

WAIVER OF VISAS AND VISA FEES FOR NONIMMIGRANTS

Exchange of notes at Bern May 11, 1925

Entered into force May 11, 1925; operative June 1, 1925

Department of State files

The American Minister to the Chief of the Federal Political Department

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BERNE, *May 11, 1925*

No. 108

EXCELLENCY:

Pursuant to instructions from my Government, I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the United States will, from the first of June, 1925, collect no fee for visaing passports or executing applications therefor in the case of citizens or subjects of Switzerland desiring to visit the United States who are not "immigrants" as defined in the Immigration Act of the United States of 1924;¹ namely,

(1) A government official, his family, attendants, servants, and employees;

(2) An alien visiting the United States temporarily as a tourist or temporarily for business or pleasure;

(3) An alien in continuous transit through the United States;

(4) An alien lawfully admitted to the United States who later goes in transit from one part of the United States to another through foreign contiguous territory;

(5) A bona fide alien seaman serving as such on a vessel arriving at a port of the United States and seeking to enter temporarily the United States solely in the pursuit of his calling as a seaman;

(6) An alien entitled to enter the United States solely to carry on trade under and in pursuance of the provisions of a present existing treaty of commerce and navigation;

and from the same date the Government of Switzerland will not require non-

¹ 43 Stat. 153.

immigrant citizens of the United States of like classes desiring to visit Switzerland to present visaed passports.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

HUGH GIBSON

His Excellency

Monsieur GIUSEPPE MOTTA

*Chief of the Federal Political Department
Berne*

The Chief of the Federal Political Department to the American Minister

[TRANSLATION]

FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT
DIVISION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

B 44/2 Am.-LF

BERNE, *May 11, 1925*

MR. MINISTER:

In your note of the 11th of this month, Your Excellency was so kind as to inform us that the Government of the United States had decided, from the first of June next, to collect no fee for visaing passports or executing applications therefor in the case of Swiss citizens or subjects desiring to go to the United States and who are not considered as "immigrants" as defined in the Immigration Act of 1924, namely:

[For text of definition, see numbered paragraphs in U.S. note, above.]

We have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Federal Government undertakes, for its part, to give to citizens and subjects of the United States, belonging to the classes of travelers above cited, desiring to come to Switzerland, the benefit of the like advantages.

In addition, we wish to assure Your Excellency that the present arrangement will cause no modification of the more extensive facilities which have been granted unilaterally by Switzerland in the same premises to citizens and subjects of the United States.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the assurance of our high consideration.

Federal Political Department
MOTTA

His Excellency

Mr. HUGH S. GIBSON

*American Minister
Berne*