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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

Universal Postal Union: Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol; Detailed Regulations; Provisions regarding Air Mail Correspondence, and Final Protocol

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UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

[Translation

[\[1\]](#)

CONCLUDED BETWEEN Afghanistan, the Union of South Africa, the People's Republic of Albania, Germany, the United States of America, the whole of the Territories of the United States of America, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Argentine Republic, the Commonwealth of Australia, Austria, Belgium, the Colony of the Belgian Congo, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Byelorussia, Burma, Bolivia, the United States of Brazil, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, the Republic of Colombia, Korea, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Cuba, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, the Republic of El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, the whole of the Spanish Colonies, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Algeria, the whole of the Overseas Territories of the French Republic and the Territories administered as such, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the whole of the British Overseas Territories, including the Colonies, the Protectorates and the Territories under Trusteeship exercised by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Guatemala, the Republic of Haiti, the Republic of Honduras, the Hungarian People's Republic, India, the Republic of Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, the Irish Republic, the Republic of Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, the Republic of Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Morocco, (except the Spanish Zone), Morocco (Spanish Zone), Mexico,

Nicaragua, Norway, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Republic of Panama, Paraguay, the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam, Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Portuguese Territories in West Africa, the Portuguese Territories in East Africa, Asia and Oceania, the Roumanian People's Republic, the Republic of San Marino, Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, Syria, Czechoslovakia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Ukraine, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the State of the City of the Vatican, the United States of Venezuela, Viet-Nam, Yemen, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia.

The undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the abovenamed Countries, being assembled in Congress at Brussels, by virtue of Article 14 of the Universal Postal Convention concluded at Paris on 5 July 1947,[2] have, by common consent and subject to ratification, revised the said Convention to read as follows:

PART I

CONSTITUTIONAL AND GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

SECTION I

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNION

Article 1

Constitution and aim of the Union

1. The Countries between which the present Convention is concluded form, under the title of Universal Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence.
2. The aim of the Union is to secure the organisation and improvement of the various postal services and to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration.

Article 2

Seat of the Union

The seat of the Union and of its permanent organs shall be at Berne.

Article 3

New admissions. Procedure

1. Any sovereign Country may apply for admission as a member of the Universal Postal Union.
2. The application is addressed through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, and by the latter to the member-Countries of the Union.
3. The Country concerned is considered to be admitted as a member if its application is approved by two-thirds at least of the member-Countries of the Union.

4. Member-Countries of the Union which have not answered within a period of four months are considered to have abstained.

5. Admission as a member is notified by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of all the member-Countries of the Union.

Article 4

Colonies, protectorates, etc.

The following are considered to be a single member-Country of the Union or a single postal Administration of a member-Country as the case may be within the meaning of the Convention and of the Agreements as regards, in particular, their right to vote at Congresses, Conferences and in the interval between meetings and also their contribution to the expenditure of the Union:

1. the whole of the Territories of the United States of America, including the trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

2. the Colony of the Belgian Congo;

3. the whole of the Spanish Colonies;

4. Algeria;

5. the whole of the overseas Territories of the French Republic and the Territories administered as such;

6. the whole of the British overseas Territories, including the Colonies, the Protectorates and the Territories under trusteeship exercised by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

7. the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam;

8. the Portuguese Territories in West Africa;

9. the Portuguese Territories in East Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Article 5

Application of the Convention to colonies, protectorates, etc.

1. Any member-Country may declare, either at the time of signature, ratification or application for admission, or later, that its acceptance of the present Convention and, where appropriate of the Agreements includes all its Colonies, all its overseas Territories, Protectorates or Territories under suzerainty, mandate or trusteeship, or certain of them only. This declaration, unless made at the time of signature or ratification of the Convention, is to be addressed to the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

2. The Convention will apply only to those Colonies, overseas Territories, Protectorates or Territories under suzerainty, mandate or trusteeship in respect of which declarations have been made under SS1.

3. Any member-Country may at any time address to the Government of the Swiss Confederation a notification designed to cancel the application of the Convention to any Colony, overseas Territory, Protectorate or Territory under suzerainty, mandate or trusteeship on behalf of which that Country has

made a declaration under SS1. This notification will take effect one year from the date of its receipt by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

4. The Government of the Swiss Confederation will communicate to every member-Country a copy of each declaration or notification received under SSSS1 to 3.

5. The provisions of this Article do not apply to any Colony, overseas Territory, Protectorate or Territory under suzerainty, mandate or trusteeship which figures in the preamble to the Convention.

Article 6

Jurisdiction of the Union

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

(a) post offices set up by member-Countries in territories not included in the Union;

(b) other territories which, without being members of the Union, are included in it because from the postal point of view they are subordinate to member-Countries.

Article 7

Languages

1. The official language of the Universal Postal Union is French.

2. For the debates of Congresses, of Conferences and of their committees, the French, English, Spanish and Russian languages are admitted, by means of a system of interpretation - with or without electronic equipment - the choice of which is left to the judgment of the organisers of the meeting after consultation with the Director of the International Bureau and the member-Countries concerned. The same applies as regards meetings of the Universal Postal Union which are held in the intervals between Congresses.

3. Other languages are likewise admissible for the debates and meetings mentioned in SS2.

4. (a) The cost of installing and maintaining the system of simultaneous interpretation for French, English, Spanish and Russian is borne by the Union;

(b) the cost of the interpretation services for the same languages is borne by the member-Countries which use English, Spanish or Russian. It is divided into three equal parts each of which is apportioned among the Countries of the group to which they belong in proportion to their contributions to the general expenses of the Union.

5. Delegations using other languages provide for simultaneous interpretation into one of the languages mentioned in SS2, either by the system therein indicated, when the necessary technical modifications can be made, or by individual interpreters.

6. The cost of using other languages, including the cost of any technical alterations described in SS5 that may be made to the system mentioned in SS2, are apportioned among the member-Countries using those languages on the same basis as in SS4(b).

7. Postal Administrations may come to an understanding about the language to be used for official correspondence in their relations with one another.

Article 8

Exceptional relations

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

Article 9

Restricted Unions. Special Agreements

1. Member-Countries of the Union, or their postal Administrations if the legislation of the Countries permits, may establish restricted Unions and make special Agreements concerning the international postal service provided always that they do not introduce provisions less favourable to the public than those laid down in the Acts to which they are parties.

2. Restricted Unions may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of the Union and to the Executive and Liaison Committee.

Article 10

Withdrawal from the Union

1. Each member-Country is free to withdraw from the Union by notice given through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to the Governments of the member-Countries.

2. Withdrawal from the Union becomes effective on the expiry of a period of one year from the day on which the notice is received by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

CHAPTER II

ORGANISATION OF THE UNION

Article 11

Congress

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 in order to revise or complete those Acts, as required.

2. Each Country arranges for its representation at Congress by one or more plenipotentiary delegates furnished with the necessary powers by their Government. It may, if necessary, arrange for its representation by the delegation of another Country. It is understood, nevertheless, that a delegation may represent only one Country other than its own.

3. In the debates each Country is entitled to one vote only.

4. Each Congress fixes the place of assembly for the next Congress. The Countries of the Union are convened, directly or through the intermediary of a third Country, by the good offices of the Government of the Country in which the Congress is to take place, in agreement with the International Bureau. That Government is also responsible for notifying the decisions taken by the

Congress to all the Governments of the Countries.

Article 12

Extraordinary Congresses

1. An extraordinary Congress may be assembled at the request or with the consent of at least two-thirds of the member-Countries.
2. The place of assembly is fixed, in agreement with the International Bureau, by the member-Countries initiating the Congress.
3. The regulations laid down in Article 11, SSSS2 to 4, apply by analogy to extraordinary Congresses.

Article 13

Administrative conferences

1. Conferences charged with examining purely administrative questions may be convened at the request or with the consent of at least two-thirds of the Administrations.
2. The place of assembly is fixed, in agreement with the International Bureau, by the Administrations initiating the Conference. The invitations are issued by the Administration of the Country in which the Conference is to be held.

Article 14

Regulation of congresses and conferences

Each Congress and Conference draws up the rules of procedure necessary for its work. Until these rules are adopted, the provisions of the rules of procedure drawn up by the previous Congress apply insofar as they are relevant to the debates.

Article 15

Executive and Liaison Committee

1. In the interval between Congresses an Executive and Liaison Committee ensures the continuity of the work of the Universal Postal Union in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Agreements.
2. The Committee consists of twenty members who exercise their functions during the interval between two successive Congresses.
3. The member-Countries of the Committee are appointed by Congress on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution. At least half of the membership is renewed at each Congress; no Country may be chosen by three Congresses in succession.
4. The representative of each of the member-Countries of the Committee is appointed by the postal Administration of his Country. This representative shall be a qualified official of the postal Administration.
5. The office of Committee member is unpaid. The working expenses of the Committee are borne by the Union.

6. The functions of the Committee are as follows:

- (a) to maintain the closest contact with the Countries of the Union with a view to improving the international postal service;
- (b) to study technical questions and problems of every kind connected with the international postal service and to communicate the results of such studies to the postal Administrations;
- (c) to make useful contact with the United Nations, its Councils and Commissions, and also with the specialised agencies and other international organisations, for research and the preparation of reports to be submitted for approval to the Countries of the Union; and to send as occasion arises representatives of the Union to take part on its behalf in meetings of all these international organisations;
- (d) to formulate as may be necessary proposals to be submitted for the approval either of the member-Countries of the Union under the provisions of Articles 26 and 27, or of Congress when the proposals concern studies entrusted by Congress to the Committee or when they arise out of the Committee's own activities as defined in this Article;
- (e) to examine at a Country's request any proposal which that Country forwards to the International Bureau under the provisions of Articles 26 and 27, to prepare observations on it and to charge the International Bureau with annexing these observations to the said proposal before submitting it for approval to the member-Countries of the Union;
- (f) within the framework of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations:
 - (i) to ensure the control of the activities of the International Bureau of which it appoints, when the need arises, and on the proposal of the Government of the Swiss Confederation, the Director and other higher officials;
 - (ii) to approve, on the proposal of the Director of the International Bureau, the appointments of officials of the 1st and 2nd salary grades after examining the professional qualifications of the candidates sponsored by the Administrations of the Union, taking into account an equitable geographical distribution with respect to continents and language and all other relevant considerations, due regard being had to the Bureau's own internal promotion arrangements;
 - (iii) to approve the annual report on the Union's activities drawn up by the International Bureau and, where appropriate, to furnish observations upon it.

Article 16

Special committees

Committees appointed by a Congress or Conference to study one or more specific questions are convened by the International Bureau, after agreement, where appropriate, with the Administration of the Country in which these Committees are to meet.

Article 17

International Bureau

A central Office operating at the headquarters of the Union, under the title of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union and set under the general supervision of the Swiss Postal Administration, serves postal Administrations as an organisation for liaison, information and

consultation.

Article 18

Expenditure of the Union

1. Each Congress fixes the maximum figure for the ordinary annual expenditure of the Union, including the working expenses of the Executive and Liaison Committee. This expenditure, together with the extraordinary expenses occasioned by the meeting of a Congress, Conference or special Committee and the expenses which may result from special tasks entrusted to the International Bureau, is borne in common by all the Countries of the Union.

2. To this end, these are grouped in 7 classes each contributing to the payment of the expenditure 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 admission the Government of the Swiss Confederation fixes by common consent with the Government of the Country concerned the class in which the latter shall be placed for the apportionment of the expenditure.

CHAPTER III

RELATIONSHIP OF THE UNION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Article 19

Relationship with the United Nations

The Union is brought into relation with the United Nations in accordance with the terms of the Agreement signed at Paris on 4 July 1947, the text of which is annexed to the present Convention.[\[3\]](#)

CHAPTER IV

ACTS OF THE UNION

Article 20

Convention and Agreements of the Union

1. The Convention is the constitutive Act of the Union.

2. The letter post service is regulated by the provisions of the Convention.

3. The other services are regulated by the following Agreements:

the Agreement concerning Insured Letters and Boxes;

the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels;

the Agreement concerning Postal Money Orders and Postal Travellers' Cheques;

the Agreement concerning Transfers to and from Postal Cheque Accounts and the Supplement dealing with the Negotiation through Postal Cheque Accounts of Securities made payable at Postal Cheque Offices;

the Agreement concerning Cash on Delivery items;

the Agreement concerning the Collection of Bills;

the Agreement concerning Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals.

4. These Agreements are binding only upon the member-Countries which have acceded to them.

5. Accession by member-Countries to one or more of these Agreements is notified in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, SS2.

Article 21

Withdrawal from participation in the Agreements

Each member-Country is free to withdraw from participation in one or more of the Agreements, under the conditions laid down in Article 10.

Article 22

Detailed Regulations

The Administrations of member-Countries draw up by common consent, in the Detailed Regulations, the detailed rules and procedures necessary for the implementation of the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 23

Ratification

1. The Acts adopted by a Congress are ratified as soon as possible by the signatory Countries; the ratifications are communicated to the Government of the Country where the Congress was held and by that Government to the Governments of the signatory Countries.[\[4\]](#)

2. These Acts come into force simultaneously and are current for the same period.

3. As from the date fixed for the entry into force of the Acts adopted by a Congress all the Acts of the previous Congress are rescinded.

4. If one or more of the Countries do not ratify one or other of the Acts signed by them, those Acts

shall be none the less valid for the Countries that have ratified them.

Article 24

National legislation

The stipulations of the Convention and the Agreements of the Union and of their Final Protocols do not override the legislation of any Country as regards anything for which they do not expressly provide.

CHAPTER V

PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO AMEND OR INTERPRET THE ACTS OF THE UNION

Article 25

Presentation of proposals

1. In the interval between Congresses, any Administration of a member-Country has the right to address to the other Administrations through the intermediary of the International Bureau proposals relating to the Acts of the Union to which that Country is a party.
2. To be eligible for consideration all proposals presented by an Administration in the interval between Congresses shall be supported by at least two other Administrations. Such proposals lapse when the International Bureau does not receive, at the same time, the necessary number of declarations of support.

Article 26

Examination of proposals

1. Every proposal is subjected to the following procedure: A period of two months is allowed to Administrations to examine the proposal circulated by the International Bureau and to forward their observations, if any, to the Bureau. Amendments are not admitted. The replies are collected by the International Bureau and communicated to Administrations with an invitation to pronounce for or against the proposal. Those that have not notified their vote within a period of two months are considered as abstaining. The periods quoted are reckoned from the date of the International Bureau circulars.
2. If the proposal relates to an Agreement, its Detailed Regulations or their Final Protocols, only the Administrations which are parties to that Agreement may take part in the procedure laid down in SS1.

Article 27

Conditions of approval

1. To become effective, a proposal shall obtain:
 - (a) the unanimity of the votes if it involves amendments of the provisions of Articles 1 to 46 (Part I), 47, 48, 51, 54, 67, 68, 70 to 73, and 75 to 82 (Part II), and 83 (Part III) of the Convention, of any of the Articles of its Final Protocol and of Articles 101, 102, 104, SSSS2 to 4, 110, SS1, 114, 115, 117, 131, 166, 170, 177, 181 and 187 of its Detailed Regulations;
 - (b) two-thirds of the votes if it involves an amendment of principle of provisions other than those

mentioned under (a);

(c) the majority of the votes if it is a question of:

(i) editorial amendments of the provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations other than those mentioned under (a);

(ii) an interpretation, of the provisions of the Convention, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, except in the case of a disagreement to be submitted to arbitration as provided for in Article 31.

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

Article 28

Promulgation of decisions

1. Amendments made to the Convention, the Agreements, the Final Protocols and the Annexes to those Acts are sanctioned by a diplomatic declaration which the Government of the Swiss Confederation is charged with preparing and conveying at the request of the International Bureau to the Governments of the member-Countries.

2. Amendments made to the Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols are recorded and notified to Administrations by the International Bureau. The same applies to the interpretations referred to in Article 27, SS1(c)(ii).

Article 29

Implementation of decisions

Any amendment which has been adopted does not take effect until at least three months after its promulgation.

Article 30

Agreement with the United Nations

The procedure envisaged in Article 27, SS1(a) applies also to proposals designed to modify the Agreement concluded between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations to the extent that that Agreement does not lay down conditions for the amendment of the provisions contained in it.

CHAPTER VI

ARBITRATION

Article 31

Arbitration

1. In the event of disagreement between two or more member-Countries as to the interpretation of the Convention and the Agreements or their Detailed Regulations or as to the responsibility imposed on a postal Administration by the application of these Acts, the question at issue is settled by arbitration.

2. To this end, each of the Administrations in the case selects a member of the Union not directly interested in the dispute. When several Administrations make common cause, they count as a single Administration for the purposes of this provision.
3. If one of the Administrations in disagreement does not act on a proposal for arbitration within a period of six months, or nine months in the case of distant Countries, the International Bureau, if requested, calls on the defaulting Administration to appoint an arbitrator or itself appoints one *ex officio*.
4. The parties in the case may agree to appoint a single arbitrator which may be the International Bureau.
5. The decision of the arbitrators is taken on an absolute majority of the votes.
6. If the voting is equal the arbitrators select another postal Administration also disinterested in the question at issue to settle the difference. Should they fail to agree on the choice, this Administration is appointed by the International Bureau from among members of the Union not proposed by the arbitrators.
7. If the dispute concerns one of the Agreements, the arbitrators may only be appointed from among the Administrations giving effect to that Agreement.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I

RULES CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

Article 32

Freedom of transit

1. Freedom of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.
2. Member-Countries not providing the insured letters and boxes service or not accepting responsibility for insured items carried by their sea services cannot refuse to accept such items in closed mails for transit through their territories or for conveyance by their sea services; but their responsibility is limited to that laid down for registered items.
3. Freedom of transit for postal parcels forwarded by land and by sea is limited to the territories of the Countries taking part in this service.
4. Freedom of transit for air parcels is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union. Nevertheless, Administrations which are not parties to the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels cannot be required to forward air parcels by land or by sea.
5. Administrations which are parties to the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels are bound to provide transit:
 - (a) for insured postal parcels despatched in closed mails, even if these Administrations do not themselves admit such items, in which case their responsibility is limited to that laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight;

(b) for cash on delivery parcels, even if they do not admit such items in their own service or if the amount of the trade charge exceeds the maximum fixed for their own traffic.

Article 33

Failure to give freedom of transit

When a Country fails to observe the provisions of Article 32 concerning freedom of transit the Administrations of the other Countries are at liberty to discontinue their postal service with that Country. They shall give prior notice of this step to the Administrations concerned by telegram.

Article 34

Temporary suspension of services

When, owing to exceptional circumstances, an Administration finds itself obliged to suspend its services temporarily either wholly or in part, it is bound to notify the fact immediately, if need be by telegram, to the Administration or Administrations concerned.

Article 35

Charges

The charges and fees for the various international postal services are fixed by the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 36

Free postage

The following are exempted from all postal charges: correspondence on postal service exchanged between postal Administrations, between those Administrations and the International Bureau, between the post offices of the Countries of the Union, and between those offices and postal Administrations; as well as correspondence for which free conveyance is expressly laid down by the provisions of the Convention, the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations.

Article 37

Free postage for items relating to prisoners of war and civilian internees

1. Correspondence, insured letters and boxes, postal parcels and postal money orders addressed to or sent by prisoners of war, either directly or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Prisoner of War Information Agency prescribed in Articles 122 and 123 respectively of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war,[\[5\]](#) are exempted from all postal charges. Belligerents apprehended and interned in a neutral Country are classed as prisoners of war properly so called so far as the application of the foregoing provisions is concerned.
2. The provisions of SS1 apply also to items of correspondence, insured letters and boxes, postal parcels and postal money orders originating in other Countries and addressed to or sent by civilian internees as defined by the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war,[\[6\]](#) either directly or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agency prescribed in Articles 136 and 140 respectively of that Convention.
3. The national Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agencies mentioned above also

enjoy exemption from postage in respect of correspondence, insured letters and boxes, postal parcels and postal money orders concerning the persons referred to in SSSS1 and 2, which they send or receive, either directly or as intermediaries, under the conditions laid down in those paragraphs.

4. Items benefiting by the freedom from postal charges provided under SSSS1 to 3 and the forms relating to them shall bear the indication *Service des prisonniers de guerre* [Prisoners of War Service] or *Service des internés* [Civilian Internees Service]. These indications may be followed by a translation in another language.

5. Parcels are admitted free of postage up to a weight of 5 kgs. The weight limit is increased to 10 kgs in the case of parcels whose contents cannot be split up and of parcels addressed to a camp or the prisoners' representatives there (*hommes de confiance*) for distribution to the prisoners.

Article 38

Free postage for literature for the blind

Literature for the blind is exempted from all postal charges.

Article 39

Prohibition of unauthorised charges, surcharges and fees

No postal charge, surcharge or fee of any kind may be imposed other than those prescribed in the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 40

Monetary standard

The franc adopted 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 41

Settlement of accounts

Settlements between Administrations of international accounts arising from postal traffic may be regarded as current transactions and made in accordance with the current international obligations of the Countries concerned, when there are agreements to this effect. In the absence of such agreements, accounts are settled in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations.

Article 42

Equivalents

In each Country, the charges are fixed on the basis of the closest possible equivalent of the value of the franc in the currency of the Country.

Article 43

Postage stamps

The postal Administrations of the Union issue postage stamps for the prepayment of postage. Each

new issue of stamps is reported with the necessary information to all the other postal Administrations of the Union through the intermediary of the International Bureau.

Article 44

Forms

1. Forms for the use of postal Administrations in their relations with one another shall be drawn up in French with or without an interlinear translation in another language, unless the Administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.
2. Forms for the use of the public shall bear an interlinear translation in French when they are not printed in that language.
3. The texts, colours and sizes of the forms which are the subject of SSSS1 and 2 shall be as prescribed in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements.

Article 45

Postal identity cards

1. Each Administration may issue, to persons who apply for them, postal identity cards valid as proof of identity for every kind of post office business in the Countries which have not notified their refusal to admit them.
2. The Administration which issues a card is authorised to levy, on this account, a charge which must not exceed 70 centimes.
3. Administrations are relieved of all responsibility when it is established that the delivery of a postal item or the payment of a money order was made on the presentation of a genuine card. Moreover, they are not responsible for consequences arising from the loss, theft or fraudulent use of a genuine card.
4. A card is valid for a period of three years from the date of issue.

CHAPTER II

PENAL MEASURES

Article 46

Undertakings regarding penal measures

The Governments of member-Countries undertake to adopt or to propose to the legislatures of their Countries, the necessary measures:

- (a) for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, of international reply coupons and of postal identity cards;
- (b) for punishing the use or the putting into circulation:
 - (i) of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit or used impressions of postal franking machines or printing presses;

- (ii) of counterfeit international reply coupons;
- (iii) of counterfeit postal identity cards;
- (c) for punishing the fraudulent use of genuine postal identity cards;
- (d) for prohibiting and suppressing the fraudulent manufacture and the putting into circulation of impressed or adhesive stamps in use in the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the impressed or adhesive stamps issued by the Administration of one of the member-Countries;
- (e) for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal items of opium, morphine, cocaine or other narcotics as well as explosive or easily inflammable substances, where their insertion has not been expressly authorised by the Convention and the Agreements.

PART II

PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LETTER POST

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 47

Correspondence

The term correspondence applies to letters, single and reply-paid postcards, commercial papers, printed papers, literature for the blind, samples of merchandise, small packets and "Phonopost" items.

Article 48

Charges and general conditions

1. The charges to be prepaid for the conveyance of correspondence throughout the entire extent of the Union, together with the limits of weight and size, are fixed in accordance with the table below. Except in the cases provided for in Article 49, SS3 these charges cover delivery of the correspondence to the place of address to the extent that a delivery service is organised in the Country of destination:

Category	Unit of	Charge	Limits	
	weight		of weight	of size
1	2	3	4	5
	gms.	c.		
Letters:				
first weight step	20	20	2 kgs.	Length, width and depth
each succeeding step		12	}	combined: 90 cm., but
				the greatest dimension may

				}not exceed 60 cm. }Minimum: 10 x 7 cms.
				}In roll form: Length and
				}twice the diameter, 100
				}cms., but the greatest
				}dimension may not exceed
				}80 cm.
Postcards:				
single	-	12	-	}Maximum: 15 x 10.5 cms.
reply-paid	-	24	-	}Minimum: as for letters.
Commercial papers:	50	-	2 kgs.	}
first weight step	-	8		}
each succeeding step	-	4		}
Minimum charge	-	20		}
				}
Printed papers:	50	-	3 kgs.	}
first weight step	-	8	(5 kgs for a single	}
each succeeding step	-	4	volume)	}
				}As for letters
Literature for blind	<i>See Article 38</i>		7 kgs.	}
				}
Samples of merchandise:	50	-	500 gms.	}
first weight step	-	8		}
each succeeding step	-	4		}
				}
Small packets:	50	8	1 kg.	}
Minimum charge	-	40		}
"Phonopost" items:				}Length, width and depth
first weight step	} 20	15	} 300 gms.	}combined: 60 cms., but the
each succeeding step	}	10		}greatest dimension may not
				}exceed 26 cms.

2. The limits of weight and size fixed in SS1 do not apply to the correspondence sent on postal

service which is the subject of Article 36.

3. Each Administration has the option of conceding a reduction of 50 percent of the ordinary tariff for printed papers to newspapers and periodicals published in its Country, whilst reserving the right to restrict this reduction to newspapers and periodicals which fulfil the conditions required for transmission at the tariff for newspapers in its internal service. Commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, etc, are excluded from this reduction, no matter how regularly they are issued; the same applies to advertisement slips annexed to newspapers and periodicals.

4. Administrations may likewise concede the same reduction for books and pamphlets, sheets of music and maps, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisement other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves.

5. Despatching Administrations admitting the principle of the 50 percent reduction reserve to themselves the option of fixing a minimum charge for the items mentioned in SSSS3 and 4 above, which, while remaining within the limits of the 50 percent reduction, is not lower than the rate that applies in their internal service to newspapers and periodicals on the one hand, and ordinary printed matter on the other.

6. Items other than registered letters in a closed envelope may not contain coin, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles.

7. Administrations of Countries of origin and of destination have the option of dealing, according to their internal legislation, with letters containing documents having the character of current and personal correspondence addressed to persons other than the addressee or persons living with the addressee.

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

(a) should be made up in such a manner that they may be easily examined;

(b) must not bear any inscription or contain any document having the character of current or personal correspondence;

(c) must not contain any postage stamp or form of prepayment, whether cancelled or not, or any paper representing a monetary value.

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

10. The small packets and "Phonopost" items services are restricted to those Countries which have announced their willingness to exchange such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only.

11. The combining in one item of correspondence of different categories (grouped categories) is authorised under the conditions laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

12. Apart from the exceptions allowed by the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in the present Article and the corresponding Articles of the Detailed Regulations are not forwarded. Items which have been wrongly admitted should be returned to the Administration of origin. Nevertheless, the Administration of destination may deliver them to the addressees. In that event it applies to them, as necessary, the charges and surcharges prescribed for the category of correspondence to which they belong by reason of their contents, weight or size. Items whose weights exceed the maximum limits laid down in SS1 may be charged according to their

actual weight.

Article 49

Special charges

1. Administrations are authorised to impose an additional charge, according to the provisions of their legislation, on items presented for forwarding after the prescribed time.
2. Items addressed *poste restante* may be subjected by Administrations of Countries of destination to the special charge if any prescribed by their legislation for items of the same kind in their internal service.
3. Administrations of Countries of destination are authorised to levy a special charge not exceeding 40 centimes on each small packet delivered to the addressee. This charge may be increased by 20 centimes, at most, when the item is delivered to the place of address.

Article 50

Storage fee

The Administration of destination is authorised to collect the storage fee adopted in its internal service for printed papers weighing more than 500 grams, of which the addressee has not taken delivery within the period during which they are held at his disposal free of charge.

Article 51

Prepayment of postage

1. As a general rule, all the items mentioned in Article 47 are to be fully prepaid by the sender.
2. Unpaid or underpaid items other than letters and single postcards are not forwarded, nor are reply-paid postcards of which the two halves are not fully prepaid at the time of posting.
3. When unpaid or underpaid letters or single postcards are posted in great number, the Administration of the Country of origin is at liberty to return them to the sender.

Article 52

Methods of prepaying postage

1. Prepayment of postage is effected either by means of postage stamps printed on or affixed to the items and valid in the Country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals or by means of impressions of postal franking machines officially adopted and working under the immediate control of the Administration or, in the case of printed papers, by means of impressions by a printing press or by any other process when such a system is authorised by the internal regulations of the Administration of origin.
2. The following are considered as duly prepaid: reply postcards bearing postage stamps, printed or affixed, of the Country of issue, items properly prepaid for their first transmission and on which the complementary charge has been paid before their redirection, as well as newspapers or packets of newspapers and periodicals which bear on the address side the indication *Abonnements-poste* and which are sent under the Agreement concerning Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals.

Article 53

Prepayment of postage on board ship

1. In the absence of other arrangements between the Administrations concerned, the postage on correspondence posted on board ship on the high seas may be prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the Country to which the ship belongs or by which it is maintained.
2. 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 of postage is valid only if it is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the Country in whose waters the ship is lying.

Article 54

Charge on unpaid or underpaid correspondence

1. Apart from the exceptions laid down in Article 67, SS6 for registered items and in Article 150, SSSS3, 4 and 5 of the Detailed Regulations for certain classes of redirected items, unpaid or underpaid letters and single postcards are liable to a charge equal to double the amount of the deficient postage, to be paid by the addressees; but that charge may not be less than 5 centimes.
2. The same treatment may be applied in similar circumstances to other items of correspondence which have been incorrectly forwarded to the Country of destination.

Article 55

International reply coupons

1. International reply coupons are placed on sale in the Countries of the Union.
2. Their selling price is fixed by the Administrations concerned; but it may not be less than 32 centimes or the equivalent in the currency of the Country of sale.
3. Each coupon is exchangeable in any Country for a stamp or stamps representing the postage payable on an unregistered single-rate letter for abroad from that Country. On presentation of a sufficient number of reply coupons Administrations shall supply the postage stamps necessary for prepaying an unregistered letter weighing not more than 20 grams for despatch by air.
4. Furthermore, each Country reserves the right to demand that the coupons and the items of correspondence to be prepaid by the exchange of coupons shall be presented at the same time.

Article 56

Express items

1. At the sender's request items of correspondence are sent out for delivery to an address by special messenger immediately after arrival in those Countries where the Administration agrees to undertake the service.
2. These items called "express" are subject, in addition to the ordinary postage, to a special charge which may not be less than the amount of postage payable on an unregistered single-rate letter and not more than 60 centimes or the amount of the charge applied by the Country of origin in its internal service, if this is higher. This charge is to be fully paid in advance.

3. When the address of the addressee is situated outside the local delivery area of the office of destination, express delivery may give rise to the collection by the Administration of destination of an additional charge not greater than that fixed for items of the same kind in the internal service. Express delivery is, however, not obligatory in this case.

4. Express items on which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been prepaid are delivered in the ordinary way unless they have been treated as express by the office of origin. In that case, they are charged in accordance with the provisions of Article 54.

5. Administrations are at liberty to consider themselves bound to make not more than one attempt at express delivery. If that attempt fails, the item may be treated as an ordinary item.

6. If the regulations of the Country of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office to deliver to them by express any registered or other items which come to hand for them. In that case the Administration of destination is authorised to collect, at the time of delivery, the charge that applies in its internal service.

Article 57

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration of address

1. The sender of an item of correspondence may have it withdrawn from the post, or have its address altered, so long as the item has not been delivered to the addressee, does not happen to fall within the provisions of Article 59, or Customs intervention does not bring to light any irregularity.

2. The request to be made to this effect is forwarded by post or by telegraph at the expense of the sender, who should pay, for each request, a charge not exceeding 40 centimes. If the request is to be forwarded by air or by telegraph, the sender shall pay in addition the air mail surcharge or the charge for the telegram.

3. Only one of the charges or surcharges prescribed in SS2 is levied in respect of a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address concerning several items posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender to the same addressee.

4. A request for simple correction of address (without alteration of the name or status of the addressee) may be addressed directly to the office of destination by the sender, that is to say, without compliance with the formalities and without payment of the charges prescribed in SSS2 and 3.

Article 58

Redirection. Undeliverable items

1. If an addressee changes his address, items of correspondence are redirected to him forthwith unless the sender has forbidden redirection by means of a note to that effect on the address side in a language known in the Country of destination. Nevertheless, redirection from one Country to another is effected only if the items satisfy the conditions required for the further conveyance.

2. Undeliverable correspondence should be returned forthwith to the Country of origin.

3. The period of retention for correspondence retained at the disposal of the addressees or addressed *poste restante* is fixed by the regulations of the Country of destination. As a general rule, however, this period must not exceed one month, except in particular cases when the Administration of destination considers it necessary to prolong it up to a maximum of two months. Return to the Country of origin should 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, unless the sender has asked for their return by means of a note on the outside of the item in a language known in the Country of destination. Registered printed papers ought always to be returned.

5. Except as provided in the Detailed Regulations, the redirection of items of correspondence from Country to Country or their return to the Country of origin does not give rise to the collection of any supplementary charge.

6. Redirected or undeliverable correspondence is delivered to the addressees or senders against payment of the charges raised on departure, on arrival, or in course of transmission due to redirection after the first transmission, without prejudice to the payment of Customs duty or other special charges which the Country of destination does not cancel.

7. In the event of redirection to another Country or of non-delivery, the *poste restante* fee, the Customs clearance fee, the commission fee, the additional express charge and the special fee for delivery of small packets to the addressees are cancelled.

Article 59

Prohibitions

1. The forwarding of the following articles is prohibited:

(a) articles which, by their nature or their packing, may expose officials to danger, or soil or damage correspondence;

(b) articles subject to Customs duty (apart from the exceptions mentioned in Article 60) and samples sent in quantities with the intention of avoiding payment of this duty;

(c) opium, morphine, cocaine and other narcotics;

(d) articles of which the importation or the circulation is prohibited in the Country of destination;

(e) living animals, except:

(i) bees, leeches and silkworms;

(ii) parasites and destroyers of noxious insects intended for the control of those insects and exchanged between officially recognized institutions;

(f) explosive or inflammable or dangerous substances;

(g) obscene or immoral articles.

2. Items containing articles mentioned in SS1 which have been wrongly admitted to the post are dealt with in accordance with the internal legislation of the Country of the Administration establishing their presence.

3. Nevertheless, the articles referred to in SS1(c), (f), and (g) are in no circumstances forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to origin.

4. In cases where items wrongly admitted to the post are neither returned to origin nor sent on to the

addressee, the Administration of origin shall be informed exactly how they have been dealt with.

5. Moreover, every Country reserves the right to deny conveyance to items of correspondence in transit *à découvert* over its territory, other than letters and postcards, which do not satisfy the legal requirements governing the conditions of their publication or circulation in that Country. Such items should be returned to the Administration of the Country of origin.

Article 60

Articles subject to Customs duty

1. Small packets and printed papers subject to Customs duty are admitted.
2. The same applies to letters and samples of merchandise containing articles subject to Customs duty where the Country of destination has given its consent. Nevertheless, each Administration has the right to restrict to the registered letter service letters containing articles subject to Customs duty.
3. Consignments of serums and vaccines and also of medicines urgently required and difficult to obtain, which benefit by the exception laid down in Article 136 of the Detailed Regulations, are admitted in every case.

Article 61

Customs control

The Administration of the Country of destination is authorised to submit to Customs control the items mentioned in Article 60, and, if necessary, to open them as a matter of course.

Article 62

Customs clearance fee

Items submitted to Customs control in the Country of destination may be subjected on this account to a customs clearance fee not exceeding 40 centimes per item as a postal charge.

Article 63

Customs duty and other non-postal fees

Administrations are authorised to collect from the addressees of the items the Customs duties and all other non-postal fees which may be due.

Article 64

Items for delivery free of charges

1. In the service between those Countries which have notified their agreement to that effect, the senders may by means of a previous declaration at the office of origin undertake to pay the whole of the postal and non-postal charges to which the items are subject on delivery. So long as an item has not been delivered to the addressee the sender may ask, after posting and on payment of a charge not exceeding 40 centimes, that the item be delivered free of charges. If the request is to be forwarded by air or by telegraph, the sender shall pay in addition the appropriate airmail surcharge or the charge for the telegram.

2. In the cases provided for in SS1, senders shall undertake to pay the amounts which may be claimed by the office of destination and, if necessary, to pay a sufficient deposit.
3. The Administration of destination is authorised to collect a commission fee not exceeding 40 centimes per item. This fee is independent of that prescribed in Article 62.
4. Every Administration has the right to restrict the service of delivery free of charges to registered items.

Article 65

Cancellation of customs duty and other non-postal fees

Administrations undertake to use their good offices with the appropriate services in their Country with a view to the cancellation of the Customs duty and other non-postal fees on items returned to origin, destroyed because of complete damage of the contents or redirected to a third Country.

Article 66

Enquiries and requests for information

1. Enquiries are entertained within a period of a year from the day after that on which the item was posted.
2. Enquiries initiated by an Administration after that period are in order and must be dealt with, provided only that they relate to items posted less than two years before.
3. Each Administration is bound to accept enquiries and requests for information relating to any item posted in the service of another Administration.
4. Unless the sender has already paid the special fee for an advice of delivery, each enquiry or request for information may be subject to payment of a fee not exceeding 40 centimes. When at the request of the interested party an enquiry or a request for information is to be forwarded by air it is subject to the payment of the same fee plus the appropriate airmail surcharge or double that surcharge if the reply is to be returned by the same means. If a request is made for transmission by telegraph, the cost of the telegram and, where appropriate, of the reply is collected in addition to the enquiry fee.
5. If the enquiry or request for information relates to several items posted at the same time by the same sender addressed to the same addressee and sent by the same means, only one fee or surcharge is levied. If, however, the matter is one of registered items which were at the sender's request to have been forwarded by different means, a separate fee or surcharge is levied for each of the means used.
6. If an enquiry or request for information has been occasioned by a service error, the fee collected for it is refunded.

CHAPTER II

REGISTERED ITEMS

Article 67

Charges

1. The items of correspondence specified in Article 47 may be sent as registered items.

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

- (a) the ordinary postage according to the category of the item;
- (b) a fixed registration fee not exceeding 40 centimes.

3. The fixed registration fee on the reply half of a postcard can be validly paid only by the sender of that half.

4. A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to the sender of a registered item at the time of posting.

5. Countries prepared to cover risks arising from causes beyond control are authorised to levy a special charge not exceeding 40 centimes for each registered item.

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

Article 68

Advice of delivery

1. The sender of a registered item may apply for an advice of delivery on payment at the time of posting of a fixed fee not exceeding 30 centimes. This advice is sent to him by air if he pays the relative charges.

2. An advice of delivery may be applied for after posting within the period of one year and under the conditions laid down in Article 66.

3. When the sender enquires about an advice of delivery which he has not received within a reasonable time, neither a second advice of delivery fee nor the fee of 40 centimes prescribed in Article 66 for enquiries and requests for information is charged.

Article 69

Registered items for delivery to the addressee in person

1. In the service between those Administrations which have given their consent registered items of correspondence that are accompanied by an advice of delivery are, at the sender's request, delivered to the addressee in person.

2. Administrations are bound to make two attempts to deliver such items.

Article 70

Responsibility

1. Administrations are answerable for the loss of registered items.

2. The sender is entitled on this account to an indemnity the amount of which is fixed at 25 francs per item.

Article 71

Non-responsibility

Postal Administrations are not responsible:

(i) for the loss of registered items:

(a) in circumstances beyond control. The Country in whose service the loss occurs should decide, in the light of its internal legislation, whether the loss is due to circumstances attributable to a cause beyond control; these are notified to the Country of origin. Nevertheless responsibility still rests with the despatching Administration if it has undertaken to cover risks arising from causes beyond control (Article 67, SS5);

(b) when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records through a cause beyond control, provided that proof of their responsibility has not been otherwise established;

(c) where it is a question of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in Articles 48, SSSS6 and 8(c) and 59, SS1;

(d) when the sender has made no enquiry within the period of one year prescribed in Article 66;

(ii) for registered items which they have delivered according either to the conditions laid down for items of the same kind in their internal regulations or to those set out in Article 45, SS3;

(iii) for items confiscated under the internal legislation of the Country of destination.

Article 72

Apportionment of responsibility between Administrations

1. Until the contrary is proved, responsibility for the loss of a registered item rests with the Administration which, having received it without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of enquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, regular transfer to the next Administration.

2. Until the contrary is proved and subject to the provisions of SS3, an intermediate Administration or the Administration of destination is relieved of all responsibility:

(a) when it has observed the provisions of Article 34 of the Convention and Articles 162, SS2 and 163, SS4 of the Detailed Regulations;

(b) when it can prove that it was not informed of the enquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the item in question, the period of retention prescribed in Article 119 of the Detailed Regulations having expired; this reservation does not prejudice the rights of the enquirer.

3. If, however, the loss occurs in course of conveyance and it is impossible to establish in which Country's territory or service the loss took place, the Administrations concerned bear the loss equally.

4. When a registered item has been lost in circumstances beyond control, the Administration in whose territory or service the loss occurred is not responsible to the despatching Administration unless the two Countries undertake to cover risks arising out of causes beyond control.

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

6. An Administration which has paid the indemnity takes over the rights, up to the amount of the indemnity, of the person who has received it in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

Article 73

Payment of indemnity

Subject to its right to make a claim on the Administration which is responsible, the Administration to which the office of posting belongs must pay the indemnity.

Article 74

Period for payment of the indemnity

1. The indemnity shall be paid as soon as possible and at the latest within a period of six months from the day following the date of the enquiry.
2. If the Administration of origin does not undertake to cover risks arising out of causes beyond control it may postpone settlement of the indemnity beyond the period prescribed in SS1, when the question whether the loss of the item is due to such causes has not been decided.
3. The Administration of origin is authorised to settle with the sender at the expense of the Administration, whether intermediate or of destination, which, duly informed, has allowed six months to pass without settling the matter. A longer period is permitted if the loss appears to be due to a cause beyond control; this fact is, in any case, to be communicated to the Administration of origin.

Article 75

Reimbursement of the indemnity to the despatching Administration

1. The Administration which is responsible or on whose account payment is made in accordance with Article 74 is bound to reimburse the despatching Administration for the amount of the indemnity actually paid to the sender, within four months from the date of despatch of the notice of payment.
2. If the indemnity is to be borne by several Administrations in accordance with Article 72, the whole of the indemnity due shall be paid to the despatching Administration within the period mentioned in SS1 by the first Administration which, having duly received the item under enquiry, is unable to prove its regular transfer to the next service. It rests with this Administration to recover from the other Administrations responsible the share falling to each one of them of the indemnity paid to the entitled person.
3. The Administration making payment is reimbursed in accordance with the rules for payment prescribed in Article 41.
4. When responsibility is admitted, as well as in the case provided for in Article 74, SS3, the amount of indemnity may also be recovered as a matter of course from the Country responsible by means of an account, either directly or through the intermediary of an Administration which exchanges accounts regularly with the Administration responsible.
5. The Administration of origin may only claim reimbursement from the Administration responsible within one year from the date of despatch of the notice of payment to the sender.
6. The Administration whose responsibility is duly proved and which has at first declined to pay the

indemnity shall assume all additional costs resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

7. Administrations may agree to settle periodically for the indemnities which they have paid to the senders and which they have accepted as justified.

Article 76

Subsequent discovery of a registered item considered as lost

1. In the event of the subsequent discovery of a registered item or part of the item considered as lost, the sender and the addressee are informed of the fact.

2. The sender is further informed that he may take delivery of it within a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity received. If by the end of that period the sender has not claimed the item, the addressee is notified that he may take delivery of it within a similar period on payment of the sum paid to the sender.

3. If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the item after repayment of the amount of the indemnity, that sum is refunded to the Administration or where appropriate the Administrations which bore the loss.

4. If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the item, it becomes the property of the Administration or where appropriate the Administrations which paid the indemnity.

CHAPTER III

ALLOCATION OF CHARGES. TRANSIT CHARGES

Article 77

Allocation of charges

Except where expressly provided by the Convention and the Agreements each Administration retains the whole of the charges which it has collected.

Article 78

Transit charges

1. Subject to the provisions of Article 79, closed mails exchanged between two Administrations or between two offices of the same Country by means of the services of one or more other Administrations (third party services) are subject, in favour of each of the Countries across whose territory or by whose services they are carried, to the transit charges indicated in the table below. These charges are payable by the Administration of the Country of origin of the mail.

Distance traversed (1)	Charge per kg. gross (2)
	fr. c.
(I) Distances traversed by land:	
Up to 300 kms.	0.07

Above 300 up to 600 kms.	0.12
600 up to 1000 kms.	0.17
1000 up to 1500 kms.	0.24
1500 up to 2000 kms.	0.32
2000 up to 2500 kms.	0.39
2500 up to 3000 kms.	0.46
3000 up to 3800 kms.	0.55
3800 up to 4600 kms.	0.66
4600 up to 5500 kms.	0.77
5500 up to 6500 kms.	0.90
Above 6500 kms.	1.03
(II) Distances traversed by sea:	
Up to 300 nautical miles	0.12
Above 300 up to 600 nautical miles	0.17
600 up to 1000 nautical miles	0.21
1000 up to 1500 nautical miles	0.24
1500 up to 2000 nautical miles	0.27
2000 up to 2500 nautical miles	0.30
2500 up to 3000 nautical miles	0.32
3000 up to 3500 nautical miles	0.34
3500 up to 4000 nautical miles	0.36
4000 up to 5000 nautical miles	0.38
5000 up to 6000 nautical miles	0.41
6000 up to 7000 nautical miles	0.44
7000 up to 8000 nautical miles	0.46
Above 8000 nautical miles	0.48

2. In the absence of other arrangements direct sea conveyance between two Countries by the ships of one of them is regarded as a third party service.

3. So far as the payment of transit charges is concerned, missent mails are considered to have followed their normal route.

4. Sea transit begins when the mails are put under the hoist and ends when they have been unloaded on to the quay.

5. It follows from SS3 that Administrations concerned in the conveyance of missent mails are not entitled on that account to demand a payment from the despatching Administration, but the latter remain liable for the appropriate transit charges to the Countries whose services they normally use.

Article 79

Exemption from transit charges

Correspondence exempted from postage under Articles 36 to 38 is exempted from all land or sea transit charges.

Article 80

Extraordinary services

The transit charges specified in Article 78 are not applicable to conveyance by extraordinary services specially established or maintained by an 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 81

Accounting for transit charges

1. The general accounting for transit charges is based on data from statistical returns 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 of any one Country. The Detailed Regulations fix the incidence of the statistics and the duration of their application.
2. When the annual balance between two Administrations does not exceed 25 francs, the debtor Administration is exempted from any payment.
3. Every Administration 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 arbitration is arranged as laid down in Article 31.
4. The arbitrators are empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the transit charges proper to be paid.

Article 82

Exchange of closed mails with ships of war

1. Closed mails may be exchanged between the post offices of any one of the member-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 of one of those ships of war and the commanding officer of another division or of another ship of the same Country, through the intermediary of the land or sea services of other Countries.
2. Correspondence of every kind enclosed in these mails shall be confined to that 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 fixed, according to its internal regulations, by the postal Administration of the Country to which the ships belong.
3. In the absence of other arrangements, the postal Administration of the Country to which the ships of war belong is accountable to the intermediate Administrations for the transit charges for the mails calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 78.

PART III

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 83

Entry into force and duration of the Convention

The present Convention shall come into force on 1 July 1953 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 lie in the Archives of the Government of Belgium and of which a copy shall be delivered to each Party.

DONE at Brussels, 11 July 1952.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

At the moment of proceeding to sign the Universal Postal Convention concluded this day the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Article I

Exception to the freedom of transit of small packets

In derogation of the provisions of Article 32 the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is authorised not to admit small packets in transit through its territories, on the understanding that this restriction is applied without distinction to every Country of the Union.

Article II

Exception to free postage for literature for the blind

Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 38 and 48 those Countries which do not concede free postage to literature for the blind in their internal service have the option of making a charge which must not in any event exceed the one in their internal service.

Article III

Equivalents. Maximum and minimum limits

1. Each Country has the option of increasing by 60% or reducing by 20%, at most, the charges prescribed in Article 48, SS1, in accordance with the following table:

Category	Charges	
1	Upper limit	Lower limit
	2	3
	c.	c.

Letters {first weight step	32	16
{each succeeding step	19.2	9.6
Postcards {single	19.2	9.6
{reply-paid	38.4	19.2
Commercial papers {first weight step	12.8	6.4
{each succeeding step	6.4	3.2
{minimum charge	32	16
Literature for the blind	-	-
Printed papers {first weight step	12.8	6.4
{each succeeding step	6.4	3.2
Samples of merchandise {first weight step	12.8	6.4
{each succeeding step	6.4	3.2
Small packets {per 50 grams	12.8	6.4
{minimum charge	64	32
"Phonopost" items {first weight step	24	12
{each succeeding step	16	8

2. The charges adopted are, as far as possible, to bear the same proportions to one another as the basic charges, each Administration being free to round its charges up or down as the case may be according to the characteristics of its monetary system.
3. The tariff adopted by a Country applies to the charges to be collected on arrival in cases of non-payment or underpayment of postage.
4. Nevertheless Administrations which take advantage of the increase provided for in SS1 may fix the charges to be collected in cases of non-payment or underpayment of postage in accordance with the equivalent of the basic charges indicated in Article 48, SS1, and not with their increased outward charges.

Article IV

Exceptions to the application of the tariff for commercial papers, printed papers and samples of merchandise

1. In derogation of the provisions of Article 48, Countries have the right not to apply to commercial papers, printed papers and samples of merchandise the charge fixed for the first weight step, and to maintain for that step the charge of 4 centimes with a minimum of 8 centimes for samples of merchandise. In the case of grouped categories, the charge paid shall be the minimum charge for samples if the item consists of printed papers and samples.
2. Exceptionally, Countries are authorised to bring their international rates for commercial papers, printed papers and samples of merchandise up to those laid down by their internal legislation for similar items in their internal service.

Article V

Ounce avoirdupois

As an exceptional measure, Countries which by reason of their internal regulations are unable to adopt the metric-decimal system of weight, are permitted the right to substitute for it the ounce avoirdupois (28.3465 grams) taking one ounce as equivalent to 20 grams for letters and "Phonopost" items and two ounces as equivalent to 50 grams for commercial papers, printed papers, literature for the blind, samples of merchandise and small packets.

Article VI

Size of letters

Countries which would not be in a position to bring into operation the minimum limits of size of 10 x 7 cms. laid down for letters in Article 48, SS1 (column 5 of the table) are allowed a period of two years dating from the entry into force of the present Convention for applying these limits.

Article VII

Posting of correspondence abroad

A Country is not bound to forward or deliver to the addressee items which senders resident in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign Country with the object of profiting by the lower charges 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 may either return the items in question to origin or tax them at its internal rates. The method by which the charges are collected is left to its discretion.

Article VIII

International reply coupons

Administrations are permitted not to undertake the sale of international reply coupons or to limit their sale.

Article IX

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration of address

The provisions of Article 57 do not apply to the Union of South Africa, the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, New Zealand and Pakistan, or to those of the British overseas Territories, including the Colonies, the Protectorates and the Territories under trusteeship exercised by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or to the Irish Republic, whose internal legislation does not permit the withdrawal from the post or the alteration of the address of correspondence at the sender's request.

Article X

Registration fee

Countries which cannot fix at 40 centimes the registration fee prescribed in Article 67, SS2 are authorised to charge a fee up to 50 centimes or that fixed for their internal service as the case may be.

Article XI

Special transit charges for conveyance by the Trans-Siberian and Trans-Andine

1. In derogation of the provisions of Article 78, SS1 (table), the postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is authorised to collect charges for transit over the Trans-Siberian for both routes (Manchuria or Vladivostock) at the rate of 2 francs 50 centimes per kilogram for all types of correspondence for distances in excess of 6,000 kilometres.

2. The Administration of the Argentine Republic is authorised to charge 30 centimes over and above the transit charges indicated in Article 78, SS1(i), for each kilogram of correspondence of every type conveyed in transit over the Argentine section of the *Ferrocarril Trasandino*.

Article XII

Special transit conditions for Afghanistan

In derogation of the provisions of Article 78, SS1, the Administration of Afghanistan is authorised provisionally, because of its special difficulties as regards means of conveyance and communication, to effect the transit of closed mails and *à découvert* correspondence across its territory on conditions specially agreed with the Administrations concerned.

Article XIII

Special storage charges at Aden

Exceptionally, the Administration of Aden is authorised to collect a charge of 40 centimes per bag for all mails stored at Aden, provided that that Administration does not receive any fee in respect of land or sea transit for those mails.

Article XIV

Special transhipment charges

Exceptionally, the Portuguese Administration is authorised to collect 40 centimes per bag for all mails transhipped in the port of Lisbon.

Article XV

Air services

1. The provisions regarding airmail correspondence are annexed to the Universal Postal Convention and are regarded as forming an integral part of it and of its Detailed Regulations.

2. However, in derogation of the general provisions of the Convention, the amendment of these provisions may be considered from time to time by a Conference composed of the representatives of the Administrations directly concerned.

3. Such a Conference may be convened through the intermediary of the International Bureau at the request of at least three of these Administrations.

4. The whole of the provisions proposed by the Conference shall be submitted through the intermediary of the International Bureau to the vote of the Countries of the Union. The decision will be taken by the majority of votes cast.

Article XVI

Protocol left open to member-Countries for signature and accession

The Protocol remains open for the benefit of member-Countries whose representatives have today signed only the Convention or a certain number of the Agreements drawn up by the Congress, with the aim of allowing them to accede to any or all of the other Agreements signed this day.

Article XVII

Protocol left open to member-Countries not represented

The Protocol remains open to member-Countries not represented at the Congress, in order to allow them to accede to the Convention and to the Agreements there concluded or only to one or other of them.

Article XVIII

Period for the notification of accessions

The accession referred to in Articles XVI and XVII shall be notified in diplomatic form by the respective Governments to the Government of Belgium and by that Government to the Governments of the other member-Countries of the Union. The period allowed to the said Governments for such notification expires on 1 July 1953.

Article XIX

Protocol left open to Germany temporarily precluded from acceding to the Convention and the Agreements

1. Germany, temporarily precluded from acceding to the Convention and the Agreements, may accede to these Acts without submitting to the formalities prescribed in Article 3, at the time considered opportune by the responsible authority.
2. The accession referred to in SS1 shall be notified in diplomatic form by the Government concerned to the Government of Belgium and by that Government to the Governments of the other member-Countries of the Union.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the undermentioned Plenipotentiaries have drawn up the present Protocol which shall have the same force and validity as if the provisions were inserted in the actual text of the Convention, and they have signed it in a single copy which shall lie in the Archives of the Government of Belgium and of which a copy shall be delivered to each Party.

DONE at Brussels, 11 July 1952.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

ANNEX

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

[Not reproduced here.]

DETAILED REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE UNIVERSAL

POSTAL CONVENTION

[Not reproduced here.]

PROVISIONS REGARDING AIRMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Correspondence eligible for air conveyance

1. Every category of correspondence mentioned in Article 47 of the Convention, as well as postal money orders, bills for collection, trade charge money orders and newspapers and periodicals sent under postal subscription arrangements are eligible for air conveyance. In this event these items are called "Airmail Correspondence" and are classified into items on which a special surcharge for air conveyance is levied (surcharged items) and others on which no such charge is due (unsurcharged items).
2. Administrations may also admit to air conveyance the letters called "Aerogrammes" mentioned in Article 5, SS8.
3. Items mentioned in Article 47 of the Convention may be submitted to registration procedure and carry liability for trade charges. Aerogrammes may be submitted to registration procedure if the regulations of the Country of origin allow.
4. Insured letters and boxes may also be conveyed by air in the service between Countries which agree to the exchange of items of the kind by this means.
5. Surcharged airmail correspondence should bear very conspicuously on the front the indication *Par avion* [By air] or a similar indication in the language of the Country of origin.

Article 2

Freedom of transit

The freedom of transit prescribed in Article 32 of the Convention is guaranteed for airmail correspondence throughout the entire territory of the Union, whether or not the intermediate Administrations take part in re-forwarding the correspondence.

Article 3

Routeing of airmail correspondence

1. Administrations using air communications for the conveyance of their own surcharged airmail correspondence are bound to forward by the same communications the surcharged airmail correspondence which reaches them from other Administrations. The same applies to unsurcharged airmail correspondence provided that the available aircraft capacity permits and the Administration of origin so requests.

2. Administrations without an air service forward airmail correspondence by the most rapid means used for mails. The same applies if for any reason routeing by surface means is more advantageous than the use of airlines.
3. Closed air mails shall be forwarded by the means requested by the Administration of the Country of origin, provided that it is used by the Administration of the Country of transit for the transmission of its own mails.
4. To determine the most favourable course, the office of origin may send to the office of destination of a mail a trial note on the model of form C27 annexed to the Detailed Regulations for implementing the Convention; this note should be included in the mail, attached to the letter bill. The trial note, duly filled in, should be returned to the office of origin by the first air mail.

Article 4

Steps to be taken in the event of an accident in course of conveyance

1. When as result of an accident in course of conveyance an aircraft is unable to continue its flight and deliver the mail at the scheduled stopping places, the crew of the aircraft shall hand over the mails to the post office nearest to the place of the accident or to the office best able to reforward the mail. If the crew are prevented from doing so, that office on being informed of the accident does all it can to take over the mails without delay. The mails are to be sent on to the offices of destination by the most rapid means after their condition has been checked and any damaged correspondence has been restored.
2. The circumstances of the accident and the results of the check are notified by verification note to the offices of destination of the mails involved in the accident; a copy of the note is sent to the office of origin of the mails. These documents are sent by the most rapid means (air or surface). In addition, the Administration of the Country to which the air service belongs is informed by telegraph of the fate of the mail. That Administration in turn advises the Administrations concerned by telegram.

Article 5

Charges and general conditions of admission of airmail correspondence

1. Surcharged airmail correspondence is subject, in addition to the standard postal charges, to a special surcharge for air conveyance the amount of which is due to be fixed by the Administration of the Country of origin. Subject to what is stated in SS2 the air surcharge is also payable on airmail correspondence which benefits by free postage under the provisions of Articles 37 and 38 of the Convention.
2. Administrations are permitted not to collect a surcharge for air conveyance, provided that they inform the Countries of destination and transit of the fact.
3. Air surcharges shall be closely related to conveyance costs and as a general rule their proceeds shall not in total exceed the costs payable for such conveyance.
4. Surcharges shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of a Country of destination whatever the route used.
5. Surcharges are to be paid before despatch.
6. The surcharge for a reply-paid postcard is collected separately for each half, at the time of despatch of each of the halves.

7. Airmail correspondence is prepaid in the manner prescribed in Articles 52 and 53 of the Convention. Nevertheless and irrespective of the category of correspondence, prepayment of postage may be represented by an indication in manuscript (in figures) of the sum collected, expressed in the currency of the Country of origin, as, for example: "*Taxe perçue*: ... dollars ... cents" [Amount collected: ... dollars ... cents]. This indication may appear either in a special stamp impression or on a special stamp or label, or simply be marked by any method on the address side of the item. In every case, the indication should be authenticated by a datestamp impression of the office of origin.

8. The aerogramme consists of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed, the size of which, in that form, shall be that of a postcard. The front of the sheet when folded in this way is reserved for the address and must bear the printed indication "Aerogramme". A similar indication in the language of the Country of origin is permitted. The sender may use for correspondence every part of the sheet other than that used for the address. The aerogramme shall not contain anything. The charge is at least equal to that applicable in the Country of origin to an unsurcharged letter of the first weight step. Each Administration fixes the conditions of issue, manufacture and sale of aerogrammes.

9. Any aerogramme not fulfilling the conditions laid down in SS8 loses its special character; it is treated, where necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.

Article 6

Unpaid or underpaid airmail correspondence

1. In the event of entire absence of prepayment airmail correspondence is treated in accordance with the provisions of Articles 51 and 54 of the Convention. Items on which the prepayment of postage is not obligatory before despatch are transmitted by ordinary means.

2. In the event of underpayment surcharged airmail correspondence is transmitted by air when the charges paid represent at least the amount of the air surcharge. Administrations of origin are permitted to forward this correspondence by air when the charges paid represent 75% at least of the amount of the air surcharge.

3. In either case underpaid items are marked with a T stamp and an indication of the amount in gold francs and centimes of the charge to be collected under the conditions laid down by Article 148 of the Detailed Regulations for implementing the Convention.

4. The provisions of Article 54 of the Convention apply as regards the collection of charges not paid at the time of despatch.

5. When the surcharged items mentioned in SS2 are transmitted by ordinary means, the office of posting or the office of exchange is to strike through with thick horizontal lines the *Par avion* [By air] label and any note relating to air conveyance and indicate briefly the reasons for transmission by ordinary means.

Article 7

Delivery of airmail correspondence

Airmail correspondence is delivered with the utmost rapidity possible and shall at least be included in the first delivery after its arrival at the delivery office.

Article 8

Redirection and return of airmail correspondence

1. In principle airmail correspondence addressed to addressees who have changed their address is redirected to the new destination by the means of conveyance normally used.
2. Similarly, airmail correspondence which is undeliverable or which for any reason has not been delivered to the addressees is returned to origin by the means of conveyance normally used.
3. However, at the express request of the addressee (in the case of redirection) or of the sender (in the case of return to origin) and provided that the person concerned undertakes to pay the air surcharges appropriate to the further transmission, the items in question may be redirected or returned by air. In either case the surcharge is collected at the time of delivery of the item and is retained by the delivering Administration.
4. If the redirection or return of surcharged correspondence is effected by ordinary postal means, the *Par avion* [By air] label and any note relating to transmission by air should be struck through as a matter of course by means of two thick horizontal lines.

Article 9

Redirection envelopes and collective envelopes

Redirection envelopes and collective envelopes are forwarded to their new destination by the ordinary means of conveyance unless the air surcharge is paid in advance to the redirecting office, or the addressee or sender as the case may be undertakes to pay the surcharges appropriate to the further distance to be flown, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8, SS3.

CHAPTER II

REGISTERED OR INSURED ITEMS

Article 10

Registered items

Registered items are subject to air surcharges in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 for unregistered airmail correspondence.

Article 11

Advice of delivery

Each Administration is authorised to take into account the weight of the advice of delivery form in calculating the air surcharge.

Article 12

Responsibility

Administrations accept the same responsibility for registered items forwarded by air as for registered items sent by surface.

Article 13

Insured items

As regards insured items sent in closed mails through the territory of Countries that are not parties to the Agreement concerning items of the kind or conveyed by air services on which the Countries in question do not accept responsibility for insured items, the responsibility of those Countries is limited to that prescribed for registered items.

CHAPTER III

ALLOCATION OF AIR SURCHARGES. CONVEYANCE CHARGES

Article 14

Allocation of air surcharges

Each Administration retains the whole of the air surcharges which it has collected.

Article 15

Air conveyance charges for closed mails

1. The Administrations of Countries flown over are not entitled to any remuneration in respect of mails conveyed by air over their territory. The provisions of Article 78 of the Convention concerning transit charges apply to airmail correspondence only for such distances as may be covered by land or by sea. Nevertheless, no transit charges may be demanded either for the transhipment of air mails between two airports serving the same town or for the conveyance of such mails from an airport serving a town to a depot situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.
2. The air conveyance charges for airmail correspondence despatched in closed mails are borne by the Administration of the Country of origin of the mail.
3. Each Administration undertaking conveyance by air of airmail correspondence as an intermediate Administration is entitled on that account to remuneration for the conveyance charges. This remuneration is calculated by multiplying the conveyance rates (fixed within the limit of the maximum basic rates prescribed in SS9) by the kilometric distances appearing in the *Liste des distances aéropostales* [List of airmail distances] provided for in Article 17, SS2. If the aircraft calls at several airports, the remuneration is due as far as the airport where the mails are offloaded.
4. Except where corresponding Administrations have agreed not to collect any remuneration from each other for the conveyance of mail in the interior of the Country of destination, the charges for such conveyance are calculated on the basis of the rates prescribed in SS9 and according to the average of the sectors flown in the internal system and the importance of each one for international traffic. The remuneration should be uniform for all these sectors.
5. The conveyance charges applicable to a particular sector are uniform for all Administrations that use this service without sharing in the working expenses.
6. Apart from the exceptions provided for in SSSS7 and 8, the air conveyance charges are payable to the postal Administration of the Country in which is situated the airport at which the mails are taken over by the air service.
7. The Administration handing over to an air transport undertaking mails intended for conveyance successively by several distinct air services may, if it has so agreed with the intermediate Administrations, settle directly with that undertaking the conveyance charges for the whole distance flown. The intermediate Administrations have, for their part, the right to demand the application pure and simple of the provisions of SS6.

8. In derogation of the stipulations of SSSS6 and 7 each Administration maintaining an air service reserves to itself the right to collect directly from each Administration using the service the conveyance charges applicable to the whole distance flown.

9. The basic rates[7] applicable to the settlement of accounts between Administrations in respect of air conveyance are fixed per kilogram of gross weight and per kilometre. These rates, detailed below, apply proportionally to fractions of a kilogram:

(a) for LC items (letters, postcards, postal money orders, bills for collection, trade charge money orders, insured letters and boxes, enquiries, advices of payment, advices of delivery): 3 millièmes of a franc as a maximum. However, this flat rate is increased to 4 millièmes of a franc as a maximum for LC item conveyed by lines for which the conveyance rate in force at 1 July 1952, exceeded 3 millièmes of a franc;

(b) for AO items (items other than LC and newspapers): 1.25 millièmes of a franc as a maximum;

(c) for *Journaux* [Newspapers]: 1 millième of a franc as a maximum.

10. The conveyance charges mentioned above are payable also in respect of correspondence exempted from transit charges and for mails or correspondence missent or diverted.

11. If the mails are lost or destroyed as a result of an accident to the aircraft no air conveyance charges are payable in respect of the air mails lost or destroyed for any part of the flight of the line employed.

12. When a mail conveying flight is interrupted *en route* and for this reason the mail cannot be delivered at the usual airport, payment is only due for that part of the journey terminating at the last place of call regularly served. The charges for reforwarding which arise from flights which the mail has subsequently to make in order to reach its destination remain to be borne by the Administration of origin of the items.

Article 16

Conveyance charges for *à découvert* airmail correspondence

1. The conveyance charges for airmail correspondence exchanged *à découvert* between two Administrations shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 15, SSSS1 to 5, 9, 10 and 12. Nevertheless, when the territory of the Country of destination of such correspondence is served by a line with several places of call in that territory, the conveyance charges are calculated on the basis of a mean tariff taking into account the weight of the mail offloaded at each place of call.

2. In order to determine the conveyance charges the net weight of airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* is increased by 5%.

3. The Administration which despatches airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* to another Administration shall pay to that Administration all the conveyance charges due for the whole of the onward distance flown.

CHAPTER IV

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Article 17

Communications to be addressed to the International Bureau and to Administrations

1. Administrations shall communicate to the International Bureau on the forms sent to them by the latter the necessary information concerning the operation of the airmail service. This information includes in particular an indication:

(a) as regards the internal service:

(i) of the districts and principal towns to which mails or airmail correspondence originating abroad are forwarded by internal air services;

(ii) of the conveyance charges per kilogram calculated in accordance with Article 15, SS4, and the date of application of these charges.

(b) as regards the international service:

(i) of the conveyance charges per kilogram which the Administration concerned collects direct under Article 15, SSSS6, 7 and 8, with the date of application of these charges, in respect of each air company and each sector flown;

(ii) of the Countries for which the Administration concerned makes up closed air mails and, in each case, of the air companies used for each flight, of the Administrations to which the conveyance charges in respect of each company are payable and, finally, of the flat conveyance charges for airmail correspondence exchanged *à découvert*, with the date of application of these charges;

(iii) of the other Countries for which airmail correspondence is accepted, with details in each case of the intermediate Countries to which the correspondence in question is transmitted *à découvert*;

(iv) of the decision of each Administration regarding the option to apply or not certain provisions concerning the conveyance of airmail correspondence.

2. The International Bureau is responsible for preparing the following documents and distributing them to Administrations:

(a) General list of airmail services (known as *Liste AVI*) published from the information collected under SS1;

(b) *Liste des distances aéropostales* [List of airmail distances] drawn up every two years in collaboration with the air carriers and published after its contents have been agreed by Administrations;

(c) *Liste des surtaxes aériennes* [List of air surcharges] (the surcharges levied by each Administration for the various categories of airmail correspondence and for the various Countries).

3. The International Bureau is also responsible for supplying to Administrations, at their request and expense, maps of the airlines and air timetables regularly published by a specialist private organisation and recognised as being best suited to the needs of airmail services.

4. Any amendments to the information mentioned in SS1 should be communicated to the International Bureau without delay, by the most rapid means, whether air or surface. Similarly, any amendments to the documents listed in SS2 and the date on which the amendments take effect are notified to Administrations by the most rapid means, whether air or surface, with the minimum of delay and in the most appropriate form.

5. Independently of the foregoing, Administrations may agree to exchange direct, on a provisional basis, particulars and timetables of the airlines in which they are specially interested.

6. Administrations which use air communications for the conveyance of their own ordinary mails are to notify the other Administrations of the Union accordingly through the intermediary of the International Bureau, informing them, at the same time, of the date from which the communications are used, the connexions opened up and any changes which are made.

CHAPTER V

ACCOUNTING. SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Article 18

Methods of accounting for air conveyance charges

1. Accounting for air conveyance charges is effected on the basis of the gross weight of mails, or the net weight increased by 5% of *à découvert* correspondence actually conveyed during the accounting period. This period may be of one or three months at the choice of the creditor Administration.

2. Nevertheless, and in derogation of the provisions of SS1, Administrations may, by common consent, decide that accounts be settled on the basis of statistical returns. In that case, they arrange between themselves the details of the procedure to be followed in compiling the statistics and preparing the accounts.

3. The Administrations concerned may agree that air mails conveyed on a sector by surface means should not be included in the statistics relating to surface transit charges. In that case, the transit charges for these air mails are calculated on their actual gross weight as shown on statements AV7 in the form annexed.

Article 19

Establishment of the weight of air mails and airmail correspondence

1. The number of the mail and the gross weight of each bag, envelope or packet of newspapers is shown on the label or with the external address.

2. If more than one of the three classes of correspondence, LC, AO and *Journaux* [Newspapers], are included in the same bag, envelope or packet of newspapers, the weight of each, as well as the total weight, should be shown on the label or with the external address. The weight of the outer packing is added to the weight of those items included therein that are chargeable at the lowest conveyance rate. If a *sac collecteur* is used, its weight is not taken into account.

3. The number of the mail, the total weight of each class of correspondence and all other necessary particulars appearing with the external address is to be copied on to the form AV7 when the mail is conveyed by an international air service.

4. If *à découvert* correspondence intended for onward conveyance by air is included in an ordinary mail or in an air mail, the correspondence is made up in a special bundle labelled *Par avion* [By air] and accompanied by statements AV2 in the form annexed, one for unregistered items and another for registered items. The weight of correspondence in transit *à découvert* is shown separately for each Country of destination or for each group of Countries for which the conveyance charges are the same. In the service between Administrations which have agreed not to collect any remuneration from each other for forwarding mails by air on their internal system, the weight of *à découvert* correspondence

for the Country of destination itself is not shown. The letter bill is endorsed *Bordereau AV2* [Statement AV2]. Transit Administrations are at liberty to request the use of special statements AV2 listing in a fixed order the most important Countries and airlines. Statements AV2 should be specially numbered in a consecutive annual series.

5. If the intermediate office establishes that the actual weight of the closed mails differs by more than 100 grams and that of the *à découvert* correspondence by more than 20 grams from the weight recorded, it amends the label or statement AV2 and immediately notifies the despatching office of exchange of the mistake by verification note. If the discrepancies noted are within the abovementioned limits, the entries made by the despatching office hold good.

6. The absence of a statement AV2 does not entitle a transit Administration to forward surcharged airmail items by surface. Onward transmission by air should be ensured. In appropriate cases, a statement AV2 is prepared as a matter of course and the office of origin made aware of the irregularity by means of a note C14.

7. Incoming mails may be enclosed in another mail of the same kind unless the Administrations concerned object.

8. Airmail correspondence posted on board ship on the high seas, prepaid by means of postage stamps of the Country to which the ship belongs or by which it is maintained, shall be accompanied by a statement AV2 when handed over *à découvert* to the Administration at an intermediate port of call, or, if the ship is not provided with a post office, by a statement of weights which should be used by the intermediate Administration as a basis for claiming the air conveyance charges. The statement AV2 or statement of weights should include the weight of the correspondence for each Country of destination, the date, and the name and flag of the ship, and be numbered in a consecutive annual series for each ship. These particulars are checked by the office to which the correspondence is handed over from the ship.

Article 20

Preparation of statements of weights of mails and correspondence conveyed

1. Creditor Administrations note on a statement AV3 in the form annexed the particulars given, either on forms AV7 when international air services are concerned, or on the labels or with the external addresses of mails where internal air services are concerned. For *à découvert* correspondence which reaches them from other Administrations and which they forward by air a statement AV4 in the form annexed is drawn up in accordance with the particulars appearing on the statements AV2. The same procedure applies to airmail correspondence contained in ordinary mails. At the request of debtor Administrations separate statements are drawn up for each office of exchange which despatches air mails or *à découvert* airmail correspondence.

2. Statements AV3 and AV4 are prepared monthly or quarterly at the choice of the creditor Administrations.

Article 21

Communication and acceptance of statements of weights AV3 and AV4 and preparation of detailed accounts

1. As soon as possible and at the latest within one year from the end of the period to which they refer the statements AV3 and AV4 are communicated in duplicate to the despatching Administration for acceptance. After accepting the statement the latter Administration returns one copy to the creditor Administration. The despatching Administration may refuse to accept statements not communicated

to it within the abovementioned period of one year.

2. If the creditor Administration receives no notice of amendment within an interval of three months from the despatch of the statements, they are regarded as fully accepted.

3. Detailed accounts are drawn up by each creditor Administration on a form AV5 in the form annexed, showing the conveyance charges to its credit for the period concerned.

4. These accounts are prepared monthly or quarterly on the basis of the gross weight of mails and the net weight increased by 5% of *à découvert* items appearing on the statements AV3 and AV4 and accepted either explicitly or implicitly by the debtor Administration. The detailed accounts AV5 are communicated to that Administration in duplicate.

5. After accepting the accounts the debtor Administration returns one copy to the creditor Administration. If the latter has received no notice of amendment within two months from the despatch of the accounts, they are regarded as fully accepted.

6. In derogation of the provisions of SSSS1, 2, 4 and 5, creditor Administrations may draw up the relative detailed accounts at the same time as the statements AV3 and AV4 and communicate them all together in duplicate to the debtor Administration. The latter after accepting them returns one copy to the creditor Administration. If the creditor Administration has received no notice of amendment within four months from the despatch of the accounts, they are regarded as fully accepted.

7. In the absence of any agreement to the contrary between the Administrations concerned the statements AV3 and AV4 and the detailed accounts AV5 are always transmitted in both directions by the most rapid means available to the post, whether air or surface.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 22

Marking of airmail correspondence

At the time of despatch surcharged airmail correspondence has affixed, preferably at the upper left-hand corner on the front, a special label or stamp impression in blue bearing the words *Par avion* [By air] with, if desired, a translation in the language of the Country of origin.

Article 23

Marking of air mails

1. It is obligatory to make up air mails with bags either entirely blue or bearing wide blue bands. Exceptionally, if the airmail correspondence for despatch consists only of unregistered items, it may be enclosed in envelopes made of strong blue paper.

2. The bag labels or, as the case may be, the address, on envelopes containing air mails and on packets of newspapers, shall bear particulars of the weight of each of the different classes: LC, AO or *Journaux* [Newspapers].

Article 24

Use of *sacs collecteurs*

1. When warranted by the number of light weight bags, envelopes or packets of newspapers to be conveyed on the same sector, post offices responsible for handing over air mails to the air company undertaking the conveyance make up, as far as possible, *sacs collecteurs* for the offices of offloading.
2. The labels of *sacs collecteurs* shall bear in bold letters the indication *Sac collecteur*. The Administrations concerned agree as to the address to be put on the labels.
3. Mails included in a *sac collecteur* shall be entered individually on the AV7 with an indication that they are enclosed in a *sac collecteur*.
4. The *sac collecteur* shall be listed separately as such on the form AV6 in the form annexed.

Article 25

Method of despatching airmail correspondence

1. The provisions of Articles 158, SS2(a) and 160 of the Detailed Regulations for implementing the Convention apply by analogy to airmail correspondence included in ordinary mails. The labels of the bundles should bear the note *Par avion* [By air].
2. If registered airmail correspondence is included in ordinary mails, the indication *Par avion* [By air] should be entered in the space prescribed in SS3 of Article 160 for the indication *Exprès* [Express].
3. In the case of insured airmail correspondence included in ordinary mails the indication *Par avion* [By air] is entered in the "Observations" column of the despatch lists against the respective entries.
4. Transit airmail correspondence sent *à découvert* in an air mail or in an ordinary mail for re-forwarding by air by the Country of destination of the mail is gathered into a special bundle labelled *Par avion* [By air].
5. The transit Country may ask for special bundles to be made up according to the Country of destination. In that event each bundle is provided with a label bearing the indication *Par avion pour ...* [By air for ...].

Article 26

Airmail way bill and delivery bill

1. Mails to be handed over at the airport are accompanied by:
 - (a) three copies of a yellow way bill AV6;
 - (b) not more than four copies of a white delivery bill AV7 for each point of call on the flight.
2. A copy of the way bill AV6 signed by the representative of the air company responsible for the ground services is retained by the despatching office; the other two copies are handed to the conveying company.
3. Of the four copies of the delivery bill AV7 mentioned in SS1(b), the first is retained at the airport of loading by the air company responsible for the ground services; the second is handed over at the airport of offloading to the air company responsible for the ground services at that airport; the third accompanies the mails to the post office to which the delivery bill is addressed; the fourth, duly signed at the airport of offloading as a receipt for the mails, is retained by the air crew on behalf of their company.

Article 27

Transhipment of air mails

1. In the absence of any agreement to the contrary between the Administrations concerned, the transhipment at the same airport, in course of transmission, of mails conveyed successively by several distinct air services is performed by the Administration of the Country in which the transhipment takes place. This rule does not apply when the transhipment takes place between aircraft performing successive stages of the same service.
2. The Administration of the transit Country may authorise a transhipment direct from one aircraft to another, if it has no post office at the airport. Where required the transport undertaking is under obligation to send to the office of exchange of the Country where the transhipment takes place a document giving full details of the operation.

Article 28

Speeding-up of operations at airports

Administrations take the necessary steps to speed up the taking over and onward transmission of air mails arriving at their airports.

Article 29

Notes to be made on the letter bills, despatch lists and labels of air mails

The letter bills and the despatch lists which accompany air mails should bear at the head a *Par avion* [By air] label or the stamp impression referred to in Article 22. The same label or stamp impression is affixed to the labels or addresses of those mails. The serial number of the mails should be shown on their labels or addresses.

Article 30

Customs clearance of correspondence subject to Customs duty

Administrations take steps to speed up as much as possible the clearance through the Customs of airmail correspondence subject to Customs duty.

Article 31

Return of empty airmail bags

1. In the absence of other arrangements airmail bags should be returned empty to the Administration of origin by surface means. When they number at least ten they occasion the making-up of a special mail between airmail offices of exchange appointed for the purpose; these mails are labelled *Sacs vides* [Empty bags] and numbered in an annual series. The letter bill shows the number of bags returned to the Country of origin.
2. Subject to prior agreement an Administration may use bags belonging to the Administration of destination for the making-up of its mails.
3. The provisions of SSSS5 and 6 of Article 169 of the Detailed Regulations for implementing the Convention apply to empty airmail bags.

Article 32

Application of the provisions of the Convention and of the Agreements

The provisions of the Convention and of the Agreements and of their Detailed Regulations, except the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels and its Detailed Regulations, apply as regards everything which is not expressly provided for in the preceding Articles.

Article 33

Entry into force and duration of the provisions adopted

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

DONE at Brussels, 11 July 1952.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE PROVISIONS CONCERNING AIRMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Article I

Option to reduce the unit of weight for airmail correspondence

In fixing air surcharges Administrations have the option of adopting weight units smaller than the basic units prescribed in Article 48 of the Convention.

Article II

Temporary provisions regarding aerogrammes

The provisions of Article 5, SS8, second sentence, remain optional until the expiry of a period of two years from the date of entry into force of the Convention.

Article III

Exceptional surcharge

Owing to the special geographical situation of the USSR, the Administration of that Country reserves to itself the right to apply a uniform surcharge throughout the whole territory of the USSR for all the Countries of the world. This fee shall not exceed the actual expenses occasioned by the conveyance of the correspondence by air.

DONE at Brussels, 11 July 1952.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

LIST OF FORMS

No.	Title or nature of form	References
1	2	3
AV1	General list of airmail services, known as List AV1	Article 17, SS2(a)
AV2	Statement No. ... of the weights of {unregistered} {registered} airmail correspondence	Article 19, SS4
AV3	Statement of weights of closed air mails	Article 20, SS1
AV4	Statement of weights of <i>à découvert</i> airmail items	Article 20, SS1
AV5	Detailed account concerning airmail correspondence (Basis: actual weights)	Article 21, SS3
AV6	Way bill of air mails	Article 24, SS4 and Article 26, SS1(a)
AV7	Delivery bill of air mails	Article 18, SS3 and Article 26, SS1(b)

ANNEXES: FORMS AV1 TO AV7

[Not reproduced here.]

[1] Original texts are in the French language only.

[\[2\]ATS 1949 No. 8](#)

[\[3\] For text see ATS 1949 No. 8](#)

[4] Instrument of ratification of the Convention, and Final Protocol, Detailed Regulations, Provisions regarding Air Correspondence, and Final Protocol, with declaration of acceptance, *inter alia*, on behalf of Norfolk Island, deposited for Australia 3 May 1954.

[\[5\]ATS 1958 No. 21](#)p. 31; Act 1957 No. 103; UKTS 1958 No. 39 (Cmnd. 550); SP 157 p. 284; UNTS 75 p. 135; TIAS 3364; CTS 1965 No. 20 p. 85; NZTS 1963 No. 3.

[\[6\]ATS 1958 No. 21](#)p. 66; Act 1957 No. 103; SP 157 p. 355; UKTS 1958 No. 39 (Cmnd. 550); UNTS 75 p. 287; TIAS 3365; CTS 1965 No. 20 p. 164; NZTS 1963 No. 3.