

*Ad VI.* — Nansen certificates are issued for a period of three months and may be renewed if necessary. It is not possible to issue them for a longer period owing to the difficulties of supervision which this would involve.

*Ad VII.* — The return clause is incorporated in the Nansen certificates issued by the Yugoslav authorities.

*Ad VIII.* — Yugoslav representatives abroad are empowered to issue transit visas. As regards permits to reside permanently or temporarily in Yugoslavia, stricter control is needed in order to prevent the entry of subversive elements. For this reason, such permits are issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

*Ad IX.* — It is unfortunately impossible to carry out the Commission's recommendations relating to the extension of the period of validity of Nansen certificates by the consular representatives, since this might hinder the exercise of proper control over the movements of the refugees.

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## II. APPLICATION OF THE NANSEN STAMP SYSTEM AND CREATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR THE NANSEN MEMORIAL FUND. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 25TH, 1931.

C.L.269.1931:

### CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO STATES MEMBERS AND CERTAIN STATES NON-MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Geneva, November 9th, 1931.

On September 25th, 1931, the Assembly adopted, *inter alia*, two resolutions dealing respectively with the general adoption of the Nansen Stamp and the formation of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

These resolutions read as follows:

“ The Assembly

“ Urges the interested Governments which have not already done so to put into full application the Nansen Stamp System,

“ Invites the Governments to encourage and facilitate the creation in their territories of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund. ”

May I be permitted in this connection to draw your attention to the present precarious financial situation of the Nansen International Office for Refugees? As you are aware, the prevailing economic depression has hampered the Office's manifold activities in favour of the Refugees; the funds at its disposal at present are altogether inadequate. Since the annual grants made by the League are intended solely to cover the cost of administration, the only revenue at the disposal of the Office for its relief work is that derived from the sale of the Nansen stamp. This revenue amounts at present to a little more than 100,000 Swiss francs, but there is every reason to believe that if the stamp system were generally enforced, it would reach at least 300,000 Swiss francs per annum. It is also probable that the financial position of the Office would be greatly improved if its efforts to raise additional funds were facilitated by the setting up in the various countries of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund, similar to those in Denmark and the United Kingdom, which have already obtained very satisfactory results.

I accordingly beg to draw your special attention to the foregoing resolutions and respectfully to urge your Government to consider the possibility of giving effect to them.

(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND,  
Secretary-General.

20.A/35126/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Washington, January 28th, 1932.

The Secretary of State desires to assure the Secretary-General of the keen sympathy with which the American Government views the efforts for the relief of refugees which are being made by the Nansen International Office. With respect to the resolutions in question, however, the American Government is not in a position to take any action in the direction of a fuller application of the Nansen stamp system, to which it is not a party nor could it, under the circumstances, take steps to encourage or facilitate the creation in the United States of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund. Needless to say, should such a committee be established in this country through private initiative, the American Government would view its activities with entire sympathy and approval.

## REPLY FROM THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

*Note by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.*

For the reply of the Argentine Government to Circular Letter 269.1931, see reply sent to Circular Letter 268.1931, concerning the execution of the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees at its fourth session (see above).

20.A/36290/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

Canberra, March 8th, 1932.

With reference to your Circular Letter (269.1931) of November 9th, I have the honour to inform you that, in view of the limited extent to which Nansen certificates are issued in Australia, only three having been issued during the year 1931, it is not considered advisable to put into application the Nansen stamp system in this country.

Although the Commonwealth Government has always followed the work of the Refugee Commission with sympathy Australia's distance from the scenes of the Commission's activities has prevented any very active participation in its work, and the Commonwealth Government feels that, in these circumstances, it would be difficult to create in Australia a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund as recommended by the Assembly.

(Signed) C. BRUCE,

*Acting Minister for External Affairs.*

20.A/36182/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Vienna, March 29th, 1932.

In reply to your Circular Letter (269.1931) dated October 27th last, I have the honour to inform you that, notwithstanding the liquidation of the Vienna agency of the Nansen International Office for Refugees, Austria will continue to apply the Nansen stamp system, as already stated in Note No. 114-761-15, dated February 2nd last, sent to M. Max Huber, President of the Governing Body of that Office.

As regards the setting up of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Federal Government of the Austrian Republic wishes to state that should such committees be established in Austrian territory it will not fail to give them encouragement in memory of Dr. Nansen's efforts on behalf of our compatriots in captivity.

(Signed) PETER,

*Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs.*

20.A/32939/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Brussels, November 23rd, 1931.

With reference to your Circular Letter of October 27th last (269.1931), I have the honour to inform you that the question of the setting up in Belgium of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund is at present under consideration.

I also wish to state that the Nansen stamp system is being applied to the fullest possible extent in Belgium. Instructions have been issued to the effect that only Russian and Armenian refugees of whose poverty satisfactory proof has been furnished are to be exempted from payment of that stamp.

For the Minister

(Signed) Maurice COSTERMANS,  
The Director General.

## REPLY FROM THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT.

*Note by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.*

For the reply of the Colombian Government to Circular Letter 269.1931, see reply sent to Circular Letter 268.1931, concerning the execution of the recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees at its fourth session (see above).

20.A/35692/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FREE CITY OF DANZIG.

[*Translation.*]

Danzig, February 16th, 1932.

As regards both resolutions, we would venture to point out that neither the introduction of Nansen stamps nor the formation in Danzig of a National Committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund is a practicable possibility for the Free City of Danzig, seeing that the number of Nansen passports for which application has been made to the authorities of the Free City is extremely small, and that the applicants are all persons of small means. In the whole of the year 1931, the Passport Office of the Free City of Danzig issued only three Nansen passports.

For the Senate of the Free City of Danzig:

(Signed) Dr. ZIEHM.

20.A/36263/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Cairo, March 29th, 1932.

In reply to your Circular Letter (269.1931) dated October 27th, 1931, I have the honour to inform you that since the Egyptian Government does not issue Nansen certificates it is not possible to contemplate the general adoption of the Nansen stamp.

As regards the formation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, the Egyptian Government regrets its inability to give effect to this recommendation at the moment, and would prefer that this task should be entrusted to the Russian colony in Egypt whose members will be officially invited to collect the funds necessary for this purpose.

For the  
Minister for Foreign Affairs.  
(Signed) CHEVRI, pasha.

20.A/33043/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Madrid, November 18th, 1931.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Circular Letter (269.1931) of November 9th, and to inform you in reply that the Assembly's recommendations will be duly taken into account.

(Signed) F AGRAMONTE.

20.A/36153/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Geneva, March 31st, 1932.

In reply to your Circular Letter (269.1931) dated October 27th, 1931, I am instructed by my Government to inform you that the Nansen stamp system is not in force in Hungary. Its introduction would be inopportune at the present time, as the great majority of refugees are not in a position to pay the charge of five gold francs.

Moreover, the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior, in view of the very precarious material circumstances of the refugees, does not make any charge (beyond that of the cost of the forms —i.e., 48 fillers) for their identity cards.

(Signed) Zoltan BARANYAI,  
Acting Charge d'Affaires.

20.A/33886/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

London, January 8th, 1932.

With reference to your Circular Letter of October 27th, 1931 (269.1931), regarding the Nansen International Office for Refugees, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to state that, owing to the small number of refugees with whom the Government of India are required to deal, they do not consider it necessary to introduce the Nansen stamp, or to form National Committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

For Secretary of the Economic and  
Overseas Department:

(Signed) C. H. SILVER.

20.A/33188/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Riga, December 4th, 1931.

In your Circular Letter (269.1931) dated October 28th, 1931, you were good enough to communicate the text of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly on September 25th, 1931, regarding the general adoption of the Nansen stamp and the formation of national committees for the Nansen Memorial Fund.

These resolutions have been examined by the Latvian Government, and I am instructed to inform you that it regrets its inability to impose any further charges on refugees resident in Latvia and is obliged to maintain its negative attitude in regard to the introduction of the Nansen stamp system into Latvia, for the reasons which we have already explained in our previous communications.

While appreciating the generous idea embodied in the second of those resolutions, the Latvian Government does not consider that the present is a favourable time for the setting-up in Latvia of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund. In any case, the Latvian Government has not yet been informed of any such intention, and it is unlikely that it will be possible to contemplate the setting up of such a committee in Latvia in the near future.

(Signed) G. ALBAT.

## REPLY FROM THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT.

*Note by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.*

For the reply of the Lithuanian Government to Circular Letter 269.1931, see reply sent to Circular Letter 268.1931, concerning the execution of the Recommendations of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission for Refugees at its fourth session (see above).

20.A/32904/17144.

## REPLY FROM THE LUXEMBURG GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Luxemburg, November 13th, 1931.

In reply to your Circular Letter (269.1931) of November 9th, I have the honour to inform you that the Grand-Ducal Government is applying the Nansen stamp system to the fullest possible extent, even as regards the extension of the validity of passports. However, at this time of depression, when unemployment is so prevalent, the competent Department is frequently obliged to issue passports to poor refugees without a stamp.

The Grand-Ducal Government will also consider the possibility of setting up in the Grand-Duchy a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund, although it does not underrate the difficulty of setting up such a committee at a time when there are so many calls for assistance in Luxemburg itself.

For the Minister of State, President  
of the Government:

(*Signed*) Albert WEHRER,  
*Government Adviser*

20.A/32870/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Oslo, November 17th, 1931.

In reply to your Circular Letter (269.1931) of October 27th last, I have the honour to confirm<sup>1</sup> that the Nansen stamp system has already been put into full application in Norway (see particulars given in document A.27.1931).

As regards the Nansen Memorial Fund, I would refer you to the correspondence which I exchanged on this matter with the President of the Governing Body of the Nansen International Office for Refugees.

(*Signed*) Birger BRAADLAND.

20.A/32807/17144.

## REPLY FROM THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Geneva, November 18th, 1931.

With reference to your Circular Letter (269.1931) of the 9th instant I am instructed by my Government to inform you that, as there have never been any refugees in Portugal, there is no need for the Government to encourage or facilitate the formation of a national committee for the Nansen Memorial Fund or to put the Nansen stamp system into application.

(*Signed*) A. M. FERRAZ DE ANDRADE,  
*Head of the Portuguese Chancellery  
accredited to the League of Nations.*

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Journal*, August 1931, page 1691.

20.A/24236/17144.

## REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAAR.

[*Translation.*]

Saarbruck, November 23rd, 1931.

As regards the Nansen stamp system, I have the honour to give you the following information. These can be obtained by each Government from the Nansen International Office at Geneva. In principle, every refugee (with the exception of those who are too poor to pay this amount) applying for an identity card on a residence permit, is required to buy a stamp (at the price of 25 French francs). The Saar Government put into operation the Arrangement relating to refugees on April 1st, 1926. Since that date, the Saar Government has issued a small number of identity certificates. The exact figures are:

1926	69
1927	33
1928	12
1929	18
1930	7
1931	4

—making a total of 143 certificates in six years, including thirty-nine renewals. All these certificates or renewals were issued to Russian refugees, who were then employed as workmen in the Brebach (Saar) Foundries and nearly all of whom have since left the Saar territory. All these Russian refugees were indigent, so that the competent Saar administration was obliged to exempt them from payment of the small Saar charge usually levied for the issue of those documents. Consequently while there is no objection in principle to the application of the Nansen stamp system in the Saar, this system would be purposeless at present and, above all, without any practical benefit to the Office in the future.

(Signed) E. C. WILTON.

20.A/34664/32594.

## REPLY FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT.

[*Translation.*]

Stockholm, February 2nd, 1932.

With reference to your Circular Letter (269.1931) dated October 27th, 1931, I have the honour to inform you that a national committee of this kind, the "Kommittén för insamling till Nansens minnesfond" 22, Norr Mälarstrand, Stockholm, has recently been organised in Sweden. This Committee has addressed an appeal to the public signed by a large number of distinguished persons, including Prince Carl of Sweden, M. Ekman, the Prime Minister, and Baron Ramel, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

For the Minister:

(Signed) H. BECK-FRIIS,  
Director of Political Affairs.