

Geneva, August 20th, 1937.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

**NANSEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE  
FOR REFUGEES**

(under the Authority of the League of Nations)

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**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1937  
ON THE RUSSIAN, ARMENIAN, ASSYRIAN, ASSYRO-CHALDEAN,  
SAAR, AND TURKISH REFUGEE PROBLEMS**

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CHAPTER I. — INTRODUCTION.

(a) DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE ASSEMBLY.

The Assembly, at its seventeenth session in 1936, adopted the following resolutions on the special report submitted by M. Michael Hansson, Acting President of the Governing Body of the Office, and on the annual report submitted by the Governing Body on the work of the Nansen Office for the year ending June 30th, 1936 (documents A.23.1936 and A.27.1936).

I.

" The Assembly,

" Having examined, in the light of verbal explanations, the reports of the Acting President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office and of the High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany;

" Having taken into account the recommendations of the Committee for International Assistance to Refugees;

" Thanks the Committee for its valuable report and Judge Hansson and Sir Neill Malcolm for the work which they have done during their term of office."

II.

" The Assembly,

" Having weighed the many elements in the refugee problem;

" Having noted that, in pursuance of previous decisions of the Assembly and in conformity with the recommendations of the High Commissioner for Refugees coming from Germany, the organisations created by the League of Nations on behalf of refugees will terminate at the end of 1938;



" Having taken account at the same time of the continuing difficulties of this problem and of the importance of ensuring, as soon as possible, a uniform regime of legal protection for the refugees;

" Recommends the Governments concerned to adopt the Convention of October 28th, 1933, relating to the international status of refugees and the Provisional Arrangement of July 4th, 1936, concerning the status of refugees coming from Germany;

" Recommends also that Governments concerned should participate in the negotiation of a convention for the protection of the refugees from Germany;

" Considers, further, that the Assembly should, at the latest at its ordinary session in 1938, determine the general principles which, after that year, should govern the attitude of the League towards the refugee problem as a whole."

### III.

" The Assembly,

" Is happy to note that Governments have, in certain cases, been able to extend to refugees in their territories more liberal treatment than is provided for in the relevant international agreements, and having heard, with appreciation, the declaration made by the French delegation regarding recent measures adopted by the French Government in respect of refugees (legal status, joint committees, labour permits);

" Expresses the hope that all Governments will adopt as liberal an attitude as possible towards refugees in their territories;

" Notes, on the other hand, that serious difficulties have been created by the practice adopted in certain countries of withdrawing protection from their nationals abroad; and

" Expresses the earnest hope that this practice may be discontinued."

### IV.

" The Assembly takes following decisions in respect of the Nansen International Office and the High Commission for Refugees coming from Germany:

" *Nansen International Office.*

" The Assembly:

" Has taken note of the previous decision of the Assembly that the Nansen Office should be liquidated within a specified time and according to fixed budgetary rules, and, in execution of this decision:

" (1) Decides to appoint, until December 31st, 1938, a President of the Governing Body of the Nansen Office entrusted with the following duties:

" (a) To carry on the administration of the Office, in accordance with the existing statute, until it has been liquidated, and to organise the activities of the Office during the period of liquidation, with the help of the technical services of the League of Nations;

" (b) To draw up at an early date and, if possible, to submit to the Council at its session in May 1937 a detailed scheme for the liquidation of the Nansen Office; in any event, the report should be in the hands of Governments before July 31st, 1937, in order that the scheme may be considered at the next ordinary session of the Assembly;

" (c) To make recommendations, in time for consideration by the Assembly at its ordinary session in 1938, on the best method of allocating the tasks undertaken by the Office up to the date of its liquidation in the light of the situation existing at that time;

" (2) Notes the recommendations of the Acting President in regard to the settlement of different categories of refugees, especially those relating to the transfer of Armenian refugees to Erivan, and to the position of the Armenian refugees settled in Syria;

" Approves, while accepting the reservations made by the Fourth Committee, an additional grant of 200,000 Swiss francs to the Nansen International Office for the purpose of facilitating the transfer and settlement in South America of Saar refugees residing in France;

“(3) Recommends that the following proposals of the Acting President should be brought to the notice of Governments for careful consideration:

“(a) The encouragement, so far as circumstances permit, of the naturalisation and absorption of refugees in countries in which they have been resident for many years;

“(b) The issue of surcharged postage-stamps to assist the Nansen Office in its work;

“(c) The general application of the principles of the Franco-Belgian Agreement of June 30th, 1928.”

“ . . . . . ”

V.

“ The Assembly,

“ Having taken note of the report of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for the year ending June 29th, 1936:

“ Expresses appreciation at the satisfactory results of the general application of the Nansen stamp system in France, and hopes that a similar practice will be adopted in all countries;

“ Again urges Governments not to expel refugees until they have obtained entrance visas for another country;

“ Requests the Governments of the immigration countries to continue to co-operate with the Office by informing it of the possibilities of settlement in their territories; and

“ Recommends Governments to consider the advantage of capitalising their expenditure on refugees and of placing such funds at the disposal of the Office for the settlement of refugees.”

VI.

“ The Assembly,

“ In order to give effect to the provisions of resolution IV above:

“(1) In accordance with Article 6 of the Statute of the Nansen International Office for Refugees, appoints Judge Hansson as President of the Governing Body of the Office until December 31st, 1938, and grants him a credit of 5,000 Swiss francs for representation allowance for the year 1937;

“(2) Requests the Council to appoint, in the course of its present session, a High Commissioner for the Refugees coming from Germany (Jewish and other), until December 31st, 1938.”

(b) DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL.

In conformity with paragraph (b) of the resolution quoted under IV above, the President of the Office, on May 1st, 1937, submitted his report on the liquidation of the Office by the end of 1938 (document A.11.1937.XII). At its ninety-seventh ordinary session on May 25th, 1937, the League Council adopted the following resolution:

“ The Council of the League of Nations,

“ Approving the proposals of its Rapporteur concerning the transmission to Governments of the report submitted by M. Michael Hansson, President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees, in accordance with the decision taken by the Assembly at its seventeenth session:

“ Is gratified by the zeal with which M. Hansson has been good enough, in accordance with the Assembly's recommendation, to furnish the Council at its present session with all the necessary data;

“ Requests the Secretary-General to be good enough to communicate M. Hansson's report to the Governments with a view to its consideration by the Assembly, and to request those Governments for that purpose to send their observations before the opening of the eighteenth ordinary session.”

(c) INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

The Commission did not meet during the year 1936/37.

(d) MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND OF THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF THE OFFICE.

The Governing Body of the Office held its fourteenth session on October 21st, 1936, and its fifteenth on April 28th, 1937. At the former session, amendments were made to Articles I and XIII of the Rules of Procedure of the Office.



*New Texts.*

*Article I.* — The term of office of the two members appointed by the Governing Body shall expire at the end of 1938, the date fixed for the liquidation of the Office. The same rule shall apply to the terms of office of the other members.

*Article XIII.* — The terms of office of the members of the Managing Committee other than the Chairman and those of the two substitutes shall expire at the end of 1938, the date fixed for the liquidation of the Office.

These changes have been made in accordance with the special report by the President of the Office to the seventeenth Assembly of the League with a view to maintaining the *status quo* as regards the administration of the Office and ensuring for the next two years continuity and the maintenance of the existing collaboration.

At this session, the Governing Body confirmed the appointment, as from October 1st, 1936, of M. Georges Coroni, former Chief Registrar of the Mixed Court of Appeal of Alexandria, to the post of Administrative Director of the Office, the post of Secretary-General having been abolished and the holder having ceased to belong to the Office. This appointment had been made previously—namely, in September 1936, in accordance with Article X of the Rules of Procedure of the Office.

The Mixed Commission, consisting of the Managing Committee and the Finance Committee, met seven times during the year under review. At its session on January 29th, 1937, the Managing Committee set up a Committee to study the organisation of a lottery decided upon, in principle, by the Governing Body on October 21st, 1936.

(e) EMIGRATION COMMITTEE.

This Committee met on February 8th, 1937. At this meeting, M. Siewers, on his return from a visit to Brazil and the Argentine, reported to the members—*i.e.*, the Chairman and M. C. Čurčin (M<sup>e</sup> Rubinstein was unable to be present)—on the opportunities for emigration to those countries. His report was to the effect that emigration could not produce satisfactory results unless the colonists possessed a fair amount of capital; that the International Labour Office was confining itself, for the moment, to the consideration of the various problems raised by the establishment of rational settlements; and that it would not be possible, until later, to decide whether an international emigration organisation should be set up to reconcile the interests of emigration and immigration countries.

(f) FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee—consisting of the Chairman, M. L. Golden and M. A. François—met on July 18th, 1936, to consider the possibility of action with a view to obtaining funds to enable the Office to carry out its work. Various possibilities, to which reference is made in the report of the meeting, were reviewed. The Committee met for a second time on October 20th, 1936—M. Golden being unable to attend—and decided to propose to the Governing Body the organisation of an international lottery on behalf of the Office's work.

(g) CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

The Governing Body has been deprived of the valuable co-operation of M. Raphaël (Greece), Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees, who for some time acted as President of the Office. M. Raphaël was also a substitute member of the Managing Committee and a member of the Finance Committee. M. Raphaël, whose energy and zeal were highly appreciated, was obliged to resign from the Nansen Office, owing to his appointment to Ankara.

CHAPTER II. — ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION.

(a) CONVENTION OF OCTOBER 28TH, 1933, RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF REFUGEES.

This Convention, which has already been ratified by Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Italy and Norway, received during the past year the ratification of France and the United Kingdom, subject to the following reservations:

**France.**

(1) Article 7 shall not preclude the application of the laws and regulations fixing the proportion of wage-earning foreigners that employers are authorised to employ in France;

(2) The organisation in France of committees such as are provided for in Article 15 shall not, if it takes place, confer on them powers incompatible with the existing laws in the matter of finding employment;

(3) The French Government, by its acceptance of the present Convention, does not assume any obligation in regard to the whole of its colonies, oversea territories, territories placed under its suzerainty or territories in respect of which a mandate has been entrusted to it.

#### United Kingdom.

(1) *Ad Article 1:* His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom regard the Convention as applicable only to Russian, Armenian and assimilated refugees who, at the date of the present accession, no longer enjoy the protection of their country of origin;

(2) *Ad Article 3:* The first paragraph will not be applicable to refugees who have been admitted to the United Kingdom for a temporary visit or purpose. The term "public order" is deemed to include matters relating to crime and morals. Paragraph 2 of Article 3 is not accepted;

(3) *Ad Article 7* will not be applicable to refugees who have been admitted to the United Kingdom for a temporary visit or purpose;

(4) *Ad Article 12:* Owing to the special position of schools and universities in the United Kingdom, this article is not accepted;

(5) Article 14 is not accepted.

#### Belgium.

In 1937, the Belgian Parliament passed a law authorising the Government to ratify the Convention, leaving it to its discretion to maintain or cancel the reservations made by the Belgian delegates on signing the Convention in 1933.

These reservations were as follows:

(1) Article 2, paragraph 3, relating to the right conferred on consuls to extend Nansen certificates, cannot be accepted by the Belgian Government;

(2) Article 9, in so far as it concerns the application of the provisions of the domestic legislation relating to "unemployment insurance" cannot be accepted;

(3) Article 10, concerning social insurance laws, cannot be regarded with favour;

(4) Article 14, concerning the enjoyment of the rights and favours accorded to foreigners, subject to reciprocity, cannot be accepted;

(5) The Belgian Government, in accepting the present Convention, does not assume any obligation as regards the colony of the Congo or the mandated territories of Ruanda-Urundi.

The President has continued his efforts to obtain further ratifications. The United States of America, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iraq, Latvia, Sweden and Switzerland have intimated that they do not feel called upon to accede to it, on the ground that refugees already enjoy in their respective countries the majority of the rights provided for under the Convention, or even more.

#### (b) FRANCO-BELGIAN AGREEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF JUNE 30TH, 1928.

In the special report submitted to the 1936 Assembly (document A.27.1936.XII, page 9, No. 22), the President of the Nansen International Office emphasised the importance of the system introduced under the Franco-Belgian Agreement of June 30th, 1928, and the Arrangement of the same date. The number of documents issued by the representatives of the Office exercising the functions provided for in the Agreement and Arrangement in question in virtue of a delegation of powers by the Secretary-General of the League, has steadily increased: from 3,790 in 1932, it rose to 10,963 last year. This year 9,311 such documents have been issued.

In spite of the action taken since the last Assembly with a view to extending the Franco-Belgian Agreement to other countries, there is no further accession to report.

#### (c) RAISING OF FUNDS FOR THE NANSEN OFFICE BY THE ISSUE OF SURCHARGED POSTAGE-STAMPS.

Apart from France and Norway, which have issued surcharged stamps on behalf of the Office (see the report of the Office for the previous year, document A.23.1936.XII, page 6) no other Government has given effect to the Assembly's recommendations, although a pressing appeal has been made to them all. But the Government of the French Republic, at the Office's request, has issued a new stamp of a more usual denomination—namely, 50 centimes plus a surcharge of 25 centimes. As from July 1st, 1937, it has also made over to the Office the whole of the surcharge on this new stamp, provided the proceeds are used solely on behalf of refugees who have settled in France. Up to July 1st, the Office had received only 50% of the surcharge. During the twelve months April 1st, 1936–March 31st, 1937, the Office received from the sale of these stamps the sum of 44,244 Swiss francs from Norway and 10,759 Swiss francs from France.

(d) EXPULSION OF REFUGEES.

The Governing Body is glad to note that the number of expelled refugees appealing to the Office for help appreciably declined. In 1936/37, the number of cases in which it intervened was 1,086 as against 1,779 in 1935-36 and 3,209 in 1934/35. The Governing Body's conclusion is that the number of expulsion orders have decreased proportionately; but, as no legislative measures were adopted during the year with a view to the final settlement of this question, the improvement may be only temporary. Moreover, while the number of expulsion orders has declined, the position of refugees already expelled under such orders is still deplorable.

The Governing Body trusts that the Assembly will be good enough to repeat its previous recommendations concerning the expulsion of refugees, and will draw the special attention of Governments to the lot of expelled refugees who have been unable to obtain permission to settle in any other country.

(e) CAPITALISATION OF EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES.

The Governing Body can only record that Governments still show very little inclination to give effect to the Assembly's recommendation, and that no grants have been placed at the Office's disposal to facilitate the settlement of refugees.

(f) NANSEN STAMPS.

1. In spite of the Assembly's constant recommendations urging all countries to issue Nansen stamps, the number that have acceded to the Arrangement of May 12th, 1926, is still very small. This not only affects the revenue of the Office's Humanitarian Fund but makes the refugees in countries that have adopted the Nansen stamp feel that they are being deprived of a part of their contribution. The Governing Body has always considered it its duty to treat all refugees, whatever their country of refuge, on an equal footing, but it is obliged to admit that the present situation is unfair and cannot continue indefinitely. It is not right that a large number of refugee settlements should not be liable to the stamp duty, while others contribute the greater part of the sums allocated to the Humanitarian Fund. The Nansen-stamp system should accordingly be generalised on grounds of solidarity. The approaching liquidation of the Office makes this a particularly urgent question, as it is the existence of a central office alone that enables certain settlements to benefit by the assistance granted them out of the proceeds from the sale of the stamp in other countries.

For these reasons, the Governing Body trusts that the Assembly will be good enough to recommend once again the general adoption of the Nansen stamp and expresses the hope that all Governments will give effect to this recommendation.

2. As regards the distribution of the proceeds of the Nansen stamp, the Governing Body considers that, as far as possible, increased assistance should be afforded by the persons concerned. In 1934, the Governing Body came to an arrangement with the French Government leaving it to the Refugee Committees in France to distribute at least 50% of the proceeds of the Nansen stamp. In 1936/37, it instructed its representative in Roumania to set up in that country a distribution committee consisting of the representatives of refugee organisations.

Both from the point of view of the improved utilisation of the proceeds of the stamp and with the object of facilitating the future transfer of the Office's duties, it would be advisable to set up in various countries the committees provided for under Article 15 of the 1933 Convention, to include representatives of humanitarian refugee organisations.

### CHAPTER III. — ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE.

(a) SURVEY OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

In its previous report, the Governing Body referred to the living and working conditions of refugees in various countries. It regrets to note that, from the point of view of employment, the position is still unsatisfactory. On the other hand, in certain countries the situation of unemployable and unemployed refugees has improved as a result of the application of the Convention of October 28th, 1933.

The Governing Body trusts that the Assembly will be good enough to recommend Governments to apply more liberal treatment to refugees in the matter of employment.

(b) NUMBER OF REFUGEES.

In his special report to the 1936 Assembly, the President of the Governing Body of the Office estimated that the number of refugees under the protection of the Nansen Office had fallen to approximately 700,000, as against the previous estimate of 1,000,000. In his report on the liquidation of the Office submitted to the League Council in May 1937 he stated that, as the outcome of further investigations and studies, he considered that this number did not now exceed 600,000.



The President reached this conclusion after his visit to Syria at the request of the Governing Body. Having taken advantage of his stay to study the position of the Armenians from every point of view, he found that nearly all of them had been naturalised Syrians or Lebanese. The only Armenians who have not so far settled the question of their nationality appear to be those residing in remote villages who have not had an opportunity of carrying out the necessary formalities.

In the latest statistics of the Nansen Office published in the report of the Governing Body to the Assembly for 1936 (document A.23.1936.XII), the number of Armenian refugees in Syria was given as 134,466. It is important to note that, from the political standpoint, all these Armenians constitute at the present time a *minority which, as such, comes under the protection of the League of Nations*. As, however, the Nansen Office has been asked to complete the work, begun by Dr. Nansen, of constructing dwellings for the Armenians coming from Cilicia who are without any means of livelihood, this group of refugees, numbering some 40,000, remains, for humanitarian purposes, under the protection of the Nansen Office until all these refugees have been finally settled and the advances made to them by certain Governments and charitable organisations through the Nansen Office have been repaid.

In the report of the Office referred to above, the number of Assyrian and Assyro-Chaldean refugees in Syria (including Lebanon) is given as 15,482. A large number of these refugees (8,000 or 9,000) came from Iraq, either of their own accord or as the result of transfer by the Commission specially appointed for the settlement of the Assyrians of Iraq. This being the case, the Nansen Office is not called upon to look after them and they should therefore not be included in its statistics.

Of the remaining refugees, the vast majority have also acquired Syrian or Lebanese nationality, and should not be included in the statistics of the Nansen Office, but should be regarded as another national minority under the protection of the League.

Consequently, the number of refugees under the protection of the Nansen Office may be reduced by at least 100,000.

It is quite possible that in China, too, the number of refugees given in the statistics should be materially reduced, but hitherto the Office has had no means of investigating this point fully.

Moreover, the naturalisations carried out each year have also reduced the number of refugees of other categories; but this decrease is to some extent offset by births. During the year 1936, the number of naturalisations in Bulgaria, China, Danzig, France, Greece and Yugoslavia amounted to 1,812. According to the information furnished, no official statistics are available in Czechoslovakia, Finland, Germany and Latvia. With regard to Belgium, Estonia and Roumania, the naturalisation figures have not yet been compiled, although the Estonian Government has informed the Office that special naturalisation facilities were being granted. While noting the appreciable increase in the number of naturalisations, the Governing Body would strongly urge Governments to make this formality as easy as possible.

#### (c) NON-POLITICAL CHARACTER OF THE WORK.

From time to time, the criticism is heard that the Nansen Office and its representatives abroad display a political bias. For instance, the Office was recently accused of carrying on propaganda on behalf of the parties of the extreme left "under the guise of philanthropy". It is hardly necessary to say that there is not the slightest foundation for these charges. A most careful watch is kept over representatives and organisations with which the Office is in contact to prevent any political proclivities interfering with the work. The Office displays, and will continue to display, the same concern for all groups of refugees whose interests are entrusted to it. It could not allow its humanitarian work to be upset or influenced by any political bias.

#### (d) INCREASED ACTIVITY AND PROGRESS.

Mention has already been made of the more accurate information obtained as to the number of refugees, and hence the reduction of the scope of the refugee problem itself, as the outcome of the President's journey to Syria.

1. This journey, on which the President was accompanied by the Chief Accountant of the Office, was of the greatest value. Their observations were embodied in a special report submitted to the Secretary-General of the League and sent to the organisations concerned, etc. This visit enabled the Office to ascertain and to communicate to Governments and organisations which have made advances how much of the very important work initiated by Dr. Nansen has been completed, now much still remains to be done, together with the financial position, including the amounts owing to creditors.

On the basis of these findings, the Office while strongly urging that the work should be actively pursued, considers that its part in the construction of houses should terminate at the end of this year.

2. On his return from Syria, the President visited Athens, where he was able to see for himself the satisfactory measures taken on behalf of Russian refugees (construction of small dwellings, commercial co-operative undertakings, a home for old people, etc.) and, on the other hand, the state of extreme poverty in which a very large number of Armenian refugees are still living. Reference will be made below to the settlement, in which the Office is called upon to participate, of several hundreds of Armenian families whose hutments the Greek authorities are obliged to demolish.

3. The visits paid by the President to England in 1936 and 1937 were also very useful. He made various speeches, gave several lectures and held conversations with a large number of organisations and persons interested in the future of the work on behalf of refugees.

4. The President likewise paid several visits to France, where he inspected a large number of philanthropic institutions for refugees in Paris and elsewhere, educational establishments, homes for old people, soup-kitchens, etc. He also got into touch with the competent French authorities, who invariably discussed with him in a most cordial spirit the measures to be taken on behalf of Russian, Armenian and Saar refugees in France.

5. The President has recently conferred with the French authorities regarding the issue in France of a block of the international lottery decided upon by the Governing Body of the Office on his proposal, which will enable the Office to carry out certain schemes for the welfare of refugees in general.

The Governing Body would gladly take into consideration any suggestion or observation which the Assembly may wish to make with regard to this lottery.

6. Both in London and at Paris, the President had personal interviews with the competent Ministries and officials with a view to the ratification of the 1933 Convention.

7. A special Committee for Saar refugees has been set up in France. With the collaboration of M. Paon, the representative of the Office and M. Gallati, his assistant, who devotes his whole time to Saar refugees, very appreciable results have been obtained.

8. In Norway, the results of the sale of the Nansen stamp, which has been issued in four series, have been very encouraging. Active propaganda has been organised by the President of the Office; up to March 31st, 1937, the sums received by the Office from the sale of this stamp amounted to 88,369.50 kroner, a considerable amount having regard to the size of the population of Norway (2,900,000). The sale is being systematically continued under favourable conditions.

9. Special mention should also be made of a lecture on the refugee problem given by the President of the Office at Oslo last January, at which the King of Norway, the Crown Prince and Princess, Norwegian Ministers, the Diplomatic corps, etc., were present. M. Hambro, President of the Storting, and M. Koht, Minister for Foreign Affairs, also spoke. This lecture has been published and is still being used as a means of propaganda. The most satisfactory immediate result it has produced is that it has induced Mme. Sigrun Nansen, widow of Fridtjof Nansen, to publish a small popular book, to be sold for the benefit of the Nansen Office; the book will appear next autumn.

10. The Royal Institute of International Affairs, of London, after discussions with the President of the Nansen Office and other individuals and organisations concerned, has definitely decided to undertake a general study of the problem of refugees. The necessary funds have been provided by the Rockefeller Foundation and certain British organisations. Sir John Hope Simpson has consented to direct the study and Mr. Walter Adams has been appointed Secretary. The preliminary work has already begun, and it is hoped that the actual study of the problem will start at the beginning of September. In order that he may have information on the various problems which may arise during the study, Sir John Hope Simpson will be assisted by a Committee whose members will include the President of the Office, and he intends to complete this study in time for the report to be published in May 1938.

The Governing Body of the Office is particularly glad to be able to notify this fact to the Assembly, for it attaches the greatest importance to this scientific study, which, for the first time, will enable full light to be thrown on the problem of refugees as a whole.

#### (e) OTHER ACTIVITIES.

The representatives and correspondents of the Office in Europe and Syria have continued their action on behalf of refugees in every sphere of social life. In the course of the year, 119,821 persons were assisted by them (see Appendix I). As in the past, this assistance covered facilities for obtaining the Nansen certificate, entry, return and transit visas, preparation and attestation of various documents, legal assistance, action on behalf of refugees threatened with expulsion, steps taken with a view to obtaining exemption from taxation, exemption from restrictions imposed for the protection of home labour, naturalisations, admissions to hospitals, sanatoria, schools, universities, occupational re-training centres, relief to indigent persons and advances to enable refugees to start a small business or industry.

These advances have made it possible to provide for the settlement of 1,922 refugees.

Thousands of refugees have also been assisted by the various humanitarian or other organisations in different countries out of the advances or subsidies granted to them by the Office. This assistance has taken the most varied forms, such as establishment of co-operative societies, convalescent homes for invalids and tuberculosis patients, distribution of meals, medical attention, assistance to school-children, old people, infirm persons, invalids, contribution towards the maintenance of hospitals, sanatoria, dispensaries, orphanages, etc.



Alarmed at the prospect of the disappearance of the Nansen Office, the Russian and Armenian colonies at Geneva have sent to the President of the Office an appeal, subscribed to by various Russian, Armenian and Saar organisations in Paris, in the form of the following letter dated July 1st, 1937.

“ Paris, July 1st, 1937.

“ Sir,

“ The span of life allotted to the Nansen International Office is nearing its end. It is possible that the next Assembly of the League of Nations, while reserving for 1938 the question of handing over the tasks assumed by the Office, will have to take a decision on the question of principle and determine its subsequent attitude with regard to the refugee problem.

“ In these circumstances, the undersigned organisations, which have had the privilege of co-operating in the work of international assistance to refugees, feel called upon to send you the present memorandum.

“ Sixteen years ago, the League of Nations took up the work of refugee relief. Its decision was dictated by the international character of the problem and by the fact that the existence of refugees was one of the consequences of the great war.

“ Since then the work has been carried on without interruption, with the assistance, first, of the Secretariat of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Office and, since 1930, of the autonomous body of which you are President and which is under the authority of the League of Nations.

“ This undertaking is a complex one. Its purpose is to satisfy the various requirements of the refugees. It affords them material help, assists in their settlement, deals with their legal protection, and co-operates in the preparation of an equitable legal status.

“ It is no easy matter to state in figures all that has been achieved in these spheres. The figures contained in your report of May 11th, 1937, cannot give more than a rough outline. The living reality concealed behind those figures is known only to those who are directly in touch with the life of the refugees. That reality is one of the finest achievements of the League of Nations, for it is to the action of the League, supported by men of goodwill, that thousands of refugees owe their salvation.

“ The work undertaken in 1921 is not finished.

“ In 1929 and 1930, in Dr. Nansen's day, there was reason to hope, in view of the progress made, that in nine or ten years the refugee problem would be solved, that the refugees in need of succour would be granted public relief on the same footing as nationals of the countries of refuge, and that those capable of working would be able to support themselves by participating in the economic activity of the country of asylum. There was also reason to hope that the granting of a definite status, of which the 1928 Arrangement provided the first outline, would remedy, as far as possible, the absence of national protection.

“ All these hopes were disappointed.

“ The depression not only delayed a solution of the problem but also destroyed most of the results previously achieved at the cost of so much effort. At the present time, the condition of the refugees is worse than ever. The Governments which in the past gave substantial help to refugees have suspended or reduced their grants. The sources from which the private organisations obtained funds have dried up. The refugees who seemed to be settled in industry and agriculture have been thrown out of work, and the restrictive rules which all countries have had to adopt to protect the national labour market render the situation of refugees a tragic one. Distress and disease are causing ravages among them. The number of suicides is constantly increasing. It is true that in 1933 the Convention regarding the international status of refugees was adopted, and that it has since been ratified by seven countries. Unfortunately, the practical value of this important act is reduced by the fact that all the ratifications are accompanied by reservations and that in many countries those reservations are such as to render inoperative what are often the most necessary provisions.

“ Thus, considered from all its aspects, the problem of refugees has still not been solved. More than ever, the refugees are in need of protection and succour.

“ If in such circumstances the international centre attached to the League of Nations were to disappear, over half a million men would be abandoned to their fate.

“ The danger of such abandonment has been realised, and the transfer elsewhere of the tasks hitherto assumed by the Nansen International Office has been contemplated. It has been suggested that these tasks should be entrusted, as from January 1st, 1939, to the various Governments and to private organisations.

“ We beg to point out that such a plan is not practicable.

“ The refugee problem is an essentially international one. Whatever the goodwill and humanitarian spirit of the Governments, the isolated measures taken by the different countries of refuge can never be sufficient to solve the problem. The majority of the refugees represent a floating population which is always seeking the most favourable country to settle in. Any restriction of the labour market and any aggravation in the economic situation produce a fresh migratory movement. The first task must be to co-ordinate and guide those movements, and only an international centre is capable of assuming that task. The same applies to all other questions of a humanitarian nature, such as the levying of the Nansen-stamp duty and the utilisation of its proceeds or the maintenance and operation of the agreements and arrangements concluded in favour of the refugees. The rôle of the Governments, however important it may be, cannot be performed in the absence of an international centre and its delegations. The necessity of retaining such a centre is particularly obvious from the point of view of ensuring the protection of refugees and especially of those who are not permanently settled in any particular country. The transfer of the Office's tasks to the Governments would leave those refugees without protection, since they are not amenable to any Government and are regarded as aliens by every country.

“ That is true, too, as regards refugees who, after settling in a country, are for some reason obliged to leave it. Whatever the duration of their stay in the country they are leaving they cannot rely on its protection once they have left its territory.

“ The disappearance of the international centre would prove harmful to the condition even of the refugees who have a fixed domicile, since in no country is there any single authority responsible for all the various questions concerning refugees. These questions lie within the province of a large number of miscellaneous services, which approach them

and deal with them each from its own particular point of view. Hence a great many general solutions have only been possible thanks to the suggestions put forward by Geneva.

"An objective study of the situation thus leads us to the conclusion that the disappearance of the centre for the international assistance of refugees would shake and ruin the whole system erected in the last sixteen years to provide refugees with the necessary help and protection. We are faced with a great peril, which threatens to destroy the whole of the League's previous work, to create great difficulties in the countries of refuge and to compromise the very existence of thousands of refugees.

"It would be particularly regrettable for this disaster to occur at the very moment when the League of Nations has found in you a worthy successor of the late Dr. Nansen, and when the attenuation of the depression opens out prospects of a final liquidation of the problem.

"For the League thus to abandon this work would be unjustifiable. Political considerations have nothing to do with this question, since the work is one whose sole aim is to attenuate the sufferings of thousands of human beings regardless of their political leanings and beliefs. Nor can considerations of economy be advanced, since the disappearance of the international centre will expose countries to pecuniary sacrifices far in excess of the modest grants at present made by the League of Nations. It is sometimes alleged that the work on behalf of refugees is alien to the League's aims. If such were the case, it would be difficult to explain why the League has dealt with refugees since its inception, and why its action should always have been approved by successive Assemblies. Lastly, former decisions regarding the liquidation of the Nansen Office cannot be adduced as against the reasons favouring the maintenance of the international centre; for those decisions, while fixing a date for closing the Office, could neither determine in advance the time for liquidating the refugee problem nor prevent the League from continuing its work. The decision quoted is of a purely administrative character and does not affect the substance of the problem. The question remains whether, in the present state of affairs, and in the light of the experience acquired, the League of Nations can abandon the refugees to their fate and turn its back upon the work it has been pursuing since 1921.

"We believe that the reply to this question cannot but be negative, and that the highest international authority cannot abandon the refugees or give up the work it has begun.

"We hope that the eighteenth Assembly, without anticipating the decisions which the 1938 Assembly will have to take, will adopt a resolution of principle asserting its intention to continue this work, and that it will thus put an end to the present state of indecision and dispel the apprehensions of the refugees.

"Before concluding, may we thank you sincerely for the tireless energy you have displayed in the service of a noble cause, and may we say that, whatever form the work of refugee relief may take in future, your presence at its head will give us confidence in its ultimate success."

Here follow the signatures of the representatives of the following organisations: Union of Russian Doctors of Medicine abroad, Central Committee for the Patronage of Russian University Youth abroad, Committee of Zemstvos and Russian Towns for the Relief of Russian Citizens abroad, Federation of Russian Disabled Ex-Servicemen abroad, Central Office of Russian Refugees in France, General Directorate of the Former Russian Red Cross Organisation, Committee for the Protection of Russian Emigrés in Poland, Central Commission for the Study of the Condition of Russian Refugees, Office for Armenian Refugees in France, General Armenian Welfare Union, Central Committee for Armenian Refugees, and Saar Office and Association of Saar Emigrés.

Various other organisations also associated themselves with this memorandum, including the Federations of Russian Christian Workers in Bulgaria, France, and Yugoslavia, the Union of Russian Emigré Organisations in Czechoslovakia, the Russian Welfare Society at Copenhagen, etc.

#### CHAPTER IV. — PROVISIONAL MEASURES.

Apart from the advances and grants made by the Office to refugee organisations, a detailed statement of which is included in Appendix II to this report, the Office has assisted 1,922 refugees in various countries by means of small advances (not exceeding the sum of 200 Swiss francs per person) amounting, in the aggregate, during the last twelve months to a total of approximately 61,000 Swiss francs. These refugees have been able to start small businesses, in order to earn their own living. These advances have also been used for the payment of the cost of regularising naturalisation documents, travelling expenses, medical treatment, studies, training for new occupations, purchase of clothing and other types of assistance. The very satisfactory results obtained by means of advances for training purposes have led the Office to consider the possibility of extending this method of assistance as a means of enabling the trainees to become skilled artisans and thus to earn their living more easily.

##### SPECIAL REFUGEE PROBLEMS.

###### (a) *Transfer of Armenian Refugees to Erivan.*

The Governing Body desires to refer in this connection to the statements in the President's special report to the 1936 Assembly (document A.27.1936.XII, No. 14(b) and (c), page 6). Owing to lack of funds no progress has been possible.

###### (b) *Armenian Refugees in Syria.*

The Governing Body desires to refer in this connection to the statement in Chapter III, (d) 1, and to the report on the liquidation of the Office submitted by the President to the League



Council in May of this year (document A.II.1937, Chapter IV, (f), and Table E annexed thereto), from which it appears that, after the dwellings have been completed, the sums advanced—amounting to more than 10 million French francs—will still have to be recovered, the situation of the refugees being, at the same time, regularised by the issue of property deeds, etc.

(c) *Russian Refugees in Turkey.*

1. It will be remembered that in 1935 the Nansen Office requested the Turkish Government to naturalise the Russian refugees still living in its territory—some 2,000 in number—who were to be deprived of their livelihood by the severe restrictions imposed on foreigners for the protection of Turkish national labour. The Office deemed it advisable to accept an arrangement under which the Turkish Government agreed, in principle, to allow all refugees to be naturalised, provided that a group of about 150—whom it wished to get rid of for special reasons—was evacuated through the Office and at its expense.

Considerable sums have had to be advanced by the Office—with little hope of recovery—as the majority of the refugees have no money to cover the cost of naturalisation. At the present time, out of some 1,750 refugees, 846 have obtained Turkish nationality, while 440 will be able to take out their Turkish identity documents very shortly. Naturalisation permits have not yet been obtained for the others, as the formalities relating to the compilation of the lists have often been seriously delayed by causes over which the Office has no control. The Governing Body ventures to hope that this question will be settled during 1937.

2. As regards the evacuation of the group of 150 refugees who have been refused naturalisation, the report of the Governing Body to the seventeenth Assembly refers to the difficulties encountered by the Office in carrying out the Turkish stipulation. A number of these refugees were transferred to Palestine, Iraq, etc. The Greek Government allowed the Office to transfer the remainder—about 100 persons—to the island of Syra for a period of six months, provided the Office made itself responsible for their maintenance.

Of these refugees, 13 were provisionally allowed into Belgium and 15 were accepted by Yugoslavia under the same conditions. At the request of the Office's representative, the Yugoslav Government kindly granted final permission of residence to the latter.

Such was the situation when the present President took over the management of the affairs of the Nansen Office in February 1936. As the outcome of his efforts, 19 of the refugees from the island of Syra have been accepted by Norway and 10 by Sweden, and will be housed, kept and trained at the expense of the Governments of those countries until they are able to earn their own living. The Swedish Government has also allotted 20,000 Kroner towards the settlement of the other refugees at Syra, while the Danish Government has likewise assigned 20,000 Kroner to this object. In the meantime the Greek Government, in response to the repeated requests by the President of the Office and in spite of the serious difficulties caused to Greece by the arrival of a large number of refugees from Asia Minor, was good enough to accept 19 refugees permanently, while stipulating that the Office should carry out its obligation to evacuate the remainder. The President has done his utmost, but in vain. None of the States he approached was willing to accept any of these unfortunate people. To-day, there are still 28 refugees on the island of Syra. They are being kept by the Office, which has already expended in this connection sums altogether out of proportion to its resources. It is only natural that the Greek authorities should insist on the promised evacuation being carried out. Nevertheless, all that it is humanly possible to do has been done by the Office.

The Governing Body has dealt with this lamentable instance at some length, because it clearly reveals the deplorable state of affairs prevailing at present, when it is impossible to find any place in the world where these refugees can count on the right to live, still less to work. And yet they have broken no law: the Turkish authorities state that they have nothing against them individually.

At present the Nansen Office is continuing its efforts to induce certain countries to accept these refugees; but it is feared that it will not be possible to provide for their future.

(d) *Armenian Refugees in Greece.*

For imperative reasons of public health the Greek authorities have had to decide to demolish thousands of hutments in which Greek and Armenian refugees from Asia Minor had taken refuge, and over 2,500 families of Armenian refugees will shortly be homeless. Some 600 families are completely destitute, and have appealed to the Office. The Greek Government has informed the Office's representative that it would be prepared to grant a large piece of land free of charge, if the Office, in its turn, was prepared to build dwellings for these refugees. The Office has already voted a credit of 20,000 Swiss francs for this purpose out of the funds obtained from the sale of the Norwegian stamp; and an equivalent amount is to be provided by Armenian organisations. The Office's representative is now drawing up with the delegates of the Armenian organisations a settlement scheme which will be carried out as soon as possible.

(e) *Saar Refugees.*

The seventeenth Assembly, in partial response to the request made by the President of the Office in his special report, voted a credit of 200,000 Swiss francs for the settlement of Saar refugees in South America on the basis of the arrangements concluded with the Paraguayan Government by the mission sent to that country by the Office in 1935. The settlement scheme covers transport



from a European port to Asunción, the purchase of twelve hectares of land for each family, one hectare cleared, the construction of a small house of the local type, the boring of a well, the agricultural implements strictly necessary, seeds, a small supply of head of poultry, and maintenance for one year.

As stated in the President's special report, the object was to evacuate 200 refugee families, a figure based on the requests made by the Saar colony itself and fixed in agreement with the French authorities.

Settlement in South America, which had hitherto been confined to a few groups of Saar refugees, as the Office's funds were inadequate, was continued in November 1936; and at the present time 114 refugees have been settled in Paraguay under satisfactory conditions. The Governing Body wishes to draw attention to the fact that the League of Red Cross Societies is taking an interest in the problem of the medical centre proposed by the Office for the benefit of refugees settled in Paraguay, for whom the opening of an elementary school is also contemplated. Arrangements are being made for further convoys, but the settlement movement, which at one time appeared to be making rapid headway, has slowed down as the result of changes of various kinds in the situation in France, the facilities now granted to these refugees and the satisfactory consequences of the ratification of the 1933 Convention.

In view of the new situation thus created, the Governing Body expresses the hope that the eighteenth Assembly will see fit to authorise the Office to utilise any sum left over from the 200,000 Swiss francs granted by the previous Assembly for the settlement of Saar refugees in the countries of refuge. In particular, these refugees need to be trained for new occupations, to be helped to start small businesses, etc. These forms of assistance are especially helpful in the case of intellectual refugees, former officials and persons in general who are unfitted for settlement in oversea countries.

#### FINANCE.

##### (a) *Communication to the League of the Office's Accounts for the Year 1936 and of the Budget for 1938.*

1. The Governing Body, at its fifteenth session on April 28th, 1937, approved the budgetary and relief funds accounts for the year 1936, and transmitted them to the League in conformity with the Office's statutes (document A.3(d).1937.X). It also approved the budget for 1938, which was then submitted to the League (document A.4(c).1937.X). For this latter budget, amounting to 277,549.25 Swiss francs, the Office was obliged to draw on its reserve funds, which will therefore be completely exhausted. The Bulgarian Government is generously continuing to contribute an amount of 9,000 Swiss francs to the Office's general budget, and we have also to add—not without regret—that the refugees themselves contribute a sum of 16,000 Swiss francs in payment for the various documents drawn up on their behalf and at their request.

2. The direct contribution from the League, for which the Nansen Office is asking with a view to its work in 1938, amounts to only 169,036 Swiss francs, made up as follows: 104,080 Swiss francs asked for as a supplementary credit from the Supervisory Commission, and 64,956 Swiss francs, the balance due to the Office on the basis of the 1931 scale.

In 1931, a scale of League contributions was drawn up to cover the administrative expenses of the Office. At that time, the situation was such as to encourage the hope that the refugee problem could be rapidly liquidated. In accordance with these expectations, the contributions fixed under the scale gradually declined. The contribution for 1931 was fixed at 333,800 gold francs. For the two years 1937 and 1938, the proposed contributions amounted to a total of 234,153 Swiss francs. As 169,197 Swiss francs were allocated for the year 1937, the balance is only 64,956 Swiss francs. To this sum should be added 13,072 Swiss francs for work in Syria and 20,000 Swiss francs for the Saar refugee budget. The supervisory Commission has already proposed the inclusion of these last-mentioned three credits in the budget.

As regards the balance of 104,080 Swiss francs, the Supervisory Commission, on May 8th, 1937, considered that, in view of the 1931 scale mentioned above, it was not called upon to express any opinion, and accordingly decided to refer the question of this supplementary credit to the Assembly.

For the present, the Governing Body would merely point out that—as was incidentally recognised by the Supervisory Commission itself in 1932—the League is not bound by any formal engagement to adhere to this scale, especially as the Fourth Committee (which, in accordance with the Financial Regulations is alone competent to deal with proposals for expenditure) did not give an opinion upon the liquidation scheme submitted by the Office in 1931. Moreover, the Assembly in 1932 and 1933 modified the figures fixed in the 1931 scale. It is true that these modifications reduced the figures specified in the scale; but, if the principle is admitted that the scale is not sacrosanct and can be changed, there is nothing to prevent the Assembly from changing it in an upward direction when circumstances so require. The present situation is very different from that prevailing in 1931; and in many respects it is very much worse for the Office, as will be explained later to the competent Committee, as may be necessary.

It is also undeniable, as was explicitly recognised by the Committee for International Assistance to Refugees, that the additional work entailed by the liquidation of the Nansen Office necessarily involves increased expenditure. Nevertheless, even if we include the supplementary

credit requested, the budget of the Nansen Office for 1938 is smaller than that of previous years, in spite of the considerable increase in its activity.

In any case, there is no doubt that, if the Assembly fails to grant the supplementary credit requested, the Nansen Office will be obliged to close its doors long before the end of 1938. It will thus be impossible for it to carry out the decision of the seventeenth Assembly, instructing the President of the Office to submit to it in September 1938 a scheme for allocating the tasks undertaken by the Office up to the date of its liquidation, in the light of the situation existing at that time.

(b) *General.*

The relief funds obtained during the year ending June 30th, 1937 amounted to 577,895.80 Swiss francs, including 383,552.35 Swiss francs from Nansen stamps, 55,003.85 Swiss francs from surcharged postage-stamps sold in France and Norway, and 81,654.35 Swiss francs reimbursed by refugees in respect of advances made for their settlement.

A total sum of 492,821.60 Swiss francs was distributed by way of advances and grants to refugees and refugee organisations. On June 30th, 1937, the balance of the Humanitarian Fund amounted to 292,371.20 Swiss francs (see Appendix III).

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Appendix I.

INTERVENTIONS ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE (AND RÉSUMÉ OF THEIR ACTIVITIES)  
DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1ST, 1936, TO JUNE 30TH, 1937.

Interventions	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	China *	Czechoslovakia	Danzig (Free City of)	Estonia	France	Germany	Greece	Lithuania	Roumania	Switzerland	Syria	Turkey	Yugoslavia	Other countries	Totals
I. <i>Issues and Renewals of Nansen Passports:</i> (Applications to local authorities for the issue of identity certificates):																		
Russians . . . . .	—	18	4,615	—	86	65	1	133	520	—	—	15	11	20	—	17	—	8,506
Armenians . . . . .	—	1	2,842	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	105	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
II. <i>Issues of Visas:</i> (Action taken to obtain them):																		
(a) Entry visas:																		
Russians . . . . .	—	23	75	—	18	—	7	75	92	1	1	15	—	—	—	51	—	424
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	17	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Transit visas:																		
Russians . . . . .	—	—	38	—	20	—	—	—	3	2	1	7	102	—	—	4	—	196
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Return visas:																		
Russians . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	17	—	65
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III. <i>Establishment of Documents referred to in Article 1 of the Arrangement of June 30th, 1928, and of Similar Documents:</i>																		
(a) Certifying the identity and the position of the refugees (apart from the interventions mentioned under Section I):																		
Russians . . . . .	—	—	8	—	—	29	—	96	267	4	—	7	—	—	1,310	3	—	1,981
Armenians . . . . .	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	197	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Certifying the family position and civil status in so far as these are based on documents issued or action taken in the country of origin of the refugees:																		
Russians . . . . .	—	—	2	—	43	4	—	426	774	17	—	23	—	—	—	4	—	1,930
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	498	—	116	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—





INTERVENTIONS ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OFFICE (AND RÉSUMÉ OF THEIR ACTIVITIES)  
DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1ST, 1936, TO JUNE 30TH, 1937 (continued).

Interventions	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	China *	Czechoslovakia	Danzig (Free City of)	Estonia	France	Germany	Greece	Lithuania	Romania	Switzerland	Syria	Turkey	Yugoslavia	Other countries	Totals
IV. <i>Other Interventions</i> (continued):																		
(e) General certificates of indigence (apart from the documents mentioned in No. V):																		
Russians . . . . .	—	14	—	—	—	26	38	213	34	—	—	5	—	500	—	5	—	835
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
V. <i>Delivery of Certificates of Exemption from the Payment of the Nansen Stamp:</i>																		
Russians . . . . .	43	12	3,527	—	—	—	—	4,823	—	—	—	335	—	—	—	1,779	—	16,820
Armenians . . . . .	1	1	1,810	—	—	—	—	3,757	—	—	—	732	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VI. <i>Settlements, Placings, Evacuations, Naturalisations, etc.:</i>																		
Russians . . . . .	1	—	144	—	184	—	90	87	—	279	—	—	16	140	596	—	—	1,930
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	50	—	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	112	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VII. <i>Placings in Various Trades and Enterprises by Means of Small Advances and Advances to Refugees to enable them to find Employment (Number of Persons in Receipt of Advances):</i>																		
Russians . . . . .	6	7	93	—	81	34	—	159	10	590	8	216	34	11	—	668	5	1,922
Armenians . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. <i>Other Activities</i> (i.e., applications to private and national organisations for relief in cases of unemployment, indigency, sickness, old age, etc.; investigations, consultations, translations of documents, etc.; research for parents and families; circular letters to refugees, etc.): <i>Assistance and Interventions of all kinds</i> (apart from those mentioned in the preceding sections):																		
Russians . . . . .	—	146	1,249	—	1,823	—	1,823	7,835	4,415	8,312	55	2,887	3,971	3,385	4,166	15,540	—	74,189
Armenians . . . . .	—	12	162	—	—	—	—	8,746	—	—	—	127	—	—	—	5	—	—
Assyrians, Assyro-Chaldeans and Turks . . . . .	—	—	—	—	3,787	—	—	6,049	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saar . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,517	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals by countries . . . . .	96	831	15,180	—	5,005	161	2,555	37,898	7,869	11,895	67	4,414	4,152	4,117	7,382	18,194	5	119,821

\* The statistics have not yet been received.

## Appendix II.

### SUBVENTIONS MADE BY THE OFFICE TO ORGANISATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM JULY 1ST, 1936, TO JUNE 30TH, 1937.

#### PART I. — DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE OFFICE TO ORGANISATIONS.

Organisation	Amount in Swiss francs	Object
Action orthodoxe russe (Comité d'aide aux malades), Paris . . . . .	1,000	For the maintenance of four extra beds for one year.
Union des Associations des Emigrés ukrainiens en France . . . . .	2,500	For the assistance of the sick and unemployed.
Union of Ex-Servicemen of the Army of the Ukrainian Democratic Republic . . . . .	2,500	For the enlargement of the infirmary and the development of a poultry farm.
Union des mutilés et invalides russes résidant en France . . . . .	5,000	Establishment of a new home at Ozoir-la Ferrière.
Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, Prague.	270	For the extension of their night refuge.
Almshouses of the Russian Colony at Pančevo	1,000	Establishment of a home for 42 old people.
Federation of Russian Christian Workers in Bulgaria . . . . .	500	Establishment of a painted cover industry for the assistance of the unemployed.
Russian Dispensary, Berlin . . . . .	255	Free distribution of medicine, soup, minor necessities, etc.
Russian Refectory, Berlin . . . . .	1,000	This organisation distributed 18,000 meals between May 1st and November 1st, 1936—53% free.
Russische Kinderhilfe in Deutschland . . . . .	1,000	For the assistance of indigent children during the winter.
Russian Boy Scouts in Germany . . . . .	150	Summer camp.
Association of Russian Ex-soldiers in Bulgaria	600	For essential medical assistance to its members and the maintenance of a hospital bed.
Russian Boy Scouts in Bulgaria . . . . .	250	For the organisation of a holiday colony for poor children.
Association of Russian émigrés in Shanghai . .	8,000	For the assistance of the unemployed and all necessitous refugees.
Association des grands mutilés combattants russes en France . . . . .	4,610	For the establishment of a home and the equipment of a work-shop for light handicrafts for the 53 members, all of whom have lost at least 80% of their working capacity.
Association nationale des Scouts russes en France, Paris . . . . .	500	Towards the cost of two holiday camps for 240 poor children.
Association nationale des Scouts russes en France, Bordeaux . . . . .	125	Towards the cost of a holiday camp for poor children.
Vitiaz National Association of Russian Youth .	250	For the organisation of holiday colonies for young people.
Association des travailleurs chrétiens russes à Rioupéroux . . . . .	400	Education of the children of Russian workers in the aluminium factory and assistance to the needy.
Centre d'aide aux réfugiés russes en France . .	3,000	To send sick Russian children to Swiss preventoria and solaria. In 1936, 198 children were sent to Switzerland.
Comité d'aide aux chômeurs russes, Paris . . .	1,500	Assistance to the aged and sick. Finding of employment for, and assistance to, the unemployed.
Comité central de patronage de la Jeunesse universitaire russe à l'étranger, Paris . . . . .	6,500	Cost of studies and foundation of scholarships.
Association des Arméniennes de Russie, Paris .	500	This Association assists a large number of old, infirm and crippled women.
Comité de Secours aux tuberculeux russes, Paris	1,875	Installation of heating in the home at Noisy-le-Grand, and assistance to the indigent sick.
Croix-Bleue des Arméniens, Paris. . . . .	2,400	Assistance to the sick (dispensaries at Marseilles, Issy and Arnouville).
Committee of Relief to Russian Jews . . . . .	4,500	Assistance to a large number of Russian Jews in want in Germany.
<i>Carried forward . .</i>	50,185	



PART I. — DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE OFFICE TO ORGANISATIONS (*continued*).

Organisation	Amount in Swiss francs	Object
<i>Brought forward . .</i>	50,185	
Groupe académique russe, Paris . . . . .	500	For the assistance of necessitous intellectual workers.
Maison de secours aux chômeurs ukrainiens, Paris	2,000	For the addition of a workshop to their home (20 refugees) for the manufacture of rubber goods—work provided.
Orphelinat arménien catholique de St-Gratien .	2,000	This orphanage takes charge of 70 orphan girls.
Association des dames arméniennes "Terbrotzasser", Le Raincy . . . . .	1,000	Towards the upkeep of an orphanage—200 pupils.
Vakhan Armenian Section of Bulgarian Scouts .	300	On behalf of poor children at their holiday colony.
Union des artistes libres arméniens, Paris . . .	300	Assistance to necessitous Armenian artists.
Union générale arménienne de bienfaisance, Paris	5,000	For the assistance of Armenian refugees in Bulgaria, Greece and Syria.
Russian National Union, Luxemburg . . . . .	2,000	Assistance to necessitous refugees and persons expelled from other countries.
Russian Refugees Home, Meshed . . . . .	200	For board and lodging of Russian refugees passing through Meshed.
School Ukrainian for Emigrés, Warsaw . . . .	1,000	For the maintenance and education of orphans in the boarding-school of St. Petlura.
Confederation of Russian Christian Workers. .	4,000	Grants to Federations and associations in various countries for the assistance of large families, old people and the sick.
Welfare Society of the Russian Church, Geneva	2,000	For the distribution of relief.
Patronage Committee of Russian Students in Czechoslovakia . . . . .	3,000	To increase allowances to Russian students.
Institute of Agriculture and Forestry, Zemun .	200	To supplement food and for the purchase of fuel (30 students).
Union of Russian Social Welfare Organisations, Prague. . . . .	1,200	On behalf of the various organisations belonging to the Union.
Sogor Society, Prague . . . . .	1,000	For the maintenance of schools for mothers at Prague.
Association of Russian War Disabled Ex-Servicemen, Belgrade. . . . .	2,000	For the purchase of medicine and therapeutic apparatus (Blind section).
Russian Orthodox Association, Belgrade. . . .	150	Towards the rent of the home.
Paternal Committee of the Russian Secondary School, Belgrade . . . . .	1,000	For education and the purchase of books, clothing and food (275 students).
Bela Crkva Parish Council . . . . .	200	For the distribution of meals to the most necessitous refugees.
Students Hostel, Belgrade . . . . .	250	To improve the food and general situation of 50 women students.
Welfare Society of the Russian Church, Belgrade	1,000	On behalf of their two homes for men and women, housing 65 indigent persons.
Russian Students Union, Zagreb . . . . .	200	For rent, heating and lighting and food (57 students).
Direction générale de l'ancienne organisation de la Croix-Rouge russe, Paris . . . . .	10,000	For the various branches of its humanitarian work.
Central Welfare Bureau, Geneva . . . . .	1,600	For board and lodging of refugees passing through Geneva.
Comité des Zemstvos et Villes russes de secours, Paris . . . . .	11,000	Assistance to the children of refugees in various countries.
Direction générale de la Fédération des Invalides mutilés de guerre russes à l'étranger, Paris. .	12,500	For the upkeep of their various hospitals, homes, dispensaries, etc.
Comité russe de secours, Paris . . . . .	1,500	For the maintenance of a free refectory serving hot meals to more than 300 persons, and of their house of retreat.
Union of Russian War Invalids, Athens . . .	500	To provide wholesome and sufficient food for the indigent sick, and also medical attention and minor necessities.
Union of Russian Invalids, Salonica . . . . .	400	For the completion of a home for the members of the Union.
Armenian Church Council, Tripoli . . . . .	203.30	Towards the repair of their school (140 children).
Comité central des réfugiés arméniens, Paris .	2,000	On behalf of the Committee's work.
Union of Russian Orthodox Scouts, Prague . .	130	Towards the cost of a holiday camp for 60 children.
Cossack Union, Athens . . . . .	5,000	For the construction of a home for the members of the Union, old people and invalids.
Total . . . . .	125,508.30	

PART II. — SUBVENTIONS GRANTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF RUSSIAN ORGANISATIONS SET UP IN PARIS TO ADMINISTER 40% OF THE REVENUE OF THE NANSSEN STAMP RESERVED FOR RUSSIAN REFUGEE RELIEF IN THAT COUNTRY.  
(Year 1936.)

Categories of organisations	Amount in French francs	Object
(a) Grants to four organisations dealing with the sick in general . . . . .	21,300	For operations, in-patient treatment at clinics and medicine.
(b) Grants to four organisations dealing with tuberculosis cases . . . . .	59,500	For in-patient treatment at sanatoria.
(c) Grants to fourteen organisations dealing with children of pre-school and school age . . . . .	77,050	For the upkeep of crèches, orphanages, homes, etc., distribution of meals, contribution towards cost of education, etc.
(d) Grants to fifteen organisations dealing with the aged . . . . .	60,075	For assistance to indigent old people, sick or unemployed persons, for their care in homes and the upkeep of the latter.
(e) Grants to thirteen organisations dealing with the unemployed . . . . .	77,150	For minor necessities, payment of rent, meals, medical attendance, etc.
(f) Grants to five organisations dealing with students . . . . .	30,000	For meals, rent, medicine and money allowances and towards the upkeep of a home for students.
(g) Grants to three organisations dealing with war invalids . . . . .	43,500	For assistance in general, purchase of artificial limbs, orthopædic apparatus, etc.
(h) Grants to eight organisations dealing with various kinds of relief . . . . .	65,500	For relief of various kinds to indigent refugees in general.
(i) Grants to twelve organisations dealing with holiday camps . . . . .	30,500	To send sickly or convalescent refugee children to the country.
(j) Grants to three Ukranian relief organisations.	23,000	Towards the cost of upkeep of crèches, homes, free meals, etc.
Total . . . . .	487,575	To eighty-one organisations.

Appendix III.

A. HUMANITARIAN FUND.

MOVEMENT FROM JULY 1ST, 1936, TO JUNE 30TH, 1937 (TWELVE MONTHS).

Credit balance of the Humanitarian Fund as at July 1st, 1936 . . . . . Swiss francs  
207,297.—

I. — Receipts.

Proceeds of the sale of Nansen stamps . . . . .	Swiss francs 383,552.35	
Miscellaneous contributions . . . . .	26,757.95	
Proceeds of the sale of surcharged postage stamps:		
France . . . . .	Swiss francs 10,759.15	
Norway . . . . .	44,244.70	
	<hr/>	55,003.85
(Less 2,501.80 Swiss francs for commission)		
Repayment by refugees . . . . .		81,654.35
Miscellaneous receipts (interest, etc.) . . . . .	Swiss francs 1,119.90	
Profit on exchange . . . . .	29,807.40	
	<hr/>	30,927.30
		<hr/>
Total . . . . .		577,895.80
		<hr/>
		785,192.80

## II. — *Expenditure.*

	Swiss francs	Swiss francs	Swiss francs
Advances made . . . . .	177,841.80		
Advances made (commitments) . . . . .	13,131.80		
	<hr/>	190,973.60	
Grants . . . . .	112,710.40		
Grants (commitments) . . . . .	11,328.—		
	<hr/>	124,038.40	
Allowances to organisations:			
France (50% of the stamp) . . . . .	161,944.15		
Roumania . . . . .	4,000.—		
	<hr/>	165,944.15	
Additional charges . . . . .		10,434.70	
Miscellaneous expenditure . . . . .		1,430.75	
		<hr/>	492,821.60
Balance of the Humanitarian Fund as at June 30th, 1937 . . . . .			292,371.20
			<hr/>
Total . . . . .			785,192.80

### B. SETTLEMENT OF SAAR REFUGEES.

(Credit voted by the League of Nations, 200,000 Swiss francs.)

	Swiss francs
<i>Receipts:</i> Payments on account by the League . . . . .	102,900.—
<i>Expenditure:</i> Evacuation to Paraguay . . . . .	70,875.15
	<hr/>
Balance in hand as at June 30th, 1937 . . . . .	30,024.85

## Appendix IV.

### LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

President appointed by the Assembly of the League of Nations: M. Michael HANSSON.  
 Vice-Presidents: His Excellency M. C. ANTONIADE, Mr. L. B. GOLDEN.

#### I. MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES.

##### (a) *Members:*

His Excellency M. C. ANTONIADE, Minister Plenipotentiary of Roumania.  
 His Excellency M. P. DE REFFYE, Minister Plenipotentiary of France.  
 Dr. Ivan SOUBBOTITCH, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia accredited to the League of Nations.  
 (One seat vacant.)

##### (b) *Substitute Members:*

Mr. C. A. EDMOND, British Consul at Geneva.  
 His Excellency M. J. FELDMANS, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of the Latvian Government accredited to the League of Nations.  
 His Excellency M. N. MOMTCHILOFF, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Bulgaria accredited to the League of Nations.  
 M. G. ROMANELLI, Consul-General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Rome.

#### II. MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

M. J. AVENOL, Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

#### III. MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE.

Mr. H. B. BUTLER, Director of the International Labour Office.



IV. MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS  
FOR REFUGEES.

(a) *Members:*

Mr. L. B. GOLDEN, British United Committee, London.  
M. L. PACHALIAN, Comité central des réfugiés arméniens, Paris.  
M. J. RUBINSTEIN, Commission centrale pour l'étude de la condition des réfugiés russes, Paris.

(b) *Substitute Members:*

M. M. FEDOROFF, Comité central de patronage de la Jeunesse universitaire russe à l'étranger,  
Paris.  
M. C. HANEMIAN, Office des réfugiés arméniens en France, Paris.  
Mr. W. A. MACKENZIE, Save the Children International Union, Geneva.

V. MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NANSSEN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.

(a) *Members:*

His Excellency Senator G. CIRAOLO, President of the Executive Committee of the International  
Relief Union, Rome.  
Mlle. S. FERRIÈRE, International Migration Service, Geneva.

(b) *Substitute Members:*

M. A. FRANÇOIS, former Senator.  
M. B. DE ROUGE, Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies.

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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE AND OF THE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE.

MANAGING COMMITTEE.

(a) *Members:*

M. Michael HANSSON, President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office.  
His Excellency M. P. DE REFFYE.  
M. J. RUBINSTEIN.

(b) *Substitute Members:*

M. L. PACHALIAN.  
(One seat vacant.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

M. Michael HANSSON, President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office.  
His Excellency M. C. ANTONIADE.  
His Excellency M. P. DE REFFYE.  
M. J. RUBINSTEIN.  
(One seat vacant.)

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STAFF OF THE OFFICE.

*Administrative Director:* M. G. CORONI Bey.

*Members of the Secretariat:* M. G. ZWERNER, M. O. F. EHRENHOLD.

One chief accountant, one archivist, one assistant accountant, three bilingual shorthand-  
typists, two shorthand-typists, one office-keeper.

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NANSSEN OFFICE.

*Austria:*

M. E. KOMERS

Honorary Austrian  
representative

23, Herrengasse, Vienna.



*Belgium:*

M. R. COUBAUX	Honorary representative	Belgian	30, rue d'Italie, Brussels.
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*Bulgaria:*

M. B. SERAFIMOV	Representative	Russian refugee	18, Chipka Street, Sofia.
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*Czechoslovakia:*

Dr. A. G. MASARYKOVA	Honorary representative	Czech	17, Rubesova, Prague.
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*Finland:*

M. F. M. GRIPENBERG	Honorary representative	Finn	2 A. 13, Malmbrinken, Helsinki.
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*France:*

M. M. PAON	Representative	French	38, boulevard Raspail, Paris (VII).
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*Germany:*

Representation in Germany (being wound up)			10, Motzstrasse, Berlin, W.30.
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*Greece:*

M. A. KOTELNIKOV	Representative	Greek	9A, rue Metropoléos, Athens.
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*Roumania:*

M. A. SAVINOFF,	Honorary representative	Russian refugee	1, Strada Dimitrie Sturdza, Bucharest.
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*Syria:*

M. G. BURNIER	Representative	Swiss	Boîte postale 714, Beirut.
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*Turkey:*

M. G. COUTEAUX	Honorary representative	Belgian	Boîte postale 1236, Istanbul.
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*Yugoslavia:*

M. K. PETROVITCH	Representative	Yugoslav	Pašiceva 4/III, Belgrade.
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CORRESPONDENTS.

*China:*

M. A. LOONIS		Belgian	290, Szechuen Road, Shanghai.
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*Danzig:*

M. W. ELISAROFF		Russian refugee	11a, Schäferstrasse, Zoppot (Danzig).
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*Estonia:*

M. M. SOBOLEV		Russian refugee	23, Suur Tan, Narva.
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*Latvia:*

Latvian Red Cross Committee			1, Skolas iela, Riga.
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*Lithuania:*

M. A. TIMINSKIS		Russian refugee	Duonelaicio g. 7a, Kaunas.
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