

**No. 150**

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**ARGENTINE, AUSTRALIA,  
BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, etc.**

**Final Act of the Intergovernmental Conference on the adoption of a travel document for Refugees and Agreement relating to the issue of a travel document to refugees who are the concern of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. Signed at London, on 15 October 1946**

*English and French official texts communicated by the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations. The registration took place on 26 November 1947.*

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**ARGENTINE, AUSTRALIE,  
BELGIQUE, BOLIVIE, BRESIL, etc.**

**Acte final de la Conférence intergouvernementale relative à l'adoption d'un titre de voyage pour réfugiés, et Accord concernant la délivrance d'un titre de voyage à des réfugiés relevant de la compétence du Comité intergouvernemental pour les réfugiés. Signés à Londres, le 15 octobre 1946**

*Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le représentant permanent du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 26 novembre 1947.*

No. 150. INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
ADOPTION OF A TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR REFUGEES.  
LONDON, 8-15 OCTOBER 1946

FINAL ACT. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 15 OCTOBER 1946

The Governments of Argentine, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Greece, India, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela,

Having accepted the invitation of the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to be represented at a Conference with the object of adopting a travel document for refugees,

Have appointed the following delegates:—

Argentine—

H.E. Señor Dr. Don Felipe A. Espil, Argentine Ambassador, Delegate.  
M. Eugenio H. Salcedo, Technical Adviser.

Australia—

Mr. T. M. Nulty, Alien Immigration Officer, Delegate.

Belgium—

M. Albert Herment, Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Delegate.  
M. René Contempre, Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Substitute Delegate.

Bolivia—

Dr. Adolfo Costa du Rels, Bolivian Ambassador, Delegate.

Brazil—

H.E. Senhor J. J. Moniz de Aragão, C.B.E., Brazilian Ambassador, Delegate.  
Senhor Francisco Eulalio de Nascimento e Silva, Consul of Brazil, Substitute Delegate.

Canada—

Mr. P. T. Molson, Third Secretary at the Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, Delegate.  
Mr. O. Cormier, Commissioner of Immigration, Substitute Delegate.

## Chile—

H.E. Señor Don Manuel Bianchi, Chilean Ambassador, Delegate.  
Señor Humberto Videla, Consul-General, Legal Adviser to the  
Chilean Embassy in London, Substitute Delegate.

## Czechoslovakia—

M. Karel Vaňek, Czechoslovak Consul-General, Delegate.  
M. Karel Palat, Deputy Head of Department at the Ministry of the  
Interior, Prague, Expert.

## Denmark—

Dr. Erik Schram-Nielsen, Secretary of Legation, Delegate.

## Dominican Republic—

H.E. Señor Don Andrés Pastoriza, Dominican Minister, Delegate.

## Ecuador—

H.E. Señor Dr. Don Homero Viteri Lafronte, Ecuadorean Minister,  
Delegate.

## France—

M. Baudouy, Secretary of Embassy, Delegate.  
M. Jurgensen, Chargé de Mission, Ministry of the Interior, Paris  
Substitute Delegate.

## Greece—

M. Emanuel Manglis, Director of Greek Red Cross in Foreign  
Countries, Delegate.

## India—

Mr. M. K. Vellodi, C.I.E., I.C.S., Deputy High Commissioner for  
India, Delegate.  
Mr. W. M. Mather, O.B.E., Superintending Executive at the Office  
of the High Commissioner for India, Substitute Delegate.

## Luxembourg—

M. G. Heisbourg, Attaché of Legation, Delegate.

## Netherlands—

M. J. F. Boer, Director of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, The Hague,  
Delegate.  
M. J. A. M. H. Luns, First Secretary of Embassy, Substitute Delegate.

## Norway—

M. K. N. Stillhoff, Chief of Section, Central Passport Office, Oslo,  
Delegate.

## Poland—

Dr. Roman Przewański, Polish Consul-General, Delegate.

M. Andrzej Szemiński, Second Secretary, Polish Embassy, Substitute  
Delegate.

M. Manfred Lachs, Legal Adviser, Polish Embassy, Substitute Delegate.

## Sweden—

Mr. John Setterwall, Counsellor, Swedish Legation, Delegate.

## Switzerland—

Dr. O. Schürch, Chef de la Section des Réfugiés, Division de Police  
du Département Fédéral de Justice et Police, Delegate.

M. A. Fischli, Secretary of Legation, Substitute Delegate.

## Union of South Africa—

Mr. Donald Bell Sole, Political Secretary to the High Commissioner  
of the Union of South Africa, Delegate.

Mr. B. G. Fourie, Secretary, Political Section of the Office of the High  
Commissioner of the Union of South Africa, Substitute Delegate.

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland—

Mr. C. D. Carew Robinson, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary in the  
Home Office, Delegate.

Mr. W. R. Perks, O.B.E., Chief Inspector, Immigration Branch, Home  
Office, Substitute Delegate.

Miss M. F. Appleby, Member of the Control Office for Germany and  
Austria.

## United States of America—

Mr. Cabot Coville, First Secretary of Embassy, Delegate.

## Venezuela—

H.E. Señor Don Andrés Rodríguez Azpúrua, Venezuelan Ambassador,  
Delegate.

Dr. Luis Cabana, Counsellor of Embassy, Substitute Delegate.

The Government of Egypt, while not wishing to participate in the Conference, appointed as Observer M. Albert Mansour, Egyptian Consul-General.

Attending the Conference as Observers:

International Labour Office: Mr. W. Caldwell,

International Red Cross: M. David de Traz,

United Nations: Mr. Pierce Williams,

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration: Lt.-Col. L. W. Charley.

Sir Herbert Emerson attended the Conference in his capacity of Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,

Who accordingly assembled at London.

The Conference appointed as Chairman:

His Excellency Señor Don Manuel Bianchi, Chilean Ambassador in London, and as Vice-Chairman:

M. Albert Herment, Director, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Brussels.

In the course of a series of meetings held between 8th and 15th October, 1946, an Agreement concerning a travel document for refugees was adopted.

The Conference voted the following recommendation:—

“The Intergovernmental Conference considers it desirable that the Governments concerned should envisage the possibility of applying the provisions of the present Agreement to territories occupied as a result of the recent war.”

The Conference also adopted the following recommendation:—

“The Conference,

“Considering that it is highly desirable to achieve complete uniformity in the system of travel documents for refugees who are the concern of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, or of the international organisation which may succeed the said Committee,

“Recommends that, as soon as circumstances permit, all appropriate steps be taken to ensure the adoption of one single travel document for all the above-mentioned refugees.”

IN FAITH WHEREOF the Delegates have signed the present Act.

DONE in London, the fifteenth day of October, one thousand nine hundred and forty-six, in French and English, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and certified true copies of which shall be transmitted to all Governments represented at the Conference.

The Chairman of the Conference:  
Manuel BIANCHI

The Vice-Chairman of the Conference:  
A. HERMENT

Argentina:  
Felipe A. ESPIL

Australia:

Belgium:  
A. HERMENT

Brazil:  
MONIZ DE ARAGÃO

Chile:  
Humberto VIDELA

Dominican Republic:  
A. PASTORIZA

Ecuador:  
Homero VITERI LAFRONTE

France:  
M. BAUDOY

Greece:  
Emanuel MANGLIS

India:

Luxembourg:  
A. J. CLASEN

Netherlands:  
J. F. BOER

Sweden:  
J. SETTERWALL

Switzerland:

O. SCHÜRCH

A. FISCHLI

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern  
Ireland:

C. D. CAREW ROBINSON

Venezuela:

A. RODRÍGUEZ AZPÚRUA

The Secretary-General of the Conference:

G. G. KULLMANN

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AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF A TRAVEL DOCUMENT TO REFUGEES WHO ARE THE CONCERN OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES. SIGNED AT LONDON, ON 15 OCTOBER 1946

The Contracting Governments,

Having examined a Resolution adopted by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees at its Plenary Session on 17th August, 1944, relating to the establishment of an identity and travel document for refugees who are the concern of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,

Having regard to the international measures previously taken in the matter of travel documents for certain categories of refugees,

Convinced of the necessity of taking similar measures on behalf of the refugees referred to in the above-mentioned Resolution, with a view, in particular, to facilitating the movement of these refugees,

Considering that the making of arrangements for the emigration of refugees who cannot be absorbed in the countries in which they have taken refuge is an essential part of the work undertaken for the benefit of the said refugees,

Have agreed as follows:—

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 13 January 1947, by signature, in accordance with Article 23.

### Article 1

1. Subject to the further provisions laid down in Articles 2 and 16, a travel document, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, shall be issued by the Contracting Governments to refugees who are the concern of the Intergovernmental Committee, provided that the said refugees are stateless or do not in fact enjoy the protection of any Government, that they are staying lawfully in the territory of the Contracting Government concerned, and that they are not benefiting by the provisions regarding the issue of a travel document contained in the Agreements of 5th July 1922,<sup>1</sup> 31st May, 1924, 12th May, 1926,<sup>2</sup> 30th June, 1928,<sup>3</sup> 30th July, 1935, or the Convention of 28th October 1933.<sup>4</sup>

2. The said document will be issued to refugees who apply for it for the purpose of travel outside their country of residence.

### Article 2

As a transitional measure, the document referred to in Article 1 may, at the discretion of the Government concerned, be issued to refugees who, while fulfilling the other conditions laid down by the present Agreement, are not staying lawfully in the territory of the Contracting Government concerned on the date of the coming into force of the present Agreement, provided that they report themselves to the authorities within a period to be prescribed by the Government concerned and which shall not be less than three months.

### Article 3

1. The travel document referred to in the present Agreement shall be similar to the attached specimen (see Annex).

2. It shall be made out in at least two languages—French, and the national language or languages of the authority which issues the document.

### Article 4

Subject to the regulations obtaining in the country of issue, children may be included in the travel document of an adult refugee.

<sup>1</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume XIII, page 237, and Volume XV, page 322; Volume XIX, page 284; Volume XXIV, page 178; Volume XXVII, page 420, Volume XLV, page 103.

<sup>2</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume LXXXIX, page 47.

<sup>3</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume LXXXIX, pages 53 and 63; Volume XCIII, page 377; Volume CCIV, page 445, and Volume CCV, page 193.

<sup>4</sup> League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Volume CLIX, page 199, and Volume CLXXII, page 432; Volume CLXXXI, page 429; Volume CC, page 530; Volume CCIV, page 464; Volume CCV, page 214.



*Article 5*

The fees charged for issue of the travel document shall not exceed the lowest scale of charges for national passports.

*Article 6*

Save in special or exceptional cases, the documents shall be made valid for the largest possible number of countries.

*Article 7*

The document shall have a validity of either one or two years, at the discretion of the issuing authority.

*Article 8*

1. The renewal or extension of the validity of the document is a matter for the authority which issued it, so long as the holder resides lawfully in the territory of the said authority. The issue of a new document is, under the same conditions, a matter for the authority which issued the former document.

2. Diplomatic or consular authorities, specially authorised for the purpose, shall be empowered to extend, for a period not exceeding six months, the validity of travel documents issued by their Governments.

*Article 9*

Each Contracting Government shall recognise the validity of the documents issued in accordance with the provisions of the present Agreement.

*Article 10*

The competent authorities of the country to which the refugee desires to proceed shall, if they are prepared to admit him, affix a visa on the document of which he is the holder.

*Article 11*

The authorities of the territories to which the present Agreement applies undertake to issue transit visas to refugees who have obtained visas for the territory of final destination.

*Article 12*

The fees for the issue of exit, entry or transit visas shall not exceed the lowest scale of charges for visas on foreign passports.

*Article 13*

When a refugee has lawfully taken up residence in another territory to which the present Agreement applies, the power to issue a new travel document will be transferred to the competent authority of that territory, to which the refugee shall be entitled to apply.

*Article 14*

The authority issuing a new document shall withdraw the old document.

*Article 15*

1. The travel document shall entitle the holder to leave the country where it has been issued and, during the period of validity of the said document, to return thereto without a visa from the authorities of that country, subject only to those laws and regulations which apply to the bearers of duly visaed passports.

2. The Contracting Governments reserve the right, in exceptional cases, when issuing the document, to limit the period during which the refugee may return, the said period being not less than three months.

*Article 16*

1. Subject only to the terms of Article 15, the present provisions in no way affect the laws and regulations governing the conditions of admission to, transit through, residence and establishment in, and departure from, the territories to which the present Agreement applies.

2. Nor do they affect the special provisions concerning persons coming under the present Agreement in the territories to which it applies.

*Article 17*

Neither the issue of the document nor the entries made thereon determine or affect the status of the holder, particularly as regards nationality.

*Article 18*

The issue of the document does not in any way entitle the holder to the protection of the diplomatic or consular authorities of the country of issue, and does not confer on these authorities a right of protection.

*Article 19*

Travel documents issued before the entry into force of the present Agreement to persons benefiting by the provisions of Articles 1 and 2 shall remain valid until they have expired.

*Article 20*

In the event of the transfer to any other international organisation of the functions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, all the provisions in the Agreement relating to the Intergovernmental Committee shall be deemed to apply to the said organisation.

*Article 21*

The present Agreement, of which the English and French texts are both authentic, shall bear to-day's date and shall remain open for signature, in London, by the Governments Members of the Intergovernmental Committee, and also by non-member Governments.

*Article 22*

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is designated as the authority to give notice of each signature and the date thereof to all Governments Members of the Intergovernmental Committee and to any non-member Governments whose signature has been appended.

*Article 23*

1. The present Agreement shall come into force ninety days after it has been signed on behalf of six Governments.

2. In respect of each of the Governments on whose behalf a signature is subsequently deposited, the present Agreement shall come into force ninety days after the date of such deposit.

*Article 24*

1. The present Agreement may be denounced by any one of the Contracting Governments after the expiry of a period of one year as from the date on which it came into force, by written notification addressed to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, who shall inform all Governments referred to in Article 22 of each notification, specifying the date of its receipt.

2. The denunciation shall come into effect six months after the date of the receipt of the notification by the Government of the United Kingdom.

*Article 25*

1. Any Contracting Government may at any time after the coming into force of this Agreement in accordance with Article 23, declare in writing to the Government of the United Kingdom that the Agreement applies to all or any of its colonies, overseas territories, protectorates and territories under mandate or trusteeship, and the Agreement shall apply to the territory or territories named in the declaration from the date thereof.

2. The participation of any territory to which the Agreement has been applied under the preceding paragraph may be terminated by a notification in writing addressed to the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Agreement shall cease to apply to the territory or territories named in the notification six months after the date of the receipt thereof.

3. The Government of the United Kingdom shall inform the Governments referred to in Article 22 of all declarations received under paragraph 1 of this Article and all notifications received under paragraph 2, and of the date on which such declarations or notifications take effect.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF** the undersigned have affixed, in the name of their respective Governments, their signatures to the present Agreement.

**DONE** in London, the fifteenth day of October, one thousand nine hundred and forty-six, in French and English, in a single copy, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and certified true copies of which shall be transmitted to all Governments referred to in Article 22.

Argentina:

Argentine:

Felipe A. ESPIL  
This signature is *ad referendum*

Australia:

Australie:

Belgium:

Belgique:

A. HERMENT

Brazil:

Brésil:

MONIZ DE ARAGÃO  
(*Ad referendum*)

Chile:

Chili:

Manuel BIANCHI

Dominican Republic:

République Dominicaine:

A. PASTORIZA

Ecuador:

Equateur:

HOMERO VITERI LAFRONTE  
(*Ad referendum*)

France:

France:

M. BAUDOUY

Greece:

Grèce:

Emanuel MANGLIS

India:

Inde:

S. RUNGANADHAN

Luxembourg:

Luxembourg:

A. J. CLASEN

Netherlands:

Pays-Bas:

**J. F. BOER**

Sweden:

Suède:

**J. SETTERWALL**

Switzerland:

Suisse:

**O. SCHÜRCH****A. FISCHLI**United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Northern  
Ireland:Royaume-Uni de Grande-  
Bretagne et Irlande du  
Nord:**C. D. CAREW ROBINSON**

Venezuela:

Venezuela:

**A. RODRÍGUEZ AZPÚRUA**

ANNEX

SPECIMEN TRAVEL DOCUMENT

The document will be in booklet form (approximately 15 cm. × 10 cm.).

It is recommended that it be so printed that any erasure or alteration by chemical or other means can be readily detected, and that the words "Agreement of 15th October 1946" be printed in continuous repetition on each page, in the language of the issuing country.



(Cover of booklet)

TRAVEL DOCUMENT  
(Agreement of 15th October 1946)

No.....

(1)

TRAVEL DOCUMENT  
(Agreement of 15th October 1946)

This document expires on.....unless its validity is extended or renewed.

Name.....

Forename(s).....

Accompanied by.....child (children).

1. The holder of this document is the concern of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

2. This document is issued solely with a view to providing the holder with a travel document which can serve in lieu of a national passport. It is without prejudice to and in no way affects the holder's nationality.

3. The holder is authorised to return to.....  
(State here the country whose authorities are issuing the document) on or before .....unless some later date is hereafter specified. (The period during which the holder is allowed to return must not be less than three months.)

4. Should the holder take up residence in a country other than that which issued the present document, he must, if he wishes to travel again, apply to the competent authorities of his country of residence for a new document.

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)

(2)

Place and date of birth.....  
 Occupation.....  
 Present residence.....  
 \*Maiden name and forename(s) of wife.....  
 \*Name and forename(s) of husband.....

DESCRIPTION

Height.....  
 Hair.....  
 Colour of eyes.....  
 Nose.....  
 Shape of face.....  
 Complexion.....  
 Special peculiarities.....

CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING HOLDER

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Forename(s).</i>	<i>Place and date of birth.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

\* Strike out whichever does not apply.  
 (This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)

(3)

PHOTOGRAPH OF HOLDER AND STAMP OF ISSUING AUTHORITY

FINGER-PRINTS OF HOLDER  
 (if required)

Signature of holder.....

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)



(4)

1. This document is valid for the following countries:—

.....  
.....  
.....

2. Document or documents on the basis of which the present document is issued:

.....  
.....  
.....

Issued at.....

Date.....

Signature and stamp of authority  
issuing the document:

Fee paid:

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)

(5)

EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF VALIDITY

Fee paid:

From.....

To.....

Done at.....

Date.....

Signature and stamp of authority extend-  
ing or renewing the validity of the  
document:

EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF VALIDITY

Fee paid:

From.....

To.....

Done at.....

Date.....

Signature and stamp of authority extend-  
ing or renewing the validity of the  
document:

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)

(6)

EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF VALIDITY

Fee paid: From.....

To.....

Done at..... Date.....

Signature and stamp of authority extending or renewing the validity of the document:

EXTENSION OR RENEWAL OF VALIDITY

Fee paid: From.....

To.....

Done at..... Date.....

Signature and stamp of authority extending or renewing the validity of the document:

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)

(7-32)

VISAS

The name of the holder of the document must be repeated in each visa.

(This document contains 32 pages, exclusive of cover.)