

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY AND  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSIT REQUESTING  
THE CONVENING OF A PASSPORTS CONFERENCE.Report by M. Gu ni.**Adopted by the Council.**

In a letter dated November 15th, 1915, the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit asked the Council to summon a Conference in regard to the Passports regime, and communicated to the Council the results of the preparatory work carried out by a special sub-committee to which the Advisory and Technical Committee had entrusted this work.

The Council has already <sup>had</sup> before it the question of summoning a new Passports Conference to continue the work of the Conference held in October 1920. The question was mentioned in the Report forwarded to the Council for submission to the Assembly by the Advisory and Technical Committee on the occasion of the last two Assemblies. The 1925 Assembly in particular approved the idea and called the attention of Governments to the special importance of this Conference, which public opinion, particularly in economic circles, undoubtedly expected to take at least a step towards the abolition, to the widest extent possible, of the passport system, and to mitigate considerably the disadvantages and expense which that system entails for the relations between peoples and for international trade facilities.

The necessary credits are included in the budget of the Communications and Transit Organisation for 1926.

The Advisory and Technical Committee has suggested the end of April or the beginning of May as a suitable date for this Conference. The Governments invited must, in accordance with the precedent of the other Communications and Transit Conferences be allowed a period of at least five months between the convocation and the holding of the Conference to enable them to study the various documents.

At present it does not seem either possible, or desirable to fix the date of this meeting more precisely. Regard will have to be had to the dates of other Conferences to be held next Spring, more particularly the Conference for the revision of the 1909 Convention on Road Traffic, which the French Government intends to summon next April in Paris. The President of the Council will be able in due course to fix the exact date after consulting the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee and the Secretary-General of the League.

To ensure the complete success of the Conference the number of States asked to attend should obviously be as large as possible, and it would seem desirable that all Governments invited to the last Transit Conference should be asked to attend the present Conference.

As in the case of the two general Conferences on Communications and Transit, it will no doubt be necessary to summon to this Conference, in an advisory capacity, international organisations specially qualified to assist it in its work, such as, for example, the International Railways Union and the International Chamber of Commerce which have on various occasions dealt with questions which

are to be discussed at this Conference. The list of the Organisations to be invited might be drawn up by the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee.

If the Council concurs in the views which I have set forth, I propose that it should adopt the following resolution:

"The Council decides, on the proposal of the Advisory and Technical Committee for Communications and Transit, to summon a Conference on the Passports Regime to meet on a date between April 15th and May 15th, 1926, - the exact date to be fixed later by the President of the Council after consultation with the Secretary-General of the League and the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee.

"All Governments which were asked to attend the 1st general Conference on Communications and Transit will be invited to send representatives to this Conference.

"International organisations specially qualified to assist the Conference in its work will also be invited to attend in an advisory capacity; the Chairman of the Advisory and Technical Committee will be asked to give the names of such organisations."