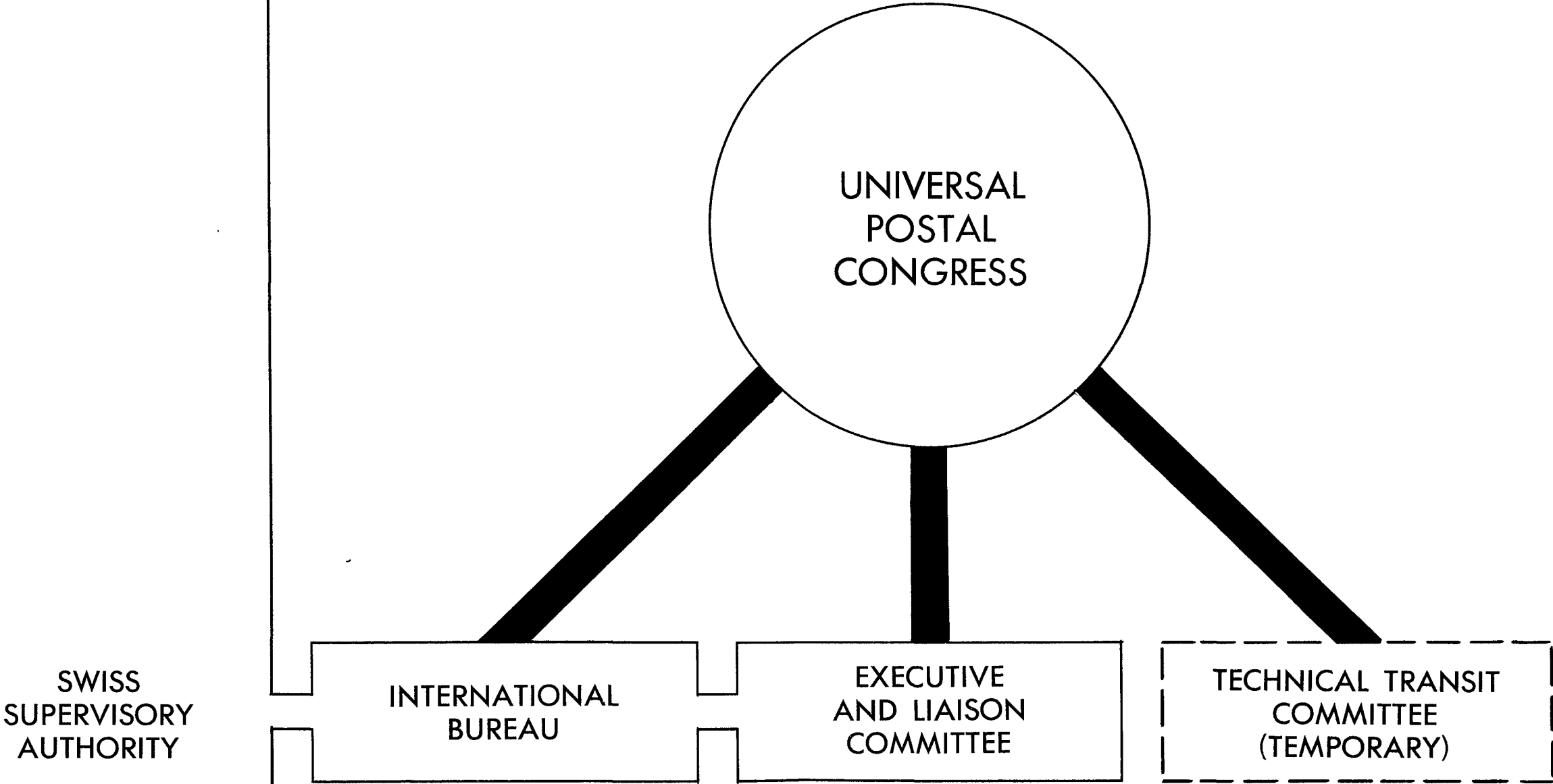


STRUCTURE OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION



VII. The Universal Postal Union

A. ORIGIN

In 1863 the first attempt at developing a universal postal agreement was made by an International Postal Committee meeting in Paris. The fifteen American and European countries attending this meeting adopted resolutions establishing general principles designed to secure greater uniformity in the numerous bilateral agreements which at that time regulated postal relations between the countries of the world. Eleven years later, the first International Postal Congress met in Berne, attended by delegates from the following 22 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. The Congress adopted an International Postal Convention, signed on October 9, 1874. When the Convention came into

force on July 1, 1875, it formally established the General Postal Union. The second Postal Congress, held in Paris in 1878, changed the name of the Union to the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

The Universal Postal Convention has been extended and improved by the various postal congresses, twelve of which have thus far been held: in Berne, 1874; Paris, 1878; Lisbon, 1885; Vienna, 1891; Washington, 1897; Rome, 1906; Madrid, 1920; Stockholm, 1924; London, 1929; Cairo, 1934; Buenos Aires, 1939; and Paris, 1947. In addition, a number of conferences and committees have met under the auspices of the Union to study and discuss specific technical questions as directed by the Congress.

UPU has been governed since July 1, 1948, by the Universal Postal Convention as revised by the Paris Congress of 1947.

B. PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

As stated in Article 1 of the Universal Postal Convention, the aim of the Union is to assure the organization and perfection of the various postal services and to promote, in this field, the development of international collaboration. To this end, the Members of UPU are united in a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence.

The Union regulates, by the provisions of its Convention, the regular-mail service, which comprises the following articles of correspondence: letters, single and reply-paid post cards, commercial papers, printed matter, raised print for the blind, samples of merchandise, small packets, and phonopost articles, e.g., phonograph records. These provisions fix the basic rates, weight limits and dimensions for the above-mentioned articles. (Articles in the Final Protocol of the Convention permit

Members to deviate from the basic rates by increasing them a maximum of 40 per cent or reducing them a maximum of 20 per cent.)

By agreements annexed to the Convention, and binding only for those Members which adhere to them, the Union regulates seven other postal services: insured letters and boxes, parcel post, money orders, postal cheques, collection orders, subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals and cash on delivery articles.

¹ For further details on the origin and history of UPU, see *Exposé sommaire de la création, du développement et du fonctionnement de l'Union postale universelle*, Berne, November 1947; for further details on activities, see the administrative report for 1947 of the International Bureau of UPU to the United Nations (E/811), and the journal of the UPU, *L'Union Postale*, nos. 6-10, 1947, and 4 and 5, 1948. See also Bibliography of this Yearbook, Appendix III.

C. ORGANIZATION

Prior to the coming into force of the revised Convention on July 1, 1948, UPU consisted of a Universal Postal Congress and an International Bureau; the functions and responsibilities of these organs under the revised Convention remain the same. The Paris Congress established in addition a permanent Executive and Liaison Committee.

The Universal Postal Congress, which usually meets at intervals of five years, is composed of representatives of all Members of the Union. It reviews the Universal Postal Convention and its Subsidiary Agreements on the basis of proposals submitted by Members. Proposals submitted to a Congress involving important changes in the Convention must obtain a two-thirds majority; proposals involving changes of less importance in the Convention, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, as well as all changes in the Subsidiary Agreements, their Final Protocols and Detailed Regulations, need only obtain a simple majority. Proposals made between Congresses to change provisions of the Convention, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, and of the Subsidiary Agreements, their final Protocols and Detailed Regulations, are approved on the following conditions: unanimous vote for modifications of important provisions; two-thirds majority vote for other modifications; and a simple majority vote for interpretation of the provisions.

Each Congress fixes the year and the place for the next Congress. Extraordinary sessions of the Congress may be called with the approval of two thirds of the Members of the Union.

The International Bureau of UPU, operating under the supervision of the Swiss Supervisory Authority, serves as the organ of liaison, information and consultation for Members of the Union. In particular, it assembles, co-ordinates, publishes

and distributes information of all kinds concerning the international postal service; gives opinions, as requested, on questions in dispute; notifies Members of requests for amendments of the Acts of the Congress and of changes adopted; serves the postal administrations as a clearing-house for the settlement of their postal accounts; and performs other functions assigned to it by the Convention, Regulations and Agreements of the Union.

The permanent Executive and Liaison Committee consists of nineteen members elected on a geographical basis by each Congress to act until replaced by the next Congress. The Committee normally meets once a year. Its functions include the maintenance of close relations with countries Members of the Union with a view to improving the international postal service, the study of technical questions affecting that service, the establishment of working relations with the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international organizations, and the control of the activities of the International Bureau. The Secretary-General of the Committee is the Director of the International Bureau. The Committee elects its President and four Vice-Presidents, and appoints, on the recommendation of the Swiss Supervisory Authority, the Director and other high-ranking personnel of the International Bureau. Until the coming into force of the revised Convention, the Executive and Liaison Committee, by decision of the Paris Congress, functioned on a provisional basis.

(Members of UPU are further permitted to set up restricted or regional postal unions and conclude special postal agreements between themselves, provided such agreements are not less favorable for the public than those in the Universal Postal Convention and Regulations.)

D. ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 1, 1947, TO SEPTEMBER 21, 1948

The twelfth Universal Postal Congress, which was convened on May 7, 1947, continued to meet in Paris until July 5, 1947. Basing its discussions on 821 proposals received from various administrations, the Congress drew up 23 instruments, which constitute the revised legislation of the Union. These include the revised Universal Postal Convention, together with its Final Protocol and

Executive Regulations; provisions concerning the transportation of regular mails by air; and the seven postal agreements previously mentioned, with their respective executive regulations.²

²The Universal Postal Convention and the Final Protocol of the Convention are reproduced on pp. 893-906. The Executive Regulations of the Convention, the Agreements, etc., may be secured from the International Bureau of the UPU.

All Members of the Union must adhere to the Convention; they are not required, however, to become parties to the postal agreements. When a country has ratified one of the seven postal agreements, its provisions become law in that country, and the government must ensure their application.

The Congress adopted a list system in the money order service for those countries parties to the agreement concerning money orders. This permits the office of exchange in the country of origin to forward to the office of exchange in the country of destination a list of the amounts to be paid rather than, as in the past, all of the orders issued. The Congress introduced the use of airmail to notify receipt and corrections of money orders.

A new agreement concerning cash on delivery articles was adopted by the Congress. This agreement was mainly drawn up from the provisions on this subject already contained in the Convention, in the agreements concerning insured letters and boxes and concerning parcel post and in the executive regulations governing these instruments.

The agreements concerning insured letters and boxes, parcel post, postal transfers and collection of bills received only minor revisions and the agreement concerning subscriptions to newspapers and periodical publications remained unchanged.

The Congress made a number of changes in the provisions of the Convention regulating postal correspondence. Among these, it increased the maximum weight for printed papers from two to three kilograms and for single volumes from three to five kilograms. It provided for a 50-per-cent reduction in the cost of mailing newspapers and periodicals in all territories of Members of the Union. Prior to the Congress such a reduction had been in force only between those postal administrations which agreed to adopt it. The Congress also requested that the rates and regulations governing the transmission of raised print for the blind be generously interpreted.

The Congress suggested the limitations of payments to be made to air transport companies. Although it recognized that air transport costs were too high to allow at that time air mail correspondence without surtax, the Congress took a step in that direction by abolishing the surtax on all air letters sent within a radius of 2,000 kilometres.

The Congress approved an agreement establishing the relationship between the Union and the United Nations.³ This agreement, annexed to the Convention, was signed by representatives of the Union and the United Nations on July 4, 1947.

It was subsequently approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 15, 1947, and came into force at the same time as the revised Universal Postal Convention, on July 1, 1948. In order to comply with the General Assembly resolution barring Franco Spain from membership in any organization brought into relationship with the United Nations,⁴ the Congress by vote suspended Spain, Spanish Morocco, and the whole of the Spanish Colonies from exercising their membership in UPU for as long as the General Assembly resolution is in force. By decision of the Congress, the membership of Germany, Japan and Korea is also suspended until such time as the responsible authorities agree to restore the former position. The provisions of Article 3 of the Convention governing the admission of new Members into the Union were amended to require the approval of applications for membership by two thirds of the current Members of the Union. Since 1878, new Members had been admitted into the Union merely by notifying the Swiss Confederation of their adherence to the Convention.

The Congress considered the problem of transit rates. A Technical Transit Committee which had been established by the Buenos Aires Congress in 1939 to deal with this question was unable to meet because of the war. The Paris Congress therefore reconstituted this Committee on a temporary basis and instructed it to find, by general and detailed inquiry, the most equitable basis on which land and sea transit rates can be computed and to suggest the best methods for simplifying the calculation of these rates. The Congress elected seventeen members on a geographical basis to constitute the Committee. The Technical Transit Committee is to prepare a report for submission to Members of the Union at the beginning of 1950.

1. The International Bureau

Throughout the period under review, the International Bureau of UPU continued issuing technical publications and performing its many other functions under the regulations of the Union.

It published new editions of its List of Air Mail Lines, Maps of Air Mail Lines, List of Airports and List of Addresses of Postal Administrations. These publications, as well as the Bureau's other technical publications, are compiled from information fur-

³The text of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union is reproduced on pp. 906-8.

⁴See Yearbook of the United Nations, 1946-47, pp. 129-30.

nished to the Bureau by postal administrations of Member countries, and are kept up to date by means of circulars, 259 of which were published during 1947. The Bureau compiled and distributed supplements to the following publications: Official summary of all information of general interest concerning the carrying out of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations in each country, 1943 edition; Table of equivalents, 1946 edition; Table of reduced rates, 1944 edition; Collection of information concerning the organization of the Administrations of the Union and their domestic services, September 1932 edition; Statement of Domestic Rates, 1946 edition; List of prohibited Articles, January 1938 edition; List of Distances in kilometres, August 1939 edition; List of Distant Countries and Countries assimilated thereto, September 1935 edition. It continued work begun in 1945 on a new edition of a Directory of Post Offices; the last edition of this Directory was issued in April 1937. The Bureau continued publishing a monthly journal, L'Union Postale, which contains articles on innovations in postal services, improve-

ments to premises, mechanized facilities in internal services and transport. L'Union Postale has formerly been published in English, French, German and Spanish; by decision of the Paris Congress, the journal was to be published, beginning with the January 1949 issue, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Bureau receives postage stamps of all sorts used in the territory of each Member of the Union and is required to distribute these stamps to all other Members of the Union. During 1947, the Bureau distributed 2,702 series of postage stamps, including 2,554 ordinary postage stamps, 58 sets of stamps and 90 stamps printed or embossed on stationery.

As required by the Executive Regulations of the Convention, the Bureau supplied postal administrations during 1947 with 8,772,000 international reply coupons and with 84,715 postal identity cards. The regulations prescribe the forms for the reply coupons and the identity cards, and the Bureau must arrange for their manufacture.

E. BUDGET

The budget of UPU includes the ordinary expenses of the International Bureau and the extraordinary expenses covering sessions of the Congress, conferences or committees and special tasks of the Bureau. The Paris Congress set the sum of 500,000 gold francs (equivalent to approximately \$US 157,543.39) as the annual maximum of the ordinary expenses of the Bureau for the years 1948 to 1952, inclusive, and in addition 100,000 gold francs to cover the ordinary annual expenses of the Executive and Liaison Committee during this period.

The Swiss Supervisory Authority supervises the expenses of the Bureau and makes the advances (which bear no interest for one year) necessary to meet these expenses.

The total of ordinary and extraordinary expenses is borne by the Members of the Union, which are divided for that purpose into seven classes. Each Member contributes as follows in proportion to the class in which it is placed in the Executive Regulations of the revised Convention:

Class	No. of Units	Countries
1	25	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, ⁵ India, Italy, Japan, ⁵ New Zealand, Pakistan, ⁵ Spain, ⁵ Union of South Africa, U.S.S.R., United Kingdom, United States
2	20	(none)
3	15	Algeria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, French overseas territories, Indo-China, Mexico, Netherlands, Netherlands Indies, Poland, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukrainian S.S.R., British overseas territories, United States possessions, Yugoslavia
4	10	Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, ⁵ Norway, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies in West Africa, Portuguese Colonies in East Africa, Asia and Oceania
5	5	Austria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian S.S.R., Chile, Colombia, Greece, Iran, Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone), Morocco (Spanish Zone), ⁵ Peru, Tunisia
6	3	Afghanistan, Albania, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao and Surinam, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El

⁵ Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain, Morocco (Spanish Zone) and the whole of the Spanish Colonies have not since July 1, 1948, contributed to the expenses of UPU, since, under Article XVII of the Final Protocol of the

Universal Postal Convention (see p. 906) they are temporarily precluded from acceding to the Convention and the Agreements. They are now charged for the publications furnished them by the International Bureau.

Class	No. of Units	Countries
		Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Siam, Uruguay, Venezuela
7	1	Belgian Congo, Iceland, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Spanish Colonies, ⁵ Syria, Transjordan, Vatican City, Yemen

ANNEX I

MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND HEADQUARTERS

(As of September 21, 1948)

MEMBERS OF UPU

Afghanistan ⁷	Liberia
Albania	Luxembourg
Algeria	Mexico
Argentina	Netherlands ⁷
Australia	Netherlands Indies
Austria ⁷	New Zealand ⁷
Belgium ⁷	Nicaragua
Belgian Congo ⁷	Norway ⁷
Bolivia	Pakistan
Brazil	Panama
Bulgaria ⁷	Paraguay
Byelorussian S.S.R.	Peru
Canada	Philippines
Chile	Poland
China	Portugal
Colombia	Portuguese Colonies of West Africa
Costa Rica	Portuguese Colonies of East Africa, Asia and Oceania
Cuba	Roumania ⁷
Curacao and Surinam	San Marino
Czechoslovakia ⁷	Saudi Arabia
Denmark ⁷	Siam
Dominican Republic	Spain ⁸
Ecuador	Spanish Colonies ⁸
Egypt	Spanish Morocco ⁸
El Salvador	Sweden
Ethiopia	Switzerland ⁷
Finland ⁷	Syria
France	Transjordan
French Morocco	Tunisia
French overseas territories	Turkey
Germany ⁸	Ukrainian S.S.R.
Greece	Union of South Africa ⁷
Guatemala	U.S.S.R.
Haiti	United Kingdom
Honduras	United Kingdom overseas colonies, protectorates and territories under mandate or trusteeship
Hungary	United States ⁷
Iceland ⁷	United States Possessions
India	Uruguay
Indo-China	Vatican City
Iran	Venezuela
Iraq	Yemen
Ireland	Yugoslavia ⁷
Italy	
Japan ⁸	
Korea ⁸	
Lebanon ⁷	

When a new Member is admitted into the Union, the Swiss Supervisory Authority, with the consent of the government concerned, decides into which class that Member will be placed.⁶

The International Bureau distributes its publications to the postal administrations of Members in proportion to the units contributed by the individual Members.

EXECUTIVE AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

Argentina	France	Switzerland
Australia	India	Turkey
Brazil	Mexico	U.S.S.R.
China	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Colombia	Portugal	United States
Czechoslovakia	Sweden	Yugoslavia
Egypt		

TECHNICAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Argentina	India	Union of South Africa
Canada	Italy	U.S.S.R.
China	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Denmark	Peru	United States
Egypt	Poland	Yugoslavia
France	Portugal	

OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE AND LIAISON COMMITTEE

President:	FRANCE (Joseph Le Mouel)
Vice-Presidents:	UNITED KINGDOM
	U.S.S.R.
	BRAZIL
	CHINA
Secretary-General (ex officio as Director of International Bureau):	Alois Muri (Switzerland)

TECHNICAL TRANSIT COMMITTEE

President:	Sir David Lidbury (United Kingdom)
Secretary:	F. Deprez (Switzerland)

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Director:	Alois Muri (Switzerland)
Vice-Director:	Fulke Radice (United Kingdom)
Counsellors:	J. Fourès (France)
	L. Roulet (Switzerland)
	E. Zaldúa (Colombia)
	F. Deprez (Switzerland)

⁵See footnote on p. 891.

⁶Pakistan, which became a Member of UPU on November 10, 1947, and had therefore not been listed in the Executive Regulations of the revised Convention, was placed in class I by the Swiss Supervisory Authority.

⁷These Members had ratified the Universal Postal Convention of Paris (1947) by October 22, 1948.

⁸See Article XVII of the Final Protocol to the Convention of Paris (1947), p. 906.

HEADQUARTERS

Address: International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union
 Schwarztorstasse 38
 Berne, Switzerland
 Postal Address: Case Berne 14, Switzerland
 Telephone: Berne 23901
 Cable Address: UPU BERNE

ANNEX II

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION⁹

Concluded between Afghanistan, the Union of South Africa, the People's Republic of Albania, Germany, the United States of America, the whole of the Possessions of the United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Argentine Republic, the Commonwealth of Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Colony of the Belgian Congo, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, the Republic of Colombia, Korea, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the Republic of El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, the whole of the Spanish Colonies, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Algeria, Indo-China, the whole of the other Overseas Territories of the French Republic and Territories administered as such, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the whole of the British Overseas Territories, including the Colonies, Protectorates and Territories under Mandate or under Trusteeship exercised by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Guatemala, the Republic of Haiti, the Republic of Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Eire, the Republic of Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, the Republic of Liberia, Luxembourg, Morocco (except the Spanish Zone) Morocco (Spanish Zone), Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, the Republic of Panamá, Paraguay, the Netherlands, Curaçao and Surinam, the Dutch East Indies, Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Portuguese Colonies in West Africa, the Portuguese Colonies in East Africa, Asia and Oceania, Roumania, the Republic of San Marino, Siam, Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, Syria, Czechoslovakia, the Hachemite Kingdom of Transjordan, Tunis, Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the State of the City of the Vatican, the United States of Venezuela, Yemen and the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-named countries, being assembled in Congress at Paris, by virtue of Article 13 of the Universal Postal Convention concluded at Buenos Aires on the 23rd of May, 1939, have, by mutual consent and subject to ratification, revised the said Convention to read as follows:

PART I. UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

CHAPTER I.—ORGANISATION AND EXTENT OF THE UNION

ARTICLE 1. Constitution and aim of the Union

1. The countries between which the present Convention is concluded form, under the title of the Universal

Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence.

2. The aim of the Union is to secure the organisation and improvement of the various international postal services, and to promote the development of international collaboration in this sphere.

ARTICLE 2. Relationship with the United Nations

The Union is brought into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with the terms of the Agreement of which the text is annexed to the present Convention.

ARTICLE 3. New accessions: Procedure

1. Any sovereign country may at any time request to be allowed to adhere to the Convention.

2. The request is sent through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, and by the latter to the members of the Union.

3. The country concerned is considered as having been admitted to membership if its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the countries which compose the Union.

4. Countries which, having been consulted, have not replied within a period of four months are considered as abstaining.

5. Admission to membership is notified by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of all the countries of the Union.

ARTICLE 4. Convention and Agreements of the Union

1. The letter post is governed by the provisions of the Convention.

2. Other services, such as those relating to insured letters and boxes, postal parcels, cash on delivery, money orders, transfers to and from postal cheque accounts, collection of bills, drafts, etc., and subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, form the subject of Agreements between countries of the Union. These Agreements are binding only upon the countries which have acceded to them.

3. Accession to one or more of these Agreements is notified in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, §2.

ARTICLE 5. Detailed Regulations

The Postal Administrations of the Union Countries draw up, by mutual agreement, in the form of Detailed Regulations, the detailed rules necessary for the carrying out of the Convention and the Agreements.

ARTICLE 6. Restricted Unions: Special Agreements

1. Countries of the Union and, if their internal legislation does not forbid it, Administrations, may establish restricted Unions and make with one another special agreements concerning the matters dealt with in the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, provided that conditions less favourable to the public than those laid down by these Acts are not introduced.

2. The same right is accorded to the countries which

⁹ The English text reproduced here is the translation in the United Kingdom Parliamentary Papers, 1948 (Cmd. 7435). The French text published by the International Bureau of UPU is the authentic text of the Universal Postal Convention. See: Union Postale Universelle, Documents du Congrès de Paris, 1947. Tome III. Textes définitifs des actes signés à Paris. Berne, Bureau International, 1947. 432 pp.

participate in the Agreements, and if necessary to their Administrations, as regards the matters dealt with by these Acts and their Detailed Regulations.

ARTICLE 7. Internal Legislation

The provisions of the Convention and of the Agreements of the Union do not override the legislation of any country as regards anything which is not expressly covered by these Acts.

ARTICLE 8. Colonies, Protectorates, etc.

The following are considered as forming a single country or Administration of the Union, as the case may be, within the meaning of the Convention or of the Agreements as regards, in particular, their right to vote at a Congress or Conference, and in the interval between meetings, as well as their contribution to the expenses of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union:

1. The whole of the Possessions of the United States of America, comprising Hawaii, Porto-Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States of America;
2. The Colony of the Belgian Congo;
3. The whole of the Spanish Colonies;
4. Algeria;
5. Indo-China;
6. The whole of the other Overseas Territories of the French Republic and Territories administered as such;
7. The whole of the British Overseas Territories, including the Colonies, Protectorates and Territories under Mandate or under Trusteeship exercised by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
8. Curaçao and Surinam;
9. The Dutch East Indies;
10. The Portuguese Colonies in West Africa;
11. The Portuguese Colonies in East Africa, Asia and Oceania.

ARTICLE 9. Application of the Convention to Colonies, Protectorates, etc.

1. Any Contracting Party may declare, either at the time of signing, of ratifying, of acceding, or later, that its acceptance of the present Convention includes all its Colonies, overseas Territories, Protectorates or Territories under suzerainty or under mandate, or certain of them only. The declaration, unless made at the time of signing the Convention, must be addressed to the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

2. The Convention will apply only to the Colonies, overseas Territories, Protectorates or Territories under suzerainty or under mandate in the name of which declarations have been made in virtue of § 1.

3. Any Contracting Party may, at any time, forward to the Government of the Swiss Confederation a notification of the withdrawal from the Convention of any Colony, overseas Territory, Protectorate or Territory under suzerainty or under mandate in the name of which it has made a declaration in virtue of § 1. This notification will take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

4. The Government of the Swiss Confederation will forward to all the Contracting Parties a copy of each declaration or notification received in virtue of §§ 1 to 3.

5. The provisions of this Article do not apply to any

Colony, overseas Territory, Protectorate or Territory under suzerainty or under mandate which is mentioned in the preamble of the Convention.

ARTICLE 10. Extent of the Union

The following are considered as belonging to the Universal Postal Union:

- (a) post offices established by Union countries in territories not included in the Union;
- (b) other territories which, although not members of the Union, are included in it as being subordinate, postally, to a country of the Union.

ARTICLE 11. Exceptional Relations

Administrations which provide a service with territories not included in the Union are required to act as the intermediaries of the other Administrations. The provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations apply to these exceptional relations.

ARTICLE 12. Arbitration

1. In case of disagreement between two or more members of the Union as to the interpretation of the Convention and the Agreements as well as of their Detailed Regulations or as to the responsibility imposed on an Administration by the application of these Acts, the question in dispute is decided by arbitration. To that end, each of the Administrations concerned chooses another member of the Union not directly interested in the matter.

2. If one of the Administrations in disagreement does not take any action on a proposal for arbitration within a period of six months, or of nine months in the case of distant countries, the International Bureau, on a request to that effect, calls on the defaulting Administration to appoint an arbitrator, or itself appoints one officially.

3. The decision of the arbitrators is given on an absolute majority of votes.

4. In case of an equality of votes, the arbitrators choose, with the view of settling the difference, another Administration with no interest in the question in dispute. Failing an agreement in the choice, this Administration is appointed by the International Bureau from among the members of the Union not proposed by the arbitrators.

5. If the disagreement concerns one of the Agreements, the arbitrators may not be appointed from outside the Administrations which participate in that Agreement.

ARTICLE 13. Withdrawal from the Union. Cessation of participation in the Agreements

Each Contracting Party is free to withdraw from the Union or to cease to participate in one or more of the Agreements by notice given one year in advance through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to the Governments of the contracting countries.

CHAPTER II.—CONGRESSES, CONFERENCES, COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 14. Congresses

1. Delegates of the countries of the Union meet in Congress not later than five years after the date of the entry into force of the Acts of the preceding Congress, with the view of revising these Acts or of completing them as necessary.

2. Each country is represented at the Congress by

one or more plenipotentiary delegates furnished by their Government with the necessary powers. It may, if it so desires, be represented by the delegation of another country. But it is understood that one delegation can represent only one country other than its own.

3. In the deliberations, each country has one vote only.

4. Each Congress settles the place of meeting of the next Congress. The Government of the country in which the Congress is to take place is responsible, in consultation with the International Bureau, for convening the Congress, and also for notifying to all the Governments of the countries of the Union the decisions taken by the Congress.

ARTICLE 15. Ratifications. Entry into Force and Duration of the Acts of Congresses

1. The Acts of Congresses shall be ratified as soon as possible and the ratifications shall be communicated to the Government of the country in which the Congress was held, and by that Government to the Governments of the contracting countries.

2. If one or more of the Contracting Parties do not ratify one or other of the Acts signed by them, these Acts are none the less binding on the States which have ratified them.

3. These Acts come into force simultaneously and have the same duration.

4. From the date fixed for the entry into force of the Acts adopted by a Congress, all the Acts of the preceding Congress are repealed.

ARTICLE 16. Extraordinary Congresses

1. When a request to that effect is made or approved by at least two-thirds of the contracting countries, an Extraordinary Congress is held, after arrangement with the International Bureau.

2. The regulations laid down by Articles 14 and 15 apply equally to the delegations, to the deliberations and to the Acts of Extraordinary Congresses.

ARTICLE 17. Standing Orders of Congresses

Each Congress draws up the standing orders for its work and deliberations.

ARTICLE 18. Executive and Liaison Commission (Composition, Functions, Working)

1. In the interval between Congresses, an Executive and Liaison Commission ensures the continuity of the work of the Universal Postal Union, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Agreements.

2. The seat of the Commission is at Berne; in principle, the meetings of the Commission are held there.

3. The Commission is composed of nineteen members who exercise their functions during the interval between two successive Congresses.

4. The countries members of the Commission are appointed by Congress. At least half of the members must be replaced on the occasion of each Congress; no country may be chosen by three successive Congresses. The Director of the International Bureau exercises the functions of Secretary-General of the Commission.

5. The representative of each of the countries members of the Commission is nominated by the postal Administration of the country concerned. The representatives of countries members of the Commission must be qualified officials of the postal Administration.

6. At its first meeting, which is convened by the President of the previous Congress, the Commission elects

from amongst its members, a President and four Vice-Presidents and draws up the Standing Orders for its work and deliberations.

7. The duties of the members of the Commission are gratuitous. The working expenses of the Commission are borne by the Universal Postal Union. The representatives of overseas countries may obtain repayment of the cost of a return ticket by air or by sea.

8. The expenses mentioned in § 7 may not exceed 100,000 francs a year; they are added to those which the International Bureau is authorised to incur under the provisions of Article 27 of the Convention.

9. The Commission meets in regular session, in principle once a year, on convocation by the Chairman.

10. The Commission may invite to participate at its meetings, without the right to vote, any representative of an international organisation or any other qualified person whom it wishes to take part in its work. Consultative Sub-Commissions may be set up for the study of special questions.

11. The functions of the Commission are as follows:

- (a) to maintain the closest contacts with the countries members of the Union with the view of improving the international postal service;
- (b) to examine technical questions of any kind concerning the international postal service, and to communicate the result of these examinations to the countries members of the Union;
- (c) to make useful contacts with the United Nations, its Councils and Commissions, as well as with specialised Agencies and other international Organisations, for the study and the preparation of reports to be submitted for the approval of the members of the Union. To send, as may be necessary, one of its members to represent the Union and to take part in its name at meetings of all these international organisations;
- (d) to formulate, if necessary, proposals which will be submitted for the approval of the contracting countries in accordance with the provisions of Articles 22 and 23 of the Convention.
- (e) within the framework of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, to ensure the control of the activities of the International Bureau, of which it appoints, if necessary, and on the proposal of the Government of the Swiss Confederation, the Director and other superior personnel; to approve, on the proposal of the Director of the Bureau, the appointment of the other officials, and to authorise the employment of additional staff considered necessary; to prepare an annual report on the work of the Bureau, which it communicates to the members of the Union.

12. The Commission sends, for information, to the postal Administrations of all the countries of the Union an analytical review at the conclusion of each of its sessions.

13. The Commission makes a report to Congress on the whole of its activities and sends it to the contracting countries at least two months before the opening of the Congress.

ARTICLE 19. Conferences

1. Conferences for the consideration of purely administrative questions may be held at the request or with the assent of at least two-thirds of the Administrations of the

Union. They are convened after arrangement with the International Bureau.

2. Each Conference draws up its own standing orders.

ARTICLE 20. Commissions

Commissions charged by a Congress or a Conference with the examination of one or more particular questions are convened by the International Bureau after arrangement with the Administration of the country where these Commissions are to sit.

CHAPTER III.—PROPOSALS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS

ARTICLE 21. Introduction of Proposals

1. In the interval between meetings, any Administration has the right to address to the other Administrations, through the medium of the International Bureau, proposals concerning the Convention, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations.

2. The same right is accorded to the Administrations of the countries participating in the Agreements so far as these Agreements, their Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols are concerned.

3. In order to be considered, every proposal introduced by an Administration in the interval between meetings must be supported by at least two other Administrations. A proposal lapses when the International Bureau does not receive, at the same time as the proposal, the necessary number of declarations of support.

ARTICLE 22. Examination of Proposals

1. Every proposal is subject to the following procedure: A period of two months is allowed to Administrations to examine the proposal and to communicate their observations, if any, to the International Bureau. Amendments are not admitted. The answers are collected by the International Bureau, and communicated to the Administrations, with an invitation to declare themselves for or against. Administrations which have not notified their vote within a period of two months are considered as abstaining. The periods quoted above are calculated from the date of the circulars from the International Bureau.

2. If the proposal concerns an Agreement, its Detailed Regulations or the Final Protocol of either, only the Administrations which have adhered to that Agreement may take part in the procedure indicated in § 1.

ARTICLE 23. Conditions of Approval

1. In order to become binding, the proposals must obtain:

(a) a unanimous vote if they involve the addition of new provisions to, or the modification of, the provisions of Parts I and II, or of Articles 35 to 39, 57 to 63, 65 to 74 of the Convention, of any of the Articles of its Final Protocol and of Articles 101, 105, 117, 152, 163 and 184 of its Detailed Regulations;

(b) a two-thirds vote if they involve a modification of the provisions other than those mentioned under (a);

(c) a simple majority if they affect the interpretation of the provisions of the Convention, of its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, except in the case of disagreement to be submitted to arbitration as provided for by Article 12.

2. The conditions to be fulfilled for the approval of proposals concerning the Agreements are fixed by the Agreements themselves.

ARTICLE 24. Notification of Decisions

1. Additions to and modifications of the Convention, the Agreements and the Final Protocols of these Acts are sanctioned by a diplomatic declaration, which the Government of the Swiss Confederation undertakes to prepare and forward, at the request of the International Bureau, to the Governments of the contracting countries.

2. Additions to and modifications of the Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols are drawn up and notified to the Administrations by the International Bureau. The same applies to the interpretations referred to under Article 23, § 1, (c).

ARTICLE 25. Execution of Decisions

No addition or modification adopted comes into force until at least three months after its notification.

CHAPTER IV.—INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

ARTICLE 26. General Functions

1. A central Office, situated at Berne, known as the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, and placed under the supervision of the Swiss Postal Administration, serves as a medium of liaison, information and consultation for the countries of the Union.

2. This Office is entrusted in particular with the collection, collation, publication and distribution of information of every kind which concerns the international postal service; with giving, at the request of the parties concerned, an opinion upon questions in dispute; with the preparation of a statement of the case in connexion with proposals for modifying the Acts of the Congress; with the notification of alterations adopted, and in general, with such enquiries and work in connexion with editing and arranging material as the Convention, the Agreements, and their Detailed Regulations shall assign to it, or as may be entrusted to it in the interest of the Union.

3. It acts as clearing-house for the settlement of accounts of every description relative to the international postal service between the Administrations which claim its assistance.

ARTICLE 27. Expenses of the International Bureau

1. Each Congress fixes the maximum figure for the ordinary annual expenditure of the International Bureau. These expenses, as well as the special expenditure occasioned by the meetings of a Congress, Conference, or Commission, and the costs which may arise out of special work entrusted to the International Bureau, are borne in common by all the countries of the Union.

2. To this end, the latter are divided into seven classes, each contributing to the payment of the expenses in the following proportion:

1st class: 25 units	5th class: 5 units
2nd class: 20 units	6th class: 3 units
3rd class: 15 units	7th class: 1 unit
4th class: 10 units	

3. In the case of a new accession, the Government of the Swiss Confederation settles, by agreement with the Government of the country concerned, the class in which the country is to be placed for the apportionment of the expenses of the International Bureau.

PART II. GENERAL REGULATIONS

CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 28. Freedom of Transit¹⁰

1. Freedom of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.

2. Freedom of transit for postal parcels forwarded by land and sea routes is limited to the territory of the countries taking part in this service.

3. Freedom of transit for air parcels is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union. Nevertheless, Administrations which have not acceded to the Parcel Post Agreement cannot be required to participate in the conveyance, by land and sea routes, of air parcels.

4. Administrations which have acceded to the Parcel Post Agreement are obliged to undertake the transmission of cash on delivery parcels, even if they do not admit such parcels in their own service, or if the amount of the trade charge exceeds the maximum fixed for their own traffic.

5. Insured articles may be forwarded in closed mails through the territory of countries which do not undertake the insured letter and box service or by the sea services in respect of which responsibility for insured articles is not accepted by the countries concerned, but the responsibility of these countries is limited to that prescribed for registered articles.

ARTICLE 29. Prohibition of Unauthorised Charges

It is forbidden to impose any postal charge whatever except those prescribed by the Convention and the Agreements.

ARTICLE 30. Temporary Suspension of Services

When an Administration finds itself obliged, owing to exceptional circumstances, temporarily to suspend its services, either wholly or in part, it must at once notify the fact, if necessary by telegraph, to the Administration or Administrations concerned.

ARTICLE 31. Monetary Standard

The franc regarded as the monetary unit in the provisions of the Convention and the Agreements is the gold franc of 100 centimes of a weight of 10/31 of a gramme and of a fineness of 0.900.

ARTICLE 32. Equivalents

In each country of the Union, postage rates are fixed at the closest possible equivalent of the value of the franc in the currency of the country.

ARTICLE 33. Forms: Language

1. The forms used by the Administrations in their mutual relations must be drawn up in French, with or without an interlinear translation in another language, unless the Administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.

2. The forms used by the public must include an interlinear translation in French when they are not printed in that language.

3. So far as the forms referred to in §§ 1 and 2 are concerned, the wording, colours, and dimensions must be those prescribed by the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements.

4. Administrations may by common consent decide upon the language to be used in official correspondence in their reciprocal relations.

ARTICLE 34. Postal Identity Cards

1. Each Administration may issue, to persons who apply for them, postal identity cards to serve as evidence of identity for all kinds of post office business in the countries which have not notified their refusal to admit them.

2. The Administration which issues a card is authorised to make, on this account, a charge which may not exceed 70 centimes.

3. Administrations are relieved from all responsibility when it is established that a postal packet was delivered or a money order was paid on presentation of a valid card. Administrations are not responsible for the consequences of the loss, abstraction or fraudulent use of a valid card.

4. The card is valid for three years from the date of issue.

PART III. PROVISIONS REGARDING CORRESPONDENCE

CHAPTER I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 35. Definition of Correspondence

The term correspondence covers letters, postcards, both single and reply-paid, commercial papers, printed papers, articles printed in relief for the use of the blind, samples of merchandise, small packets and "Phonopost" packets.

ARTICLE 36. Rates of Postage and General Conditions¹¹

1. The prepaid rates of postage for the conveyance of correspondence throughout the entire extent of the Union, including delivery at the residence of the addressees in the countries where a delivery is or shall be organised, as well as the limits of weights and dimensions, are fixed as indicated in the following table [see page 898].

2. The limits of weight and size fixed by § 1 do not apply to correspondence relating to the postal service, as specified in Article 52, § 1.

3. Each Administration has the right to allow a reduction of 50 per cent of the ordinary rate for printed papers to newspapers and periodicals published in its country; it may, however, limit this reduction to newspapers and periodicals posted directly by the publishers or their agents, or allow it only in respect of newspapers and periodicals which fulfil the conditions required for transmission at the rate applicable to newspapers in its internal service. Commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, etc., no matter how regularly they are issued, are excluded from this reduction.

4. Administrations may also allow a similar reduction to books and pamphlets, sheets of music and maps, no matter who is the sender, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisement other than that appearing on the cover or the fly-leaves.

5. The Administrations of the countries of origin which have allowed in principle the reduction of 50 per cent reserve the right to fix, for the articles mentioned in §§ 3 and 4 above, a minimum charge which, while falling within the limits of the 50 per cent. reduction, is not lower than the postage applicable to the same articles in their inland service.

6. Articles of correspondence, other than closed registered letters, may not contain coin, bank notes, currency

¹⁰See Protocol IX, p. 905.

¹¹See Protocols II, III and IV, pp. 904-5.

ARTICLES 1	Units of Weight 2	Rates 3	Limits—	
			of weight 4	of size 5
Letters:	gr.	c.		
first unit of weight	20	20	2 kilos	Length, width and depth combined: 90 cm., but the greatest dimension may not exceed 60 cm.; In roll form: Length and twice the diameter, 100 cm., but the greatest dimension may not exceed 80 cm.
each succeeding unit.....	20	12	2 kilos	
Postcards:				
single	—	12	—	Maximum—15 x 10.5 cm. Minimum—10 x 7 cm.
reply-paid	—	24	—	
Commercial papers	50	—	2 kilos	As for letters. Printed papers sent unenclosed in the form of cards, whether folded or not, are subject to the same minimum dimensions as postcards.
first unit of weight.....	—	8	} (5 kilos for a single volume)	
each succeeding unit.....	—	4		
Minimum charge	—	20		
Printed papers	50	—	3 kilos	
first unit of weight.....	—	8	} (5 kilos for a single volume)	
each succeeding unit.....	—	4		
Blind literature	1,000	2	7 kilos	
Samples of merchandise	50	—	500 gr.	
first unit of weight.....	—	8	}	
each succeeding unit.....	—	4		
Small packets	50	8	1 kilo	
Minimum charge	—	40	—	
"Phonopost" packets:				
first unit of weight.....	20	15	60 gr.	Length, width and depth combined: 60 cm., but the greatest dimension may not exceed 26 cm.
each succeeding unit.....	20	10	60 gr.	

notes, negotiable instruments payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles.

7. The Administrations of the countries of origin and of destination have the right to treat, according to their internal legislation, letters which contain documents having the character of current and personal correspondence, addressed to persons other than the addressee or persons living with him.

8. Except as provided in the Detailed Regulations, commercial papers, printed papers, blind literature, samples of merchandise and small packets:—

(a) must be made up in such a manner as to be easy of examination;

(b) may not bear any notes or contain any document having the character of current and personal correspondence;

(c) may not contain any postage stamp or form of prepayment, whether obliterated or not, nor any paper representing a monetary value.

9. Samples of merchandise may not contain any article having a saleable value.

10. The Small Packets and "Phonopost" packets services are limited to those countries which have announced their willingness to exchange such packets, whether in their reciprocal relations, or in one direction only.

11. The enclosure in one and the same packet of correspondence of different categories (articles grouped

together) is authorised under the conditions laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

12. Apart from the exceptions prescribed by the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, articles which do not fulfil the conditions laid down in the present Article and the corresponding Articles of the Detailed Regulations are not forwarded. Articles which have been wrongly accepted must be returned to the Administration of the country of origin. Nevertheless, the Administration of the country of destination is authorised to deliver them to the addressees. In that case it must, if necessary, apply to them the rates of postage and surcharges prescribed for the category of correspondence in which they are placed by reason of their contents, weight or size. Articles of which the weight exceeds the maximum limits laid down in § 1 may be taxed according to their actual weight.

ARTICLE 37. Prepayment

1. As a general rule, all the articles mentioned in Article 35 must be fully prepaid by the sender.

2. Correspondence, other than letters and single postcards, which is unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, is not forwarded, nor are reply-paid postcards of which the two halves are not fully prepaid at the time of posting.

3. When letters or single postcards, which are unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, are posted in great number, the Administration of the country of posting has the option of returning them to the sender.

ARTICLE 38. Charge on Unpaid or Insufficiently Prepaid Correspondence

1. Apart from the exceptions laid down in Article 57, § 6, for registered articles, and in Article 136, §§ 3, 4 and 5, of the Detailed Regulations, for certain classes of redirected articles, letters and single postcards not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid are liable to a charge, equal to double the amount of the deficient postage, to be paid by the addressees; but that charge may not be less than 5 centimes.

2. The same treatment may be applied in similar circumstances to other articles of correspondence which have been incorrectly forwarded to the country of destination.

ARTICLE 39. Surtaxes

1. Over and above the rates fixed by Article 36, a surtax proportionate to the expenses incurred may be levied on every article forwarded by extraordinary services which involve special payment.

2. When the rate of prepayment for a single postcard comprises the surtax authorised by § 1, the same rate is applicable to each half of a reply-paid postcard.

ARTICLE 40. Special Charges

1. Administrations are authorised to make an additional charge, in accordance with their own legislation, on articles posted after the ordinary hour of collection.

2. Articles addressed *poste restante* may be taxed by Administrations of the countries of destination with the special charge prescribed by their legislation for similar articles in the inland service.

3. The Administrations of countries of destination are authorised to levy a special charge not exceeding 40 centimes on each small packet delivered to the addressee. This charge may be increased by a sum not exceeding 20 centimes when the packet is delivered at the addressee's premises.

ARTICLE 41. Articles Liable to Customs Duty

1. Small packets and printed paper packets liable to customs duty are admitted.

2. The same applies to letters and sample packets containing articles liable to customs duty when the country of destination has given its consent. Nevertheless, each Administration has the right to restrict to the registered letter service letters containing articles liable to customs duty.

3. Packets containing serums and vaccines included in the exception shown in Article 124 of the Detailed Regulations are admitted in every case.

ARTICLE 42. Customs Control

The Administration of the country of destination is authorised to submit to the Customs the correspondence mentioned in Article 41, and, if necessary, to open it officially.

ARTICLE 43. Customs Clearance Fee

A Customs clearance fee not exceeding 40 centimes per article may be collected, as a postal charge, on articles submitted to the Customs in the country of destination.

ARTICLE 44. Customs Duty and Other Non-Postal Charges

Administrations are authorised to collect from the

addressees the customs duty and any other non-postal charges which may be due.

ARTICLE 45. Correspondence for Delivery Free of Charges

1. In the relations between those countries which have notified their agreement to that effect, the senders may, by means of a previous declaration at the office of despatch, undertake to pay the whole of the postal and non-postal charges which are due to be collected on the delivery of the articles. In this case, the senders must undertake to pay the amounts which the office of destination may claim, and, if necessary, pay a sufficient deposit.

2. The Administration of the country of destination is authorised to collect a fee not exceeding 40 centimes per article. This fee is independent of that authorised by Article 43.

3. Any Administration is entitled to limit the service of delivery free of charges to registered articles.

ARTICLE 46. Cancellation of Customs Duty and Other Non-Postal Charges

Administrations undertake to request the appropriate services in their country to cancel the customs duty and other non-postal charges on articles returned to the country of origin, destroyed owing to the complete damage of the contents or redirected to a third country.

ARTICLE 47. Express Articles

1. Correspondence is, at the request of the senders, sent out for delivery by special messenger immediately after arrival, in the countries of which the Administrations agree to undertake this service.

2. Such correspondence, which is called "express," is subject, in addition to the ordinary postage, to a special charge which may not be less than the amount of the postage on a single-rate ordinary letter and not more than 60 centimes. This charge must be fully paid in advance.

3. When the addressee's house is situated outside the local delivery zone of the office of destination, a complementary charge not exceeding that prescribed for similar correspondence in the inland service may be collected, by the Administration of destination, for express delivery. In this case, however, express delivery is not obligatory.

4. Express packets, upon which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been prepaid, are delivered by the ordinary means, unless they have been treated as express by the office of origin. In the latter case, they are taxed according to the provisions of Article 38.

5. Administrations are not obliged to make more than one attempt to deliver correspondence by express. If this attempt is unsuccessful, the article may be treated as an ordinary article.

ARTICLE 48. Articles for Delivery to the Addressee in Person

In the relations with countries which have so agreed, registered correspondence accompanied by a request for advice of delivery is delivered, at the request of the sender, to the addressee in person.

ARTICLE 49. Prohibitions

1. It is forbidden to send by post the articles indicated in Column 1 of the following Table. If packets containing these articles have been wrongly admitted to the post, they must be treated as indicated in Column 2.

Articles 1	Treatment of packets wrongly admitted 2
<p>(a) Articles which, from their nature or by their packing, may expose postal officials to danger, or soil or damage correspondence;</p> <p>(b) articles liable to customs duty (apart from the exceptions laid down in Article 41) as well as samples sent in quantities with the intention of avoiding the payment of this duty;</p> <p>(c) opium, morphine, cocaine, and other narcotics;</p> <p>(d) articles of which the importation or the circulation is forbidden in the country of destination;</p> <p>O) living animals, except:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. bees, leeches and silk-worms; 2. parasites and destroyers of noxious insects used for the purpose of controlling these insects and exchanged between officially recognized institutions; <p>(f) explosive, inflammable or dangerous substances;</p> <p>(g) obscene or immoral articles.</p>	<p>To be treated according to the internal regulations of the Administration which discovers them; nevertheless, articles indicated under (c) may, in no case, be sent forward to destination, or delivered to the addressees, or returned to origin.</p> <p>To be destroyed on the spot by the Administration which discovers them.</p>

2. If packets wrongly admitted to the post are neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the Administration of origin must be advised exactly how the packets have been treated.

3. The right is, moreover, reserved to every country to refuse to convey à découvert over its territory articles other than letters and postcards, in regard to which the legal requirements which regulate the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country have not been complied with. These articles must be returned to the Administration of the country of origin.

ARTICLE 50. Methods of Prepayment

1. Prepayment of postage is effected either by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals, or by means of impressions of stamping machines, officially adopted and working under the immediate control of the Administration, or, in the case of printed papers, by means of printed impressions or by any other process when such a system is authorised by the internal regulations of the Administration of origin.

2. The following are considered as duly prepaid: reply postcards bearing postage stamps, impressed or affixed, of the country of issue, articles properly prepaid for their first transmission and on which complementary postage has been paid before their redirection, as well as newspapers or packets of newspapers and periodicals of which the address bears the words "Abonnements-poste" and which are sent in virtue of the Agreement for subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals.

ARTICLE 51. Prepayment of Postage on Board Ship

Correspondence posted on the high seas in the letter box on board a ship or handed to postal officials on

board or to the commanders of ships may, in the absence of different arrangements between the Administrations concerned, be prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the said ship belongs or by which it is maintained. If the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two terminal points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call, prepayment is valid only if it is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the ship happens to be.

ARTICLE 52. Exemptions from Postal Charges

1. The following are exempt from all postal charges:

Correspondence on Postal Service exchanged between Postal Administrations, between these Administrations and the International Bureau, between post offices of Union countries, and between these offices and Administrations, as well as correspondence of which the free transmission is expressly provided for in the Convention, the Agreements, and their Detailed Regulations.

2. With the exception of articles marked with a trade charge, correspondence intended for prisoners of war or despatched by them is also exempt from all postal charges, not only in the countries of origin and destination, but in intermediate countries.

3. The same privilege is accorded to correspondence concerning prisoners of war, despatched or received, either directly by, or through the agency of, the Central Agency of information regarding prisoners of war prescribed by Article 79 of the International Convention of Geneva of 27th July, 1929, or the Information Bureaux established on behalf of such persons in belligerent countries or in neutral countries which have received belligerents on their territories.

4. Belligerents received and interned in a neutral country, as well as civilians of enemy nationality detained in camps or in civil prisons, are treated like prisoners of war, properly so-called, in so far as the application of the above-mentioned rules is concerned.

ARTICLE 53. International Reply Coupons¹²

1. International reply coupons are on sale in the countries of the Union.

2. The selling price of a reply coupon is fixed by the Administrations concerned, but may not be less than 28 centimes or the equivalent in the money of the country of issue.

3. Each coupon is exchangeable in any country for a stamp or stamps representing the postage on a single-rate letter for abroad originating in that country.

4. Moreover, any country has the right to demand that the coupons and the correspondence to be prepaid by means of the stamps received in exchange for these coupons shall be presented at the same time.

ARTICLE 54. Withdrawal of Correspondence. Alteration of Address¹³

1. The sender of a postal packet can have it withdrawn from the post or have its address altered, so long as the article has not been delivered to the addressee, or it does not happen to fall within the provisions of Article 49, or Customs treatment does not bring to light any irregularity.

2. The request to this effect is sent by post or telegraph

¹² See Protocol VI, p. 905.

¹³ See Protocol I, p. 904.

at the expense of the sender, who must pay, for each request, a fee not exceeding 40 centimes. If the request is to be sent by air mail or by telegraph, the sender must pay in addition the air mail surcharge or the charge for the telegram.

3. Only one of the fees or charges prescribed by § 2 is charged in respect of a request for withdrawal of correspondence or alteration of address concerning several packets posted at the same time by the same sender to the same addressee.

4. A request for simple correction of address (without alteration of the name or description of the addressee) may be addressed directly to the office of destination by the sender, that is to say, without compliance with the formalities and without payment of the charges prescribed by §§ 2 and 3.

ARTICLE 55. Redirection. Undelivered Correspondence

1. If the addressee changes his address, the correspondence is redirected to him, unless the sender has forbidden redirection, by means of a note to that effect on the address side of the correspondence, in a language known in the country of destination.

2. Correspondence which is not delivered must be returned immediately to the country of origin.

3. The period of retention for correspondence held at the disposal of the addressees or addressed poste restante is fixed by the rules of the country of destination. This period may not, however, exceed one month as a general rule, except in particular cases when the Administration of destination considers it necessary to prolong the period up to a maximum of two months. The return to the country of origin must take place within a shorter period if the sender has requested it by a note on the address side in a language known in the country of destination.

4. Printed papers of no value are not returned to origin, unless the sender, by means of a note on the outside of the article, in a language known in the country of destination, has asked for their return. Registered printed papers must always be returned.

5. No supplementary postage is charged for the redirection of correspondence from country to country or its return to the country of origin, apart from the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations.

6. Correspondence which is redirected or which is undeliverable is delivered to the addressees or senders, against payment of the charges raised on departure or arrival or in course of transmission in consequence of redirection after the first transmission, without prejudice to the repayment of customs duty or other special charges which the country of destination does not cancel.

7. In case of redirection to another country or of non-delivery, the poste restante fee, the customs clearance fee, the commission fee, the complementary express fee, and the special fee for delivery of small packets to the addressees are cancelled.

ARTICLE 56. Applications and Enquiries

1. For an application or an enquiry in respect of any postal packet a fee not exceeding 40 centimes may be charged. When an application or an enquiry is to be sent by air mail at the request of the interested party, the same fee is charged, and, in addition, the appropriate air mail surcharge, or if the reply is to be returned by air mail, double this surcharge. If request is made for transmission

by telegraph, the charge for the telegram is collected in addition to the prescribed fee.

2. Only one of the fees or surcharges prescribed by § 1 is charged in respect of an application or an enquiry concerning several packets posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender to the same addressee.

3. As regards registered articles, no fee is charged if the sender has already paid the special fee for an advice of delivery.

4. An application is only entertained if made within a year, counting from the day following the posting of the article. Every Administration is bound, however, to furnish information, if requested by another Administration, after this lapse of time, concerning packets despatched within two years.

5. Every Administration is obliged to accept applications and enquiries concerning articles posted on the territory of other Administrations.

6. When an application or an enquiry has arisen through a service error, the fee charged in this connection is repaid.

CHAPTER II.—REGISTERED ARTICLES

ARTICLE 57. Charges¹⁴

1. The articles specified in Article 35 may be registered.

2. The charge on every registered article must be paid in advance. It is made up of:

(a) the postage ordinarily prepayable on the packet according to its class;

(b) a fixed registration fee of 40 centimes at most.

3. The registration fee on the reply half of a reply-paid postcard can only be validly prepaid by the sender of this half.

4. A receipt must be issued free of charge to the sender of a registered article at the time of posting.

5. Countries prepared to undertake risks arising from causes beyond control are authorised to collect a special charge not exceeding 40 centimes for each registered article.

6. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid registered articles which have been incorrectly forwarded to the country of destination are liable to a charge, to be paid by the addressee, equal in amount to the deficient postage.

ARTICLE 58. Advice of Delivery

1. The sender of a registered article may request an advice of delivery by paying, at the time of posting, a fixed fee not exceeding 30 centimes.

2. An advice of delivery may be applied for after the posting of the article within the period of one year and on payment of the fee prescribed for applications by Article 56.

ARTICLE 59. Responsibility

1. Except in the cases provided for in Article 60, hereafter, Administrations are responsible for the loss of registered articles.

2. The sender is entitled, in respect of the loss, to compensation, of which the amount is fixed at 25 francs per article.

3. Administrations assume no responsibility for articles seized by the Customs authorities.

¹⁴ See Protocol VII, p. 905.

ARTICLE 60. Exceptions to the Principle of Responsibility
Administrations are relieved from all responsibility for the loss of registered articles:

(a) in circumstances beyond control; the responsibility, however, still attaches to the Administration of origin which has undertaken to cover risks arising from causes beyond control (Article 57, § 5). The country responsible for the loss must decide, according to its internal legislation, whether the loss is due to circumstances constituting a cause beyond control; these circumstances are communicated to the country of origin, for information;

(b) which they cannot account for in consequence of the destruction of official documents through cause beyond control, provided that their responsibility has not been proved otherwise;

(c) of which the contents fall within the prohibitions specified in Articles 36, §§ 6 and 8 (c), and 49, S 1;

(d) when the sender has not made any application within the period of one year prescribed by Article 56.

ARTICLE 61. Cessation of Responsibility

Administrations cease to be responsible for registered articles which have been delivered under the conditions prescribed by their internal regulations for packets of the same class.

ARTICLE 62. Fixing of Responsibility

1. Until the contrary is proved, responsibility for the loss of a registered article rests with the Administration which, having received the article without making any observation, and being furnished with all the materials for inquiry prescribed by the regulations, cannot establish delivery to the addressee, or regular transfer to the following Administration, as the case may be.

2. Until the contrary is proved, an Administration, whether intermediate or of destination, is relieved of all responsibility:

(a) when it has carried out the provisions of Article 150, § 4, of the Detailed Regulations;

(b) when it can prove that it has not been notified of the application until after the destruction of its service documents relating to the article under enquiry, the period of retention prescribed by Article 169 of the Detailed Regulations having expired. This reservation does not affect the rights of the applicant.

3. Nevertheless, if the loss has occurred in course of conveyance without its being possible to ascertain on the territory or in the service of which country the loss took place, the Administrations concerned bear the loss in equal shares.

4. When a registered article has been lost in circumstances beyond control, the Administration on the territory or in the service of which the loss has occurred is only responsible to the Administration of origin if both countries undertake to cover risks arising from causes beyond control.

5. The customs duty and other charges, of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation, are borne by the Administrations responsible for the loss.

6. The Administration which has made payment of compensation takes over the rights of the person who has received it, up to the amount of this compensation, in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender, or third parties.

7. If a registered article considered as lost, or a part thereof, is subsequently found, the sender and the addressee are informed of this fact.

8. The sender is, in addition, informed that he may take possession of the article within a period of three months, against repayment of the amount of the compensation received. If the sender does not claim the article within that period, the addressee is notified that he may take delivery of it within a period of three months, against payment of the amount paid to the sender.

9. If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the packet against repayment of the amount of the compensation, that amount is refunded to the Administration, or Administrations, by which the loss has been borne.

10. If the sender and the addressee decline to take delivery, the article is considered as undeliverable.

ARTICLE 63. Payment of Compensation

The payment of the compensation must be undertaken by the Administration to which the office of posting is subordinate, subject to its right to make a claim on the Administration responsible.

ARTICLE 64. Period for Payment of Compensation

1. The payment of compensation must take place as soon as possible, and at the latest within six months from the day following the date of the application. This period is extended to nine months in relations with distant countries.

2. If the Administration of the country of posting does not accept responsibility in cases of loss through a cause beyond control it may exceptionally postpone settlement of the compensation beyond the period mentioned in § 1, when the question whether the loss of the article is due to a case of this nature has not been decided.

3. The Administration of origin is authorised to settle with the sender on account of the Administration, whether intermediate or of destination, which, duly informed of the claim, has allowed three months to pass, or six months in relations with distant countries, without settling the matter. A longer period is permitted if the loss appears to be due to circumstances beyond control; these circumstances must, in all cases, be communicated to the Administration of origin.

ARTICLE 65. Repayment of Compensation to the Administration of Origin

1. The Administration responsible or on whose account payment is made in accordance with Article 64 is bound to repay to the Administration of origin within a period of six months, reckoning from the date of despatch of the notice of payment, the amount of the compensation actually paid to the sender. This period is extended to nine months in relations with distant countries.

2. If the compensation is to be borne by several Administrations in accordance with Article 62, the whole of the compensation due must be paid to the Administration of origin within the period mentioned in § 1, by the first Administration, which, having duly received the packet under enquiry, is unable to prove its regular transfer to the next service. It rests with this Administration to recover from the other Administrations responsible their share of the amount of compensation paid to the sender.

3. The repayment is made free of cost to the creditor Administration by means of either a money order, a cheque or a draft payable at sight in the capital or a commercial centre in the creditor country, or in coin current in that country.

4. When responsibility is admitted, as well as in the case provided for in Article 64, § 3, the amount of indemnity may be recovered from the country responsible by means of an Account, either directly, or through the intermediary of an Administration which exchanges Accounts regularly with the Administration responsible.

5. After the period of six months, the sum due to the Administration of origin bears interest, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, counting from the day of expiry of the said period. This period is extended to nine months in relations with distant countries.

6. The Administration of origin may only claim repayment from the Administration responsible within a period of one year counting from the date of despatch of the notification of the loss, or, if the case arises, from the date of expiry of the period prescribed by Article 64, S 3.

7. The Administration whose responsibility is duly proved and which has at first declined to pay the compensation must bear all additional charges resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

8. Administrations may come to an agreement to liquidate periodically the compensation which they have paid to the senders and which they have agreed to be justified.

CHAPTER III.—ALLOCATION OF POSTAGE COLLECTIONS. TRANSIT RATES

ARTICLE 66. Allocation of Postage Collections

Except in the cases expressly provided for by the Convention, each Administration keeps the whole of the charges which it has collected.

ARTICLE 67. Transit Rates¹⁵

1. Correspondence exchanged in closed mails between two Administrations, by means of the services of one or more other Administrations (third services), is subject to transit charges to be paid to each of the countries traversed or whose services take part in the conveyance, as indicated in the following table:

	PER KILOGRAMME	
	of letters and postcards Fr.c.	of other articles Fr.c.
1. LAND TRANSITS		
Up to 1,000 kilometres	0.60	0.08
Above 1,000 up to 2,000 km.	0.80	0.12
" 2,000 " 3,000 "	1.20	0.16
" 3,000 " 6,000 "	2.00	0.24
" 6,000 " 9,000 "	2.80	0.32
" 9,000 kilometres	3.60	0.40
2. SEA TRANSITS		
Up to 300 nautical miles	0.60	0.08
Above 300 up to 1,500 nautical miles	1.60	0.20
Between Europe and North America	2.40	0.32
Above 1,500 up to 6,000 nautical miles	3.20	0.40
Above 6,000 nautical miles	4.80	0.60

2. The transit rates for sea conveyance over a distance not exceeding 300 nautical miles are fixed at one-third of the amounts specified in §1, if the Administration concerned already receives, on account of the mails conveyed, the payment applicable to land transit.

3. In the case of sea conveyance performed by two or more Administrations, the charges paid for the entire sea transit may not exceed 4 francs 80 per kilogramme of letters and postcards, and 60 centimes per kilogramme of other articles. Should occasion arise, these maximum amounts are shared between the Administrations participating in the service, in proportion to the distances traversed.

4. In the absence of any other arrangement, the direct sea conveyance between two countries by means of vessels maintained by one of them is considered as a third service, as well as conveyance between two offices of the same country, by means of services maintained by another country.

5. Small packets, newspapers or packets of newspapers and periodicals sent in virtue of the Agreement concerning subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals, as well as insured boxes despatched under the Agreement con-

cerning insured letters and boxes, are considered as "other articles" as regards transit.

6. Mis-sent mails are regarded, in respect of the payment of transit charges, as if they had followed their normal route.

ARTICLE 68. Exemption from Transit Charges

The correspondence exempt from postage mentioned in Article 52, reply postcards returned to the country of origin, redirected articles, undelivered articles, advices of delivery, postal money orders, and all other documents relative to the postal service, e.g., communications concerning the postal cheque service, are exempt from all charges for land or sea transit.

ARTICLE 69. Extraordinary Services

The transit rates specified in Article 67 do not apply to conveyance by means of extraordinary services specially established or maintained by one Administration at the request of one or more other Administrations. The conditions of this class of conveyance are regulated

¹⁵ See Protocols X, XI, pp. 905-6.

by mutual consent between the Administrations concerned.

ARTICLE 70. Payments and Accounting

1. The transit charges are borne by the Administration of the country of origin.

2. The general accounting for these charges is based on data obtained from statistics taken once in every three years, during a period of 14 days. This period is extended to 28 days for mails exchanged less than six times a week by the services maintained by any one country. The Detailed Regulations fix the period of the statistics and the duration of their application.

3. When the annual balance between two Administrations does not exceed 25 francs, the debtor Administration is exempt from all payment.

4. Every Administration is authorised to submit for the consideration of a Commission of arbitrators the results of statistics which, in its opinion, differ too much from reality. The arrangements for arbitration are as laid down in Article 12.

5. The arbitrators are empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the transit charges proper to be paid.

ARTICLE 71. Exchange of Closed Mails with Ships of War

1. Closed mails may be exchanged between the post offices of any one of the contracting countries and the commanding officers of naval divisions or ships of war of the same country stationed abroad, or between the commanding officer of one of those naval divisions or one of those ships of war and the commanding officer of another division or of another ship of the same country, through the medium of the land or sea services maintained by other countries.

2. Correspondence of every description enclosed in these mails must consist exclusively of such as is addressed to or sent by the officers and crews of the ships to or from which the mails are forwarded; the rates and conditions of despatch applicable to them are settled, according to its internal regulations, by the Postal Administration of the country to which the ships belong.

3. In the absence of any contrary arrangement, the Administration of the country to which the ships of war belong is accountable to the intermediate Administrations for the transit charges on the mails calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 67.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 72. Non-Observance of Principle of Freedom of Transit

When a country does not observe the provisions of Article 28, relating to freedom of transit, Administrations have the right to suppress the postal service with that country. They must give previous notice of this measure, by telegraph, to the Administrations concerned.

ARTICLE 73. Undertakings Regarding Penal Measures

The contracting countries undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective legislatures, the necessary measures:

- (a) for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, of international reply coupons and of postal identity cards;

- (b) for punishing the use or the putting into circulation:

- (1) of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit impressions of stamping or printing machines or of impressions already used;
- (2) of counterfeit international reply coupons;
- (3) of counterfeit postal identity cards;

- (c) for punishing the fraudulent use of genuine postal identity cards;

- (d) for prohibiting and suppressing the fraudulent manufacture and the putting into circulation of impressed and adhesive stamps in use in the postal service, forged or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the impressed and adhesive stamps issued by the Administration of any one of the contracting countries;

- (e) for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal packets of opium, morphine, cocaine or other narcotics, as well as explosive or easily inflammable substances, unless their insertion is expressly authorised by the Convention and Agreements.

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 74. Entry into Force and Duration of the Convention

The present Convention shall come into force on the 1st of July, 1948, and shall remain in operation for an indefinite period.

In faith whereof, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-named countries have signed the present Convention in a single copy which shall remain in the Archives of the Government of the French Republic and of which a copy shall be delivered to each party.

Done at Paris, the 5th of July, 1947.

FINAL PROTOCOL OF THE CONVENTION

At the moment of proceeding to sign the Universal Postal Convention concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows:

I.—WITHDRAWAL OF CORRESPONDENCE. ALTERATION OF ADDRESS

The provisions of Article 54 do not apply to Great Britain or to those British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates whose internal legislation does not permit the withdrawal or the alteration of the address of correspondence at the request of the sender.

II.—EQUIVALENTS: MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM LIMITS

1. Each country has the right to increase up to 40 per cent. or to reduce by as much as 20 per cent. the postage rates prescribed by Article 36, § 1, as indicated in the following table [on the page opposite].

2. The rates adopted must, as far as possible, maintain the same proportions to one another as the basic rates, each Administration being empowered to round up or to round down its rates to suit its currency.

3. The rates adopted by a country apply to the charges to be collected on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid inward correspondence.

	LOWER LIMIT (gold value) centimes	HIGHER LIMIT (gold value) centimes
Letters:		
first unit of weight	16	28
each succeeding unit	9.6	16.8
Postcards:		
single	9.6	16.8
reply-paid	19.2	33.6
Commercial papers:		
first unit of weight	6.4	11.2
each succeeding unit	3.2	5.6
minimum charge	16	28
Printed papers:		
first unit of weight	6.4	11.2
each succeeding unit	3.2	5.6
Blind literature, per 1,000 grammes	1.6	2.8
Samples of merchandise:		
first unit of weight	6.4	11.2
each succeeding unit	3.2	5.6
Small packets:		
per 50 grammes	6.4	11.2
minimum charge	32	56
"Phonopost" packets:		
first unit of weight	12	21
each succeeding unit	8	14

III.—EXCEPTION AS REGARDS THE APPLICATION OF THE TARIFF FOR COMMERCIAL PAPERS, PRINTED PAPERS AND SAMPLES OF MERCHANDISE

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 36, countries have the right not to apply to commercial papers, printed papers and samples the rate fixed for the first unit of weight, and to maintain for that weight unit the rate of 4 centimes, with a minimum of 8 centimes for samples of merchandise.

IV.—OUNCE AVOIRDUPOIS

As an exceptional measure, it is agreed that countries which, by reason of their internal regulations, are unable to adopt the metric-decimal system of weight, are empowered to substitute for it the ounce avoirdupois (28.3465 grammes) taking one ounce as equivalent to 20 grammes for letters and "phonopost" packets, and two ounces as equivalent to 50 grammes for commercial papers, printed papers, blind literature, samples and small packets.

V.—POSTING OF CORRESPONDENCE ABROAD

No country is bound to forward, nor to deliver to the addressees, correspondence which the senders domiciled in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign country with the object of profiting by the lower rates in force there. The rule is applied without distinction both to correspondence made up in the country where the sender resides and then carried across the frontier, and to correspondence made up in a foreign country. The Administration concerned is empowered either to return to origin the articles in question, or to tax them at its inland rates. The method of collecting the charges is left to its discretion.

VI.—INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS

Administrations have the right not to undertake, or to limit, the sale of international reply coupons.

VII.—REGISTRATION FEE

Countries which cannot fix at 40 centimes the registration fee prescribed by Article 57, § 2, are authorised to charge a fee which may amount to 50 centimes or to the charge fixed for their inland service.

VIII.—AIR SERVICES

1. The provisions regarding the conveyance of letter mails by air are annexed to the Universal Postal Convention and are considered as forming an integral part of it and of its Detailed Regulations.

2. But, notwithstanding the general rules of the Convention, the modification of these provisions may be considered from time to time by a Conference composed of the representatives of the Administrations directly concerned.

3. This Conference may be summoned by the intermediary of the International Bureau at the request of at least three of these Administrations.

4. The whole of the provisions proposed by this Conference must be submitted, by the intermediary of the International Bureau, to the vote of the countries of the Union. The decision will be taken by a majority vote.

IX.—EXCEPTION AS REGARDS THE FREEDOM OF TRANSIT OF SMALL PACKETS

In modification of the provisions of Article 28, the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is authorised not to permit the transit of small packets through its territories on the understanding that this restriction is applied without distinction to all the countries of the Union.

X.—SPECIAL TRANSIT CHARGES FOR CONVEYANCE BY THE TRANS-SIBERIAN AND THE TRANSANDINE RAILWAYS

1. In the modification of the provisions of Article 67,

§ 1 (Table), the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is authorized to collect transit charges for the Trans-Siberian Railway for both routes (Manchuria or Vladivostok) at the rate of Fr. 4.50 per kilogramme for letters and postcards and Fr. 0.50 per kilogramme for other articles for distances exceeding 6,000 kilometres.

2. The Administration of the Argentine Republic is authorised to collect a fee of 30 centimes per kilogramme over and above the transit rates mentioned in Article 67, § 1 (1.), of the Convention, in respect of correspondence of all kinds forwarded in transit by the Argentine section of the Transandine Railway.

XI.—SPECIAL TRANSIT CONDITIONS FOR AFGHANISTAN

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 67, §1, the Administration of Afghanistan is authorised provisionally, by reason of its special difficulties as regards means of transport and communication, to effect the transit of closed mails and à découvert correspondence across its territory on conditions specially agreed with the Administrations concerned.

XII.—SPECIAL WAREHOUSING CHARGES AT ADEN

As an exceptional measure, the Administration of Aden is authorised to collect a fee of 40 centimes per bag for all mails warehoused at Aden, provided that this Administration does not receive payment for a land or sea transit in respect of the mails in question.

XIII.—SPECIAL TRANSHIPMENT CHARGES

Exceptionally, the Portuguese Administration is authorised to collect 40 centimes per bag on all the mails transhipped at the Port of Lisbon.

XIV.—PROTOCOL LEFT OPEN TO COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED

The Protocol remains open to the countries of the Union not represented at the Congress, in order to permit them to accede to the Convention and to the Agreements there concluded, or only to one or other of them.

XV.—PROTOCOL LEFT OPEN TO COUNTRIES REPRESENTED FOR SIGNATURE AND ACCESSION

The Protocol remains open to those countries whose representatives have to-day signed only the Convention, or only a certain number of the Agreements drawn up by the Congress, in order to permit them to accede to the other Agreements signed this day, or to one or other of them.

XVI.—PERIOD FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF ACCESSIONS

The accessions referred to in Articles XIV and XV must be notified diplomatically by the respective Governments to the Government of the French Republic, and by it to the other States of the Union. The period allowed to the said Governments for this notification will expire on the 1st of July, 1948.

XVII.—PROTOCOL LEFT OPEN TO COUNTRIES TEMPORARILY PRECLUDED FROM ACCEDING TO THE CONVENTION AND THE AGREEMENTS

1. Spain, Morocco (Spanish Zone) and the whole of the Spanish Colonies, temporarily precluded from acceding to the Convention and the Agreements in consequence of a decision of the XIIth Universal Postal Congress taken in conformity with the resolution of the

General Assembly of the United Nations of the 12th December, 1946, may accede to these Acts, without submitting to the formalities prescribed by Article 3, as soon as that resolution is repealed or becomes objectless.

2. Germany, Japan and Korea, temporarily precluded from acceding to the Convention and the Agreements, may accede to these Acts, without submitting to the formalities prescribed by Article 3, when the time is considered opportune by the responsible authority.

3. The accessions mentioned in §§ 1 and 2 must be notified diplomatically by the Governments concerned to the Government of the French Republic and by it to the other States of the Union.

In faith whereof, the undermentioned plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present Protocol which shall have the same force and validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text itself of the Convention, and they have signed it in a single copy which shall remain in the Archives of the Government of the French Republic and of which a copy shall be delivered to each party.

Done at Paris, the 5th of July, 1947.

ANNEX III

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

PREAMBLE

In consideration of the obligations placed upon the United Nations by Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union agree as follows:

Article I

The United Nations recognizes the Universal Postal Union (hereinafter called the Union) as the specialized agency responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its basic instrument for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth therein.

ARTICLE II

RECIPROCAL REPRESENTATION

1. Representatives of the United Nations shall be invited to attend all the Union's congresses, administrative conferences and commissions, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of these meetings.

2. Representatives of the Union shall be invited to attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (hereinafter called the Council), of its commissions and committees, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations thereof with respect to items on the agenda in which the Union may be concerned.

3. Representatives of the Union shall be invited to attend the meetings of the General Assembly during which questions within the competence of the Union are under discussion, for purposes of consultation, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the main committees of the General Assembly with respect to items concerning the Union.

4. Written statements presented by the Union shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to the Members of the General Assembly, the Council and its commissions, and the Trusteeship Council, as

appropriate. Similarly, written statements presented by the United Nations shall be distributed by the Union to its members.

Article III

PROPOSAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Subject to such preliminary consultation as may be necessary, the Union shall include in the agenda of its congresses, administrative conferences or commissions, or, as the case may be, shall submit to its members in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, items proposed to it by the United Nations. Similarly, the Council, its commissions and committees, and the Trusteeship Council shall include in their agenda items proposed by the Union.

Article IV

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The Union agrees to arrange for the submission as soon as possible, for appropriate action, to its congresses or its administrative conferences or commissions, or to its members, in conformity with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, of all formal recommendations which the United Nations may make to it. Such recommendations will be addressed to the Union and not directly to its members.

2. The Union agrees to enter into consultation with the United Nations, upon request, with respect to such recommendations, and in due course to report to the United Nations on the action taken by the Union or by its members to give effect to such recommendations, or on the other results of their consideration.

3. The Union will co-operate in whatever further measures may be necessary to make co-ordination of the activities of specialized agencies and those of the United Nations fully effective. In particular, it will co-operate with any body which the Council may establish for the purpose of facilitating such co-ordination and will furnish such information as may be required for the carrying out of this purpose.

Article V

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

1. Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, the fullest and promptest exchange of information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the Union.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of the preceding paragraph:

(a) The Union shall submit to the United Nations an annual report on its activities;

(b) The Union shall comply to the fullest extent practicable with any request which the United Nations may make for the furnishing of special reports, studies or information, subject to the conditions set forth in article XI;

(c) The Union shall furnish written advice on questions within its competence as may be requested by the Trusteeship Council;

(d) The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall, upon request, consult with the Director of the International Bureau of the Union regarding the provision to the Union of such information as may be of special interest to it.

Article VI

ASSISTANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The Union agrees to co-operate with and to give assistance to the United Nations, its principal and subsidiary organs, so far as is consistent with the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention.

As regards the Members of the United Nations, the Union agrees that in accordance with Article 103 of the Charter no provision in the Universal Postal Convention or related agreements shall be construed as preventing or limiting any State in complying with its obligations to the United Nations.

Article VII

PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENTS

The United Nations and the Union agree to co-operate, as necessary to ensure as much uniformity as possible in the conditions of employment of personnel, and to avoid competition in the recruitment of personnel.

Article VIII

STATISTICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the Union agree to co-operate with a view to securing the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information and data.

2. The Union recognizes the United Nations as the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

3. The United Nations recognizes the Union as the appropriate agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization and improvement of statistics within its special sphere, without prejudice to the right of the United Nations to concern itself with such statistics so far as it may be essential for its own purposes or for the improvement of statistics throughout the world.

Article IX

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the Union recognize the desirability, in the interests of the most efficient use of personnel and resources, of avoiding the establishment of competitive or overlapping services.

2. Arrangements shall be made between the United Nations and the Union with regard to the registration and deposit of official documents.

Article X

BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS

The annual budget of the Union shall be transmitted to the United Nations, and the General Assembly may make recommendations thereon to the Congress of the Union.

Article XI

FINANCING OF SPECIAL SERVICES

In the event of the Union being faced with the necessity of incurring substantial extra expense as a result of any request which the United Nations may make for special reports, studies or information in accordance with article V or with any other provisions of this agreement, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner in which such expense shall be borne.

Article XII

INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS

The Union will inform the Council of the nature and scope of any agreement between the Union and any specialized agency or other inter-governmental organization, and further agrees to inform the Council of the preparation of any such agreements.

Article XIII

LIAISON

1. The United Nations and the Union agree to the foregoing provisions in the belief that they will contribute to the maintenance of effective liaison between the two organizations. They affirm their intention of taking in agreement whatever measures may be necessary to this end.

2. The liaison arrangements provided for in this agreement shall apply, as far as is appropriate, to the relations between the Union and the United Nations, including its branch and regional offices.

Article XIV

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Executive and Liaison Commission of the Union may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this agreement as may be found desirable in the light of operating experience of the two organizations.

Article XV

ENTRY INTO FORCE

This agreement is annexed to the Universal Postal Convention concluded in Paris in 1947. It will come into force after approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and, at the earliest, at the same time as this Convention.

Article XVI

REVISION

On six months' notice given on either part, this agreement shall be subject to revision by agreement between the United Nations and the Union.

Paris, 4 July 1947.