

**AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,
LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

**Final Act of the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons.
Held at Geneva from 2 July 1951 to 25 July 1951**

**Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (with schedule).
Signed at Geneva, on 28 July 1951**

Official texts: English and French.

Registered ex officio on 22 April 1954.

**AUSTRALIE, BELGIQUE, DANEMARK,
RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE D'ALLEMAGNE,
LUXEMBOURG, etc.**

Acte final de la Conférence de plénipotentiaires des Nations Unies sur le statut des réfugiés et des apatrides. Tenue à Genève du 2 juillet 1951 au 25 juillet 1951

**Convention relative au statut des réfugiés (avec annexe).
Signée à Genève, le 28 juillet 1951**

Textes officiels anglais et français.

Enregistrés d'office le 22 avril 1954.

No. 2545. FINAL ACT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON THE STATUS OF REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS. HELD AT GENEVA, FROM 2 JULY 1951 TO 25 JULY 1951

I

The General Assembly of the United Nations, by Resolution 429 (V) of 14 December 1950,¹ decided to convene in Geneva a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to complete the drafting of, and to sign, a Convention² relating to the Status of Refugees and a Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

The Conference met at the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva from 2 to 25 July 1951.

The Governments of the following twenty-six States were represented by delegates who all submitted satisfactory credentials or other communications of appointment authorizing them to participate in the Conference :

Australia	Italy
Austria	Luxembourg
Belgium	Monaco
Brazil	Netherlands
Canada	Norway
Colombia	Sweden
Denmark	Switzerland (the Swiss delegation also represented Liechtenstein)
Egypt	Turkey
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Federal Republic of Germany	United States of America
Greece	Venezuela
Holy See	Yugoslavia
Iraq	
Israel	

The Governments of the following two States were represented by observers :

Cuba
Iran

Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees participated, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference.

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/1775), p. 48.

² See p. 150 of this volume.

The International Labour Organisation and the International Refugee Organization were represented at the Conference without the right to vote.

The Conference invited a representative of the Council of Europe to be represented at the Conference without the right to vote.

Representatives of the following Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council were also present as observers :

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Category B

Agudas Israel World Organization
Caritas Internationalis
Catholic International Union for Social Service
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations
Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations
Friend's World Committee for Consultation
International Association of Penal Law
International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law
International Committee of the Red Cross
International Council of Women
International Federation of Friends of Young Women
International League for the Rights of Man
International Social Service
International Union for Child Welfare
International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues
Pax Romana
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
World Jewish Congress
World Union for Progressive Judaism
World Young Women's Christian Association

Register

International Relief Committee for Intellectual Workers
League of Red Cross Societies
Standing Conference of Voluntary Agencies
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World University Service

Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council as well as of those entered by the Secretary-General on the Register referred to in Resolution 288 B (X)¹ of the Economic and Social Council, paragraph 17, had under the rules of procedure adopted by the Conference the right to submit written or oral statements to the Conference.

The Conference elected Mr. Knud Larsen, of Denmark, as President, and Mr. A. Herment, of Belgium, and Mr. Talat Miras, of Turkey, as Vice-Presidents.

At its second meeting, the Conference, acting on a proposal of the representative of Egypt, unanimously decided to address an invitation to the Holy See to designate a plenipotentiary representative to participate in its work. A representative of the Holy See took his place at the Conference on 10 July 1951.

The Conference adopted as its agenda the Provisional Agenda drawn up by the Secretary-General (A/CONF.2/2/Rev.1). It also adopted the Provisional Rules of Procedure drawn up by the Secretary-General, with the addition of a provision which authorized a representative of the Council of Europe to be present at the Conference without the right to vote and to submit proposals (A/CONF.2/3/Rev.1).

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, the President and Vice-Presidents examined the credentials of representatives and on 17 July 1951 reported to the Conference the results of such examination, the Conference adopting the report.

The Conference used as the basis of its discussions the draft Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons prepared by the *ad hoc* Committee on Refugees and Stateless Persons at its second session held in Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1950, with the exception of the preamble and article 1 (Definition of the term "refugee") of the draft Convention. The text of the preamble before the Conference was that which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 11 August 1950 in Resolution 319 B II (XI). The text of article 1 before the Conference was that recommended by the General Assembly on 14 December 1950 and contained in the Annex to Resolution 429 (V). The latter was a modification of the text as it had been adopted by the Economic and Social Council in Resolution 319 B II (XI).*

The Conference adopted the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in two readings. Prior to its second reading it established a Style Committee composed of the President and the representatives of Belgium, France, Israel,

¹ United Nations, *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifth Year, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 1* (E/1661), p. 24.

* The texts referred to in the paragraph above are contained in document A/CONF.2/1.

Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, together with the High Commissioner for Refugees, which elected as its Chairman Mr. G. Warren, of the United States of America. The Style Committee redrafted the text which had been adopted by the Conference on first reading, particularly from the point of view of language and of concordance between the English and French texts.

The Convention was adopted on 25 July by 24 votes to none with no abstentions and opened for signature at the European Office of the United Nations from 28 July to 31 August 1951. It will be re-opened for signature at the permanent headquarters of the United Nations in New York from 17 September 1951 to 31 December 1952.

The English and French texts of the Convention, which are equally authentic, are appended to this Final Act.

II

The Conference decided, by 17 votes to 3 with 3 abstentions, that the titles of the chapters and of the articles of the Convention are included for practical purposes and do not constitute an element of interpretation.

III

With respect to the draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Conference adopted the following resolution :

“THE CONFERENCE,

“HAVING CONSIDERED the draft Protocol relating to the Status of Stateless Persons,

“CONSIDERING that the subject still requires more detailed study,

“DECIDES not to take a decision on the subject at the present Conference and refers the draft Protocol back to the appropriate organs of the United Nations for further study.”

IV

The Conference adopted unanimously the following recommendations :

A

“THE CONFERENCE,

“CONSIDERING that the issue and recognition of travel documents is necessary to facilitate the movements of refugees, and in particular their resettlement,

“URGES Governments which are parties to the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Refugee Travel Documents signed in London on 15 October

1946,¹ or which recognize travel documents issued in accordance with the Agreement, to continue to issue or to recognize such travel documents, and to extend the issue of such documents to refugees as defined in article 1 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or to recognize the travel documents so issued to such persons, until they shall have undertaken obligations under article 28 of the said Convention."

B

"THE CONFERENCE,

"CONSIDERING that the unity of the family, the natural and fundamental group unit of society, is an essential right of the refugee, and that such unity is constantly threatened, and

"NOTING with satisfaction that, according to the official commentary of the *ad hoc* Committee on Statelessness and Related Problems (E/1618, p. 40) the rights granted to a refugee are extended to members of his family,

"RECOMMENDS Governments to take the necessary measures for the protection of the refugee's family, especially with a view to :

- "(1) Ensuring that the unity of the refugee's family is maintained particularly in cases where the head of the family has fulfilled the necessary conditions for admission to a particular country ;
- "(2) The protection of refugees who are minors, in particular unaccompanied children and girls, with special reference to guardianship and adoption."

C

"THE CONFERENCE,

"CONSIDERING that, in the moral, legal and material spheres, refugees need the help of suitable welfare services, especially that of appropriate non-governmental organizations ;

"RECOMMENDS Governments and intergovernmental bodies to facilitate, encourage and sustain the efforts of properly qualified organizations."

D

"THE CONFERENCE,

"CONSIDERING that many persons still leave their country of origin for reasons of persecution and are entitled to special protection on account of their position,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 11, p. 73 ; Vol. 76, p. 244 ; Vol. 82, p. 328 ; Vol. 91, p. 369, and Vol. 97, p. 314.

"RECOMMENDS that Governments continue to receive refugees in their territories and that they act in concert in a true spirit of international co-operation in order that these refugees may find asylum and the possibility of resettlement."

E

"THE CONFERENCE

"EXPRESSES the hope that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees will have value as an example exceeding its contractual scope and that all nations will be guided by it in granting so far as possible to persons in their territory as refugees and who would not be covered by the terms of the Convention, the treatment for which it provides."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the President, Vice-Presidents and the Executive Secretary of the Conference have signed this Final Act.

DONE at Geneva this twenty-eighth day of July one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one in a single copy in the English and French languages, each text being equally authentic. Translations of this Final Act into Chinese, Russian and Spanish will be prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will, on request, send copies thereof to each of the Governments invited to attend the Conference.

The President of the Conference :

Knud LARSEN

The Vice-Presidents of the Conference :

HERMENT

Talat MIRAS

The Executive Secretary of the Conference :

John P. HUMPHREY

CONVENTION¹ RELATING TO THE STATUS OF REFUGEES. SIGNED AT GENEVA, ON 28 JULY 1951

Preamble

The HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights approved on 10 December 1948² by the General Assembly have affirmed the principle that human beings shall enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms without discrimination,

CONSIDERING that the United Nations has, on various occasions, manifested its profound concern for refugees and endeavoured to assure refugees the widest possible exercise of these fundamental rights and freedoms,

CONSIDERING that it is desirable to revise and consolidate previous international agreements relating to the status of refugees and to extend the scope of and the protection accorded by such instruments by means of a new agreement,

CONSIDERING that the grant of asylum may place unduly heavy burdens on certain countries, and that a satisfactory solution of a problem of which the United Nations has recognized the international scope and nature cannot therefore be achieved without international co-operation,

¹ The Convention came into force on 22 April 1954, the ninetieth day following the day of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession, in accordance with article 43.

The following States deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations their instrument of ratification or accession on the dates indicated:

Denmark — also applicable to Greenland	4 December 1952
(With declaration, see p. 189, and with reservations, see p. 198)	
Norway	23 March 1953
(With declaration and reservations, see p. 198)	
Belgium	22 July 1953
(With declaration and reservations, see p. 200)	
Luxembourg	23 July 1953
(With reservations, see p. 193, and declaration, see p. 200)	
Federal Republic of Germany	1 December 1953
(With declaration, see p. 190)	
Australia (accession) — also applicable to Norfolk Island, Papua, New Guinea and Nauru	22 January 1954
(With declaration and reservations, see p. 200)	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland — also applicable to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man	11 March 1954
(With declaration, see p. 197, and with reservations, commen- tary and declaration, see p. 202)	

² United Nations, *Official Records of the Third Session of the General Assembly, Part I* (A 810), p. 71.

EXPRESSING the wish that all States, recognizing the social and humanitarian nature of the problem of refugees, will do everything within their power to prevent this problem from becoming a cause of tension between States,

NOTING that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is charged with the task of supervising international conventions providing for the protection of refugees, and recognizing that the effective co-ordination of measures taken to deal with this problem will depend upon the co-operation of States with the High Commissioner,

HAVE AGREED as follows :

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

DEFINITION OF THE TERM "REFUGEE"

A. For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "refugee" shall apply to any person who :

(1) Has been considered a refugee under the Arrangements of 12 May 1926¹ and 30 June 1928² or under the Conventions of 28 October 1933³ and 10 February 1938⁴, the Protocol of 14 September 1939⁵ or the Constitution of the International Refugee Organization ;⁶

Decisions of non-eligibility taken by the International Refugee Organization during the period of its activities shall not prevent the status of refugee being accorded to persons who fulfil the conditions of paragraph 2 of this section ;

(2) As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country ; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. LXXXIX, p. 47.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. LXXXIX, pp. 53 and 63 ; Vol. XCIII, p. 377 ; Vol. CCIV, p. 445, and Vol. CCV, p. 193.

³ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CLIX, p. 199 ; Vol. CLXXII, p. 432 ; Vol. CLXXXI, p. 429 ; Vol. CC, p. 530 ; Vol. CCIV, p. 464, and Vol. CCV, p. 214.

⁴ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXCII, p. 59 ; Vol. CC, p. 572, and Vol. CCV, p. 218.

⁵ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXCVIII, p. 141, and Vol. CCV, p. 219.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 18, p. 3, and Vol. 26, p. 416.

In the case of a person who has more than one nationality, the term "the country of his nationality" shall mean each of the countries of which he is a national, and a person shall not be deemed to be lacking the protection of the country of his nationality if, without any valid reason based on wellfounded fear, he has not availed himself of the protection of one of the countries of which he is a national.

B. (1) For the purposes of this Convention, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood to mean either

(a) "events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951"; or

(b) "events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951"; and each Contracting State shall make a declaration at the time of signature, ratification or accession, specifying which of these meanings it applies for the purpose of its obligations under this Convention.

(2) Any Contracting State which has adopted alternative (a) may at any time extend its obligations by adopting alternative (b) by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

C. This Convention shall cease to apply to any person falling under the terms of section A if :

(1) He has voluntarily re-availed himself of the protection of the country of his nationality ; or

(2) Having lost his nationality, he has voluntarily reacquired it ; or

(3) He has acquired a new nationality, and enjoys the protection of the country of his new nationality ; or

(4) He has voluntarily re-established himself in the country which he left or outside which he remained owing to fear of persecution ; or

(5) He can no longer, because the circumstances in connexion with which he has been recognized as a refugee have ceased to exist, continue to refuse to avail himself of the protection of the country of his nationality ;

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a refugee falling under section A (1) of this article who is able to invoke compelling reasons arising out of previous persecution for refusing to avail himself of the protection of the country of nationality ;

(6) Being a person who has no nationality he is, because the circumstances in connexion with which he has been recognized as a refugee have ceased to exist, able to return to the country of his former habitual residence ;

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply to a refugee falling under section A (1) of this article who is able to invoke compelling reasons arising

out of previous persecution for refusing to return to the country of his former habitual residence.

D. This Convention shall not apply to persons who are at present receiving from organs or agencies of the United Nations other than the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees protection or assistance.

When such protection or assistance has ceased for any reason, without the position of such persons being definitively settled in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, these persons shall *ipso facto* be entitled to the benefits of this Convention.

E. This Convention shall not apply to a person who is recognized by the competent authorities of the country in which he has taken residence as having the rights and obligations which are attached to the possession of the nationality of that country.

F. The provisions of this Convention shall not apply to any person with respect to whom there are serious reasons for considering that :

- (a) he has committed a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity, as defined in the international instruments drawn up to make provision in respect of such crimes ;
- (b) he has committed a serious non-political crime outside the country of refuge prior to his admission to that country as a refugee ;
- (c) he has been guilty of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 2

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Every refugee has duties to the country in which he finds himself, which require in particular that he conform to its laws and regulations as well as to measures taken for the maintenance of public order.

Article 3

NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Contracting States shall apply the provisions of this Convention to refugees without discrimination as to race, religion or country of origin.

Article 4

RELIGION

The Contracting States shall accord to refugees within their territories treatment at least as favourable as that accorded to their nationals with respect to

freedom to practice their religion and freedom as regards the religious education of their children.

Article 5

RIGHTS GRANTED APART FROM THIS CONVENTION

Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to impair any rights and benefits granted by a Contracting State to refugees apart from this Convention.

Article 6

THE TERM "IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES"

For the purpose of this Convention, the term "in the same circumstances" implies that any requirements (including requirements as to length and conditions of sojourn or residence) which the particular individual would have to fulfil for the enjoyment of the right in question, if he were not a refugee, must be fulfilled by him, with the exception of requirements which by their nature a refugee is incapable of fulfilling.

Article 7

EXEMPTION FROM RECIPROCITY

1. Except where this Convention contains more favourable provisions, a Contracting State shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to aliens generally.
2. After a period of three years' residence, all refugees shall enjoy exemption from legislative reciprocity in the territory of the Contracting States.
3. Each Contracting State shall continue to accord to refugees the rights and benefits to which they were already entitled, in the absence of reciprocity, at the date of entry into force of this Convention for that State.
4. The Contracting States shall consider favourably the possibility of according to refugees, in the absence of reciprocity, rights and benefits beyond those to which they are entitled according to paragraphs 2 and 3, and to extending exemption from reciprocity to refugees who do not fulfil the conditions provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 apply both to the rights and benefits referred to in articles 13, 18, 19, 21 and 22 of this Convention and to rights and benefits for which this Convention does not provide.

Article 8

EXEMPTION FROM EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES

With regard to exceptional measures which may be taken against the person, property or interests of nationals of a foreign State, the Contracting States shall

not apply such measures to a refugee who is formally a national of the said State solely on account of such nationality. Contracting States which, under their legislation, are prevented from applying the general principle expressed in this article, shall, in appropriate cases, grant exemptions in favour of such refugees.

Article 9

PROVISIONAL MEASURES

Nothing in this Convention shall prevent a Contracting State, in time of war or other grave and exceptional circumstances, from taking provisionally measures which it considers to be essential to the national security in the case of a particular person, pending a determination by the Contracting State that that person is in fact a refugee and that the continuance of such measures is necessary in his case in the interests of national security.

Article 10

CONTINUITY OF RESIDENCE

1. Where a refugee has been forcibly displaced during the Second World War and removed to the territory of a Contracting State, and is resident there, the period of such enforced sojourn shall be considered to have been lawful residence within that territory.
2. Where a refugee has been forcibly displaced during the Second World War from the territory of a Contracting State and has, prior to the date of entry into force of this Convention, returned there for the purpose of taking up residence, the period of residence before and after such enforced displacement shall be regarded as one uninterrupted period for any purposes for which uninterrupted residence is required.

Article 11

REFUGEE SEAMEN

In the case of refugees regularly serving as crew members on board a ship flying the flag of a Contracting State, that State shall give sympathetic consideration to their establishment on its territory and the issue of travel documents to them or their temporary admission to its territory particularly with a view to facilitating their establishment in another country.

CHAPTER II

JURIDICAL STATUS

Article 12

PERSONAL STATUS

1. The personal status of a refugee shall be governed by the law of the country of his domicile or, if he has no domicile, by the law of the country of his residence.
2. Rights previously acquired by a refugee and dependent on personal status, more particularly rights attaching to marriage, shall be respected by a Contracting State, subject to compliance, if this be necessary, with the formalities required by the law of that State, provided that the right in question is one which would have been recognized by the law of that State had he not become a refugee.

Article 13

MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The Contracting States shall accord to a refugee treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, as regards the acquisition of movable and immovable property and other rights pertaining thereto, and to leases and other contracts relating to movable and immovable property.

Article 14

ARTISTIC RIGHTS AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

In respect of the protection of industrial property, such as inventions, designs or models, trade marks, trade names, and of rights in literary, artistic and scientific works, a refugee shall be accorded in the country in which he has his habitual residence the same protection as is accorded to nationals of that country. In the territory of any other Contracting State, he shall be accorded the same protection as is accorded in that territory to nationals of the country in which he has his habitual residence.

Article 15

RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION

As regards non-political and non-profit-making associations and trade unions the Contracting States shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country, in the same circumstances.

Article 16

ACCESS TO COURTS

1. A refugee shall have free access to the courts of law on the territory of all Contracting States.
2. A refugee shall enjoy in the Contracting State in which he has his habitual residence the same treatment as a national in matters pertaining to access to the Courts, including legal assistance and exemption from *cautio judicatum solvi*.
3. A refugee shall be accorded in the matters referred to in paragraph 2 in countries other than that in which he has his habitual residence the treatment granted to a national of the country of his habitual residence.

CHAPTER III

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

Article 17

WAGE-EARNING EMPLOYMENT

1. The Contracting States shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country in the same circumstances, as regards the right to engage in wage-earning employment.
2. In any case, restrictive measures imposed on aliens or the employment of aliens for the protection of the national labour market shall not be applied to a refugee who was already exempt from them at the date of entry into force of this Convention for the Contracting State concerned, or who fulfils one of the following conditions :
 - (a) He has completed three years' residence in the country.
 - (b) He has a spouse possessing the nationality of the country of residence. A refugee may not invoke the benefit of this provision if he has abandoned his spouse ;
 - (c) He has one or more children possessing the nationality of the country of residence.
3. The Contracting States shall give sympathetic consideration to assimilating the rights of all refugees with regard to wage-earning employment to those of nationals, and in particular of those refugees who have entered their territory pursuant to programmes of labour recruitment or under immigration schemes.

Article 18

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

The Contracting States shall accord to a refugee lawfully in their territory treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, as regards the right to engage on his own account in agriculture, industry, handicrafts and commerce and to establish commercial and industrial companies.

Article 19

LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

1. Each Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory who hold diplomas recognized by the competent authorities of that State, and who are desirous of practising a liberal profession, treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances.
2. The Contracting States shall use their best endeavours consistently with their laws and constitutions to secure the settlement of such refugees in the territories, other than the metropolitan territory, for whose international relations they are responsible.

CHAPTER IV

WELFARE

Article 20

RATIONING

Where a rationing system exists, which applies to the population at large and regulates the general distribution of products in short supply, refugees shall be accorded the same treatment as nationals.

Article 21

HOUSING

As regards housing, the Contracting States, in so far as the matter is regulated by laws or regulations or is subject to the control of public authorities, shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory treatment as favourable as possible and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances.

Article 22

PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. The Contracting States shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to nationals with respect to elementary education.
2. The Contracting States shall accord to refugees treatment as favourable as possible, and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, with respect to education other than elementary education and, in particular, as regards access to studies, the recognition of foreign school certificates, diplomas and degrees, the remission of fees and charges and the award of scholarships.

Article 23

PUBLIC RELIEF

The Contracting States shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the same treatment with respect to public relief and assistance as is accorded to their nationals.

Article 24

LABOUR LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

1. The Contracting States shall accord to refugees lawfully staying in their territory the same treatment as is accorded to nationals in respect of the following matters :
 - (a) In so far as such matters are governed by laws or regulations or are subject to the control of administrative authorities : remuneration, including family allowances where these form part of remuneration, hours of work, overtime arrangements, holidays with pay, restrictions on home work, minimum age of employment, apprenticeship and training, women's work and the work of young persons, and the enjoyment of the benefits of collective bargaining ;
 - (b) Social security (legal provisions in respect of employment injury, occupational diseases, maternity, sickness, disability, old age, death, unemployment, family responsibilities and any other contingency which, according to national laws or regulations, is covered by a social security scheme), subject to the following limitations :
 - (i) There may be appropriate arrangements for the maintenance of acquired rights and rights in course of acquisition ;

- (ii) National laws or regulations of the country of residence may prescribe special arrangements concerning benefits or portions of benefits which are payable wholly out of public funds, and concerning allowances paid to persons who do not fulfil the contribution conditions prescribed for the award of a normal pension.
2. The right to compensation for the death of a refugee resulting from employment injury or from occupational disease shall not be affected by the fact that the residence of the beneficiary is outside the territory of the Contracting State.
 3. The Contracting States shall extend to refugees the benefits of agreements concluded between them, or which may be concluded between them in the future, concerning the maintenance of acquired rights and rights in the process of acquisition in regard to social security, subject only to the conditions which apply to nationals of the States signatory to the agreements in question.
 4. The Contracting States will give sympathetic consideration to extending to refugees so far as possible the benefits of similar agreements which may at any time be in force between such Contracting States and non-contracting States.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Article 25

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. When the exercise of a right by a refugee would normally require the assistance of authorities of a foreign country to whom he cannot have recourse, the Contracting States in whose territory he is residing shall arrange that such assistance be afforded to him by their own authorities or by an international authority.
2. The authority or authorities mentioned in paragraph 1 shall deliver or cause to be delivered under their supervision to refugees such documents or certifications as would normally be delivered to aliens by or through their national authorities.
3. Documents or certifications so delivered shall stand in the stead of the official instruments delivered to aliens by or through their national authorities, and shall be given credence in the absence of proof to the contrary.
4. Subject to such exceptional treatment as may be granted to indigent persons, fees may be charged for the services mentioned herein, but such fees shall be moderate and commensurate with those charged to nationals for similar services.
5. The provisions of this article shall be without prejudice to articles 27 and 28.

Article 26

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Each Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully in its territory the right to choose their place of residence and to move freely within its territory, subject to any regulations applicable to aliens generally in the same circumstances.

Article 27

IDENTITY PAPERS

The Contracting States shall issue identity papers to any refugee in their territory who does not possess a valid travel document.

Article 28

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

1. The Contracting States shall issue to refugees lawfully staying in their territory travel documents for the purpose of travel outside their territory, unless compelling reasons of national security or public order otherwise require, and the provisions of the Schedule to this Convention shall apply with respect to such documents. The Contracting States may issue such a travel document to any other refugee in their territory; they shall in particular give sympathetic consideration to the issue of such a travel document to refugees in their territory who are unable to obtain a travel document from the country of their lawful residence.
2. Travel documents issued to refugees under previous international agreements by parties thereto shall be recognized and treated by the Contracting States in the same way as if they had been issued pursuant to this article.

Article 29

FISCAL CHARGES

1. The Contracting States shall not impose upon refugees duties, charges or taxes, of any description whatsoever, other or higher than those which are or may be levied on their nationals in similar situations.
2. Nothing in the above paragraph shall prevent the application to refugees of the laws and regulations concerning charges in respect of the issue to aliens of administrative documents including identity papers.

Article 30

TRANSFER OF ASSETS

1. A Contracting State shall, in conformity with its laws and regulations, permit refugees to transfer assets which they have brought into its territory, to another country where they have been admitted for the purposes of resettlement.
2. A Contracting State shall give sympathetic consideration to the application of refugees for permission to transfer assets wherever they may be and which are necessary for their resettlement in another country to which they have been admitted.

Article 31

REFUGEES UNLAWFULLY IN THE COUNTRY OF REFUGE

1. The Contracting States shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened in the sense of article 1, enter or are present in their territory without authorization, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence.
2. The Contracting States shall not apply to the movements of such refugees restrictions other than those which are necessary and such restrictions shall only be applied until their status in the country is regularized or they obtain admission into another country. The Contracting States shall allow such refugees a reasonable period and all the necessary facilities to obtain admission into another country.

Article 32

EXPULSION

1. The Contracting States shall not expel a refugee lawfully in their territory save on grounds of national security or public order.
2. The expulsion of such a refugee shall be only in pursuance of a decision reached in accordance with due process of law. Except where compelling reasons of national security otherwise require, the refugee shall be allowed to submit evidence to clear himself, and to appeal to and be represented for the purpose before competent authority or a person or persons specially designated by the competent authority.
3. The Contracting States shall allow such a refugee a reasonable period within which to seek legal admission into another country. The Contracting States reserve the right to apply during that period such internal measures as they may deem necessary.

*Article 33*PROHIBITION OF EXPULSION OR RETURN
("REFOULEMENT")

1. No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
2. The benefit of the present provision may not, however, be claimed by a refugee whom there are reasonable grounds for regarding as a danger to the security of the country in which he is, or who, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of that country.

Article 34

NATURALIZATION

The Contracting States shall as far as possible facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of refugees. They shall in particular make every effort to expedite naturalization proceedings and to reduce as far as possible the charges and costs of such proceedings.

CHAPTER VI

EXECUTORY AND TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 35

CO-OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The Contracting States undertake to co-operate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or any other agency of the United Nations which may succeed it, in the exercise of its functions, and shall in particular facilitate its duty of supervising the application of the provisions of this Convention.
2. In order to enable the Office of the High Commissioner or any other agency of the United Nations which may succeed it, to make reports to the competent organs of the United Nations, the Contracting States undertake to provide them in the appropriate form with information and statistical data requested concerning :
 - (a) the condition of refugees,
 - (b) the implementation of this Convention, and
 - (c) laws, regulations and decrees which are, or may hereafter be, in force relating to refugees.

Article 36

INFORMATION ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Contracting States shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the laws and regulations which they may adopt to ensure the application of this Convention.

Article 37

RELATION TO PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS

Without prejudice to article 28, paragraph 2, of this Convention, this Convention replaces, as between parties to it, the Arrangements of 5 July 1922,¹ 31 May 1924, 12 May 1926,² 30 June 1928³ and 30 July 1935, the Conventions of 28 October 1933⁴ and 10 February 1938,⁵ the Protocol of 14 September 1939⁶ and the Agreement of 15 October 1946.⁷

CHAPTER VII

FINAL CLAUSES

Article 38

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute between parties to this Convention relating to its interpretation or application, which cannot be settled by other means, shall be referred to the International Court of Justice at the request of any one of the parties to the dispute.

Article 39

SIGNATURE, RATIFICATION AND ACCESSION

1. This Convention shall be opened for signature at Geneva on 28 July 1951 and shall thereafter be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It shall be open for signature at the European Office of the United Nations from

¹ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. XIII, p. 237; Vol. XV, p. 322; Vol. XIX, p. 284; Vol. XXIV, p. 178; Vol. XXVII, p. 420, and Vol. XLV, p. 103.

² League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. LXXXIX, p. 47.

³ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. LXXXIX, pp. 53 and 63; Vol. XCIII, p. 377; Vol. CCIV, p. 445, and Vol. CCV, p. 193.

⁴ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CLIX, p. 199; Vol. CLXXVII, p. 432; Vol. CLXXXI, p. 429; Vol. CC, p. 530; Vol. CCIV, p. 464, and Vol. CCV, p. 214.

⁵ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXCII, p. 59; Vol. CC, p. 572, and Vol. CCIV, p. 218.

⁶ League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. CXCVIII, p. 141, and Vol. CCV, p. 219.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 11, p. 73; Vol. 76, p. 244; Vol. 82, p. 328; Vol. 91, p. 369, and Vol. 97, p. 314.

28 July to 31 August 1951 and shall be re-opened for signature at the Headquarters of the United Nations from 17 September 1951 to 31 December 1952.

2. This Convention shall be open for signature on behalf of all States Members of the United Nations, and also on behalf of any other State invited to attend the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons or to which an invitation to sign will have been addressed by the General Assembly. It shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. This Convention shall be open from 28 July 1951 for accession by the States referred to in paragraph 2 of this article. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 40

TERRITORIAL APPLICATION CLAUSE

1. Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification or accession, declare that this Convention shall extend to all or any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible. Such a declaration shall take effect when the Convention enters into force for the State concerned.

2. At any time thereafter any such extension shall be made by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and shall take effect as from the ninetieth day after the day of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of this notification, or as from the date of entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned, whichever is the later.

3. With respect to those territories to which this Convention is not extended at the time of signature, ratification or accession, each State concerned shall consider the possibility of taking the necessary steps in order to extend the application of this Convention to such territories, subject, where necessary for constitutional reasons, to the consent of the Governments of such territories.

Article 41

FEDERAL CLAUSE

In the case of a Federal or non-unitary State, the following provisions shall apply :

- (a) With respect to those articles of this Convention that come within the legislative jurisdiction of the federal legislative authority, the obligations of the Federal Government shall to this extent be the same as those of Parties which are not Federal States ;

- (b) With respect to those articles of this Convention that come within the legislative jurisdiction of constituent States, provinces or cantons which are not, under the constitutional system of the federation, bound to take legislative action, the Federal Government shall bring such articles with a favourable recommendation to the notice of the appropriate authorities of states, provinces or cantons at the earliest possible moment.
- (c) A Federal State Party to this Convention shall, at the request of any other Contracting State transmitted through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, supply a statement of the law and practice of the Federation and its constituent units in regard to any particular provision of the Convention showing the extent to which effect has been given to that provision by legislative or other action.

Article 42

RESERVATIONS

1. At the time of signature, ratification or accession, any State may make reservations to articles of the Convention other than to articles 1, 3, 4, 16 (1), 33, 36-46 inclusive.
2. Any State making a reservation in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may at any time withdraw the reservation by a communication to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 43

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the day of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 44

DENUNCIATION

1. Any Contracting State may denounce this Convention at any time by a notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Such denunciation shall take effect for the Contracting State concerned one year from the date upon which it is received by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. Any State which has made a declaration or notification under article 40 may, at any time thereafter, by a notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, declare that the Convention shall cease to extend to such territory one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 45

REVISION

1. Any Contracting State may request revision of this Convention at any time by a notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall recommend the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such request.

Article 46

NOTIFICATIONS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall inform all Members of the United Nations and non-member States referred to in article 39 :

- (a) Of declarations and notifications in accordance with section B of article 1 ;
- (b) Of signatures, ratifications and accessions in accordance with article 39 ;
- (c) Of declarations and notifications in accordance with article 40 ;
- (d) Of reservations and withdrawals in accordance with article 42 ;
- (e) Of the date on which this Convention will come into force in accordance with article 43 ;
- (f) Of denunciations and notifications in accordance with article 44 ;
- (g) Of requests for revision in accordance with article 45.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Convention on behalf of their respective Governments,

DONE at Geneva, this twenty-eighth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one, in a single copy, of which the English and French texts are equally authentic and which shall remain deposited in the archives of the United Nations, and certified true copies of which shall be delivered to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States referred to in article 39.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan

Albania

Albanie

Argentina

Argentine

Australia

Australie

Austria

Autriche

Dr Karl FRITZER

Sous les réserves qui suivent : *a*) les stipulations figurant aux articles 6, 7 (2), 8, 17 (1 et 2), 23 et 25 ne sont reconnues que comme des recommandations et non comme des obligations qui s'imposent juridiquement ; *b*) les stipulations figurant à l'article 22 (1 et 2) ne sont acceptées que dans la mesure où elles s'appliquent à l'éducation publique ; *c*) les stipulations figurant à l'article 31 (1) ne sont acceptées qu'en ce qui concerne les réfugiés qui n'ont pas fait l'objet dans le passé d'une décision émanant d'une autorité juridictionnelle ou administrative compétente autrichienne d'interdiction de séjour (*Aufenthaltsverbot*) ou d'expulsion (*Ausweisung* ou *Abschaffung*) ; *d*) les stipulations figurant à l'article 32 ne sont acceptées qu'en ce qui concerne les réfugiés qui ne feraient pas l'objet d'une expulsion pour des raisons de sécurité nationale ou d'ordre public, comme conséquence d'une mesure trouvant son fondement dans le droit pénal, ou pour un autre motif d'intérêt public.

Il est déclaré en outre qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par la République d'Autriche en vertu de la Convention l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs¹.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ Subject to the following reservations : (a) the provisions of articles 6, 7 (2), 8, 17 (1 and 2), 23 and 25, are recognized only as recommendations and not as legally binding obligations ; (b) the provisions of article 22 (1 and 2) are accepted only in so far as they apply to public educa-

Belgium

Belgique

HERMENT

Sous la réserve suivante : Dans tous les cas où la Convention confère aux réfugiés le traitement le plus favorable accordé aux ressortissants d'un pays étranger, cette clause ne sera pas interprétée par le Gouvernement belge comme devant comporter le régime accordé aux nationaux des pays avec lesquels la Belgique a conclu des accords régionaux, douaniers, économiques ou politiques².

Bolivia

Bolivie

Brazil

Brésil

João Carlos MUNIZ
New York 15 de julho do 1952

Bulgaria

Bulgarie

Burma

Birmanie

Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic

République socialiste
soviétique de Biélorussie

tion ; (c) the provisions of article 31 (1) are accepted only in respect of refugees who have not, in the past, been the subject of a decision by a competent Austrian judicial or administrative authority prohibiting residence (*Aufenthaltsverbot*) or ordering expulsion (*Ausweisung* or *Ab-schaffung*) ; (d) the provisions of article 32 are accepted only in respect of refugees who are not ordered to be expelled for reasons of national security or public order, in pursuance of a measure based on criminal law, or for any other reason of public policy.

It is also declared that, for the purpose of the obligations assumed by the Austrian Republic under this Convention, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.

² Subject to the following reservation : in all cases where this Convention grants to refugees the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country, this provision shall not be interpreted by the Belgian Government as necessarily involving the regime accorded to nationals of countries with which Belgium has concluded regional, customs, economic or political agreements.

Cambodia Cambodge

Canada Canada

Ceylon Ceylan

Chile Chili

China Chine

Colombia Colombie

G. GIRALDO-JARAMILLO

En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement de la Colombie déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe¹.

Costa Rica Costa-Rica

Cuba Cuba

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ In signing this Convention, the Government of Colombia declares that, for the purpose of its obligations thereunder, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951.

Czechoslovakia

Tchécoslovaquie

Denmark

Danemark

Knud LARSEN

In signing this Convention, the Government of Denmark declares that for the purpose of its obligations thereunder the words « events occurring before 1 January 1951 » in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.¹

Dominican Republic

République Dominicaine

Ecuador

Équateur

Egypt

Égypte

El Salvador

Salvador

Ethiopia

Éthiopie

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement du Danemark déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article premier de la section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs.

Federal Republic of Germany

République fédérale d'Allemagne

Dr. Heinz KREKELER

New York, November 19th 1951

In signing this Convention, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany declares that for the purpose of its obligations thereunder the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.¹

Finland

Finlande

France

France

H. HOPPENOT²

11 septembre 1952

Greece

Grèce

Alexis KYROU

10 avril 1952

En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement de la Grèce déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement de la République fédérale d'Allemagne déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1^{er}, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs.

² Au moment de la signature, le Représentant permanent de la France a fait la déclaration suivante :

² At the time of signature, the Permanent Representative of France made the following declaration :

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

« Conformément au paragraphe 1) de la section B de l'article premier, le Gouvernement français déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la présente Convention, les mots « événements survenus avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951 » figurant au paragraphe 2) de la section A de l'article premier seront compris dans le sens : « événements survenus avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951 en Europe ». En ce qui concerne le champ d'application de la Convention, une déclaration sera faite au moment de la ratification, conformément à l'article 40. »

"In accordance with Article 1, Section B(1), the French Government declares that for the purpose of its obligations under this Convention, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in Article 1, Section A(2), shall be understood to mean "events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951". A declaration regarding the territorial application of the Convention will be made at the time of ratification, in accordance with Article 40."

avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs¹.

Guatemala

Guatemala

Haiti

Haïti

Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan

Royaume hachémite de Jordanie

Holy See

Saint-Siège

May 21, 1952
Amleto G. CICOGNANI

Honduras

Honduras

Hungary

Hongrie

Iceland

Islande

India

Inde

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ In signing this Convention, the Government of Greece declares that for the purpose of its obligations thereunder the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.

Indonesia

Indonésie

Iran

Iran

Iraq

Irak

Ireland

Irlande

Israel

Israël

Jacob ROBINSON
August 1st, 1951

Italy

Italie

En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement de la République italienne déclare que les stipulations figurant aux articles 6, 7(2), 8, 17, 18, 19, 22 (2), 23, 25 et 34 ne sont reconnues par lui que comme des recommandations.

Il déclare en outre qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par la République italienne en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1^{er}, section A (2), sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe¹.

le 23 juillet 1952
Gastone GUIDOTTI

Japan

Japon

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ In signing this Convention, the Government of the Republic of Italy declares that the provisions of articles 6, 7 (2), 8, 17, 18, 19, 22 (2), 23, 25 and 34 are recognized by it as recommendations only.

It also declares that for the purpose of the obligations assumed by the Republic of Italy under this Convention, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A (2), shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951.

Laos Laos

Lebanon Liban

Liberia Libéria

Liechtenstein Liechtenstein

Ph. ZUTTER

O. SCHURCH

Luxembourg Luxembourg

J. STURM

Sous la réserve suivante :

Dans tous les cas où la Convention confère aux réfugiés le traitement le plus favorable accordé aux ressortissants d'un pays étranger, cette clause ne sera pas interprétée comme devant comporter le régime accordé aux nationaux des pays avec lesquels le Grand-Duché du Luxembourg a conclu des accords régionaux, douaniers, économiques ou politiques¹.

Mexico Mexique

Monaco Monaco

Nepal Népal

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ Subject to the following reservation : in all cases where this Convention grants to refugees the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country, this provision shall not be interpreted as necessarily involving the regime accorded to nationals of countries with which the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg has concluded regional, customs, economic or political agreements.

Netherlands

Pays-Bas

E. O. BOETZELAER

En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement des Pays-Bas déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs.

Cette signature est faite sous la réserve que dans tous les cas où cette Convention confère aux réfugiés le traitement le plus favorable accordé aux ressortissants d'un pays étranger, cette clause ne sera pas interprétée comme comportant le régime accordé aux nationaux des pays avec lesquels les Pays-Bas ont conclu des accords régionaux, douaniers, économiques ou politiques¹.

New Zealand

Nouvelle-Zélande

Nicaragua

Nicaragua

Norway

Norvège

Peter ANKER

Sous réserve de ratification².

Pakistan

Pakistan

Panama

Panama

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ In signing this Convention, the Government of the Netherlands declares that, for the purpose of its obligations thereunder, the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.

This signature is appended subject to the reservation that in all cases where this Convention grants to refugees the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country this provision shall not be interpreted as involving the regime accorded to nationals of countries with which the Netherlands has concluded regional, customs, economic or political agreements.

² Subject to ratification.

Paraguay

Paraguay

Peru

Pérou

Philippines

Philippines

Poland

Pologne

Portugal

Portugal

Republic of Korea

République de Corée

Rumania

Roumanie

Saudi Arabia

Arabie Séoudite

Sweden

Suède

Sture PETRÉN

Switzerland

Suisse

Ph. ZUTTER

O. SCHURCH

Syria

Syrie

Thailand

Thaïlande

Turkey

Turquie

Talat MIRAS

24 août 1951

En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement de la République turque déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951 en Europe. Il n'entend donc assumer aucune obligation en relation avec les événements survenus en dehors de l'Europe.

Le Gouvernement turc considère, d'autre part, que l'expression « événements survenus avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951 » se rapporte au commencement des événements. Par conséquent, comme la pression exercée sur la minorité turque de Bulgarie, qui commença avant le 1^{er} janvier 1951, continue toujours, les réfugiés de Bulgarie d'origine turque, obligés de quitter ce pays par suite de cette pression, qui, ne pouvant passer en Turquie, se réfugieraient sur le territoire d'une autre partie contractante après le 1^{er} janvier 1951, doivent également bénéficier des dispositions de cette Convention.

Le Gouvernement turc formulera, au moment de la ratification, des réserves qu'il pourrait faire conformément à l'article 42 de la Convention.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ The Government of the Turkish Republic, in signing this Convention, states that, so far as the commitments accepted by it under the Convention are concerned, the term "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, Part A, shall be understood to refer to events occurring in Europe before 1 January. It does not therefore intend to accept any commitment in connexion with events occurring outside of Europe.

The Turkish Government considers, moreover, that the term "events occurring before 1 January 1951" refers to the beginning of the events. Consequently, since the pressure exerted upon the Turkish minority in Bulgaria, which began before 1 January 1951, is still continuing, the provisions of this Convention must also apply to the Bulgarian refugees of Turkish extraction compelled to leave that country as a result of this pressure and who, being unable to enter Turkey, might seek refuge on the territory of another contracting party after 1 January 1951.

The Turkish Government will, at the time of ratification, enter reservations which it could make under article 42 of the Convention.

United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne
et d'Irlande du Nord

S. HOARE

J. B. HOWARD

In signing this Convention, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland declares that for the purpose of its obligations thereunder the words "events occurring before 1 January 1951" in article 1, section A, shall be understood as referring to events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951.¹

United States of America

États-Unis d'Amérique

Uruguay

Uruguay

Venezuela

Venezuela

Viet Nam

Viet Nam

Yemen

Yémen

Yugoslavia

Yougoslavie

S. MAKIEDO

Le Gouvernement de la RPF de Yougoslavie se réserve le droit de formuler en ratifiant la Convention telles réserves qu'il jugera appropriées, conformément à l'article 42 de la Convention².

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

¹ En signant cette Convention, le Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord déclare qu'au point de vue des obligations assumées par lui en vertu de la Convention, l'expression « événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 » figurant à l'article 1, section A, sera comprise comme se référant aux événements survenus avant le premier janvier 1951 en Europe ou ailleurs.

² The Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia reserves the right, in ratifying this Convention, to formulate such reservations as it may deem appropriate, in accordance with article 42 of this Convention.

DECLARATIONS AND RESERVATIONS MADE AT THE TIME OF
RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION

DENMARK

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

"Denmark is not bound by articles 14 and 17 or by article 24, paragraph 3 ;

"The provisions of article 24, paragraph 1, under which refugees are in certain cases placed on the same footing as nationals, shall not oblige Denmark to grant refugees in every case exactly the same remuneration as that provided by law for nationals, but only to grant them what is required for their support ;

"Paragraph 2 of the same article shall be binding upon Denmark only if the beneficiary is a national of a State which grants Danish nationals the same treatment as its own nationals from the point of view of the benefits provided for in its relevant legislation."

NORWAY

Declaration

"In accordance with article 1, section B (1), the Government of Norway declares that for the purpose of its obligations under this Convention, the words 'events occurring before 1 January 1951', in article 1, section A (2), shall be understood to mean 'events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951' ".

*Reservations**

"The obligation stipulated in article 17 (1) to accord to refugees lawfully staying in the country the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country in the same circumstances as regards the right to engage in wage-earning employment, shall not be construed as extending to refugees the benefits of agreements which may in the future be concluded between Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, or between Norway and any one of these countries, for the purpose of establishing special conditions for the transfer of labour between these countries.

"The obligation stipulated in article 24 (1) (b) to accord to refugees lawfully staying in the country the same treatment as is accorded to nationals in respect

* By a communication received on 21 January 1954, the Government of Norway gave notice of the withdrawal, with immediate effect, of the reservation made by it to article 24 of the Convention.

of social security, shall not apply as regards benefits payable under the Act of the 16th July, 1936, relating to the disabled and the blind or the Act relating to family allowances of the 24th October, 1946, nor as regards the benefits payable under the Act of the 24th June, 1931, relating to employment injury insurance for seamen.

"A reservation is also made with respect to the provisions contained in article 24 (3) insofar as payment of benefits under the three above-mentioned Acts is concerned."

BELGIUM

Declaration [TRANSLATION]

"The words 'events occurring before 1 January 1951', in article 1, section A of the Convention, should, from the point of view of the obligations assumed by the Belgian Government in virtue of the Convention, be understood to mean 'events occurring in Europe or elsewhere before 1 January 1951'".

Reservations [TRANSLATION]

"1. In all cases where the Convention grants to refugees the most favourable treatment accorded to nationals of a foreign country, this provision shall not be interpreted by the Belgian Government as necessarily involving the régime accorded to nationals of countries with which Belgium has concluded regional customs, economic or political agreements.

"2. Article 15 of the Convention shall not be applicable in Belgium ; refugees lawfully staying in Belgian territory will enjoy the same treatment, as regards the right of association, as that accorded to aliens in general."

LUXEMBOURG

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

"The Grand Ducal Government understands the words 'events occurring before 1 January 1951', in article 1, section A of the Convention, to mean 'events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951' in accordance with alternative (a) in section B of the same article".

AUSTRALIA

Declaration

"In accordance with article 1, section B (1), the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia declares that, for the purpose of its obligations under this Convention, the words 'events occurring before 1 January 1951' in Article 1,

section A shall be understood to mean "events occurring in Europe before 1 January, 1951' ".

Reservations

"The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia understands that none of the obligations with regard to refugees stipulated in Articles 17, 18, 19 and 26 of the Convention precludes :

- "(a) the imposition of conditions upon which a refugee may enter the Commonwealth of Australia or any of its Territories where the entry is made for a specific purpose ; or
- "(b) the making of arrangements with a refugee under which he is required to undertake employment under the direction of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for a specified period after his entry into the Commonwealth of Australia or any of its Territories.

"The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia makes a reservation with respect to the provisions contained in paragraph 1 of Article 28 of the Convention and does not accept the obligations stipulated in this paragraph but is prepared to recognize travel documents issued by other Contracting States pursuant to this Article.

"The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia makes a reservation with respect to the provisions contained in Article 32 of the Convention and does not accept the obligations stipulated in this Article."

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

"When ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees signed at Geneva on July 28, 1951, and in accordance with Article 42, paragraph 1, thereof, the Government of the United Kingdom have deemed it necessary to make certain reservations thereto, the text of which is reproduced below :

"(i) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland understand Articles 8 and 9 as not preventing them from taking in time of war or other grave and exceptional circumstances measures in the interests of national security in the case of a refugee on the ground of his nationality. The Provisions of Article 8 shall not prevent the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from exercising any rights over property or interests which they may acquire or have acquired as an Allied or Associated power under a Treaty of Peace or other agreement or arrangement for the restoration of peace which has been or may be completed as a result of the Second World War. Furthermore, the provisions of Article 8 shall not affect the treatment to be accorded to any property or interests which at the date of entry into force

of this Convention for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are under the control of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by reason of a state of war which exists or existed between them and any other State.

“(ii) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland accept paragraph 2 of Article 17 with the substitution of “four years” for “three years” in sub-paragraph (a) and with the omission of sub-paragraph (c).

“(iii) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in respect of such of the matters referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 24 as fall within the scope of the National Health Service, can only undertake to apply the provisions of that paragraph so far as the law allows ; and it can only undertake to apply the provisions of paragraph 2 of that Article so far as the law allows.

“(iv) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot undertake to give effect to the obligations contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 25 and can only undertake to apply the provisions of paragraph 3 so far as the law allows.

Commentary

“In connexion with sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 24 relating to certain matters within the scope of the National Health Service, the National Health Service (Amendment) Act, 1949, contains powers for charges to be made to persons not ordinarily resident in Great Britain (which category would include refugees) who receive treatment under the Service. While these powers have not yet been exercised it is possible that this might have to be done at some future date. In Northern Ireland the health services are restricted to persons ordinarily resident in the country except where regulations are made to extend the Service to others. It is for these reasons that the Government of the United Kingdom while they are prepared in the future, as in the past, to give the most sympathetic consideration to the situation of refugees, find it necessary to make a reservation to sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 24 of the Convention.

“The scheme of Industrial Injuries Insurance in Great Britain does not meet the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 24 of the Convention. Where an insured person has died as the result of an industrial accident or a disease due to the nature of his employment, benefit cannot generally be paid to his dependents who are abroad unless they are in any part of the British Commonwealth, in the Irish Republic or in a country with which the United Kingdom has made a reciprocal agreement concerning the payment of industrial injury benefits. There is an exception to this rule in favour of the dependents of certain seamen who die as a result of industrial accidents happening to them while they are in the service

of British ships. In this matter refugees are treated in the same way as citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies and by reason of paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 24 of the Convention, the dependents of refugees will be able to take advantage of reciprocal agreements which provide for the payment of United Kingdom industrial injury benefits in other countries. By reason of paragraphs (3) and (4) of Article 24 refugees will enjoy under the scheme of National Insurance and Industrial Injuries Insurance certain rights which are withheld from British subjects who are not citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies.

"No arrangements exist in the United Kingdom for the administrative assistance for which provision is made in Article 25 nor have any such arrangements been found necessary in the case of refugees. Any need for the documents or certifications mentioned in paragraph 2 of that Article would be met by affidavits.

Declaration

"I have the honour to refer to my note of this day's date forwarding for deposit the instrument of ratification by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, which was opened for signature at Geneva on July 28, 1951, and to inform Your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom desire, at the time of ratifying the Convention, to make a declaration, in accordance with the terms of Article 40, paragraph 1, thereof, concerning its extension to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

"I am accordingly instructed by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs hereby to declare on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and in accordance with Article 40, paragraph 1 thereof, that the above-mentioned Convention extends to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man subject to the following reservations made under the terms of Article 42, paragraph 1, of the Convention :—

"(i) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland understand Articles 8 and 9 as not preventing the taking in the Isle of Man and in the Channel Islands, in time of war or other grave and exceptional circumstances, of measures in the interests of national security in the case of a refugee on the ground of his nationality. The provisions of Article 8 shall not prevent the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from exercising any rights over property or interests which they may acquire or have acquired as an Allied or Associated power under a Treaty of Peace or other agreement or arrangement for the restoration of peace which has been or may be completed as a result of the Second World War. Furthermore, the

provisions of Article 8 shall not affect the treatment to be accorded to any property or interests which at the date of the entry into force of this Convention for the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are under the control of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by reason of a state of war which exists or existed between them and any other state.

“(ii) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland accept paragraph 2 of Article 17 in its application to the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands with the substitution of “four years” for “three years” in sub-paragraph (a) and with the omission of sub-paragraph (c).

“(iii) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland can only undertake that the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 24 and of paragraph 2 of that Article will be applied in the Channel Islands so far as the law allows, and that the provisions of that sub-paragraph, in respect of such matters referred to therein as fall within the scope of the Isle of Man Health Service, and of paragraph 2 of that Article will be applied in the Isle of Man so far as the law allows.

“(iv) The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot undertake that effect will be given in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 25 and can only undertake that the provisions of paragraph 3 will be applied in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands so far as the law allows.

“The considerations upon which certain of these reservations are based are similar to those set out in the memorandum relating to the corresponding reservations made in respect of the United Kingdom, which was enclosed in my note under reference.”

SCHEDULE

Paragraph 1

1. The travel document referred to in article 28 of this Convention shall be similar to the specimen annexed hereto.
2. The document shall be made out in at least two languages, one of which shall be English or French.

Paragraph 2

Subject to the regulations obtaining in the country of issue, children may be included in the travel document of a parent or, in exceptional circumstances, of another adult refugee.

Paragraph 3

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

Paragraph 4

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

Paragraph 5

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

Paragraph 6

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 has not established lawful residence in another territory and 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 authorized for the purpose, shall be empowered to extend, for a period not exceeding six months, the validity of travel documents issued by their Governments.
3. The Contracting States shall give sympathetic consideration to renewing or extending the validity of travel documents or issuing new documents to refugees no longer lawfully resident in their territory who are unable to obtain a travel document from the country of their lawful residence.

Paragraph 7

The Contracting States shall recognize the validity of the documents issued in accordance with the provisions of article 28 of this Convention.

Paragraph 8

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

Paragraph 9

1. The Contracting States undertake to issue transit visas to refugees who have obtained visas for a territory of final destination.
2. The issue of such visas may be refused on grounds which would justify refusal of a visa to any alien.

Paragraph 10

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

Paragraph 11

When a refugee has lawfully taken up residence in the territory of another Contracting State, the responsibility for the issue of a new document, under the terms and conditions of article 28, shall be that of the competent authority of that territory, to which the refugee shall be entitled to apply.

Paragraph 12

The authority issuing a new document shall withdraw the old document and shall return it to the country of issue if it is stated in the document that it should be so returned ; otherwise it shall withdraw and cancel the document.

Paragraph 13

1. Each Contracting State undertakes that the holder of a travel document issued by it in accordance with article 28 of this Convention shall be readmitted to its territory at any time during the period of its validity.
2. Subject to the provisions of the preceding sub-paragraph, a Contracting State may require the holder of the document to comply with such formalities as may be prescribed in regard to exit from or return to its territory.
3. The Contracting States reserve the right, in exceptional cases, or in cases where the refugee's stay is authorized for a specific period, when issuing the document, to limit the period during which the refugee may return to a period of not less than three months.

Paragraph 14

Subject only to the terms of paragraph 13, the provisions of this Schedule 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 of the Contracting States.

Paragraph 15

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

Paragraph 16

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.

A N N E X

SPECIMEN TRAVEL DOCUMENT

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

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 "Convention of 28 July 1951" be printed in continuous repetition on each page, in the language of the issuing country.



(Cover of booklet)

TRAVEL DOCUMENT

(Convention of 28 July 1951)

No.

(1)

TRAVEL DOCUMENT

(Convention of 28 July 1951)

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

Name

Forename(s)

Accompanied by child (children).

1. 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.

2. The holder is authorized 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.]

3. 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. [The old travel document shall be withdrawn by the authority issuing the new document and returned to the authority which issued it.]¹

(This document contains ... 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

Name

Forename(s)

Place and
date of birth

Sex

.
.
.
.

*Strike out whichever does not apply.

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

¹ The sentence in brackets to be inserted by Governments which so desire.

(3)

Photograph of holder and stamp of issuing authority
Finger-prints of holder (if required)

Signature of holder

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

(4)

1. This document is valid for the following countries :

.
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.

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 ... pages, exclusive of cover.)

(5)

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 :

