

Geneva, November 24, 1924.

RESOLUTION

THE CONFERENCE ON PASSPORTS, CUSTOMS FORMALITIES AND THROUGH TICKETS

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The International Conference on Passports, Customs Formalities and Through Tickets held under the auspices of the Provisional Committee on Communications and Transit of the League of Nations, and charged with the study of the methods necessary to facilitate international passenger traffic by rail, at present more especially hindered by passport and Customs formalities, as well as by the difficulties of obtaining through tickets.

Considering that the many difficulties affecting passenger relations between the peoples of various countries constitute a serious obstacle to the resumption of normal intercourse and to the economic recovery of the world;

Being of the opinion, further, that the legitimate concern of every Government for the safeguarding of its security and rights prohibits, for the time being, the total abolition of restrictions and that complete return to pre-war conditions which the Conference hopes, nevertheless, to see gradually reestablished in the near future;

Desires that the League of Nations should invite the Governments to adopt the following measures with as little delay as possible:

1. PASSPORTS.

a. Issues on Communications.

a. The establishment of a uniform type of "passport," (uniformity), (international type), which will be identical for all countries, in order to facilitate control during the journey (model as per Annex I), to be issued at the latest by January, 1926, and to supersede all other types.

b. Duration of validity of passport. — The passport will only be issued for a single journey and will be valid for two years. (Flexibility of the passport system for foreigners may be extended).

c. Use to be collected. — The fee charged shall not be of a fixed character and will be collected without any discrimination between countries for which the passport is issued, and with absolute equality as between "nationals" and "non-nationals" in the event of a passport being issued by a Government to persons other than its "nationals".

d. Diplomatic passports. — Diplomatic passports or visas will only be granted to persons falling within the categories mentioned in Annex II, the form of diplomatic passport being left entirely to the discretion of the issuing State.

B. Preliminary Visas

1. *Limitation of preliminary visas.* — "Preliminary" visas (visa granted by the authorities issuing the passport on the basis of representations) will only be required in case the validity of the passport is subject to doubt. Such visas will always be given free of charge.

2. *Duration of validity of visa.* — For passports issued for a single journey, the duration of validity of the visa will be the same as that of the passport. For passports issued for multiple journeys, the visa will be valid for one year, except in absolutely exceptional cases where a Government might deem it advisable to give a visa of less duration of validity in order not to reduce the validity of the visa altogether. Such Governments will notify the Government-Contractor of the length of validity given in accordance with the information of other Governments the members, both ordinary members and exceptional members of a less duration, given by its officials. Notwithstanding, however, that duration of validity of a visa does not in any way imply the right to stay or to settle for a corresponding period in the territory of the State granting the visa. Except for special reasons justified by considerations of public order or national security, visas given will always be valid for all frontiers.

3. *The charges.* — The maximum fee to be charged for the visa will be made irrespective of the nationality of the holder of the passport or of the point of entry into or departure from the territory of the State issuing the visa. Nevertheless, the nationals of a State granting to nationals of another State the immediate consular visa may themselves be accorded reciprocity. Such extent of paying no special rate. Any such reduced rate which may be granted will apply equally to all States granting the same advantages. There shall be no individual exemption of any kind, except in the case of certain categories of persons who may be exempted from payment of the visa charge in accordance with laws in the field of public order, such exemptions being subject to the reciprocity of similar exemptions laid down in the granting country.

4. *Issue of visa.* — Visas will, under the exceptional circumstances (e.g., emergencies), be issued at once without requiring the presentation of the entrance visa for the collection of destination or of transit visa for the destination countries.

5. *Duration of validity of visa.* — The duration of validity of a visa shall always be the same as that of the passport or of the entry of destination being designated, and moreover, that the transit visa only (including visa of transit) shall not be subject to the same conditions of validity as the entry of destination or of transit visa.

6. *The charges.* — The maximum fee charged will be in gold, and will be subject to the same provisions as contained in Article 1 regarding conditions of equality, reciprocity, the abolition of individual exemptions and total exemptions.

C. Collective Passports

1. *Family passports.* — The provisions of the above paragraph will be applicable to family passports (husband, wife and children under fifteen years of age) issued by a family member being considered, especially in regard to charges levied, as an individual passport.

2. *Collective passports for groups.* — The same fee as for individual passports for groups will be collected without any discrimination, whether based upon the nature of the entry or the point of departure and exit from the territory of the State issuing the visa, subject, however, to the conditions of reciprocity provided for in Article 1. The conditions of validity of such passports shall be the same as for individual passports.

D. Customs

1. *The abolition of examination of baggage in transit.* — Baggage is to be exempt from examination of a State in transit in that State and any Customs examination. Such exemption shall, however, be subject to the conditions of reciprocity provided for in Article 1. The conditions of validity of such baggage shall be the same as for individual passports.

Transportation instrument with money endorsement. — Government instrument containing endorsement authorizing the export of money and which will be presented to the customs authorities at the point of departure, shall be subject to the same restrictions as the money endorsement which are in their possession. They will be entitled, on leaving the country, to take with them such money endorsement surrendering the above-mentioned certificate. The instrument will be issued under the name of the Government and will be subject to the same restrictions as the instrument prohibiting the export of money.

II. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

A. General principle. — The States should, with the exception of the States of the League of Nations, communicate to the League of Nations all information relating to the measures for the control of the movement of persons, in order to enable the League of Nations to take such measures as it may deem fit. The States should also communicate to the League of Nations all information relating to the measures for the control of the movement of persons, in order to enable the League of Nations to take such measures as it may deem fit. The States should also communicate to the League of Nations all information relating to the measures for the control of the movement of persons, in order to enable the League of Nations to take such measures as it may deem fit.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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Any Government desiring to withdraw from the League of Nations should, in order to enable the League of Nations to take such measures as it may deem fit, communicate to the League of Nations all information relating to the measures for the control of the movement of persons, in order to enable the League of Nations to take such measures as it may deem fit.

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IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) **Transportation instrument.** — That adjacent States should, whenever possible, enter into mutual agreements with a view to accepting from passport authorities all classes of persons holding papers which are issued and taken as a guarantee of their identity (e.g. German passport and railway official endorsement as passport of service identity papers, etc.).

(b) **Abolition of entrance visa for nationals.** — That the entrance visa should not be required for nationals.

(c) **Abolition of exit visa for nationals.** — That the exit visa (the abolition of which for persons other than nationals is provided for in the preceding resolution) should, as far as possible, be abolished also in the case of nationals.

(d) **Entrance visa for foreigners and crossing of frontiers.** — That subject to the legitimate exercise of the right of asylum, the Governments should, as far as possible, enter into agreements with a view to preventing the granting by any State of entrance visas into its territory in cases where the passport itself has not been issued by that territory.

(e) **Facilities for seamen.** — That States should attend to the needs of seamen, having regard to the facilities for seamen as are compatible with their health regulations, their economic situation and with the interests of humanity and that, with this end in view, States should simplify, as far as possible, the regulations and procedure in force with respect to the seamen of foreign ships entering their respective territories.

(f) **Simplification of formalities.** — That States should enter as far as possible into mutual agreements with a view, first, to establishing joint control of passports at points of exit and entry of adjacent countries, and secondly, to providing that the authorities giving a visa should undertake the necessary formalities for obtaining other visas, such as those for transit and finally, to combining passport formalities as far as possible with customs formalities with a view to reducing to a minimum the time lost on the journey.

CUSTOMS

(a) International relations. — That adjacent States should as far as possible enter into agreements to ensure a common Customs system and exit examination by the examination of joint centres.

(b) Examination of outgoing registered baggage. — That the examination of outgoing registered baggage should take place as far as possible before departure at important railway centres.

(c) Examination of incoming registered baggage. — That the examination of incoming registered baggage should take place as far as possible upon arrival at important railway centres.

(d) Examination of baggage in general. — That any further examination of hand and registered baggage should as far as possible take place (whenever this is feasible with number of staff available) on board motor buses carrying out of passenger trains, in the savings chambers whilst at frontier stations.

(e) Limitation of baggage. — That, with a view to simplifying Customs formalities, the Governments should see that regulations governing the limitation of weight and the description of articles which may be carried as luggage consistently conform.

THROUGH

(a) That international through trains and express trains connecting large ports should as far as possible be established at the earliest possible moment and that the attention of Governments should be drawn to the importance of taking the necessary measures to this end, if necessary by mutual agreement.

TRANSPORT

(a) That the most efficient measures should be taken to ensure that the transport of passengers be carried out in the conditions most favourable to public health; that special devices should be used, as far as possible, for the transportation of passengers; that prolonged stoppages at frontier or other stations for the purpose of passengers' Customs, or sanitary formalities in connection with the transport of passengers should take place where special facilities exist which permit of this being done without damage to the public health; that authorities issuing passports to passengers should, at the same time, furnish them with parts copies of the sanitary and other conditions to which they will be subject, and the papers which they will have to carry with them in the country of destination.

The Conference proposes that the League of Nations should invite the Governments to inform the League in due course of the action taken with respect to any or all of these recommendations.

(Signed) *Hen. J. Lammie*
President

(Signed) *Robert Henry*
Secretary-General

"INTERNATIONAL" PASSPORT.

The model is that of a passport such as would be utilized by the Spanish Government.

The passport is to contain 22 pages. The first four pages only are reproduced herewith. The other 18 pages should all be numbered and should contain the visa of the countries for which the passport is valid.

The passport should be drawn up in at least two languages, i.e. in the national language and in French.

The passport must be bound in cardboard, leaving on the top the name and in the centre the name of the country and at the bottom the word "Passport", with the addition, according to the desire of the various Governments, of any practical information concerning the regime of passports.

Any passport of which the pages are entirely filled must be replaced by a fresh passport.

Annex II

DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS.

1. The high dignitaries of the household of a Head of States.
 2. Diplomatic officials and their families ; consular officials and their families.
 3. The members of Governments, Ministers of State, the President and Vice-President of national legislative bodies and their families.
 4. The officials of the Foreign Office and their families.
 5. Cabinet couriers and persons charged by their Governments with official missions to foreign Governments or to official international bodies.
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