

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit

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PASSPORT SYSTEM

REPLIES FROM GOVERNMENTS

to the

Enquiry on the Application of the Recommendations  
of the Passport Conference of 1926.

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GENEVA, 1937



LN.VIII.1.(11)

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

Official No. : **C. 356. M. 241.** 1937. VIII.  
[C.C.T.652(1).]

Geneva, August 31st, 1937.

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Series of League of Nations Publications
VIII. TRANSIT
1937. VIII. 4.

4957163



## LEAGUE OF NATIONS

### Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit

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## PASSPORT SYSTEM

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### RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY UNDERTAKEN REGARDING THE APPLICATION BY GOVERNMENTS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PASSPORT CONFERENCE OF 1926<sup>1</sup>

In accordance with the request of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations forwarded to Governments, under date of September 2nd, 1936, a Circular Letter, as follows :

“ C.L.160.1936.VIII.

“The Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit has considered the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Tourist Traffic, which was set up by the Economic Committee and which met from October 21st to 24th, 1935.

“The Sub-Committee, when considering the various means of promoting and developing the international tourist traffic, examined the present position in respect of passports or documents in lieu of passports. It drew attention to the recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference held in Geneva in 1926, to which it would be desirable, in its opinion, that the various countries should as far as possible conform. While noting that these recommendations have led to a considerable simplification of formalities in this connection, the Sub-Committee drew attention to the possible effect upon the international tourist traffic of the practice in certain countries of making a high charge for the issue of passports.

“Generally speaking, the Sub-Committee holds that, from the point of view of the international tourist traffic, it

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.320.M.119.1926.VIII.

would be highly desirable that the position existing before 1914 should be restored. This position was characterised by an absence of restrictions, and tourists were not obliged to provide themselves with passports.

“ The Sub-Committee also drew attention to the progress already made, either by independent action or bilateral agreements, in various countries which have reciprocally exempted their nationals from the necessity of producing passports or have agreed to replace passports by some other paper indicating nationality — e.g., tourist cards, identity cards, collective lists, in lieu of passports, etc.

“ The Advisory and Technical Committee, after examining at its nineteenth session (November 1935) the report of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Tourist Traffic and referring to the considerations put forward by the said Sub-Committee regarding the difficulties caused to the tourist traffic by the present passport system, instructed the Secretariat to enquire of the Governments concerned the actual position in regard to the application of the recommendations of the Passport Conference, held at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926.

“ In order to give effect to this decision of the Advisory and Technical Committee, the Secretary-General has the honour to request the Government of . . . to inform him to what extent it is at present applying the recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference held at Geneva in 1926. These recommendations are reproduced in the Final Act of the Conference (document C.320.M.119.1926.VIII).

“ Geneva, September 2nd, 1936. ”

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FROM GOVERNMENTS**

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**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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November 3rd, 1936.

The recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference, held at Geneva from May 12th to 18th, 1926, are being applied by the Government of the Union of South Africa.

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## AUSTRALIA

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May 3rd, 1937.

### A. *Issue of Passports.*

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

2. *Duration of Validity.* — Australian passports are, as a rule, made valid for a period of five years from the date of issue.

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

4. *Fees.* — A fee of £1 is charged for an Australian passport.

### B. *Visas.*

1. The Commonwealth Government is a party to arrangements made by the British Government with the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland for the mutual abolition of visa requirements.

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

3. There are facilities at each port of embarkation in Australia for aliens to obtain visas for British countries. No difficulty is placed in the way of aliens not domiciled in the particular areas from obtaining visas and personal attendance is not insisted upon.

4. In ordinary circumstances, there is no necessity for an applicant for a visa to prove the necessity of a journey.

5. Visas granted in Australia are usually made valid for twelve months. Transit visas are made valid for any number of journeys within a period of twelve months.

6. The recommendation does not affect Australia.

7. A fee of 8s. is charged for an ordinary visa and 2s. for a transit visa.

8. No distinction is made in the fees chargeable either on account of nationality or route followed.

9. Provision for exemption from passport and visa fees has been made in the Passport Regulations.

10. The Minister has power to grant a visa free of charge, but cases of the nature mentioned would seldom arise in Australia.

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

There are facilities in Australia for travellers to obtain passports, documents of identity and visas at all the ports of embarkation for overseas, and there is therefore no necessity for applicants to make special journeys for the purpose. The practice is also followed of granting visas with the least possible delay.

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

This matter does not affect Australia.

With regard to Sections 3 and 4 and the Annex, the position is still as indicated in the Australian Government's letter of August 26th, 1928.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.

## AUSTRIA

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[Translation.]

January 6th, 1937.

The Austrian Government, as already stated in its letter of September 29th, 1928,<sup>1</sup> had — even before the Second Passport Conference — adopted most of the regulations which were later the formulated recommendations in the Final Act of the Conference on May 18th, 1926.

Only the recommendation concerning the duration of the validity of visas could not be applied ; the latter are — it is true — granted in Austria for one year only, but as they are generally applied to foreign passports in the form of stamps of different colours, their issue is considerably facilitated.

In the meantime, a new formula for passports has been issued, in which the words “*République d’Autriche*” (*Republik Oesterreich*) are replaced by “*Autriche*” (*Bundesstaat Oesterreich*). Account is thus taken of the change which has taken place from the point of view of constitutional law.

As in the past, the fee charged for the issue of passports is not fiscal in character.

The efforts to increase the number of States in respect of which visas were abolished, have been continued. On the strength of reciprocal agreements, the nationals of the following States may enter and leave Austria without a visa, merely on the presentation of a valid national passport :

Albania, Belgium, Brazil, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Danzig, Denmark and Iceland, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Vatican City. As regards Greece, the nationals of both countries, as the result of a reciprocal agreement, do not require transit visas.

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.

The States enumerated above likewise allow Austrian nationals — with certain exceptions relating to colonies and other overseas possessions — to enter their territory without a visa.

Belgian nationals may, however, enter and leave Austria without a visa, whereas Austrians are still obliged to have their passports visaed before being admitted to Belgium.

The Austrian Federal Government is still, as formerly, doing all in its power to simplify the procedure of issuing passports and visas, particularly in the interests of the tourist traffic.

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## BELGIUM

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[Translation.]

September 14th, 1936.

In accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference held at Geneva in 1926, the Belgian Government issues to its nationals passports which are valid for all foreign countries for periods of three months or two years.

The passport for three months consists of fourteen pages, and that for two years of thirty pages.

The stamp duty for the issue of these documents is at present 50 Belgian francs for the three-month passport, and 200 Belgian francs for the two-year passport.

As a result of agreements concluded with foreign Governments and based, in general, on the principle of reciprocity, nationals of France, Luxemburg, Monaco and the Netherlands do not require passports or visas in order to enter Belgium.

However, the persons concerned must carry an official document of identity, stating their nationality and bearing a recent photograph.

With a view to encouraging tourist traffic, officials of the Belgian Foreign Office issue what is known as a tourist card to nationals of the above countries, to enable them to enter the country. The price of the card is 1 belga — *i.e.*, 5 Belgian francs ; it is valid until December 31st of the year of issue.

Subjects of the countries mentioned below do not require a Belgian Consular visa, and are allowed into the country on the production of a valid national passport :

South Africa, Australia, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Iceland, Ecuador, Finland, Italy, Japan, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Principality of Liechtenstein, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, and the Vatican City.

Finally, likewise with a view to encouraging tourist traffic, the Belgian Government authorises the issue of collective visas

at reduced prices for persons travelling in groups, who, on account of their nationality, are obliged to obtain Belgian Consular visas.

The fee charged for issuing a collective visa is based on the number of persons travelling in a group, and amounts, per person, to one-tenth of the individual fee, with a minimum total charge of 15 belgas.

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**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

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December 15th, 1936.

A. *Issue of Passports.*

1. *Type of Passport.* — The United Kingdom form of passport is the “international” type recommended.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — United Kingdom passports are valid for five years and are renewable for a further five years.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — In almost all cases, United Kingdom passports are made valid for the British Empire and all countries in Europe. They are endorsed as valid for additional groups of countries where desired and where circumstances permit.

4. *Fees.* — The fee for a United Kingdom passport valid for five years is 15s. and for renewal for a further five years, 10s. The average cost over the period of ten years is thus 2s. 6d. per annum.

B. *Visas.*

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom carry out the recommendations in paragraphs (3), (6) and (8) and in the second sub-paragraph of paragraph (10). With regard to the other paragraphs, the position is as follows :

(1) His Majesty's Government agree in principle and they have, as far as they consider desirable, concluded agreements for the abolition of visas. Entrance and transit visas have been treated alike.

(2) No objection is ordinarily raised to foreign passengers proceeding ashore during the stay of their ship in port (whether in possession of visas, where normally required, or not). They are, however, required to leave again on the same ship on which they arrived, and are not permitted to prolong their stay in order to proceed by another ship or by another route unless

specific leave to do so is granted. Aliens who arrive in possession of "in-transit" visas are required to comply with the conditions of the visa.

(4) In view of the regulations governing the entry of aliens into the United Kingdom the necessity for a journey to this country must ordinarily be disclosed by the applicant for a visa.

(5) His Majesty's Government give effect to the whole of this recommendation with the exception that the period of the validity of a visa is restricted to one year.

(7) The practice of His Majesty's Government is to charge 10 francs (gold) and 1 franc (gold) for ordinary and transit visas respectively, both valid for one year, except in cases where foreign Governments charge a different fee for visas granted to British subjects. In such cases, His Majesty's Government charge a reciprocal fee. His Majesty's Government do not charge a lower fee (such as 5 francs (gold) suggested in the recommendation) for a single journey visa.

(9) His Majesty's Government do not act on this recommendation but, in general, prefer to deal with individual cases as they arise.

(10) His Majesty's Government do not act on the recommendation in the first sub-paragraph. It is, however, their practice to transfer free of charge to a new passport an existing valid visa on an expired passport for the unexpired period of the original visa.

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

The facilities provided by His Majesty's Government are ample and expeditious. In the great majority of cases, passports may be obtained through the post and there is no necessity for the applicant to appear in person.

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

This section appears to concern primarily those countries into which entry is made by train. There is only one route by which entry into the United Kingdom may be regarded as taking place in this way, namely the sleeping-car portion of the Dunkerque-Dover train ferry service. In this case, the examination takes place on the arrival of the train at the London railway terminus so that passengers shall not be disturbed during the night. On the short sea-crossings from France (Calais-Dover and Boulogne-Folkestone) the examination of as many passengers as possible is conducted during the crossing, and this practice is also followed in the case of some of the large



transatlantic liners calling at French and Irish ports *en route* to the United Kingdom when the number of passengers renders this course desirable. In all other cases, the examination of passengers takes place immediately on their arrival in the United Kingdom at the port, and every effort is made to effect this with as little delay and inconvenience as possible. It is understood that the examination of baggage by the Customs authorities invariably takes place either at the port or, in certain circumstances, on arrival in London.

It should be added that, in the case of the United Kingdom, the foreign passengers themselves, and not merely their passports, have to be examined before permission can be given them to proceed. This course is rendered necessary by the requirements of the Aliens Order, 1920, under which no alien may land in the United Kingdom from abroad except with the leave of an Immigration Officer.

*Annex to the Final Act.*

His Majesty's Government have adopted all the suggestions in the Annex. As regards family passports, however, the practice of His Majesty's Immigration officers is to accept this form of document as satisfactory evidence of the nationality and identity of any member of the family whose name and photograph appear thereon, whether the person is accompanied by the head of the family or not.

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## BULGARIA

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*[Translation.]*

November 23rd, 1936.

The new law on passports has simplified, in so far as possible, the police formalities connected with the passports of foreigners coming to the country for a visit or as tourists. Travellers of both these categories get the benefit of a consular entrance visa free of charge ; and their registration by the police authorities of watering-places and holiday resorts is carried out without payment of a fee for identity cards, and without the necessity of providing photographs for those cards. The formality of a police visa for leaving the country has also been dispensed with in the case of such foreign travellers.

The tourist visa gives the right to a reduction of 50% in the fares on Bulgarian State railways.

Foreigners travelling on a foreign boat have the right, on arriving in one of the Bulgarian ports on the Black Sea, to remain in the country for five days on the presentation of a certified list by the captain of the ship to the port authorities.

The same law also provides many facilities for travellers going from Bulgaria to foreign countries, in particular by simplifying formalities and reducing fees for the issue of passports, abolishing the obligation to present a certificate to the taxation authorities, etc. Further, in order to encourage tourist traffic and to facilitate the travels of Bulgarians wishing to visit foreign countries for tourist purposes, the new law on passports has established "group passports". Their moderate price places them within the reach of all classes of tourists.

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## CANADA

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April 29th, 1937.

The practice existing in Canada is so nearly identical with the recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference that it was not necessary at the time to take any measures to give effect to the recommendations.

Regarding the fee charged for passports, it is stated to be practically the same as that in existence previous to 1914.

In relation to the tourist traffic, it is gathered that the existing regulations call for passports to be presented only by immigrants and not by tourists.

Most of the tourists entering Canada come from the United States of America and the United States tourists do not carry passports.

In the case of tourists coming from the United Kingdom and from most, if not all, of the European countries, they require passports to return home, hence they carry the said documents and usually present them to the Canadian Immigration Officials, although they are not necessary, according to the Canadian regulations.

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## CHINA

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February 22nd, 1937.

The Chinese Government is in favour of the views expressed in the recommendations of the Passport Conference of 1926. It has long ago granted, on the basis of reciprocity, to nationals of other countries facilities for the passage of frontiers, which are in conformity with the spirit of the recommendations.

### *Facilities to be granted.*

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

(1) The type of passport adopted by the Chinese Government is identical with the model recommended by the Passport Conference and its full particulars are as follows :

(a) Passports are made of paper of high quality bearing filigrams in order to prevent forgery ;

(b) Each passport has sixteen pages, each of which is numbered ;

(c) The cover of passports bears the name of the country which issues them. The names of their bearers, their destination, the routes of journey, etc., are mentioned in the passports. Each passport has its number ;

(d) Visas are given by the competent passport authorities in case the applications are made in China and by the diplomatic or consular authorities in case the applications are made abroad ;

(e) Stamps affixed to passports occupy only very small spaces but can be easily seen.

(2) The duration of the validity of passports is three years.

(4) The fee charged for the issue of a passport is two Chinese dollars and a reduction of 50% is granted for students or workers.

B. *Visas.*

(1) In China, as in many other countries, entrance and transit visas are required, but the formalities for obtaining them are simple.

(2) Travellers who pass in transit through China are allowed to stay in the country, provided they have obtained the necessary visas ; the formalities for obtaining such visas are similar to those existing in other countries.

(3) The Chinese Government has promulgated “ Regulations governing the Examination of Passports of Foreigners at their Entry into China ” and “ Rules for the Application of these Regulations ”. Any foreigner entering China must observe them.

(4) The validity of the duration of either entrance or transit visas is one year. During the validity of these visas, the number of entries into China is not limited.

(5) Owing to the existence of certain treaties between China and foreign countries at present, foreigners who are granted either entrance or transit visas are only entitled to stay in “ treaty ports ”.

(6) With the exception of cases dealt with according to the principle of reciprocity, the fee charged for a visa is 10 Chinese dollars, which amount does not exceed that suggested by the Passport Conference.

C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

The Chinese Government has made the formalities for obtaining passports and visas as simple as possible in order to give facilities to travellers.

D. *Control at Frontiers.*

The control of passports at frontiers (land, water or air) is carried out by the local Chinese administrative authorities, but the formalities of control are very simple.

## DENMARK

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[Translated from the Danish.]

January 4th, 1937.

In a communication dated November 22nd, 1928,<sup>1</sup> the Danish Government gave the League of Nations Secretariat particulars of the arrangements made up to that time regarding the recommendations of the Passport Conference. The following supplementary information may now be given :

As regards No. 1 of the recommendations, regarding facilities for crossing frontiers, reference may now be made to the attached <sup>2</sup> circular of the Ministry of Justice, dated May 3rd, 1934, concerning the issue of " joint " passports (*foellespas*) for Danish subjects.

An Agreement has been concluded between Denmark and Germany with regard to journeys in virtue of " joint " passports for Danish and German nationals when travelling as tourists between those countries. Such " joint " passports need not be visaed by the authorities of the country which the tourist is entering.

Under the attached <sup>2</sup> Order No. 181, of May 21st, 1930 (see Notice No. 2, also attached,<sup>2</sup> dated January 2nd, 1933, issued by the Ministry of Justice), Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish nationals are allowed to enter Denmark from Swedish ports (including airports) by the routes Kullen-Malmö to Elsinore or to Copenhagen, or the airport there, or from Simrishamn or Ystad to Bornholm, or from the port or airport of Gothenburg to Fredrikshavn or to the port or airport of Copenhagen, without possessing a passport or other identification paper, and may remain in Denmark for not more than three months.

In accordance with the attached Circular No. 64,<sup>3</sup> dated May 29th, 1929, issued by the Ministry of Justice, an Agreement

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.

<sup>2</sup> These documents may be consulted in the archives of the Secretariat.

<sup>3</sup> This circular may be consulted in the archives of the Secretariat.

has been reached between Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Sweden, to the effect that nationals of one of those countries may enter the others without possessing a passport, provided only that they hold a so-called "Northern travelling-card" (*Nordisk Rejsekort*).

This travelling-card is issued, not only by the ordinary passport-issuing authorities, but also by parish officers (*sognefogeder*) and post offices. It costs 25 øre, and is valid for six months. For a stay in Denmark of more than three months from the time of entry, however, a permit of residence is required.

In accordance with a decision of the Ministry of Justice, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish nationals may enter Denmark without a passport or travelling card if they possess a motor-vehicle driving licence, provided that such licence indicates their nationality, or that in the circumstances the licence-holder may be assumed to be a Finnish, Norwegian or Swedish national, as the case may be. The persons concerned need not have a motor-vehicle with them.

At a Conference between Denmark and Germany held at Lübeck on May 22nd-25th, 1929, an Agreement was concluded to the effect that Danish and German nationals, wherever they live, may enter or leave their countries via the Gedser-Warnermünde ferry, provided only they have an "excursion" card. This card, which is valid for three days, is issued for a fee of 10 øre or Reichspfennig. The area covered by "excursion" cards in Denmark is Zealand, Lolland, Falster and Møen.

There is a similar excursion traffic across the land frontier and in the Flensburg Fjord. The excursion area here on the Danish side includes the provinces of Tønder, Aabenraa and Sonderborg.

With reference to the recommendations under II B, regarding visas, it may be remarked that, since the communication of November 22nd, 1928, Denmark has concluded an Agreement for the abolition of visas with Czechoslovakia, Danzig, Estonia, the United States of America and Siam.

Lastly, the object of the Government's policy is that the control of passports and visas should be carried out in the most rapid and convenient manner possible in the case of genuine tourists.

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## ESTONIA

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[*Translation.*]

January 11th, 1937.

Since the Estonian Government's letter of November 16th, 1928,<sup>1</sup> the following changes have been made in the passport system in Estonia :

A. *Issue of Passports.*

2. The duration of validity of passports for foreign countries has been extended, by a Law of June 12th, 1930, from one year to five.

B. *Visas.*

(7) As visa fees have undergone considerable change, the Minister takes the liberty of enclosing a new list (see Appendix) of the fees now charged, by the Estonian authorities concerned, on the basis of reciprocity.

(10) Compulsory exit visas have been abolished by the Regulation of July 11th, 1930, relating to frontier traffic and the residence of foreigners in Estonia.

With regard to possible improvements in the standard international passports, the practice of entering surnames and Christian names of passport-holders in English roundhand, instead of in the Roman characters formerly used, has been introduced.

### Appendix.

#### RATES OF VISA FEES PROVIDED FOR BY RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS.

1. *Germany.* — Visas have been abolished since May 15th, 1929, except for collective passports, for which visas are granted free of charge.

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.



2. *Argentine.* — Entrance visa and transit visa : 5 gold pesos.
3. *Austria.* — Visas have been abolished since April 1st, 1929, except for collective passports, for which visas are granted free of charge.
4. *Belgium.* — Entrance visa allowing two days' stay : 5 belgas ; transit visa not allowing holder to stay in the country : 1.50 belgas ; visa for several journeys, valid for one month : 7.50 belgas ; for three months : 15 belgas, and for one year : 30 belgas.
5. *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.* — Entrance visa : 10 gold francs ; transit visa : 1 gold franc. Entrance and transit visas are valid for several journeys in the course of one year.
6. *Denmark.* — Visas have been abolished since April 1st, 1932.
7. *Danzig.* — Visas have been abolished since September 1st, 1935.
8. *Egypt.* — Entrance visa : 10 gold francs ; transit visa 1 gold franc. Entrance and transit visas are valid for several journeys in the course of one year.
9. *United States of America.* — Visas free of charge for several journeys in the course of one year ; for immigrants : 50 gold francs.
10. *Finland.* — Visas have been abolished since June 1st, 1929, except that visas are required, and granted free of charge, for collective passports. For frontier traffic, a special system has been established making foreign passports unnecessary.
11. *France.* — Entrance visa for several journeys in the course of a year : 10 gold francs ; transit visa : 1 gold franc.
12. *Italy.* — Visas have been abolished since April 1st, 1923.
13. *Japan.* — Visas have been abolished since May 1st, 1929.
14. *Latvia.* — Visas have been abolished since December 1st, 1925. For frontier traffic, a special system has been established making passports unnecessary.
15. *Lithuania.* — Visas were abolished by an agreement dated May 24th, 1937.
16. *Liechtenstein.* — Visas have been abolished since June 1st, 1929.
17. *Luxemburg.* — Entrance visa : 10 gold francs ; transit visa : 1 gold franc.
18. *Norway.* — Visas have been abolished since March 1st, 1931.

19. *Netherlands*. — Visas have been abolished since April 1st, 1923, except in the case of persons travelling in the Netherlands colonies, to whom visas are granted free of charge.

20. *Poland*. — Entrance visas for a single journey : 15 gold francs ; for several journeys in the course of one year : 23 gold francs ; visas for collective passports (at least ten persons in each group) : 3 gold francs for each person mentioned on the passport ; transit visas for a single journey : 1.50 gold francs ; for a journey with a collective passport (at least ten persons in each group) : 0.60 gold franc for each person mentioned on the passport ; for two journeys : 3 gold francs ; for two journeys with a collective passport (at least ten persons in each group) : 1 gold franc per person ; for several journeys in the course of one year : 8 gold francs.

21. *Roumania*. — Entrance visa for a journey lasting thirty days : 10 gold francs ; transit visa allowing for a stay of 48 hours : 5 gold francs, and for an unbroken journey : 1 gold franc ; for collective passports (ten persons) : half the fees mentioned above per person ; for collective passports of sports teams of at least ten persons : 20 gold francs.

22. *Sweden*. — Entrance visa for a single journey or several journeys in the course of one year : 5 gold francs ; transit visa : 1 gold franc.

23. *Switzerland*. — Visas have been abolished since June 1st, 1929.

24. *Czechoslovakia*. — Visas have been abolished since July 1st, 1929, except for collective passports, for which visas are granted free of charge.

25. *Turkey*. — Entrance visa : 5 Turkish pounds ; transit visa : 2 Turkish pounds ; visas for collective passports : 0.50 Turkish pound per person ; visas for officers, soldiers, students and school-children, and for paupers, are issued free of charge.

26. *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*. — Entrance visas and transit visas : 30 gold francs.

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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February 11th, 1937.

### SECTION 1. — GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. *Passport Regime.*

The recommendations of the League of Nations that the passage of frontiers should be facilitated by means of bilateral agreements or agreements between more than two countries has been noted. The United States Government has made arrangements with its two neighbours, Canada and Mexico, to facilitate the examination of passengers on through trains crossing the international borders. These facilities are now in effect and have proved themselves to be of considerable assistance to international border travel, as far as the United States and its two neighbouring countries are concerned.

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

There is given below a statement of the extent to which the recommendations adopted by the Conference have been followed in the issue of American passports.

No. 1. — *Type of Passport.* — The following is a comparison of the practice of the American Government in issuing passports with the procedure for the issue of passports (international type) recommended by the Conference :

##### International Type of Passport.

*Booklet* bound in cardboard,  $4\frac{1}{8}$  inches by  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches, 32 numbered pages (28 pages for visas).

*Cover* should bear the name of the holder (at the top), the coat of arms (in the centre), the word " *Passport* ", the name of the country issuing the passport and the serial number of the passport.

##### American Passport.

*Booklet*,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches by  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches, 32 numbered pages (26 pages for visas).

*Cover* shows serial number through slot at top, the word " *Passport* ", coat of arms and words " *United States of America* ", omitting only the name of the holder.

International Type of Passport.

*Language.* — Should be drawn up in at least two languages — *i.e.*, in the national language and in French.

*Personal description :*

Name.  
Date and place of birth.  
Occupation.  
Domicile.  
Height.  
Face.  
Colour of eyes.  
Colour of hair.  
Distinguishing marks.

*Renewals.* — A full page should be left for renewals immediately following the page on which the period of validity is shown.

*Family Passports.* — Head of family may travel alone with such a passport but it cannot be used by his wife and children travelling without him.

*Additional Pages.* — When all of the pages of a passport have been used, it should be withdrawn and a new passport issued. Additional pages or slips should not be used.

*Miscellaneous Entries.* — Sufficient space should be provided for full name of the holder.

Christian names and surnames should be written either in block capitals or what is known as English roundhand.

Surname should be underlined.

*Personal Description of Wife and Children.* — The international passport provides space for a complete personal description of the wife whose name is included in the passport of her husband.

In the case of minor children included in the passport, the age and sex is given.

American Passport.

English only.

Same, except that there is no space for mention of shape of face or domicile.

Same.

This Government interposes no obstacle to the use of a family passport by a wife or children included therein.

The Department and consuls abroad occasionally insert additional pages.

Space in an American passport is sufficient generally only to show Christian name, middle initial, if any, and the surname.

American passports are at present written by special passport writing machines instead of by longhand.

This is not done.

The American passport is deficient in this respect. It has space for the name only of the wife (in addition to her photograph) and the names of the children (and their photographs).

It will be seen that the American passport conforms in most particulars to the "international" model. It differs mainly with respect to description of the persons included in the holder's

passport, the language of the text, the name on the cover, and the fact that the entries are made on the passport by machine instead of by longhand.

No. 2. — *Duration of Validity.* — An American passport is valid for two years from date of issue unless limited for a shorter period and may be renewed for a period of two years, but the final date of expiration shall not be more than four years from the original date of issue.

No. 3. — *Extent of Validity.* — All American “regular” passports bear the printed notation that the passport is “good for travel in all countries, unless otherwise limited”.

No. 4. — *Fees.* — The following fees are required by law for the issue of an American passport.

Nine dollars for the passport and one dollar for the execution of an application therefor : Total 10 dollars. This sum exceeds the cost of the manufacture of the document and of its issue. A fee of five dollars is charged for the renewal of a passport.

*Convention entered into at Buenos Aires in 1935 relative to the creation of a Pan-American Tourist Passport.*

The Pan-American Commercial Conference held at Buenos Aires, Argentine, in 1935, adopted a Convention relative to the creation of a Pan-American tourist passport. The Convention contains a definition of a tourist and calls upon the signatory Governments to adopt a Pan-American tourist passport which shall be valid in all countries signatory of the Convention. Each of the signatory States has the right to issue the passport to its native born or naturalised citizens as well as to those of the other signatory countries with previous verification by the competent authorities of the economic solvency and moral character of the persons concerned, the document to be issued free of charge. The Convention also calls for the elimination of taxes as applied to tourists and provides that visas are to be issued gratis and may be issued without requiring the presence of the interested persons.

The delegation of the United States, while viewing with sympathy the efforts which the countries of America were making to establish the terms of a Convention which has as its object the providing of facilities for the movement of tourists, native born and naturalised, of each of the countries, regretted not being able to subscribe to the Convention. However, the delegation took advantage of the opportunity to make a formal statement indicating the willingness of this Government to enter into bilateral agreements, with each and every one of the countries represented at the conference, to reduce to the minimum and even to suppress fees, visas and the requirement of passports and other formalities.

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It was pointed out that arrangements have been made between the United States and several countries, members of the Pan-American Union, by which passport visa fees are waived, and in some instances all passport requirements abolished. The delegation stated that the United States was favourably disposed to any measure consistent with our national legislation which might encourage a greater development of tourist travel among the American nations.

## B. *Visas.*

1. With reference to the recommendation for the abolition of entrance and transit visas, the United States Government is required by the Immigration Act of 1924 to require immigration visas as a prerequisite to the entry of all aliens into the United States for permanent residence. There is no legal authority, therefore, for dispensing with immigration visas, which have been considered by the Congress as necessary for the proper control of immigration. As regards the requirement of passport visas or transit certificates, for persons coming to the United States as temporary visitors or in transit, there is also a general requirement that non-immigrants must present passport visas or transit certificates in order to enter the United States. This requirement is provided for in Executive Order No. 6986 of March 9th, 1935, and is based on the provisions of the Act of May 22nd, 1918, as extended by the Act of March 2nd, 1921. However, there are certain exceptions provided in the Executive Order, which relieve certain classes of aliens from the requirement of passport visas or transit certificates. These classes include through passengers on vessels in United States ports, children born of parents holding valid passport visas or transit certificates, persons already admitted into the United States who go in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory, and non-immigrants who are nationals of certain nearby countries, islands or territories of the western hemisphere.

Persons coming within the last-mentioned groups are not required to present passports, visas or transit certificates in order to enter the United States temporarily.

2. As regards facilities for travellers to break their journey in the United States even though their passports bear no transit visa, it should be noted, as stated above, that citizens of the principal countries and territories neighbouring the United States do not require passport or visa documentation in order to visit the United States. Nationals of other countries are required to present at the port of entry, in order to visit the United States, either passport visas or transit certificates with

the minor exceptions noted above, such as passengers on vessels who land at United States ports while the vessel is calling at such ports.

3. As regards the jurisdiction of American diplomatic and consular officers, the United States Government has adopted a liberal policy towards the acceptance of visa applications by its officials abroad. Such applications are usually made in the district of the applicant's domicile, but if good reason can be shown for making such application in another country or consular district, there is usually no difficulty in the acceptance of the applications. As to the recommendation that applicants for transit visas should not generally be required to appear in person, it may be stated that, under United States consular regulations, applications for transit certificates are made under oath and that, consequently, the personal appearance of the applicant will be required, except in the case of minor children under 18 years of age, where the application may be made by either parent or by a properly qualified guardian. Special provision is made for dispensing with the personal appearance of duly qualified applicants for diplomatic or official visas.

4. With reference to the recommendation that the necessity of the journey need not be proved by visa applicants in any but exceptional cases, the following comment is made: As regards applicants for immigration visas, the emphasis is laid by consular officers, not on the necessity for the journey, but as to whether the applicant is admissible into the United States under its immigration laws — that is, that he does not belong to one of the many classes of aliens enumerated by law whose entry into the United States is prohibited. If an immigrant can establish his admissibility under the law, there is no further requirement that he prove the necessity for his journey.

As regards non-immigrants, the situation is somewhat different, since the alien must in this case prove that he has a permanent domicile abroad which he has no intention of abandoning, and that he is coming to the United States temporarily as a tourist or for business or pleasure. Here again, stress is not laid upon the necessity for the journey. The stress is laid, however, upon the temporary character of the journey and the intention of the applicant to return abroad after its completion to an unrelinquished foreign domicile.

5. As to the recommendation that both entrance and transit visas should be valid for a period of two years, the Immigration Act of 1924 requires that an immigration visa may not be valid longer than a period of four months. In practice, immigration visas are generally issued for the full four-month period. As to passport visas for temporary visitors,

American consular officers are authorised to issue such visas with a validity of one year, and good for any number of entries into the United States during that one-year period. In special circumstances, the validity of such visas may be shortened, but, generally speaking, they are valid for the full one-year period. As to transit certificates, this type of authentication is valid only for one trip through United States territory, and the approximate time of entry and departure for such trip is stamped upon the transit certificate.

In the cases of aliens having passport visas or transit certificates, the validity of such visa or certificate is made contingent upon the validity of the passport or document of identity held by the alien.

The length of time during which a non-immigrant may be permitted to reside in the United States after his entry is a question quite separate from the length of validity of the visa or transit certificate. This question is determined by the immigration authorities at the port of entry, who usually permit a temporary residence in the United States of six months or one year, with the possibilities for extending such period for good reasons.

The Department of Labour places a maximum limit of sixty days upon aliens who enter the United States with transit certificates before they are required to depart from the United States. Normally, however, holders of transit certificates are expected to depart with reasonable promptness upon the completion of their transit journey through the United States.

6. The recommendation of this section is in complete effect in the United States — that is, visas of all types are valid at all border or seaport points of entry.

7. As to the visa fees recommended, as well as to the recommendation that these fees be reduced by mutual agreement, the situation is as follows : A fee of 10 dollars is charged uniformly and without exception under the authority of the 1924 Immigration Act, for all immigration visas issued to aliens coming to the United States for permanent residence. As regards passport visas, the normal charge in this case is also 10 dollars, although, under the Act of February 25th, 1925, the American Government has been authorised by Congress to conclude bilateral agreements with all countries for the purpose of the reciprocal waiver or reduction of passport visa fees to aliens who are nationals of the one country visiting the other country.

Up to the present time, on the basis of this, the United States Government has concluded agreements with thirty countries for the complete waiver of the fee for passport visas between the two countries. These countries are as follows :



Albania	Guatemala	Mexico
Belgium	Honduras	Netherlands
Colombia	Iceland	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Iran	Norway
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Panama
Danzig, Free City of	Japan	Peru
Denmark	Latvia	Salvador
Ecuador	Liberia	Siam
Estonia	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Finland	Luxemburg	Switzerland

In addition, an arrangement has been entered into between the United States and Hungary for the waiver of fees for passport visas until March 31st, 1937. The question of extending the arrangement will be taken up in due course.

The United States Government has also concluded agreements with the following countries for a reciprocal reduction of the passport visa fee to the amounts indicated for each country named :

	Dollars
Austria . . . . .	2.00
Bulgaria . . . . .	2.00
Chile . . . . .	4.00
China . . . . .	2.50
Egypt . . . . .	2.00
France (second year, gratis)	2.00
Germany . . . . .	0.50
Lithuania . . . . .	5.00
Poland . . . . .	4.00
Spain . . . . .	1.50
Venezuela . . . . .	2.00
Yugoslavia <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2.00

The United States Government has approached all Governments in the world with which it has diplomatic relations for the purpose of effecting such agreements for the reduction or waiver of passport visa fees, and it should be noted that, in the cases of all countries not listed above, the country in question has declined to enter into such form of agreement.

As regards transit certificates, the United States Government issues such certificates gratis in all cases. It should be noted that the various agreements made by the United States Government for the waiver or reduction of passport visa fees refer

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<sup>1</sup> Similar agreements are in process of negotiation with the United Kingdom, the Irish Free State, and the Union of South Africa, to be effective April 1, 1937, covering a reciprocal reduction of passport visa fees to 2.00 dollars.

to nationals of the countries making the agreements. It should be also noted that citizens of a number of countries near the United States do not require passports or visas in order to enter the United States temporarily. The question of fees in these cases therefore does not arise.

9. The recommendation that provisions for the waiver or reduction of passport visa fees should be made in public official regulations is in complete harmony with the practice of the United States Government.

10. As regards the recommendation that, in exceptional cases, a fresh visa should be granted gratis in case a visa expires before it has been used, the United States Government has no authority under the law to make such an arrangement. It should be noted, however, that the general period of validity of both immigration visas and passport visas is a generous one and that such visas would consequently expire before their use only in very exceptional cases.

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

It is noted that the conference recommends that the issuance of passports, documents of identity and visas should be organised in such a manner as to simplify formalities and that travellers and immigrants should be spared long and costly journeys. It also recommends that visas be delivered within the shortest possible time.

With reference to the above recommendations, it is believed that the United States Government provides ample facilities for the expeditious issuance of passports, either in the United States or in American missions abroad, to American citizens who are duly qualified to receive them. As to the issuance of visas, there is generally no delay whatever in the issuance of such visas to duly qualified applicants except in instances, as regards immigrants, where quota numbers under the prescribed immigration quotas are not immediately available. In such cases, however, telegraphic communication may be used between the issuing office and the quota control office, so that, unless the quota in question is filled, the delay in such cases may be reduced to the time necessary for an exchange of telegrams.

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

The situation of the United States, as regards its frontiers, is somewhat different from most European countries and even from the majority of countries in the western hemisphere.

The United States has only two borders which divide it from the two neighbouring countries of Canada and Mexico.

Visa control formalities at these borders are in the hands of a number of immigration offices established by the Department of Labour at many convenient points of entry, either by rail or by road. Generally speaking, the organisation of these offices is such that careful regard has been given to the convenience of passengers and the delays to which duly qualified aliens are subjected in connection with their entry into the United States are reduced to an absolute minimum. This is, of course, made more feasible by the fact that all immigrants are required to be in possession of immigration visas when they come to the border, and that visitors coming from countries other than certain specified neighbouring countries are required to have passport visas issued to them previously at some American consular office.

Another facility provided for by the immigration officials at border points is the use of border crossing cards to persons habitually crossing the border, in order to save them inconvenience and delay after their first crossing has been effected.

The examination of documents held by aliens entering the United States at border points has been facilitated, in the cases of several of the principal railroad lines, by providing for the inspection of passengers on trains while such trains are in Canada.

## SECTION 2. — QUESTIONS RELATING TO EMIGRANTS.

### I. *Transit Card for Emigrants.*

This section apparently refers only to certain European countries, and it is consequently unnecessary to prepare a reply as regards the Government of the United States.

### II. *Special Identity Documents for Emigrants.*

It is noted that the Conference has not made special recommendations as regards special identity documents for emigrants, and it is consequently not believed necessary to furnish any particular comment on this subject.

## SECTION 3. — PERSONS WITHOUT NATIONALITY.

This section contains a recommendation that the League of Nations prepare and draft an arrangement based upon the principle of the introduction of an internationally recognised identity document. No comment appears necessary in regard to this section at the present time.

## SECTION 4. — MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

No special comment appears to be called for under this section.

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## FINLAND

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[Translation.]

December 21st, 1936.

### SECTION 1.

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

1. Finnish passports are of the international type.
2. Their maximum period of validity is five years.
3. The passports are valid for all countries.
4. The fees are comparatively moderate : 40 marks for six months, 60 marks for one year, and 140 marks for five years.

#### B. *Visas.*

1. Finland has attempted to abolish, on a basis of reciprocity, entrance and transit visas for the largest possible number of countries, and the results of those efforts can be seen in the attached list of countries (Appendix 1) with which arrangements to this effect have already been made.

2. The cases referred to in this paragraph are of no practical importance as far as Finland is concerned, particularly since visas have been abolished in respect of very many countries. Consequently, there are no special regulations for such cases.

3. The facilities mentioned in this paragraph can be granted under the Finnish passport system.

4. As a rule, a simple description in general terms of the object of the journey is sufficient (*e.g.*, touring, visiting relatives etc.).

5. All visas are valid for a period of three months from the date of issue. Transit visas give the right to a maximum stay

of five days, and other visas to a maximum stay of three months at any one time for a period of two years.

6. This is the case.

7. Visa fees are determined on a basis of reciprocity, and their amount is shown in detail in the attached list (Appendix 2).

8. See previous paragraph.

9. As the result of certain decrees, visas can be granted free of charge.

10. This is the case.

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

This recommendation has been followed in Finland as far as possible.

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

The case referred to does not concern Finland, since railway engines, and to a certain extent even the coaches, are changed at both the frontier railway stations in Finland, namely, Tornio and Rajajoki.

### SECTION 2.

#### I. *Transit Card for Emigrants.*

Finland has ratified the Convention in question.

### SECTION 3.

With regard to Russian refugees, Finland applies the Nansen passport system. There are no refugees coming directly from other countries, for the only possible means of communication with most other countries is by sea. For refugees coming across other countries, a visa on some kind of identification document is required.

### SECTION 4.

If delegates or agents of the League of Nations are provided with a passport issued by a country with which Finland has agreed to abolish visas, they are, of course, allowed into the country without further formalities.

### Appendix 1.

Visas have been abolished between Finland and the following countries since the date mentioned below :

Denmark and Iceland . . . . .	December 1st, 1926.
Germany . . . . .	June 1st, 1927.
Estonia . . . . .	June 1st, 1927.
Latvia . . . . .	June 1st, 1927.
Austria . . . . .	August 1st, 1927.
Japan . . . . .	April 1st, 1928.
Sweden . . . . .	May 1st, 1928.
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	May 15th, 1928.
Netherlands . . . . .	June 1st, 1928.
Belgium . . . . .	June 30th, 1928.
Norway . . . . .	December 1st, 1928.
Liechtenstein . . . . .	June 1st, 1929.
Switzerland . . . . .	June 1st, 1929.
Italy . . . . .	January 1st, 1930.
Poland (diplomatic visas only) . . . . .	June 1st, 1930.
Danzig . . . . .	August 1st, 1931.
Luxemburg . . . . .	August 1st, 1933.
Hungary . . . . .	May 1st, 1936.
Roumania (diplomatic vi- sas only) . . . . .	January 1st, 1937.
France : Abolition of visas has been adopted for a provisional period from February 1st to October 31st, 1937.	

Appendix 2.

Nationality of the passport holder	Visa fees (in Finnish marks) for		
	Single journey	Several journeys	Transit journey
United States of America :			
Non-immigrants . . . . .	free of charge	free of charge	free of charge
Immigrants . . . . .	500.—	500.— <sup>1</sup>	—
Argentina . . . . .	200.—	—	15.—
Brazil . . . . .	240.—	—	120.—
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with colonies and domi- nions . . . . .	170.—	170.— <sup>1</sup>	10.—
Bulgaria . . . . .	150.—	—	120.—
Chile . . . . .	360.—	—	15.—
China . . . . .	120.—	—	120.—
Egypt . . . . .	140.—	140.— <sup>1</sup>	15.—
France . . . . .	110.—	110.— <sup>1</sup>	10.—
Greece . . . . .	160.—	—	160.—
Lithuania . . . . .	70.—	70.— <sup>1</sup>	Free of charge for 4 days
Mexico . . . . .	260.—	—	
Poland . . . . .	220.—	430.—	20.—
Portugal . . . . .	260.—	—	260.—
Roumania . . . . .	180.—	—	35.— for an unbroken journey. 100.— for two days.
Spain . . . . .	140.—	—	15.—
Turkey . . . . .	250.—	—	70.—
U.S.S.R. . . . .	325.—	500.—	150.—
Yugoslavia . . . . .	65.—	120.— <sup>2</sup>	10.—
Russian refugees . . . . .	140.—	—	70.—
Classes of passport holders not mentioned above . . . . .	350.—	—	15.—

<sup>1</sup> Valid for one year.

<sup>2</sup> Valid for six months.

**INDIA**

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December 1st, 1936.

The Government of India is applying the recommendations of the Passport Conference of 1926, as stated in its previous communication of October 9th 1928.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.



## IRAN

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[Translation.]

July 9th, 1937.

### A. Issue of Passports.<sup>1</sup>

1. *Type of Passport.* — In Iran, there are ordinary, diplomatic and service passports.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — Ordinary Passports : (i) Passports issued for journeys from Iran to foreign countries and *vice versa* are valid for one year from the date of issue. Their validity may be extended for four more years, and the holder may travel more than once during that period.

(ii) Passports for frontier regions are issued to Iranians resident on the frontiers to enable them to travel between frontier points in Iran and those in adjacent countries, without distinction between land and sea frontiers, in accordance with the provisions of the frontier traffic Conventions concluded between Iran and adjacent countries, or with the sanction of the Iranian Government.

(iii) Passports issued to indigent Iranians resident abroad are valid for five years.

(iv) Students' passports are valid until the completion of the course of study, provided that they are annually visaed by the Iranian representative in or nearest to the holder's place of residence.

Diplomatic Passports : The period of validity of diplomatic passports is as follows :

(a) For officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and persons entrusted by the Iranian Government with special missions abroad, until the completion of their mission ;

(b) For other persons, the period of validity will be stated on the passport itself ; it will in no case exceed one year, and can only be extended with the sanction of the Cabinet.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix.

Service Passports: Service passports are valid until the completion of the holder's mission or journey.

They are issued to the following persons:

(1) Officials of consulates-general, consulates and vice-consulates, and members of their families;

(2) Certain Government officials on mission abroad and members of their families;

(3) Any person designated for the purpose by a Cabinet decree.

4. *Fees.* — In order to obtain a passport authorising him to travel abroad, the applicant must deposit at the Passport Office, against receipt, a sum sufficient to cover his return expenses and those of his companions from the country of destination to the place of issue of the passport. This deposit will be made either in cash, or in the form of an undertaking by a bank or commercial firm, or in that of a surety given by a third party, and will be used, if necessary, to pay for the applicant's repatriation by the Iranian representatives abroad. Should the applicant not require this sum in order to return to Iran, or should it be established that he has permanently settled abroad, or should he die, the deposit will be returned to him or his heirs, as the case may be, against receipt.

Government officials, Iranians domiciled abroad and students travelling under special regulations are not required to pay this deposit.

Pilgrims to Mecca must pay, in addition to the above-mentioned deposit, a sum of 50 rials to cover the cost of the medical and other assistance that they will receive from the Government. This sum, together with the deposit, will be handed to the Passport Office against receipt.

The fee for ordinary passports is 1 pahlavi; at the expiry of the first year, however, the validity may be extended for four years on payment of  $\frac{1}{2}$  pahlavi a year at home and free of charge abroad.

The fee for passports issued to inhabitants of places on the frontiers is 25 rials for one year, 15 rials for six months and 10 rials for three months.

Passports issued to indigent Iranians resident abroad, students' passports, diplomatic passports and service passports are all issued free of charge.

## B. *Visas.*

Iranian nationals proceeding abroad or returning to Iran, other than persons living in the frontier regions and authorised to travel therein, must obtain a visa immediately on arrival or

on return to Iran, from the Iranian representative, in accordance with the passport regulations.

The granting of visas for the passports and papers of foreigners wishing to visit Iran is subject to the provisions of the law on the admission and residence of aliens, and the visa fee charged is fixed on the principle of reciprocity.

Should Iranian representatives abroad refuse to recognise the validity of the passport and certificate in the possession of an applicant for a visa, they may give him a special certificate for a specified period if there is nothing to prevent his return to Iran.

The fee for a visa on an ordinary passport authorising an Iranian national to return to Iran is 15 rials.

No visa fee is charged for diplomatic passports, service passports, students' passports, passports for indigent Iranians resident abroad and ordinary passports in general on arrival at destination, or for passports authorising the holder to travel from one foreign country to another.

The Government has power to reduce the passport and visa fees for Iranian nationals in any place abroad in which it may think fit to do so.

The agents of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs may grant a visa for an unlimited number of journeys to air-pilots, assistant pilots, chauffeurs, assistant chauffeurs, caravanmen and seamen, whether they are in possession of individual or collective passports, the following fees being charged :

For three months . . . . .	20 rials
For six months . . . . .	30 rials
For one year . . . . .	40 rials

*Penalties.* — Any Iranian national entering or leaving Iran without being in possession of a passport will be required to pay, in addition to the fee for the passport he should have obtained, an equal amount as fine. If the offence is repeated, the offender will be sentenced both to a fine and to a term of imprisonment varying from one to six months.

Any Iranian national living abroad who fails to have the validity of his passport prolonged as provided by law, or to renew it, must pay as fine for non-prolongation, in addition to the passport fee, a sum of 10 rials for each year and, for non-renewal at the end of the fifth year from the date of issue, in addition to the fee, an equal amount.

Iranian nationals living abroad who, up to the date on which the present law came into force, have not renewed their passports will be exempted from payment of the fines due for previous years if they present themselves for renewal of their passports within the two years following that date ; otherwise, they must pay all the fines provided for by law in this connection.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, while taking into consideration the provisions laid down in the regulations, is authorised, where necessary, to exempt offenders from the payment of all or part of the fines in question or from any criminal proceedings which might be taken against them.

Any Iranian national who has not applied for the visas required by law shall pay a fine of 5 rials for each free visa not applied for and, for each paid visa, the visa fee plus an equal amount.

Iranians having previously emigrated through the frontier areas shall, on returning to Iran and during a period of two years thereafter, be exonerated from payment of fines and exempted from the proceedings to which they would be liable for not having obtained the regulation passport and visa.

### Appendix.

No travel passport will be issued :

(a) To persons who have not attained the age of 18 years or who are under the guardianship or curatorship of another person, except with the latter's written permission ;

(b) To persons who have been denied the right to leave the country by a written court decision ;

(c) To persons who, being of military age, have not discharged their military obligations, unless they hold a travel permit issued by the recruiting authorities.

Family passports including the husband and/or wife and children under 18 may be issued on payment of a single fee. No passport will be issued to a wife alone or accompanied by her children under 18, except with the husband's permission.

No passport or visa will be issued to Iranian nationals living abroad who have reached the age of military service. In such cases, Iranian representatives will issue to them a free certificate for the return journey to Iran only, unless they are in possession of an exemption card. Similarly, Iranian representatives abroad will issue free certificates for the return of Iranian nationals to Iran when authorised to do so by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

### *Ordinary Passports.*

The ordinary passport forms a 32-page booklet in a brown cover, measuring 14 × 10 cm.

Passports for the use of the inhabitants of frontier villages consist of a single loose sheet.

Seamen on boats and sailing-vessels plying to foreign ports whose crews do not exceed ten persons including the "Nakhoda" will be given a collective frontier passport showing the

name and number of the civil status record of each member of the crew. Seamen on large sailing-vessels or steamers whose crew, including the master, exceeds ten persons will be given an ordinary passport for each group of ten persons, showing the names of all the members of the crew and the number of each person's civil status record. An ordinary (collective) passport will be issued to the seamen on large sailing-vessels or steamers even when the crew, including the master, numbers less than ten.

#### *Diplomatic Passport.*

The diplomatic passport contains 32 pages. It is bound in a dark green cover and measures 15 × 11 cm.

Should the holders of diplomatic passports wish to be accompanied by the members of their families, the names of the latter will be shown on the passport.

If the children accompanying the above-mentioned persons are over 18 years of age, ordinary passports will be issued to them.

#### *Service Passports.*

The service passport is light blue in colour and resembles the diplomatic passport in shape.

\* \* \*

Should foreign travellers whose passports have no transit visas issued by Iranian representatives arrive by air in Iranian territory and land at any Iranian aerodrome, the police officials attached to that aerodrome are authorised to issue a visa to them on payment of the statutory fee and subject to certain regulations.

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## IRISH FREE STATE

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June 9th, 1937.

No important change has taken place as regards the issue of passports since April 1928, when the last enquiry was made. The visa requirement has since been abolished in favour of citizens of Czechoslovakia. The other States whose nationals are admitted to the Irish Free State without a visa are :

The States of the British Commonwealth of Nations	Luxemburg Monaco
Austria	The Netherlands
Belgium	Norway
Denmark	Portugal
France	San Marino
Germany	Spain
Italy	Sweden
Liechtenstein	Switzerland

The “ international ” type of passport has been used in the Irish Free State since the issue of national passports was undertaken in April 1924.

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## ITALY

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*[Translation from the Italian.]*

November 25th, 1936.

The passport system in force in Italy, from the point of view of the recommendations of the Second Geneva Conference of 1926, has already been studied in document C.133.M.48, published in 1929 by the League of Nations, which shows the effect given to the recommendations in question in different countries.

In addition, various measures have subsequently been adopted, in the interests of the tourist traffic in Italy :

1. Provision has been made for an extensive use of collective passports, which, as is known, replace ordinary individual passports and consist of a list of the names of the persons forming the groups. These documents are also accepted for the entrance of foreign groups into the Kingdom, on condition that they have been visaed by the proper consular authorities.

2. As a consequence of special agreements with Austria and Switzerland, Italy has adopted tourist passports, at special rates, for tourist traffic with those countries. These passports are issued exclusively for touring purposes, both to groups and individual tourists. They are valid for one month and cost 20 lire, inclusive. The use of these passports, confined on a reciprocal basis to Austria and Switzerland, has been extended to France, but without a special agreement and consequently not on a reciprocal basis, in view of the fact that France has for long time past charged a very moderate fee for tourist passports.

3. Likewise with a view to facilitating the entrance of foreign tourists into Italy, the frontier police authorities have been authorised to visa on the spot passports not provided with consular visas and belonging to subjects of States with which agreements providing for compulsory visas are still in force. Foreign visitors are thus saved from being turned back at the frontier when the absence of such a visa was noted, and spared the often very lengthy formalities with which they would

otherwise have had to comply in order to get their passports visaed by the Italian consular authority nearest to the frontier station.

4. Italy has granted facilities to foreigners, both in Italy and abroad, for making excursions and paying visits in the Italian frontier zone.

For this purpose, foreigners' passports are made valid for the frontier zones by a special declaration, stating the zone and sector, and entered in the passports in question by the Italian authorities in the Kingdom or abroad.

5. Further, exclusively in the frontier sector, use has for some time past been made of " five-day tourist cards ", which allow short excursions into the Italian provinces bordering on France and which are issued free of charge.

The Italian consular authorities in Nice, Grenoble, Chambéry, Menton and Monaco (Principality) issue these cards to foreigners living in France (except those for whom an entrance visa into the Kingdom is subject to the previous authorisation of the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs).

6. In order to facilitate excursions by French tourists to the Hospice of the Little St. Bernard, provisions exist authorising tourists to go there without passports. The authorisation is, of course, limited to that district. It is only valid in summer, from sunrise to sunset.

Finally, it should be added that the general instructions given to the frontier police are intended to ensure the rapidity of passport control formalities, which are carried out with all due courtesy.

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## JAPAN

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[Translation.]

March 19th, 1937.

### SECTION 1. — GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. *Passport System.*

By virtue of a bilateral agreement, Japanese and Chinese nationals do not require a passport in order to enter each other's territory. Likewise, on a reciprocal basis, nationals of Japan and of "Manchukuo" may cross the frontiers between those two countries without passports.

#### II. *Facilities to be granted.*

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

1. *Type of Passport.* — The form of passport at present in use in Japan conforms, more or less, to the "international type", except that the name of the holder is not shown on the cover. It has been decided to issue a better type of passport in the near future.

2. *Duration of Validity.* — The duration of validity of Japanese passports is not fixed. As a rule, they are valid from the time of the holder's departure from Japan until his return. As an exception to this rule, the special passport granted to persons obliged, for business or other reasons, to make frequent journeys between Japan and certain specified countries mentioned in a list published by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is valid until the first return to Japan within three years from the date when the passport was granted.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — The fact that passports of the same type are granted both to emigrants and to non-emigrant travelers, and that it is necessary to examine the personal circumstances of each applicant according to the country of destination,

makes it impossible, for the moment, to grant passports which are valid for all countries of the world or for as large a number as possible of foreign countries.

4. *Fees.* — Fees for Japanese passports are as follows :

Territories	Passport for			
	Emigrants	Tourists	Frequent journeys	Renewal
	Yen	Yen	Yen	Yen
Mother-country	5	15	25	3
Kwantung . . .	—	15	—	—
Chosen. . . .	5	10	—	—
Taiwan . . . .	—	5	—	—
Karafuto. . .	—	10	—	—
South Sea Islands . .		{ Nationals of the mother-country 10 yen; natives 5 yen. }	—	—

B. *Visas.*

1. The Japanese Government has adopted and largely follows the principle of abolishing entrance and transit visas on a basis of reciprocity by means of bilateral agreements. Such agreements are at present in force between Japan and the following countries :

Austria	Iceland
Belgium (not including the Congo)	Italy (not including colonies and protectorates)
Canada (excluding emigrants)	Latvia
Czechoslovakia	Liechtenstein
Denmark (not including Greenland)	Lithuania
Estonia	Netherlands (with colonies)
Finland	Norway
France (mother-country and Algeria)	Spain (with colonies, not including Morocco)
French Indo-China	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Hong-Kong	
Hungary	

2. In cases where foreigners are obliged to break their journey and make a temporary stay on Japanese territory, because of illness or for other valid reasons, special permission to land is

granted to them free of charge, even if their passport does not bear a transit visa valid for Japan.

3. As regards the suggested facilities in granting visas, the Japanese diplomatic and consular authorities abroad generally adopt such measures wherever possible.

4. By virtue of Ordinance No. 1 of the Ministry of the Interior, of January 1919, the diplomatic and consular authorities of Japan abroad are obliged, according to circumstances, for the purpose of verifying the conditions stipulated in that ordinance, to ask the applicant to explain the necessity of his journey.

5. The duration of validity of entrance and transit visas is one year from the day of issue. If the applicant does not enter the territory during that period, the visa lapses. During the period of validity, the entrance visa allows for an indefinite number of entrances, whereas the transit visa is only valid for a single journey. There is no limit to the time which may be spent in the country.

6. General regulations concerning the entrance of foreigners into Japanese territory are governed, in the case of the mother-country, by the Ministerial Ordinance of the Ministry of the Interior, and, in the case of the colonies, by Governmental ordinances of the Colonial Governments ; but the terms of these ordinances are almost identical and visas are valid for the colonies as well as for the mother-country.

7. The sum charged for visas is fixed at 10 gold francs for an entrance visa and 1 gold franc for a transit visa. The competent Japanese authorities abroad charge equivalent sums in foreign currency.

8. In principle, visa fees do not vary, but, in the case of nationals of States which fix the amount of visa fees at a considerably higher figure than that of Japan, the Japanese authorities charge, on the basis of reciprocity, sums roughly corresponding to those charged by the States in question. On the other hand, in cases where there is a special arrangement between Japan and the country of which the applicants are nationals, the Japanese authorities charge the agreed fees.

9. The fees to be charged for the visas mentioned above are laid down in the Ministerial Ordinance of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, entitled " General Regulations concerning Fees charged by Diplomatic and Consular Authorities and Official Travel Allowances ", and the regulations relating to the rates of exchange for foreign currencies are laid down in a list annexed to the above-mentioned Ordinance.

10. A visa which has expired before it has been used, even for genuine and legitimate reasons, is no longer valid and its validity cannot be extended. For a new visa, the usual fee will be charged.

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

In 1928, the Japanese Government reformed, in a very radical fashion, the regulations relating to the obtaining of passports and visas, the formalities for which have been greatly simplified. Investigation into the antecedents, references, solvency, etc., of the person applying for a passport or visa, has been abolished, except in certain special cases. The Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs entrusted with the passport service endeavours to issue passports for tourists as rapidly, and with as accurate entries, as possible. The local authorities are then instructed to transmit them forthwith to the applicants. Passports for emigrants are dealt with by the local authorities of the ports of embarkation. In ports where many emigrants embark, officials from the Passport Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs assist the local authorities. With regard to visas for foreign travellers wishing to go to Japan, the Japanese diplomatic and consular authorities always endeavour to grant them as quickly as possible.

### D. *Control at Frontiers.*

1. *Passport Control.* — In the case of Japan, this applies to the control of foreigners crossing the land frontiers between “ Manchukuo ” and the territory of Chosen.

(a) Control of foreigners on entering Chosen by train is carried out as follows, in order to facilitate their journey :

Police officials are sent to the frontier station of “ Manchukuo ” in order to carry out passport control in the trains while they are in motion ; or else advantage is taken of the time during which trains stop at the frontier station in order to do this.

(b) This control is not carried out by Japanese authorities for travellers leaving the country, except in certain special cases. The inspection of passports by the “ Manchukuo ” authorities is generally carried out in their territory ; but at Jo-San-Po, the “ Manchukuo ” authorities who deal with passport control collaborate with the police control officials of Chosen.

(c) Passport and other control by the police authorities is, in general, carried out either simultaneously with, or immediately after, Customs inspection.

2. *Customs Control.* — (a) With regard to goods crossing the frontier at the junction of the Antung-Mukden line and the Chosen line, the “ Manchukuo ” and Chosen Customs officials collaborate for purposes of control and clearance of goods at the station of Antung-Hsien, under the Sino-Japanese Agreement relating to through train communications across the frontier, signed at Mukden on November 2nd, 1890.

(b) With regard to goods crossing the frontier north of Tu-Men and Kai-Shan-Tun between the " Manchukuo " and Chosen lines, the " Manchukuo " and Chosen officials collaborate in order to facilitate control and clearance in the stations of Tu-Men and Jo-San-Po, in accordance with the " Manchukuo " - Japanese Agreement signed at Hsin-king on May 22nd, 1935, relating to the simplification of Customs formalities and through train communications across the frontier formed by the Tu-Men-Chiang River.

## SECTION 2. — QUESTIONS RELATING TO EMIGRANTS.

### I. *Transit Cards for Emigrants.*

These are useful for European countries whose nationals have to cross territories of other neighbouring countries in order to emigrate overseas ; but the system does not concern Japan, whose position is entirely different.

### II. *Special Identity Documents for Emigrants.*

The Japanese Government has not hitherto concluded any agreement on this subject with the Governments of other countries.

## SECTION 3. — PERSONS WITHOUT NATIONALITY.

For persons without nationality wishing to proceed to Japan from abroad, the Japanese diplomatic and consular authorities in foreign countries are authorised to grant travel certificates instead of passports and visas, in order to allow such persons to land in Japan.

## SECTION 4. — MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

2. For nationals of States with which Japan has not yet concluded an agreement for the abolition of visas, a visa is necessary in accordance with the general regulations relating to the entrance of foreigners, even if they are officials of the League of Nations. Moreover, in view of the great distance separating Japan from the seat of the League of Nations, this question does not assume such practical importance as in the case of European countries.

3. For groups of students travelling for purposes of study, visas have been abolished, on a basis of reciprocity, if the members of such groups come from the Netherlands Indies, Siam or



Hong-Kong, with which countries Japan has signed agreements to this effect. These agreements allow a collective transit certificate to be granted in the place of individual passports in due form.

In this connection, it may be recalled that the Japanese Government has already concluded with a large number of foreign Governments agreements relating to the abolition of visas (see Section 1, II B, above), which make visas unnecessary for groups of students from those countries.

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## LATVIA

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[*Translation.*]

January 11th, 1937.

In addition to the information contained in its letter of November 19th, 1928,<sup>1</sup> the Latvian Government has communicated that Latvia, without having introduced any restrictions in this sphere, has, since 1928, concluded agreements for the abolition of visas with six more countries. At present, therefore, visas have been abolished between Latvia and the following countries : Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Italy, as well as with Czechoslovakia, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Norway and Switzerland. Further, transit visas have been abolished for traffic with the Netherlands.

It should be pointed out that all travellers arriving in Latvia on tourist boats can land without having to produce entrance visas and may stay on Latvian territory until they re-embark.

Since January 1st, 1936, exit visas have been abolished for the nationals of all foreign countries with the exception of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, so that at present foreign nationals leaving Latvia after a stay of at least six consecutive months are only obliged to produce at the frontier a certificate granted by the Revenue Department certifying that the person in question is not liable for any taxation.

Further, an Agreement has been in existence since 1925 between Latvia and Estonia by virtue of which foreign passports are abolished for traffic between those two countries.

Latvia travellers going abroad in groups can obtain collective passports free of charge, provided that they are travelling for scientific or cultural purposes. Individual traveller-tourists must provide themselves with an ordinary passport, as national legislation does not recognise any other identity documents for travellers going abroad.

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.

In comparison with other countries, the fee charged for Latvian foreign passports is moderate and cannot be regarded as in any way hindering the development of the tourist traffic.

Further, as long as the export of currency continues to be subject to severe restrictions in many countries, facilities for granting foreign passports will not, in the opinion of the competent Latvian authorities, be sufficient to ensure an increase in the tourist traffic.

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## LIECHTENSTEIN

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*[Translation from the German.]*

March 11th, 1937.

With regard to the Principality, exactly the same international agreements apply in connection with the passport system as in Switzerland.

The duration of validity of passports is five years. According to the wish of the applicant, they are valid either for all foreign countries or for certain groups of countries only.

The fee for granting a passport is five Swiss francs.

With regard to visas, the same conditions apply as in the case of Switzerland. All countries which have abolished the necessity for visas in their relations with Switzerland have also dispensed with it in the case of Liechtenstein, with the exception of Czechoslovakia.

The formalities for obtaining passports and visas are extremely simple. The small size of the country enables applicants for passports or visas to apply to the Chancery and be granted satisfaction without delay.

Under the agreements between Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein concerning police regulations for aliens, control at the frontiers is exercised by the Swiss frontier police. This applies also to transit cards for emigrants.

The Government of the Principality therefore thinks it unnecessary to give further details, as these can easily be found in the Swiss authorities' answer.

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## MONACO

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*[Translation.]*

November 3rd, 1936.

The Principality did not take part in the Conference of 1926, but in order to comply with the desire expressed on behalf of the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Tourist Traffic, set up by the Economic Committee, the Government of the Principality gives the following information with regard to the passport system.

1. By reason of the geographical situation of the Principality and its Customs Union with France, no formality is required from travellers arriving in Monaco by the land frontier.

2. Persons arriving in Monaco by sea are subject to the formality of the Monegasque consular visa and a French consular visa, unless the travellers are nationals of a country in regard to which the French Government has abolished this formality.

In order that the charge for a visa should have no influence on the tourist traffic, the rate has been fixed at ten paper francs.

The various shipping lines have been authorised to ask Monegasque consuls to grant collective visas for organised trips, instead of individual visas.

3. The Government of the Principality has negotiated directly with the following countries with a view to abolishing visas: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, the French zone of the Sheriffian protectorate and Switzerland.

The Government of the Principality, for its part, considers that, in order to encourage international tourist traffic, it would be highly desirable to return to the position existing before 1914, when tourists were completely free from any obligation with regard to passports.

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## NEW ZEALAND

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November 5th, 1936.

### SECTION 1. — GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### *Facilities to be granted.*

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

1. The international type of passport is in use in New Zealand and corresponds, *mutatis mutandis*, with the type of booklet in use in the United Kingdom.

2. New Zealand passports have an initial validity of five years from the date of issue, and may be renewed thereafter for a further period of five years, whereupon the total validity of the passport expires.

3. Intending travellers from New Zealand are encouraged to state every country which they may intend or be likely to visit and, except in exceptional cases, their passports are validated accordingly.

4. The charge for a passport is one pound, and that fee is commensurate with the cost of preparation and with the value of the service rendered.

#### B. *Visas.*

1 and 2. Mutual agreements for the abolition of passport visas are in force between the Government of New Zealand and the following countries :

Austria	Liechtenstein
Belgium	Luxemburg
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
France	Portugal
Germany	Spain
Hungary (temporary)	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland

3. Personal attendance is not required for the granting of a visa.
4. The reason for the journey need not be proved unless the laws of the country of destination so provide.
5. The validity of entrance and transit visas has not yet been extended to cover a period of two years.
6. Visas are valid for entry at any port in New Zealand.
7. The fee for an ordinary visa is the equivalent of ten gold francs, and one gold franc for a transit visa, but a reciprocal charge is made for nationals whose countries charge a higher fee for the grant of a visa to British subjects.
8. This is answered by the foregoing paragraph No. 7.
9. There is no provision for exemption from or reduction in visa fees.
10. Exit visas are not required and there is no provision to extend, free of charge, an original visa which may expire before being used.

C. *Facilities for obtaining Passports and Visas.*

Personal attendance is not required and every facility is afforded to the travelling public to simplify formalities in granting passports and visas.

D. *Control at Frontiers.*

This question does not arise on account of the insular geographical position of New Zealand.

SECTION 2. — QUESTIONS RELATING TO EMIGRANTS.

These are questions which have no application to New Zealand.

SECTION 3. — PERSONS WITHOUT NATIONALITY.

Provision has been made to issue documents in accordance with the recommendations resulting from the Third General Conference on Communications and Transit held at Geneva in March 1927.

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## NETHERLANDS

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[Translation.]

September 22nd, 1936.

1. *Type of Passport.* — The Netherlands passport conforms to the type agreed on in 1926, with modifications to meet specifically Netherlands requirements (*e.g.*, with regard to languages).

2. *Duration of Validity.* — The Netherlands passport is valid for two years. The validity can be extended four times, for two years at a time.

3. *Extent of Validity.* — There are no provisions limiting the number of countries where the holder of the passport may travel. On the applicant's request, passports are made valid for all countries without reservation.

4. *Fees.* — For a long time, the fee for a Netherlands passport was 1 florin, in accordance with the recommendation concerned.

However, financial circumstances compelled the Government in 1933 to put a moderate tax on passports. Consequently, passport fees were raised to 5 florins for one person, and 7.50 florins for husband and wife, or for one person, or husband and wife, with children under 15 years of age. Paupers receive passports free of charge, and nationals of the Netherlands abroad who, though not paupers, would find difficulty in procuring passports are granted a reduction of from 25 % to 75 %.

Passport fees do not vary according to the countries which the applicant wishes to visit or in which he is at the time of application.

5. *Visas.* — The Government of Her Majesty has agreed with a large number of other Governments to abolish visas for their respective nationals. Further, visas are no longer required for the nationals of a number of other countries, even though there is no mutual agreement to that effect.

Foreigners on board ships calling at Dutch ports and continuing their voyage by the same ship do not require a visa in order to land during the ship's stay in port.

It is not necessary for visas to be granted by the Dutch Consul in the country where the applicant is domiciled.

Present economic difficulties, and especially the large amount of unemployment, make it impossible for visas to be granted in every case to foreigners who need them in order to enter the territory of the Netherlands. For the same reasons, it is impossible to extend the validity of a visa for a longer period than two years.

For purposes of transit, only nationals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics require a visa.

Foreigners in possession of a Netherlands visa can enter the country at any point.

The fee for a Netherlands visa is 6 florins ; that for a transit visa for one or several journeys is 0.60 florin.

Visa fees do not vary according to the nationality of the applicant, nor on any other grounds.

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**SIAM**

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August 24th, 1937.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has communicated a sample copy of the new form of passport issued by the Ministry as from August 15th, 1937.

This passport is in conformity with the recommendations of the Passport Conference of 1926.

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## SWEDEN

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*[Translation.]*

September 16th, 1936.

In a letter dated September 28th, 1928,<sup>1</sup> the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs stated that Swedish legislation agreed in all essential respects with the principles on which the recommendations of the Conference are based.

The Ministry would therefore merely mention here that the Ordinances of December 20th, 1929, and February 20th, 1931, authorised the Swedish authorities to issue passports valid for five years.

Further — in order to facilitate tourist traffic with the countries concerned — the Swedish Government, by Ordinances of May 17th, 1930, and December 9th, 1932, accorded to nationals of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway a special regime granting certain facilities in connection with the obligation for foreigners to be in possession of a passport on entering Sweden.

With regard to entrance and transit visas, these have been abolished in the case of tourists who are nationals of the following countries : Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America. The collective lists taking the place of passports must, however, be visaed before the tourists in question are allowed into Sweden.

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.



## SWITZERLAND

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[*Translation.*]

October 14th, 1936.

The Swiss Government, after reminding the Secretariat of its note dated June 10th, 1929,<sup>1</sup> followed by its communication of June 11th, 1929, concerning the effect given in Switzerland, in the matter of passports and visas, to the Conference's recommendations,<sup>1</sup> communicated that the regime for passports and visas had, in the meantime, undergone only slight modifications, as detailed below.

### SECTION 1. — GENERAL QUESTIONS.

#### I. *Passport System.*

Since 1929, Switzerland has introduced in its relations with France, Belgium and Luxemburg, certain travel facilities for tourists.

Swiss tourists are allowed to enter and stay up to two months in those countries, on the production, either of a valid Swiss passport, or of a motorist's driving-licence, or of a passport of which the validity expired less than five years previously. On the other hand, tourists who are nationals of France, Belgium and Luxemburg can enter and stay up to three months in Switzerland on the production of a passport the validity of which has expired, or of a valid identity card or certificate, officially issued or visaed, indicating the holder's nationality and bearing his photograph.

There exists a further facility for entering Switzerland, of which use is often made: foreigners travelling in groups of at least five persons are allowed to enter Switzerland without a passport under cover of collective lists. These lists must be

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<sup>1</sup> Document C.133.M.48.1929.VIII.

visaed by a Swiss consul in the case of nationals of countries with which the visa system is still in force, and legalised free of charge in the case of nationals of countries in relations with which visas have been abolished.

## II. *Facilities to be granted.*

### B. *Visas.*

1. Since June 1st, 1929, Switzerland has concluded agreements with Albania, Latvia and Hungary abolishing passport visas altogether. The position at the present time is as follows :

Switzerland has unilaterally abolished visas for nationals of all countries outside Europe which are recognised by Switzerland, as well as for all colonies, protectorates and mandated territories of countries recognised by Switzerland. In Europe, only Bulgarians, Greeks, Poles, Roumanians, Russians, Turks and Yugoslavs, and foreigners who are not in possession of a passport recognised as valid by Switzerland, are obliged, in all cases, to obtain a visa in order to enter Switzerland. Further, Czechoslovaks, French nationals, Norwegians and Swedes entering Switzerland in order to take up employment must likewise be in possession of an entrance visa.

9. The system of fees has been somewhat modified since June 1st, 1934, in that children under 18 years of age who are dealt with separately pay only half the usual fee ; fees may be reduced or abolished in the case of indigent persons, or of persons in reduced circumstances who have difficulty in providing for their needs, as well as of persons who are engaged in Switzerland exclusively, and in an honorary capacity, in humanitarian work.

The principles of equality, mentioned in paragraph 8 of the recommendation, continue to be applied.

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## CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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[*Translation.*]

December 21st, 1936.

The regulations of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs take fully into account the recommendations adopted by the Passport Conference, held at Geneva in 1926.

In accordance with the above regulations :

1. The Czechoslovak Republic has concluded arrangements with certain countries with a view to facilitating foreign travel.

Czechoslovak passports conform to the international type. They are generally issued with a validity of from two to five years, and are in most cases valid for all countries of Europe. The fees charged for passports are usually from 5 to 100 Czech crowns.

The Czechoslovak Republic has abolished compulsory visas in the case of twenty-five countries. Diplomatic missions and consular offices also grant visas in exceptional cases to persons who do not reside in their district. If an entrance visa is applied for, the applicant is invited to state the purpose of his journey, but is not normally required to produce documents to prove the necessity of that journey. Visas are generally valid for one year and authorise the holder to cross the frontier at any spot where the crossing of the frontier is allowed by the authorities, with the exception, however, of cases where the visa expressly stipulates that the frontier shall be crossed at a determined spot. Visa fees are on a basis of reciprocity. Generally, they are not higher than the fees recommended by the Geneva Conference. They may be reduced, or the applicant may be exempted from paying any fee. Passport control at the frontier is also carried out in accordance with the above-mentioned regulations.

2. The Czechoslovak authorities facilitate, in so far as is possible, the passage through Czechoslovakia of emigrants going from Europe to countries overseas.

3. The Czechoslovak authorities grant provisional passports to persons without nationality.

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**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

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*[Translation.]*

November 30th, 1936.

For tourists going to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the procedure of granting visas is simplified by the fact that, among other facilities offered by the “ Intourist ” organisation, the latter undertakes all necessary formalities in this connection, thus sparing the persons concerned long and expensive journeys and all useless delay, in accordance with the recommendation under heading “ C ” in the Final Act of the Passport Conference held at Geneva in 1926.

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## YUGOSLAVIA

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*[Translation.]*

January 2nd, 1937.

The Kingdom of Yugoslavia has not adopted passports of the international type ; passports are granted for the countries indicated by the applicant at the time of application ; they are valid for periods of from one month to two years. The fees for granting passports are charged in accordance with the Law on Taxes and are extremely moderate. Visas have been reciprocally abolished only in the case of Czechoslovakia, Germany and Roumania. No proof of the necessity for undertaking a journey abroad is required. Visa fees are settled by mutual agreement with the Governments of the countries to be visited. Provision is made for the issue of visas free of charge. Formalities connected with the granting of passports and visas have been simplified as far as possible.

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