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Statement of the Delegate of the United States
to the Meeting of Experts at the Second Plenary
Meeting.

Under instructions from my Government this Delegation is authorised to point out the sincere desire of the United States for increased intercourse between nations through the medium of travel. My Government believes that international travel is of the greatest importance in promoting friendships and improving cultural relations among nations. Furthermore such travel is vital to the expansion of world trade and employment.

After a consideration of the official barriers to such travel and the recommendations of the several international organisations for their correction, the suggestions for recommendations herewith presented were developed. In summary, these suggestions are:

The U.S. favours the universal adoption of the "international type" of passport or an improved version thereof as used by the U.S., valid for all countries and for a minimum period of two years; elimination of exit visas; reduction of passport fees; elimination of the visa requirement by countries which do not have quantitative immigration restrictions, the simplification and standardisation of visa procedure and elimination or reduction of visa fees.

As additional means of facilitating travel among nations the U.S. also favours relaxing currency controls where feasible, providing adequate facilities for the exchange of currency and protecting tourists from excessive exchange charges, simplification and uniformity as far as possible in health, immigration, customs and other inspections.

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