.

7. *Visa Charges.* — The charge for the Japanese visa is in accordance with the Paris Conference resolution, viz., as a rule, ten gold francs for the entrance visa and one gold franc for a transit visa.

8. *No Discrimination in the Scale of the Charge.* — In Japan, the charges do not vary according to the nationality of the passport-holder or to the itinerary followed by him, etc. Nevertheless, on the principle of reciprocity, the authorities collect from nationals of countries where the fees are on a higher scale than that specified in paragraph 7 an amount equivalent to the fees charged in the country in question.

9. *Total Exemption from Fees or Reduced Fees.* — In Japan, the rules concerning total exemption from visa fees or other charges levied by the Consular authorities, and reductions of such fees, are laid down in an official enactment, viz., an Order of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Thus, any practical application of these rules must first be sanctioned by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

10. *Expiry of the Visa before it has been used.* — In exceptional cases, where it is clear that the visa has expired before the holder, for genuine and legitimate reasons, could make use of it, the Japanese Government will do its utmost to give effect to the principle recommended.

C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

The Japanese Government will endeavour, so far as possible, to carry out this recommendation.

D. *Control at Frontiers.*

This question, though very important for all European countries, is comparatively unimportant in a country like Japan, on account of its insular position. The Imperial Government is quite prepared, however, in so far as possible, to have its passport control carried out in accordance with the rules embodied in paragraphs (a) and (b) of the recommendation.

SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

The Japanese Government has taken note of the recommendations and will give them all due consideration.

---

LATVIA

November 1928.

A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. Since November 1st, 1923, Latvia has introduced foreign passports on the model recommended by the International Passport Conference held in 1920. The booklets for Latvian foreign passports, the size of which when open is 20 cm. by 15 cm., are bound in reddish-brown calico, and contain 32 pages bound together by thin galvanised wire; the corners are rounded. The linen paper used for making these booklets is white with watermarks in the form of a cross with arms bent into a hook, in three shades. The cover of the passport bears a reproduction of the Latvian coat of arms under the inscription "Latvijas Republika" (Republic of Latvia). Below the coat of arms is the inscription "Arzemju pase" (Foreign Passport). Both the coat of arms and the inscriptions are in black. All the pages of the passport have a protective reticulated watermark in light blue with the State arms in the middle and a diagonal inscription "Latvija" in light brown. The text is printed in Latin characters in black. The pages

are numbered in sequence, and the numbers are printed at the top of the protective reticulation. The paper employed for making the passports precludes all risks of erasure or alteration.

2. Foreign passports are issued for a term of three years.

3. Foreign passports are valid for journeys in all countries.

4. In comparison with other countries, the fee charged for Latvian foreign passports is low and hardly in excess of the cost of manufacture and issue. Passports for abroad may be extended for a term not exceeding three years. Family passports are issued : (1) to the head of the family with his wife and children, being minors under 14 years of age ; (2) to husband and wife ; (3) to one parent with children, minors under 14 years of age. Collective passports are issued to persons travelling in groups.

#### B. *Visas.*

1. Up to the present, the Latvian Government has concluded agreements for the abolition of visas with the following countries : Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Italy. Further, passports have been abolished in relations with Estonia.

2. Travellers passing through Latvia enjoy every possible facility ; transit visas can even be obtained in the train without any additional charge. Fees for transit visas are fixed on the basis of reciprocity or in virtue of special agreements. Nationals of certain States are entirely exempted from fees for transit visas.

3. Latvian diplomatic and consular officers are permitted to issue visas to persons not domiciled within their area or district ; similarly, applicants for visas are not required to appear personally.

4. There is no regulation requiring applicants to prove the necessity of the journey. Under the supplementary order to the " Law on the Entry, Exit and Sojourn of Aliens in Latvia " only the following categories of persons are refused admittance into Latvia :

(a) Persons who express or have expressed opinions hostile to Latvia, or whose entry is considered undesirable by the country's representatives ;

(b) Persons whose means of existence are uncertain, infirm persons, vagrants or persons without fixed occupation ;

(c) Persons who have been sentenced by, or are being prosecuted in, the courts or are the subject of a judicial enquiry or are being sought for by the administrative authorities of the foreign State in question ;

(d) Persons who cannot furnish adequate proofs of their identity ;

(e) Persons who are suffering from infectious diseases ;

(f) Or whose names appear on the lists mentioned in § 2.

(Text of § 2. — For purposes of control, representatives shall forward periodically to the Ministry of the Interior lists of persons whose entry into Latvia is undesirable. These lists shall be collected by the Ministry and communicated by circular to all Latvian representatives.)

5. The Latvian Government has concluded special agreements with Czechoslovakia, Great Britain, and the United States of America, in virtue of which nationals of these countries can obtain for one year entry or transit visas for several journeys, conferring the right to stay in Latvia for either sixty days (entry visa) or four days (transit visa). A similar agreement is in force with Lithuania with the difference only that the length of the stay for each journey has been fixed at fourteen days, subject, however, to extension.

6. Visas issued by the Latvian authorities are valid for all the lawful frontier routes.

7. The normal fee according to the consular tariff is ten lats (ten gold francs) for an entry visa, and one lat (one gold franc) for a transit visa. In practice, however, as visa fees are regulated on a reciprocal basis, the fee varies according to the applicant's nationality.

8. The fee charged for the visa does not depend in any way on the route followed by the traveller or the flag of the vessel on which he travels.

9. The following may be exempted from visa fees :

- (a) Representatives of charitable institutions ;
- (b) Foreign journalists proceeding to Latvia for the purpose of information or study ;
- (c) Excursionists in groups ;
- (d) Professors teaching in the schools of the Latvian State, of the communes, or of public bodies ;
- (e) Persons in the service of the Latvian Government ;
- (f) Wives of persons mentioned in (d) and (e) and their children under 18 years of age ;
- (g) Military persons, subject to reciprocity ;
- (h) Destitute aliens, if the necessary proofs of destitution are forthcoming, or if the official authorised to issue the visa or permit of residence is convinced of their indigence ;
- (i) Members of missions sent by a foreign Government, subject to reciprocity ;
- (j) Aliens proceeding to Latvia for scientific purposes as delegates of institutions or organisations, subject to reciprocity.

10. A visa which has expired before it has been used may be renewed on payment of the total amount due for the visa in question.

#### C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

Both passports and visas are issued without unnecessary formalities and without any impediments whatever.

#### D. *Control at Frontiers.*

Special agreements have been concluded with Lithuania and Estonia with a view to simplifying passport control and Customs formalities. Since April 1st, 1928, these have been carried out, in the case of through railway traffic between Latvia and Lithuania

(frontier stations Meitene—Janiški) simultaneously by the officials of the two countries, so that passengers crossing the frontier are only disturbed once. The examination takes place while the train is travelling, Customs examination following immediately on that of passports.

Since June 1st, 1928, the same procedure has been introduced in through railway traffic between Latvia and Estonia (frontier stations Latvian Valk—Estonian Valk).

---

## LUXEMBURG

October 1928.

Facilities for crossing frontiers are provided for in a number of agreements concluded between Luxemburg and other countries. No visa is required in the case of nationals of the following countries: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Iceland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay. Nationals of all these countries must carry a passport, with the exception of Belgian, French and Netherlands nationals, who need only an identity card in order to enter the territory of the Grand-Duchy. Nationals of all other countries must carry a passport bearing the visa of a Luxemburg consul. The visa is granted free of charge, however, to Austrian subjects.

The period of validity of the entrance visa varies from not less than one day to not more than the period of validity of the passport.

As a rule, the entrance visa is valid for all points of entry on all frontiers, but the Consular agent may limit the effect of the permit to one or more particular points of the frontier.

The entrance visa is not required from nationals.

The charge for the visa is determined on the principle of reciprocity; it is always the same as that which the country of the applicant requires from Luxemburg subjects.

Visas may be granted to necessitous persons at a reduced charge, or even free. No charge is made in the case of persons travelling on an official mission.

---

## NETHERLANDS

July 1927, May 1928, January 1929.

The Netherlands Government has so far abolished the compulsory visa for nationals of the following countries who desire to proceed to the Netherlands : Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Iceland, Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Salvador, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.

The form of the Dutch passport has, subject to the special requirements of the country, been brought into line as far as possible with the type of passport already adopted at the Paris Conference.

Since the meeting of the Second Conference on the International Regime of Passports, the cost of issuing and renewing Dutch passports has been reduced to one florin, whilst their period of validity has been extended from one to two years. They are then renewable each time for the same period.

---

## NEW ZEALAND

July 1928.

### I. PASSPORT REGIME.

The passage of frontiers does not affect this Dominion. In accordance with an agreement with the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, British subjects are not required to have passports when travelling between New Zealand and Australia.

### II. FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED.

#### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. *Type of Passport.* — The "international" type is in use.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — Passports issued to British subjects are valid for five years from date of issue and are renewable for a further period of five years.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — Passports are made valid for the British Empire and for such foreign countries as the bearer denotes an intention to visit.

4. *Fees.* — The fee for a passport is ten shillings on issue and one-shilling for each year of renewal granted.

#### B. *Visas.*

1 and 2. Austrians, Belgians, Danes, Dutch, French, Germans, Italians, Liechtensteiners, Luxemburgers, Norwegians, Portuguese, Spaniards, Swedes and Swiss do not, in accordance with agreements with their respective Governments, require visas on arrival in New Zealand, subject to being in possession of valid passports and complying with the Immigration Restriction Acts. There is power under the Passport Regulations to grant exemption from the requirements of such Regulations.

3 and 4. Applicants for visas are not required to appear in person. In general, applicants for visas are not required to prove necessity of journey.

5 and 6. The validity of entrance and transit visas has not been extended to two years.

7, 8 and 9. In general, fees equivalent to ten gold francs for an ordinary visa and one gold franc for a transit visa are charged. In certain cases the fees are on a retaliatory basis.

10. No cases of this nature have so far arisen. Exit visas have been abolished.

#### C. *Facilities for the obtaining of Passports and Visas.*

The issue of passports, documents of identity and visas are granted on short notice and with the least possible formalities.

#### D. *Control at Fronliers.*

Not applicable to New Zealand. The sighting of passports is undertaken by the officers concerned with the Immigration Restriction Acts.

---



## NORWAY

May 1928.

Norway has adopted a passport in conformity with the model recommended by the Conference, viz., the "international type".

Passports are valid either for two years or for a single journey of probably shorter duration. They are generally valid for all foreign countries; in the case of single journeys, passports are valid for all countries which may be visited or traversed by the applicant.

The fee charged in Norway for the issue of a passport is two crowns.

Compulsory visas have been abolished between Norway and the following countries :

Austria,  
Belgium (for a stay of less than three months),  
British Empire (visas are abolished for all British nationals proceeding to Norway, and for Norwegian subjects proceeding to any part of the British Empire other than Gibraltar, Malta and India),  
Denmark,  
France (the abolition of visas does not apply to the French colonies and protectorates),  
Germany,  
Iceland,  
Italy,  
Japan,  
Luxemburg,  
Mexico,  
The Netherlands,  
Portugal,  
Spain,  
Sweden,  
Switzerland,  
United States of America (visas are abolished for American citizens born in Norway, Sweden, Denmark or Iceland, of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or Icelandic parents).

In the case of visas for foreigners' passports, fees are charged corresponding to those charged by the competent authorities in the applicant's country for the

visas for passports of Norwegian subjects desiring to proceed to that country ; in no case is the charge less than five crowns in Europe and ten crowns outside Europe.

With regard to the other recommendations adopted by the Conference concerning the regime of passports, the issue of visas, and control at frontiers, see circular letter No. 2, concerning the admission of foreigners to Norway, which was issued by the Ministry of Justice and Police under date December 20th, 1927.

---

## POLAND

November 1928.

### I. PASSPORT REGIME.

The principle laid down in this article and developed in the subsequent articles, which is, briefly, the conclusion of bilateral or collective agreements for granting facilities to travellers crossing the frontier, was adopted by the Polish Government, even before the Conference, in the agreements concerning minor frontier traffic concluded with Germany and Czechoslovakia as well as in railway conventions, the Tourist Convention with Czechoslovakia and other instruments.

The Polish Government considered that certain classes of persons might be released from the obligation of procuring a passport and a visa. It is also the rule in Poland, as regards Customs formalities, to do everything possible to expedite and facilitate passenger traffic.

### II. FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED.

#### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. *Type of Passport.* — The Polish passport is in all essentials the same as the model recommended in the report annexed to the Final Act of the Conference.

Any slight variations from this model are due to the practical reasons mentioned in the commentaries on that report.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — The principle of issuing passports with a two years' duration of validity is

observed in the Polish consular offices. The duration of validity of passports issued by the inland authorities is, in principle, one year.

Nevertheless, for reasons of financial policy, the Government has in practice reduced the duration of validity of passports issued by the inland authorities to three months, while maintaining the period of one year for passports issued to emigrants; passports may also be issued for any period not exceeding a year if the necessity for a longer stay abroad is proved.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — As regards the recommendation of the Conference that passports should be granted as far as possible without territorial restrictions, the Polish regulations do not, in principle, prescribe any such restrictions except in the case of persons who have to perform their military service in Poland and in the case of emigrants.

In passports issued in special cases, *e.g.*, to persons going abroad to study or for reasons of health, etc., the country for which the passport is valid is definitely specified, having regard to the lower rates granted in such cases.

4. *Fees.* — As regards the Conference's recommendation not to charge fees exceeding the cost of issue of the passport, it should be emphasised that it has been the constant aim of the Polish Government to reduce these fees.

In pursuance of this policy, it was lately deemed possible to make a substantial reduction in the fees levied by Polish consular offices. The reduction is from 60 to 35.50 gold francs (60 zloty) for passports valid for two years, and from 30 to 23.50 gold francs (40 zloty) for passports valid for one year.

In addition, a 65 per cent reduction is granted to workmen, which brings down the fee to 12.15 or 8.15 gold francs. As the vast majority of Polish citizens living abroad belong to the labouring class, it follows that in most cases these lower fees are levied.

Moreover, the heads of consular offices are authorised still further to reduce these reduced fees at their discretion, according to the material circumstances of the applicant.

The fees collected by the inland authorities in respect of passports for abroad are not high either : for persons going abroad for scientific purposes, or to undergo a cure which has been advised, or to attend a congress, etc., the charge is 11.75 gold francs (20 zloty), and for persons going abroad on business, 14.70 gold francs (25 zloty).

Persons going abroad for pleasure pay higher fees.

## B. *Visas.*

1. Up to the present, the Polish Government has not concluded any separate inter-State agreements for the abolition of entrance and transit visas, believing, as explained in its Declaration made to the Geneva Conference in May 1926, that visas (and even passports) cannot be abolished unless all the States Members of the League agree to this reform.

2. Transit visas, which are valid for four days, entitle the holder to stay in Poland for that period only. For a longer stay, the permission of the competent local administrative authority is required.

As regards the granting of facilities for breaking their journey in Poland to foreigners who are not provided with transit visas and who are obliged to stop in the ports of call of the boats on which they are travelling, the Polish Government will give the matter its sympathetic consideration.

3. Although the consular offices, in granting visas, must as a rule observe the principle of territorial competence, the Polish Government allows its offices, in urgent cases, to grant visas to persons not domiciled in their area, provided there is no doubt about the character of the applicant and the reasons which compel him to request a visa from an office not territorially competent.

The Polish Government has been unable, however, to waive the rule that the applicant must appear in person.

4. The consular offices of the Polish Republic do not require proofs of the necessity of the journey from persons applying for a visa to enter Poland.

Applicants are only required to state the object of the journey in order that the consular office may decide whether there is any objection to the person in question entering Poland (*e.g.*, for the protection of the labour market during periods of unemployment).

5. The Polish Government has not so far sanctioned the issue of entrance and transit visas valid for two years ; it is prepared, however, to give the matter its sympathetic consideration, subject, of course, to the condition stipulated in the recommendation, viz., that the length of stay of the holder in Poland shall be governed by the national laws and shall not be affected by the fact that he holds such a visa.

The Polish authorities observe the rule that the period of validity of the visa may not exceed the period of validity of the passport.

6. The Polish authorities observe the rule that the visa shall be valid for all frontier stations, save in exceptional cases.

7. The following fees for the grant of a visa are at present charged by the Polish consular offices :

Visa valid for three months for one journey (and return) .....	10 gold francs.
Visa valid for one year for an unlimited number of journeys...	20 gold francs.
Transit visa, for one single journey only .....	1 gold franc.
Transit visa for one journey (and return) .....	2 gold francs.

Where special higher fees are charged by the Polish consular offices, these are based solely on the principle of reciprocity.

8. The fee charged for the visa depends neither on the nationality of the traveller, nor on the itinerary followed by him, nor on the flag of the ship on which he embarks.

9. The scale of consular charges not being fixed by secret regulations, there is a possibility of reducing the visa fee — without total exemption being allowed — in the case of persons known to be necessitous by the head of the consular office or in cases where it is

clear that payment of the fee would be a heavy charge on the applicant.

10. The Polish Government has not seen its way to enact regulations empowering the consular offices to grant visas free of charge in cases where visas previously issued had not been used.

The question of the abolition of exit visas for foreigners has been taken into consideration in the Polish laws.

### *C. Facilities for the Obtaining of Passports and Visas.*

The Polish authorities are fully alive to the need for simplification and greater facilities in the issue of travelling documents, and require only such formalities as are indispensable for establishing the applicant's identity and Polish nationality; as regards the issue of visas, simplification is likewise enjoined and practised as far as possible.

### *D. Control at Frontiers.*

Passport examination is already carried out in the train itself; passengers' passports are collected during the journey and handed back at the frontier station, or else examined and returned during the stop at the frontier, without the passengers having to leave the train.

Passports are examined outside the train only when passengers have to change at the frontier station on account of railway traffic requirements.

Joint Customs inspection (at a common frontier station) has been introduced on the Upper Silesian sector and at Gardeja station on the Polish-German frontier. Moreover, passengers on the privileged transit trains running between East Prussia and the rest of Germany are altogether exempt from both passport and Customs examination.

Similar facilities are also granted on certain trains on the Chojnice-Tczew line for passengers crossing Poland without a stop in international trains. Control takes place at the station, not in the train, and solely for passengers coming off the international trains.

As regards the suggestion in Section 4 that, in urgent cases, papers from the Secretary-General of the League of Nations might be accepted in lieu of a visa, on the passports of missions under the authority of the League, the Polish Government is unable to agree to this recommendation.

The requests of the international students' organisations for reduced passport fees do not apply in Poland, where students going abroad can and do benefit by reduced passport rates. Foreign students coming to Poland to attend the various congresses can obtain visas at reduced rates or free of charge, in addition to the usual reductions on railway tickets.

As regards the recommendation for a uniform type of passport, embodied in the report, the new model of Polish passport for abroad now being printed was established as far as possible — regard being had to the cost of production, the requirements of Polish legislation and the internal conditions — on the lines suggested by the Conference.

Thus, for instance, the strong cloth cover bears the word "Passport" and the name of the issuing country, but not the name of the holder or the serial number. It was found that this British passport type is expensive to produce and inconvenient, and that the printing is apt to wear away soon.

The number of pages, viz. 40, is mentioned in the passport. These 40 pages are intended for extensions of validity, visas, etc. Special spaces are provided for the surname and christian names of the holder and members of his family and for his occupation.

A full page, immediately following the first entry of the period of validity of the passport, is reserved for renewals.

The holder's nationality of Polish citizen is specified on Polish passports.

A family passport entitles the person entered as head of the family to travel with or without the other members of his family, but does not entitle the wife and children to cross the frontiers alone unless provided with separate documents.

The rule has been adopted that, when all the pages of a passport have been used, extra pages may not

be stuck in to contain renewals or other official entries, but a new passport must be issued.

Collective passports are issued in principle by the Polish authorities.

---

## PORTUGAL

July 1928.

The international type of passport has not yet been adopted, but all recent Portuguese legislation is in conformity, so far as possible, with the recommendations of the Final Act of the Geneva Conference. Thus, by Decree No. 14107, of August 15th, 1927, not only were better facilities granted for travellers to obtain passports, but the latter were made valid for two years and, in virtue of the same Decree, the fees charged for a passport were reduced by more than fifty per cent.

As regards visas, Decree No. 11824, of July 2nd, 1926, abolished the visa of the Portuguese administrative and consular authorities on passports issued to Portuguese subjects.

Agreements, on a basis of reciprocity, for the abolition of visas have been concluded with nearly every country in Europe, with the exception of France and Italy, which still require this formality.

The inspection of passports at the frontier is already carried out, at certain points, while the train is in motion, and the railway companies are being pressed to grant facilities for this method of inspection at all points of entry on the frontier, in conformity with the recommendations of the Geneva Conference of 1926.

---

## SIAM

October 1928.

### SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. PASSPORT REGIME.

There are no bilateral agreements between His Majesty's Government and the Governments of the Malay States, India and Indo-China as to the passage of frontiers. The right to travel into Siam is restricted by the Immigration Act.



## II. FACILITIES TO BE GRANTED.

### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. *Type of Passport.* — The international type has been adopted since 1921.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — Duration of two years has been adopted in accordance with the recommendation of the International Conference on Passports, etc., 1920.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — The names of the countries must be recorded in the passport. Any applicant may have his passport valid for as many countries as he desires.

4. *Fees.* — Fees charged for the issue of passports are in accordance with the recommendations of the 1920 Conference.

### B. *Visas.*

1. Understandings for the abolition of entrance and transit visas to some extent have been made with France and the United States.

2. No special rules have yet been adopted for travellers who have no transit visas.

3. Visas may be granted to persons not domiciled in the area of the authorities who grant them. It is generally required that the applicants should, if possible, appear in person.

4. The applicant is not required to prove the necessity of his journey for a visa.

5. Visas are valid for a period of two years. During that period of validity the person concerned may make an unlimited number of journeys into Siam. Provided he is not an undesirable person under the provisions of the Immigration Act, he may, if he chooses, make his permanent domicile in the country.

6. In normal time and conditions, visas granted are valid for all frontiers.

7 and 8. Fees charged are in accordance with the recommendations of the 1920 Conference. Understandings have been made with France and the United States to waive fees in certain cases.

9. The exemption from fees mentioned above have not been made in public. Only official instructions have been issued to the legations and consulates abroad.

10. If a visa expires before it has been used, a fresh visa may be granted, but not free of charge.

Exit visas have never been adopted in Siam.

#### *C. Facilities for the Obtaining of Passports and Visas.*

With as little formality as possible, passports and visas are granted to applicants.

#### *D. Control at Frontiers.*

The railway communication between Siam and foreign countries at present consists of two lines which link up Siam with the Malay States, and a line from Bangkok to Aranya Pradesa, 7 kilometers from the Cambodian frontier.

Passport control is, as regards the Malay Peninsula, carried out while trains are in transit between the border and Haad Yai Junction, and, for the Cambodian frontier, at Aranya Pradesa.

Persons without passports or certificates of nationality are examined at Haad Yai and Aranya Pradesa respectively, where temporary permits are issued.

Customs formalities are carried out at the stations of Padang Besar and Sugnei Golok in accordance with a special agreement between Siam and the Government of the Malay States.

### SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

1 and 2 do not require answers.

3. A party of students making excursion into Siam should be furnished with passports. Other formalities for their admission may be waived by request through diplomatic channels.

---

### SOUTH AFRICA (Union of)

July 1928.

The Union of South Africa has adopted the recommendations of the Second Conference on the

International Regime of Passports, held at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926, with the following exceptions :

**SECTION I, II, A. — 4. FEES.**

The charge for a passport in the Union of South Africa is £1 and, as a matter of policy, it is not considered advisable to reduce this fee at present.

---

**SWEDEN**

September 1928.

The recommendations were most carefully examined by the competent authorities in Sweden, and it was found that the current Swedish legislation in this matter conforms, in all essentials, to the principles underlying the recommendations in question.

As regards the period of validity, the Conference recommended that all countries should adopt a minimum validity of two years, and, if possible, validity approaching five years. Under the current regulations, Swedish passports are usually issued for a period of two years, and it has not been thought desirable for the present to extend that period further.

---

**SWITZERLAND**

June 1929.

**SECTION 1. GENERAL QUESTIONS.**

**I. PASSPORT REGIME.**

Switzerland has not concluded any agreements with a view to substituting other identity documents for the passport regarded as an identity document or document for purposes of travel. The Federal authorities consider that such a change would be of no real advantage. Owing to the great variety of documents, it would be more difficult to determine whether they were valid or not and this would be to the detriment of speedy inspection at the frontier. In addition, apart from

the passport, there are only a very small number of identity documents in Switzerland and these are relatively little known. The Swiss authorities would thus be obliged to introduce a new document which would be a duplication of the passport. They are therefore of opinion that it would be preferable to simplify and speed up as far as possible the formalities for obtaining a passport.

Moreover, as soon as the question of the general abolition of visas on passports (see below II.B.1) has been settled, the Federal authorities will consider the possibility of dispensing travellers with the necessity of producing any passports or other identity documents on their entry into Switzerland. The only persons who would then be required to possess a passport or some other document would be foreigners who, according to existing laws, are bound to obtain permission to remain in the country. In that case foreigners would — as before the world war — be subject only to supervision within Switzerland. The rule that persons must produce identity documents before they can cross the Swiss frontier can naturally only be abrogated when an international agreement or agreements between several States have been concluded. These agreements should also provide generally, and for a certain period at least, that persons without nationality or proper identity documents shall be sent back to their country of domicile.

## II. FACILITIES TO BE ACCORDED.

### A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. The Swiss passport, which is drawn up in three languages (German, French and Italian), is, in the main, similar to the international type of passport. It is issued only to Swiss nationals; in addition, according to the new provisions that come into force on February 1st, 1929, the holder's Swiss citizenship is expressly mentioned therein.

2. The Swiss passport is given for a period up to five years. It may be prolonged for a further period up to ten years, to be counted from the date of its issue.

3. Generally speaking, the Swiss passport is valid for all countries.

4. The fees charged by consulates for issuing and prolonging passports have been considerably reduced ; they are at present five francs for a passport valid for three years and eight francs for a passport valid for five years. In non-European countries these fees are double.

## B. *Visas.*

1. The Federal Government has decided :

(a) Entirely to abolish the visa on passports for nationals of all non-European countries recognised by Switzerland and of the colonies, protectorates and mandated territories of countries recognised by Switzerland. Reciprocity has been requested, though it is not made a condition. This measure has already come into force.

(b) Entirely to abolish the visa on passports, subject to reciprocity, in the case of nationals of all European countries recognised by Switzerland.

At present passport visas have been *entirely* abolished for nationals of the following countries : Andorra, Austria, Belgium, British Empire, Danzig, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Saar Territory, Spain ; all the countries of America ; Abyssinia, Afghanistan, China, Egypt, Japan, Liberia, Nejd-Hejaz, Persia, Siam, the Yemen, and the colonies, protectorates and mandated territories of countries recognised by Switzerland : *partially*, in so far as the foreigners in question are not seeking employment, in the case of nationals of Czechoslovakia, France, Norway and Sweden. In conformity with the decision of the Federal Government, mentioned in paragraph I (b), negotiations are at present being conducted with all European countries recognised by Switzerland with whom visa formalities are still required, wholly or partly, with a view to concluding agreements for their complete abolition.

2. The Swiss transit visa is valid solely for transit without any break in the journey. Foreigners who must still obtain a visa are bound, if they wish to break their journey in Switzerland, to obtain an entry visa which in most cases is granted immediately. As Switzerland has

no port of call this question is only of slight interest to her.

3. Legations and consulates are authorised to issue visas to foreigners who are not domiciled in their jurisdictional area. The applicant is not, generally speaking, obliged to appear in person and requests may be submitted in writing.

4. Switzerland does not, as a rule, require the applicant to state the reasons for his journey. Provision is, however, made for certain exceptions, particularly in the case of various categories of foreigners not provided with national passports issued by a State recognised by Switzerland, and for labourers who still have to obtain a visa. Owing to the necessity of protecting the Swiss labour market, the latter can only obtain a visa entitling them to undertake work if the home authorities consent.

5. The validity of the entry visa is the same as that of the passport visa if the visa does not mention any definite time period, as is the case with a visa valid for several journeys (for instance during three months or one year as from the date of its delivery), and the return visa. Visas issued to foreigners not provided with national passports issued by a State recognised by Switzerland indicate the period during which the holder is allowed to remain in Switzerland and are only valid so long as the applicant's return to a foreign country is assured.

6. The Swiss visa is valid for all frontiers of the State.

7. The amount levied for entry visa fees is five francs for one voyage (unless this amount has been reduced as a result of inter-State agreements). Switzerland, who had already agreed with Greece and the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom to fix at ten francs the fee for a visa valid for one year and for repeated journeys (six months for entry into the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom), has decided to introduce a uniform fee of ten francs for visas entitling the holder to make repeated journeys. This measure came into force on June 1st. 1929. It would still be of use to foreigners not provided with identity documents recognised as valid by Switzerland, even if the negotiations now being conducted for the abolition of the visa (see above under 1) led, on the whole, to positive results.

Only one fee is charged on family passports. The transit visa is always delivered free of charge.

8. Switzerland applies the principles set out in the present recommendation.

9. According to the official and public regulations (scale of fees) children under four years of age pay no fee, while those between four and fifteen years of age pay half fees. On submitting a reasoned request, poor persons may obtain a reduction or exemption. The principles of equality referred to in paragraph 8 of the recommendations are applied.

10. The Swiss visa charges are simply fees intended to cover office expenses ; consequently, if a new visa is instituted, a new charge will have to be levied (in the case of poor persons, provision is made for reduction or exemption, see above, 9). Moreover, as Switzerland has abolished the visa for nationals of most countries and has entered into negotiations for its abolition in the case of States whose nationals still have to obtain a visa, this question is only of very small interest to her (see also 5).

#### *C. Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

In the matter of passports and visas Switzerland applies the principles laid down in the present recommendation.

#### *D. Inspection at the Frontiers.*

The inspection of passports on entry into Switzerland is limited to what is strictly necessary. It is carried out whenever possible in the trains, while running or at a standstill, so as to cause the least possible inconvenience to travellers. Arrangements have been made for this purpose with other countries at all frontier stations where necessary, and where circumstances allow.

### SECTION 4. MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

2. The conditions mentioned in the recommendation as likely to facilitate rapid travel by League missions are already fulfilled in Switzerland, as a result of the general instructions issued to frontier-posts concerning the inspection of passports.

A transit-visa may be given by frontier-posts to any person holding a proper passport, provided there be no doubt that on leaving Switzerland he will enter the country to which he is proceeding. The entrance visa is also given at the frontier when urgent reason is shown.

On receipt of a notice from the Secretary-General to the Federal authorities the latter will immediately issue all necessary instructions to enable agents of the League of Nations requiring a visa to enter Switzerland or cross her territory without difficulty.

3. In so far as the Swiss visa is still necessary, students can obtain it immediately in most cases. Students not provided with identity documents, the validity of which is recognised in Switzerland, may obtain the visa under the same circumstances at the consulate having jurisdiction in their place of domicile if they are not intending to stay in Switzerland for more than three months; for a longer stay the permission of the Swiss home authorities must be obtained.

---

## VENEZUELA

July, 1925.

1. The authorities competent to issue passports or certificates of identity are, in two departments, whose names are given, the prefects; elsewhere, the President of the Federal Republic; and, abroad, the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Republic.

2. Passports may be issued to any persons applying for the same. Under the Constitution, Venezuelan nationals are allowed to move about in the interior of the Republic without holding a passport. The Aliens Act of 1923, which is now in force, obliges foreigners to appear before the civil authorities in their place of residence and prove their identity.

3. In the Federal Districts, passports are issued gratis. Diplomatic and consular representatives charge a fee of five bolivars (five gold francs) for a Venezuelan national and ten bolivars (ten gold francs) for a foreigner.



4. Passports and certificates of identity in the Federal District are valid for one year. Diplomatic and consular representatives are authorised to state on a passport the period for which it is valid.

5. Visas are given gratis in the Federal District. Diplomatic and consular representatives charge the same fee for visas as for passports.

6. Consular fees are paid when the holder of a passport enters the country, without fiscal stamps being used.

7. Shipping companies do not accept passengers unless they previously show a passport or certificate of identity bearing the proper visas.

8. So far as the form of the passport is concerned, Venezuela has accepted the international model recommended by the League of Nations.

---

[Distributed to the Council  
and the Members  
of the League.]

Official No.:  
C.245.M.84.1929.VIII.  
[C.C.T.373(1).]

Geneva, June 1929.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Advisory and Technical Committee  
for Communications and Transit

---

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS**

on the

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

of the

**Third General Conference on  
Communications and Transit**

concerning

**IDENTITY and TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS  
FOR PERSONS WITHOUT NATIONALITY  
OR OF DOUBTFUL NATIONALITY**

---

Series of League of Nations Publications

VIII. TRANSIT  
1929. VIII. 8.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**ADVISORY AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT**

---

Action taken  
by Governments on the Recommendations  
of the Third General Conference  
on Communications and Transit  
concerning Identity and Travelling  
Documents for Persons without  
Nationality or of Doubtful Nationality

---

Geneva, June 1929.

In accordance with the request of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations forwarded to Governments, under date May 9th, 1928, a circular letter, as follows :

(C.L.66.1928.VIII.)

Geneva, May 9th, 1928.

At the request of the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, I have the honour to ask you to be good enough to inform me what action has been taken in..... on the recommendations of the Third General Conference for Communications and Transit concerning identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality. At its twelfth session, held in Geneva from February 27th to March 2nd, 1928, the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit expressed a desire that the replies to this request should be sent in, if possible, before November 1st, 1928.

I venture to remind you that the Assembly, in a resolution adopted on September 26th, 1927, and forwarded on November 2nd, 1927, in C.L.153, asked the Members of the League to give favourable consideration to the recommendations of the Conference.

(Signed) AVENOL,  
*Deputy Secretary-General.*

---

EXTRACTS FROM REPLIES RECEIVED  
AS A RESULT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENQUIRY.

---

**AUSTRALIA**

April 1928.

The Commonwealth of Australia have accepted the recommendations adopted by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit in regard to identity documents for persons without nationality.

The Commonwealth Government wish to make a formal declaration that they will continue to issue documents valid for a journey but containing no mention of return, and to accept documents of this nature issued by other Governments under the same conditions as heretofore.

With regard to the recommendation that the period of validity of any identity and travelling document should, in principle, be six months, the Commonwealth Government propose that, in cases where the document is issued in Australia and made available for return to this country, the period of validity in ordinary circumstances shall be twelve months, as, in view of the great distance of Australia from Europe, the period of six months is usually too short to allow a traveller from Australia to visit Europe and return to this country.

---

**AUSTRIA**

[*Translation.*]

September 1928.

The Federal Government of the Austrian Republic, acting on the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit concerning identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality, has introduced a new type of passport for persons falling under these categories.

These new passports will be issued as from October 1st next ; the Austrian passport offices and the Austrian diplomatic and consular authorities abroad have already received the necessary instructions.

The old passports will cease to be valid on and after July 1st, 1929.

---

## BELGIUM

[*Translation.*]

May 1928.

The Belgian Government has carefully considered the recommendations made by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit with regard to the issue of identity and travelling documents to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality.

Belgium was one of the first countries to issue travelling documents of this kind to persons without nationality.

Consequently, these recommendations have been studied in the light of over eight years' experience.

### RECOMMENDATION I.

At the present time, the Belgian Government issues to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality identity certificates known as " Type B Certificates " which resemble the Nansen certificates.

It is, however, prepared to consider, in the matter of travelling documents, the possibility of utilising the international type of booklet recommended for the ordinary passport. A final decision on this subject can, however, only be taken when a majority of the other countries have agreed to adopt this booklet.

Except in special cases, the Type B certificate is valid for the return journey to Belgium ; the same would be the case if a booklet of the international type were adopted instead of the above form of travelling document.

### RECOMMENDATION II.

1. Failing any stipulation to the contrary contained in the certificate, the latter's validity may be prolonged by affixing a new visa.

This extension of validity may be granted by the Belgian home authorities direct.

If, however, the holders happen to be abroad, the competent diplomatic or consular officer must obtain authorisation from the Department for Foreign Affairs in order to prevent persons who have, in fact, definitely left Belgian territory from continuing to reside and travel abroad on the strength of a Belgian travelling document.

2. The Belgian Government does not think there will be any objection, when the holder of a travelling document for persons without nationality is abroad and the document lapses, to the document being replaced by a fresh travelling document issued by the local authority.

3. The Belgian authorities, when they issue a new travelling document of this kind, always withdraw the travelling document which has expired.

#### RECOMMENDATION III.

1. The original validity of Type B certificates is three months, these certificates being renewable for further periods of three months until the spaces reserved for the purpose are exhausted.

The Belgian Government cannot at the present time consider an initial duration of six months for these certificates, since this would place persons without nationality in a privileged position as compared with other foreigners who have to obtain a consular visa before entering Belgium.

2. As a general rule, the certificate is valid for travelling to all foreign countries.

3. Travelling documents of this kind are visaed in the same way as other passports.

4. As regards the cost of the visa, the minimum tariff is applied.

#### RECOMMENDATION IV.

The Belgian Government has continued to regard as valid documents of this kind which have not lapsed and which were issued before the entry into force of the provisions to which the first three recommendations refer.

Due note has also been taken of the reservations made in the second part of the fourth recommendation.

## BULGARIA

[*Translation.*]

February 1929.

The Bulgarian Government accepts the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit with regard to identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality, with the following addition to Article 4 of the Draft for persons without national passports : " This Article refers only to passports granted by the State affording hospitality to the persons concerned ".

---

## CANADA

May 1928.

Canada has not considered it desirable to adopt any general scheme for the issue of identity or travel documents to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality. Emergency documents, however, to take the place of passports, are issued, where it is thought expedient, to persons not possessing British nationality who, because of long residence or the possession of important interests in Canada, have indicated their intention to become naturalised therein, or who, for any other reason, are considered to have reasonable claim to protection.

---

## DENMARK

[*Translation.*]

April 1928.

It is the present practice of the Danish authorities to issue to persons without nationality who are unable to obtain Nansen certificates, passports of a type similar to that used for nationals. The words " dansk, danois, danish, dänisch ", found on the ordinary Danish passport, are however cancelled on travelling documents granted to this class of persons without nationality. Moreover, in such cases, Danish passports bear a note to the effect that the holder of the document has resided in Denmark over a long period of years, although his place of origin (*indigénat*) is not Denmark, or other similar observations. The issue of passports of this type is not, as a rule,



refused to foreigners who have resided in Denmark over fairly long periods and who are not entitled to either national passports or Nansen certificates.

The Royal Government does not intend — at all events for the present — to change the system hitherto in force, the main features of which are stated above.

---

## EGYPT

[*Translation.*]

May 1929.

Persons affected by Recommendation I are seldom met with in Egypt. In any case, under the recent Egyptian Nationality Act, they are regarded as Egyptians when they are in Egypt, and are therefore entitled to a certificate of Egyptian nationality from the proper Department.

Armenians in Egypt are also regarded as Egyptians under the Act; the Egyptian Government has the right to require them to leave the country if they refuse to acquire Egyptian nationality.

Russians living in Egypt are entitled to Egyptian passes. They are dealt with by offices established by the Egyptian Government; these offices are of considerable utility to foreign authorities, and there is therefore no question of altering the system, especially as Russians living in the country seem to be satisfied with it.

As regards persons of the above classes who are abroad, they may, if in possession of identity and travel documents as provided in the Conference's Recommendations, enter or pass through Egyptian territory, provided that the documents in their possession bear a statement by the authorities of the issuing country that the holder is entitled to return to that country. Documents so issued are treated by Egyptian Consulates as passports to which a visa can be affixed.

---

## ESTONIA

[*Translation.*]

February 1929.

Estonia adopted in 1923 the system of identity certificates — the so-called Nansen passports — for Russian and Armenian refugees, and the authorities

extended the application of the system to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality.

These identity certificates are issued for an indefinite period ; they are also used as travelling documents by the persons in question and likewise by the refugees.

The Estonian authorities accordingly do not think there is any need for them to issue a new kind of document, which would, according to the recommendations of the Conference, resemble national passports and thus give rise to undesirable confusion and misunderstanding.

---

### **FINLAND**

[*Translation.*]

November 1928.

According to official information the persons without nationality who are resident in Finland are exclusively former Russian nationals. The method followed in their case is that which has latterly become general : they are provided with "Nansen passports", in the issue of which the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit are adhered to, except that as a rule the period of validity of the passport is one year instead of six months as proposed in the recommendations. Should cases occur calling for the application of the measures contemplated in the recommendations to persons other than Russian refugees, the Finnish Government would be prepared to consider taking steps to introduce identity and travelling documents for such persons.

---

### **FRANCE**

[*Translation.*]

March 1929.

After a careful examination of the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit, the French Government accepts those regarding the issue of identity and travelling documents to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality.

Arrangements have been made for such documents to be printed and prepared for issue to the persons concerned at an early date.

## GERMANY

[*Translation.*]

November 1928.

The Government of the Reich proposes to adopt special identity documents for persons without nationality, and will comply as far as possible with the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit. The necessary provisions, which are not yet finally worked out in detail, will be announced at the time of the reorganisation of the German passport system, which will probably be carried out at the beginning of next year.

---

## GREAT BRITAIN

January 1928.

His Majesty's Government in Great Britain have accepted the recommendations adopted by the Conference in regard to identity documents for persons without nationality.

His Majesty's Government in Great Britain, will continue to issue documents valid for a journey but containing no mention of return, and to accept documents of this nature issued by other Governments under the same conditions as heretofore.

The new documents will be issued in Great Britain and Northern Ireland as from April 1st next.

---

## GREECE

[*Translation.*]

February 1929.

### RECOMMENDATION I.

Facilities are granted not only to persons who are without nationality or of doubtful nationality in consequence of the war or for causes arising directly out of the war, the non-delimitation of frontiers, or a conflict of laws, but also to persons whose nationality is quite definite but who cannot obtain a national

passport either because their consular authorities refuse to issue one or because they prefer not to apply for one. In that case facilities might be given to persons in the former category by the issue of passports of a uniform type which could not be issued to persons in the latter category.

With respect to the details of this new document, it might have been desirable :

(a) That the title should consist, if possible, of a single word identical in all languages ;

(b) To produce a document differing in form from regular passports and absolutely identical in all countries, in which case no external signs would be needed ;

(c) Greece has no objection to adhering to this Recommendation, but considers :

(1) That the remark " the holder of the present document is not qualified to obtain a national passport " would perhaps be superfluous, since it would then be on record that this travelling document was issued subject to the condition mentioned ; further, this sentence seems a little drastic, seeing that it is quite possible that the holder of the document might subsequently, after producing documentary evidence of his nationality, obtain a national passport ; (2) The authority issuing the identity and travelling document should set down any information it might consider necessary, and should in any case state the grounds on which the document was issued ;

(d) . . . ;

(e) In order that it may be established whether the holder of the document is entitled to return to the country which issued it, the words " and return " or " no return " should be mentioned. The authority responsible for issuing the documents will have the right to strike out one of these remarks and endorse the other, according to the terms on which the document is issued.

This would make it possible to prevent frauds.

All particulars should be written in the language of the country issuing the document and in French.

#### RECOMMENDATION II.

1. Accepted.
2. Accepted.
3. It does not seem essential that the document which has expired should be returned before a new identity and travelling document is issued ; the document which has expired is of no further use to the holder, and in any case he might say he had lost it.

#### RECOMMENDATION III.

1. The period of validity of these documents is not fixed in principle, but shall be specified by the issuing authority according to circumstances.
2. It would be preferable that these documents should be issued by a group of countries.
3. Accepted.

#### RECOMMENDATION IV.

Documents issued to the persons in question before the entry into force of the foregoing provisions should remain valid until those documents have expired.

The issue of an identity and travelling document should not entitle the holder to claim the protection of the diplomatic and consular authorities of the country which issued it and should not confer on those authorities a right of protection.

The holders of such documents should not be able, during the period of validity of the documents, to claim another nationality as against the country which issued the document or the country in which they reside, without the consent of those countries.

Consequently, even a legally established status could not be recognised before the expiry of the period of validity of the document issued, unless the issuing country or the country in which the holder resides agreed to reduce the period of validity.

3. Accepted.
  4. Accepted.
-

## HUNGARY

[*Translation.*]

September 1928.

Hungary has adopted the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit concerning identity and travelling document for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality.

The Royal Hungarian Minister for Home Affairs is taking steps to supply such documents to persons residing in Hungary who come under either of these categories.

---

## INDIA

June 1928.

The Government of India accept the recommendations adopted by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit relating to identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality, subject to the reservation that no visa for India should be granted to a person holding such document without reference to the Government of India.

---

## IRISH FREE STATE

November 1928.

Arrangements already exist in the Irish Free State for the issue of documents of identity for travel purposes to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality. In addition to the Nansen certificate, two kinds of documents are issued, one valid for outward and return journey and the other for a single outward journey only.

---

## ITALY

[*Translation.*]

February 1928.

The Italian Government accepts the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit concerning the issue of

identity cards to persons who are without nationality or of doubtful nationality in consequence of the war or other causes arising directly out of the war, the non-delimitation of frontiers, or a conflict of laws, pending the international settlement of this matter.

The necessary steps have therefore been taken to ensure that, as from April 1st next, the competent authorities will issue to persons entitled to them identity cards of a type based on that described in the Final Act of the Passport Conference, signed at Geneva on May 18th, 1926, with the modifications suggested by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit. Permission to return to the Kingdom will be granted at the time of issuing this document, provided it is asked for and that there are no serious objections on grounds relating to public security.

The competent authorities, pending the establishment of the new type of identity card, have given practical effect to the recommendations in question by issuing identity documents to all persons without nationality covered by the above definition, without limiting such issue, as heretofore, to Russians and Armenians only. The certificates have been made out for the largest possible number of countries, and very often even for all European countries, with the single exception of Russia. With regard to permission to return, the principles laid down above have been applied.

---

## JAPAN

[*Translation.*]

August 1928.

According to the statistics furnished by the Ministry of the Interior, there are at present no persons without nationality in Japan, excepting Russians and Armenian refugees. In these circumstances, it has not as yet been necessary to apply the recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit. There is accordingly no special information to hand concerning the action to be taken with regard to these recommendations. If, however, there should in future be persons without nationality in Japan, the Government would give due consideration to these recommendations.

---

## LATVIA

[*Translation.*]

March 1929.

The competent Latvian authorities have stated their opposition to the recommendations, as they consider that no change should be made in the system at present in force in Latvia, which only recognises the ordinary passport for nationals and the identity certificate for Russian and Armenian refugees (the so-called Nansen passport).

The consequences of the world war and the resultant disorganisation in international relations have, undoubtedly, left a large number of people stateless. Since then, however, enough time has elapsed to enable such persons to settle the question of their nationality in one way or another.

We consider, therefore, that at the present moment the introduction of a system of identity documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality is not urgently called for, the more so as there are special arrangements for Russian and Armenian refugees. We do not, accordingly, intend to give effect to the recommendations of the Third Conference on Communications and Transit on this subject.

---

## LUXEMBURG

[*Translation.*]

January 1929.

The Grand-Ducal Government has adopted the recommendations concerning identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality passed by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit on September 2nd, 1927.

With a view to giving effect to these recommendations, a special service will be attached to the Nansen Passport Service at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

---

## THE NETHERLANDS

[*Translation.*]

December 1928.

The Government of the Netherlands does not issue to foreigners without nationality or of doubtful natio-



nality residing in the Netherlands or in Dutch oversea territories the "identity and travelling document" referred to in the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit, for it considers that the classes of persons for whom this document is intended are defined on too narrow lines. The Government for many years past has issued special documents, known as "foreigners' passports", to foreigners without nationality settled in Dutch territory who desire to leave the Kingdom; such documents are recognised in all foreign countries as adequate identity documents, and they therefore fulfil the desired purpose. In these circumstances the Royal Government prefers to retain the system which it now enforces.

It should, however, be understood that, notwithstanding the preceding observations, the Government of the Netherlands hereby declares that it is fully prepared to regard the "identity and travelling documents" issued by foreign governments, as valid travelling documents for purposes of Dutch law, and to admit holders thereof to the Netherlands and Dutch oversea territories, provided that they have duly obtained a Dutch visa.

---

## NORWAY

[*Translation.*]

October 1928.

Up to the present ordinary passports of the booklet form have been used whenever a passport (identity document) has been issued, as an exceptional measure and with the previous consent of the Central Passport Office, to a person without nationality. In such cases the indication on the passport that the holder is of Norwegian nationality has, however, been struck out.

As from January 1st, 1929, the competent Norwegian authorities have decided to adopt for these identity documents a model conforming to the type suggested by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit.

The Norwegian passport model now in use will be used in future, with the following alterations:

The title on the cover will be: "Titre d'identité et de voyage", and below it, "Identitets-og Reisebevis".

Further, a diagonal black line, one centimetre in width, will be printed in the left top corner of the cover.

On the first page, as well as on the following pages, the necessary changes will be made in order to bring the document as nearly as possible into line with the type recommended by the Conference.

A certificate of identity of the above kind, issued by the competent authorities of other countries to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality, will henceforward be accepted as valid in Norway, provided the document bears an endorsement showing that it is valid for the holder's return to the country in question.

If the holder of such a document wishes to go to Norway, his passport must still, however, as in the past, bear the visa of the competent Norwegian authorities.

---

## PORTUGAL

[*Translation.*]

February 1929.

The Portuguese Government accepts the recommendations in principle and declares its readiness to adopt them, harmonising them with its own legal regulations.

---

## ROUMANIA

May 1929.

The competent authorities in Roumania do not see their way to adopt the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit relating to identity and travel documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality.

By recent legislative changes, however, simplifying and accelerating the procedure for naturalisation, the Roumanian Government has given the widest facilities for persons without nationality, who have been resident for some years in Roumania and have interests in the country, to obtain the right to the protection of the Roumanian Government.

---

## SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES (Kingdom of)

[*Translation.*]

September 1928.

The Serb-Croat-Slovene Government has no objections to the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit, held at Geneva from August 23rd to September 2nd, 1927, concerning the issue of a standard document to persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality. Nevertheless, the Royal Government takes the view that Governments which have agreed to issue such documents should retain the right to decide in each individual case whether the document should be issued to the person in question, whether the visa on the document should be valid for the return journey, and whether, when the document expires, a renewal should be granted.

---

## SIAM

October 1928.

His Majesty's Government has not taken any steps as yet to carry out the recommendations contained in the Draft Agreement. The Government does, however, issue a temporary document called an Emergency Certificate, which is granted only to foreigners whose Government have no diplomatic or consular representatives in Siam or to foreigners without nationality or whose nationality is doubtful. This Emergency Certificate is not in the form of a booklet. A copy of the form generally used is attached to this Report<sup>1</sup>.

These certificates cannot be renewed and generally are not available for a return journey, although in special instances they may be.

Where similar certificates are issued by other countries a visa is required for entrance into Siam.

The fees charged are the same as for passport visas.

His Majesty's Government is ready to recognise passports issued by other countries to persons without national passports in accordance with the Draft Arrangement.

---

<sup>1</sup> This copy may be consulted in the archives of the League.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

June 1928.

His Majesty's Government in the Union of South Africa have no objection to the acceptance of the recommendations adopted by the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit, in regard to the issue to persons of doubtful nationality or without nationality of identity documents for travelling purposes.

Arrangements are being made to introduce the new identity documents as early as possible.

---

## **SWEDEN**

[*Translation.*]

October 1928.

The Swedish regulations on the subject of identity and travelling documents for persons without nationality or of doubtful nationality — which were already framed before the receipt of the Recommendations of the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit — authorise the Minister for Foreign Affairs to issue passports to persons without nationality, and to persons who possess a nationality but cannot obtain a national passport. In form these passports are like the identity certificates issued to Russian refugees.

---

## **SWITZERLAND**

[*Translation.*]

May 1928.

Persons without nationality resident within the territory of the Confederation continue to receive, on request, the Swiss passport for foreigners, provided that the prescribed conditions are fulfilled. This document, of which particulars were previously given to the competent section of the Secretariat, resembles in its main lines the model recommended by the Conference.

---

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

July 1928.

The American Government has had no occasion to modify the attitude expressed in the second paragraph of the note to the Secretary-General of August 5th, 1924, which reads as follows :

“ The American Government is not in a position to issue travel documents to aliens. It does not require certificates of identity of aliens sojourning within its territory or of those desiring to depart therefrom. For entry into the United States alien immigrants are required to present an immigration visa issued by the appropriate American Consul. The American Consuls will accept from aliens unable to present passports in connection with their applications for immigration visas appropriate documents of identity in lieu of passports. The Nansen certificates issued to Russian refugees have been considered to fall within the category of documents in lieu of passports. Similarly, non-immigrant aliens are granted passport visas upon personal affidavits or other documents in lieu of passports when they are unable to present passports. Aliens resident in the United States who desire to depart temporarily, may obtain from the Commissioner-General of Immigration, Washington, D.C., permits to return, valid for six months, capable of further extension in the discretion of the Commissioner-General of Immigration. ”

The United States was represented at the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit for the sole purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the collection and distribution of information concerning communications and transit. The American delegation took no part in the formulation of the recommendations on identity and travelling documents and refrained from voting when they were adopted by the Conference.

In the circumstances, the American Government is unable to take any action on the recommendations in question.

When the Government of the United States has been obliged to decline to issue a passport on the ground that sufficient evidence of American citizenship has not been furnished to it, the person concerned has, as a rule, been able to travel abroad on an affidavit prepared by himself which has been authenticated by the appropriate authorities of the United States and visaed by the consular officers of the countries in which he intends to travel. A copy of a circular dealing with this subject is enclosed (see Annex).

---

### Annex.

#### INFORMATION FOR THE ALIEN WIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND PERSONS WHO HAVE ONLY DECLARED THEIR INTENTIONS TO BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS.

Those persons coming within these two classes cannot obtain a passport or other travel document from the United States Government. Such persons should consult the Consul representing the Government of the country to which he or she owes allegiance. It may be found that the Consul will not issue a passport or other travel document for the reason that, under the laws of his country, the applicant has ceased to be a citizen of that country.

If it is found that a passport cannot be obtained from the United States Government, and that the Consul representing the Government of the country to which one owes allegiance refuses to issue a passport or any form of travel document, inquiries should be made at the Consulates of the countries to be visited to ascertain whether visas would be granted on an *Affidavit of Identity and Nationality*. This information is of first importance and should be obtained from the Consuls representing the countries to be visited. Should they decline to visa such an affidavit, it will be useless to execute it, but if they agree to visa the affidavit, one should be executed before a notary public. The following suggestions are offered as to the information such an affidavit should contain :

*Affidavit of Identity and Nationality.*

(a) Name (in full) and address, giving street and number, city and State.

(b) Date and place of birth. If affidavit is drawn by a married woman, add date place of husband's birth.

(c) Date and place of marriage (if a woman).

(d) If a declarant, give date of declaration of intention.

(e) If husband is naturalised give place and date of his naturalisation in the United States.

(f) A paragraph explaining why passport cannot be obtained from the United States Government.

(g) A paragraph explaining on what grounds the Consul representing the country of allegiance refused to issue the passport or other travel document.

(h) A paragraph enumerating the countries to be visited and for what purpose the visit to each country is intended.

The information pertinent to the case should be selected from the foregoing paragraphs and incorporated in the affidavit. Affixed to the affidavit should be a photograph of the person or persons included in the affidavit. The photograph should be signed by the principal. Opposite the photograph, and at the bottom of the affidavit, should appear a description of the principal, substantially the same as that which appears on a passport.

When the Affidavit of Identity and Nationality has been properly prepared, it should be sworn to before a notary, who should place thereon his impression seal. The impression seal should also be affixed to the photograph.

*Note.* — The Consul to whom the affidavit is presented for visa may require its authentication. If authentication is found necessary, it should first be presented to the Clerk of the County Court in the county in which the notary resides for the certification of the notary's official character, and then sent to the Secretary of State of the State in which the court is

situated with a written request for the authentication of the seal of the Clerk of the Court. Provided further authentication is required by the Consul the seal of the State official may be certified to by the Department of State, provided the affidavit is forwarded to the Bureau of Authentication, Department of State, Washington, D.C.

---