Soviet Nationality Law

August 19, 1938

Article 1. On the basis of Article 21 of the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics a single Union citizenship is established for citizens of the U.S.S.R. Every citizen of a Union Republic is [also] a citizen of the U.S.S.R.

Article 2. The following are citizens of the U.S.S.R.: (a) All persons who on November 7, 1917, were subjects of the former Russian Empire and have not forfeited Soviet citizenship; (b) persons who have legally acquired Soviet citizenship.

Article 3. Foreigners, irrespective of their nationality and race, are admitted to citizenship of the U.S.S.R. upon petition to the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R. or the Presidium of the Supreme Council of a Union Republic within whose territory they are domiciled.

Article 4. Relinquishment of citizenship of the U.S.S.R. is authorized by the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R.

Article 5. The marriage of a male or female citizen of the U.S.S.R. to a person not of U.S.S.R. nationality does not entail a change of citizenship.

Article 6. In the event of a change of citizenship of parents, as a result of which both become citizens of the U.S.S.R. or both relinquish U.S.S.R. citizenship, a corresponding change of citizenship follows for their children below 14 years of age. In the case of children between the age of 14 and 18, a change of citizenship may take place only with their consent.*

Article 8. Persons domiciled upon the territory of the U.S.S.R. who are not citizens of the U.S.S.R. on the strength of the present Act, and who do not possess certificates of foreign nationality, are considered as stateless.

President of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R.
M. Kalinin
Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R.
A. Gorkin

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