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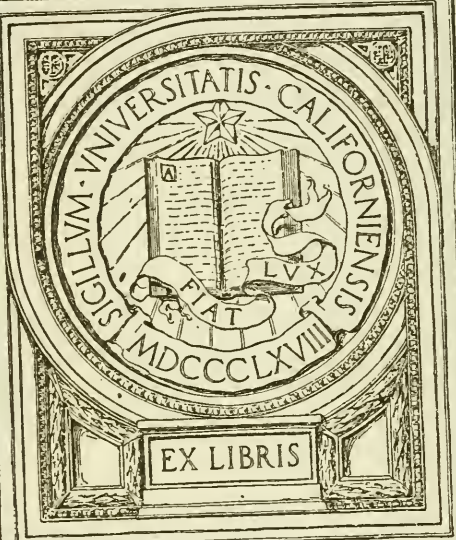
Replies of the governments to the enquiry on the application of the resolutions relating to passports, customs formalities and through tickets.

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for Communications and Transit.

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REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENTS

to the

Enquiry on the Application  
of the Resolutions relating to

**PASSPORTS**

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES

and

THROUGH TICKETS

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GENEVA 1922.



LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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GENEVA 1922.

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LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

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

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**PASSPORTS.**

The Council of the League of Nations having been requested by the Conference of Ambassadors to enquire into the difficulties regarding international passenger traffic, the Provisional Committee for Communications and Transit convened a Conference which was held at Paris from October 15th to 21st, 1920, at which 22 States were represented.

The various measures recommended by this Conference were embodied in a resolution adopted on October 21st. On November 18th, 1920, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations forwarded this resolution to all the States Members and to the Governments of certain other countries, requesting them to inform him, within a period of three months, what measures the various Governments would take to give effect, as from July 1st, 1921, to all or part of the recommendations embodied in this resolution.

On May 7th, 1921, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations again wrote to the States which had not yet replied, requesting them to inform him what action they proposed to take.

During its first session, held at Geneva in July 1921, the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit took the matter up and formulated a draft resolution which it submitted to the Assembly of the League of Nations.

The question regarding the resolutions of the Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and "Through Tickets" having again been submitted to the Assembly of the League of Nations, the latter adopted the following resolution:

“The Assembly, having been informed of the report of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit on the action taken by the Governments with regard to the resolutions adopted by the Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and ‘Through Tickets,’ which was held in Paris, October 1920, observed with the keenest satisfaction that a certain number of States have already put into force part of the measures — so important for international relations, and unanimously recommended by this Conference — tending towards the simplification of formalities connected with the obtaining of passports and visas, the reduction of passport prices, and the unification of passport regulations.

“The Assembly draws the attention of all States which have not yet been able to adopt the recommendations of the Conference to the necessity of reconsidering the question, and of informing the Secretary-General of the League of Nations of the solutions ultimately reached.”

A further enquiry into the question as a whole having thus been decided upon, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, in a letter dated October 17th, 1921, drew the attention of the Governments to the resolution of the Assembly, requesting each Government to furnish him with information, particularly on the following points:

(a) Which of the resolutions of the Conference agreed to by the Government concerned have been carried into effect, and which of these resolutions it is proposed to carry into effect at a future specified date.

(b) Whether, on further consideration, the Government concerned is of opinion that it could adhere to all or a part of the resolutions of the Conference which it had previously considered unacceptable and, if so, at what date it proposed to carry them into effect.

The most important measures which the Governments have been invited to adopt are the following:

1. The establishment of a uniform type of passport for all countries ;
2. Passport to be valid for two years or, in exceptional cases, for one journey only ;



3. The fee charged shall not be of a fiscal character;
4. Diplomatic passports will only be granted to persons falling within certain specified categories;
5. Preliminary visas (*i. e.* visas granted by the authorities issuing the passport) will be abolished as far as possible;
6. Exit visas will be abolished for all travellers except nationals;
7. For passports issued for a single journey, the duration of validity of the visa will be the same as that of the passport: for passports issued for two years, the visas will be for one year, in all but exceptional cases;
8. The maximum fee for a visa shall be 10 gold francs;
9. Transit visas will be issued at once, solely upon production of the entrance visa for the country of destination;
10. The duration of validity of a transit visa shall always be the same as that of the entrance visa of the country of destination;
11. The maximum fee charged for a transit visa will be 1 gold franc.

Up to the present, replies have been received from the following countries:

Australia	Italy
Austria	Japan
Belgium	Luxemburg
British Empire	Netherlands
Bulgaria	New Zealand
Canada	Norway
China	Poland
Czecho-Slovakia	Roumania
Denmark	Serb-Croat-Slovene State
Finland	Siam
France	South Africa
Germany	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Hungary	Switzerland
India	Venezuela

Several other countries replied that the question was still under consideration.

A certain number of the countries which sent a reply have adopted all the measures referred to in the

resolution. Other countries have agreed to adopt these measures on condition of reciprocity. Others again are prepared to adopt a great number of the measures. Certain countries, particularly among those situated in Eastern Europe, are at present unable to make any substantial modifications in the system in force.

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## Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and Through Tickets.

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### PASSPORTS.

#### A. ISSUE OF PASSPORT.

1. The establishment of a uniform type of "ordinary" passport.
2. Duration of validity of passport.
3. Fee to be collected.
4. Diplomatic passports.

#### B. PRELIMINARY VISAS.

5. Preliminary visas. (That is to say, visas granted by the authorities issuing the passport, or by their representatives.)

#### C. EXIT VISA.

6. Abolition of exit visa.

#### D. ENTRANCE VISA.

7. Duration of validity of visa.
8. Fee charged.

#### E. TRANSIT VISA.

9. Issue of visa.
10. Duration of validity of visa.
11. Fee charged.

F. COLLECTIVE PASSPORTS.

12. Family passports.
13. Collective passports for emigrants.

*Recommendations.*

- (a) Passport exemptions.
- (b) Abolition of the entrance visa for nationals.
- (c) Abolition of the exit visa for nationals.
- (d) Entrance visa for passports not covering all destinations.
- (e) Facilities for sojourn.
- (f) Simplification of formalities.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Abolition of examination of registered luggage in transit.
15. Passengers in transit with money and scrip.

*Recommendations.*

- (g) International stations.
- (h) Examination of outgoing registered luggage.
- (i) Examination of incoming registered luggage.
- (j) Examination of luggage in general.
- (k) Limitation of luggage.

THROUGH TICKETS.

*Resolution.*

16. Through tickets.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

*Resolution.*

17. Periodical information.

THROUGH SERVICES.

*Recommendation.*

- (l) Through services.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

*Recommendation.*

- (m) Transport of emigrants.
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## AUSTRALIA.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed. The present fee of 10 sh. will be maintained. In regard to the question of the issue of passports to "non-nationals," the Commonwealth Government proposes to follow the principles adopted by the British Government and not in any circumstances to issue passports to persons other than (a) British subjects; (b) persons the protection of whose interests abroad have been entrusted to His Majesty's Government or the Commonwealth Government by a mandate of the League of Nations; and (c) *bona fide* natives of British Protectorates and British-protected States.

In the case of aliens in Australia who at present have no consular representative in this country, the Commonwealth authorities issue a document called "Permit to leave Australia," bearing the holder's photograph, description, and signature, to enable him to comply with the law requiring all persons over 16 years of age who wish to leave the Commonwealth to hold a passport or document authorising his departure. No fee is charged for this permit. It is the practice only to issue such a document in cases where there is no reason to doubt that the holder will be permitted to land at his destination.

4. Diplomatic passports are not issued in Australia, but the status of diplomatic persons will be authenticated by a special visa. The present practice as to diplomatic visas conforms generally with the principles laid down by the Passport Conference.

5. The point of the proposal that "preliminary" visas should only be required in case the validity of the

passport is subject to doubt is not quite clear. An endorsement as to destination is usually given at the time of issue of Commonwealth passports. If the holder is travelling within the British Empire, an Empire-wide endorsement is affixed in all suitable cases. If, for any reason, it is considered desirable to limit the passport for a single journey to a specified country, the document is endorsed to make it valid only for the journey to that country. No extra fees are charged for such endorsements.

6. The Commonwealth law requires that in the case of persons already holding passports who are about to leave Australia for a journey beyond the Commonwealth, the passports shall be vised or endorsed in the prescribed manner for that journey. Holders of British passports bearing Empire-wide endorsements are not required to obtain further visas or endorsements during the validity of the passport unless they propose travelling to a foreign country and a special endorsement is necessary to enable them to obtain the requisite visa from the foreign consular representative concerned.

As regards "non-nationals," it is not proposed to take any general steps at present to abolish the exit visa. As previously pointed out, this requirement is of assistance in connection with the administration of the Commonwealth Aliens Registration Act as in view of Australia's isolated geographical position and the fact that the comparatively few aliens in Australia do not make frequent trips abroad, and as, moreover, a fee of only 2/- is charged for a visa, it is not considered that any serious hardship is imposed by the retention of this requirement.

7. Agreed, subject to the observations made concerning this article by the British Government.

8 and 11. The fee charged for the visa is 2/—, and as the question of transit visas is not one that particularly affects Australia, it is not proposed to make any alteration in the charge.

9 and 10. Agreed.

12. Agreed, subject to the conditions laid down in the reply of the British Government respecting this article.

13. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

(a) This recommendation hardly affects Australia, although an agreement has already been made with the New Zealand Government dispensing altogether with passport requirements in the case of British subjects (except certain classes of naturalised persons) and simplifying the procedure in other cases.

(b) and (c) — Visa requirements for nationals have been largely abolished through the adoption of the Empire-wide passport arrangement referred to in the remarks above respecting paragraphs 5 and 6.

(d) — The Commonwealth Government endorses this recommendation.

(e) — Subject to compliance by holders of passports with the general immigration regulations in force in Australia, the practice of the Commonwealth Government is to act in accordance with this recommendation.

(f) — This recommendation does not apply to the Commonwealth.

No observations are offered respecting the proposals in regard to Customs formalities and through tickets, as these matters apparently do not affect Australia.

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## AUSTRIA.

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The Austrian Government has intimated that the resolutions adopted by the Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and Through Tickets have *without exception* been put into force in Austria as from January 1st, 1922.

The executive measures in question were published in Nos. 258 and 261 of the Federal Legal Gazette ("Bundesgesetzblatt") under Articles 702, 707 and 708.

As regards the question of reciprocity, the Austrian Government states that these new measures are, as a general rule, applicable to all States, even to those which have not yet thought it necessary to introduce measures of reciprocity, with the single exception of fees to be charged for visas as provided for in Article 707.

With regard to Customs formalities, the resolutions of the Conference on Passports have been put into force. The sole reservation to be made relates to the re-exportation of Austrian crowns which, under existing conditions, cannot yet be allowed, and it is impossible to say when this can be done.

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## BELGIUM.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. The wording recommended by the Paris Conference has been adopted. Instead of book-form, however, the form of a single sheet has been chosen.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed.

4. Agreed.

5. The Belgian Government agrees to the measure suggested in para. 5, so long as this measure does not exclude the right of the Belgian authorities, when requested by an alien to issue a visa, to insist that the passport or the visa on it should be certified as authentic by the authority by whom the passport or the visa was issued, or by the local representative of that authority.

6. Agreed.

7. Agreed on condition of reciprocity.

8. Agreed on condition of reciprocity.

9. Agreed. Already in force since December 1st, 1920.

10. Not agreed. A more careful examination of the question has shown that the application of the system suggested would invariably enable the holder of the long-term visa for transit to remain in the country as long as he wishes. With the object, however, of facilitating the journey of persons embarking at a Belgian port, it has been decided to grant them transit visas with the option of remaining two days at the port of embarkation; this privilege has since been extended to passengers in vessels calling at a Belgian port.

11. Agreed. Already in force since December 1st, 1920.

12. Agreed.

13. Not agreed. The Belgian Government has proved by experience that the use of collective passports has given rise to abuses and has caused serious inconvenience to certain holders of such passports who were not permitted to embark, either on account of disease or for any other reason.



*Recommendations.*

The Belgian Government has carefully noted the subsequent recommendations made by the Paris Conference regarding passports and visas, and will consider under what conditions it might be able to take them into account. It seems needless to mention the fact that since August 1919 entrance visas have not been required for Belgian subjects returning to the country and possessing a regular passport.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.

15. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

The Belgian Government considers that the creation of common international stations, useful in principle though it might be, must be regarded as a special measure, and cannot be made a general practice as appears to be desired.

In Belgium, this examination is carried out at the frontier posts. Before the war, it might be said that no such examination existed, as the absence of any exit duty allowed the greatest freedom in this matter. A return to this liberal regime will be considered when the present restrictive measures on exports have been abolished.

This system of examination has been tried on the line Quévry-Brussels, being temporarily limited to one train in the daytime. A definite decision on the possibility of finally adopting the measure, and on the extent to which it may be applied, can only be found when the results of this test have been obtained. It seems, however, *a priori*, that such a system could not be applied to night trains. As a rule, examination of hand-luggage takes place in the compartments during the intervals at frontier stations. It may be repeated that registered luggage in transit through Belgium is exempt from Customs examination of any kind.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. Agreed.

THROUGH SERVICES.

(1). Agreed.

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## BRITISH EMPIRE.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed. The new type of passport has been in use since July 1st, 1921. Measures are being taken for the adoption of a similar passport as soon as possible by Newfoundland and the Colonies and Protectorates.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed. At the same time, the British Government would point out that it assumes that in principle a passport should constitute a definite official proof of the nationality of its holder, and, for this reason, while accepting the resolution, it does not intend to issue passports to persons other than:

(a) British subjects;

(b) Persons the protection of whose interests abroad has been entrusted to His Majesty's Government by a mandate of the League of Nations.

(c) *Bona fide* natives of British Protectorates and of British, protected States.

No modification is proposed in the fee (7s. 7d.) now charged for the issue of British passports in the United Kingdom or by the Consular representatives of His Majesty abroad.

4. No diplomatic passport will be issued in the future by the British authorities. A special visa will be granted to diplomatic representatives. The procedure followed at present in granting diplomatic visas is on the whole in conformity with the recommendations of the Conference.

5. Agreed. Nevertheless, it is desirable that it should be clearly understood that this provision does not affect the "endorsements of destination" (referred to in paragraph (d), of the "recommendations") — a principle which His Majesty's Government regards as constituting an integral part of the passport system.

6. Agreed.

7. Agreed, except for the provision which requires the various governments to notify the Secretary-General of the League every six months as to the total number of visas given by representatives during the six preceding months. The British Government is of opinion that this measure would result in more special work than its advantages warrant.

8. Agreed. It has, however, been decided to reserve the right of adopting a reciprocal policy with regard to visa fees, should any government impose a tariff exceeding the maximum tariff laid down in the resolution.

9. Agreed.

10. Agreed.

11. Agreed, with the reservation already mentioned in paragraph 8. The new provisions with regard to the British visa have been in force since June 2nd, 1921.

12. Agreed. Since, however, the British custom, up to the present, has been to include in a family passport of this nature children under 16, there appears to be no reason for reducing this figure to 15.

13. Agreed.

#### *Recommendations.*

(a) Agreed.

(b) and (c). It is not the practice of His Majesty's Government to require either exit or entrance visas for British nationals properly provided with British passports, and the proposals are therefore accepted as far as concerns exit from or entrance to the United Kingdom, Newfoundland, and the Colonies and Protectorates. It may be added that British passports as now issued are valid for all parts of the British Empire (but not for British Protectorates, protected States, or mandated territories), unless specially endorsed to the contrary.

(d) Agreed.

(e) Agreed.

(f) Agreed.

Sir Maurice Hankey desires to make it clear that His Majesty's Government regard their general acceptance of the resolution and the recommendations as in no way interfering with the right of any portion of the British

Empire to decide upon and enforce its own immigration regulations.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. No answer.

15. Although the provisions of paragraph 15 of the resolution (Customs Formalities), so far as they relate to money, are contrary to the statutory regulations prohibiting the export from the United Kingdom of gold and silver coins, His Majesty's Government are nevertheless prepared to adhere to those provisions as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, on the understanding that the right is reserved to limit the privilege in the event of its appearing that it is being abused, with a view to confining it *bona fide transients* and to such amounts of gold and silver coins as are reasonably required for the purpose of their journey.

#### *Recommendations.*

- (g) In favour.
- (h) In favour.
- (i) In favour.
- (j) In favour.
- (k) In favour.

### THROUGH SERVICES.

- (l) In favour.

### TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS

- (m) In favour.
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## BULGARIA.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.
2. Agreed.
3. The Royal Government of Bulgaria, in view of the extremely precarious financial situation of Bulgaria, cannot consent to a regulation that the fee charged shall not be of a fiscal character.
4. Agreed.
5. As a result of prevailing international conditions, the Royal Government cannot, for reasons of purely domestic policy, agree to the abolition of preliminary visas for passports issued to aliens.
6. The Royal Government agrees to the abolition of the exit visa for non-nationals passing through the Kingdom or remaining there for a maximum period of three days. In all other cases the exit visa may be required from non-nationals as well as nationals.
7. Agreed.
8. Agreed.
9. Agreed.
10. Agreed.
11. Agreed.
12. Agreed.
13. Agreed.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.
15. Agreed.

### THROUGH TICKETS.

16. Agreed.

### GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

The Government of Bulgaria expressed no opinion with regard to the "recommendations."

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## CANADA.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.

2. Agreed.

3. The present fee (\$2) is not of a fiscal character and there is no question of increasing it at the moment. However, the Government reserves complete liberty of action, as, in its opinion, the question is purely one of domestic policy.

Visas are not required by any Canadian law or regulation either for entrance, exit or transit. Where, however, in consequence of the requirements of outside authorities, the convenience of travellers necessitates a Canadian visa on passports issued outside the Dominion, such visas are granted; the fee of \$2.00 imposed for this service being practically the maximum fee — ten francs (gold) — recommended. *Canada agrees to all the clauses dealing with Customs formalities, through tickets, transport of emigrants, etc.; indeed, all the measures suggested have now been in force for some years.*

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## CHINA.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. The Chinese Government will endeavour to establish a uniform type for ordinary passports; however, in view of the vast extent of the Chinese Republic and the very numerous bodies entitled to issue passports, it will require considerable time to give effect to this measure.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed.

4. Agreed.

5. These visas are free of charge in China.

6. These visas have not yet been abolished by the European and other States. When they have been generally abandoned, the Chinese Government will adopt the same measure.

7. Contrary to the last provision of this paragraph, China is of opinion that in practice it will prove extremely difficult to render the visas issued valid for widely separated parts of the State.

8. Agreed. The fee charged for the entrance visa is in many cases less than 10 francs gold.

9. Agreed.

10. Agreed.

11. Agreed.

12. Agreed.

13. Agreed on condition of reciprocity.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Part of this clause has already been put in practice in Manchuria since 1916, as a result of the conclusion of special treaties between China, Japan and Russia.

15. Agreed.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. No objection.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed in principle. However, in view of the great distance which separates China from the seat of the League of Nations, the period of three months is obviously too short.

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## CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

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### PASSPORTS, CUSTOMS FORMALITIES, THROUGH TICKETS.

The Czecho-Slovak Government informs us that it has accepted all the measures contained in the resolutions of the Paris Conference. These measures have been put into force as from July 1st, 1921.

The resolutions, however, with regard to the fees charged for the entrance visa and the transit visa, are given effect to only on condition of reciprocity.

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## DENMARK.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. A type of passport has been adopted corresponding to that recommended by the Conference; as it is necessary, however, that the text of the passport should be printed in four languages instead of two as proposed by the Conference, the passport is not exactly in the form recommended. The new type has been in use since the autumn of 1921.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed.

4. No answer.

5. The preliminary visa is not required.

6. No answer.

7. As the regulations in force in Denmark presuppose that an entrance visa entitles the holder to a stay of the same duration as the validity of the visa, it has not yet been possible to adopt a general rule rendering the visa valid for one year. Further, on condition of reciprocity, Denmark issued the widest authorisation for the grant, in certain cases, of sojourn visas for one year, but as the regulations for the duration of the visa must of necessity vary in the case of different countries, according as a sudden influx of immigrants is expected or not, it has been found impossible for the present to adopt uniform regulations in this respect.

8. The fee charged for the visa is based on the principle of reciprocity. The fee is never less than 4 Danish crowns. The fee charged for Danish visas will be reduced to the maximum laid down by the Conference as this maximum is adopted in other countries.

9. Agreed, unless for exceptional reasons (undesirables).

10. No answer.

11. No answer.

12. No answer.

13. Although, up to the present, Denmark has not as a general rule recognised collective passports, the Danish regulations in this respect will as far as possible be made to conform with the regulations adopted by the Paris Conference. According to Danish law, entrance visas are not required in the case of nationals nor are visas any longer required between Denmark, Norway and Sweden mutually.

#### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Registered luggage in transit is exempt from all Customs examination in Denmark.

15. Measures of this nature are in contemplation, but as the prohibition of export only covers gold and silver currency over a certain amount, while bank-notes, letters of credit, bonds and other securities are not affected, this question is not of great importance to Denmark.

#### *Recommendation.*

With regard to the other recommendations made by the Conference, it should be noted that on the principal railway lines the Customs examination takes place in the train. The Customs authorities are considering putting into practice the other facilities recommended.

#### THROUGH TICKETS.

16. Since April 1st, 1921, the sale of tickets and direct registration between Danish and German stations has been extended to the majority of large stations. Many through tickets are already being issued and the through registration of luggage via Denmark is already in operation between Norway and Sweden on the one hand and Germany on the other. Further, an arrangement has recently been made with the Dutch railways for the reciprocal sale of through-tickets to points in Norway, Sweden and Germany. Finally, the possibility of extending through international traffic is being carefully considered.

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## FINLAND.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed if all the other States agree.
2. Agreed.
3. Agreed.
4. Agreed.
5. Unnecessary.
6. Cannot accept at present.

7. The Government of the Republic cannot agree to the proposal that the visa of passport which is valid for a single journey should have the duration of validity as the passport itself, in view of the fact that hostile States might take advantage of visas thus given for an indefinite period to send their propaganda agents into the country. As to passports valid for two years, the Government of the Republic finds it impossible to introduce these at present, in view of the difficulties which might arise if a foreigner who had been granted a visa and who had originally justified the confidence thus placed in him was later found undesirable. On the other hand, the Government of the Republic wishes to identify itself unreservedly with the proposal that the number of visas given should be notified to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations every six months. With regard to the proposal that the visas given should always be valid via all frontiers of the country which issued the visa, except for special reasons justified by considerations of health or of national security, the Government of the Republic will be in a position to agree to this as soon as normal relations are established between Finland and Russia.

8. The Government of the Republic approves of the fee proposed on condition that it is also adopted by the

other States, and proposes that the exchange value of the franc should be fixed every three months.

9. The Government of the Republic cannot accept the principle that transit visas shall be issued at once without enquiry, solely upon production of the entrance visa for the country of destination; by so doing it would oblige the competent Finnish authorities to allow Bolshevik agents, for example, to cross the country freely, which might endanger the security of the Republic. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs should therefore have the right to grant or refuse transit visas according to circumstances.

10. The Government of the Republic cannot agree to the proposal in this paragraph and refers to the reasons set forth above.

11. With regard to the proposal contained in this paragraph, the Government of the Republic refers to its statement in paragraph 8.

12. Agreed.

13. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

(a) In favour.

(b) In favour.

(c) Not in favour.

(d) In favour.

(e) In favour.

(f) In favour.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.

15. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

(g) Agreed.

(h) Agreed.

(i) Agreed.

(j) Agreed.

(k) Agreed.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. No answer.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

THROUGH SERVICES.

(*l*) Agreed.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(*m*) Finland agrees to the measures proposed for the transport of emigrants under the conditions most favourable to public health.

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## FRANCE.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. The form used in France costs Frs. 102 per 1000. The proposed form would cost Frs. 441, and its adoption would oblige the French Government to raise the price of passports. Under these circumstances, the French Government cannot consent to the resolution, especially as there is ground for believing that the passport system will shortly be abolished.

2. Agreed, except with regard to the extension of the validity of the passport beyond two years. A passport, after two years, will be so worn that it will be necessary to replace it.

3. The fee charged for issuing a passport is exclusively a matter for the issuing State. The French passport is good for all countries for the period of its validity. The system in force in France corresponds, therefore, to the resolution adopted by the Conference, to the effect that there should be no distinction between the countries for which passports are issued.

4. Agreed.

5. No answer.

6. In the case of foreigners, the French Government continues to require the exit visa.

7. Agreed, except as regards notifications to the Secretariat of the League of Nations of the number of visas. Such notifications would be a source of unnecessary complications and expense.

8. The French charge for a visa is in all cases Frs. 25. This is approximately equal to the fee of 10 gold francs adopted by the Conference for the ordinary visa. The present French charge, which was introduced by statute, can only be amended by statute.

9. Agreed.

10. Agreed.

11. Same remarks as for paragraph 8.

12. The individual passport is the form adopted in France. This would seem to be the only practical form, since the members of a family may always be separated at any given moment.

13. Agreed. The French Government, however, desires more accurate particulars as to collective passports for emigrants.

*Recommendations.*

(a) The French Government is quite prepared to join in agreements for the abolition of passport formalities. It has already done so with Belgium and Luxemburg, and has approached Great Britain with the same suggestion.

(b) Agreed, in force since 1919.

(c) Agreed, in force since 1919.

(d) Agreed.

(e) The formalities connected with sojourn permits (*permis de séjour*) have been very much simplified in France.

(f) Joint control can only exist at international stations. The authorities giving a visa for the country of destination cannot undertake the necessary formalities for obtaining other visas, such as those for transit. Such formalities are exclusively the duty of the interested parties.

The French Government has expressed no opinion with regard to the resolutions and recommendations on the subject of Customs Formalities and Through Tickets.

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## GERMANY.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed subject to certain restrictions and modifications. The new system will come into force on January 1st, 1922.

2. Normal duration of validity of passports two years. Limitation to a single journey in exceptional cases. Renewal for periods of one year at a time, up to five years in all from the date upon which the passport is delivered.

3. The fixing of the fees to be charged for the issue of national passports is a matter for the States which issue them. Such fees will be charged without any discrimination between countries for which the passports are issued. When in exceptional cases an identity certificate is issued to persons other than German nationals in place of a passport, the fee collected is not higher than that which is charged on passports.

4. Agreed.

5. Agreed.

6. Not agreed.

7. Not agreed. The German Government is compelled to maintain the existing system of visas. The supply of periodical information to the League of Nations would involve statistical work necessitating considerable expenditure, and the German Government cannot therefore agree to this measure.

It agrees that the duration of the validity of the visa in no way affects the right of sojourn and settlement.

It also agrees that travellers may enter and leave the country at any point on the frontier, it being understood, however, that for exceptional reasons connected with domestic policy, health conditions, or national safety, the visa will be granted only for a specified point on the frontier.

The German Government proposes the insertion of the following provision:

Each country shall publish a list of the chief frontier points for international traffic and shall forward it to the League of Nations: any changes in the list shall also be published without delay.

8. The German Government cannot agree to the maximum fee of 10 gold francs. Under existing circumstances it cannot abandon its right to fix independently the fees for the various categories of visas mentioned under paragraph 7. The new German law on consular fees, nevertheless, provided for considerable reductions in the present fees. There shall be no distinction in the fees charged, either as regards the nationality of the holders of passports, or as regards the frontier point chosen. The German Government reserves the right to make special arrangements with certain States regarding the fees to be collected, and apart from such arrangements, to reduce the fee, in special cases, by 50%, or to abolish it altogether.

9 and 10. In view of the present situation of Germany, which, owing to its geographical position, must be considered as one of the chief countries of transit, it is necessary to continue for the time being the examination of the nature and frequency of journeys in each particular case.

On the other hand, under the German system of visas, all reasonable wishes of travellers, in cases which are absolutely clear, are granted.

11. The German Government reserves the right to fix the fees. As regards the rest of this paragraph, it calls attention to its observations on the subject in paragraph 8.

12. Family passports granted abroad, and collective passports for emigrants, are recognised and viséd under the following conditions:

(a) Family passports granted abroad (husband, wife, children under the age of 15) cannot have a validity of more than 5 years from the date of their issue.

(b) As regards fees for visas of family passports, the reservation made in paragraph 8, sections 2 and 3, are applicable.

13. The German Government can only agree to apply provisions 2 and 3 and 5-10 mentioned under paragraph 13 under the reservations made by the German Government regarding these provisions.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. No answer.
15. No answer.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. No answer.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. The German Government is prepared to supply the League of Nations as far as possible with periodical information regarding the regulations in force for passports, Customs and railways, in so far as they concern international traffic.

*Recommendations.*

The German Government has noted the proposals put forward under numbers *a* — *m* concerning matters of purely national interest, and will take these proposals into consideration in so far as circumstances permit and in so far as their execution is compatible with the interest of the country.

The application of the measure proposed, — namely, that the authorities which provide entrance visas for the countries of destination should also procure the visas for countries of transit, would involve an additional amount of labour for representatives of the country abroad, which the German services, in view of the restricted numbers of their staff, could not at present undertake.

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## GREECE.

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The Greek Government agrees in principle to apply all the measures proposed.

The Greek Government also agrees in principle to the recommendations, and will submit detailed information as to the methods of putting them into practice, together with the date on which they come into force.

The Greek Government has decided not to carry out any examination or Customs inspection of baggage crossing Greek territory by rail and registered "In Transit."

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## HUNGARY.

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The Hungarian Government accepts all the proposals embodied in the resolution, on condition that the other States, particularly States bordering on Hungary, also accept them and strictly apply the decisions taken by the Conference.

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## INDIA.

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1. Agreed.
  2. Agreed.
  3. Agreed. The fee will be kept at 3 rupees.
  4. No answer.
  5. No answer.
  6. No answer.
  7. Agreed, subject to any observations made on this subject by the Government of Great Britain.
  8. The fee charged will be 7 rupees.
  9. No answer.
  10. Agreed.
  11. The fee charged will be 1 rupee.
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## ITALY.

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### PASSPORTS.

The Italian Government accepts, as a whole, the various measures proposed (some of which are already in force) with the following reservations:

1 and 2. *Ordinary passports.* — The passport is the only effective means at the disposal of the Government for regulating emigration, and preventing immigration into countries where it is impossible to procure work; if extended from one to two years, the duration of the validity of the passport will diminish the effectiveness of this control, which is necessary, not only in the interest of Italy, but also in the interest of the countries of destination. Further, the passport service is connected with the preparation of statistical information with regard to emigration and immigration, which must be published annually with the greatest possible accuracy. There seems to be no disadvantage in leaving it to each country to fix the duration of the validity of its passports; nevertheless, if, with the object of attaining the uniformity at which the Conference aimed, it is considered that a normal period of two years should be agreed upon, the Italian Government will accept this proposal even as regards its own passports, at least for emigration and repatriation, but will limit to one year the validity of passports for persons leaving the Kingdom.

3. The sum of Fr. 10 gold is considered too high for emigrants, especially when the present rate of exchange is taken into account. It is thought that the countries of destination should pay the fees for visas, since these countries benefit by the labour of the emigrants.

4. Italy prefers to keep the present type of passport in two forms (large and small), drawn up in Italian and

containing a photograph, if this is also demanded by other countries.

The Italian Government desires that other classes of persons should have a right to diplomatic passports (the Government has provided a list of these additional classes).

*Note.* — It has since been pointed out that exit visas for persons other than nationals were abolished as from May 1st, 1921. Further, entrance visas valid for one year will be granted to nationals of States which will guarantee reciprocal treatment for Italian nationals.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Already in force.

#### *Recommendations.*

(g) International stations. Italy admits the advisability of adopting measures in the direction indicated, but would also point out that it is desirable that Customs formalities should take place on the national territory.

(h) The Government agrees to this measure.

(i) This measure is already in force.

### THROUGH TICKETS.

16. The system in force for tickets on the Simplon-Orient Express line is based on the adoption of a common monetary unit, the French franc, for transportation charges. This system cannot be adopted for all the through international services, already existing, or planned, in connection with the Italian railways, for it is not applicable to these services nor always convenient to adopt.

To improve this system it would be advisable that transportation charges should be always indicated in the national currency of the administration which issues the tickets.

Further, in the Simplon-Orient Express tickets, the charges for that part of the journey which falls within territory other than French are converted into French francs. Charges for those parts of the journey which occur on the lines of States other than that to which the administration issuing the tickets belongs, should



be converted into the national currency of that administration.

### THROUGH SERVICES.

The adherence to this proposal must in no way prejudice existing agreements and the advantages which accrue to Italy under those agreements.

In the interest of the communications which the Conference is trying to develop, the Italian Government, in conclusion, desires to make certain special reservations in connection with particular agreements which Italy might conclude with other countries, particularly with neighbouring countries, with the object of securing, on the principle of reciprocity, special facilities for their nationals.

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## JAPAN.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. In principle the Imperial Government sees no objection to the establishment of a uniform type of ordinary passport, but it ventures to point out that the difference of character and custom in Europe and America are likely to prove an obstacle to the desired uniformity as far as Japan is concerned. The fixing of July 1st next as the date for the issue of the new passports clearly affords Japan insufficient time to make the necessary changes in procedure and to print and prepare the new forms. Under these circumstances, the Imperial Government is obliged to ask for a delay of at least a year.

2. Duration of validity of the passport:

(a) Passport issued for a single journey;

(b) Passport issued for two years.

With regard to the subdivision mentioned above, the Imperial Government, with certain reservations, approves of this measure.

3. The fee prescribed for the issue of passports should be as low as possible, and should be levied uniformly without discrimination between aliens and nationals and between the various alien nationalities.

It is agreed that the fee levied should not depend on the nationality of aliens, but, as ordinary passports are not granted to aliens in Japan, the provision in question will not apply in that country.

With regard to the charges made on the issue of passports exclusively for the use of nationals, the Japanese Government desires to reserve the right to collect them at its discretion and according to circumstances.

4. Agreed.

5. Agreed.

6. Not required.

7. The Imperial Government agrees that as regards passports valid for a single journey the duration of validity of the visa should be the same as that of the passport. Moreover, it is suggested that these passports and visas should remain valid as long as the holder stays in the country of destination. With regard to passports valid for two years, the Imperial Government sees no reason why visas for one year should not be issued; nevertheless, it hopes that such visas would be considered valid for an indefinite period. The Imperial Government also accepts the other proposals in this article.

8. Agreed. It is to be noted, however, that the reciprocal adoption of differential tariffs for visas issued to the nationals of the various countries seems inconvenient in practice. The Government therefore intends to levy an equal charge for visas to the nationals of all countries at a fixed charge of less than 10 gold francs.

The Government gives its approval both to the abolition of individual reductions of the fee and to exemptions from visa charges in the case of certain categories of persons, provided such exemptions are expressly subject to the conditions of equality and reciprocity.

9. Owing to special circumstances, the Japanese Government cannot agree to the transit visa, having regard to the fact that this visa would, unless for exceptional reasons, be issued at once without enquiry solely on production of the entrance visa for the country of destination.

10. As regards the duration of validity of the transit visa, the Government has no objections to make; nevertheless it takes the same attitude here as indicated in paragraph 7, that is to say, that the period of validity of the transit visa should be the same as that of the entrance visa for the country of destination. Further, it accepts the reservation according to which the transit visa authorises one or more journeys across the territory, each of normal duration without voluntary interruption of the journey.

11. It agrees that the maximum fee charged should be 1 gold franc. With regard to the remainder of the paragraph, reference should be made to the statement in section 8.

12. It agrees that the preceding provisions should be applied to family passports as they are to individual passports.

13. The fees for visas on collective passports for emigrants will be fixed in conformity with the above-mentioned provisions, and will be collected without any discrimination based either upon the nationality of the holder or the points of entry into or exit from the territory.

Even in the case of collective passports, the Government suggests that these passports should be valid for an indefinite period in the country of destination; that each of the States which, as in the case of Japan, issue passports exclusively to its nationals, should be left completely free to determine the amount of the fee charged; that the period of validity of the entrance visa should be determined with due regard to the point of view expressed in paragraph 7, and, finally, that the visa fee and other matters should be determined in conformity with the proposal submitted in the section dealing with individual passports.

*Recommendations.*

(a) Agreed.

(b) Up to the present, there has been no visa of this nature.

(c) This visa, like that mentioned in the previous section, has not, up to the present, been required in Japan.

(d) Agreed.

(e) Agreed.

(f) Agreed.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.

15. Agreed. The date from which this measure is to be put into force will be communicated later.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. No answer.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

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## LUXEMBURG.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.
2. Agreed to extend the validity of passports to two years, and to provide for extending their validity at the conclusion of each period of two years.
3. The present fee of ten francs (Luxemburg) for passports valid for one year only will be maintained for the two-year passport.  
Agreed, together with the other proposals in this paragraph.
4. Agreed.
5. Not required.
6. Neither the passports of nationals nor those of aliens are viséd on exit.
7. Agreed to a general extension of the validity of entrance visas to one year. By agreement between the Governments of the three countries, nationals of Luxemburg proceeding to France or Belgium, and French and Belgian nationals proceeding to the Grand-Duchy have been exempted, not only from the obligation of obtaining a visa for their passports, but also from that of holding a passport. They need only possess identity papers, which are exempt from visa.
8. The Grand-Ducal Government has only charged fees for passport visas since December 1st, 1920. Reciprocity is the determining factor in fixing the fee charged for the issue of a visa to an alien. The Government agrees to the other proposals in this article.
- 9, 10 and 11. The transit visa does not exist. Once the traveller holds the entrance visa of the country of destination, he may traverse the Grand-Duchy without the Luxemburg visa.
12. Agreed that the family passport shall correspond in every respect to the individual passport, particularly in the matter of fees.

13. The Grand-Ducal Government agrees to the proposals in this resolution, subject to the observations set forth in the preceding number, and on condition of reciprocity, which forms the basis of the Luxemburg regulations.

*Recommendations.*

(a) The Grand-Ducal Government has exempted the inhabitants of numerous districts in the three adjacent countries from passport and visa. These inhabitants need only be provided with a frontier card. The frontier card is issued for a fee of Fr. 1.50.

(b) An entrance visa to the Grand-Duchy is not required of nationals.

(c) An exit visa is not required of nationals.

(d) The Grand-Ducal Government will be glad to follow up any suggestion which may be submitted to it with a view to agreements on this point.

(e) Agreed.

(f) Agreed.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.

15. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

(g) Agreed.

(h) Agreed.

(i) Agreed.

(j) Agreed.

(k) Agreed.

THROUGH TICKETS.

16. Agreed.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

THROUGH SERVICES.

(l) Agreed.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(m) Agreed.

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## NETHERLANDS.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Not practicable; prefer to retain the present type of passport. There are at present two kinds of Netherlands passports, — one, of a bulky description, for the use of persons obliged by their calling to travel frequently, and the other, thinner in bulk, for the use of persons travelling for pleasure.

2. There are practical objections to the issue of passports for a period of two years. Passports have hitherto been issued for a period of one year with the possibility of an extension of the period when the holder is abroad. A bill has been passed by Parliament making it possible to extend the validity of a Netherlands passport in that country itself.

3. The passport fees are only slightly higher than the cost of production and stamping. There is no discrimination of the kind referred to in the resolution.

4. Agreed.

5. Preliminary visas are not required.

6. Exit visas are not required either for Dutch nationals or foreigners.

7. Owing to the housing and unemployment crisis, it has, up to the present, been necessary in several cases to reduce the period for which visas are valid. Notification to the Secretariat of the number of visas issued would, in view of the visas given by Dutch representatives abroad, entail administrative difficulties and expense which appear to be out of proportion to the utility of the measure proposed. Visas are valid for all places on the frontiers by which travellers enter.

8. A Bill has also been passed to make the fee for Netherlands visas correspond with that named in the resolution. This bill further provides for fixing the visa fee for the various countries on the basis of reciprocity. As soon as this bill has been submitted to the Dutch Parliament a copy will be transmitted to the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

9. The transit visa is abolished altogether, except for subjects of States not recognised by the Netherlands, and for Polish, Lithuanian, Finnish, Esthonian and Latvian subjects.

10. As a rule transit visas are granted for a single journey only to the subjects of countries not recognised by the Netherlands.

11. The above-mentioned Parliamentary bill fixes a fee for transit visas corresponding to that named in the resolution.

12. Collective family passports may be granted; such passports, however, must be provided with a double stamp, and the fee is accordingly higher than in the case of an individual passport.

13. In the case of emigrants no visa will be required.

#### *Recommendations.*

(a) The Dutch Government is of opinion that it will prove very difficult to give effect to these recommendations. For local frontier traffic there are numerous classes of foreigners — subjects of neighbouring countries — who are not under compulsion to procure passports. It will, however, give this point fuller consideration.

(b) and (c). The visas mentioned under (b) and (c) are not required.

(d) The Dutch Government raises no objection to granting visas for passports which are not issued for the Netherlands.

(e) In favour. Compulsory notification by foreigners to the police of their arrival and departure will shortly be abolished.

(f) The Dutch Government has already entered into negotiations with the Governments of adjacent countries as regards first paragraph. The Government is of opinion



that the regulations recommended in second paragraph are impracticable. The regulations contemplated in the third paragraph have already been put into effect.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. In favour.

15. In favour.

#### *Recommendations.*

(g) In favour.

(h) In view of the temporary abolition of almost all export prohibitions, measures have been taken to reduce to a minimum the examination at frontier stations of registered luggage on the great international lines.

Apart from the fact that the examination of passengers' outgoing registered luggage at the point of departure in large railway centres would present difficulties, the Dutch Government is of opinion that the travelling public would be seriously inconvenienced by a measure such as has been recommended under (h), because the formalities at the point of departure would occasion a still further delay, while the formalities to be complied with at the Customs frontier (which cannot be completely dispensed with on account of non-registered luggage) would not be appreciably accelerated or simplified.

(i) It is possible even now to have incoming registered luggage examined at the place of destination when the place in question has been marked as a station where import duties are paid, provided passengers do not have such luggage examined at the frontier station. At present recourse is had to this right only in cases where the passenger is not present on the arrival of the luggage at the frontier station.

(j) In the opinion of the Dutch Government, there is no objection at present to the examination of hand luggage on the train in frontier stations, either on entering or leaving the country. It was, moreover, decided some time ago that at a number of frontier stations the examination of outgoing registered luggage might be carried out on the train during the stop. There are, however, objections

to the examination of incoming registered luggage on the train at frontier stations, and also to any examination during the journey.

(k) In favour.

#### THROUGH SERVICES.

(l) In favour.

#### TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(m) In favour.

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## NEW ZEALAND.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.
2. Agreed.
3. Agreed. The fee required for the issue of a passport in New Zealand is 10/-.

The Government of New Zealand agrees with the recommendations of the Imperial Government to the effect that passports should not be issued to persons other than:

- (a) British subjects.
  - (b) Persons, the protection of whose interests abroad have been entrusted to His Majesty's Government by a Mandate of the League of Nations.
  - (c) *Bona fide* natives of British Protectorates and British-protected States.
4. Diplomatic passports will not be issued by the Government of New Zealand, but the status of diplomatic persons will be authenticated by special visa.

5. Preliminary visas are granted in New Zealand free of charge and this practice is to be continued.

6. Regulation No. 2 of the Second Schedule of the War Regulations Continuance Act, 1920, provides that no person over the age of 15 years shall leave New Zealand for any place beyond the seas save in pursuance of a written permit. The permit to leave New Zealand is granted in the form of an exit visa to passport holders, and must therefore remain in force until the above-mentioned regulations are revoked or amended.

7. Agreed, subject to the observations made with regard to this paragraph by the Government of Great Britain.

8. Agreed.

9. Agreed.

10. Agreed.

11. Agreed.

12. Agreed, subject to the observations made on this subject by the Government of Great Britain.

13. Agreed.

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## NORWAY.

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### PASSPORTS.

The Norwegian Government would be quite willing to carry out in a general manner the proposals of the Paris Conference, on condition, however, that similar measures were adopted by a considerable majority of other countries, and subject to the restrictions and modifications enumerated below.

The measures in question might, if adopted, be put into force in Norway as from October 1st, 1921, provided, however, that the final drafting of the necessary provisions and their promulgation can be effected before that date.

The special reservations which the Government feels bound to make with regard to the resolutions adopted by the Paris Conference are clearly set forth below:

1. The Norwegian Government has no objection to the suggested establishment of a uniform type of ordinary passport ("international type"). It is, however, of opinion that each country should exercise its discretion in the choice of the quality, the colour, the watermark, etc., of the paper used for its passports, as these are characteristic features which may constitute a means of recognising the issuing country and preventing forgeries. The uniform type of passport should be employed not only by the central authorities, but also by consulates and legations. However, before using the new type, we reserve the right to exhaust the stocks of passports of the form at present in use.

It is desirable that the passports of the new type issued for journeys between Norway, Sweden and Denmark should not contain more than eight to sixteen pages.

2 and 3. The Norwegian Government has no observations to make with regard to the provisions dealing with the duration of validity of passports and the fee charged.

4. According to the provisions of Annex II to the resolution, only the high officials of the household of a Head of State, excluding the subordinate staff, would be furnished with diplomatic passports. The Norwegian Government finds this provision too limited. It considers that when members of the Royal Household travel abroad, all persons accompanying them should be furnished with passports of the same form. It has always been the custom in Norway to issue diplomatic passports to such persons. The Norwegian Government has no observations to make with regard to Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Annex III.

5. The provision concerning preliminary visas calls for no remark on the part of the Norwegian Government.

6. Not required.

7. The Norwegian Government presumes that in each country the authorities entrusted with the granting of visas will be entirely free to pursue any enquiry which might appear justified by the request for visas submitted to them. The authorities of each country should, moreover, reserve discretionary power to refuse the visas requested.

The Norwegian Government hesitated somewhat in adhering to the proposal of the Conference, according to which visas shall, as a general rule, be granted for one year. It only adhered subject to the express reservation that the competent authorities shall remain entirely free to intervene in the case of any persons whose sojourn in the country is considered incompatible with national safety.

Under this heading the Norwegian Government would refer to the provisions of letter (*e*) of the recommendations of the Paris Conference. It is, moreover, laid down that each State shall every six months furnish certain information to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations. Not agreed: the Government considers that such communications would entail a large amount of unnecessary work.

8. The Norwegian Government has no observations to make on the proposals drawn up by the Conference with regard to fees charged for visas. It presumes, however, that these provisions will not apply when a visa is requested by nationals of States which have not adhered to them. In such cases, the Norwegian Government proposes to continue to determine the fees charged on the principle of reciprocity.

9, 10 and 11. As regards the provisions concerning transit visas, the Norwegian Government, while it hesitates to agree to the immediate issue of these visas without enquiry solely upon production of the entrance visa for the country of destination, would not oppose putting these resolutions of the Conference into practice, provided they are unanimously approved by the adhering countries.

12. Agreed.

13. The provisions dealing with collective passports for emigrants call for no remark on the part of the Norwegian Government.

### *Recommendations.*

(a) The passport exemptions contemplated in the first of these recommendations have already been put into practice between Norway and Sweden under agreement between the two Governments. Foreign sailors in possession of identity cards are similarly exempt from passport formalities in Norway. The Norwegian Government will consider the question of granting passport exemptions on a still larger scale in accordance with the recommendation of the Conference.

(b) No entrance visa is at present required in Norway for Norwegian nationals.

(c) An exit visa is not at present required in Norway either for nationals or aliens.

(d) The measures recommended by the Conference with regard to the entrance visa for passports not covering all destinations are already generally carried out by the Norwegian authorities who issue passport visas. The Norwegian Government entirely approves of this practice. But it is of opinion that it is neither necessary nor expedient to conclude special agreements for this purpose with foreign States.

(e) The Norwegian Government adheres in principle to the recommendations of the Conference as regards facilities of sojourn. It considers, however, that each State should remain completely free to take any steps it may consider necessary to this end.

(f) The Norwegian Government is of opinion that the measures recommended by the Conference with regard to the simplification of passport formalities should, as far

as possible, be carried out. It wishes, however, to make certain reservations concerning the proposal that authorities issuing a visa for the country of destination should undertake the formalities necessary for the obtaining of other visas, as, for example, transit visas. This provision appears inevitably to impose on the authorities issuing visas a task which falls naturally on private individuals who desire to obtain a visa for their passports.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Already in force.

15. The Norwegian Government has no observations to offer with regard to the proposals concerning passengers in transit with money and scrip.

#### *Recommendations.*

(g) The Norwegian Government has no objection to the suggestion that adjacent States should conclude agreements among themselves for the establishment of international stations in cases where local conditions render this desirable.

(h), (i), (j) The examination of luggage by Customs officials is already carried out in Norway in conformity with the recommendations made by the Conference.

(k) The question of the limitation of luggage calls for no remark by the Norwegian Government.

### THROUGH TICKETS.

16. Does not affect Norway.

### GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. The Norwegian Government has no remark to make with regard to the recommendation of the Conference that the League of Nations should periodically obtain from the governments and publish any information of practical value concerning the passport system and Customs formalities in force in the various countries.

On the other hand, as regards the publication of information concerning passenger traffic, the Norwegian Government desires to point out that the matter of



establishing new international tickets has, up to the present, been dealt with by the establishment of railway federations grouping the railway administrations of the various countries interested.

According to the organisation adopted by these federations, one of these national administrations performs the administrative duties of the federation and, in agreement with the other administrations belonging to it, publishes the new tariffs for journeys between the States concerned, together with any measures called for by the establishment of new communications between various countries, changes in the price of tickets, etc.

### THROUGH SERVICES.

(*l*) The recommendations of the Conference with regard to the establishment of direct international services calls for the same observations on the part of the Norwegian Government as the recommendation of the Conference set forth under the heading "IV — General Publicity, (17) Periodical Information."

### TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(*m*) The recommendations of the Conference concerning the transport of emigrants do not appear to have any practical bearing on Norway.

However, it need scarcely be said that the Norwegian Government will always make every effort to ensure that emigrants passing through Norway shall enjoy the same facilities as those accorded to emigrants by the countries whose transport services compete with the Norwegian navigation companies.

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## POLAND.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed. The Polish Government cannot, however, at present fix the date for the adoption of the new form.

2. In view of the necessity of definitely establishing the nationality of the present holders of Polish passports, the Government considers it desirable to retain for the time being the passport valid for one year.

3. The condition of the Polish Exchequer renders it necessary to retain for a certain time the fees now levied on the basis of the general Consular rate.

4. The Polish Government has already taken, or will take in the immediate future, measures on the lines laid down in this proposal.

5. The Polish Government has already taken, or will take in the immediate future, the steps necessary to ensure that preliminary visas will only be required by its agents in cases where the validity of the passport and the visa is subject to doubt. Such visas will always be given gratis.

6. The Polish Government feels obliged to retain the exit visa both for its nationals and for aliens, this visa being essential for the lists of persons proceeding abroad.

7. The Polish Government has for some time been considering the introduction of visas valid for several journeys to Poland. Present conditions, it is true, render it impossible to carry out this scheme to the extent desired by the Conference; Polish representatives abroad, however, will be authorised to issue visas for one month, valid for a single journey, and visas for three months valid for more than one journey.

8. The condition of the Polish Exchequer renders it necessary to retain for a certain time the fees now levied on the basis of the general Consular rate.

9. Measures in accordance with Article 9 have already been adopted by the Polish Government.

10. Polish representatives abroad issue transit visas for one month valid for a single journey, and similar visas for three months valid for more than one journey.

11. The condition of the Polish Exchequer renders it necessary to retain for a certain time the fees at present levied on the basis of the general Consular rate.

12. The Polish Government has decided to introduce family visas. However, until further arrangements have been made, the name of the wife of the traveller will be inserted in the common passport only on payment of an additional fee.

13. The Polish Government has already taken, or will take in the near future, measures on the lines of this proposal.

*Recommendations.*

The gradual restoration of normal international relations will enable the Polish Government to adapt its regulations to the proposals contained in these paragraphs.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

14. Agreed.

15. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

(g) Agreed. .

(h) Agreed.

(i) Agreed.

(j) Agreed.

(k) Agreed.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

THROUGH SERVICES.

(l) Agreed.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(m) Agreed.

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## ROUMANIA.

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The Roumanian Government approves of the provisions contained in the first part of the Resolutions of the Conference, *i.e.*, the provisions dealing with the type of passport, its issue and the granting of visas.

The provisions of the second part, which were not considered to warrant definite invitations, *i.e.*, the provisions grouped together as recommendations under (a) to (f), cannot be accepted by the Roumanian Government, owing to the special circumstances of its present position.

The Roumanian Government has expressed no opinion with regard to the resolutions and recommendations on the subject of Customs Formalities and Through Tickets.

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## SERB-CROAT-SLOVENE STATE.

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### PASSPORTS.

The reply of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State supplies no information on the subject of passports.

### CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

As regards Customs formalities, the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government has forwarded the text of the Customs Law with regard to examination of luggage in transit.

As a result of the exchange crisis, frequent modifications must be made in the provisions regulating trade and the circulation of foreign currencies. For this reason travellers who have in their possession foreign money must be subjected to measures adopted for the purpose of preventing the export of capital. The Minister of Finance, however, has granted facilities to travellers in transit through the Kingdom by issuing to them at the frontier station by which they enter certificates mentioning the amount of money in their possession, and permitting them to take with them, on their departure, the amount mentioned on this certificate.

### THROUGH TICKETS.

As regards through tickets, the Serb-Croat-Slovene Government states that it approves of the paragraph dealing with that question in the resolution of the Conference on Passports.

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## SIAM.

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The Siamese Government has accepted all the proposals in the resolution and they will come into force on July 1st next.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

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### PASSPORTS.

1. Agreed.

2. Agreed.

3. Union of South Africa passports are issued only to British subjects. Emergency certificates are issued to persons who are not British subjects when such persons are unable to obtain a national passport, owing to the absence of a Consular representative in the Union, or in cases where a person has lost his original nationality, without having acquired another. No distinction is made between nationals and non-nationals in regard to the fee charged.

4. This type of passport is not issued in the Union and so far there has been no occasion to issue one.

5. Preliminary visas are not granted in the Union of South Africa.

6. Exit visas are necessary to leave the Union of South Africa and, as they form a useful record especially for the police, it is not desired to abandon the practice.

7. As the Union of South Africa has no Consular representatives abroad and as admission to the Union depends on the ability of the intending entrant to meet the requirements of the Immigrants Regulation Act (N<sup>o</sup> 22 of 1913), entrance visas for the Union are, strictly speaking, not granted, but visas *to travel to* the Union are granted by His Majesty's Home Government and its Consular representatives abroad, as well as by the passport authorities of the British Dominions and Colonies. Any visas granted in the Union are, however, valid for the same period as the passport.

8. It will be obvious from the preceding remarks that the Union Government does not regulate the charge for visas to travel to the Union, but with regard to visas

granted in the Union to travel to other British territory, the Union Government has adopted the principle of reciprocity, *i. e.* the nationals of each State are charged a fee equivalent to the fee charged a British subject by the Government of the State in question for a similar visa.

9. The remarks under No. 7 apply also in this case.
10. Ditto.
11. The remarks under No. 8 apply in this case.
12. This system is at present in force in the Union of South Africa.
13. This does not apply to Union conditions.

*Recommendations.*

(a) This does not apply to South African conditions.

(b) As British passports, unless otherwise endorsed, are valid for travel in any part of the British Empire, entrance visas to the Union of South Africa are not necessary in the case of nationals.

(c) Holders of valid British passports leaving the Union for other British territory do not require a visa. (See (b).)

(d) The Union Government is in favour of this principle.

(e) There are no formalities in regard to sojourn in the Union of South Africa as far as persons who are able to meet the requirements of the Immigrants Regulation Act (No. 22 of 1913) are concerned.

(f) Conditions in South Africa are such that the adoption of this recommendation in so far as the Union is concerned would not be necessary.

## CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

*Paragraphs 14 and 15.* (Abolition of the examination of registered baggage in transit, and passengers and valuables in transit.)

In connection with the resolutions on these two subjects, the Union Government of South Africa, while being prepared to grant such facilities as far as possible, wishes to state that the circumstances are somewhat peculiar in South Africa, and this being so, such transit facilities cannot always be given, for instance:

(a) Basutoland, Swaziland and the Bechuanaland Protectorate do not form part of the Union; nevertheless,



the Customs duties on goods intended for consumption therein belong to the Union Treasury, and must be collected at a Union port, for there are no Customs stations in those territories on the Union borders thereof.

(b) The Union has Customs agreements with Southern and Northern Rhodesia under which goods could not pass in transit, say through the Union to Southern Rhodesia, for the first-named is responsible for the collection and the payment over of Customs duties to the Government of the territory of actual destination.

The only exception under (b) would be that passengers' baggage may be consigned in bond to warehousing stations in Southern and Northern Rhodesia, but, of course, they are only to be found in the larger centres of population where such trade facilities are required.

The remarks under (a) and (b) apply to the transit of valuables being, of course, the personal property of passengers and not for the purpose of trade.

#### *Recommendations.*

(g) As will be gathered from the foregoing remarks on Customs Formalities, the only bordering State South Africa has from a Customs point of view is the Portuguese Province of Mozambique, and, if desirable, there should be no difficulty in arranging for a joint Customs examination, say at Komati-Port. Legislation would, however, be necessary to give the Portuguese authorities jurisdiction to enforce the collection of their Customs duties within the Union of South Africa territory.

(h) This recommendation does not apply to conditions prevailing in the Union.

(i) This can only be applied to a very limited extent in the Union, for the only Customs stations away from the ports are Kimberley, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Germiston, Bloemfontein, Pietersburg, Middelburg, and Pietermaritzburg.

(j) The Commissioner of Customs and Excise cannot agree to the principle of examining baggage on trains. If smuggling is contemplated, the articles to be smuggled are usually contained in accompanied baggage or secreted about the person, especially females, and the examination of the persons of passengers could not be carried out in a train.

(k) This is inapplicable to passengers coming into South Africa.

The Union Government Notice No. 1084 of 1914 deals with the baggage of tourists thus:

“A refund of the duty originally paid will be made on all articles not intended for consumption in the Union imported by *bona fide* tourists for their use, convenience or comfort, while in the Union, under the following conditions:

“(a) The goods or articles must be re-exported within a period of six months from the date of importation.

“(b) Due notice must be given to the Collector of Customs at the port of shipment of the intention to re-export the articles on which a refund of duty will be claimed, and at the same time the owner must produce proof of the original payment of duty.

“(c) A certificate must be produced from a proper officer of Customs that the goods referred to therein have been duly shipped.”

#### THROUGH TICKETS.

This item appears particularly to concern States participating in the operation of the Simplon-Orient Express. There are no through bookings made between Europe and South Africa, and it is unlikely that arrangements will be considered to bring such a system into operation until normal times are restored.

The establishment, however, of a Publicity Branch for the Union of South Africa in the High Commissioner's Office is a step leading in that direction, and the matter will doubtless receive consideration when the time is ripe for such a course to be given a trial.

#### TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

All long-distance trains are composed of corridor saloon stock throughout the Union of South Africa.

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## SPAIN.

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### PASSPORTS.

1. The new type of passport corresponding to that recommended by the Conference has been issued.

2. Agreed.

3. Agreed.

4. No answer.

5. No answer.

6. No answer.

7. Agreed on condition of reciprocity. The diplomatic and consular representatives of Spain abroad have received instructions to carry on the provisions of this paragraph.

With regard to the other resolutions and recommendations of the Conference, a reply has not yet been received from the Ministries concerned.

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## SWEDEN.

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### PASSPORTS.

The Swedish Government states that some of the measures proposed by the Conference on Passports have already been applied by the Swedish authorities, but that certain other proposals will not at present be put into force. There would be considerable risk in allowing a number of persons whose presence is incompatible with the interests of the country to extend their stay in Sweden.

As regards the proposal to fix a maximum for the fees which may be charged for the visa, the Swedish Government is perfectly ready to take part in a discussion on this question, if the other Governments concerned are disposed to do the same.

The Swedish Government considers that the establishment of a uniform type of ordinary passport would encourage forgery and fraudulent reproduction. The Swedish Government, however, would also be willing to discuss this point.

The Swedish Government has expressed no opinion with regard to the resolutions and recommendations on the subject of Customs Formalities and Through Tickets.

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## SWITZERLAND.

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### PASSPORTS.

1 and 2. The Swiss Government will forward its decision later.

3. Agreed.

4. Agreed.

5. Agreed.

6. Agreed.

7. Agreed as regards passports valid for a single journey. In the case of passports valid for two years, it admits that the visa should be valid for one year in all cases where special agreements are entered into with other States. This is already the case as regards France, Great Britain, U. S. A., Belgium and the Netherlands.

8. The Federal Council gives its adherence to the proposed maximum fee of 10 francs (gold) for the visa issued by its representatives in European countries entitling the holder to make a single journey.

As regards ordinary visas for one year granted by the Swiss authorities to nationals of States with which special agreements have been entered into, a fee of 10 francs (gold) will be charged on condition that these States do not impose a higher charge.

9. Agreed.

10. Agreed.

11. The Federal Council will abolish the present fee of 5 francs and will in principle adopt a fee of 1 franc (gold) for transit visas.

12. Will forward its decision later.

13. The Federal Council will only recognise collective passports for emigrants in transit in the exceptional cases of convoys of emigrants. Emigrants travelling with collective passports will pay the visa fees in accordance with the rules laid down for ordinary passengers.

All that has been said in reply to the various resolutions enumerated in this proposal applies also to emigrants in possession of collective passports.

*Recommendations.*

- (a) In favour.
- (b) In favour.
- (c) In favour.
- (d) Not in favour.

(e) Switzerland has for a long time granted holders of passports provided with regular visas all such facilities for sojourn as are compatible with her health regulations, economic situation and the interests of her national security.

(f) The Federal Council regards as impracticable the conclusion of agreements to enable the authority issuing a visa for the country of destination to undertake the necessary formalities for obtaining other visas, as for example transit visas.

Switzerland is endeavouring to give ever-increasing travelling facilities to foreigners entering or leaving her territory. A very large number of measures have already been adopted to secure this object, and agreements have been reached with adjacent States whenever new arrangements could be made without prejudice to the political, moral and economic security of Switzerland.

The Political Department adds that in Switzerland the Customs and passport formalities generally take place simultaneously.

CUSTOMS FORMALITIES.

- 14. Agreed.
- 15. Agreed.

*Recommendations.*

- (g) In favour.
- (h) In favour.
- (i) In favour.
- (j) In favour.
- (k) In favour.

GENERAL PUBLICITY.

17. Agreed.

THROUGH SERVICES.

(*l*) In favour.

TRANSPORT OF EMIGRANTS.

(*m*) In favour.

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## VENEZUELA.

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1. Agreed.
2. No answer.
3. No answer.
4. Agreed.
5. No answer.
6. No answer.
7. No answer.
8. The fee for a visa is 10 bolivars. This fee must be paid on entry into the territory of the Republic and is proved by stamps affixed to the document bearing the signatures of the parties concerned.

No charge will be made for the visa on passports in the case of persons who come as emigrants to take up their residence in the country.

The Venezuelan Government has expressed no opinion with regard to the resolutions and recommendations on the subject of Customs Formalities and Through Tickets.

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## I. ABOLITION OF VISA.

The necessity of a visa has been abolished for their respective nationals between:

Belgium and China,  
" " Great Britain,  
" " Netherlands,  
" " Switzerland,  
" " Uruguay.  
Denmark and Norway,  
" " Sweden.  
France and Great Britain,  
" " Netherlands,  
" " Switzerland.  
Norway and Sweden.  
Netherlands and Italy,  
Netherlands and Switzerland.  
Switzerland and United States,  
" " Lichtenstein,  
" " Luxemburg,  
" " Sweden,  
" " Uruguay.

Moreover, the Belgian Government has abolished the necessity of a visa for the nationals of Italy, Japan, and the United States.

## II. ABOLITION OF PASSPORT.

The necessity of a passport has been abolished for Belgian, French, and Luxemburg nationals between Belgium, France and Luxemburg.

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## Results of the Graz Conference.

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The following proposals were adopted by the Conference:

(a) Uniform type of passport — The duration of validity of passport shall be at least one year, save in exceptional cases, when issued for a single journey. — The fee charged for the issue shall not be of a fiscal character.

(b) Preliminary visas shall only be required in case the validity of the passport is subject to doubt. Such visas shall always be given free of charge.

(c) Abolition of exit visas.

(d) Entrance visas shall in principle be valid for the same period as the duration of validity of the passport. — The fee charged for an entrance visa valid for one year shall be ten gold francs.

(e) Transit visas shall be issued as a rule without enquiry and shall have the same validity as that of the visa of destination. — The fee charged for a transit visa shall be one gold franc.

These various decisions, together with a certain number of others of the same nature, were made the subject of a Convention between the Succession States of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

In the case of certain States, it is provided that ratification should take place in the near future. Provision is further made for the subsequent adhesion of other States.

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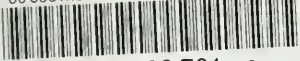
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