

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TWO HIGH COMMANDS FOR PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 14 (d)

- (1) The permit procedure should be a simple and uniform one, which will enable an intending evacuee to obtain within a maximum period of about 15 days from the date of receipt of the complete application in the concerned office, a permit to go to the zone of his choice. This permit should enable him to travel from the place of his present residence directly to the other zone, subject, of course, to his being granted permission to enter that zone by the authorities in charge of the zone. The Commission recommends that such permission should also be normally granted by the authorities concerned. To facilitate this procedure and quick disposal of applications, the Commission recommends that authority to receive applications from individuals and to issue the necessary permits, after the requisite verifications and consultations where essential with the higher authorities, should be delegated by the Central authority in both the zones to their officers in charge of the communes, and the verifications should be limited to the minimum essential. In other words, it should be possible for an applicant to present an application in a simple form, containing the essential details such as, name, age, permanent address, the zone in which he intends to live permanently etc., to the Head of the Commune, certified, if necessary by a responsible officer who is in a position to identify the applicant preferably the Chief of the Village or the Commune. The applicant should then be able to obtain a permit from the office within a maximum period of about fifteen days. Any internal consultation or verification required between the Commune Office and the offices of the district or province should be a matter entirely for the authorities and the applicant should not be required to take his application personally from one office to another.
- (2) In the case of persons residing in a place different from that of their permanent homes, applications should be accepted by the local office, provided the identity of the applicant is certified by a competent authority, to be prescribed, and permits should be issued from the same office.
- (3) Permits should be normally valid for a period of two months from the date of issue and if the permit holder is unable to utilise the permit in time, it should be automatically extended without any further check till the 18th May, 1955.
- (4) The applicant should be informed within fifteen days of the date of the completed application whether a permit is granted or refused; and in the latter case, the reasons for the refusal should also be indicated in all possible cases and the applicant should have a right of appeal to higher authority, who should dispose of such an appeal within a period of about 10 days from the date of receipt of the appeal. This will, of course, be without prejudice to the right of such persons to approach the Commission or its teams in regard to any matter affecting their rights under the Geneva Agreement.