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Geneva, January 29th, 1930.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**CONVENTION BETWEEN THE HELLENIC GOVERNMENT  
AND THE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMISSION**

**Signed at Geneva on January 24th, 1930.**

*Note.*

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate herewith to the Members of the Council the text of a Convention signed at Geneva on January 24th, 1930, by representatives of the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission.

The Financial Committee examined this Convention during its thirty-seventh session, and in its report (document C.105.M.29.1930.II) recommends that the Convention should be approved by the Council in so far as the latter is concerned.

**CONVENTION**

**CONCLUDED AT GENEVA BETWEEN THE HELLENIC GOVERNMENT AND THE  
REFUGEE SETTLEMENT COMMISSION ON JANUARY 24TH, 1930.**

1. On or before December 31st, 1930, and subject to the provisions of Article 10 below, all property, real and personal, which the Refugee Settlement Commission then possesses—including real estate, movables, cash, securities, and all rights and claims of every kind—will, except where the contrary is specifically provided for in the following articles, be transferred to the Hellenic Government, which will then stand, in so far as all properties, rights and claims of every kind so transferred are concerned, in the place of the Refugee Settlement Commission. This transfer will be made subject to the terms and conditions stated in the following articles.

2. As an essential condition of the transfer provided for in Article 1 above and subject to the conditions included in this Convention, the Hellenic Government agrees to assume, and undertakes to discharge, all obligations, of every kind whatsoever, binding the Commission.

3. To facilitate the operations of the Hellenic Government, the Refugee Settlement Commission undertakes to prepare, and to hand over to the Hellenic Government before the date specified in Article 1, lists, as complete as possible, of all claims which the Commission has as against third parties—other than agricultural or urban refugees established by the Refugee Settlement Commission, for which a special procedure is provided—and to prepare, and make over to the Hellenic Government, lists, as complete as possible, of all obligations undertaken by the Refugee Settlement Commission, the discharge of which will be undertaken by the Hellenic Government under Article 2 above, as the Refugee Settlement Commission anticipates that, at the date specified in Article 1, various minor obligations will be outstanding, connected with the execution of current contracts which, for a variety of reasons, it may prove impossible to complete before such date. Apart from those current and minor obligations, the following major obligations will probably be outstanding: (i) the completion of the cadastral survey, (ii) the completion of the Drama-Ossenitza and Zirnovo-Borovo roads.

As regards (i) above, the Commission—while for obvious reasons unable to undertake a definite legal liability—considers that it will be able to leave, under Article 1 above, sufficient funds to meet the estimated expenditure necessary to complete the cadastre of the land in the possession of the Refugee Settlement Commission on the date specified in Article 1 and the subsidiary

operations connected with that cadastre. The Hellenic Government, for its part, undertakes to complete that cadastre, to retain the personnel which the Commission has engaged for that purpose (subject to satisfactory service), to pay that personnel on a scale not lower than that which the Commission has adopted, to continue the system which the Commission has elaborated for the preparation of that cadastre, and to carry out the subsidiary operations necessary to give to each refugee established by the Commission a provisional title to the land allotted to him.

As regards (ii) above, the Refugee Settlement Commission undertakes to leave sufficient funds to cover any unpaid balance due under the contract for the construction of the Drama-Ossenitza road, and it hopes—though without incurring any legal liability as regards this matter—to be in a position to leave sufficient funds to cover any unpaid balance due under the contract for the construction of the Zirново-Borovo road.

The Refugee Settlement Commission anticipates that all minor obligations will be covered by the funds which it will place at the disposal of the Hellenic Government.

4. The Hellenic Government has taken over from the Refugee Settlement Commission the agricultural, veterinary and allied services of which details were given in a letter addressed by the Commission to the Hellenic Government and dated April 19th, 1929. The services transferred are the agricultural services proper and all personnel employed by the Commission for the stallion, cattle, pig and poultry breeding-stations, the nurseries, model farms, and experimental or demonstration plots.

The Hellenic Government has also taken over the dispensaries which belonged to the Refugee Settlement Commission in Macedonia and Thrace, and such minor medical services as the Commission was maintaining in Eubœa and Achaia-Elis.

The Hellenic Government agrees also to take over the services and the equipment required in connection with sanitation, water-supply, the emptying of cesspools, the upkeep and repair of roads and bridges, and generally all services of a municipal character in the Commission's urban quarters.

It is understood that the Hellenic Government may make such arrangements as may seem to it desirable in order to provide for municipal services in the Refugee Settlement Commission's urban quarters, whether by imposing the duty of providing those services upon existing municipal authorities, or by creating new municipal bodies to which these services will be entrusted, or otherwise.

The Refugee Settlement Commission, for its part, agrees to cede to the Hellenic Government, free of charge and free of any mortgage rights under Article 8 of this Agreement, all land in the Commission's urban settlements used for public roads, all bridges constructed in the urban settlements by the Commission, all drains, water-pumping machinery, pipes for the supply of water, cesspools, public squares, water-supply stations, reservoirs, camions used for the removal of sewage, incinerators, and generally all equipment used for the purpose of public utility services in these settlements. The land appurtenant to all such installations will also be ceded, free of charge, and free of all mortgage rights.

Maps of all urban areas either exist, or are under preparation; and the Refugee Settlement Commission undertakes to supply copies of such maps to the Hellenic Government as they are completed.

All schools, hospitals and dispensary buildings in the urban quarters constructed by the Refugee Settlement Commission, the land appurtenant thereto, the equipment of such buildings, and the stocks of medicines and instruments belonging to the Refugee Settlement Commission will also be handed over to the Hellenic Government, free of charge, and free of all mortgage rights except in cases where such buildings and lands have already been made over to the municipalities or the communes, or any other organisation or authority.

5. The Hellenic Government undertakes to place at the disposal of the Refugee Settlement Commission, gratuitously, from the date on which the Hellenic Government takes over such services, all agricultural, veterinary, irrigation, and other officials, whose services may be required by the Commission for the continuation or completion of the work of establishing the refugees during the interval prior to December 31st, 1930.

6. By agreement between the Refugee Settlement Commission and the Hellenic Government, such other personnel as the Refugee Settlement Commission may have, and which they may no longer require, and which the Hellenic Government may desire to employ, shall from time to time be transferred to the Hellenic Government prior to December 31st, 1930. The Commission anticipates that, on December 31st, 1930, the only services which will remain will be: the cadastral service (as to which see Article 3 above), an accounting service, which will be transferred to the Hellenic Government on the above date, a service for the collection of debts, which will be transferred either prior to or on the above date to the National Bank of Greece or the Bank of Greece and to the Agricultural Bank, possibly a small technical service in charge of construction works not wholly completed, and a limited administrative service at the headquarters at Athens, Salonika and Comotini.

The Hellenic Government recognises that it will be necessary to retain any technical services which may exist on December 31st, 1930, until such time as the works for which their services are required are completed; and to retain all other personnel (except the cadastral service, for which special arrangements are made under Article 3 above) for a period of at least two months from the above date. In all these cases the personnel will be retained, subject to satisfactory



service, on the salary, and on the conditions, which were in force while they were employed by the Refugee Settlement Commission, subject always to the conditions contained in the Agreement of January 30th, 1925, concluded between the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission on the subject of emoluments of the personnel of the Refugee Settlement Commission, confirmed on May 5th, 1925, by the President of the Hellenic Republic.

7. The Refugee Settlement Commission undertakes to hand over to the Hellenic Government all records of a public character. They will also transfer to the Hellenic Government such confidential records as may in the opinion of the Commission facilitate the task of the Hellenic Government in completing the work entrusted to the Commission.

8. As security for the due performance by the Hellenic Government of its obligations in regard to the service of the Refugee Loan of 1924, including the obligations in regard thereto contained in the present Convention, and subject to the provisions of Article 4 above, the transfer to the Hellenic Government of all the properties belonging to the Commission in accordance with Article 1, is expressly made subject to a first charge upon all immovable properties belonging to the Commission at the date specified in such article in favour of the International Financial Commission. This charge will remain in force, as a floating charge, until the Refugee Loan of 1924 raised on the security of such properties has been repaid in full. Provided always, however, that, when a refugee has paid his debt in full, he will be entitled to receive, and shall be given, a title deed to his land and house, which title deed shall recite that the land and house are free from any mortgage charge on the part of the Refugee Settlement Commission, or of the International Financial Commission, or of the Hellenic Government; and the title deed shall state that his debt has been repaid in full.

9. As regards agricultural refugees exchanged in accordance with the terms of the Convention of Lausanne for the Exchange of Populations, the amount of their debt to the Refugee Settlement Commission shall be settled in the following manner:

(i) The classification adopted by the Hellenic Government shall be conclusive as to whether a refugee is an "urban" or an "agricultural" refugee.

(ii) On the debit side of each agricultural refugee's account will be entered:

(a) The amount or value of all advances, in cash or in kind, which he has received from the Refugee Settlement Commission, and of debts due to the Hellenic Government which have been transferred to the Refugee Settlement Commission, subject to such deductions as the Commission may have authorised by general or by special order, but including such additional charges, to cover the cost of general administration, transport and other expenses, as the Refugee Settlement Commission may have fixed;

(b) The value of the agricultural lot which he has received. This value will be fixed, in accordance with a special agreement to be concluded between the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission. The value will in no case exceed the market value of the land, as determined by an *ad hoc* commission to be constituted—if necessary—in a manner agreed upon; the value will in no case be less than the value as fixed in accordance with the Agrarian Law, published in the *Official Journal* No. 247, dated October 3rd, 1924;

(c) The value of the house with which he has been supplied, and of the land appurtenant thereto, as fixed by the Refugee Settlement Commission, in cases in which these values have not already been debited in accordance with the clauses above;

(d) An amount for interest on the debt due at such rate or rates as the Refugee Settlement Commission may determine, subject to the conditions of Article 13 below.

(iii) On the credit side of the account of an agricultural refugee will be entered:

(a) All payments made to the Refugee Settlement Commission on account of his debt to them, and also all amounts equivalent to the nominal value of any bonds deposited by the refugee concerned as security for the payment of his debt and to be transferred to the Hellenic Government under this article;

(b) The portion of the indemnity adjudged by the Hellenic Government payable to him, and to members of his family living with him (possessing no separate agricultural lot, and entitled to compensation as agricultural refugees) in respect of the property which he and the members of his family, as defined above, formerly possessed in Turkey;

(iv) The difference between the debit and the credit sides of the account will, where the former is the greater, be the debt due by the refugee to the Refugee Settlement Commission.

(v) Where the account shows a credit balance due to the refugee, that balance will be liquidated by the Hellenic Government.

To assist the Hellenic Government in this matter, the Refugee Settlement Commission undertakes to transfer, free of charge, to the Hellenic Government all the bonds of the categories stated below in its possession, which it has received from refugees as security for repayment of their debts, on such date as may be fixed by agreement between the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission.

The bonds in the possession of the Refugee Settlement Commission are of the following categories:

Exchangeable bonds. . . . .	8 %	1926-1928.
Exchangeable bonds. . . . .	6 %	1928.
Bulgarian emigrant bonds . . . . .	6 %	1923.
Bonds of Hellenic subjects. . . . .	8 %	1927.

No payment to the International Financial Commission will be made, on account of extraordinary amortisation, in respect of the bonds so transferred to the Hellenic Government.

(vi) In order that the Refugee Settlement Commission may be in a position to carry out its undertaking in accordance with clause (v) of this article, the Hellenic Government agrees that the Refugee Settlement Commission shall credit all bonds in its possession as security for the payment of their debt by refugees, to the account of the individuals concerned, at the nominal value of the bonds, and it undertakes to indemnify the Commission against all claims, loss, or damage on account of this action.

(vii) All debit and credit entries in the refugees' accounts will be made in sterling.

10. The provisions of the preceding article (Article 9) are subject to the following general conditions:

The amount which the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission agree shall be applied to the compensation of agricultural refugees by the method of crediting their accounts as provided in Article 9 shall not exceed a sum of £11,500,000. This sum includes the recoverable amount of the debts due by the agricultural refugees to the Hellenic Government. These debts will be formally ceded by the Hellenic Government to the Refugee Settlement Commission, and the Hellenic Government undertakes to effect this cession. It also includes a sum not exceeding £3,000,000 to be provided from the debts due by agricultural refugees on account of advances in cash or kind made to them by the Refugee Settlement Commission, including in such £3,000,000 the amount of the bonds, taken at their nominal value, transferred to the Hellenic Government in accordance with Article 9 above.

11. As regards urban refugees, the amount of their debt to the Refugee Settlement Commission shall be settled in the following manner:

(i) The classification adopted by the Hellenic Government shall be conclusive as to whether a particular refugee is an "urban" refugee or not.

(ii) On the debit side of each urban refugee's account will be entered:

(a) The amount or value of all advances, in cash or in kind, and of the house, if any, which he has received from the Refugee Settlement Commission, subject to such deductions as the Commission may have authorised by general or by special order, but including such additional charges, to cover the cost of general administration, transport and other expenses, as the Refugee Settlement Commission may have fixed;

(b) The value of the lot which he has received, to be determined according to the rules and procedure to that effect fixed by the Refugee Settlement Commission;

(c) An amount for interest on the debt due, at such rate or rates as the Commission may determine, subject to the conditions of Article 13 below.

(iii) On the credit side of the account will be entered all payments made to the Refugee Settlement Commission on account of the debt, and also all amounts equivalent to the nominal value of any bonds deposited by the refugee concerned as security for the payment of his debt and to be transferred to the Hellenic Government under Article 9 above.

(iv) All debit and credit entries in the refugees' accounts will be made in sterling.

12. As regards refugees to whom "professional loans" have been granted, and agricultural refugees other than agricultural refugees exchanged in accordance with the terms of the Convention of Lausanne for the Exchange of Populations, the debt due to the Refugee Settlement Commission shall be determined in the manner stated in Article 9, clause (ii), sub-clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d). On the credit side of the account will be entered all payments made to the Refugee Settlement Commission on account of the debt, and also all amounts equivalent to the nominal value of any bonds deposited by the refugee concerned as security for the payment of his debt and to be transferred to the Hellenic Government under Article 9 above.

13. The Refugee Settlement Commission, after consultation with the Hellenic Government, will fix the rate of interest to be charged upon the debts from the urban and from the agricultural refugees to the Commission.

14. The debts due to the Refugee Settlement Commission by the agricultural refugees will, from such date as may be agreed upon, be collected by the Agricultural Bank, in accordance with a Convention to be made between that Bank, the Hellenic Government, and the Refugee Settlement Commission. The conclusion of this Convention, including such Parliamentary authorisation thereto as may be necessary under the Hellenic Constitution, shall be effected before December 31st, 1930.



15. The debts due by the urban refugees to the Refugee Settlement Commission will be collected by the National Bank of Greece or the Bank of Greece, from such date as may be agreed upon, in accordance with a Convention to be made between the Bank concerned, the Hellenic Government, and the Refugee Settlement Commission. The conclusion of this Convention, including such Parliamentary authorisation thereto as may be necessary under the Hellenic Constitution, shall be effected before December 31st, 1930.

16. From the collections made by the Agricultural Bank, the Bank shall pay, each six months, commencing on April 20th, 1931, to the International Financial Commission, the sum of £26,000. This sum will be applied, in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 below, to the extraordinary amortisation of the Refugee Loan of 1924.

17. From the collections made by the National Bank of Greece or the Bank of Greece, the collecting bank shall pay, each six months, commencing on April 20th, 1931, to the International Financial Commission, the sum of £4,000. This sum will be applied, in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 below, to the extraordinary amortisation of the Refugee Loan of 1924.

18. The Hellenic Government undertakes that, if the sums mentioned in Articles 16 and 17 above are not so paid, or to the extent that they are not so paid, on or prior to the due dates, it will pay these sums, or the portion of these sums remaining unpaid, immediately to the International Financial Commission to be applied in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 below, to the extraordinary amortisation of the Refugee Loan of 1924. The total sum so payable, each six months, in default of any payment by the two banks, is £30,000. The Hellenic Government also undertakes, and will, prior to December 31st, 1930, communicate an irrevocable mandate to this effect to the International Financial Commission, that, if the sums so due are not paid in full on the due dates by the Banks, or by the Hellenic Government, then the International Financial Commission is authorised and required to pay any deficit from the proceeds of the pledged revenues, as detailed in Schedule A appended hereto, then in its possession. The right of priority of this charge upon the pledged revenues will rank immediately after the charge on these revenues existing at the date of signature of this Convention.

19. The liability of the Banks and of the Hellenic Government, and the mandate to the International Financial Commission, referred to in Articles 16, 17 and 18 above, will continue in force until the Refugee Loan of 1924 has been completely repaid. Provided always that, if the total amount payable and paid by the refugees to either bank during a period of six months shall be less than the sum mentioned in Article 16 or Article 17, as the case may be, the balance shall nevertheless be paid by the Hellenic Government, or, if necessary, be procured by the International Financial Commission from the assigned revenues in accordance with Article 18.

Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights of the Hellenic Government specified in Article XIX of the Agreement concluded between the Hellenic Government, Hambro's Bank and the National Bank of Greece, dated December 4th, 1924, and the Agreement concluded between the Hellenic Government and Messrs. Speyer and Co., dated December 16th, 1924.

20. The amount of £30,000, payable each six months for extraordinary amortisation under the provisions of Articles 16, 17 and 18 above, shall be applied in redeeming bonds of the Refugee Loan of 1924 by half-yearly drawings at par. The resulting redemption of bonds shall not reduce the amount of the fixed half-yearly payments due thereafter for the ordinary service of the loan, but shall operate cumulatively to increase the amount available for extraordinary amortisation under the present Convention; that is to say, that the amount applied to extraordinary amortisation in respect of the second and each succeeding half-year shall be the aforementioned sum of £30,000 increased by an amount equal to the interest due on the bonds which have been redeemed in the previous half-years in execution of the present Convention.

21. The Hellenic Government undertakes, prior to December 31st, 1930, to enact such legislation as may be necessary in order to secure for the Refugee Settlement Commission, and eventually for the refugees established by the Refugee Settlement Commission, a clear and indisputable title as full owner to the lands on which they have been established, and to the sites, and the lands appertaining to these sites, on which houses have been built for refugees. This obligation does not apply to leased lands on which refugees have been established. That particular case will form the subject of a special arrangement to be concluded between the Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission.

22. The cadastre now in course of preparation will, by legislative enactment, be declared definitive as regards the possession by the Refugee Settlement Commission of its lands, shown on the cadastre. The allotments made by the cadastre to individual refugees will be declared valid, and binding on the Hellenic Government.

The enactment required by this article will be made prior to December 31st, 1930.

23. The Hellenic Government undertakes that this Convention shall receive such ratification by the Hellenic Parliament as may be necessary under the Constitution in order to render it authoritative, and binding upon the Hellenic Government.

24. In the event of any difference as to the interpretation of this Convention, the opinion of the Council of the League of Nations will be accepted.

25. The Hellenic Government and the Refugee Settlement Commission shall be entitled to carry out the provisions of the present Convention so soon as it shall have been finally concluded, but any measures taken in execution of the Convention shall be provisional, until the Convention shall have been approved by the Council of the League of Nations.

DONE at Geneva on the twenty-fourth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty, in a single copy, which shall be deposited with the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

For and on behalf  
of the Hellenic Government:

(Signed) A. PAPADATOS.

For and on behalf  
of the Refugee Settlement Commission:

(Signed) Charles B. EDDY,  
*Chairman.*

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SCHEDULE A.

- (1) The monopolies of New Greece, *i.e.*, salt, matches, playing-cards and cigarette paper;
  - (2) The Customs receipts received at the Customs of Canea, Candia, Samos, Chios, Mitylene, Syra;
  - (3) The tobacco duty in New Greece;
  - (4) The stamp duty in New Greece;
  - (5) The duty on alcohol in the whole of Greece;
  - (6) Any surplus of the revenues already assigned to the International Financial Commission, subject always to existing charges on such surplus.
-