

Arrangement of 12 May 1926 relating to the Issue of Identity Certificates to Russian and Armenian Refugees

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Supplementing and Amending the previous arrangements dated July 5th, 1922 and May 31st, 1924.

The undersigned, representing the Governments which took part in the Conference regarding Russian and Armenian refugee questions convened at Geneva on May 10th, 1926 by the High Commissioner of the League of Nations and adopted by the Council of the League of Nations on September 28th, 1925;

Having considered the excellent results obtained by the system of identity certificates for Russian and Armenian refugees;

Considering the necessity:

- (1) Of regularising the system of identity certificates for Russian and Armenian refugees;
- (2) Of determining in a more accurate and complete manner the number and situation of Russian and Armenian refugees in the various countries;
- (3) Of creating a revolving fund to provide for the cost of the transportation and settlement of refugees:

Adopt the following resolution, supplementing and amending the Arrangements of July 5th, 1922, and May 31st, 1924;

"1. The Conference urges all the States which have not yet adhered to the Arrangements of July 5th, 1922 and May 31st, 1924, concerning identity certificates for Russian and Armenian refugees to ratify these Arrangements as soon as possible.

"2. The Conference adopts the following definitions of the term "refugees":

"Russian: Any person of Russian origin who does not enjoy or who no longer enjoys the protection of the Government of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and who has not acquired another nationality.

"Armenian: Any person of Armenian origin formerly a subject of the Ottoman Empire who does not enjoy or who no longer enjoys the protection of the Government of the Turkish Republic and who has not acquired another nationality.

"3. In order to facilitate freedom of movement of the refugees, the Conference approves the principle of the affixing of return visas on identity certificates for refugees leaving a country, on the understanding that Governments shall be free to make exceptions to this principle in special cases.

"4. The Conference agrees that children under 15 years of age should be included on the identity certificates of their parents.

"5. The Conference recommends that the Government issuing a national passport to a refugee should withdraw from him his identity certificate and return it to the authority which issued it.

"6. The Conference considers that the fee for an identity certificate in each country should be the same as the for its national passports.

"7. The Conference recommends Governments to grant free of charge the various entrance, exit and transit visas to indigent refugees on the recommendation of the International Labour Office or of its representatives in the different countries.

"The Conference expresses the wish that in general the Governments will regard favourably the proposals of the International Labour Office with regard to possible reductions in the fees for these visas.

"8. The Conference expresses the wish that all Governments will afford favourable consideration to any request from the International Labour Office for special facilities for the transport of refugees proceeding to a country in which employment has been found for them.

"9. In addition to the fees payable in each country according to national legislation for the issue either of an identity certificate for Russian or Armenian refugees, the period of validity of which should not, in principle, exceed one year, or of an identity card or permis de séjour, a charge of five gold francs shall be made for the benefit of the revolving fund created by the league of Nations. This fee shall be charge, at the discretion of the states, either for the issue of one or other of these documents or for both of them, in order to ensure that the fee shall be paid by all Russian and Armenian refugees, except those who are without means.

"10. The Conference recommends that steps should be taken to obviate payment of the above fee more than once a year by any refugee.

"11. The Conference urges the various Governments either to generalise the use of the identity certificate or to take steps to ensure that every refugee pays the fee every years.

"12. In order to secure the payment of the fee of five gold francs, Governments will obtain, or the refugees will be required to obtain, a stamp to the value of this amount to be issued by the High Commissioner of the League of Nations for Refugees, which will be affixed either to the identity certificate or to the identity card or permis de séjour, and cancelled by the authority issuing either of these documents.

"13. In order to husband the resources of the revolving fund, the Conference recommends that the States should make special contributions to cover the cost of transportation and settlement of numbers of refugees leaving or entering their territory.

The Conference recommends to the states represented at the Conference, to the States members of the League of Nations and to States which are not members of the league the adoption of the present Arrangement.

The Conference requests the High Commissioner of the League of nations for Refugees and the Director of the International Labour Office to continue their negotiations with the Governments in order to obtain by way of advances the necessary funds for the placing of refugee sin employment, pending the payment of the fees provided for by the present Arrangement;

And expresses the wish that the representatives of the Governments at the next session of the Assembly of the League will be enabled to report on the measures taken to give effect to the terms of the present Arrangement.

Done at Geneva, May 12th, 1926.		
(Signed)	J. Réveillaud	
	Fridtjof Nansen	
	Albert Thomas	
	South Africa:	G. A. Jenkin with reservations on 8 and 9
	Germany:	Kraske 9 to 12 ad ref
	Austria:	E. Pfügl
		With reference to par. 12 of this Arrangement, it is understood that the levying of the contemplated tax will be effected in Austria by the representatives of the High Commissioner
	Belgium:	H. Costermans
		Gonne
	Bulgaria:	D. Mikoff

	Canada:	J. Bruce Walker
	Cuba:	Aristides de Agüero
	Estonia:	C. R. Pusta
	Finland:	Eino Walikangas
	France:	de Navailles
	Great Britain:	W. Haldane Porter
	Greece:	D. Nicolopoulos
	Hungary:	Dr. Baranyai Zoltan
	India:	J. W. Hose
	Latvia:	Charles Duzamans
	Norway:	Chr. L. Lange
	Poland:	Leon Malhomme
	Romania:	N. P. Comnène
	Sweden:	Adlercreutz
	Switzerland:	Delaqis
		Rothmund
	Denmark:	A. Oldenburg
		F. Boek
		Subject to ratification
	Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes:	M. Jovanovitch
	Irish Free State:	M. Macwhite

APPENDIX

Arrangement of 12 May 1926 relating to the Issue of Identity Certificates to Russian and Armenian Refugees

Signatories of the arrangement:	States between which the Arrangement came into force:
Union of South Africa	Austria
	Belgium
Great Britain	Bulgaria
	Cuba
Canada	Denmark

	Estonia
Latvia	Finland
	France
(These countries are not included in the list of twenty states in respect of which the Arrangement came into force)	Germany
	Greece
	Hungary
	India
	Ireland
	Luxembourg
	Norway
	Poland
	Roumania
	Sweden
	Switzerland
	Yugoslavia