

# Australian Treaty Series - 1930 No 7

## DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE CANBERRA

### Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol; Detailed Regulations, and Final Protocol; Provisions regarding the Conveyance of Letter Mails by Air, and Final Protocol

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#### AUSTRALIAN TREATY SERIES

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#### UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

Universal Postal Convention concluded between Afghanistan, the Union of South Africa, Albania, Germany, United States of America, the whole of the island possessions of the United States of America other than the Philippine Islands, the Philippine Islands, Argentine Republic, the Commonwealth of Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Colony of the Belgian Congo, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Cuba, Denmark, the Free City of Danzig, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain, the whole of the Spanish Colonies, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Algeria, the French Colonies and Protectorates of Indo-China, the whole of the other French Colonies, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Guatemala, Republic of Haiti, the Kingdom of Hejaz and Nejd and Dependencies, Honduras, Hungary, British India, Iraq, the Irish Free State, Iceland, Italy, the whole of the Italian Colonies, Japan, Chosen (Korea), the whole of the other Japanese Dependencies, Latvia, Republic of Liberia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Morocco (except the Spanish Zone), Morocco (Spanish Zone), Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Republic of Panama, Paraguay, Netherlands, Dutch East Indies, Dutch Colonies in America, Peru, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies in Africa, Portuguese Colonies in Asia and Oceania, Roumania, Republic of San Marino, the Republic of Salvador, Territory of the Sarre, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Tunis, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, the State of the City of the Vatican, Yemen, and United States of Venezuela.

#### PART I

#### UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

#### CHAPTER I

#### ORGANISATION AND EXTENT OF THE UNION

##### Article 1

##### Constitution of the Union

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. It is

also the object of the Postal Union to secure the organisation and improvement of the various international postal services.

## Article 2

### New adhesions. Procedure

Any country is allowed at any time to adhere to the Convention.

A request for adhesion must be notified diplomatically to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, and by the latter to the Governments of all the countries of the Union.

## Article 3

### Convention and Agreements of the Union

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

Other services, such as those relating to insured letters and boxes, postal parcels, 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 adhered to them.

Adhesion to one or more of these Agreements is subject to the provisions of the foregoing Article.

## Article 4

### Detailed Regulations

The Administrations of the Union 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 5

### Special treaties and agreements. Restricted Unions

1. Countries of the Union have the right to maintain and to conclude treaties, as well as to maintain and to establish restricted Unions, with a view to the reduction of postage rates or to any other improvement of postal relations.
2. Moreover, Administrations are authorised to make with one another any necessary agreements on the subject of questions which do not concern the Union generally, provided that conditions less favourable than those laid down by the Acts of the Union are not introduced. In the letter post, for example, they may conclude mutual arrangements for the adoption of lower rates of postage within a zone on either side of their frontiers.

## Article 6

### Internal laws

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 7

### Exceptional relations

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

## 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 so far as concerns, 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 island possessions of the United States of America, except the Philippine Islands, and comprising Hawaii, Porto-Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States of America;
- (2) The Philippine Islands;
- (3) The Colony of the Belgian Congo;
- (4) The whole of the Spanish Colonies;
- (5) Algeria;
- (6) The French Colonies and Protectorates in Indo-China;
- (7) The whole of the other French Colonies;
- (8) The whole of the Italian Colonies;
- (9) Chosen (Korea);
- (10) The whole of the other Japanese Dependencies;
- (11) The Dutch East Indies;
- (12) The Dutch Colonies in America;
- (13) The Portuguese Colonies in Africa;
- (14) The Portuguese Colonies in Asia and Oceania.

## Article 9

### Extent of the Union

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

- (a) Post offices established by Union countries in countries outside the Union;
- (b) The Principality of Liechtenstein, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of Switzerland;
- (c) The Faroe Islands and Greenland, as forming part of Denmark;
- (d) The Spanish possessions on the North Coast of Africa, as forming part of Spain;
- (e) The Valleys of Andorra, as served by the Postal Administrations of Spain and France;
- (f) The Principality of Monaco, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of France;

(g) Walfisch Bay, as forming part of the Union of South Africa; Basutoland, as subordinate to the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa.

#### Article 10

##### Arbitration

1. In case of disagreement between two or more members of the Union as to the interpretation of the Convention and the Agreements, 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.

If one of the Offices 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, may call on the defaulting Administration to appoint an arbitrator, or may appoint one officially.

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

3. 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.

4. The arbitrators may not be appointed from among Administrations which do not participate in the Agreement concerning which the dispute has arisen.

#### Article 11

##### 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 the Agreements by notice given one year in advance by its Government to the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

## CHAPTER II

### CONGRESSES. CONFERENCES. COMMITTEES

#### Article 12

##### 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 or of completing them as necessary.

Each country is represented at the Congress by one or several 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 undertake the representation of two countries only, including the country it primarily represents.

In the deliberations each country has one vote only.

2. Each Congress settles the place of meeting of the next Congress. The Government of the country in which it 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 13

##### Ratifications. Entry into force and duration of the Acts of Congresses

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.

If one or more of the contracting parties do not ratify one or other of the Acts signed by them, these Acts are not less binding on the States which have ratified them.

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

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 14

##### Extraordinary Congresses

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.

The regulations laid down by Articles 12 and 13 apply equally to the delegations, to the deliberations and to the Acts of Extraordinary Congresses.

#### Article 15

##### Standing orders of Congresses

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

#### Article 16

##### Conferences

Conferences for the consideration of purely administrative questions may be held at the request of at least two-thirds of the Administrations of the Union.

They are convened after arrangement with the International Bureau.

Conferences draw up their own standing orders.

#### Article 17

##### Committees

Committees 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 committees are to sit.

### CHAPTER III

#### PROPOSALS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS

#### Article 18

## Introduction of proposals

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 Detailed Regulations, and the Final Protocols of both.

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

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 19

### Examination of proposals

Every proposal is subject to the following procedure:

A period of six 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 six months are considered as abstaining. The periods quoted above are calculated from the date of the circulars from the International Bureau.

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 above.

## Article 20

### 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 or the modification of the provisions of Parts I and II, or of Articles 32 to 36, 52 to 57, 59 to 61, 63 to 66, 68 to 81 of the Convention, of any of the Articles of its Final Protocol or of Articles 1, 5, 16, 72 and 93 of its Detailed Regulations or of any of the Articles of their Final Protocol.

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

(c) A simple majority if they affect the interpretation of the provisions of the Convention, of its Detailed Regulations, or of the Final Protocol of either, except in the case of disagreement to be submitted to arbitration as provided for by Article 10.

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

## Article 21

### Notification of decisions

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.

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 (c) in the preceding Article.

#### Article 22

##### Execution of decisions

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

### CHAPTER IV

#### INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

#### Article 23

##### 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.

This Office is entrusted especially with the duty of collecting, collating, publishing and distributing information of every kind which concerns the international postal service; of giving, at the request of the parties concerned, an opinion upon questions in dispute; of making known proposals for modifying the Acts of the Congress; of notifying alterations adopted, and, in general, of taking up such enquiries and work in connection 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.

2. 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 24

##### 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 Committee, 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

2nd class 20 units

3rd class 15 units

4th class 10 units

5th class 5 units

6th class 3 units

7th class 1 unit.

3. In the case of a new adhesion, 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 25

###### Freedom of transit

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

2. Freedom of transit for postal parcels is limited to the territory of the countries taking part in this service.

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.

The transmit of small packets through the territory of countries which do not accept those articles is optional.

##### Article 26

###### Prohibition of unauthorised charges

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

##### Article 27

###### Temporary suspension of service

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 28

###### 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 gram and of a fineness of 0.900.

##### Article 29

## Equivalents

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

## Article 30

### 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 which are not printed in French must include an interlinear translation in that language.
3. So far as the forms referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 are concerned, the wording, colours, and, as far as possible, the 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 31

### Identity cards

1. Each Administration may issue, to persons who apply for them, 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 an identity card is authorised to make, on this account, a charge which may not exceed 1 franc.
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 identity card.

Administrations are not responsible for the consequences of the loss, abstraction or fraudulent use of a valid identity card.

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

## PART III

### PROVISIONS REGARDING CORRESPONDENCE

#### CHAPTER I

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

## Article 32

### Definition of correspondence

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

The small packet service is limited to those countries which agree to maintain it in their reciprocal relations or in one direction only.

Article 33 (See Protocol II and IV)

Rates of postage and general conditions

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 weight and dimensions, are fixed as indicated in the following table:

	Units of		Limits	
Articles	weight	Rates	of weight	of size
1	2 gr.	3	4	5
Letters: {first unit of weight {each succeeding unit	{20	{25 15	{ } }2 kg	{45 cm in each direction. {In roll form: { 75 cm in length, and { 10 cm. in diameter.
Postcards: {Single {Reply-paid	-	15 30	-	{Maximum: { 15 cm in length; { 10.5 cm in breadth.  {Minimum: { 10 cm in length; { 7 cm in breadth.
Commercial papers: Minimum charge	50	5 25	2kg	{45 cm in each direction. {In roll form: { 75 cm in length, and { 10 cm in diameter.
Printed papers	505	2 kg (3 kg for		{Printed papers sent {unenclosed in the form of {cards, whether folded or {not, are subject to the

Blind literature	1000	5	volumes sent singly) 5 kg	same { minimum dimensions as { postcards.
Samples of merchandise	50	5	500 gr	{ 45 cm in length; { 20 cm in breadth;
Minimum charge	-	10	-	{ 10 cm in depth.
Small packets	50	15	1 kg	{ In roll form: { 45 cm in length, and
Minimum charge	-	50	-	{ 15 cm in diameter.

As an exception to paragraph 1 above, Administrations may collect, for the delivery of small packets to the addressees, a special delivery fee which must not exceed 25 centimes per article.

2. The limits of weight and size fixed by paragraph 1 of the present Article do not apply to correspondence relating to the postal service, as specified in paragraph 1 of Article 47.
3. Each Administration has the right, in its relations with those Administrations which have so agreed, to allow a reduction of 50 cent. of the ordinary rate for printed papers to newspapers and periodicals posted directly by the publishers or their agents; but commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, etc, however regularly they are issued, are excluded from this reduction.

Administrations may, in their relations with the same Administrations, allow a similar reduction to books including pamphlets or sheets of music, no matter who is the sender, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisements other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves.

4. Letters must not contain any letter, note or document which has the character of actual and personal correspondence, addressed to persons other than the addressee or persons living with him.
5. Commercial papers, printed papers of every kind, samples of merchandise, and small packets must not contain any letter, note or document which has the character of actual and personal correspondence; they must be made up in such a manner as to admit of their being easily examined, except in the cases specified in the Detailed Regulations.

In small packets an open invoice reduced to its simplest form may be inserted, as well as a simple copy of the address of the article with mentioned of the sender's address.

6. 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.
7. Packets of samples of merchandise may not contain any article having a saleable value.
8. 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 may be returned to the Office of origin. But the Office of destination, if its inland regulations so allow, may deliver such articles to the addressees, in which case it must if necessary apply to them the rates of postage and surcharges prescribed for the category of correspondence to which they properly belong. Articles of which the weight exceeds the maximum limits laid down in paragraph 1 of this Article may be taxed according to their actual weight.

#### Article 34

##### Prepayment

As a general rule all the articles mentioned in Article 32 must be fully prepaid by the sender.

Correspondence, other than letters and single postcards, which is unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, and reply paid postcards of which the two halves are not fully prepaid at the time of posting, are not forwarded.

#### Article 35

##### Charge on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence

Apart from the exceptions laid down in Article 45, paragraphs 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 postage or double the amount of the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees; but that charge may not be less than 10 centimes.

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 36

##### Surtaxes

Over and above the rates fixed by Article 33, a surtax proportionate to the expenses incurred may be levied on every article forwarded by extraordinary services which involve special payment.

When the rate of prepayment for the single postcard comprises the surtax authorised by the preceding paragraph, the same rate is applicable to each half of the reply-paid postcard.

#### Article 37

##### 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. The Administration of the country of destination is authorised to impose a special surcharge in accordance with its legislation, on articles addressed *post restante*.

#### Article 38

##### Articles liable to Customs duty

Small packets may contain articles liable to customs duty.

The same applies to letters when the country of destination allows the importation of articles liable to

customs duty in this manner.

#### Article 39

##### Customs control

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

#### Article 40

##### Customs clearance fee

A customs clearance fee of 50 centimes at most per article may be collected as a postal charge on articles submitted to the Customs in the country of destination.

#### Article 41

##### Customs and other non-postal charges

In addition to the postal fees, Administrations are authorised to collect from the addressees the customs charges and any other charges which may be due.

#### Article 42

##### 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.

The Administration which advances the charges on behalf of the sender is authorised to collect for this service a fee not exceeding 50 centimes per article. This fee is independent of that authorised by Article 40 above for customs clearance.

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

#### Article 43

##### Cancellation of Customs duty

Administrations undertake to request their Customs Administrations to cancel the customs duty on articles returned to the country of origin, destroyed owing to the complete damage of the contents or redirected to a third country.

#### Article 44

##### Express packets

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 in their reciprocal relations.

2. Such correspondence, which is called "express", is subject, in addition to the ordinary postage, to a special charge amounting as a minimum to double the postage on a single rate ordinary letter and as a

maximum to one franc. This charge must be fully paid in advance by the sender.

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 in the inland service may be collected 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 35.

## Article 45

### Prohibitions

#### 1. It is forbidden to send by post:

- (a) Articles which, from their nature or by their packing, may expose postal officials to danger, or soil or damage correspondence;
- (b) Explosive, inflammable or dangerous substances;
- (c) Living animals, except bees, leeches and silk-worms;
- (d) Articles liable to Customs duty, apart from the exceptions laid down in Article 38, as well as samples sent in quantities with the intention of avoiding the payment of this duty.

This prohibition does not, however, apply to printed papers liable to Customs duty;

- (e) Opium, morphine, cocaine and other narcotics;
- (f) Obscene or immoral articles;
- (g) Any articles whatever of which the importation or circulation is forbidden in the country of origin or of destination.

In addition, it is forbidden to send unregistered, or to enclose in small packets even if registered, coin, banknotes, currency notes, negotiable instruments payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles.

The transmission of postage stamps, whether obliterated or not, in open packets is forbidden.

2. Packets falling within the prohibitions mentioned above which have been wrongly admitted to the post must be treated as follows:

- (a) The articles enumerated in SS1 above, under (a), (d), (e) and (g) are treated as prescribed by the inland regulations of the Administration which discovers them. Nevertheless, articles containing opium, morphine, cocaine and other narcotics must in no case be delivered to the addressees or returned to origin;
- (b) The articles enumerated under (b) and (f) must be destroyed on the spot by the first Administration which discovers them;
- (c) The articles enumerated under (c), and in the two last sections of paragraph 1, must be returned to origin, unless the Administration of the country of destination is prepared to deliver them exceptionally to the addressees.

If packets wrongly admitted to the post are neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the despatching Office must be advised exactly how the packets have been treated in order that it may take such steps as are necessary.

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 laws, ordinances or decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country have not been complied with.

These articles must be returned to the Office of origin.

## Articles 46

### 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 inland 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 with the words "*Abonnement-poste*" which are sent in virtue of the Agreement for subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals.

3. 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 47

### Exemptions from postage

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.

The same privilege is accorded to correspondence concerning prisoners of war, despatched or received, either directly by, or through the agency of, Information Bureaux established on behalf of such persons in belligerent countries or in neutral countries which have received belligerents on their territories.

Belligerents received and interned in a neutral country are treated like prisoners of war, properly so-

called, in so far as the application of the abovementioned rules is concerned.

#### Article 48 (See Protocol V)

##### Reply coupons

Reply coupons are on sale in the countries of the Union.

The selling price of a reply coupon is fixed by the Administrations concerned, but may not be less than 371/2 centimes, or the equivalent of this sum in the money of the country of issue.

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.

Moreover, any country has the right to demand that reply 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 49 (See Protocol I)

##### Withdrawal of correspondence. Alteration of address

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.
2. The request to this effect is sent by post or by telegraph at the expense of the sender, who must pay, for every request by post, the charge for a registered single-rate letter, and for every request by telegraph, the charge for the telegram.

#### Article 50

##### 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.
2. Correspondence which is not delivered, from whatever cause, 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 two months as a general rule, except in particular cases when the Administration of destination considers it necessary to prolong the period exceptionally up to the maximum of four 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, 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 complementary express fee, and the special fee for delivery of small packets to the addressees are cancelled.

#### Article 51

##### Enquiries

1. For an enquiry in respect of any postal packet a fixed fee not exceeding one franc may be charged.

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

2. An application is only entertained if made within a year, counting from the day following the posting of the article.

3. Every Office is obliged to accept enquiries concerning articles posted on the territory of other Offices. The whole of the enquiry fee is retained by the Office which accepts the enquiry.

4. When an enquiry has arisen through a service error, the enquiry fee is repaid.

## CHAPTER II

### REGISTERED ARTICLES

#### Article 52 (See Protocol VI)

##### Charges

1. The articles specified in Article 32 may be registered.

The registration fee on the reply half of a reply-paid postcard cannot, however, be validly prepaid by the original sender of the card.

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

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

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

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

4. Countries prepared to undertake risks arising from causes beyond control are authorised to collect a special charge of 40 centimes at most for each registered article.

5. Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid registered articles which have been incorrectly forwarded to the country of destination are, in case of delivery, charged in accordance with the rules laid down for unregistered articles unpaid or insufficiently prepaid.

#### Article 53

##### Advice of delivery

The sender of a registered article may obtain an advice of delivery by paying, at the time of posting, a fixed fee of 40 centimes at most.

An advice of delivery may be applied for after the posting of the article within the period and on payment of the fee prescribed for enquiries by Article 51.

#### Article 54

##### Responsibility

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

The sender is entitled, in respect of the loss, to compensation, of which the amount is fixed at 50 francs per article.

#### Article 55

##### Exceptions in respect 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 if it has undertaken to cover risks arising from causes beyond control (Article 52, paragraph 4). The country responsible for the loss must decide, according to its internal legislation, if the loss is due to circumstances constituting causes beyond control;
- (b) Which they cannot account for in consequence of the destruction of official documents through a cause beyond control;
- (c) Of which the contents fall within the prohibitions specified in Article 45, paragraph 1;
- (d) When the sender has not made any application within the period prescribed by Article 51.

#### Article 56

##### Cessation of responsibility

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

For articles addressed *post restante*, or held at the disposal of the addressees, responsibility ceases on delivery to a person who has proved his identity according to the rules in force in the country of destination, and whose name and description correspond to those indicated in the address.

#### Article 57

##### Payment of compensation

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

#### Article 58

##### Period for payment

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.

The despatching Office may exceptionally postpone settlement of the compensation beyond the period

mentioned in the preceding paragraph, when the question whether the loss of the article is due to a cause beyond control has not been decided.

2. The Office of origin is authorised to settle with the sender on account of the Office, whether intermediate or of destination, which, duly informed of the application, has let three months pass without settling the matter; this period is extended to six months in relations with distant countries.

## Article 59

### 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 Office, as the case may be.

Nevertheless, an intermediate Office or Office of destination is relieved of all responsibility when it can prove that it has not received the inquiry until after the destruction of its service documents relating to the article inquired for, the period of retention prescribed by Article 78 of the Detailed Regulations having expired. This reservation does not affect the rights of the claimant.

If the loss has occurred in course of conveyance without it 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. Nevertheless, the whole of the compensation due must be paid to the Office of origin by the first Administration which is unable to establish the regular transfer of the article in question to the next Office. It is left to this Administration to recover from the other responsible Offices the share borne by each in compensating the sender.

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

3. The customs and other charges which cannot be cancelled are borne by the Administrations responsible for the loss.

4. By paying compensation the responsible Administration 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 sender, the addressee or third parties.

5. If a registered article considered as lost is subsequently found, the person to whom the compensation has been paid must be advised that he may take possession of the article against repayment of the amount of the compensation.

## Article 60

### Repayment of compensation to the despatching Office

1. The Office responsible or on whose account payment is made in accordance with Article 58 is bound to repay the despatching Office within a period of three months after notice of payment the amount of the compensation actually paid to the sender.

This repayment is made free of cost to the creditor Office, 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. After the period of three months, the sum due to the despatching Office bears interest, at the rate of 7 percent per annum, counting from the day of expiry of the said period.

2. The Office of origin may only claim repayment from the Office responsible within a period of two years counting from the date of notification of the loss, or, if the case arises, from the date of expiry of the period prescribed by Article 58, paragraph 2.
3. The Office 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.
4. 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

### CASH ON DELIVERY PACKETS

#### Article 61

##### Charges and conditions. Settlement

1. Registered correspondence marked with trade charges to be collected on delivery may be exchanged between countries of which the Administrations agree to provide this service.

In the absence of any contrary arrangement the amount of the trade charge is expressed in the money of the country in which the packet originated.

The maximum trade charge is equal to the maximum amount fixed for money orders addressed to the country in which the article originated.

Packets marked with trade charges are subject to the same regulations and rates as registered articles.

The sender pays, in addition, a fixed charge which must not exceed 50 centimes per packet and a proportional charge not exceeding 1/2 percent of the amount of trade charge.

Each Administration may adopt, for the collection of the proportional charge, the scale which best suits its service.

2. The amount collected from the addressee is transmitted to the sender by means of a trade charge money order, which is issued free of commission.

3. Administrations may agree upon another method of liquidating the sums collected. They may, for example, undertake to pay them into a postal cheque account in the country of destination of the packet.

In that case, in the absence of arrangement to the contrary, the amount of the trade charge must be indicated in the money of the country of destination. A fixed charge not exceeding 25 centimes is collected from the sender, in addition to the charges for a registered article. The Office of destination pays into the postal cheque account, by means of an inland transfer note, the amount collected from the addressee, after deduction of a fixed charge not exceeding 25 centimes and the ordinary charge for payments applicable in its internal service.

#### Article 62

##### Cancellation or reduction of the amount of the trade charge

The sender of a registered article marked with a trade charge can demand the total or partial cancellation of the amount of the trade charge.

Requests of this nature are subject to the same conditions as requests for the withdrawal of

correspondence from the post or alteration of address.

If the request for total or partial cancellation of the amount of the trade charge has to be sent by telegraph, the charge for the telegram is added to the charge for a single rate registered.

#### Article 63

##### Responsibility in the case of loss of the packet

The loss of a registered article marked with a trade charge involves the responsibility of the postal service under the conditions laid down in Articles 54 and 55.

#### Article 64

##### Sums duly collected: guarantee

The sums duly collected from the addressee, whether or not they have been converted into money orders or paid into a postal cheque account, are guaranteed to the sender under the conditions laid down by the Agreement concerning the Money Order service or by the regulations governing the postal cheque and transfer service.

#### Article 65

##### Compensation in case of failure to collect, or of insufficient or fraudulent collection

1. If the packet has been delivered to the addressee without the collection of the trade charge, the sender is entitled to compensation, provided that application has been made within the period prescribed by Article 51, paragraph 2, and unless the failure to collect the charge is due to fault or negligence on his part, or unless the contents of the packets fall within the prohibitions prescribed by Article 45.

The same rule applies if the amount collected from the addressee is less than the amount of the trade charge indicated or if it has been collected fraudulently.

The compensation may not, in any case, exceed the amount of the trade charge.

2. By paying compensation, the responsible Administration takes over the rights of the person who has received it up to the amount of the compensation in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

#### Article 66

##### Sums duly collected. Compensation. Payments and claims

Payment of the sums duly collected as well as of the compensation referred to in the preceding Article must be undertaken by the Administration to which the despatching office is subordinate, subject to its rights to make a claim on the Administration responsible.

#### Article 67

##### Period for payment

The provisions of Article 58 concerning the periods for payment of compensation for the loss of a registered article apply also to the payment of sums collected or of the compensation in respect of packets marked with trade charges.

#### Article 68

## Fixing of responsibility

The payment by the Office of origin of sums duly collected, as well as of the compensation prescribed by Article 65, is made on behalf of the Office of destination. The latter is responsible unless it can prove that the fault is due to a breach of the regulations by the Office of origin.

In the case of fraudulent collection following upon the disappearance in the postal service of a trade charge packet, the responsibility of the Offices concerned is fixed in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 for the loss of an ordinary registered article.

Nevertheless, the responsibility of an intermediate Office which does not participate in the cash on delivery service is limited to that prescribed by Articles 54 and 55 for registered articles.

The other Administrations bear in equal shares the amount not covered by that Administration.

## Article 69

### Repayment of sums advanced

The Administration of destination is bound to repay to the despatching Administration, under the conditions prescribed by Article 60, the sums which have been advanced on its behalf.

## Article 70

### Trade charge money orders and transfer notes

1. The amount of a trade charge money order which has not been paid to the payee for any reason whatever is not repaid to the Office of issue. It is held at the disposal of the payee by the Office which despatched the trade charge packet and accrues definitely to that Office after the expiry of the legal period of validity.

In all other respects, and with the reservations prescribed by the Detailed Regulations, trade charge money orders are subject to the provisions of the Agreement concerning the Money Order service.

2. When, for any reason, a transfer note, issued in accordance with the provisions of Article 61, paragraph 3, cannot be carried to the credit of the beneficiary indicated by the sender of the trade charge packet, the amount of this note must be placed, by the Office which has collected it, at the disposal of the Office of origin to be paid to the sender of the packet.

If this payment cannot be effected, the procedure prescribed by paragraph 1 of the present Article is followed.

## Article 71

### Division of the cash on delivery charge and fee

The Administration of origin credits to the Administration of destination, in the conditions prescribed by the Detailed Regulations, a fixed share of 20 centimes for each trade charge packet, plus 1/4 percent of the total amount of the trade charge money orders paid.

The charges prescribed by paragraph 3 of Article 61 are wholly retained by the Office which has collected them.

## CHAPTER IV

### ALLOCATIONS OF POSTAGE COLLECTIONS. TRANSIT AND WAREHOUSING CHARGES

## Article 72

### Allocation of postage collections

Except in the cases expressly provided for by the Convention, each Administration keeps the whole of the sums which it collects.

## Article 73

### Transit rates

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 kilogram	
	of letters and postcards	of other articles
1. Land transits:		
Up to 1,000 kilometres	0.75	0.10
Above 1,000 up to 2,000 km	1.00	0.15
Above 2,000 up to 3,000 km	1.50	0.20
Above 3,000 up to 6,000 km	2.50	0.30
Above 6,000 up to 9,000 km	3.00	0.40
Above 9,000 kilometres	4.50	0.50
2. Sea transits:		
Up to 300 nautical miles	0.75	0.10
Above 300 up to 1,500 nautical miles	2.00	0.25
Between Europe and North America	3.00	0.40
Above 1,500 up to 6,000 nautical miles	4.00	0.50
Above 6,000 nautical miles	6.00	0.75

2. The transit charges for sea conveyance over a distance not exceeding 300 nautical miles are fixed at one-third of the amounts specified in the foregoing paragraph 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 transit may not exceed 6 francs per kilogram of letters and postcards, and 75 centimes per kilogram of other articles. When the totals of these charges exceed respectively 6 francs and 75 centimes they are shared between the Administrations participating in the service, in proportion to the distances traversed, without prejudice to any other arrangement which may be made between the parties interested.

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. The transit charges on correspondence exchanged *à découvert* between two Administrations are fixed, irrespective of weight or destination, at 5 centimes per article, whatever its category.

6. 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 concerning insured letters and boxes, are considered as "other articles" as regards transit in closed mails, and as units as regards transit *à découvert*.

#### Article 74 (See Protocol X)

##### Warehousing charges

For the warehousing, in a port, of closed mails brought by one Packet and intended to be taken on by another, a fixed payment of 50 centimes per bag is made to the Postal Administration of the place where the mails are warehoused, provided that that Office does not receive payment for a land or sea transit.

#### Article 75

##### Exemption from transit charges

The correspondence exempt from postage mentioned in Article 47, 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, eg, communications concerning the postal cheque service, are exempt from all charges for land or sea transit.

Missent mails are regarded, in respect of transit and warehousing charges, as if they had followed their normal route.

#### Article 76

##### Extraordinary services

The transit rates specified in Article 73 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 by mutual consent between the Administrations concerned.

#### Article 77

##### Payment and accounting

1. The cost of transit and warehousing is borne by the Administration of the country of origin.

2. The general accounting for these expenses 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. An Office is authorised to submit for the consideration of a Committee 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 10.

The arbitrators are empowered to fix the transit charges proper to be paid.

#### Article 78

##### 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 ships of war and the commanding officer of another division or 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 between the Offices concerned, the Post Office which despatches or receives the mails in question is accountable to the intermediate Offices for transit charges calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 73.

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

##### Article 79

##### Freedom of transit: non-observance

When a country does not observe the provisions of Article 25, 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 80

##### Undertakings

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

(a) For punishing the counterfeiting and the fraudulent use of international reply coupons, the fraudulent use, for the prepayment of correspondence, of counterfeit or used postage stamps as well as of counterfeit impressions of stamping or printing machines or of impressions already used;

(b) For prohibiting and suppressing the fraudulent manufacture, sale, hawking or distribution 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;

- (c) For punishing the fraudulent manufacture and circulation of postal identity cards, as well as the fraudulent use of these cards;
- (d) For preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion of opium, morphine, cocaine and other narcotics in postal packets, unless their insertion is expressly authorised by the Convention and agreements of the Union.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### Article 81

#### Entry into force and duration of the Convention

The present Convention shall come into force on 1 July 1930 and shall remain in operation for an indefinite period.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF** the Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the abovenamed countries have signed the present Convention in a single copy which shall remain in the archives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of which a copy shall be delivered to each party.[\[1\]](#)

**DONE** at London, the 28th of June, 1929.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

## 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. Modification of address

The provisions of Article 49 of the Convention do not apply to Great Britain and to the British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates, whose internal legislation does not permit the withdrawal or the modification 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 50 percent or to reduce by as much as 20 percent the postage rates prescribed by Article 33, paragraph 1, as indicated in the following table:

	Lower limit (gold value)	Higher limit (gold value)
	centimes	centimes
Letters: {First unit	20	37.5
{Each succeeding unit	12	22.5

Postcards: { Single	12	22.5
{ Reply-paid	24	45.0
Commercial papers (per 50 grams)	4	7.5
Minimum charge	20	37.5
Printed papers (per 50 grams)	4	7.5
Blind literature (per 1,000 grams)	4	7.5
Samples of merchandise (per 50 grams)	4	7.5
Minimum charge	8	15.0
Small packets (per 50 grams)	12	22.5
Minimum charge	40	75.0

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

2. It is open to any country to reduce to 10 centimes the postage on a single postcard and to 20 centimes that on a reply-paid postcard.
3. The rates adopted by a country apply to the charges to be collected or unpaid or insufficiently prepaid inward correspondence.

### III

#### Posting of correspondence abroad

No country is bound to despatch, 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.

### IV

## Ounce avoirdupois

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

## V

### Reply coupons

Administrations have the right not to undertake the sale of reply coupons.

## VI

### Registration fee

Countries which cannot fix at 40 centimes the registration fee prescribed by Article 52, paragraph 2, of the Convention are authorised to charge a fee which may amount to 50 centimes or to charge fixed for their inland service.

## VII

### Air services

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.

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.

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

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.

## VIII

### Special transit rates by the Trans-Siberian Railway

In modification of the provisions of Article 73, paragraph 1 (Table), the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is authorised to collect transit rates for the Trans-Siberian Railway for both routes (Manchuria or Vladivostok) at the rate of Fr. 4.50 for L.C. and Fr. 0.50 for A.O. per kilogram respectively for distances exceeding 6,000 kilometres.

## IX

### Special transit rates for Uruguay

Exceptionally, Uruguay is authorised to collect for all over-sea mails landed at Montevideo which it forwards by its own services to countries beyond, the land transit rates prescribed by Article 73 of the Convention, ie, 75 centimes per kg of letters and postcard and 10 centimes per kilogram of other articles.

## X

### Warehousing charges

Exceptionally, the Portuguese Administration is authorised to collect on all the mails transhipped at the port of Lisbon the warehousing charges prescribed by Article 74 of the Convention.

## XI

### Protocol left open to the countries not represented

As Afghanistan and the Argentine Republic, which form part of the Postal Union, were not represented at the Congress, the Protocol remains open to them in order to adhere to the Convention and the Agreements there concluded, or only to one or other of them.

The Protocol also remains open, with the same object, to Paraguay, of which the delegate was obliged to absent himself before the Acts were signed.

## XII

### Protocol left open to the countries represented for signatures and adhesions

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

## XIII

### Period for the notification of adhesions

The adhesions referred to in Articles XI and XII above must be notified diplomatically to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the respective Governments, and by it to the States of the Union. The period allowed for this notification will expire on 1 July 1930.

## XIV

### Preparatory Committee

1. A Committee, composed of fourteen members representing the Offices elected by the majority of the votes of the Congress, and the Director of the International Bureau, is directed to prepare for the next Congress, in particular to consider the proposals made in view of that Congress, to compare them, to coordinate them, and to give its opinion on all the questions, finally to present a draft and a report suitable to serve as the basis of discussion at the Congress.
2. The Preparatory Committee is summoned by the International Bureau at a suitable time before the opening of the next Congress and the draft and report mentioned in the preceding paragraph are distributed to each Administration at least four months before the opening of the Congress.
3. The International Bureau provides for the secretarial work of the Committee.

IN FAITH WHEREOF the undermentioned Plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present Protocol, which shall have the same force and validity as if the provisions which it contains were inserted in the text itself of the Convention to which it relates, and they have signed it in a single copy which shall remain in the archives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of which a copy shall be delivered to each party.

DONE at London, the 28 of June, 1929.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

## DETAILED REGULATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

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### PROVISIONS REGARDING THE CONVEYANCE OF LETTER MAIIS BY AIR

#### CHAPTER I

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

###### Article 1

###### Classes of correspondence admitted in the air mails

1. All the classes of correspondence indicated in Article 32 of the Universal Postal Convention are admitted to air conveyance, for the whole or part of the journey, viz, letters, single or reply paid postcards, commercial papers, printed papers of every kind (including matter printed in relief for the use of the blind), samples of merchandise, small packets, as well as postal money orders and subscribers' newspapers (*abonnements-poste*). In that case the articles are called *Correspondances-avion* (Airmail correspondence).
2. The articles mentioned in Article 32 of the Convention may be registered.
3. Insured Articles - letters and boxes - may also be admitted to air conveyance in the relations between countries which agree to the exchange of such articles by air.

###### Article 2

###### Freedom of transit

The freedom of transit prescribed by Article 25 of the Universal Postal Convention is guaranteed for airmail correspondence throughout the entire territory of the Union, whether or not the intermediate Administrations take part in re-transmitting the correspondence.

###### Article 3

###### Rates of postage and general conditions for the acceptance of airmail correspondence

1. Articles for transmission by airmail are prepaid, in addition to the ordinary postal charges, with a special airmail fee, the amount of which is fixed by the Administration of the country of origin; this fee must not exceed 25 centimes gold per 20 grams per 1000 kilometres of air conveyance.
2. On postcards and money orders the maximum fee is 25 centimes gold per article per 1000 kilometres of air conveyance.
3. The fee for reply-paid postcards is collected for each half separately at the point of departure of each of these halves.
4. The fees mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the present Article apply only to the services to which the tariff prescribed in Article 11, paragraph 10, is applicable. They must be uniform for each country of destination.

5. The fee on airmail correspondence conveyed by extraordinary services (Article 11, paragraph 11) may be increased, having regard to the extraordinary expenditure which the use of these services occasions.
6. The fees must be paid before despatch. Except in the cases prescribed in Article 6, they may not be collected from the addressee.
7. Airmail correspondence is prepaid in the manner laid down in Article 46 of the Universal Postal Convention. However, without regard to the class of correspondence, the prepayment may be represented by a manuscript note, in figures, of the amount collected, expressed in the currency of the country of origin in the form:

*Affranchissement perçu:* Fr. c. (Amount collected: Fr. c.).

This indication may either appear in a special stamp impression or on an adhesive stamp or special label, or simply be inscribed on the envelope of the article by any method whatever. In all cases the indication must be supported by the date-stamp of the office of origin.

#### Article 4

##### Unpaid or insufficiently prepaid airmail correspondence

1. In the case of entire absence of prepayment, airmail correspondence is treated in conformity with the provisions of Articles 34 and 35 of the Universal Postal Convention. Articles on which the prepayment of postage is not compulsory before despatch are transmitted by ordinary routes.
2. In the case of insufficient prepayment, airmail correspondence is transmitted by airmail if the charges prepaid represent at least the amount of the airmail fee. The provisions of Article 35 of the Universal Postal Convention apply as regards the collection of postal charges not prepaid at the time of despatch.
3. When these articles are transmitted by ordinary route, the office of posting or the office of exchange must strike out all annotations relative to transmission by airmail.

#### Article 5

##### Delivery of airmail correspondence

1. Airmail correspondence is delivered with the utmost rapidity possible and must at least be included in the first delivery which follows its arrival at the office of delivery.
2. The senders have the right to request delivery by special messenger, immediately after arrival, on prepayment of the special express delivery fee prescribed by Article 44 of the Universal Postal Convention. This right exists only in relations between countries which have organised the express delivery service in their reciprocal relations.
3. On payment of a supplementary charge, Administrations may, after agreement between themselves, effect delivery by special means, in particular by the use of pneumatic tubes.

#### Article 6

##### Redirection and return of airmail correspondence

1. Airmail correspondence addressed to persons who have changed their address is forwarded to the new address by ordinary means of conveyance, unless the addressee has expressly asked for redirection by airmail and has paid in advance to the redirecting office the airmail fee for the new

transmission. Undeliverable correspondence is returned to origin by ordinary route.

2. If redirection or return takes place through ordinary postal channels, the airmail label *Par Avion* and all annotations relative to transmission by airmail must be struck through officially by means of two thick transverse strokes.

## CHAPTER II

### REGISTERED ARTICLES AND INSURED ARTICLES

#### I. REGISTERED ARTICLES

##### Article 7

###### Registered articles

Registered articles are subject to the postage charges and general conditions of acceptance prescribed by the Universal Postal Convention. They must be prepaid, in addition, with the same airmail fees as ordinary articles.

##### Article 8

###### Responsibility

Postal Administrations accept, for registered articles sent by airmail, the same responsibility as for other registered articles.

#### II. INSURED ARTICLES

##### Article 9

###### Insured articles

1. Administrations which admit insured articles to conveyance by airmail are authorised to collect on account of those articles a special insurance fee of which they fix the amount.

The total of the ordinary insurance fee and of the special fee must remain within the limits fixed by Article 3, letter c, of the Agreement concerning insured letters and boxes.

2. So far as concerns insured articles sent in closed mails through the territory of countries which are not parties to the Agreement concerning insured articles or transmitted by air services for which the countries in question do not accept responsibility for insured articles, the responsibility of these countries is limited to that prescribed for registered articles.

## CHAPTER III

### ALLOCATION OF AIRMAIL FEES. RATES FOR CONVEYANCE

##### Article 10

###### Allocation of airmail fees

Each Administration keeps the whole of the sums which it collects in respect of airmail fees of all kinds.

##### Article 11

###### Rates for air conveyance of closed mails

1. The transit rates prescribed by Article 73 of the Universal Postal Convention do not apply to air services.
2. By way of exception to the provisions of the Convention, the countries of destination which undertake the retransmission of airmail correspondence by air in their internal service are entitled to be credited with the rates for internal conveyance. This credit must be uniform for all the services of the internal system of the same country.
3. The rates for conveyance applicable to the same air service are uniform for Administrations which use this service without sharing in the working expenses.
4. Apart from the exceptions allowed in paragraphs 5 and 6 below, the rates for air conveyance are payable to the postal Administration of the country in which is situated the aerodrome at which the correspondence is taken over by the air service.
5. The Office which hands to an air transport undertaking mails intended for conveyance successively by several distinct air services may, if it has agreed with the intermediate Offices, pay directly to that undertaking the rates for conveyance for the whole route. The intermediate Offices have, for their part, the right to demand the application pure and simple of the provisions of paragraph 4.
6. As an exception to the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 above, each Administration which maintains an air service retains the right to collect direct from each Administration which uses that service the rates for conveyance applicable to the whole of the route.
7. The rates for air conveyance of airmail correspondence despatched in closed mails are borne by the Administration of the country of origin: the rates for air conveyance of correspondence despatched *à découvert* are borne by the Administration which hands it *à découvert* to another Administration.
8. In the absence of agreement to the contrary between the postal Administrations concerned, the transfer in the same aerodrome, in course of transmission, of mails conveyed successively by several distinct air services must be performed by the postal Administration of the country in which the transfer takes place. This rule does not apply when the transfer takes place between machines performing successive stages of the same service.
9. Warehousing charges are not collected in respect of airmails.  
However, in cases where on account of exceptional circumstances considerable expense has to be incurred by such warehousing, Administrations are authorised to collect the warehousing charges laid down by Article 74 of the Convention.
10. As a temporary measure, the basic tariff to be applied to the settlement of accounts between Administrations in respect of air transport is fixed at 6 centimes of a gold franc per indivisible fraction of 100 grams gross weight per 100 kilometres. All fractions of 100 grams or of 100 kilometres are rounded up to the next 100 grams or 100 kilometres respectively, separately for each mail included in the airmail statistics. Airmails conveyed in the internal service are subject to the same rules.
11. The charges for conveyance specified above do not apply to conveyance for long distances by means of services of which the establishment and maintenance entail extraordinary expenditure. The conditions under which these services may be used are regulated by mutual agreement between the Administrations concerned; they must be uniform for all Administrations making use of these services.
12. The rates for conveyance mentioned above are due also for correspondence exempt from transit rates, as well as for mails or correspondence missent, in cases where these are despatched by air.

13. With the exception of any warehousing charges which may be due (paragraph 9 above), the Administrations of the countries flown over have no right to payment for mails conveyed by air over their territory.

## Article 12

### Rates for conveyance *à découvert* of airmail correspondence

1. Airmail correspondence may be exchanged *à découvert* between two Administrations by air.
2. The charges for air conveyance are paid wholly to the postal Administration of the country to which the correspondence is sent *à découvert* for re-transmission by air; that Administration may require separate bundles to be made up for the destination which it may specify.
3. To arrive at the charges for conveyance, the net weight of airmail correspondence transmitted *à découvert* is increased by 25 percent to take into account the expenditure applicable to sorting. Nevertheless, the increase in the charges for airmail conveyance resulting in favour of a country of transit must not exceed 1 franc 50 centimes per 100 grams net weight.

## Article 13

### Calculation of distances between two countries connected by several airlines

If two countries are connected by several airlines, the rates for conveyance are calculated according to the mean distance of these routes and their importance for international traffic.

## CHAPTER IV

### INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

## Article 14

### Communications to be addressed to the International Bureau

1. Administrations must communicate to each other through the medium of the International Bureau:
  - (a) Particulars of the airmail fees which they collect on airmail correspondence - in the internal service as well as for destination in other countries;
  - (b) Information whether or not they admit insured letters and boxes to transmission by air;
  - (c) A list of the airlines, national or foreign, which they use for the conveyance of airmail correspondence, whether those lines operate in the interior of the country or leave its aerodromes for foreign countries; these latter lines must appear in the list with the distance for which the Administration which uses them assumes responsibility for the correspondence which it entrusts to them. The list must show in particular, for each line, the distance and duration of the flight from the aerodrome of departure to the different ports of call (aerodromes), the frequency of the service, the country to which the charges for conveyance by air by the line must be paid and the special conditions or restrictions to which the use of that line is subject. At the end of the particulars relating to internal lines, each Administration must show the mean distance adopted in calculating the credit for air conveyance of the airmail correspondence addressed to the interior of its country;
  - (d) A list of countries to which they undertake the re-transmission of airmail correspondence by air for the whole or part of the distance, with particulars of the routes by which re-forwarding takes place, the distances by air and the charges for conveyance applicable to them.

These particulars are entered on form AV1 annexed.

2. The communications under (c) and (d) must be sent regularly twice a year, a month before the commencement of the summer service and a month before the commencement of the winter service. Every subsequent modification must be notified without delay.
3. The International Bureau draws up, in accordance with the communications which it receives, a Summary (*Recueil*) of information concerning the airmail service, including the exchange of insured letters and boxes, a general list of postal airlines and a general list of countries served by airlines. These documents are distributed to the Administrations without delay. The general list to be prepared by the International Bureau must conform to the annexed Form AV1.

The International Bureau is also entrusted with the preparation of a map of the world showing postal lines of international air communication, as well as supplementary maps showing the lines in the interior of each continent.

4. For provisional information, a copy of the communications under (c) and (d) shall be sent directly by each Administration to all the other Offices which notify their desire to receive them.
5. Administrations shall, in addition, communicate regularly to all the Offices which ask for them the timetables of the airlines in their internal and international systems with particulars, for each aerodrome, of the times of arrival and departure of the aeroplanes.

## CHAPTER V

### ACCOUNTING REGULATIONS

#### Article 15

##### Statistics

1. The general accounting for the charges for air conveyance is based on statistical returns taken in the seven days which follow 14 June and 14 November in each year. The data obtained from the June statistics form the basis for the payments due for the summer service; those from the November statistics form the basis in regard to the winter service.
2. The statistics relating to service which are not in operation during the months of June and November are taken after agreement between the Administrations concerned.
3. As a temporary measure, every Office has the right to demand that the settlement of accounts shall take place quarterly on the basis of the gross weight of the mails actually conveyed during the preceding quarter. In this case, the procedure to be followed must be agreed between the Administrations concerned.

#### Article 16

##### Make-up of ordinary or airmails during airmail statistical periods

The provisions of Article 61 of the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Convention are not applicable to the half-yearly statistics for calculating the charges for conveyance by air. However, during these statistical periods, the labels or addresses of mails containing airmail correspondence must be conspicuously marked *Statistique-avion*.

#### Article 17

##### Establishment of the weight of airmails

1. During the statistical periods, the date of despatch and the gross weight of the mail are entered on the label or outer address of the mail. The enclosure of one airmail in another mail of the same kind is forbidden.
2. If correspondence *à découvert* intended for onward transmission by air is included in an ordinary or airmail, the weight must be entered separately on the letter bill for each country to which the air correspondence is addressed. If necessary, the particulars of the weights may be entered upon a special list similar to the annexed Form AV2 which is attached to the letter bill.
3. These entries are checked by the office of exchange of destination. If that office finds that the actual weight indicated differs by more than 20 grams from the weight advised it corrects the letter bill or the label and notifies the error immediately to the despatching office of exchange by means of a verification note; a copy of this verification note is sent, if necessary, to each intermediate Office. If the differences in weight ascertained are within the abovementioned limits, the entries of the office of despatch are accepted as valid.

#### Article 18

##### List of closed airmails

As soon as possible, and in every case, within a period of 15 days after each statistical period, the Administrations which have despatched closed airmails send a list of these mails to the different Administrations whose air services they have used, including if necessary, the Administration of destination.

#### Article 19

##### Preparation of statement AV3 and AV4 for airmails

1. During the statistical periods, the intermediate Administrations take note, in a statement in accordance with Form AV3 annexed, of the weights shown on the labels or outer addresses of the airmails that they have reforwarded by air beyond the frontier of their countries. A statement is prepared for each office of exchange despatching airmails.
2. The Administrations receiving airmails which undertake the re-transmission by air of the airmail correspondence contained therein, either in their internal service or beyond the frontiers of their countries, prepare a statement, in accordance with Form AV4 annexed, from the particulars given on the letter bills. The same procedure applies as regards airmail correspondence contained in ordinary mails.
3. As soon as possible, and, at the latest, one month after the close of the statistical operations, the statements AV3 and AV4 are forwarded to the despatching offices of exchange for acceptance. These offices, after having accepted the statements, forward them, in their turn, to their central Administration which returns them to the central Administration of the creditor Office.
4. If the creditor Office has received no notice of amendments within an interval of 3 months reckoning from the date of despatch, the statements are regarded as fully accepted. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (long distance, etc), these periods may be extended by mutual agreement between the Offices concerned.

#### Article 20

##### Accounting for air transport charges

1. The gross or net weights of the airmail correspondence shown in statements AV3 or AV4 are

multiplied by a figure corresponding to the frequency of the summer and winter services, and the products thus obtained serve as the basis of special accounts determining in francs the transport payments accruing to each Office for the current half year.

2. The duty of preparing these accounts devolves on the creditor Office which forwards them to the debtor Office.

3. The special accounts are prepared in duplicate and forwarded to the debtor Office as soon as possible. If the creditor Office has received no notice of amendments within an interval of 3 months reckoning from the date of despatch, this account is regarded as fully accepted.

## Article 21

### General account

In the absence of any understanding to the contrary between the Administrations concerned, the general account of air transport charges is prepared twice a year by the International Bureau in accordance with the regulations fixed for the account relating to transit charges.

## CHAPTER VI

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Article 22

##### Special marking of airmail correspondence

Airmail correspondence has affixed on despatch a special blue label or stamp impression bearing the words *Par avion* (By Airmail) with a translation in the language of the country of origin.

#### Article 23

##### Partial transmission by air

If the sender desires that his correspondence shall be forwarded by air for part of the air route only, he must indicate this fact. At the end of the air transmission of this correspondence, the instruction and the airmail label *Par avion* as well as the special annotation must be struck through officially by means of two thick transverse strokes.

#### Article 24

##### Method of despatching airmail correspondence in ordinary mails

The method of despatch prescribed for Express articles by Article 55 of the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Convention applies equally to airmail correspondence included in ordinary mails, with this exception that the word *Exprès* on the label of the bundles and in the column of the letter bills headed "Observations" must be replaced by the words *Par avion* (By Airmail).

#### Article 25

##### Notes to be made on the letter bills and despatch lists and labels of mails containing airmail correspondence

1. The presence of airmail correspondence in ordinary mails is indicated by the words *Par avion* in Table No. 1 of the letter bill and on the despatch list, of which the make-up must be modified accordingly.

2. The letter bills which accompany airmails must bear an airmail label *Par avion* at the head. The same label *Par avion* is affixed to the labels and addresses of these mails.

#### Article 26

##### Routing of airmail correspondence

1. The Administrations which use air communications for the conveyance of their own correspondence are bound to forward, by the same means, the airmail correspondence which reaches them from other Administrations.

2. Administrations which have no air service forward airmail correspondence by the most rapid routes used for mails.

The same regulation applies if, for any reason whatever, transmission by these other routes offers advantages over an existing air route.

#### Article 27

##### Customs clearance of correspondence liable to Customs duty

The Administrations take steps to accelerate as much as possible the clearance through the Customs of airmail correspondence liable to Customs duty.

#### Article 28

##### Application of the provisions of the Convention and Agreements

The provisions of the Convention and Agreements, and their respective Detailed Regulations, except the Parcel Post Agreement and its Detailed Regulations, are applicable as regards everything which is not expressly provided for in the preceding Articles.

#### Article 29

##### Entry into force and duration

The present provisions shall come into force on the day on which the Universal Postal Convention comes into operation. They shall have the same duration as that Convention, unless they are renewed by common consent between the parties concerned.

DONE at London, the 28th of June, 1929.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

#### FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE CONVEYANCE OF LETTER MAILS BY AIR

#### Article 1

##### Air transport charges for closed mails

The Administrations of British India and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have the option of collecting the transport charges prescribed by Article 11 of the Provisions regarding the Conveyance of Letter Mails by Air for each section of their inland air service.

DONE at London, the 28th of June, 1929.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

## AIRMAILS FORMS

[Forms AV1-AV4 not reproduced here.]

The Convention, and Final Protocol, Detailed Regulations, and Final Protocol, Airmail Provisions, and Final Protocol, were signed for Australia 28 June 1929. Instrument of ratification deposited for Australia 9 July 1930.