



Australian Treaty Series

[\[Index\]](#) [\[Global Search\]](#) [\[Database Search\]](#) [\[Notes\]](#) [\[Noteup\]](#) [\[Help\]](#)

Australian Treaty Series 1994 No 29

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

CANBERRA

Universal Postal Union (UPU):

Fourth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the UPU;

General Regulations of the UPU;

Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol;

Postal Parcels Agreement, and Final Protocol

(Washington, 14 December 1989)

Entry into force generally: 1 January 1991

AUSTRALIAN TREATY SERIES

1994 No. 29

Australian Government Publishing Service

Canberra

(c) Commonwealth of Australia 1995

CONTENTS

Title Page

Fourth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union 1

General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union 6

Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol 41

Postal Parcels Agreement, and Final Protocol 106

FOURTH ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

The plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, met in Congress at Washington, in view of article 30, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have adopted, subject to ratification, the following amendments to that Constitution.[\[1\]](#)

Article I

(Article 7 amended)

Monetary unit

The monetary unit used in the Acts of the Union shall be the accounting unit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Article II

(Article 11 amended)

Accession or admission to the Union.

Procedure

- 1 Any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union.
- 2 Any sovereign country which is not a member of the United Nations may apply for admission as a member country of the Union.
- 3 Accession or application for admission to the Union must entail a formal declaration of accession to the Constitution and to the obligatory Acts of the Union. It shall be addressed by the Government of the country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the accession or consult the member countries on the application for admission, as the case may be.
- 4 A country which is not a member of the United Nations shall be deemed to be admitted as a member country if its application is approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union. Member countries which have not replied within a period of four months shall be considered as having abstained.
- 5 Accession or admission to membership shall be notified by the Director-General of the International Bureau to the Governments of member countries. It shall take effect from the date of such notification.

Article III

(Article 12 amended)

Withdrawal from the Union.

Procedure

- 1 Each member country may withdraw from the Union by notice of denunciation of the Constitution

given by the Government of the country concerned to the Director-General of the International Bureau and by him to the Governments of member countries.

2 Withdrawal from the Union shall become effective one year after the day on which the notice of denunciation provided for in paragraph 1 is received by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

Article IV

(Article 21 amended)

Expenditure of the Union.

Contributions of member countries

1 Each Congress shall fix the maximum amount which:

- (a) the expenditure of the Union may reach annually;
- (b) the expenditure relating to the organization of the next Congress may reach.

2 The maximum amount for expenditure referred to in paragraph 1 may be exceeded if circumstances so require, provided that the relevant provisions of the General Regulations are observed.

3 The expenses of the Union, including where applicable the expenditure envisaged in paragraph 2, shall be jointly borne by the member countries of the Union. For this purpose, each member country shall choose the contribution class in which it intends to be included. The contribution classes shall be laid down in the General Regulations.

4 In the case of accession or admission to the Union under article 11, the country concerned shall freely choose the contribution class into which it wishes to be placed for the purpose of apportioning the expenses of the Union.

Article V

(Article 22 amended)

Acts of the Union

1 The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union.

2 The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries.

3 The Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.

4 The Agreements of the Union, and their Detailed Regulations, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter-post between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.

5 The Detailed Regulations, which contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation

of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the Executive Council, bearing in mind the decisions taken by Congress.

6 The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

Article VI

(Article 23 amended)

Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations
a member country is responsible

1 Any country may declare at any time that its acceptance of the Acts of the Union includes all the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or certain of them only.

2 The declaration provided for in paragraph 1 must be addressed to the Director-General of the International Bureau.

3 Any member country may at any time address to the Director-General of the International Bureau a notification of its intention to denounce the application of those Acts of the Union in respect of which it has made the declaration provided for in paragraph 1. Such notification shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

4 The declarations and notifications provided for in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be communicated to member countries by the Director General of the International Bureau.

5 Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply to territories having the status of a member of the Union and for whose international relations a member country is responsible.

Article VII

(Article 25 amended)

Signature, authentication, ratification and other forms of approval of
the Acts of the Union

1 The Acts of the Union, arising from the Congress shall be signed by the plenipotentiaries of the member countries.

2 The Detailed Regulations shall be authenticated by the Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Executive Council.

3 The Constitution shall be ratified as soon as possible by the signatory countries.

4 Approval of the Acts of the Union other than the Constitution shall be governed by the constitutional regulations of each signatory country.

5 When a country does not ratify the Constitution or does not approve the other Acts which it has signed, the Constitution and other Acts shall be no less valid for the other countries that have ratified or approved them.

Article VIII

(Article 26 amended)

Notification of ratifications and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

The instruments of ratification of the Constitution and the Additional Protocols thereto and, where appropriate, of approval of the other Acts of the Union shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Director-General of the International Bureau who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article IX

Notification of accession to the Additional Protocols to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

From the entry into force of the Acts of the 1989 Washington Congress, instruments of accession to the 1969 Tokyo Additional Protocol, to the 1974 Lausanne second Additional Protocol and to the 1984 Hamburg third Additional Protocol shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article X

Accession to the Additional Protocol and to the other Acts of the Union

1 Member countries which have not signed the present Protocol may accede to it at any time.

2 Member countries which are party to the Acts renewed by Congress but which have not signed them shall accede thereto as soon as possible.

3 Instruments of accession relating to the cases set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be sent to the Director-General of the International Bureau, who shall notify the Governments of the member countries of their deposit.

Article XI

Entry into force and duration of the Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

This Additional Protocol shall come into force on 1 January 1991 and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have drawn up this Additional Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Constitution itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau.^[2] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

The undersigned plenipotentiaries of the Governments of member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union, concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have, by common consent, and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, drawn up in these General Regulations the following provisions securing the application of the Constitution and the functioning of the Union.

CHAPTER I

FUNCTIONING OF THE UNION'S BODIES

Article 101

Organization and convening of Congresses and Extraordinary Congresses

1 The representatives of member countries shall meet in Congress not later than five years after the date on which the Acts of the preceding Congress come into operation.

2 Each member country shall arrange for its representation at Congress by one or more plenipotentiaries furnished by their Government with the necessary powers. It may, if need be, arrange to be represented by the delegation of another member country. Nevertheless it shall be understood that a delegation may represent only one member country other than its own.

3 In debates, each country shall be entitled to one vote.

4 In principle, each Congress shall designate the country in which the next Congress will be held. If that designation proves inapplicable, the Executive Council shall be authorized to designate the country where Congress is to meet, after consultation with the latter country.

5 After consultation with the International Bureau, the host Government shall fix the definitive date and the precise locality of Congress. In principle one year before that date the host Government shall send an invitation to the Government of each member country of the Union. This invitation may be sent direct or through the intermediary of another Government or through the Director-General of the International Bureau. The host Government shall also be responsible for notifying the decisions taken by Congress to all the Governments of member countries.

6 When a Congress has to be convened without a host Government, the International Bureau with the agreement of the Executive Council and after consultation with the Government of the Swiss Confederation, shall take the necessary steps to convene and organize the Congress in the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. In this event the International Bureau shall perform the functions of the host Government.

7 The meeting place of an Extraordinary Congress shall be fixed, after consultation with the International Bureau, by the member countries which have initiated that Congress.

8 Paragraphs 2 to 6 shall be applicable by analogy to Extraordinary Congresses.

Article 102

Composition, functioning and meetings of the Executive Council

1 The Executive Council shall consist of a Chairman and thirty-nine members who shall exercise their functions during the period between two successive Congresses.

2 The chairmanship shall devolve by right on the host country of Congress. If that country waives this right, it shall become a *de jure* member and, as a result, the geographical group to which it belongs shall have at its disposal an additional seat, to which the restrictive provisions of paragraph 3 shall not apply. In that case, the Executive Council shall elect to the chairmanship one of the member countries belonging to the geographical group of the host country.

3 The thirty-nine members of the Executive Council shall be elected by Congress on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution. At least a half of the membership shall be renewed at each Congress; no member may be chosen by three successive Congresses.

4 The representative of each of the members of the Executive Council shall be appointed by the postal administration of his country. This representative shall be a qualified official of the postal administration.

5 The office of member of the Executive Council shall be unpaid. The operational expenses of this Council shall be borne by the Union.

6 The Executive Council shall have the following functions:

6.1 to coordinate and supervise all the activities of the Union between Congresses;

6.2 to revise the Detailed Regulations of the Union within six months following the end of Congress, unless the latter decides otherwise. In case of urgent necessity, the Executive Council may also amend the said Regulations at other sessions;

6.3 to take any action considered necessary to safeguard and enhance the quality of and to modernize the international postal service;

6.4 to promote, coordinate and supervise all forms of postal technical assistance within the framework of international technical cooperation;

6.5 to consider and approve the annual budget and accounts of the Union;

6.6 to authorize the ceiling of expenditure to be exceeded, if circumstances so require, in accordance with article 124, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5;

6.7 to lay down the Financial Regulations of the UPU;

6.8 to lay down the rules governing the Reserve Fund;

6.9 to lay down the rules governing the Special Activities Fund;

6.10 to provide control over the activities of the International Bureau;

6.11 to authorize election of a lower contribution class, if it is so requested, in accordance with the conditions set out in article 125, paragraph 6;

6.12 to lay down the Staff Regulations and the conditions of service of the elected officials;

6.13 to appoint or promote officials to the grade of Assistant Director-General (D 2);

6.14 to lay down the Regulations of the Social Fund;

6.15 to approve the annual report on the work of the Union prepared by the International Bureau and where appropriate to furnish observations on it;

6.16 to decide on the contacts to be established with postal administrations in order to carry out its functions;

6.17 to decide on the contacts to be established with the organizations which are not *de jure* observers, to consider and approve the reports by the International Bureau on UPU relations with other international bodies and to take the decisions which it considers appropriate on the conduct of such relations and the action to be taken on them; to designate in due course the intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations which should be invited to be represented at a Congress and to instruct the Director-General to issue the necessary invitations;

6.18 to study, at the request of Congress, the CCPS or postal administrations, administrative, legislative and legal problems concerning the Union or the international postal service and to communicate the results of such studies to the body concerned or to postal administrations, as the case may be. It shall be for the Executive Council to decide whether it is expedient to undertake the studies requested by postal administrations between Congresses;

6.19 to revise and amend, between two Congresses and in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, the postage charges for letter-post items;

6.20 to formulate proposals which shall be submitted for the approval either of Congress or of postal administrations in accordance with article 121;

6.21 to examine, at the request of the postal administration of a member country, any proposal which that administration forwards to the International Bureau under article 120, to prepare observations on it and to instruct the International Bureau to annex these observations to the proposal before submitting it for approval to the postal administrations of member countries;

6.22 to recommend, if necessary, and where appropriate after consultation of all the postal administrations, the adoption of regulations or of a new procedure until such time as Congress takes a decision in the matter;

6.23 to consider the annual report prepared by the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and any proposals submitted by the Council;

6.24 to submit subjects for study to the Consultative Council for Postal Studies for examination in accordance with article 104, paragraph 9.6;

6.25 to designate the country where the next Congress is to be held in the case provided for in article 101, paragraph 4;

6.26 to determine in due course, the number of Committees required to carry out the work of Congress and to specify their functions;

6.27 to designate in due course, subject to the approval of Congress, the member countries prepared:

- to assume the vice-chairmanships of Congress and the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the Committees, taking as much account as possible of the equitable geographical distribution of the member countries; and

- to sit on the restricted Committees of Congress;

6.28 to decide whether minutes of meetings of a Committee of Congress should be replaced by reports.

7 In appointing officials to grade D 2, the Executive Council shall consider the professional qualifications of the candidates recommended by the postal administrations of the member countries of which the candidates are nationals, ensuring that the posts of Assistant Director-General are as far as possible filled by candidates from different regions and from regions other than those from which the Director-General and Deputy Director-General originate, bearing in mind the paramount consideration of the efficiency of the International Bureau, while giving due weight to the Bureau's internal promotion arrangements.

8 At its first meeting, which shall be convened by the Chairman of Congress, the Executive Council shall elect four Vice-Chairmen from among its members and draw up its Rules of Procedure.

9 On convocation by its Chairman, the Executive Council shall meet in principle once a year, at Union headquarters.

10 The representative of each of the members of the Executive Council participating in its meetings, except for meetings which take place during Congress, shall be entitled to reimbursement of the cost of either an economy class return air ticket or first class return rail ticket, or expenses incurred for travel by any other means subject to the condition that the amount does not exceed the price of the economy class return air ticket.

11 The Chairman of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall represent that body at meetings of the Executive Council on the agenda of which there are questions of interest to the body which he directs.

12 To ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies may, if they express the desire so to do, attend Executive Council meetings as observers.

13 The postal administration of the country in which the Executive Council meets shall be invited to take part in the meetings in the capacity of observer, if that country is not a member of the Executive Council.

14 The Executive Council may invite any international body or any qualified person whom it wishes to associate with its work to its meetings, without the right to vote. It may also invite, under the same conditions, one or more postal administrations of member countries concerned with questions on its agenda.

Article 103

Documentation on the activities of the Executive Council

1 The Executive Council shall send postal administrations of member countries of the Union and Restricted Unions, for information, after each session:

(a) a summary record;

(b) the "Documents of the Executive Council" containing the reports, discussions, summary record and resolutions and decisions.

2 The Executive Council shall make to Congress a comprehensive report on its work and send it to postal administrations at least two months before the opening of Congress.

Article 104

Composition, functioning and meetings of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies

1 The Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall consist of thirty-five members who shall exercise their functions during the period between two successive Congresses.

2 The members of the Consultative Council shall be elected by Congress, in principle on the basis of as wide a geographical distribution as possible.

3 The representative of each of the members of the Consultative Council shall be appointed by the postal administration of his country. This representative shall be a qualified official of the postal administration.

4 The operational expenses of the Consultative Council shall be borne by the Union. Its Members shall not receive any payment. Travelling and living expenses incurred by representatives of administrations participating in the Consultative Council shall be borne by those administrations. However, the representative of each of the countries considered to be disadvantaged according to the lists established by the United Nations shall be entitled to reimbursement of the price of an economy class return air ticket or first class return rail ticket, or expenses incurred for travel by other means, subject to the condition that the amount does not exceed the price of the economy class return air ticket.

5 At its first meeting, which shall be convened and opened by the Chairman of Congress, the Consultative Council shall choose from among its members a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen.

6 The Consultative Council shall draw up its Rules of Procedure.

7 In principle, the Consultative Council shall meet every year at Union headquarters. The date and place of the meeting shall be fixed by its Chairman, in agreement with the Chairman of the Executive Council and the Director-General of the International Bureau.

8 The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen of the Consultative Council shall form the Steering Committee. This Committee shall prepare and direct the work of each meeting of the Consultative Council and take on all the tasks which the latter decides to assign to it.

9 The functions of the Consultative Council shall be the following:

9.1 to organize the study of the most important technical, operational, economic and technical cooperation problems which are of interest to postal administrations of all member countries of the Union and to prepare information and opinions on them;

9.2 to study teaching and vocational training problems of interest to the new and developing countries;

9.3 to take the necessary steps to study and publicize the experiments and progress made by certain countries in the technical, operational, economic and vocational training fields of interest to the postal services;

9.4 to study the present position and needs of the postal services in the new and developing countries

and to prepare appropriate recommendations on ways and means of improving the postal services in those countries;

9.5 to take, in consultation with the Executive Council, appropriate steps in the sphere of technical cooperation with all member countries of the Union and in particular with the new and developing countries;

9.6 to examine any other questions submitted to it by a member of the Consultative Council, by the Executive Council or by any administration of a member country;

9.7 to prepare and issue, in the form of recommendations to postal administrations, standards for technological, operational and other processes within its competence where uniformity of practice is essential. It shall similarly issue, as required, amendments to standards it has already set.

10 The members of the Consultative Council shall take an active part in its work. Member countries not belonging to the Consultative Council may, at their request, cooperate in the studies undertaken.

11 If need be, the Consultative Council shall draw up proposals for Congress arising directly from its activities as defined in this article. These proposals shall be submitted by the Consultative Council itself, after consultation with the Executive Council when questions within the latter's competence are concerned.

12 The Consultative Council shall, at its last session before Congress, prepare for submission to Congress the draft basic work programme of the next Council, taking into account the requests of member countries of the Union and of the Executive Council and the International Bureau. This basic programme, which shall include a limited number of studies on topical subjects of common interest, shall be subject to review annually in the light of new realities and priorities.

13 In order to ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Committee Chairmen of the Executive Council may, if they express the desire so to do, attend Consultative Council meetings as observers.

14 The Consultative Council may invite the following to take part in its meetings without the right to vote:

- (a) any international body or any qualified person whom it wishes to associate with its work;
- (b) postal administrations of member countries not belonging to the Consultative Council.

Article 105

Documentation on the activities of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies

1 The Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall send postal administrations of member countries and Restricted Unions, for information, after each session:

- (a) a summary record;
- (b) the "Documents of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies" containing the reports, discussions and summary record.

2 The Consultative Council shall prepare for the Executive Council an annual report on its work.

3 The Consultative Council shall prepare for Congress a comprehensive report on its work and send it to postal administrations of member countries at least two months before the opening of Congress.

Article 106

Rules of Procedure of Congresses

1 For the organization of its work and the conduct of its debates, Congress shall apply the Rules of Procedure of Congresses which are annexed to these General Regulations.

2 Each Congress may amend these rules under the conditions laid down in the Rules of Procedure themselves.

Article 107

Languages used for documentation, for debates and for official correspondence

1 For the documentation of the Union, the French, English, Arabic and Spanish languages shall be used. The Chinese, German, Portuguese and Russian languages shall also be used provided that only the most important basic documentation is produced in these languages. Other languages may also be used on condition that the costs to be borne by the Union under paragraph 6 are not thereby increased.

2 The member country or countries which have requested a language other than the official language constitute a language group. The member countries which have not made any express request shall be regarded as having asked for the official language.

3 Documentation shall be published by the International Bureau in the official language and the languages of the duly constituted language groups, either directly or through the intermediary of the regional offices of those groups in conformity with the procedures agreed with the International Bureau. Publication in the different languages shall be effected in accordance with a common standard.

4 Documentation published directly by the International Bureau shall as a rule be distributed simultaneously in the different languages requested.

5 Correspondence between the postal administrations and the International Bureau and between the latter and outside entities may be exchanged in any language for which the International Bureau has available a translation service.

6 The cost of translation into any language other than the official language, including those resulting from the application of paragraph 5, shall be borne by the language group which has asked for that language. The Union shall bear the cost of translation into the official language of documents and correspondence received in Arabic, English and Spanish, as well as all other costs involved in the supply of documents. The ceiling of the costs to be borne by the Union for the production of documents in Chinese, German, Portuguese and Russian shall be fixed by a Congress resolution.

7 The costs to be borne by a language group shall be divided among the members of that group in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union. These costs may be divided among the members of the language group according to another system, provided that the countries concerned agree to it and inform the International Bureau of their decision through the intermediary of the spokesman of the group.

8 The International Bureau shall give effect to any change in the choice of language requested by a

member country after a period which shall not exceed two years.

9 For the discussions at meetings of the Union's bodies, the French, English, Spanish and Russian languages shall be admissible, by means of a system of interpretation - with or without electronic equipment - the choice being left to the judgment of the organizers of the meeting after consultation with the Director-General of the International Bureau and the member countries concerned.

10 Other languages shall likewise be admissible for the discussions and meetings mentioned in paragraph 9.

11 Delegations using other languages shall arrange for simultaneous interpretation into one of the languages mentioned in paragraph 9, either by the system indicated in the same paragraph, when the necessary technical modifications can be made, or by individual interpreters.

12 The costs of the interpretation services shall be shared among the member countries using the same language in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union. However, the costs of installing and maintaining the technical equipment shall be borne by the Union.

13 Postal administrations may come to an understanding about the language to be used for official correspondence in their relations with one another. In the absence of such an understanding the language to be used shall be French.

CHAPTER II

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Article 108

Election of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau

1 The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau shall be elected by Congress for the period between two successive Congresses, the minimum duration of their term of office being five years. Their term of office shall be renewable once only. Unless Congress decides otherwise, the date on which they take up their duties shall be fixed at 1 January of the year following that in which Congress is held.

2 At least seven months before the opening of Congress, the Director-General of the International Bureau shall send a memorandum to the Governments of member countries inviting them to submit their applications, if any, for the posts of Director-General and Deputy Director-General and indicating at the same time whether the Director-General and Deputy Director-General in office are interested in a renewal of their initial term of office. The applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae, must reach the International Bureau at least two months before the opening of Congress. The candidates must be nationals of the member countries which put them forward. The International Bureau shall prepare the election documents for Congress. The election of the Director-General and that of the Deputy Director-General shall take place by secret ballot, the first election being for the post of Director-General.

3 If the post of Director-General falls vacant, the Deputy Director-General shall take over the functions of Director-General until the expiry of the latter's term of office; he shall be eligible for election to that Post and shall automatically be accepted as a candidate, provided that his initial term of office as Deputy Director-General has not already been renewed once by the preceding Congress and that he declares his interest in being considered as a candidate for the post of Director-General.

4 If the posts of Director-General and Deputy Director-General fall vacant at the same time, the

Executive Council shall elect, on the basis of the applications received following notification of the vacancies, a Deputy Director-General for the period extending up to the next Congress. With regard to the submission of applications, paragraph 2 shall apply by analogy.

5 If the post of Deputy Director-General falls vacant, the Executive Council shall, on the proposal of the Director-General, instruct one of the Assistant Directors-General at the International Bureau to take over the functions of Deputy Director-General until the following Congress.

Article 109

Duties of the Director-General

1 The Director-General shall organize, administer and direct the International Bureau, of which he is the legal representative. He shall be empowered to classify posts in grades G 1 to D 1 and to appoint and promote officials in those grades. For appointments in grades P 1 to D 1, he shall consider the professional qualifications of the candidates recommended by the postal administrations of the member countries of which the candidates are nationals, taking into account equitable geographical distribution with respect to continents and languages together with all other relevant considerations, while giving due weight to the Bureau's internal promotion arrangements. He shall also consider that, in principle, persons occupying grades D 2, D 1 and P 5 posts must be nationals of different member countries of the Union. He shall inform the Executive Council once a year, in the Report on the work of the Union, of appointments and promotions in grades P 4 to D 1.

2 The Director-General shall have the following duties:

2.1 to act as depositary of the Acts of the Union and as intermediary in the procedure of accession and admission to and withdrawal from the Union;

2.2 to notify all administrations of the Detailed Regulations drawn up or revised by the Executive Council;

2.3 to prepare the draft annual budget of the Union at the lowest possible level consistent with the requirements of the Union and to submit it in due course to the Executive Council for consideration; to communicate the budget to the member countries of the Union after approval by the Executive Council;

2.4 to act as an intermediary in relations between:

- the UPU and the Restricted Unions;
- the UPU and the United Nations;
- the UPU and the international organizations whose activities are of interest to the Union;

2.5 to assume the duties of Secretary-General of the bodies of the Union and supervise in this capacity and taking into account the special provisions of these General Regulations, in particular:

- the preparation and organization of the work of the Union's bodies;
- the preparation, production and distribution of documents, reports and minutes;
- the functioning of the secretariat at meetings of the Union's bodies;

2.6 to attend the meetings of the bodies of the Union and take part in the discussions without the right to vote, with the possibility of being represented.

Article 110

Duties of the Deputy Director-General

1 The Deputy Director-General shall assist the Director-General and shall be responsible to him.

2 If the Director-General is absent or prevented from discharging his duties, the Deputy Director-General shall exercise his functions. The same shall apply in the case of a vacancy in the post of Director-General as mentioned in article 108, paragraph 3.

Article 111

Secretariat of the Union's bodies

The secretariat of the Union's bodies shall be provided by the International Bureau under the responsibility of the Director-General. It shall send all the documents published on the occasion of each session to the postal administrations of the members of the body, to the postal administrations of countries which, while not members of the body, cooperate in the studies undertaken, to the Restricted Unions and to postal administrations of other member countries which ask for them.

Article 112

List of member countries

The International Bureau shall prepare and keep up to date the list of member countries of the Union showing therein their contribution class, their geographical group and their position with respect to the Acts of the Union.

Article 113

Information, opinions, requests for interpretation and amendment of the Acts.

Inquiries.

Role in the settlement of accounts

1 The International Bureau shall be at all times at the disposal of the Executive Council, the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and postal administrations for the purpose of supplying them with any necessary information on questions relating to the service.

2 In particular it shall collect, collate, publish and distribute all kinds of information of interest to the international postal service, give an opinion, at the request of the parties involved, on questions in dispute, act on requests for interpretation and amendment of the Acts of the Union and, in general, carry out such studies and editorial or documentary work as are assigned to it by those Acts or as may be referred to it in the interest of the Union.

3 It shall also conduct inquiries requested by postal administrations to obtain the views of other administrations on a particular question. The result of an inquiry shall not have the status of a vote and shall not be formally binding.

4 It shall bring to the notice of the Chairman of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies, for any necessary action, questions which are within the competence of that organ.

5 It shall act as a clearing house in the settlement of accounts of all kinds relating to the international postal service between postal administrations requesting this facility.

Article 114

Technical cooperation

The International Bureau shall develop postal technical assistance in all its forms within the framework of international technical cooperation.

Article 115

Forms supplied by the International Bureau

The International Bureau shall be responsible for arranging the manufacture of postal identity cards and international reply coupons and for supplying them, at cost, to postal administrations ordering them.

Article 116

Acts of Restricted Unions and Special Agreements

1 Two copies of the Acts of Restricted Unions and of Special Agreements concluded under article 8 of the Constitution shall be sent to the International Bureau by the offices of such Unions, or failing that, by one of the contracting parties.

2 The International Bureau shall see that the Acts of Restricted Unions and Special Agreements do not include conditions less favourable to the public than those which are provided for in the Acts of the Union and shall inform postal administrations of the existence of such Unions and Agreements. The International Bureau shall notify the Executive Council of any irregularity discovered through applying this provision.

Article 117

Union periodical

The International Bureau shall publish, with the aid of the documents made available to it, a periodical in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Article 118

Annual report on the work of the Union

The International Bureau shall make an annual report on the work of the Union, which shall be sent, after approval by the Executive Council, to postal administrations, the Restricted Unions and the United Nations.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

Article 119

Procedure for submitting proposals to Congress

1 Subject to the exceptions provided for in paragraphs 2 and 5, the following procedure shall govern the submission of proposals of all kinds to Congress by postal administrations of member countries:

- (a) proposals which reach the International Bureau at least six months before the date fixed for Congress shall be accepted;
- (b) no drafting proposal shall be accepted during the period of six months preceding the date fixed for Congress;
- (c) proposals of substance which reach the International Bureau in the interval between six and four months before the date fixed for Congress shall not be accepted unless they are supported by at least two administrations;
- (d) proposals of substance which reach the International Bureau in the interval between four and two months preceding the date fixed for Congress shall not be accepted unless they are supported by at least eight administrations. Proposals which arrive after that time shall no longer be accepted;
- (e) declarations of support shall reach the International Bureau within the same period as the proposals to which they refer.

2 Proposals concerning the Constitution or the General Regulations shall reach the International Bureau not later than six months before the opening of Congress; any received after that date but before the opening of Congress shall not be considered unless Congress so decides by a majority of two thirds of the countries represented at Congress and unless the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 are fulfilled.

3 Every proposal must, as a rule, have only one aim and contain only the changes justified by that aim.

4 Drafting proposals shall be headed "Drafting proposal" by the administrations which submit them and shall be published by the International Bureau under a number followed by the letter R. Proposals which do not bear this indication but which, in the opinion of the International Bureau, deal only with drafting points shall be published with an appropriate annotation; the International Bureau shall draw up a list of these proposals for Congress.

5 The procedure prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 4 shall not apply either to proposals concerning the Rules of Procedure of Congresses or to amendments to proposals already made.

Article 120

Procedure for submitting proposals between Congresses

1 To be eligible for consideration every proposal concerning the Convention or the Agreements submitted by a postal administration between Congresses shall be supported by at least two other administrations. Such proposals shall lapse if the International Bureau does not receive, at the same time, the necessary number of declarations of support.

2 These proposals shall be sent to other postal administrations through the intermediary of the International Bureau.

3 Proposals concerning the Detailed Regulations shall not require support but shall not be considered by the Executive Council unless the latter agrees to the urgent necessity.

Article 121

Consideration of proposals between Congresses

1 Every proposal concerning the Convention, the Agreements and their Final Protocols shall be subject to the following procedure:

a period of two months shall be allowed to postal administrations of member countries for consideration of the proposal notified by an International Bureau circular and for forwarding their observations, if any, to the Bureau. Amendments shall not be admissible. The replies shall be collected by the International Bureau and communicated to postal administrations with an invitation to vote for or against the proposal. Those which have not sent in their vote within a period of two months shall be considered as abstaining. The aforementioned periods shall be reckoned from the dates of the International Bureau circulars.

2 Proposals for amending the Detailed Regulations shall be dealt with by the Executive Council.

3 If the proposal relates to an Agreement or its Final Protocol, only the postal administrations of member countries which are parties to that Agreement may take part in the procedure described in paragraph 1.

Article 122

Notification of decisions adopted between Congresses

1 Amendments made to the Convention, the Agreements and the Final Protocols to those Acts shall be sanctioned by notification thereof to the Governments of member countries by the Director-General of the International Bureau.

2 Amendments made to the Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols by the Executive Council shall be communicated to postal administrations by the International Bureau. The same shall apply to the interpretations referred to in article 93, paragraph 3(c)(ii), of the Convention and in the corresponding provisions of the Agreements.

Article 123

Entry into force of the Detailed Regulations and of the other decisions adopted

between Congresses

1 The Detailed Regulations shall come into force on the same date and shall have the same duration as the Acts laid down by Congress.

2 Subject to paragraph 1, decisions on amending the Acts of the Union which are adopted between Congresses shall not take effect until at least three months after their notification.

CHAPTER IV

FINANCE

Article 124

Fixing and regulation of the expenditure of the Union

1 Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6, the annual expenditure relating to the activities of bodies of the Union may not exceed the following sums for 1991 and subsequent years:

26 070 100 Swiss francs for 1991;

26 586 900 Swiss francs for 1992;

26 800 100 Swiss francs for 1993;

26 773 200 Swiss francs for 1994;

26 935 600 Swiss francs for 1995.

The basic limit for 1995 shall also apply to the following years in case the Congress scheduled for 1994 is postponed.

2 The expenditure relating to the convening of the next Congress (travelling expenses of the secretariat, transport charges, cost of installing simultaneous interpretation equipment, cost of reproducing documents during the Congress, etc) shall not exceed the limit of 3 676 000 Swiss francs.

3 The Executive Council shall be authorized to exceed the limits laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 to take account of increases in salary scales, pension contributions or allowances, including post adjustments, approved by the United Nations for application to its staff working in Geneva.

4 The Executive Council shall also be authorized to adjust, each year, the amount of expenditure other than that relating to staff on the basis of the Swiss consumer price index.

5 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the Executive Council, or in case of extreme urgency, the Director-General, may authorize the prescribed limits to be exceeded to meet the cost of major and unforeseen repairs to the International Bureau building, provided however that the amount of the increase does not exceed 65 000 Swiss francs per annum.

6 If the credits authorized in paragraphs 1 and 2 prove inadequate to ensure the smooth running of the Union, these limits may only be exceeded with the approval of the majority of the member countries of the Union. Any consultation shall include a complete description of the facts justifying such a request.

7 Countries which accede to the Union or are admitted to the status of members of the Union as well as those which leave the Union shall pay their contributions for the whole of the year during which their admission or withdrawal becomes effective.

8 Member countries shall pay their contributions to the Union's annual expenditure in advance on the basis of the budget laid down by the Executive Council. These contributions shall be paid not later than the first day of the financial year to which the budget refers. After that date, the sums due shall be chargeable with interest in favour of the Union at the rate of 3 percent per annum for the first six months and of 6 percent per annum from the seventh month.

9 To cover shortfalls in Union financing, a Reserve Fund shall be established the amount of which shall be fixed by the Executive Council. This Fund shall be maintained primarily from budget

surpluses. It may also be used to balance the budget or to reduce the amount of member countries' contributions.

10 As regards temporary financing shortfalls, the Government of the Swiss Confederation shall make the necessary short-term advances, on conditions which are to be fixed by mutual agreement. That Government shall supervise, without charge, book-keeping and accounting of the International Bureau within the limits of the credits fixed by Congress.

Article 125

Contribution classes

1 Member countries shall contribute to defraying Union expenses according to the contribution class to which they belong. These classes shall be the following:

class of 50 units;

class of 40 units;

class of 35 units;

class of 25 units;

class of 20 units;

class of 15 units;

class of 10 units;

class of 5 units;

class of 3 units;

class of 1 unit;

class of 0.5 unit, reserved for the least advanced countries as listed by the United Nations and for other countries designated by the Executive Council.

2 Notwithstanding the contribution classes listed in paragraph 1, any member country may elect to contribute more than 50 units.

3 Member countries shall be included in one of the above-mentioned contribution classes upon their admission or accession to the Union in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 21, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

4 Member countries may subsequently change contribution class on condition that this change is communicated to the International Bureau before the opening of Congress. This notification, which shall be brought to the attention of Congress, shall take effect on the date of the entry into force of the financial provisions drawn up by Congress.

5 Member countries may not insist on being lowered more than one class at a time. Member countries which have not made known their wish to change contribution class by the opening of Congress shall remain in the class to which they belonged up to that time.

6 Nevertheless, in exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters necessitating international aid programmes, the Executive Council may authorize a reduction in contribution class when so requested by a member country if the said member establishes that it can no longer maintain its contribution at the class originally chosen.

7 Notwithstanding paragraphs 4 and 5, changes to a higher class shall not be subject to any restriction.

Article 126

Payment for supplies from the International Bureau

Supplies provided by the International Bureau to postal administrations against payment shall be paid for in the shortest possible time and at the latest within six months from the first day of the month following that in which the account is sent by the Bureau. After that period the sums due shall be chargeable with interest in favour of the Union at the rate of 5 percent per annum reckoned from the date of expiry of that period.

CHAPTER V

ARBITRATION

Article 127

Arbitration procedure

1 If a dispute has to be settled by arbitration, each of the postal administrations party to the case shall select a postal administration of a member country not directly involved in the dispute. When several administrations make common cause, they shall count only as a single administration for the purposes of this provision.

2 If one of the administrations party to the case does not act on a proposal for arbitration within a period of six months, the International Bureau, if so requested, shall itself call upon the defaulting administration to appoint an arbitrator or shall itself appoint one ex officio.

3 The parties to the case may agree to appoint a single arbitrator which may be the International Bureau.

4 The decision of the arbitrators shall be taken by a majority of votes.

5 In the event of a tie the arbitrators shall select another postal administration, not involved in the dispute either, to settle the matter. Should they fail to agree on the choice, this administration shall be appointed by the International Bureau from among administrations not proposed by the arbitrators.

6 If the dispute concerns one of the Agreements, the arbitrators may be appointed only from among the administrations that are parties to that Agreement.

CHAPTER VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 128

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning the General Regulations

To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to these General Regulations shall be approved by a majority of the member countries represented at Congress. At least two thirds of the member countries of the Union shall be present at the time of voting.

Article 129

Proposals concerning the Agreements with the United Nations

The conditions of approval referred to in article 128 shall apply equally to proposals designed to amend the Agreements concluded between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations, in so far as those Agreements do not lay down conditions for the amendment of the provisions they contain.

Article 130

Entry into force and duration of the General Regulations

These General Regulations shall come into force on 1 January 1991 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have signed these General Regulations in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau.^[3] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

ANNEX

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF CONGRESSES

Article 1

General provisions

The present Rules of Procedure (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") have been drawn up pursuant to the Acts of the Union and are subordinate to them. In the event of a discrepancy between one of their provisions and a provision of the Acts, the latter shall prevail.

Article 2

Delegations

1 The term "delegation" shall denote the person or body of persons designated by a member country to take part in a Congress. The delegation shall consist of a Head of delegation and, if appropriate, his deputy, one or more delegates and, possibly, one or more attached officials (including experts, secretaries, etc).

2 Heads of delegation, their deputies, and delegates shall be representatives of member countries within the meaning of article 14, paragraph 2, of the Constitution if in possession of credentials which comply with the conditions laid down in article 3 of these Rules.

3 Attached officials shall be admitted to meetings, and shall have the right to participate in the proceedings, but they shall not normally have the right to vote. However, they may be authorized by the Head of their delegation to vote on behalf of their country at Committee meetings. Such authorizations shall be handed, in writing, to the Chairman of the Committee concerned, before the beginning of the meeting.

Article 3

Delegates' credentials

1 Delegates' credentials shall be signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the country concerned. They shall be drawn up in due and proper form. The credentials of delegates entitled to sign the Acts (plenipotentiaries) shall specify the scope of such signature (signature subject to ratification or approval, signature ad referendum, definitive signature). In the absence of such specific information, the signature shall be regarded as being subject to ratification or approval. Credentials authorizing the holder to sign the Acts shall implicitly include the right to speak and to vote. Delegates on whom the relevant authorities have conferred full powers without specifying their scope shall be authorized to speak, to vote and to sign the Acts unless the wording of the credentials is explicitly to the contrary.

2 Credentials shall be deposited at the opening of Congress with the authority designated for that purpose.

3 Delegates who are not in possession of credentials or who have not deposited their credentials may, provided their names have been communicated by their Government to the Government of the host country, take part in the debates and vote from the moment they participate in the work of Congress. The same shall apply to those whose credentials are found to be not in order. Such delegates shall cease to be empowered to vote from the time Congress approves the last report of the Credentials Committee establishing that their credentials have not been received or are not in order until such time as the position is regularized. The last report shall be approved by Congress before any elections other than that of the Chairman of Congress and before approval of the draft Acts.

4 The credentials of a member country which arranges for the delegation of another member country to represent it at Congress (proxy) shall be in the same form as those mentioned in paragraph 1.

5 Credentials and proxies sent by telegram shall not be admissible. However, telegrams sent in reply to requests for information relating to credentials shall be accepted.

6 A delegation which, after it has deposited its credentials, is prevented from attending one or more meetings, may arrange to be represented by the delegation of another country, provided that notice in writing is given to the Chairman of the meeting concerned. However, a delegation may represent only a single country other than its own.

7 The delegates of member countries which are not parties to an Agreement may take part in the debates of Congress concerning that Agreement, without the right to vote.

Article 4

Order of seating

1 At Congress and Committee meetings, delegations shall be seated in the French alphabetical order of the member countries represented.

2 The Chairman of the Executive Council shall draw lots, in due course, for the name of the country to be placed foremost before the rostrum at Congress and Committee meetings.

Article 5

Observers

1 Representatives of the United Nations may take part in the debates of Congress.

2 Observers from intergovernmental international organizations shall be admitted to meetings of Congress or of its Committees when questions of interest to these organizations are being discussed. In the same cases, observers from non-governmental international organizations may be admitted to meetings of Committees at the discretion of the Committee concerned.

3 Qualified representatives of the Restricted Unions established in accordance with article 8, paragraph 1, of the Constitution shall also be admitted as observers when the Unions concerned express a wish to that effect.

4 The observers referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take part in the debates without the right to vote.

Article 6

Doyen of Congress

1 The postal administration of the host country of Congress shall suggest the person to be appointed as Doyen of Congress in agreement with the International Bureau. The Executive Council shall approve this appointment in due course.

2 At the opening of the first plenary meeting of each Congress, the Doyen shall act as Chairman until Congress has elected one. He shall also exercise the functions assigned to him under the present Rules.

Article 7

Chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of Congress and Committees

1 At its first plenary meeting, Congress shall elect, on the proposal of the Doyen, the Chairman of Congress and then approve, on the proposal of the Executive Council, the appointment of the member countries which are to assume the vice-chairmanships of Congress and the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the Committees. These posts will be assigned taking as much account as possible of the equitable geographical distribution of the member countries.

2 The Chairmen shall open and close the meetings over which they preside, direct the debates, give speakers the floor, put proposals to the vote and announce what majority is required for their adoption, announce decisions and, subject to the approval of Congress, interpret such decisions if necessary.

3 The Chairmen shall see that the present Rules are observed and that order is maintained at meetings.

4 Any delegation may appeal to Congress or the Committee against a decision taken by the Chairman on the basis of a provision or interpretation of the Rules. The Chairman's decision shall nevertheless hold good unless rescinded by a majority of the members present and voting.

5 Should the member country appointed to the chairmanship be no longer able to exercise this function, one of the Vice-Chairmen shall be appointed by Congress or the Committee to replace it.

Article 8

Bureau of Congress

1 The Bureau shall be the central body responsible for directing the work of Congress. It shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Congress and the Chairmen of the Committees. It shall meet periodically to review the progress of the work of Congress and its Committees and to make recommendations designed to facilitate such progress. It shall assist the Chairman in drawing up the agenda of each plenary meeting and in coordinating the work of the Committees. It shall make recommendations relating to the closing of Congress.

2 The Secretary-General of Congress and the Assistant Secretary-General, mentioned in article 11, paragraph 1, shall attend the meetings of the Bureau.

Article 9

Membership of Committees

1 The member countries represented in Congress shall, as of right, be members of the Committees responsible for studying proposals relating to the Constitution, the General Regulations, the Convention and its Detailed Regulations.

2 Member countries represented in Congress which are parties to one or more of the optional Agreements shall, as of right, be members of the Committee and/or Committees responsible for the revision of these Agreements. The right to vote of members of the Committee or Committees shall be confined to the Agreement or Agreements to which they are parties.

3 Delegations which are not members of Committees dealing with the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations may attend meetings of those Committees and take part in the debates without the right to vote.

Article 10

Working parties

Each Committee may set up working parties to study special questions.

Article 11

Secretariat of Congress and of Committees

1 The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau shall act as Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General of Congress, respectively.

2 The Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General shall attend the meetings of Congress and of the Bureau of Congress and take part in the debates without the right to vote. They may also

attend, under the same conditions, Committee meetings or be represented thereat by a senior official of the International Bureau.

3 The work of the Secretariat of Congress, the Bureau of Congress and the Committees shall be performed by the staff of the International Bureau in conjunction with the administration of the host country.

4 Senior officials of the International Bureau shall act as Secretaries of Congress, of the Bureau of Congress and of the Committees. They shall assist the Chairman during meetings and shall be responsible for writing the minutes or reports.

5 The Secretaries of Congress and of the Committees shall be assisted by Assistant Secretaries.

6 Rapporteurs proficient in French shall take the minutes of Congress and of the Committees.

Article 12

Languages of debates

1 Subject to paragraph 2, French, English, Spanish and Russian may be used for debates, by means of a system of simultaneous or consecutive interpretation.

2 The debates of the Drafting Committee shall be held in French.

3 Other languages may also be used for the debates mentioned in paragraph 1. The language of the host country shall have priority in this connection. Delegations using other languages shall arrange for simultaneous interpretation into one of the languages mentioned in paragraph 1, either by means of the simultaneous interpretation system, when the necessary technical alterations can be made, or by special interpreters.

4 The cost of installing and maintaining the technical equipment shall be borne by the Union.

5 The cost of the interpretation services shall be divided among the member countries using the same language in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union.

Article 13

Languages used for drafting Congress documents

1 Documents prepared during Congress including draft decisions submitted to Congress for approval shall be published in French by the Secretariat of Congress.

2 To this end, documents produced by delegations of member countries shall be submitted in French, either direct or through the intermediary of the translation services attached to the Congress Secretariat.

3 The above services, organized at their own expense by the language groups set up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the General Regulations, may also translate Congress documents into their respective languages.

Article 14

Proposals

- 1 All questions brought before Congress shall be the subject of proposals.
- 2 All proposals published by the International Bureau before Congress shall be regarded as being submitted to Congress.
- 3 Two months before Congress opens, no proposal shall be considered except those amending earlier proposals.
- 4 The following shall be regarded as amendments:

any proposal which, without altering the substance of the original proposal, involves a deletion from, addition to or revision of a part of the original proposal. No proposed change shall be regarded as an amendment if it is inconsistent with the meaning or intent of the original proposal. In case of doubt, Congress or the Committee shall decide the matter.
- 5 Amendments submitted at Congress to proposals already made shall be handed in to the Secretariat in writing, in French, before noon on the day but one before the day on which they will be discussed, so that they can be distributed to delegates the same day. This time limit shall not apply to amendments arising directly from the debates in Congress or in a Committee. In the latter case, if so requested, the author of the amendment shall submit a written version in French, or in case of difficulty, in any other language used for debates. The Chairman concerned shall read it out or have it read out.
- 6 The procedure laid down in paragraph 5 shall also apply to the submission of proposals that are not designed to amend the text of the Acts (draft resolutions, draft recommendations, draft formal opinions, etc).
- 7 Any proposal or amendment shall give the final form of the text which is to be inserted in the Acts of the Union, subject, of course to revision by the Drafting Committee.

Article 15

Consideration of proposals in Congress and in Committees

- 1 Drafting proposals (the number of which shall be followed by the letter R) shall be assigned to the Drafting Committee either direct, if the International Bureau has no doubt as to their nature (a list of such proposals shall be drawn up for the Drafting Committee by the International Bureau), or, if the International Bureau is in doubt as to their nature, after the other Committees have confirmed that they are purely of a drafting nature (a list of such proposals shall likewise be drawn up for the Committees concerned). If, however, such proposals are linked with other proposals of substance to be considered by Congress or by other Committees, the Drafting Committee shall postpone consideration of them until after Congress or the other Committees have taken a decision on the corresponding proposals of substance. Proposals whose numbers are not followed by the letter R but which, in the opinion of the International Bureau, are of a drafting nature, shall be referred direct to the Committees concerned with the corresponding proposals of substance. When these Committees begin work, they shall decide which of the proposals shall be assigned direct to the Drafting Committee. A list of these proposals shall be drawn up by the International Bureau for the Committees concerned.
- 2 In principle, proposals for amending the Detailed Regulations which are the consequence of proposals for amending the Convention and the Agreements shall be dealt with by the Committee concerned, unless the latter decides to refer them to the Executive Council on the proposal of its Chairman or of a delegation. If there is an objection to such referral, the Chairman shall immediately put the matter to a procedural vote.

3 On the other hand, proposals for amending the Detailed Regulations which are not the consequence of proposals for amending the Convention and the Agreements shall be referred to the Executive Council, unless the Committee decides, on the proposal of its Chairman or of a delegation, that they shall be dealt with in Congress. If there is an objection to such referral, the Chairman shall immediately put the matter to a procedural vote.

4 If the same question is the subject of several proposals, the Chairman shall decide the order in which they are to be discussed, starting as a rule with the proposal which departs most from the basic text and entails the most significant change in relation to the status quo.

5 If a proposal can be subdivided into several parts, each part may, if the originator of the proposal or the assembly so agrees, be considered and voted upon separately.

6 Any proposal withdrawn in Congress or in Committee by its originator may be resubmitted by the delegation of another member country. Similarly, if an amendment to a proposal is accepted by the originator of the proposal, another delegation may resubmit the original, unamended proposal.

7 Any amendment to a proposal which is accepted by the delegation submitting the proposal shall be immediately included in the text thereof. If the originator of the original proposal does not accept an amendment, the Chairman shall decide whether the amendment or the proposal shall be voted upon first, starting with whichever departs furthest from the meaning or intent of the basic text and entails the most significant change in relation to the status quo.

8 The procedure described in paragraph 7 shall also apply where more than one amendment to a proposal is submitted.

9 The Chairman of Congress and the Chairmen of Committees shall arrange for the text of the proposals, amendments or decisions adopted to be passed to the Drafting Committee, in writing, after each meeting.

10 At the end of their work, the Committees shall prepare, in respect of the Detailed Regulations concerning them, a two-part resolution consisting of:

- (i) the numbers of the proposals referred to the Executive Council for consideration;
- (ii) the numbers of the proposals referred to the Executive Council for consideration together with guidelines from Congress.

Proposals for amending the Detailed Regulations adopted by a Committee and then referred to the Drafting Committee shall be the subject of a resolution to which the definitive text of the said proposals shall be attached.

Article 16

Debates

1 Delegates may not take the floor until they have been given permission to do so by the Chairman of the meeting. They shall be urged to speak slowly and distinctly. The Chairman shall afford delegates the possibility of freely and fully expressing their views on the subject discussed, so long as that is compatible with the normal course of the debate.

2 Unless a majority of the members present and voting decides otherwise, speeches shall not exceed five minutes. The Chairman shall be authorized to interrupt any speaker who exceeds the said authorized time. He may also ask the delegate not to depart from the subject.

3 During a debate, the Chairman may, with the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, declare the list of speakers closed after reading it out. When the list is exhausted, he shall declare the debate closed, although even after the closing of the list he may grant the originator of the proposal under discussion the right to reply to any of the speeches delivered.

4 The Chairman may also, with the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, limit the number of speeches by any one delegation on a proposal or a certain group of proposals; but the originator of the proposal shall be given the opportunity of introducing it and speaking subsequently if he asks to do so in order to make new points in reply to the speeches of other delegations, so that he may, if he wishes, be the last speaker.

5 With the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, the Chairman may limit the number of speeches on a proposal or a certain group of proposals; but this limit may not be less than five for and five against the proposal under discussion.

Article 17

Motions on points of order and procedural motions

1 During the discussion of any question and even, where appropriate, after the closure of the debate, a delegation may submit a motion on a point of order for the purpose of requesting:

- clarification on the conduct of the debates;
- observance of the Rules of Procedure;
- a change in the order of discussion of proposals suggested by the Chairman.

The motion on a point of order shall take precedence over all questions, including the procedural motions set forth in paragraph 3.

2 The Chairman shall immediately give the desired clarifications or take the decision which he considers advisable on the subject of the motion on a point of order. In the event of an objection, the Chairman's decision shall be put to the vote forthwith.

3 In addition, during discussion of a question, a delegation may introduce a procedural motion with a view to proposing:

- (a) the suspension of the meeting;
- (b) the closure of the meeting;
- (c) the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion;
- (d) the closure of the debate on the question under discussion.

Procedural motions shall take precedence, in the order set out above, over all other proposals except the motions on points of order referred to in paragraph 1.

4 Motions for the suspension or closure of the meeting shall not be discussed, but shall be put to the vote immediately.

5 When a delegation proposes adjournment or closure of the debate on a question under discussion,

only two speakers against the adjournment or the closure of the debate may speak, after which the motion shall be put to the vote.

6 The delegation which submits a motion on a point of order or a procedural motion may not, in its submission, deal with the substance of the question under discussion. The proposer of a procedural motion may withdraw it before it has been put to the vote, and any motion of this kind, whether amended or not, which is withdrawn may be reintroduced by another delegation.

Article 18

Quorum

1 Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3, the quorum necessary for the opening of the meetings and for voting shall be half the member countries represented in Congress and having the right to vote.

2 For votes on amending the Constitution and the General Regulations, the quorum required shall be two thirds of the Union member countries.

3 In the case of the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations, the quorum required for the opening of the meetings and for voting shall be half the member countries represented at Congress which are parties to the Agreement concerned and have the right to vote.

4 Delegations which are present but do not take part in a given vote, or which state that they do not wish to take part therein, shall not be considered absent for the purpose of establishing the quorums required under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

Article 19

Voting principle and procedure

1 Questions which cannot be settled by common consent shall be decided by vote.

2 Votes shall be taken by the traditional system or by the electronic voting system. They shall normally be taken by the electronic system when that system is available to the assembly. However, in the case of a secret ballot, the traditional system may be used if one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests.

3 For the traditional system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:

(a) by show of hands. If there is doubt about the result of such a vote, the Chairman, if he so wishes or if a delegation so requests, may arrange for an immediate roll-call vote on the same question;

(b) by roll-call, at the request of a delegation or if so decided by the Chairman. The roll shall be called according to the French alphabetical order of the countries represented, beginning with the country whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. The result of the vote, together with a list of the countries grouped according to the way they voted, shall be included in the minutes of the meeting;

(c) by secret ballot, using ballot papers, if requested by two delegations. In this case, the Chairman of the meeting shall appoint three tellers and make the necessary arrangements for the holding of a secret ballot.

4 For the electronic system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:

- (a) non-recorded vote: it replaces a vote by show of hands;
 - (b) recorded vote: it replaces a roll-call vote; however, the names of the countries shall not be called unless one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests;
 - (c) secret ballot: it replaces the secret ballot by ballot papers.
- 5 Regardless of the system of voting used, the secret ballot shall take precedence over any other voting procedure.
- 6 Once the voting has begun, no delegation may interrupt it, except to raise a point of order relating to the way in which the vote is being taken.
- 7 After the vote, the Chairman may permit delegates to explain why they voted as they did.

Article 20

Conditions of approval of proposals

- 1 To be adopted, proposals involving amendments to the Acts must:
- (a) in the case of the Constitution, be approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union;
 - (b) in the case of the General Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries represented in Congress;
 - (c) in the case of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting;
 - (d) in the case of the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting which are parties to the Agreements.
- 2 Procedural matters which cannot be settled by common consent shall be decided by a majority of the member countries present and voting. The same shall apply to decisions not concerning changes in the Acts, unless Congress decides otherwise by a majority of the member countries present and voting.
- 3 Subject to paragraph 5, "member countries present and voting" means member countries voting "for" or "against", abstentions being disregarded in counting the votes required to constitute a majority, and similarly blank or null and void ballot papers in the case of a secret ballot.
- 4 In the event of a tie, a proposal shall be regarded as rejected.
- 5 When the number of abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers exceeds half the number of votes cast (for, against and abstentions), consideration of the matter shall be deferred until a subsequent meeting, at which abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers shall be disregarded.

Article 21

Election of the members of the Executive Council or the Consultative Council

for Postal Studies

In order to decide between countries which have obtained the same number of votes in elections of members of the Executive Council or the Consultative Council for Postal Studies, the Chairman shall draw lots.

Article 22

Election of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau

1 The elections of the Director-General of the International Bureau and of the Deputy Director-General shall take place by secret ballot successively at one or more meetings held on the same day. The candidate who obtains a majority of the votes cast by the member countries present and voting shall be elected. As many ballots shall be held as are necessary for a candidate to obtain this majority.

2 "Member countries present and voting" shall mean member countries voting for one of the candidates whose applications have been announced in due and proper form, abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers being ignored in counting the votes required to constitute a majority.

3 If the number of abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers exceeds half the number of votes cast in accordance with paragraph 2, the election shall be deferred to a later meeting, at which abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers shall no longer be taken into account.

4 The candidate who obtains the least number of votes in any one ballot shall be eliminated.

5 In the event of a tie, an additional ballot, and if necessary a second additional ballot, shall be held in an attempt to decide between the tying candidates, the vote relating only to these candidates. If the result is inconclusive, the election shall be decided by drawing lots. The lots shall be drawn by the Chairman.

Article 23

Minutes

1 The minutes of the meetings of Congress and Committees shall record the course of the meetings, briefly summarize speeches, and mention proposals and the outcome of the debates. Minutes shall be prepared of the plenary meetings and summarized minutes of the Committee meetings.

2 The minutes of Committee meetings may be replaced by reports to Congress if the Executive Council so decides. As a general rule, Working Parties shall prepare a report for the body that set them up.

3 Each delegate, however, shall be entitled to ask for any statement made by him to be included in the minutes or in the report either verbatim or in summary form, provided the French text is handed to the Secretariat not later than two hours after the end of the meeting.

4 Delegates shall be allowed a period of twenty-four hours, from the moment when the draft minutes or the draft report are distributed, in which to make their comments to the Secretariat, which if necessary shall act as an intermediary between the party concerned and the Chairman of the meeting in question.

5 As a general rule and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, at the beginning of each meeting of Congress, the Chairman shall submit the minutes of a previous meeting for approval. The same shall apply in regard to those Committees whose proceedings are recorded in the form of minutes or a report. The minutes or reports of the last meetings which it has not been possible to approve in Congress or in a Committee shall be approved by the respective Chairmen of the meetings. The International Bureau shall also take account of any comments received from delegates of member countries within forty days of the dispatch of the minutes to them.

6 The International Bureau shall be authorized to correct in the minutes or reports of meetings of Congress and Committees any clerical errors which were not brought to light when the minutes were approved in accordance with paragraph 5.

Article 24

Approval by Congress of draft decisions (Acts, resolutions, etc)

1 As a general rule, each draft Act submitted by the Drafting Committee shall be studied article by article. It can only be regarded as adopted after an overall favourable vote. Article 20, paragraph 1, shall apply to such a vote.

2 During this study, any delegation may reopen a proposal which has been carried or rejected in Committee. An appeal relating to a rejected proposal shall be subject to the delegation's having notified the Chairman of Congress accordingly, in writing, at least one day before the meeting at which the relevant provisions of the draft Act is to be submitted to Congress for approval.

3 Nonetheless, it shall always be possible, if the Chairman considers it desirable for the progress of Congress work, to consider appeals before considering the draft Acts submitted by the Drafting Committee.

4 When a proposal has been adopted or rejected by Congress, it can only be reconsidered by the same Congress if the appeal has been supported by at least ten delegations and approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. This possibility is limited to proposals submitted direct to plenary meetings, it being understood that a single question cannot give rise to more than one appeal.

5 The International Bureau shall be authorized to correct in the final Acts any clerical errors which have not come to light during the study of the draft Acts, the numbering of articles and paragraphs and references.

6 Paragraphs 2 to 5 shall also apply to draft decisions other than draft Acts (resolutions, formal opinions, etc).

Article 25

Assignment of studies to the Executive Council and the Consultative Council

for Postal Studies

On the recommendation of its Bureau, Congress shall assign studies to the Executive Council and the Consultative Council for Postal Studies, as follows, taking account of the respective compositions and responsibilities of these two bodies:

(a) as a rule, to the Executive Council when they concern the structure, organization and general administration of the Union. The same shall apply to questions with major financial repercussions

(charges, transit charges, basic airmail conveyance rates, parcel-post rates, etc) and which may involve amendment of the Acts;

(b) to the Consultative Council for Postal Studies when such studies relate to technical, operational, economic and technical cooperation matters.

Article 26

Reservations to Acts

Reservations must be submitted in writing in French (proposals concerning the Final Protocol), in order that they may be considered by Congress before the signing of Acts.

Article 27

Signature of Acts

Acts finally approved by Congress shall be submitted to the plenipotentiaries for signature.

Article 28

Amendment of the Rules

1 Each Congress may amend the Rules of Procedure. In order to be accepted for discussion, proposals to amend the present Rules, unless submitted by a UPU body empowered to put forward proposals, shall be supported in Congress by at least ten delegations.

2 To be adopted, proposals for amendments to the present Rules must be approved by a least two-thirds of the member countries represented in Congress.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 3, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have by common consent and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution drawn up in this Convention the rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services.

PART I

RULES APPLICABLE IN COMMON THROUGHOUT THE

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Freedom of transit

1 Freedom of transit, the principle of which is set forth in article 1 of the Constitution, shall carry with it the obligation for each postal administration to forward always by the quickest routes which it uses for its own items, closed mails and *à découvert* letter-post items which are passed to it by another administration. This obligation shall also apply to airmail correspondence, whether or not the intermediate postal administrations take part in reforwarding it.

2 Member countries which do not participate in the exchange of letters containing perishable biological substances or radioactive substances shall have the option of not admitting these items in transit *à découvert* through their territory. The same shall apply to the items referred to in article 41, paragraph 9.

3 Member countries not providing the insured letters service or not accepting liability for insured letters carried by their sea or air services shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for registered items.

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

5 Freedom of transit for air parcels shall be guaranteed throughout the territory of the Union. Nevertheless, member countries which are not parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement shall not be required to forward air parcels by surface.

6 Member countries which are parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement but which do not provide an insured parcels service or which do not accept liability for insured items carried by their sea or air services, shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

Article 2

Failure to give freedom of transit

When a member country fails to observe the provisions of article 1 of the Constitution and of article 1 of the Convention regarding freedom of transit, postal administrations of other member countries may discontinue their postal service with that country. They shall give prior notice of this step to the administrations concerned by telegram or by any other appropriate means of telecommunication, and inform the International Bureau of the fact.

Article 3

Land transit without the participation of the services of the country crossed

The conveyance of mail in transit through a country without the participation of the services of that country shall be subject to the prior authorization of the country crossed. This form of transit shall not involve the liability of the latter country.

Article 4

Temporary suspension and resumption of services

1 When, owing to exceptional circumstances, a postal administration is obliged temporarily to suspend its services wholly or in part, it shall announce the fact immediately, by any appropriate means of telecommunication, to the administration or administrations concerned, indicating, if

possible, the probable duration of the suspension of services. It shall do likewise when the suspended services are resumed.

2 The International Bureau must be notified of the suspension or resumption of services if a general announcement is considered necessary. If necessary, the International Bureau shall notify administrations by telegram or telex.

3 The administration of origin shall have the option of refunding the postage charges (article 20), special charges (article 26) and air surcharges article 21 to the sender if, owing to the suspension of services, the benefit accruing from conveyance of the item in question was obtained only in part or not at all.

Article 5

Ownership of postal items

A postal item shall remain the property of the sender until it is delivered to the rightful owner, except when the item has been seized in pursuance of the legislation of the country of destination.

Article 6

Creation of new service

Administrations may by mutual consent create a new service not expressly provided for in the Acts of the Union. Charges for a new service shall be laid down by each administration concerned, having regard to the expenses of operating the service.

Article 7

Use of bar codes and unique identification system for items, receptacles

and related documents

1 Administrations may use computer-generated bar codes and a unique identification system in the international postal services for purposes such as track/trace systems and other identification applications. The bar codes and the unique identification system may be used in order to identify, for example:

- individual items;
- small receptacles (mailbags, containers, letter trays, etc);
- related documents (forms, labels, etc).

2 Administrations which choose to use bar codes in the international services should comply with the technical specifications laid down by the Consultative Council for Postal Studies. These specifications shall be notified to all administrations by the International Bureau.

3 Administrations which do not operate computerized bar-coding systems are not obliged to comply with the specifications laid down by the Consultative Council for Postal Studies.

4 Nonetheless, administrations not using a computerized bar-coding system may find it useful to adopt the system of unique identification for items, receptacles and related documents specified by

the Consultative Council for Postal Studies. This system may be used by countries operating traditional manual systems for numbering items, receptacles and documents in the international postal services.

5 If countries using a manual system choose to use the unique system, they should comply with the specifications laid down by the Consultative Council for Postal Studies.

Article 8

Charges

1 The charges for the various international postal services shall be laid down in the Convention and the Agreements.

2 No postal charge of any kind may be collected other than those provided for in the Convention and Agreements.

Article 9

Monetary standard.

Equivalents

1 The monetary unit laid down in article 7 of the Constitution and used in the Convention and the Agreements as well as in their Detailed Regulations shall be the Special Drawing Right (SDR).

2 Union member countries shall be entitled to choose, by mutual agreement, another monetary unit or one of their national currencies for preparing and settling accounts.

3 Union member countries whose currency exchange rates in relation to the SDR are not calculated by the IMF or which are not members of that specialized agency shall be requested to declare unilaterally an equivalence between their currencies and the SDR.

Article 10

Postage stamps

1 Postage stamps for denoting payment of postage shall be issued by postal administrations only.

2 The subjects and designs of postage stamps shall be in keeping with the spirit of the Preamble to the UPU Constitution and of decisions taken by the Union's bodies.

Article 11

Forms

1 The texts, colours and dimensions of forms shall be prescribed in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements.

2 Forms for the use of administrations in their relations with one another shall be drawn up in French with or without interlinear translation, unless the administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.

3 Forms for the use of postal administrations as well as any copies thereof shall be completed in such a way that the entries are fully legible. The original form shall be sent to the appropriate administration or to the party most concerned.

4 Forms for the use of the public shall bear an interlinear translation in French when they are not printed in that language.

Article 12

Postal identity cards

1 Each postal administration may issue to persons who apply for them postal identity cards valid as proof of identity for postal transactions effected in member countries which have not announced their refusal to recognize them.

2 The administration which issues a card shall be authorised to collect, on this account, a charge which may not exceed 1.63 SDR.

3 Administrations shall be relieved of all liability when it is established that the delivery of a postal item or the payment of a monetary article was effected on presentation of a genuine card. Moreover, they shall not be liable for consequences arising from the loss, theft or fraudulent use of a genuine card.

4 A card shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date of issue. Nevertheless, it shall cease to be valid:

a when the appearance of the holder is altered to such an extent that it no longer corresponds to the photograph or to the description;

b when it is damaged in such a way that it is no longer possible to check a particular entry concerning the holder;

c when it shows signs of forgery.

Article 13

Settlement of accounts

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

Article 14

Undertakings regarding penal measures

The Governments of member countries shall 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 uttering:

i of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit or used impressions of 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 all fraudulent operations of manufacturing and uttering adhesive stamps and stamped impressions in use in the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the adhesive stamps and stamped impressions issued by the postal administration of a member country;

e for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal items of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances, where their insertion has not been expressly authorized by the Convention and the Agreements.

CHAPTER II

EXEMPTION FROM POSTAL CHARGES

Article 15

Exemption from postal charges

Cases of exemption from postal charges shall be expressly laid down by the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 16

Exemption from postal charges on letter-post items relating to the postal service

Subject to article 21, paragraph 1, letter-post items, relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges if they are:

a sent by postal administrations or their offices;

b exchanged between bodies of the Universal Postal Union and bodies of the Restricted Unions, between the bodies of those Unions or sent by such bodies to postal administrations or their offices.

Article 17

Exemption from postal charges of items which concern prisoners of war

and civilian internees

1 Subject to article 21, paragraph 1, letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles addressed to or sent by prisoners of war, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Prisoner-of-War Information Agency provided for in articles 122 and 123 respectively of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, shall be exempt from all

postal charges. Belligerents apprehended and interned in a neutral country shall be classed with prisoners of war proper so far as the application of the foregoing provisions is concerned.

2 Paragraph 1 shall apply to letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles 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, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agency prescribed in articles 136 and 140 respectively of that Convention.

3 The national Information Bureau and the Central Information Agencies mentioned above shall also enjoy exemption from postal charges in respect of letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles which concern the persons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, which they send or receive, either direct or as intermediaries, under the conditions laid down in those paragraphs.

4 Parcels shall be admitted free of postage up to a weight of 5 kg. The weight limit shall be increased to 10 kg in the case of parcels the contents of which 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 18

Exemption of literature for the blind from postal charges

Subject to article 21, paragraph 1, literature for the blind shall be exempt from postage, the special charges listed in article 26, paragraph 1, and the cash-on-delivery charge.

PART II

PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LETTER POST

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 19

Letter-post items

1 Letter-post items shall consist of:

a letters and postcards together called "LC";

b printed papers, literature for the blind and small packets together called "AO".

2 Special bags containing newspapers, periodicals, books and other printed papers for the same addressee at the same address shall be called "M bags".

3 Letter-post items conveyed by air with priority shall be called "airmail correspondence".

4 Surface items conveyed by air with reduced priority shall be called "S.A.L.".

5 Based upon the speed of their treatment, letter-post items may be divided into:

a priority items, ie items conveyed by the quickest route (air or surface) with priority;

b non-priority items, ie items for which the sender has chosen a lower rate, implying a longer delivery time.

6 Administrations of transit and destination shall treat priority items as airmail correspondence; on the basis of bilateral rules, administrations may also give the same treatment to surface LC items when no better service is offered to the sender. Similarly, no distinction shall be made between non-priority items and surface AO items, or surface AO conveyed by air with reduced priority (S.A.L.).

Article 20

Postage charges and limits of weight and size.

General conditions

1 The postage charge for the conveyance of letter-post items throughout the entire extent of the Union shall be taxed for guideline purposes in accordance with columns 1, 2 and 3 of the table below. The limits of weight and size shall be fixed in accordance with columns 4 and 5 of the table below. Except in the case provided for in article 27, paragraph 6, they shall cover delivery of the items to the place of address provided that this delivery service is operated in the country of destination for the items in question.

Category	Weight step	Basic charge	Limits of weight	of size
1	2	3	4	5
		SDR		
Letters	up to 20 g	0.37	2 kg	Maxima: length, width and depth
	above 20 g			combined: 900 mm but the greatest
	up to 100 g	0.88		dimension may not exceed 600 mm
	above 100 g			with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll
	up to 250 g	1.76		form: length plus twice the diameter,
	above 250 g			1040 mm, but the greatest dimension
	up to 500 g	3.38		may not exceed 900 mm with a
	above 500 g			tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: to have
	up to 1000 g	5.88		a surface measuring not less than 90
	above 1000 g			x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm.

	up to 2000 g	9.56		In roll form: length plus twice the
				diameter, 170 mm but the greatest dimension may not be less than 100 mm.
Postcards		0.26		Maxima: 105 x 148 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. Length at least equal to the width multiplied by 2 (approximate value 1.4).
Printed	up to 20 g	0.18	2 kg	Maxima: length, width and depth
papers	above 20 g		(for books and	combined: 900 mm but the greatest
	up to 100 g	0.40	pamphlets: 5 kg;	dimension may not exceed 600 mm
	above 100 g		this limit of	with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll
	up to 250 g	0.74	weight may be	form: length plus twice the diameter,
	above 250 g		raised to 10 kg	1040 mm, but the greatest dimension
	up to 500 g	1.32	after agreement	may not exceed 900 mm with a
	above 500 g		between the	tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: to have
	up to 1000 g	2.21	administrations	a surface measuring not less than 90
	above 1000 g		concerned)	x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm.
	up to 2000 g	3.09		In roll form: length plus twice the
	per additional			diameter, 170 mm, but the greatest
	step of 1000 g	1.54		dimension may not be less than 100
				mm.
Literature	see article 18		7 kg	
for the				
blind				
Small	up to 100 g	0.40	2 kg	
packets	above 100 g			

	up to 250 g	0.74		
	above 250 g			
	up to 500 g	1.32		
	above 500 g			
	up to 1000 g	2.21		
	above 1000 g			
	up to 2000 g	3.09		

2 The Executive Council shall be authorized to revise and to amend the basic charges in column 3 once between two Congresses. The revised charges shall be based on the median value of the charges fixed by the members of the Union for international items from their countries. They shall come into force on a date fixed by the Executive Council.

3 Member countries may, exceptionally, modify the weight-step structure shown in paragraph 1, subject to the following conditions:

a for any category, the minimum weight step shall be that shown in paragraph 1;

b for any category, the last weight step shall not exceed the maximum weight shown in paragraph 1.

4 Member countries which have abolished postcards, printed papers and/or small packets as separate categories of letter-post item in their internal service may do the same in respect of mail for abroad.

5 Each administration may admit aerogrammes, which are airmail letters consisting of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed on all sides. However, notwithstanding paragraph 1, the dimensions on that form shall not exceed 110 x 220 mm and the length shall be at least equal to the width multiplied by 2 (approximate value: 1.4).

6 Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 3, a, postal administrations may apply a first weight step of 50 g to printed papers.

7 The charges adopted within the limits laid down in paragraph 1 shall as far as possible bear the same relation to one another as the basic charges. Exceptionally, and within the limits prescribed in paragraph 1, each postal administration shall be free to apply to the charges for postcards, printed papers or small packets a rate of increase or reduction different from that which it applies to the charges for letters.

8 Each postal administration may allow, for newspapers and periodicals published in its country, a reduction of not more than 50 percent of the tariff applicable to the letter-post category used for the item, while reserving the right to restrict this reduction to newspapers and periodicals which fulfil the conditions required by internal regulations for transmission at the tariff for newspapers. This reduction shall not extend to commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, etc, no matter how regularly they are issued; the same shall apply to advertisements printed on sheets annexed to newspapers and periodicals, unless they consist of detached advertising inserts to be

considered as integral parts of the newspaper or periodical.

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

10 Newspapers, periodicals, books and other printed papers for the same addressee at the same address may be inserted in one or more special bags (M bags). The charge applicable to such bags shall be calculated by weight steps of 1 kg up to the total weight of each bag. Administrations may allow a reduction for such bags of up to 20 percent of the charge payable for the category of item used. This reduction may be independent of the reduction provided for in paragraphs 8 and 9. M bags shall not be subject to the limits of weight laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

11 The administration of origin may, within the limits laid down in paragraph 1, apply to non-standardized items charges different from those applicable to standardized items.

12 The combining in one item of articles on which different charges are payable shall be authorized on condition that the total weight does not exceed the maximum weight of the category whose weight limit is the highest. The charge applicable on such an item shall, at the option of the originating administration, be that of the category with the highest rate or the sum of the separate charges applicable to each article in the item. Such items shall bear the endorsement "*Envois mixtes*" ("Combination mailing").

13 The letter-post items sent on postal service as mentioned in article 16 shall not be subject to the limits of weight and size laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

14 Administrations may apply to letter-post items posted in their countries the maximum limit of weight laid down for articles of the same kind in their internal service provided that such items do not exceed the limit of weight mentioned in paragraph 1.

15 Postal administration may allow reduced charges based on their internal legislations for letter-post items posted in their country. They may, for instance, give preferential rates to major users of the Post. Such preferential rates may not, however, be lower than those applied in the internal service to items presenting the same characteristics (category, quantity, handling time, etc).

Article 21

Rate-fixing based on method of conveyance and/or speed

1 Administrations shall be authorized to collect air surcharges for airmail items and may for that purpose use smaller weight steps than those laid down in article 20, paragraph 1. The surcharges shall be related to the air conveyance dues and shall be uniform for at least the whole of the territory of each country of destination whatever the route used. In calculating the air surcharge for an airmail item, administrations shall be authorized to take into account the weight of any forms used by the public which may be attached to the item. With the exception of those originating from the bodies of the Universal Postal Union and from the Restricted Unions, items on postal service mentioned in article 16 shall be exempt from air surcharge.

2 Administrations shall have the option of collecting lower air surcharges for S.A.L. mail than they collect for airmail correspondence.

3 Administrations which so prefer may fix combined charges for the prepayment of airmail

correspondence and S.A.L. mail, taking into account:

a the cost of the postal services rendered by them;

b the cost of the air conveyance.

4 Administrations shall, within the limits of article 20, paragraph 1, be authorized to collect different charges for priority than for non-priority items. The air conveyance dues may be taken into account.

5 The reductions in charges pursuant to article 20, paragraphs 8, 9 and 10, shall also apply to items conveyed by air, but no reduction shall be granted on the portion of the charge intended to cover the costs of such conveyance.

Article 22

Standardized items

1 In connection with the provisions of article 20, paragraph 1, rectangular items shall be considered standardized if their length is not less than their width multiplied by 2 (approximate value 1.4) and if they satisfy, according to their presentation, the following conditions:

a for items in envelopes:

i items in ordinary envelopes:

minimum dimensions: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;

maximum dimensions: 120 x 235 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;

maximum weight: 20 g;

maximum thickness: 5 mm;

in addition, the address shall be written on the envelope on the plain side which is not provided with a closing flap and in a rectangular area situated at least:

40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);

15 mm from the right-hand edge;

15 mm from the bottom edge;

and not more than 140 mm from the right-hand edge;

ii items in envelopes with transparent panels: dimensions, weight and thickness of items in ordinary envelopes; in addition to the general conditions of admission set out in article 124 of the Detailed Regulations, such items shall satisfy the following conditions:

the transparent panel for the address of the addressee shall be at least:

40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);

15 mm from the right-hand edge;

15 mm from the left-hand edge;

15 mm from the bottom edge;

the panel may not be bordered by a coloured band or frame;

iii all items in envelopes:

the sender's address, when it appears on the front, shall be placed in the top left-hand corner; this position shall also be assigned to service indications or labels, if any, which may be located beneath the sender's address; service indications may also be placed just above the addressee's address when window envelopes are used; the items shall be closed by completely sticking down the sealing flap of the envelope;

b for items in card form:

items in card form up to 120 x 235 mm in size may be accepted as standardized items provided they are made of cardboard heavy enough to be sufficiently stiff to withstand processing without difficulty;

c for items mentioned in a and b:

on the address side on which the address shall be written in the direction of the length a rectangular area 40 mm (- 2 mm) in depth from the upper edge and 74 mm in width from the right-hand edge shall be reserved for affixing the postage stamp or stamps and the cancellation impression. Inside this area the postage stamps or franking impression shall be applied in the top right-hand corner. No wording or extraneous matter whatsoever may appear:

- below the address;
- to the right of the address, from the franking and cancelling area to the bottom edge of the item;
- to the left of the address, in an area at least 15 mm wide and running from the first line of the address to the bottom edge of the item;
- in an area 15 mm high starting from the bottom edge of the item and 140 mm long starting from the right-hand edge of the item. This area may be partly identical with those defined above.

2 Administrations which admit items in envelopes whose width does not exceed 162 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm, as standardized items in their domestic service may also admit such items as standardized items in the international service.

3 The following items shall not be considered standardized:

- folded cards;
- items closed by means of staples, metal eyelets or hook fastenings;
- punched cards sent unenclosed (without an envelope);
- items whose envelopes are made of material which has fundamentally different physical properties from paper (except from the material used for making the panel of window envelopes);

- items containing articles causing protrusions;
- folded letters sent unenclosed (without an envelope) which are not closed on all sides and which are not rigid enough for mechanical processing.

Article 23

Perishable biological substances.

Radioactive materials

1 Perishable biological substances and radioactive materials made up and packed in accordance with the respective provisions of the Detailed Regulations shall be subject to the tariff for letters and to registration. Their admission shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only. Such substances shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding air surcharges.

2 Furthermore, perishable biological substances may be exchanged only between officially recognized qualified laboratories, while radioactive materials may be posted only by duly authorized senders.

Article 24

Items wrongly admitted

1 Except as otherwise provided in the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in articles 20 and 23 and the Detailed Regulations shall not be admitted. Such items which have been wrongly admitted shall be returned to the administration of origin. Nevertheless, the administration of destination shall be authorized to deliver them to the addressees. In that event it shall collect on them, as necessary, the charges prescribed for the category of the letter post to which they belong by reason of their method of closure, contents, weight or size. If, in addition, the weight of the items exceeds the maximum limits laid down in article 20, paragraph 1, the administration of destination may charge for them according to their actual weight by applying a supplementary charge equal to the charge for an item in the international service of the same category and of the weight corresponding to the excess noted.

2 Paragraph 1 shall apply by analogy to items coming within the provisions of article 41, paragraphs 2 and 3.

3 Items containing the other articles prohibited by article 41 which have been wrongly admitted to the Post shall be dealt with according to the provisions of that article.

Article 25

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1 A member country shall not be bound to forward or deliver to the addressee letter-post 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 same shall apply to such items posted in large quantities, whether or not such postings are made with a view to benefiting from lower charges.

2 Paragraph 1 shall be 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.

3 The administration concerned may either return its items to origin or charge postage on the items at its internal rates. If the sender refuses to pay the postage, the items may be disposed of in accordance with the internal legislation of the administration concerned.

4 A member country shall not be bound to accept, forward or deliver to the addressees letter-post items which senders post or cause to be posted in large quantities in a country other than the country where they reside. The administration concerned may send back such items to origin or return them to the senders without repaying the prepaid charge.

Article 26

Special charges

1 The charges prescribed in the Convention which are collected in addition to the postage charges mentioned in article 20 shall be known as "special charges". Their amount shall be fixed in accordance with the indications in the table below:

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
a Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting (article 27, paragraph 1)	Same charge as in internal service	
b Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours (article 27, paragraph 2)	Same charge as in internal service	
c Charge for collection at the sender's address (article 27, paragraph 3)	Same charge as in internal service	
d Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours (article 27, paragraph 4)	Same charge as in internal service	
e Poste restante		

charge (article 27, paragraph 5)	Same charge as in internal service	
f Charge for delivery to the addressee of a small packet exceeding 500 g (article 27, paragraph 6)	0.20 SDR	This charge may be increased by 0.10 SDR at most when the item is delivered to the place of address
g Storage charge (article 28)		Charge collected at the rate laid down by internal legislation for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 g except literature for the blind
h Charge on unpaid or underpaid unregistered items (article 32, paragraphs 1 and 2)	Charge adopted for letters in the first weigh step by the country of delivery multiplied by the ratio between the amount of deficient postage and the same charge adopted by the country of origin; to this charge shall be added a handling charge of 0.33 SDR at most or the charge prescribed by internal legislation	The delivering administration may, if it so wishes, collect only the handling charge
i Express charge (article 35, paragraphs 2, 5 and 8)	Charge which may not be less than the amount of postage prepayable on an unregistered single rate letter and not more than 1.63 SDR	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 20, paragraph 10, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the charge per item. When express delivery involves special demands an additional charge may be levied in accordance with the provisions governing items of the same kind in the internal service. If the addressee asks for express delivery, the charge of the internal service may be collected
j Charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of address (article 38, paragraph 2)	1.31 SDR at most	
k Charge for a		

request for redirection (article 39, paragraph 7)	Same charge as in internal service	
l Charge for redirection or return (article 39, paragraph 8, and article 40, paragraph 11)	Same charge as in internal service	
m Presentation-to-Customs charge (article 43)	2.61 SDR at most	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 20, paragraph 10, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding 3.27 SDR
n Charge collected for delivery of an item free of charges and fees (article 45, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5)	<p>i Charge not exceeding 0.98 SDR collected by the administration of origin</p> <p>ii Additional charge not exceeding 1.31 SDR per request made after posting, collected by the administration of origin</p> <p>iii Commission charge not exceeding 0.98 SDR collected for the benefit of the administration of destination</p>	
o Inquiry charge (article 47, paragraph 4)	0.65 SDR at most	
p Registration charge (article 50, paragraphs 1, b, and 2, and article 54, paragraphs 1, b, and 2)	1.31 SDR at most	<p>i For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 20, paragraph 10, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the amount of the charge per item</p> <p>ii In addition to the charge per item or bulk charge, administrations may collect, from the sender or from the addressee, special charges in accordance with their internal legislation, to take account of any exceptional security measures taken with regard to registered items and insured letters</p>

q Insurance charge (article 54, paragraph 1, c)	At most 0.33 SDR for each 65.34 SDR of insured value or fraction thereof or 1/2 percent of the scale of the insured value, whatever the country of destination, even in countries which undertake to cover risks of <i>force majeure</i>	
r Charge for cover against risks due to <i>force majeure</i> (article 50, paragraph 3)	0.13 SDR at most for each registered item	
s Advice of delivery charge (article 55, paragraph 1)	0.98 SDR at most	
t Charge for delivery to the addressee in person (article 56, paragraph 1)	0.16 SDR at most	

2 Member countries whose internal service charges are higher than those which are fixed in paragraph 1 shall be authorized to apply them also in the international service.

Article 27

Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting.

Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours.

Charge for collection at the sender's address.

Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours.

Poste restante charge.

Charge for delivery of small packets

1 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to the provisions of their legislation, for items handed over for dispatch after the latest time for posting.

2 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items posted at the counter outside normal opening hours.

3 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to

their legislation, for items collected by them from the sender's address.

4 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the addressee an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items withdrawn at the counter outside normal opening hours.

5 Administrations of countries of destination may collect on items addressed *poste restante* the special charge, if any, prescribed by their legislation for items of the same kind in their internal service.

6 Administrations of countries of destination shall be authorized to collect on each small packet exceeding the weight of 500 grammes delivered to the addressee, the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, f.

Article 28

Storage charge

The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, according to its legislation, a storage charge for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 grammes of which the addressee has not taken delivery within the period during which the item is held at his disposal free of charge. This charge shall not apply to literature for the blind.

Article 29

Payment of postage

1 As a general rule, the items mentioned on article 19, with the exception of those which are dealt with in articles 16 to 18, shall be fully prepaid by the sender.

2 The administration of the country of origin may return unpaid or underpaid letter-post items to the sender for the latter to make up the postage himself.

3 The administration of origin may also itself undertake to prepay unpaid letter-post items or make up the postage on underpaid items and collect the missing amount from the sender.

4 If the administration of origin does not apply any of the options provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 or if the postage cannot be made up by the sender, unpaid or underpaid letters and postcards shall still be forwarded to the country of destination. Other unpaid or underpaid items may also be forwarded.

5 Surcharged airmail correspondence, surcharged S.A.L. mail and priority items which it is not possible to have regularized by the senders shall be sent by air, as S.A.L. or as priority mail respectively if the charges paid represent at least the amount of the surcharge or, as appropriate, the difference between the charge for an airmail or S.A.L. item and the charge for a surface item or the difference between the charge for a priority item and the charge for a non-priority item. Nevertheless, the administration of origin may send such items by air or by priority means when the charges paid represent at least 75 percent of the surcharge or 50 percent of the combined charge. Below these limits, the items shall be forwarded by means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence or non-priority items.

6 Items properly paid for their first transmission and on which the supplementary charge has been paid before their redirection shall be considered as duly prepaid.

Article 30

Methods of denoting prepayment

1 Prepayment shall be denoted by means of any one of the following methods:

a postage stamps printed on or affixed to the items and valid in the country of origin;

b postal prepayment impressions dispensed by automatic vending machines installed by postal administrations;

c impressions of officially approved franking machines operating under the direct supervision of the postal administration;

d impressions made by a printing press or other printing or stamping process when such a system is authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin;

e indication that full postage has been prepaid, for example, "*Taxe perçue*" ("Postage paid"). This indication shall appear in the top right-hand part of the address side and be authenticated by a date-stamp impression of the office of origin or, in the case of unpaid or underpaid items, of the office which prepaid the item or made up the postage on it.

2 Prepayment of printed papers for the same addressee at the same address which are inserted in a special bag shall be denoted by one of the methods referred to in paragraph 1 and the total amount shown on the address label on the bag.

Article 31

Prepayment of letter-post items on board ship

1 Items posted on board ship at the two terminal points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps and according to the rates of the country in whose waters the ship is lying.

2 If the items are posted on board on the high seas, they may be prepaid, in the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, by means of the postage stamps and according to the rates of the country to which the ship appertains or is under contract. Items prepaid in this way must be handed over to the post office at the port of call as soon as possible after the arrival of the ship.

Article 32

Charge on unpaid or underpaid correspondence

1 An administration of origin that itself undertakes to prepay unpaid letter-post items or make up the postage on underpaid items and collect the missing amount from the sender, shall also be authorized to collect from the sender the handling charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, h.

2 Where paragraph 1 is not applied, unpaid or underpaid items shall be liable to the special charge, payable by the addressee or, in the case of returned items, by the sender, laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, h.

3 Registered items and insured letters shall be regarded on arrival as duly prepaid.

Article 33

International business reply service

- 1 Administrations may agree with each other to participate in the international business reply service (IBRS), as an optional service.
- 2 Administrations which operate the service shall comply with the provisions laid down by the Executive Council.
- 3 Two administrations may, nevertheless, agree bilaterally on another system to be applied between themselves.

Article 34

International reply coupons

- 1 Postal administrations shall be permitted to sell international reply coupons issued by the International Bureau and to limit their sale in accordance with their internal legislation.
- 2 The value of the reply coupon shall be 0.74 SDR. The selling price fixed by the administrations concerned may not be less than this value.
- 3 Reply coupons shall be exchangeable in any member country for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage prepayable on a priority item or an unregistered letter sent abroad by air. Except where precluded by the internal legislation of the country of exchange, reply coupons shall also be exchangeable for postal stationery or for other postal prepayment marks or impressions.
- 4 The administration of a member country may, in addition, reserve the right to require the reply coupons and the items to be prepaid in exchange for those reply coupons to be presented at the same time.

Article 35

Express items

- 1 In countries where the administration performs the service, letter-post items shall, at the sender's request, be delivered by special messenger as soon as possible after their arrival at the delivery office; however, any administration shall have the right to confine this service to airmail correspondence, to priority items and, when this is the only means used between two administrations, to surface LC items. As regards insured letters, the administration of destination may, where its regulations so provide, deliver by express an advice of arrival of the item and not the item itself.
- 2 These items, called "express", shall be subject, in addition to the postage, to the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, i. This charge shall be fully paid in advance.
- 3 Express items may be dealt with in a manner different from that specified in paragraph 1, as long as the overall level of this service provided to the addressee is at least equal to that which would have been obtained through special messenger delivery.
- 4 In cases where express items have to be submitted to customs control, administrations should:
a present them to Customs as soon as possible after their arrival; and

b encourage the customs authorities in their country to carry out the control of these items speedily.

5 When express delivery involves special demands on the administration of destination as regards either the situation of the addressee's address or the day or time of arrival at the office of destination, the delivery of the item and the possible collection of an additional charge shall be governed by the provisions relating to items of the same kind in the internal service.

6 Express items on which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been completely paid shall be delivered as ordinary mail unless they have been treated as express by the office of origin. In the latter event a charge shall be collected on them in accordance with article 32.

7 Administrations may confine themselves to making only one attempt at express delivery. If that attempt fails, the item may be treated as an ordinary item.

8 If the regulations of the administration of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office to deliver to them by express immediately on arrival items which are intended for them. In that case the administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, on delivery, the charge that applies in its internal service.

Article 36

Quality of service targets

1 Administrations of destination shall fix a service target for the handling of priority and airmail items addressed to their country. The target shall be no less favourable than those applied to comparable items in their domestic service.

2 Administrations of destination shall also, as far as possible, fix a service target for the handling of surface and non-priority items addressed to their country.

3 Administrations of origin shall fix service targets for priority and airmail items for abroad by reference to the targets fixed by the administrations of destination.

Article 37

Priority treatment of airmail correspondence and priority items

Administrations shall take all necessary steps to:

a ensure the best conditions for the receipt and onward transmission of mails containing airmail correspondence and priority items;

b ensure that agreements concluded with the carriers concerning the priority due to such mails are respected;

c speed up the operations relating to customs control of airmail correspondence and priority items addressed to their countries; and

d keep to a strict minimum the time required for forwarding airmail correspondence and priority items posted in their country to the countries of destination and for having airmail correspondence and priority items arriving from abroad delivered to the addressees.

Article 38

Withdrawal from the post.

Alteration or correction of address at the sender's request

1 The sender of a letter-post item may have it withdrawn from the post, or have its address altered or corrected, so long as the item:

a has not been delivered to the addressee;

b has not been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authorities because of infringement of article 41;

c has not been seized by virtue of the legislation of the country of destination.

2 The request to be made to this effect shall be forwarded by post, telegraph or any other appropriate means of telecommunication at the expense of the sender who shall pay, for each request, the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, j. If the request is to be forwarded by telecommunications, the sender shall pay in addition the corresponding charge for that service. If the item is still in the country of origin, the request for withdrawal from the post, or alteration or correction of address, shall be dealt with according to the legislation of that country.

3 If its legislation permits, each administration shall be bound to accept requests for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of the address in respect of any letter-post item posted in the service of other administrations.

4 If, in relations between two countries which admit this procedure, the sender wishes to be informed by telecommunications of the action taken by the office of destination on his request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of the address, he shall pay for this purpose the relevant charge. If telegrams are used, the telegraph charge shall be that for a reply-paid telegram, calculated on a fifteen-word basis. When telex is used, the telegraph charge to the sender shall normally be the same amount as that charged for forwarding the request by telex.

5 The charges prescribed in paragraph 2 shall be levied only once for each request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of address involving several items posted at the same time, at the same office, by the same sender to the same addressee.

6 A request for simple correction of address (without alteration of the name or status of the addressee) may be made direct to the office of destination by the sender, that is to say, without compliance with the formalities and without payment of the special charge prescribed in paragraph 2.

7 An item shall be returned to origin by air following a request for withdrawal from the post when the sender undertakes to pay the corresponding air surcharge. When an item is redirected by air following a request for alteration or correction of address, the corresponding air surcharge shall be collected from the addressee and shall remain the property of the delivering administration.

Article 39

Redirection

1 If an addressee changes his address, letter-post items shall be reforwarded to him forthwith, under the conditions prescribed in the internal service, unless the sender has forbidden redirection by means of a note on the address side in a language known in the country of destination or unless the item is addressed in accordance with article 113, paragraph 1, k, of the Detailed Regulations.

Nevertheless, reforwarding from one country to another shall be effected only if the items satisfy the conditions for the onward conveyance.

2 Airmail correspondence and priority items shall be redirected to their new destination by the quickest route (air or surface).

3 Other items may be reforwarded by air at the express request of the addressee if the latter undertakes to pay the air surcharges or combined charges for the new air route or for the new priority transmission; in this case, the surcharge or the combined charge shall be collected, in principle, at the time of delivery of the item and retained by the delivering administration. All items may also be reforwarded by the quickest route if the surcharges or combined charges are paid at the redirecting office by a third person. Redirection of such items by the quickest route within the country of destination shall be governed by the internal regulations of that country.

4 Administrations which apply combined charges may fix special fees, which must not exceed the combined charges, for the redirection by air or by priority means under the conditions laid down in paragraph 3.

5 The special C6 envelopes and bags used for collective redirection of correspondence shall be forwarded to the new destination by the route prescribed for individual items in paragraphs 2 and 3.

6 Each administration may lay down a redirection period in accordance with that in force in its internal service.

7 Administrations which collect a charge for requests for redirection in their internal services shall be authorized to collect this same charge in the international service.

8 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations, no additional charge may be collected for the redirection of letter-post items from country to country. However, administrations which collect a charge for redirection of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international mail redirected within their own countries.

9 Letter-post items which are redirected shall be delivered to the addressees on payment of the charges incurred 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.

10 In the event of redirection to another country, the poste restante charge, the presentation-to-customs charge, the storage charge, the commission charge, the additional express charge and the charge for delivery of small packets to the addressees shall be cancelled.

Article 40

Undeliverable items.

Return to country of origin or to sender

1 Items which it has not proved possible to deliver to the addressees for whatever reason shall be considered as undeliverable items.

2 Undeliverable items shall be returned forthwith to the country of origin.

3 The period of retention for items held at the disposal of the addressees or addressed poste restante shall be fixed by the regulations of the administration of destination. As a general rule, however, this

period may not exceed one month, except in particular cases where the administration of destination considers it necessary to extend it to a maximum of two months. Return to the country of origin shall be effected 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 Undeliverable items of the internal service shall be redirected abroad for return to the sender only if they satisfy the conditions for the onward conveyance.

5 Postcards which do not bear the address of the sender shall not be returned. However, registered postcards shall always be returned.

6 The return to origin of undeliverable printed papers shall not be compulsory, unless the sender has asked for their return by means of a note on the item in a language known in the country of destination. However, administrations shall endeavour to make such return to sender, or inform him appropriately, when repeated attempts at delivery or bulk items are involved. Registered printed papers and books shall always be returned.

7 When the country returning the item no longer uses surface conveyance, it shall return undeliverable items by the most appropriate means in use.

8 Airmail letters, airmail postcards and priority items to be returned to origin shall be returned by the quickest route (air or surface).

9 Undeliverable airmail correspondence other than airmail letters and airmail postcards shall be returned to origin by the means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence (including surface and S.A.L.), except:

a in the event of interruption of those means of transport; or

b If the administration of destination has systematically chosen the air route for returning such correspondence.

10 For the return of correspondence to origin by air or priority means at the request of the sender, article 39, paragraphs 3 and 4, shall apply by analogy.

11 Undeliverable letter-post items returned to the country of origin shall be delivered to senders according to the conditions laid down in article 39, paragraph 9. Such items shall not give rise to the collection of any additional charge, except for the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations. However, administrations which collect a charge for return of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international mail returned to them.

Article 41

Prohibitions

1 Letter-post items which, by their packing, may expose officials to danger or may soil or damage other items or postal equipment shall not be admitted. Metal fasteners used for closing items shall not have sharp edges, nor shall they hamper the execution of the postal service.

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

3 Except as otherwise provided in the Detailed Regulations, printed papers and literature for the

blind:

a shall not bear any inscription or contain any document having the character of current and personal correspondence;

b shall not contain any postage stamp or form of prepayment, whether cancelled or not, or any paper representing a monetary value.

4 The insertion in letter-post items of the following articles shall be prohibited:

a articles which, by their nature, may cause the dangers or damage mentioned in paragraph 1;

b narcotics and psychotropic substances:

c live 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;

however, the exceptions mentioned in i and ii shall not apply to insured letters;

d explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances; nevertheless, the perishable biological substances and radioactive substances mentioned in article 23 shall not come within this prohibition;

e obscene or immoral articles;

f articles of which the importation and circulation are prohibited in the country of destination.

5 Every administration shall ensure to the fullest extent possible that the information concerning the prohibitions of its country referred to in paragraph 4, f, and communicated to the International Bureau in accordance with the Detailed Regulations is stated in a clear, specific and detailed manner and is kept up to date.

6 Items containing articles mentioned in paragraph 4 which have been wrongly admitted to the post shall be dealt with according to the legislation of the country of the administration establishing their presence. Letters may not contain documents having the character of current and personal correspondence exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them. If the administration of the country of origin or destination discovers the presence of such documents, it shall deal with them according to its legislation.

7 Nevertheless, items containing articles mentioned in paragraph 4, b, d and e, shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to origin. The administration of destination may deliver to the addressee the part of the contents which is not subject to a prohibition.

8 When an item wrongly admitted to the post is neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the administration of origin shall be notified without delay how it has been dealt with. This notification shall clearly indicate the prohibition under which the item falls and the articles which gave rise to seizure. A wrongly admitted item which is returned to origin shall be accompanied by a similar notification.

9 Moreover, the right of every member country shall be reserved to deny conveyance in transit *à découvert* over its territory to letter-post items, other than letters, postcards and literature for the blind, which do not satisfy the legal requirements governing the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country. Such items shall be returned to the administration of origin.

Article 42

Customs control

The postal administrations of the countries of origin and destination shall be authorized to submit letter-post items to customs control, according to the legislation of those countries.

Article 43

Presentation-to-customs charge

Items submitted to customs control in the country of origin or of destination, as the case may be, may be subjected either for submission to Customs and customs clearance or for submission to Customs only, as a postal charge, to the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, m.

Article 44

Customs duty and other fees

Postal administrations shall be authorized to collect from the senders or addressees of items, as the case may be, the customs duty and all other fees which may be due.

Article 45

Items for delivery free of charges and fees

1 In the service between those member countries whose postal administrations have notified their agreement to that effect senders may, by means of a previous declaration at the office of origin, undertake to pay the whole of the charges and fees 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 that the item be delivered free of charges and fees.

2 In the cases provided for in paragraph 1, senders shall undertake to pay the amounts which may be claimed by the office of destination and, if necessary, pay a sufficient deposit.

3 The administration of origin shall collect from the sender the charge provided for in article 26, paragraph 1, n, i, which it shall retain as payment for services rendered in the country of origin.

4 In the case of a request made after posting, the administration of origin shall also collect the additional charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, n, ii. If the request is to be forwarded by telegraph or any other means of telecommunication, the sender shall pay in addition the corresponding charge.

5 The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect on each item the commission charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, n, iii. This charge shall be independent of that prescribed in article 43. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.

6 Every administration may restrict to registered items and insured letters the service of delivery free

of charges and fees.

Article 46

Cancellation of customs duty and other fees

Postal administrations shall undertake to seek from the appropriate services in their country cancellation of customs duty and other fees on items returned to origin, destroyed because of total damage to the contents or redirected to a third country.

Article 47

Inquiries

1 Inquiries from users shall be entertained within a period of a year from the day after that on which the item was posted.

2 Each administration shall be bound to deal with inquiries within the shortest possible time.

3 Each administration shall be bound to accept inquiries relating to any item posted in the service of another administration.

4 Unless the sender has already paid the charge for an advice of delivery, the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, o, may be collected on each inquiry. If a request is made for transmission by telegraph, the telegraph charge for transmitting the inquiry and, where applicable, in relations between two countries which admit this procedure, that for transmitting the reply shall be collected in addition to the inquiry charge. If telegrams are used for the reply, the telegraph charge shall be that for a reply-paid telegram, calculated on a fifteen-word basis. When telex is used, the telegraph charge to the sender shall normally be the same amount as that charged for forwarding the inquiry by telex. If a request is made for transmission by other means of telecommunication or by EMS, the charges normally collected for these services may be collected from the inquirer. The cost of a reply sent by other means of telecommunication or by EMS shall be waived on the basis of reciprocity.

5 If the inquiry relates to several items posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee, only one charge shall be collected. However, in the case of registered items or insured letters which had, at the sender's request, to be forwarded by different routes, a separate charge shall be collected for each of the routes used.

6 If the inquiry has been occasioned by a service error, the special charge referred to in paragraph 4 shall be refunded by the administration which collected it; however, in no case may this charge be demanded from the administration which is responsible for paying the indemnity.

CHAPTER II

REGISTERED ITEMS, RECORDED DELIVERY ITEMS AND INSURED LETTERS

Article 48

Admission of registered items

1 The letter-post items specified in article 19 may be sent as registered items.

2 A receipt shall be issued free of charge to the sender of a registered item at the time of posting.

3 If the internal legislation of the countries of origin and of destination allows, registered letters in closed envelopes may contain coin, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles.

Article 49

Admission of recorded delivery items

1 The letter-post items specified in article 19 may be sent by the recorded delivery items service to and from administrations which agree to admit such items.

2 A receipt shall be issued free of charge to the sender of a recorded delivery item at the time of posting.

Article 50

Charges on registered items

1 The charge on registered items shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of:

a the postage charge, according to the category of item;

b the fixed registration charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, p.

2 In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect the special charges provided for in article 26, paragraph 1, p, column 3, ii.

3 Postal administrations prepared to cover risks of *force majeure* shall be authorized to collect the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, r.

Article 51

Charges on recorded delivery items

The charge shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of:

a the postage charge, according to the category of item; and

b the recorded delivery charge fixed by the administration of origin, which shall be less than its registration charge.

Article 52

Admission of insured letters

1 Letters containing securities, valuable documents or articles and called "insured letters" may be exchanged with insurance of the contents for the value declared by the sender. This exchange shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only.

2 A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to the sender of an insured letter at the time of posting.

3 Administrations shall take the necessary measures to provide, as far as possible, the insured letter service at every office in their countries.

Article 53

Insured letters.

Insured value

1 In principle, the amount of the insured value shall be unlimited.

2 Nevertheless, every administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 3266.91 SDR, or to an amount at least equal to that adopted in its internal service if that amount is less than 3266.91 SDR.

3 In the service between countries which have adopted different maxima, the lower limit shall be observed by both.

4 The insured value may not exceed the actual value of the contents of the item, but it shall be permissible to insure only part of that value; the amount of the insurance for papers whose value resides in the cost of their preparation may not exceed the cost of replacing the documents in case of loss.

5 Fraudulent insurance for a value greater than the actual value of the contents of an item shall be liable to the legal proceedings prescribed by the legislation of the country of origin.

Article 54

Charges on insured letters

1 The charge on insured letters shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of:

a the ordinary postage charge;

b the fixed registration charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, p;

c the insurance charge laid down in Article 26, paragraph 1, q.

2 In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect the special charge provided for in article 26, paragraph 1, p, column 3, ii.

Article 55

Advice of delivery

1 The sender of a registered item, a recorded delivery item or an insured letter may apply for an advice of delivery on payment at the time of posting of the charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, s. This advice of delivery shall be returned to him by the quickest route (air or surface).

2 When the sender inquires about an advice of delivery which he has not received within a normal

period, neither a second charge nor the charge prescribed in article 47 for inquiries shall be collected.

Article 56

Delivery to the addressee in person

1 In the service between those administrations which have given their consent, registered items, recorded delivery items and insured letters shall, at the sender's request, be delivered to the addressee in person. Administrations may agree to allow this option only for registered items, recorded delivery items and insured letters accompanied by an advice of delivery. In all three cases, the sender shall pay the special charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, t.

2 Administrations shall make a second attempt to deliver such items only if there is a presumption that it will be successful and if the internal regulations so permit.

CHAPTER III

LIABILITY

Article 57

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations.

Registered items

1 Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to registered items. Their liability shall be as binding for items conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.

2 Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of *force majeure*. They shall then be liable towards senders of items posted in their country for any loss due to a case of *force majeure* occurring at any time during transmission of the items, including redirection or return to origin.

3 If a registered letter is lost, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity the amount of which shall be fixed at 24.50 SDR per item. This amount may be raised to 122.51 SDR for each special bag of printed papers such as are mentioned in Article 20, paragraph 10, sent registered.

4 In the event of theft from or damage to a registered item and provided that the packing was recognized as sufficient to guarantee the contents effectively against accidental risks of theft or damage, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual value of the theft or damage; consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration. However, this indemnity may in no case exceed the amount fixed in paragraph 3.

5 The sender may waive this right in favour of the addressee. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third person to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

6 Notwithstanding paragraph 4, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after taking delivery of a rifled or damaged item. He may waive his rights in favour of the sender.

7 The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for registered items, provided that they are not lower than those laid down in paragraph 3. The same shall apply to the administration of destination when the indemnity is paid to the addressee under the terms of paragraph 6. However, the amounts laid down in paragraph 3 shall remain applicable:

- i in the event of recourse against the administration liable; or
- ii if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee or vice versa.

Article 58

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations.

Recorded delivery items

- 1 Postal administrations shall be liable only for the loss of recorded delivery items. Their liability shall be as binding for items conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.
- 2 Total theft of or total damage to the contents of recorded delivery items shall be equated with the loss thereof, provided that the packing was recognized as sufficient to guarantee the contents effectively against accidental risks of theft or damage.
- 3 If a recorded delivery item is lost, the sender shall be entitled to a refund of the charges paid.

Article 59

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations.

Insured letters

- 1 Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to insured letters, except as provided for in article 61. Their liability shall be as binding for letters conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.
- 2 Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of *force majeure*. They shall then be liable towards senders of letters posted in their country for any loss, theft or damage due to a case of *force majeure* occurring at any time during transmission of the items, including redirection or return to origin.
- 3 The sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual amount of the loss, theft or damage; consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration. However, this indemnity may in no case exceed the amount of the insured value in SDRs. In case of redirection or return to origin by surface of an insured air letter, liability shall be limited, for the second journey, to that applicable to items sent by that route.
- 4 Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after delivery of a rifled or damaged insured letter.
- 5 The indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into SDRs, of articles of value of the same kind at the place and time at which they were accepted for conveyance; failing a current price, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the ordinary value of articles whose value is assessed on the same bases.
- 6 When an indemnity is due for the loss of, total theft from or total damage to an insured letter, the sender, or, by application of paragraph 4, the addressee shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges and fees paid, with the exception of the insurance charge which shall be retained in every case by the administration of origin.

7 The sender may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 3 in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 4 in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

Article 60

Non-liability of postal administrations.

Registered items and recorded delivery items

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for registered items and recorded delivery items which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their regulations for items of the same kind or to those set out in article 12, paragraph 3. Liability shall, however, be maintained when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the registered item or the recorded delivery item or when, internal regulations permitting, the addressee, or the sender if it is returned to origin, makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged item.

2 Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss of registered items or recorded delivery items:

a in cases of *force majeure*; the administration in whose service the loss occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss is due to circumstances amounting to a case of *force majeure*; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable for the loss of a registered item if it has undertaken to cover risks of *force majeure* (article 57, paragraph 2);

b when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records by *force majeure*, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

c when the sender has made no inquiry within the period prescribed in article 47, paragraph 1;

ii for registered items or recorded delivery items which, as notified by the administration of the country of destination, have been detained or seized under the legislation of that country;

iii for registered items or recorded delivery items confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 41, paragraphs 2, 3, b, and 4;

iv for registered items or recorded delivery items which have suffered damage arising from the nature of the contents of the item.

3 Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made, or for decisions taken by the Customs in accordance with article 41, paragraph 4, f, on examination of letter-post items submitted to customs control.

Article 61

Non-liability of postal administrations.

Insured letters

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for insured letters which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their internal regulations for items of the same kind or to those set out in article 12, paragraph 3; liability shall, however, be maintained:

a when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the item or when, internal regulations permitting, the addressee, or the sender if it is returned to origin, makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged item;

b when the addressee or, in the case of return to origin, the sender, although having given a proper discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage and furnishes proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2 Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss of, theft from or damage to insured letters:

a in case of *force majeure*. The administration in whose service the loss, theft or damage occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss, theft or damage was due to circumstances amounting to *force majeure*; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable if it has undertaken to cover risks of *force majeure* (article 59, paragraph 2);

b when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records by *force majeure*, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

c when such loss, theft or damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or arises from the nature of the contents of the item;

d in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 41, paragraph 4, in so far as these items have been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of their contents;

e in the case of items which have been fraudulently insured for a sum greater than the actual value of the contents;

f when the sender has made no inquiry within one year from the day after that on which the item was posted;

ii for insured letters seized under the legislation of the country of destination;

iii in the case of sea or air conveyance when they have made it known that they are unable to accept liability for insured letters on board the ships or aircraft used by them; they shall nevertheless assume in respect of the transit of insured letters in closed mails the liability which is laid down for registered items.

3 Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made or for decisions taken by the Customs on examination of items submitted to customs control.

Article 62

Sender's liability

1 The sender of a letter-post item shall be liable within the same limits as administrations themselves

for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or by the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance, provided there has been no fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.

2 The acceptance by the office of posting of such an item shall not relieve the sender of his liability.

3 An administration which finds damage that is due to the fault of the sender shall inform the administration of origin, whose responsibility it is to take action against the sender where appropriate.

Article 63

Determination of liability between postal administrations.

Registered items

1 Until the contrary is proved, liability for the loss of a registered item shall rest with the postal administration which, having received it without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.

2 Until the contrary is proved and subject to paragraph 4, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:

a when it has observed article 4 and the provisions for inspection of mails and establishment of irregularities;

b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the item in question, the period of retention prescribed in article 107 of the Detailed Regulations having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant;

c when, in the case of individual entry of registered items, correct delivery of the lost item cannot be proved because the administration of origin did not observe article 161, paragraph 1, of the Detailed Regulations concerning the detailed entry of registered items on the C 12 letter bill or on the C 13 special lists.

3 When the loss occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 88, paragraph 1, shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity paid to the sender. It shall be for the former administration to recover this amount from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 88, paragraph 2, it shall itself seek reimbursement of the indemnity from the air carrier.

4 If, however, the loss occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally.

5 When a registered item has been lost owing to *force majeure*, the administration in whose territory or service the loss occurred shall not be liable to the dispatching administration unless the two countries undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.

6 Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss.

7 An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take 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 64

Determination of liability between postal administrations.

Insured letters

1 Until the contrary is proved, liability shall rest with the postal administration which, having received the item without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.

2 Until the contrary is proved, and subject to paragraphs 4, 7 and 8, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:

a when it has observed the provisions of article 170 of the Detailed Regulations, on individual inspection of insured letters;

b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the item in question, the period of retention prescribed in article 107 of the Detailed Regulations having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant.

3 Until the contrary is proved, an administration which has forwarded an insured letter to another administration shall be relieved of all liability if the office of exchange to which the item has been consigned has not sent to the dispatching administration, by the first available mail after inspection, a report stating either that the whole packet of insured articles or the particular item is missing or has been tampered with.

4 If the loss, theft, or damage occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally; if, however, the theft or damage has been established in the country of destination or, in the case of return to sender, in the country of origin, it shall be for the administration of that country to prove:

a that neither the packet, envelope or bag and its fastening, nor the wrapping and fastening of the item bore any apparent trace of theft or damage;

b that the weight established at the time of posting has not varied.

When such proof has been furnished by the administration of destination or of origin, as the case may be, none of the other administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability on grounds that it handed over the item without the next administration having made any objection.

5 The liability of an administration towards other administrations shall in no case exceed the maximum insured value that it has adopted.

6 When an insured letter has been lost, rifled or damaged as the result of *force majeure*, the administration in whose territorial jurisdiction or services the loss, theft or damage occurred shall not be liable to the administration of origin unless the two administrations undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.

7 If the loss, theft or damage occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration

which does not provide the insured letters service or which has adopted a maximum lower than the amount of the loss, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration under article 1, paragraph 3, and paragraph 5 of this article.

8 The rule laid down in paragraph 7 shall also apply in case of sea or air conveyance if the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an administration which does not accept liability (article 61, paragraph 2, iii).

9 Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss, theft or damage.

10 An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take 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 65

Determination of liability between postal administrations and air carriers.

Insured letters

When the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 88, paragraph 1, shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity paid to the sender, subject to article 1, paragraph 3, and article 64, paragraph 5. It shall be for the former administration to recover this amount from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 88, paragraph 2, it shall itself seek reimbursement of the indemnity from the air carrier.

Article 66

Payment of indemnity.

Registered items and insured letters

1 Subject to the right of recourse against the administration which is liable, the obligation to pay the indemnity shall rest either with the administration of origin or, in the cases mentioned in article 57, paragraph 5, and in article 59, paragraph 7, with the administration of destination.

2 This payment shall be made as soon as possible and, at the latest, within a period of four months from the day following the day of inquiry.

3 When the administration responsible for the payment does not undertake to cover risks of *force majeure* and when, at the end of the period prescribed in paragraph 2, the question of whether the loss is due to such causes has not been decided, it may, exceptionally, postpone payment of the indemnity for another three months.

4 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant on behalf of the administration which, having participated in the conveyance and having been duly informed, has allowed three months to pass:

- without finally settling the matter, or
- without informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, that the loss

appeared to be due to a case of *force majeure*, or that the item had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of the nature of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

5 Postal administrations which state in the Final Protocol to the Universal Postal Convention that they are not bound to comply with article 66, paragraph 4, of the Convention as regards final settlement of inquiries within three months shall notify a period within which they will finally settle the matter.

6 The return of a C 9 form which has not been completed in accordance with the provisions of article 151, paragraphs 9 and 12, of the Detailed Regulations shall not be considered as final settlement.

Article 67

Refund of charges.

Recorded delivery items

1 The obligation to refund the charges shall rest with the administration of origin.

2 This payment shall be made as soon as possible and at the latest within a period of four months from the day following the day of inquiry.

Article 68

Reimbursing the administration which paid the indemnity

1 The administration which is liable or on behalf of which payment is made in accordance with article 66 shall be bound to reimburse the administration which paid the indemnity, and which is called the "paying administration", the amount of indemnity paid to the rightful claimant within the limits of article 57, paragraph 3; this payment shall be made within four months of the date of dispatch of the notice of payment.

2 If the indemnity is due to be borne by several administrations in accordance with articles 63 and 64, the whole of the indemnity shall be paid to the paying administration, within the period mentioned in paragraph 1, by the first administration which, having duly received the item claimed for, is unable to prove its correct transfer to the next service. It shall rest with this administration to recover from the other administrations which are liable each one's share of the indemnity paid to the rightful claimant.

3 The administrations of origin and destination may agree that the whole of the loss shall be borne by the administration which has to make the payment to the rightful claimant.

4 The creditor administration shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules for payment laid down in article 13.

5 When liability has been admitted, as well as in the case provided for in article 66, paragraph 4, the amount of the indemnity may also be automatically recovered from the administration which is liable through a liquidation account, either direct or through the intermediary of an administration which regularly draws up liquidation accounts with the administration which is liable.

6 Immediately after paying the indemnity, the paying administration shall communicate to the administration which is liable the date and the amount of payment made. If, one year after the date of dispatch of authorization to pay the indemnity, the paying administration has not communicated the

date and amount of payment or debited the account of the administration which is liable, the authorization shall be considered null and void and the administration which received it shall no longer be entitled to claim reimbursement of any indemnity paid.

7 The administration whose liability is duly established and which has at first declined to pay the indemnity shall assume all additional costs resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

8 Administrations may agree to settle periodically for the indemnities which they have paid to the rightful claimants and which they have accepted as justified.

Article 69

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or the addressee

1 If, after payment of the indemnity, a registered item or an insured letter or part of that item or letter previously considered as lost is found, the sender or, where article 57, paragraphs 5 and 6, and article 59, paragraph 7, apply, the addressee shall be advised that the item is being held at his disposal for a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity paid. At the same time he shall be asked to whom the item is to be delivered. In the event of refusal or failure to reply within the prescribed period, the same approach shall be made to the addressee or the sender as the case may be.

2 If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the item against repayment of the amount of the indemnity, that sum shall be refunded to the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss, within one year of the date of such repayment.

3 If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the item, it shall become the property of the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss.

4 When proof of delivery is supplied after the period of five months laid down in article 66, paragraph 4, the indemnity paid shall continue to be borne by the intermediate administration or administration of destination if the sum paid cannot, for any reason, be recovered from the sender.

5 In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured letter the contents of which are found to be of less value than the amount of the indemnity paid, the sender shall repay the amount of this indemnity against return of the item, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance as mentioned in article 53, paragraph 5.

CHAPTER IV

ALLOCATION OF CHARGES.

TRANSIT CHARGES AND TERMINAL DUES

Article 70

Allocation of charges

Except where otherwise provided by the Convention and the Agreements, each postal administration shall retain the charges which it has collected.

Article 71

Transit charges

1 Subject to article 75, 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) shall be subject to the payment of transit charges as remuneration for the services rendered in respect of land transit and sea transit.

2 When a country gives permission for its territory to be crossed by a foreign transport service without the participation of its services in accordance with article 3, mails thus forwarded shall not be subject to the payment of land transit charges.

3 In the absence of special agreement direct sea conveyance between two countries by the ships of one of them shall be regarded as a third party service.

4 Sea transit shall begin when the mails cease to be under the control of a postal administration and shall end when the administration of destination is informed by the shipping line that the mails are available for collection.

Article 72

Transit charge scales

The transit charges provided for in article 71, paragraph 1, shall be calculated in accordance with the scales set out in the following table:

Distances traversed 1	Charge per kg gross 2
	SDR
i Distances traversed by land expressed in kilometres	0.14
Up to 100 km	
Above 100 up to 200	0.17
200 300	0.20
300 400	0.22
400 500	0.24
500 600	0.26
600 700	0.27
700 800	0.29
800 900	0.31
900 1000	0.32
1000 1100	0.34
1100 1200	0.35
1200 1300	0.37

1300 1500		0.39
1500 2000		0.43
2000 2500		0.49
2500 2750		0.53
2750 3000		0.56
3000 4000		0.62
4000 5000		0.72
5000 6000		0.81
6000 7000		0.89
7000 8000		0.97
8000 9000		1.05
9000 10000		1.12
10000 11000		1.19
11000 12000		1.26
12000 13000		1.32
13000 14000		1.39
14000		1.45
ii Distance traversed by sea		
a expressed in nautical miles	b expressed in kilometres after conversion on the basis of 1 nautical mile = 1.852 km	
Up to 100 nautical miles	Up to 185 km	0.17
Above 100 up to 200	Above 185 up to 370	0.19
200 300	370 556	0.21
300 400	556 741	0.22
400 500	741 926	0.23
500 600	926 1111	0.24
600 700	1111 1296	0.24
700 800	1296 1482	0.25
800 900	1482 1667	0.25
900 1000	1667 1852	0.26

Above 1000 up to 1100	Above 1852 up to 2037	0.26
1100 1200	2037 2222	0.27
1200 1300	2222 2408	0.27
1300 1500	2408 2778	0.28
1500 2000	2778 3704	0.29
2500 2750	4630 5093	0.32
2750 3000	5093 5556	0.32
3000 4000	5556 7408	0.34
4000 5000	7408 9260	0.36
5000 6000	9260 11112	0.38
6000 7000	11112 12964	0.40
7000 8000	12964 14816	0.41
8000 9000	14816 16668	0.42
9000 10000	16668 18520	0.43
10000 11000	18520 20372	0.45
11000 12000	20372 22224	0.46
12000 13000	22224 24076	0.47
13000 14000	24076 25928	0.48
14000	25928	0.49

2 The distances used to determine the transit charges according to the table in paragraph 1 shall be taken from the "List of Kilometric Distances relating to land sectors of mails in transit" provided for in article 111, paragraph 2, c, i, of the Detailed Regulations, as regards distances traversed by land.

Article 73

Terminal dues

1 Subject to article 75, each administration which, in its exchanges by air and surface means with another administration, receives a larger quantity of letter-mail items than it sends shall have the right to collect from the dispatching administration, as compensation, a payment for the costs it incurs for the excess international mail received.

2 The payment provided for in paragraph 1 shall be fixed as follows:

a when two administrations exchange with each other, by air and surface (S.A.L. included), a total weight of LC/AO mail less than or equal to 150 tonnes a year in each direction, the rate applied per kg shall be 2.940 SDR for LC/AO items (uniform rate), excluding the printed papers sent by special bags (M bags) referred to in article 20, paragraph 10;

b when two administrations exchange with each other, by air and surface, (S.A.L. included), a total weight of LC/AO mail greater than 150 tonnes a year in each direction, the rate applied per kg shall be 8.115 SDR for LC items and 2.058 SDR for AO items (separate rate for each category), excluding the printed papers sent by special bags (M bags) referred to in article 20, paragraph 10;

c when the threshold of 150 tonnes a year is exceeded in a single direction, the administration receiving this traffic in excess of 150 tonnes may choose, for the accounting of the terminal dues relating to the mail received, one of the two payment systems described in subparagraphs a and b, above. In the absence of bilateral agreement, the mail sent by the administration dispatching less than 150 tonnes a year shall in all cases be brought to account in accordance with the single rate laid down in subparagraph a;

d for printed papers sent in M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kg, irrespective of the annual weight of mail exchanged between two administrations.

3 When, in a given relation, an administration which is paid in accordance with the differentiated LC and AO rates of terminal dues indicated in paragraph 2 establishes that the average number of items (LC and/or AO) contained in one kilogramme of mail received is higher than the world average which is 48 LC items and 5.6 AO items, it may have the corresponding rates revised if, compared with this world average:

- the number of LC items is more than 15 percent higher (ie more than 55 items) and/or
- the number of AO items is more than 25 percent higher (ie more than 7 items).

In this case the terminal dues amount payable by the debtor administration shall be equal to the difference between the sums owed by each administration for its total mail flow after application of the appropriate rates. The revision shall be carried out on the terms specified in article 187 of the Detailed Regulations.

4 Any administration may waive wholly or in part the payment provided for in paragraph 1.

5 The administrations concerned may, by bilateral or multilateral agreement, apply other payment systems for the settlement of terminal dues accounts.

Article 74

Terminal dues for priority items, non-priority items and combined items

1 When a uniform rate for LC/AO items is used under the provisions of article 73, paragraph 2, a and c, that rate shall also apply to priority items, non-priority items and combined items.

2 When separate rates for LC items and AO items are used under the provisions of article 73, paragraph 2, b and c, the country of origin and the country of destination may, by bilateral agreement, decide that the rates applicable to priority items and non-priority items shall be fixed on the basis of the actual structure of the traffic. In the absence of an agreement, the provisions laid down in article 73, paragraphs 2, b and c, and 3, shall apply. In this case, priority items shall be assimilated to LC and non-priority items to AO.

3 For combined items exchanged under the provisions of article 20, paragraph 12, terminal dues shall be settled by bilateral agreement between the countries concerned.

4 When an administration decides to discontinue separation of the mail into LC and AO in favour of a system based on priority, and the latter produces an effect on terminal dues according to paragraph 2, the new system shall be introduced on 1 January or 1 July only, providing the International Bureau has been so informed at least three months in advance.

Article 75

Exemption from transit charges and terminal dues

The letter-post items relating to the postal service referred to in article 16, b, undelivered postal items returned to origin in closed dispatches and dispatches of empty mailbags shall be exempted from land and sea transit charges and from terminal dues.

Article 76

Extraordinary services.

Multimodal transport

1 The transit charges specified in article 72 shall not be applicable to conveyance by extraordinary services specially established or maintained by a postal administration at the request of one or more other administrations. The conditions of this class of conveyance shall be regulated by mutual consent between the administrations concerned.

2 When surface mails from an administration are reforwarded by combined land and sea transport facilities, the conditions of such reforwarding shall be covered by a special agreement between the administrations concerned.

Article 77

Accounting for transit charges

1 Accounting for surface-mail transit charges shall be done annually by the administration of transit, for each administration of origin, according to the weight of the letter-post mails received in transit throughout the year, to which the scales laid down in article 72 shall apply.

2 The debtor administration shall be exempted from payment of transit charges when the annual balance does not exceed 163.35 SDR.

3 Every administration shall be authorized to submit for the consideration of a committee of arbitrators any annual results which in its opinion differ too much from reality. The arbitration shall be arranged as laid down in article 127 of the General Regulations.

4 The arbitrators shall be empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the transit charges to be

paid.

Article 78

Accounting for terminal dues

1 Accounting for terminal dues shall be done annually by the creditor administration, according to the actual weight of the surface mails (including S.A.L. mails) and airmails received throughout the year, to which the rates laid down in article 73 shall apply.

2 To enable the annual weight to be determined, the administrations of origin of the mails shall permanently indicate, for each mail, the total weight of bags containing LC/AO items and the total weight of M bags.

3 When it is necessary to determine separately the weights corresponding to LC items on the one hand and AO items on the other, these weights shall be calculated by applying the proportions determined during a statistical period, the modalities of which are indicated in the Detailed Regulations.

4 The administrations concerned may agree to account for terminal dues in their reciprocal relations by different statistical methods. They may also agree on a different periodicity from that laid down in the Detailed Regulations for the statistical period.

5 The debtor administration shall be exempted from payment of terminal dues when the annual balance does not exceed 326.70 SDR.

6 Every administration shall be authorized to submit for the consideration of a committee of arbitrators any annual results which in its opinion differ too much from reality. The arbitration shall be arranged as laid down in article 127 of the General Regulations.

7 The arbitrators shall be empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the terminal dues to be paid.

Article 79

Payment of transit charges

1 The transit charges shall be borne by the administration of origin of the mails and shall be payable, subject to paragraph 3, to the administrations of the countries which are crossed or whose services take part in the land or sea conveyance of the mails.

2 When the administration of the country which is crossed does not take part in the land or sea conveyance of the mails, the applicable transit charges shall be payable to the administration of destination if it bears the costs related to such transit.

3 The charges for the sea conveyance of mails in transit may be settled directly between the postal administrations of origin of the mails and the shipping companies or their agents, subject to the prior agreement of the postal administration of the port of embarkation concerned.

Article 80

Transit charges for diverted or missent mails

For the payment of transit charges, diverted or missent mails shall be considered to have followed their normal route; consequently, administrations concerned in the conveyance of such mails shall not normally be entitled on that account to demand a payment from the dispatching administrations, but the latter shall remain liable for the appropriate transit charges to the postal administrations whose services they normally use. However, transit charges in respect of diverted or missent mails may be claimed by the administrations reforwarding such mails, if they so wish, from the administration of origin, which may in its turn claim reimbursement from the administration whose services made the dispatching error.

Article 81

Exchange of closed mails with military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations and with warships or military aircraft

1 Closed mails may be exchanged between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations, and between the commanding officer of one of those military units and the commanding officer of another military unit placed at the disposal of the United Nations, through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries.

2 Closed mails may also be exchanged between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of naval or air units or warships or military aircraft of the same country stationed abroad, or between the commanding officer of one of those naval or air units or of any of those warships or military aircraft and the commanding officer of another unit or of another warship or military aircraft of the same country, through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries.

3 Letter-post items enclosed in the mails referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be confined to items addressed to or sent by members of military units or the officers and crews of the ships or aircraft to or from which the mails are forwarded. The rates and conditions of dispatch applicable to them shall be fixed, according to its regulations, by the postal administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the ships or aircraft belong.

4 In the absence of special agreement, the administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the warships or military aircraft belong shall be liable to the administrations concerned for the transit charges for the mails, calculated in accordance with article 72, for the terminal dues, calculated in accordance with article 73, and for air conveyance dues, calculated in accordance with article 85.

PART III

AIR CONVEYANCE OF LETTER-POST ITEMS

SECTION I

AIRMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 82

Airmails

Mails conveyed by air with priority shall be called "airmails". Airmails may contain airmail correspondence and priority letter-post items. The provisions relating to air conveyance for airmail correspondence shall be applicable to priority items by analogy.

Article 83

Routeing of airmail correspondence and airmails in transit

1 Administrations shall be bound to forward by the air communications they use for the conveyance of their own airmail correspondence the items of this type which reach them from other administrations.

2 Administrations of countries without an air service shall forward airmail correspondence by the most rapid means used for mails; the same shall apply if for any reason routeing by surface means is more advantageous than the use of airlines.

3 Closed airmails shall be forwarded by the flight 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. If that is not the case or if there is insufficient time for the transshipment, the administration of the country of origin shall be so informed.

4 If the administration of the country of origin so wishes, its mails shall be transhipped directly, at the transit airport, between two different airlines, provided that the airlines concerned agree to make the transshipment and that the administration of the transit country is informed of it beforehand.

CHAPTER II

AIR CONVEYANCE DUES

Article 84

General principles

1 The air conveyance dues for the whole distance flown shall be borne:

a in the case of closed mails, by the administration of the country of origin of the mails;

b in the case of airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert*, including missent items, by the administration which forwards this correspondence to another administration.

2 These same regulations shall be applicable to airmails and airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* exempt from transit charges.

3 Conveyance dues shall, for a particular sector, be uniform for all administrations which use the sector.

4 Each administration of destination which provides air conveyance of international mail within its country shall be entitled to reimbursement of the additional costs incurred for such conveyance provided that the weighted average distance of the sectors flown exceeds 300 km. Unless agreement has been reached that no charge should be made, the dues shall be uniform for all airmails and priority mails originating abroad whether or not this mail is reforwarded by air.

5 In the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, article 72 shall apply to airmail correspondence for any transit by land or by sea; nevertheless, no transit charges shall be payable for:

a the transshipment of airmails between two airports serving the same town;

b the conveyance of such mails from an airport sending a town to a depot situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 85

Basic rates and calculation of air conveyance dues relating to closed mails

1 The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be fixed at 0.568 thousandth of an SDR at most per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre; this rate shall apply proportionally to fractions of a kilogramme.

2 Air conveyance dues shall be calculated according to the actual basic rate (less than and at most equal to the basic rate fixed in paragraph 1) and the kilometric distances given in the "List of Airmail Distances" and to the gross weight of the mails; no account shall be taken of the weight of *sacs collecteurs*.

3 When dues are payable for air conveyance within the country of destination, they shall be fixed in the form of a single price. This single price shall include all the dues for air conveyance within the country, regardless of the airport of arrival of the mails, less the corresponding surface conveyance costs. It shall be calculated on the basis of the rates actually paid for conveyance of the mail within the country of destination, but not exceeding the maximum rate specified in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average distances of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal network. The weighted average distance shall be calculated by the International Bureau in terms of the gross weight of all the air mails arriving at the country of destination, including the mail which is not reforwarded by air within that country.

4 Dues payable for air conveyance, between two airports in the same country, of airmails in transit may also be fixed in the form of a single price. This price shall be calculated on the basis of the rate actually paid for air conveyance of mail within the country of transit, but not exceeding the maximum rate specified in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average distances of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal air network of the country of transit. The weighted average distances shall be determined in terms of the gross weight of all the airmails transiting through the intermediate country.

5 The sum of the dues referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 may not exceed in total the amounts which actually have to be paid for conveyance.

6 The prices for international and internal air conveyance, obtained by multiplying the effective basic rate by the distance, which are used in calculating the dues mentioned in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, shall be rounded up to the nearest tenth of an SDR when the number made up by the figure of hundredths and that of thousandths is equal to or greater than 50; they shall be rounded down to the nearest tenth of an SDR in other cases.

Article 86

Calculation of and accounting for air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence

in transit à découvert

1 Air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall be calculated, in principle, as indicated in article 85, paragraph 2, but according to the net weight of such correspondence. They shall be fixed on the basis of not more than ten average rates, each relating to a group of countries of destination and fixed according to the weight of mail offloaded at different destinations within the group. The sum of these dues, which may not exceed the amounts which have to be paid for conveyance, shall be increased by 5 percent.

2 Accounting for air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall take place, in principle, on the basis of the data of statistical returns compiled annually, in accordance with the provisions of article 214, paragraph 1.

3 Accounting shall take place on the basis of actual weight in the case of misrouted correspondence or correspondence posted on board ship or sent at irregular intervals or in too varying amounts. However, this accounting shall be done only if the intermediate administration asks to be paid for the conveyance of this correspondence.

Article 87

Amendments to dues for air conveyance in the interior of the country of destination and for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert*

The amendments made to the air conveyance dues mentioned in article 85, paragraph 3, and article 86 shall:

a come into effect exclusively on 1 January;

b be notified at least three months beforehand to the International Bureau, which shall communicate them to all administrations at least two months before the date laid down in subparagraph a.

Article 88

Payment of air conveyance dues

1 Air conveyance dues shall be payable, apart from the exceptions provided for in paragraphs 2 and 4, to the administration of the country which the air service used comes under.

2 Notwithstanding paragraph 1:

a the conveyance dues may be paid to the administration of the country in which the airport is situated at which the airmails were taken over by the air carrier, subject to an agreement between this administration and that of the country which the air service concerned comes under;

b the administration which hands over airmails to an air carrier may settle direct with that carrier for the conveyance dues for all or part of the distance flown.

3 Conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall be paid to the administration which re forwards it.

4 Unless other arrangements have been made, conveyance dues for airmail correspondence directly transhipped between two different airlines in accordance with article 83, paragraph 4, shall be settled by the administration of origin either directly with the first carrier, which shall then be responsible for paying the subsequent carrier, or directly with each carrier involved in the transhipment.

Article 89

Air conveyance dues for diverted or misspent mails or bags

1 The administration of origin of a mail which has gone off its route in course of conveyance shall pay the conveyance dues for the mail relating to the sectors actually covered.

2 It shall settle the conveyance dues as far as the airport of offloading initially provided for on the delivery bill when:

- the actual forwarding route is not known;
- the dues for the sectors actually covered have not yet been claimed; or
- the diversion is attributable to the airline which effected the conveyance.

3 The supplementary dues relating to the sectors actually covered by the diverted mail shall be reimbursed as follows:

a by the administration whose services have committed the error in the case of misrouteing;

b by the administration which has collected the conveyance dues paid to the airline when the latter has offloaded in a place other than that shown on the AV 7 delivery bill.

4 Paragraphs 1 to 3 shall be applicable by analogy when part only of a mail is offloaded at an airport other than that indicated on the AV 7 delivery bill.

5 The administration of origin of a mail or bag missent owing to a labelling error shall pay the conveyance dues relating to the whole distance flown in accordance with article 84, paragraph 1, a.

Article 90

Air conveyance dues for mail lost or destroyed

In case of loss or destruction of mail as the result of an accident occurring to the aircraft or through any other cause involving the liability of the air carrier, the administration of origin shall be exempt from any payment in respect of the air conveyance of the mail lost or destroyed, for any part of the flight of the route used.

SECTION II

SURFACE AIRLIFTED (S.A.L.) MAIL

Article 91

Exchange of surface airlifted (S.A.L.) mail

1 Administrations may send surface mails by air, with reduced priority, subject to the agreement of the administrations which receive such mails at the airports of their country.

2 When surface mails from an administration are reforwarded by air by another administration, the conditions of such reforwarding shall be covered by a special agreement between the administrations concerned.

3 Surface airlifted mails may be transhipped directly between two different airlines on the conditions provided for in article 83, paragraph 4.

Part IV

EMS

Article 92

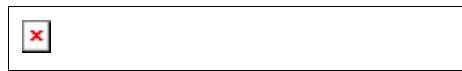
EMS

1 EMS shall be the quickest postal service by physical means. It shall consist of the collection, dispatch and delivery in a very short space of time of correspondence, documents or goods.

2 This service shall wherever possible be identified by a logo as shown in the specimen below and comprising the following elements:

- an orange wing;
- the letters EMS in blue;
- three horizontal orange stripes.

The logo may be supplemented by adding the name of the national service.



3 Charges for the service shall be set by the administration of origin in consideration of costs and market requirements.

PART V

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 93

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning the Convention and its Detailed Regulations

1 To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to this Convention and its Detailed Regulations must be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting. At least half of the member countries represented at Congress shall be present at the time of voting.

2 To become effective, proposals relating to the Detailed Regulations of the Convention which have been referred by Congress to the Executive Council for a decision or which have been introduced between Congresses must be approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Council.

3 To become effective, proposals introduced between Congresses relating to this Convention must obtain:

a unanimity of votes if they involve amendments to articles 1 to 18 (part I), 19 to 25, 26, paragraph

1, h, p, q, r and s, 29, 32, 41, paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6, 48 to 55, 57 to 81 (part II), 93 and 94 (part V) of the Convention or to any of the articles of its Final Protocol;

b two thirds of the votes if they involve amendments of substance to provisions other than those mentioned under a;

c a majority of the votes if they involve:

i drafting amendments to the provisions of the Convention other than those mentioned under a;

ii interpretation of the provisions of the Convention and its Final Protocol.

Article 94

Entry into force and duration of the Convention

This Convention shall come into force on 1 January 1991 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have signed this Convention in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau.^[4] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989.

[Signatures not reproduced here]

FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

At the moment of proceeding to signature of the Universal Postal Convention concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Article I

Ownership of postal items

1 Article 5 shall not apply to Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Rep), Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Yemen Arab Rep, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2 Nor shall that article apply to Denmark, whose internal legislation does not allow withdrawal from the post or alteration of the address of correspondence, at the request of the sender, from the time when the addressee has been informed of the arrival of an item addressed to him.

Article II

Exception to the exemption of literature for the blind from postal charges

1 Notwithstanding article 18, the postal administrations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turkey, which do not concede exemption from postal charges to literature for the blind in their internal service, may collect the postage and special charges mentioned in article 18 which may not, however, exceed those in their internal service.

2 Notwithstanding article 18, the administrations of Canada, Germany, Fed Rep of, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan and the United States of America may collect the special charges listed in article 26, paragraph 1, and the charge for cash-on-delivery which are applied to literature for the blind in their internal service.

3 Notwithstanding articles 18 and 20 of the Convention and article 131, paragraph 2, of the Detailed Regulations, the postal administrations of Byelorussia, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nepal, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yemen Arab Rep and Zimbabwe shall admit sound recordings as literature for the blind only if these are sent by, or addressed to, an officially recognized institute for the blind.

Article III

Equivalents and special charges.

Maximum limits

Exceptionally, member countries shall be authorized to exceed the upper limits of the special charges shown in article 26, paragraph 1, whether applied in the internal service or not, if this is necessary to bring the charges into relation with the costs of operating their services. Member countries wishing to apply this provision must notify the International Bureau of their intention as soon as possible.

Article IV

Ounce and pound avoirdupois

Notwithstanding the table in article 20, paragraph 1, member countries which by reason of their internal system are unable to adopt the metric-decimal system of weight may substitute for the weight steps specified in article 20, paragraph 1, the following equivalents:

up to 20 g ¹ oz;

up to 50 g ² oz;

up to 100 g ⁴ oz;

up to 250 g ⁸ oz;

up to 500 g ¹ lb;

up to 1000 g ² lb;

per additional 1000 g ² lb.

Article V

Exception concerning the dimensions of items in envelopes

1 The administrations of Canada, Kenya, Tanzania (United Rep), Uganda and the United States of America shall not be obliged to discourage the use of envelopes whose format exceeds the recommended dimensions when those envelopes are widely used in their countries.

2 The administration of India shall not be obliged to discourage the use of envelopes whose format is larger or smaller than the recommended dimensions when those envelopes are widely used in its country.

Article VI

Small packets

1 The obligation to participate in the exchange of small packets exceeding 500 g in weight shall not apply to the administrations of Australia, Cuba, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea which find it impossible to operate such an exchange.

2 The obligation to participate in the exchange of small packets exceeding 1 kilogramme in weight shall not apply to the administration of Italy which finds it impossible to operate such an exchange.

Article VII

Items wrongly admitted

Notwithstanding article 24, paragraph 1, the Brazilian postal administration shall be authorized to handle in accordance with the provisions of its internal legislation items received not complying with articles 19 and 20.

Article VIII

Posting abroad of letter-post items

The postal administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reserves the right to impose a charge, equivalent to the cost of the work it incurs, on any administration which, under the provisions of article 25, paragraph 4, sends to it items for disposal which were not originally dispatched as postal items by the postal administration of the United Kingdom.

Article IX

International reply coupons issued before 1 January 1975

From 1 January 1979, international reply coupons issued before 1 January 1975 shall not, in the absence of a special agreement, give rise to a settlement between administrations.

Article X

Withdrawal from the post.

Alteration or correction of address

1 Article 38 shall not apply to the Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Dem People's Rep of Korea, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Rep), Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Zambia, whose legislation does not permit withdrawal from the post or alteration of address of letter-post items at the sender's request.

2 Article 38 shall apply to Australia only in so far as that article is consistent with its domestic legislation.

Article XI

Special charges

In place of the registration charge laid down in article 54, paragraph 1, b, member countries may apply, for insured letters, the corresponding charge of their internal service or, exceptionally, a charge of 3.27 SDR at most.

Article XII

Prohibitions

1 The postal administrations of Afghanistan, Angola, Cuba, Djibouti, Mexico and Pakistan shall not be obliged to comply with the provisions laid down in the last sentence of article 41, paragraph 8, according to which "This notification shall clearly indicate the prohibition under which the item falls and the articles which gave rise to its seizure".

2 The delegations of Afghanistan, Angola, Bulgaria (People's Rep), Byelorussia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dem People's Rep of Korea, Polish People's Rep, Sudan, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yemen (People's Dem Rep) reserve the right for the postal administrations of their countries to provide the information about the reasons for the seizure of a postal item only within the limits of the information provided by the customs authorities and in accordance with internal legislation.

3 Exceptionally, the postal administration of Lebanon shall not accept registered letters containing coins, bank notes, securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles. It shall not be strictly bound by the provisions of article 60, paragraph 1, of the Convention with regard to its liability in cases of theft or damage, or where items containing articles made of glass or fragile articles are concerned.

4 Exceptionally, the postal administrations of Bolivia, the People's Republic of China, Iraq and Nepal shall not accept registered letters containing coins, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles.

Article XIII

Articles subject to customs duty

1 With reference to article 41, the postal administrations of Bangladesh and El Salvador do not

accept insured letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

2 With reference to article 41, the postal administrations of Afghanistan, Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria (People's Rep), Byelorussia, Central African Rep, Chile, Colombia, Dem Kampuchea, Dem People's Rep of Korea, El Salvador, Ethiopia, German Dem Rep, Italy, Nepal, Panama (Rep), Peru, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Venezuela do not accept ordinary and registered letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

3 With reference to article 41, the postal administrations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, (Rep), Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Senegal and Yemen Arab Rep do not accept ordinary letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

4 Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 to 3, the sending of serums, vaccines and urgently required medicaments which are difficult to procure shall be permitted in all cases.

5 With reference to article 41, the postal administration of Nepal does not accept registered or insured letters containing currency notes or coins except by special agreement to this effect.

Article XIV

Extent of liability of postal administrations

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Djibouti, India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Togo, and Turkey shall be authorized not to apply article 57 with respect to liability in cases of partial theft or partial damage.

2 The postal administration of Brazil shall be authorized not to apply articles 57 and 60 with respect to liability in cases of damage. In addition, articles 57 and 60 will not be applied in cases of rifling of items posted at variance with what is stated in article XIII, paragraph 2, of this Final Protocol.

3 Notwithstanding article 57, paragraph 1, the postal administration of the People's Republic of China shall be liable only for the loss of, total theft of or total damage to the contents of registered items.

Article XV

Non-liability of postal administrations.

Registered items

The postal administrations of Bolivia, Indonesia and Mexico shall not be required to observe article 60, paragraph 1, of the Convention as regards maintenance of their liability in case of total theft or total damage.

Article XVI

Payment of indemnity

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Bolivia, Gabon, Guinea, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal and Nigeria shall not be obliged to comply with article 66, paragraph 4, of the Convention in so far as concerns finally settling the matter within a period of five months or informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, when a postal item has been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authorities because of the contents, or has been seized by virtue of its

domestic legislation.

2 The postal administrations of Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Iraq, Lebanon, Madagascar and Mauritania shall not be obliged to comply with article 66, paragraph 4, of the Convention in so far as concerns finally settling a claim within a period of five months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the abovementioned period.

Article XVII

Special transit charges for conveyance in transit by the Trans-Siberian and via Lake Nasser

1 The postal administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.65 SDR in addition to the transit charges indicated in article 72, paragraph 1, i, (distances traversed by land) for each kilogramme of letter-post items conveyed in transit over the Trans-Siberian route.

2 The postal administrations of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Democratic Republic of the Sudan shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.16 SDR in addition to the transit charges indicated in article 72, paragraph 1, for each bag of letter post in transit via Lake Nasser between Shallal, Egypt, and Wadi Haifa, Sudan.

Article XVIII

Special transit conditions for Panama (Rep)

The postal administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.98 SDR to the transit charges mentioned in article 72, paragraph 1, for each bag of letter post in transit through the Isthmus of Panama between the ports of Balboa on the Pacific Ocean and Cristobal on the Atlantic Ocean.

Article XIX

Special transit conditions for Afghanistan

Notwithstanding article 72, paragraph 1, the postal administration of Afghanistan shall be authorized 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 terms specially agreed with the postal administrations concerned.

Article XX

Special storage charges at Panama

Exceptionally, the postal administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect a charge of 0.65 SDR per bag for all mails stored or transshipped in the port of Balboa or Cristobal, provided that that administration does not receive any payment in respect of land or sea transit for those mails.

Article XXI

Extraordinary services

The only services considered as extraordinary services giving rise to the collection of special transit charges shall be the Syria-Iraq motor services.

Article XXII

Compulsory routeing indicated by the country of origin

The postal administrations of Bolivia, Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will recognize only the costs of the conveyance effected in accordance with the provision concerning the line shown on the bag labels (AV 8) of airmail dispatches and on the AV 7 delivery bills.

Article XXIII

Routeing of closed airmails

Having regard to article XXII, the postal administrations of France, Greece, Italy, Senegal and Thailand will forward closed airmails only on the conditions laid down in article 83, paragraph 3.

Article XXIV

Printed papers.

Authorized annotations and enclosures

Notwithstanding article 129, paragraph 5, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, in the absence of bilateral agreement, the postal administrations of Canada and the United States of America will not accept as enclosures in dispatches of printed papers any cards, envelopes or wrappings bearing the address of the sender or of his agent in the country of destination of the original item.

Article XXV

Printed papers.

Authorized enclosures

Notwithstanding article 129, paragraph 5, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, in the absence of bilateral agreement, the postal administrations of France and Iraq will not accept as enclosures in printed papers posted in bulk any cards, envelopes or wrappings bearing a sender's address that is not located in the country of origin of the item.

Article XXVI

Transmission of printed papers for a single addressee

Notwithstanding article 166 of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, the postal administrations of Canada and the United States of America shall be authorized not to accept registered special bags of printed papers for a single addressee and not to provide registered handling for such bags received from other countries.

Article XXVII

Special bags of printed papers for a single addressee.

Notwithstanding article 20, paragraphs 1 and 10, of the Convention, in the absence of bilateral agreement, the postal administrations of Australia, Brazil, France and the United States of America will not accept special bags of printed papers for a single addressee weighing less than 5 kg.

Article XXVIII

Payment of air conveyance dues

Notwithstanding article 88, paragraph 2, b, the postal administrations of Brazil, Czechoslovakia and the German Dem Rep reserve the right to give their agreement to the payment of air conveyance dues payable to the air services of their countries.

Article XXIX

Internal air conveyance dues

Notwithstanding article 84, paragraph 4, the postal administrations of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu reserve the right to collect the dues for the air conveyance of international mails within their countries.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries below have drawn up this Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Convention itself, and they have signed it on a single original which shall be deposited with the Director General of the International Bureau.^[5] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989.

[Signatures not reproduced here]

POSTAL PARCELS AGREEMENT

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 4, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have, by common consent and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, drawn up the following Agreement:

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose of the Agreement

This Agreement shall govern the exchange of postal parcels between contracting countries.

Article 2

Postal parcels

1 Items called "postal parcels" of which the individual weight shall not exceed 20 kilogrammes may be exchanged either direct or via one or more countries. On the basis of bilateral agreements, administrations may exchange postal parcels which exceed 20 kilogrammes.

2 The exchange of parcels exceeding 10 kilogrammes shall be optional. Countries which fix a weight of less than 20 kilogrammes shall, however, admit parcels in transit in bags or other closed receptacles up to a weight of 20 kilogrammes. For parcels weighing more than 20 kilogrammes, the agreement of the country of transit shall be obligatory.

3 Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, parcels relating to the postal service as provided for in article 17 may weigh up to 30 kilogrammes.

4 In this Agreement, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, the abbreviation "parcels" shall apply to all postal parcels.

Article 3

Operation of the service by transport companies

1 Any country whose postal administration does not undertake the conveyance of parcels and which is a party to the Agreement may arrange for its provisions to be implemented by transport companies. It may, at the same time, limit this service to parcels originating in or addressed to places served by these companies.

2 The postal administration of such a country shall make arrangements with the transport companies to ensure full implementation by them of all the provisions of the Agreement, with special reference to the arrangements for the exchange of parcels. The postal administration shall serve as intermediary for them in all their relations with administrations of the other contracting countries and with the International Bureau.

Article 4

Categories of parcels

1 An "ordinary parcel" shall be one which is not subject to any of the special requirements prescribed for the categories defined in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2 Other categories shall be:

a "insured parcel", any parcel which is insured for a declared value;

b "parcel for delivery free of charges and fees", any parcel in respect of which the sender asks to be charged with the whole of the postal charges and fees to which the parcel may be subject on delivery; this request may be made at the time of posting; it may also be made after posting up to the time of delivery to the addressee, except in those countries which cannot accept this procedure;

c "cash-on-delivery parcel", any parcel subject to a COD charge and covered by the Cash-on-Delivery Agreement;

d "fragile parcel", any parcel containing articles which are liable to break easily and which are to be handled with special care;

e "cumbersome parcel":

i any parcel whose dimensions exceed the limits fixed by article 21, paragraph 1, or those which administrations may fix between themselves;

ii any parcel which by reason of its shape or construction does not lend itself readily to loading with other parcels or which requires special precautions;

iii optionally, any parcel conforming to the conditions laid down in article 21, paragraph 4;

f "service parcel", any parcel relating to the postal service and exchanged under the conditions laid down in article 17;

g "prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcel", any parcel intended for or sent by prisoners or organizations referred to in article 17 of the Convention.

3 Other categories, according to the method of dispatch or delivery:

a "air parcel", any parcel accepted for air conveyance with priority between two countries;

b "express parcel", any parcel which, on arrival at the office of destination, shall be delivered to the place of address by special messenger or which, in those countries whose administrations do not undertake delivery to the place of address, gives rise to the delivery, by special messenger, of an advice of arrival or to the transmission of an advice by telephone, telex or any other appropriate means of telecommunication; nevertheless, if the address of the addressee is situated outside the local delivery area of the office of destination, delivery by special messenger shall not be obligatory.

4 The exchange of "free of charges and fees" and "cash-on-delivery" parcels shall require prior agreement between administrations of origin and destination. With respect to "insured", "fragile", "cumbersome", "air" and "express" parcels, the exchange may be established on the basis of the information given in the Compendium of Information (Postal Parcels) published by the International Bureau.

Article 5

Weight steps

1 The parcels defined in article 4 shall be classed in the following weight steps:

	up to	1 kg
above	1 up to	3 kg
above	3 up to	5 kg
above	5 up to	10 kg
above	10 up to	15 kg
above	15 up to	20 kg
above	20	kg

2 Countries which by reason of their internal regulations are unable to adopt the metric-decimal system of weight may substitute for the weight steps provided for in paragraph 1 the following equivalents (in pounds avoirdupois):

	up to 1 kg	up to 2 lb
above 1	and up to 3 kg	2 to 7 lb
above 3	and up to 5 kg	7 to 11 lb
above 5	and up to 10 kg	11 to 22 lb
above 10	and up to 15 kg	22 to 33 lb
above 15	and up to 20 kg	33 to 44 lb
above 20	kg	44 lb and above.

Article 6

Quality-of-service targets

1 Administrations of destination shall fix a service target for the handling of air parcels addressed to their countries. The target, increased by the time normally required for customs clearance, shall be no less favourable than the target for comparable items in their domestic service.

2 Administrations of destination shall also, as far as possible, fix a service target for the handling of surface parcels addressed to their countries.

3 Administrations of origin shall fix service targets for air and surface parcels for abroad by reference to the targets fixed by the administrations of destination.

PART I

CHARGES AND FEES

Article 7

Composition of the charges and fees

1 The charges and fees which administrations are authorized to collect from the senders and addressees of postal parcels shall be made up of the principal charges as defined in article 8 and, where appropriate, by:

- a the air surcharges mentioned in article 9;
- b the supplementary charges mentioned in articles 10 to 15;
- c the charges and fees mentioned in articles 30, paragraph 3, and 32, paragraph 6;
- d the fees mentioned in article 16.

2 Apart from any exceptions prescribed by this Agreement, charges shall be retained by the administration collecting them.

CHAPTER I

PRINCIPAL CHARGES AND AIR SURCHARGES

Article 8

Principal charges

1 Administrations shall fix the principal charges to be collected from senders.

2 The principal charges shall be linked with the rates, and as a general rule, the sum thereof shall not in total exceed the rates that administrations shall be authorized to claim under articles 47 to 51.

Article 9

Air surcharges

1 Administrations shall fix the air surcharges to be collected for forwarding parcels by air. They may adopt, for fixing surcharges, smaller weight steps than the first weight step.

2 The surcharges shall be related to the air conveyance dues and, as a general rule, the sum thereof shall not in total exceed the costs of such conveyance.

3 Surcharges shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of a country of destination whatever the routing used.

CHAPTER II

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGES AND FEES

SECTION I

CHARGES RELATING TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PARCELS

Article 10

Express parcels

1 Express parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge called the "express charge" the amount of which shall be fixed at not more than 1.63 SDR or at the amount of the charge applicable in the internal service if this is higher. This charge must be fully paid in advance at the time of posting, even if the parcel cannot be delivered by special messenger but only the advice of arrival.

2 When express delivery places special demands on the administration of destination with regard to the location of the address of the addressee or to the day or time of arrival at the office of destination, the delivery of the parcel and collection of any additional charge shall be governed by the provisions concerning parcels of the same type in the internal system. The supplementary charge shall be paid even if the parcel is returned to sender or redirected; however, in such cases, the amount passed on may not exceed 1.63 SDR.

3 If the regulations of the administration of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office, subject to what is laid down in paragraph 1, to deliver to them by express immediately on arrival any parcels which are intended for them. In that case the administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, on delivery, a charge of not more than 1.63 SDR or the internal service charge if this is higher.

Article 11

Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees

1 Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees shall be subject to a charge called "fee for delivery free of charge" fixed at 0.98 SDR as a maximum for each parcel. This charge shall be collected by the administration of origin which shall retain it as payment for services rendered in the country of origin.

2 When delivery free of charge is requested after the parcel has been posted, an additional charge for a request for delivery free of charge shall be collected from the sender at the time the request is made. This charge, fixed at 1.31 SDR as a maximum, shall be collected by the administration of origin. If the request is to be sent by telegraph or any other appropriate means of telecommunication, the sender shall also pay the corresponding charge.

3 The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect a commission charge of 0.98 SDR as a maximum for each parcel. This charge shall be independent of the presentation-to-Customs charge referred to in article 15, c. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.

Article 12

Insured parcels

1 The following charges on insured parcels shall be collected from the sender in advance:

a charges authorized in this part of the Agreement;

b an optional dispatch charge not exceeding the registration charge laid down in article 26, paragraph 1, p, of the Convention or the corresponding charge of the internal service if this is higher, or, exceptionally, a charge of 3.27 SDR at most;

c an ordinary insurance charge of not more than 0.33 SDR for each 65.34 SDR or fraction of 65.34 SDR insured value, or 1/2 percent of the insured value step or the internal service charge if this is higher.

2 In addition, administrations undertaking to cover risks of *force majeure* shall be authorized to collect a "charge for cover against risks of *force majeure*" to be fixed so that the sum of this charge and the ordinary insurance charge shall not exceed the maximum prescribed in paragraph 1, c.

3 Administrations may also collect from the sender or from the addressee special charges in accordance with their internal legislation to take account of any exceptional security measures taken with regard to insured parcels.

Article 13

Fragile parcels.

Cumbersome parcels

Fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge equal to not more than 50 percent of the principal charge or to the internal service charge if this is higher. If the parcel is both fragile and cumbersome the supplementary charge mentioned above shall be collected once only. Nevertheless, the air surcharges in respect of these parcels shall not be increased.

SECTION II

CHARGES AND FEES RELATING TO ALL CATEGORIES OF PARCELS

Article 14

Supplementary charges

Administrations shall be authorized to collect the following supplementary charges:

a charge for items posted outside normal counter opening hours;

b presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of origin; as a general rule the charge shall be collected at the time of posting of the parcel;

c presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of destination either for submission to Customs and customs clearance or for submission to Customs only; in the absence of other arrangements, the charge shall be collected at the time of delivery of the parcel to the addressee; however, in the case of parcels for delivery free of charges and fees, the presentation-to-Customs charge shall be collected by the administration of origin on behalf of the administration of destination;

d charge for collection from the sender's address; this charge may be collected by the administration of origin for parcels collected by its services from the sender's address;

e delivery charge; this charge may be collected by the administration of destination for each attempted delivery of the parcel at the address; nevertheless, in the case of express parcels, it may be collected only in respect of each attempted delivery after the first;

f advice of non-delivery reply charge, collected under the conditions laid down in article 29, paragraph 2;

g advice of arrival charge, collected by the administration of destination, when its legislation obliges it to do so and when that administration does not undertake delivery to the place of address, in respect of any advice (the first as well as subsequent advices) delivered to the address of the addressee, except for the first advice of express parcels;

h repacking charge, due to the administration of the first of the countries in whose territory a parcel has to be repacked in order to protect its contents; it shall be recovered from the addressee or, where appropriate, the sender;

i poste restante charge, collected by the administration of destination at the time of delivery, on every parcel addressed "poste restante";

j storage charge on every parcel which has not been taken possession of within the prescribed periods, whether the parcel is addressed "poste restante" or to a place of address. This charge shall be collected by the administration which effects the delivery, on behalf of the administration in whose

service the parcel has been kept beyond the prescribed periods;

k advice of delivery charge, when the sender asks for an advice of delivery in accordance with article 28;

l advice of embarkation charge, collected, in relations between countries whose administrations agree to provide this service, when the sender requests that an advice of embarkation be sent to him;

m inquiry charge, mentioned in article 39, paragraph 3;

n charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of address;

o charge for cover against risks of *force majeure*, collected by administrations prepared to cover risks of *force majeure*.

Article 15

Scale

1 The scale of supplementary charges defined in article 14 shall be fixed in accordance with the following table:

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
a Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours	Same charge as in internal service	
b Presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of origin	0.65 SDR at most per parcel	
c Presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of destination	3.27 SDR at most per parcel	
d Charge for collection from the sender's address	Same charge as in internal service	
e Delivery charge	Same charge as in internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 30, paragraph 3, b) or redirection (article 32, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 0.98 SDR

f Advice of non-delivery reply charge	0.65 SDR at most	If, following delivery of the advice of non-delivery, new instructions have to be transmitted by telegraph, the sender or the third party shall pay, in addition, the telegraph charge
g Advice of arrival charge	At most, a charge equal to that for an ordinary letter of the first weight step in the internal service	
h Repacking charge	0.33 SDR at most per parcel	This charge may be collected once only in the course of transmission from beginning to end
i Poste restante charge	Same charge as in the internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 30, paragraph 3, b) or redirection (article 32, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 0.49 SDR
j Storage charge	Same charge as in the internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 30, paragraph 3, b) or redirection (article 32, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 6.53 SDR
k Advice of delivery charge	0.98 SDR at most	
l Advice of embarkation charge	0.36 SDR at most per parcel	
m Inquiry charge	0.65 SDR at most	If the sender has asked for his request to be sent by telegraph or by any other means of telecommunication, the telegraph charge or the charge for the other means of telecommunication shall be added to this charge
n Charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of address	1.31 SDR at most	The following shall be added to this charge: the appropriate charge if the request is to be sent by telecommunication
o Charge for cover against risks of <i>force majeure</i>	a amount laid down in article 12, paragraph 2, in respect of insured parcels b maximum of 0.20 SDR per parcel in	

	respect of uninsured parcels	

2 Administrations which, in their internal service, collect supplementary charges higher than those fixed in paragraph 1, may, when they retain the whole amount of such charges, apply the internal service rate in the international service.

Article 16

Fees

1 Administrations of destination shall be authorized to collect from addressees all fees, especially customs duty, payable on the items in the country of destination.

2 Administrations shall undertake to seek from the competent authorities in their countries cancellation of the fees (including customs duty) in the case of a parcel:

a returned to sender;

b redirected to a third country;

c abandoned by the sender;

d lost in their service or destroyed because of total damage of the contents;

e rifled or damaged in their service.

In these cases, cancellation of fees shall be requested only to the value of the missing contents or the depreciation suffered by the contents.

CHAPTER III

FREE POSTAGE

Article 17

Service parcels

1 Parcels relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges if exchanged between the following:

a postal administrations;

b postal administrations and the International Bureau;

c post offices of member countries;

d post offices and postal administrations.

2 Air parcels, with the exception of those originating from the International Bureau, shall be exempt from air surcharges.

Article 18

Parcels of prisoners of war and civilian internees

Prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels shall be exempted from all charges in accordance with Article 17 of the Convention. However, air parcels shall be subject to air surcharges as laid down in article 9 of this Agreement.

PART II

OPERATION OF THE SERVICE

CHAPTER I

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

SECTION I

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Article 19

Conditions of acceptance

Provided that the contents do not come within the prohibitions listed in article 20 or within the prohibitions or restrictions applicable in the territory of one or more of the administrations called upon to take part in the transmission, every parcel, to be admitted to the post, shall:

- a belong to one of the categories of parcels admitted under the terms of article 4;
- b be packed in a manner adapted to the nature of the contents and the conditions of transport;
- c bear the names and addresses of the addressee and the sender;
- d satisfy the conditions of weight and size fixed by articles 2 and 21;
- e be prepaid in respect of all the charges required by the office of origin, either by means of postage stamps or by any other method authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin.

Article 20

Prohibitions

The insertion of the following articles shall be prohibited:

- a in all categories of parcels:
 - i articles which, by their nature or their packing, may expose officials to danger, or soil or damage other parcels or postal equipment;
 - ii narcotics and psychotropic substances; however, this prohibition shall not apply to consignments sent for a medical or scientific purpose to countries which admit them on this condition;

iii documents having the character of current and personal correspondence as well as correspondence of any kind exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them, except:

- one of the documents below, unclosed, reduced to its essential elements and relating solely to the goods being conveyed: invoice, dispatch note or advice, delivery bill;

- gramophone records, tapes and wires, whether bearing a sound or video recording or not, ADP cards, magnetic tape or other similar media, and QSL cards, when the administration of origin considers that they do not have the character of current and personal correspondence and when they are exchanged between the sender and the addressee of the parcel or persons residing with them;

- correspondence and documents of any kind having the character of current and personal correspondence, other than the foregoing, exchanged between the sender and the addressee of the parcel or persons residing with them, if the internal regulations of the administrations concerned so permit;

iv live animals, unless their conveyance by post is authorized by the postal regulations of the countries concerned;

v explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances;

vi radioactive materials. However, administrations may agree among themselves to accept parcels containing these materials either reciprocally or in one direction only. In this case, the radioactive materials shall be made up and packed in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations and shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding air surcharges. They may be posted only by duly authorized senders;

vii obscene or immoral articles;

viii articles of which the importation or uttering is prohibited in the country of destination;

b in uninsured parcels exchanged between two countries which admit insured parcels: coins, bank notes, currency notes, securities of any kind payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles. This provision shall not apply when the exchange of parcels between two administrations admitting insured parcels can only be made in transit through the intermediary of an administration which does not admit them. Any administration may prohibit the enclosure of gold bullion in insured or uninsured items originating from or addressed to its territory or sent in transit *à découvert* across its territory, or limit the actual value of these items.

Article 21

Limits of size

1 Except where parcels are considered as cumbersome by application of article 4, paragraph 2, e, parcels sent by surface or air shall not exceed 1.50 metres for any one dimension or 3 metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length.

2 Administrations which cannot accept, for any parcel or for air parcels only, the sizes prescribed in paragraph 1, may adopt instead the following dimensions: 1.05 metres for any one dimension, 2 metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length.

3 Whatever their mode of conveyance, parcels shall not be smaller than the minimum size prescribed for letters in article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

4 Administrations which accept the dimensions fixed in paragraph 1 may collect, for parcels whose dimensions exceed the limits specified in paragraph 2 but which weigh less than 10 kg, a supplementary charge equal to that provided for in article 13.

Article 22

Treatment of parcels wrongly accepted

1 When parcels containing articles mentioned in article 20, a, have been wrongly admitted to the post, they shall be dealt with according to the legislation of the country of the administration establishing their presence; however, parcels containing articles listed in the same article under a, ii and v to vii shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to sender.

2 In the case of the insertion of a single item of correspondence prohibited within the meaning of article 20, a, iii, this correspondence shall be treated in the manner prescribed in article 32 of the Convention, and the parcel shall not be returned to sender on this account.

3 When an uninsured parcel exchanged between two countries which admit insurance and containing articles listed in article 20, b, is received by the administration of destination, that administration shall be authorized to deliver the parcel to the addressee under the conditions prescribed by its regulations. If they do not permit delivery, the parcel shall be returned to sender by application of article 34.

4 Paragraph 3 shall be applicable to parcels of which the weight or the dimensions appreciably exceed the permitted limits; however, these parcels may, where appropriate, be delivered to the addressee if he first pays any charges which may be due.

5 When a wrongly admitted parcel or part of its contents is neither delivered to the addressee nor returned to sender, the administration of origin shall be notified without delay how the parcel has been dealt with by means of a form conforming to the specimen C 33/CP 10bis annexed to the Detailed Regulations of this Agreement. This notification shall clearly indicate the prohibition under which the parcel falls or the articles which gave rise to its seizure.

Article 23

Sender's instructions at the time of posting

1 At the time of posting of a parcel, the sender shall be required to indicate the treatment to be given in case of non-delivery.

2 One of the following instructions only may be given:

a dispatch of an advice of non-delivery to the sender;

b dispatch of an advice of non-delivery to a third party residing in the country of destination;

c return forthwith to the sender by surface or air;

d return to the sender by surface or air at the end of a given period, which may not exceed the regulation period of retention in the country of destination;

e delivery to an alternative addressee, if necessary after redirection by surface or air (and subject to the special provisions set out in article 29, paragraph 1, c, ii);

f redirection of the parcel by surface or air, for delivery to the original addressee;

g abandonment of the parcel by the sender.

3 Parcels may be returned without advice if the sender has given no or contradictory instructions.

4 Administrations shall have the option of not accepting the instructions referred to in paragraph 2, a and b, when their legislation or regulations do not so permit.

SECTION II

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Article 24

Insured parcels

The following rules shall govern the insured value of insured parcels:

a postal administrations:

i each administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 3266.91 SDR or the amount adopted in its internal service if it is less than 3266.91 SDR;

ii in the service between countries whose administrations have adopted different limits, all parties shall observe the lowest limit;

b senders:

i may not insure the parcel for a value exceeding the actual value of its contents;

ii may insure part only of the actual value of the contents of the parcel.

2 Fraudulent insurance for a value greater than the actual value of the parcel shall be liable to the legal proceedings prescribed by the legislation of the country of origin.

3 A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to every sender of an insured parcel at the time of posting.

Article 25

Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees

1 A parcel for delivery free of charges and fees may be accepted only if the sender undertakes to pay the full amount which the office of destination would be entitled to claim from the addressee as well as the commission charge prescribed in article 11.

2 The office of origin may require the payment of a sufficient deposit.

CHAPTER II

CONDITIONS OF DELIVERY AND REDIRECTION

SECTION I

DELIVERY

Article 26

General rules for delivery.

Periods of retention

1 As a general rule, parcels shall be delivered to the addressees as soon as possible and according to the provisions in force in the country of destination. When parcels are not delivered to the addressee's address, the addressee shall, unless this is impossible, be advised of their arrival without delay.

2 When an addressee has been notified of the arrival of a parcel, it shall be held at his disposal for a fortnight or, at most, for a month from the day after that on which the advice is sent; exceptionally, this period may be increased to two months if the regulations of the administration of destination permit. The retention period prescribed in this paragraph shall be renewed if the sender has, in accordance with article 29, paragraph 1, a, c, ii, and d, requested that the addressee be advised again.

3 When it has not been possible to notify an addressee of the arrival of a parcel, the period of retention shall be that prescribed by the regulations of the country of destination; this period, applicable also to parcels addressed *poste restante*, shall start to run from the day after the day from which the parcel is held at the addressee's disposal and shall not, as a general rule, exceed two months; the parcel shall be returned to the sender within a shorter period if the sender has so requested in a language known in the country of destination.

4 The periods of retention prescribed in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be applicable, in the case of redirection, to parcels to be delivered by the new office of destination.

Article 27

Delivery of express parcels

1 The delivery by special messenger of an express parcel or of the advice of arrival shall be attempted once only.

2 If the attempt is unsuccessful the parcel shall cease to be considered as express.

Article 28

Advice of delivery

The sender of a parcel may request an advice of delivery under the conditions laid down in article 55 of the Convention. However, administrations may restrict this service to insured parcels if such restriction is provided for in their internal service.

Article 29

Non-delivery to the addressee

1 After receipt of the advice of non-delivery mentioned in article 23, paragraph 2, a and b, the sender, or the third party concerned, shall give his instructions, which may only be those authorized by the said article, paragraph 2, c to g, and, in addition, one of the following:

a notify the addressee once more;

b correct or complete the address;

c where a cash-on-delivery parcel is concerned:

i deliver it to a person other than the addressee against payment of the amount indicated;

ii deliver it to the original addressee or to another addressee without collecting the COD charge or against payment of an amount less than the original amount;

d deliver the parcel free of charges and fees either to the original addressee or to another addressee.

2 The charge mentioned in article 14, f, for sending the instructions referred to in paragraph 1 may be collected either from the sender or from the third party; when the advice relates to several parcels posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee the charge shall be collected once only. In case of transmission by telegraph or any other appropriate means of telecommunication, the corresponding charge shall also be collected.

3 Provided that no instructions have been received from the sender or third party, the administration of destination shall be authorized to deliver the parcel to the addressee originally indicated or, where appropriate, to another addressee indicated later, or to redirect the parcel to a new address. After receipt of fresh instructions these alone shall be valid and binding.

Article 30

Return to sender of undelivered parcels

1 Every parcel which it has not been possible to deliver shall be returned to the sender's country of residence:

a immediately if:

i the sender has requested it in application of article 23, paragraph 2, c;

ii the sender (or the third party referred to in article 23, paragraph 2, b) has made an unauthorized request;

iii the sender or the third party refuses to pay the charge authorized in article 29, paragraph 2;

iv the instructions of the sender, or of the third party, have not achieved the desired result, whether these instructions were given at the time of posting or after receipt of the advice of non-delivery;

b immediately after the expiry:

i of the period, if any, fixed by the sender in application of article 23, paragraph 2, d;

ii of the periods of retention laid down in article 26, if the sender has not complied with article 23. In this case, however, the sender may be asked for instructions;

iii of a period of two months from the dispatch of an advice of non-delivery, if the office which prepared that advice has not received adequate instructions from the sender or the third party, or if these instructions have not been received by that office.

2 A parcel shall be returned by the route normally used for dispatching mails. It may not be returned by air unless the sender has guaranteed the payment of the air surcharges.

3 Every parcel returned to sender under this article shall be subject to:

a the rates entailed in the further transmission;

b the uncanceled charges and fees which the administration of destination incurs at the time of return to the sender, subject to articles 10, paragraph 2, last sentence, and 15, paragraph 1, table, column 3, e, i and j.

4 These rates, charges and fees shall be collected from the sender.

5 Parcels returned to the sender and undeliverable to him shall be dealt with by the administration concerned in accordance with its own legislation.

Article 31

Abandonment by the sender of an undelivered parcel

If the sender has abandoned a parcel which it has not been possible to deliver to the addressee, that parcel shall be treated by the administration of destination according to its own legislation.

SECTION II

REDIRECTION

Article 32

Redirection due to change of address by the addressee or to alteration or

correction of an address

1 If an addressee changes his address or if an address is altered or corrected under article 38, a parcel may be redirected either within the country of destination or out of that country.

2 A parcel may be redirected within the country of destination at the request of the sender, at the request of the addressee, or automatically if the regulations of that country permit.

3 A parcel may be redirected out of the country of destination only at the request of the sender or of the addressee; in this case the parcel shall comply with the conditions required for the onward transmission.

4 A parcel may also be redirected under the conditions set out above by air at the request of the sender or the addressee, provided that payment of the air surcharge in respect of the onward transmission is guaranteed.

5 The sender may forbid any redirection.

6 For the first and any subsequent redirection of each parcel, the following may be collected:

a the charges authorized by the internal regulations of the administration concerned for such redirection, in the case of redirection within the country of destination;

b the rates and air surcharges entailed in the onward transmission, in the case of redirection out of the country of destination;

c the charges and fees which the former administrations of destination do not agree to cancel, subject to articles 10, paragraph 2, last sentence, and 15, paragraph 1, table, column 3, e, i and j.

7 The rates, charges and fees mentioned in paragraph 6 shall be collected from the addressee.

Article 33

Parcels arriving out of course and to be redirected

1 Any parcel arriving out of course as a result of an error on the part of the sender or the dispatching administration shall be reforwarded to its proper destination by the most direct route used by the administration which has received the parcel.

2 Any air parcel arriving out of course shall be reforwarded by air.

3 Any parcel reforwarded in application of this article shall be subject to the rates for forwarding to its proper destination and the charges and fees mentioned in article 32, paragraph 6, c.

4 These rates, charges and fees shall be collected from the administration responsible for the office of exchange which misdirected the parcel. This administration shall collect them, where appropriate, from the sender.

Article 34

Return to sender of wrongly accepted parcels

1 Any parcel wrongly accepted and returned to sender shall be subject to the rates, charges and fees prescribed in article 30, paragraph 3.

2 These rates, charges and fees shall be payable by:

a the sender, if the parcel has been wrongly admitted in consequence of an error of the sender or if it falls within one of the prohibitions laid down in article 20;

b the administration responsible for the error, if the parcel has been wrongly admitted in consequence of an error attributable to the postal service. In this case the sender shall be entitled to a refund of the charges paid.

3 If the rates which have been allocated to the administration returning the parcel are insufficient to cover the rates, charges and fees mentioned in paragraph 1, the outstanding charges shall be recovered from the administration of the sender's country of residence.

4 If there is a surplus, the administration which sends back the parcel shall return the balance of the

rates to the administration of the sender's country of residence for refund to the sender.

Article 35

Return to sender due to suspension of a service

The return of a parcel to the sender due to the suspension of a service shall be free of charge; the unallocated rates collected for the outward journey shall be credited to the administration of the sender's country of residence for refund to the sender.

CHAPTER III

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 36

Non-compliance by an administration with given instructions

1 When the administration of destination or an intermediate administration has not complied with the instructions given either at the time of posting or subsequently, it shall bear the conveyance charges (outward and return) and any other charges or fees which have not been cancelled; nevertheless, the charges paid for the outward journey shall remain the responsibility of the sender if he declared, either at the time of posting or subsequently, that in the event of non-delivery he would abandon the parcel.

2 The administration of the sender's country of residence shall be authorized automatically to bill the charges referred to in paragraph 1 to the administration which has not complied with the instructions given and which, although duly informed, has allowed three months to pass from the date on which it was informed without finally settling the matter or without informing the administration of the sender's country of residence that the non-compliance appeared to be due to *force majeure* or that the parcel had been detained, seized or confiscated in accordance with the internal regulations of the country of destination.

Article 37

Parcels containing items whose early deterioration or decay is to be feared

Articles contained in a parcel of which the early deterioration or decay is to be feared, and those articles only, may be sold immediately, even in course of transmission on either the outward or the return journey, without prior notice or legal formality, on behalf of the rightful owner; if, for any reason whatsoever, sale is impossible, the spoilt or decayed articles shall be destroyed.

Article 38

Withdrawal from the post.

Alteration or correction of address

1 The sender of a parcel may, under the terms of article 38 of the Convention, ask for it to be returned or for its address to be altered, provided that he guarantees payment of the amounts due for any onward transmission under articles 30, paragraph 3, and 32, paragraph 6.

2 However, administrations shall have the option of not accepting the requests referred to in

paragraph 1 when they do not accept them in their internal service.

Article 39

Inquiries

1 Every administration shall accept inquiries relating to any parcel posted in the service of another administration.

2 Inquiries from users shall be entertained only within a period of one year from the day after that on which the parcel was posted.

3 Unless the sender has paid in full the advice of delivery charge prescribed in article 14, k, each inquiry shall be subject to the collection of an "inquiry" charge at the rate laid down in article 15, m.

4 Separate inquiries shall be made for uninsured and insured parcels. If the inquiry related to several parcels of the same category posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee and sent by the same route, the charge shall be collected once only.

5 The inquiry charge shall be refunded if the inquiry has been occasioned by a service error.

PART III

LIABILITY

Article 40

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations

1 Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to parcels, except as provided for in article 41. Their liability shall be as binding for parcels conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.

2 Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of *force majeure*. They shall then be liable towards senders of parcels posted in their country for loss, theft or damage due to a case of *force majeure* occurring at any time during transmission of the parcels, including redirection or return to sender.

3 The sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual amount of the loss, theft or damage; consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration. However, this indemnity may in no case exceed:

a for insured parcels, the amount of the insured value in gold francs or SDRs; in case of redirection or return to sender by surface of an insured air parcel, liability shall be limited, for the second journey, to that applicable to parcels sent by that route. However, administrations of origin may assume responsibility for any loss, theft or damage not covered during the second journey;

b for other parcels, the following amounts:

44.10 SDR per parcel up to 5 kg;

65.34 SDR per parcel above 5 up to 10 kg;

88.21 SDR per parcel above 10 up to 15 kg;

111.07 SDR per parcel above 15 up to 20 kg;

above 20 kilogrammes, 22.87 SDR per parcel and per step or fraction of 5 kilogrammes.

4 Notwithstanding paragraph 3, b, administrations may agree to apply, in their reciprocal relations, the maximum amount of 111.07 SDR per parcel regardless of the weight.

5 The indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into gold francs or SDRs, of goods of the same kind at the place and time at which the parcel was accepted for conveyance; failing a current price, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the ordinary value of goods whose value is assessed on the same basis.

6 When an indemnity is due for the loss, total theft or total damage of a parcel, the sender or, by application of paragraph 8, the addressee shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges paid with the exception of the insurance charge; the same shall apply to items refused by the addressees because of their bad condition if that is attributable to the postal service and involves its liability.

7 When the loss, total theft or total damage is due to a case of *force majeure* for which indemnity is not payable, the sender shall be entitled to repayment of the charges paid, with the exception of the insurance charge.

8 Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after taking delivery of a rifled or damaged parcel in the cases provided for in article 41, paragraph 1, a and b.

9 The sender may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 3 in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee shall be entitled to waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 8 in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

10 The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country, for uninsured parcels, the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for items of the same kind, provided that such indemnities are not lower than those laid down in paragraph 3, b. The same shall apply to the administration of destination when the indemnity is paid to the addressee under the terms of paragraph 8. However, the amounts laid down in paragraph 3, b, shall remain applicable:

i in the event of recourse against the administration liable;

ii if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee or vice versa.

Article 41

Non-liability of postal administrations

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for parcels which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their internal regulations for items of the same kind or those set out in article 12, paragraph 3, of the Convention; liability shall however be maintained:

a when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of a parcel or when, internal regulations permitting, the addressee or, in the case of return to sender, the latter makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged parcel;

b when the addressee or, in the case of return to sender, the latter, although having given a proper

discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage and furnishes proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2 Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss of, theft from or damage to parcels:

a in cases of *force majeure*. The administration in whose service the loss, theft or damage occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss, theft or damage was due to circumstances amounting to a case of *force majeure*; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable if it has undertaken to cover risks of *force majeure* (article 40, paragraph 2);

b when they cannot account for parcels owing to the destruction of official records by *force majeure*, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

c when such loss, theft or damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or arises from the nature of the contents of the parcel;

d in the case of parcels which have been fraudulently insured for a sum greater than the actual value of the contents;

e when the sender has made no inquiry within the period prescribed in article 39, paragraph 2;

f in the case of prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcels;

ii for parcels seized under the legislation of the country of destination;

iii for parcels confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority, in the case of parcels whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 20, a, ii, iv to viii, and b;

iv in the case of sea or air conveyance when they have made it known that they are unable to accept liability for insured parcels on board the ships or aircraft used by them; they shall nevertheless assume in respect of the transit of insured parcels in closed mails the liability which is laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

3 Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made or for decisions taken by the Customs on examination of parcels submitted to customs control.

Article 42

Sender's liability

1 The sender of a parcel shall be liable within the same limits as administrations themselves for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or of the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance, provided that there has been no fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.

2 The acceptance by the office of posting of such a parcel shall not relieve the sender of his liability.

3 An administration which finds damage that is due to the fault of the sender shall inform the administration of origin, whose responsibility it is to take action against the sender where

appropriate.

Article 43

Determination of liability between postal administrations

1 Until the contrary is proved, liability shall rest with the postal administration which, having received the parcel without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.

2 Until the contrary is proved, and subject to paragraph 4, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:

a when it has observed the rules for inspection of mails and parcels and the establishment of irregularities;

b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the parcel in question, the regulation period of retention having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant.

3 When the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 88, paragraph 1, of the Convention shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity as well as the charges and fees paid to the sender, subject to article 1, paragraph 6, of the Convention and paragraph 7 of this article. It shall be for the former administration to recover these amounts from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 88, paragraph 2, of the Convention, it shall itself seek reimbursement of these amounts from the air carrier.

4 If the loss, theft or damage occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally; however, in the case of an uninsured parcel, when the amount of indemnity does not exceed the amount fixed in article 40, paragraph 3, b, for a parcel up to 5 kg, this sum shall be borne equally by the administration of origin and the administration of destination, intermediate administrations being excluded. If the theft or damage has been established in the country of destination or, in the case of return to sender, in the country of his residence, it shall rest with the administration of that country to prove:

a that neither the wrapping nor the fastening of the parcel bore any apparent trace of theft or damage;

b that, in the case of an insured parcel, the weight established at the time of posting has not varied;

c that, in the case of parcels forwarded in closed receptacles, both the receptacles and their fastening were intact.

When such proof has been furnished by the administration of destination or of the sender's country of residence, as the case may be, none of the other administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability on grounds that it handed over the parcel without the next administration having made any objection.

5 In the case of items sent in bulk, in application of article 54, paragraphs 2 and 3, none of the administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability by showing that the number of parcels found in the mail differs from that advised on the parcel bill.

6 In the case of bulk transmission, the administrations concerned may agree among themselves that liability be shared in the event of loss of, theft from or damage to certain categories of parcels, determined by mutual agreement.

7 As regards insured parcels, the liability of an administration towards other administrations shall in no case exceed the maximum insured value that it has adopted.

8 When a parcel has been lost, rifled or damaged as the result of *force majeure*, the administration in whose territorial jurisdiction or services the loss, theft or damage occurred shall not be liable towards the administration of origin unless the two administrations undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.

9 If the loss, theft or damage of an insured parcel occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration which does not accept insured parcels or which has adopted a maximum insured value lower than the amount of the loss, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration under paragraph 7 of this article and article 1, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

10 The rule laid down in paragraph 9 shall also apply in case of sea or air conveyance if the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an administration belonging to a contracting country which does not accept the liability laid down for insured parcels (article 41, paragraph 2, iv).

11 Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss, theft or damage.

12 An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take 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 44

Payment of indemnity

1 Subject to the right of recourse against the administration which is liable, the obligation to pay the indemnity and to refund the charges and fees shall rest either with the administration of origin or, in the case mentioned in article 40, paragraph 8, with the administration of destination.

2 This payment shall be made as soon as possible and, at the latest, within a period of four months from the day following the day of inquiry.

3 When the administration responsible for the payment does not undertake to cover risks of *force majeure* and when, at the end of the period prescribed in paragraph 2, the question of whether the loss, theft or damage is due to such causes has not been decided, it may exceptionally postpone settlement of the indemnity for another three months.

4 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant on behalf of the administration which, having participated in the conveyance and having been duly informed, has allowed three months to pass:

a without finally settling the matter; or

b without informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, that the loss, theft or damage appeared to be due to a case of *force majeure*, or that the parcel had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of the nature of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

5 With reference to paragraph 4, a, the return of a C 9 form which has not been completed in accordance with the provisions of article 151, paragraphs 9 and 12, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention shall not be regarded as final settlement.

6 Postal administrations which state in the Final Protocol to the Postal Parcels Agreement that they are not bound to comply with article 44, paragraph 4, of the Agreement as regards final settlement of inquiries within three months shall notify a period within which they will finally settle the matter.

Article 45

Reimbursing the administration which paid the indemnity

1 The administration which is liable or on behalf of which payment is made in accordance with article 43 shall reimburse the administration which made the payment under article 44, and which is called the "paying administration", the amount of indemnity paid to the rightful claimant subject to article 40, paragraphs 3 and 6; this payment shall be made within four months of the date of dispatch of the notice of payment.

2 If the indemnity is to be borne by several administrations in accordance with article 43, the whole of the indemnity shall be paid to the paying administration, within the period mentioned in paragraph 1, by the first administration which, having duly received the parcel claimed for, is unable to prove its correct transfer to the next service. It shall rest with this administration to recover from the other administrations which are liable each one's share of the indemnity, paid to the rightful claimant.

3 The creditor administration shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules for payment laid down in article 13 of the Convention.

4 The administrations of origin and destination may agree that the whole of the loss sustained in respect of ordinary parcels shall be borne by the administration which has to make the payment to the rightful claimant.

5 When liability has been admitted, as well as in the case provided for in article 44, paragraph 4, the amount of the indemnity may also be automatically recovered from the administration which is liable through a liquidation account, either direct or through the intermediary of the first transit administration, which claims credit in its turn from the next administration, the operation being repeated until the sum paid has been debited to the administration which is liable; where appropriate, the statutory provisions on the drawing up of accounts shall be observed.

6 Immediately after paying the indemnity, the paying administration shall communicate to the administration which is liable the date and the amount of payment made. It may only claim reimbursement of this indemnity within a period of one year either from the date of dispatch of the notice of payment or, where appropriate, from the date of expiry of the period prescribed in article 44, paragraph 4.

7 The administration whose liability is duly established and which has at first declined to pay the indemnity shall assume all additional costs resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

Article 46

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or from the addressee

1 If, after payment of the indemnity, a parcel or part of a parcel previously considered lost, is found, the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, shall be advised that he may take delivery of it within a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity received. If the sender

or the addressee, as the case may be, does not claim the parcel within this period, the same approach shall be made to the other party.

2 If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the parcel or of part of the parcel recovered against repayment of the amount of the indemnity, that sum shall be refunded to the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss, within one year of the date of the repayment.

3 If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the parcel, it shall become the property of the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss.

4 When proof of delivery is supplied after the period of three months laid down in article 44, paragraph 4, the indemnity paid shall continue to be borne by the intermediate administration or administration of destination if the sum paid cannot, for any reason, be recovered from the sender.

5 In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured parcel the contents of which are found to be of less value than the amount of indemnity paid, the sender or, where article 40, paragraph 8, is applied, the addressee shall repay the amount of this indemnity against return of the insured parcel, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance as mentioned in article 24, paragraph 2.

PART IV

RATES DUE TO ADMINISTRATIONS.

ALLOCATION OF RATES

CHAPTER I

RATES

Article 47

Outward and inward land rate

1 Parcels exchanged between two administrations shall be subject to the following guideline outward and inward land rates for each country and each parcel:

Weight steps 1	Outward and inward land rate				
	Guideline rates				
	2				
		SDR			
Up to 1 kg					2.61
Above	1	up to	3 kg		3.27
Above	3	up to	5 kg		3.92
Above	5	up to	10 kg		4.90

Above	10	up to	15 kg	5.88
Above	15	up to	20 kg	6.53
Above	20 kg, for each step or fraction of 5 kg		0.65	

In case of allocation of rates in accordance with article 54, paragraph 3, the following guideline rates are recommended:

- Inward and outward land rate per parcel: 4 SDR;
- inward and outward land rate per kilogramme of gross weight of the mails: 0.40 SDR.

Bearing in mind the above guideline rates, administrations shall fix their outward and inward land rates to bring these into relation with the costs of their service. However, their inward land rates may not be more than 30 percent higher than their outward rates.

2 Outward and inward land rates shall be published by the International Bureau in the Compendium of Information (Postal Parcels).

3 The rates mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

4 The outward and inward land rates shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of each country.

5 Modifications of the inward land rates according to paragraph 1 may only come into force on 1 January. To be applicable, such modifications must be communicated at least four months prior to that date to the International Bureau, which shall notify them to the administrations concerned at least three months before the date of their coming into force. If these periods have not been observed, such modifications shall not come into force until 1 January of the following year.

Article 48

Transit land rate

1 Parcels exchanged between two administrations or between two offices of the same country by means of the land services of one or more other administrations shall be subject to the following transit land rates, payable to the countries whose services take part in the routing on land:

Distance steps	Transit land rates						
	Up to 1 kg	above 1 up to 3 kg	above 3 up to 5 kg	above 5 up to 10 kg	above 10 up to 15 kg	above 15 up to 20 kg	above 20kg, for each step or fraction of 5 kg
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR

Up to 600 km	0.20	0.52	0.95	1.67	2.71	3.76	0.98
Above 600 up to 1000 km	0.29	0.75	1.34	2.38	3.89	5.39	1.37
Above 1000 up to 2000 km	0.39	1.01	1.80	3.20	5.19	7.22	1.83
Above 2000 for each additional 1000 km	0.10	0.23	0.46	0.78	1.27	1.76	0.26

In case of allocation of rates in accordance with article 54, paragraph 3, the following guideline rates are recommended:

Distance steps	Transit land rate	
	per parcel	per kg of gross weight of mails
	SDR	SDR
Up to 600 km	1.47	0.20
Above 600 up to 1000 km	2.09	0.29
Above 1000 up to 2000 km	2.81	0.39
Above 2000 for each additional 1000 km	0.65	0.10

2 Each of the countries mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be authorized to collect for each parcel the transit land rates applicable to the distance step corresponding to the weighted average distance over which it conveys parcels in transit. This distance shall be calculated by the International Bureau.

3 Reforwarding, where applicable after warehousing, by the services of an intermediate country of mails and *à découvert* parcels entering and leaving by the same port (transit not involving a land route) shall be subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2.

4 As regards air parcels, the land rate for intermediate countries shall be applicable only where the parcel is conveyed by an intermediate land service.

5 However, as regards air parcels in transit *à découvert*, intermediate administrations shall be authorized to claim a single rate of 0.33 SDR per item.

6 When a country agrees to its territory being crossed by a foreign transport service without participation of its services according to article 3 of the Convention, parcels thus conveyed shall not give rise to allocation of the transit land rate to the postal administration concerned.

7 The rates mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin

unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

Article 49

Sea rate

1 Each of the countries whose services participate in the sea conveyance of parcels shall be authorized to claim the sea rates mentioned in the table shown in paragraph 2.

These rates shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

2 For each sea conveyance used, the sea rate shall be calculated according to the following table:

Distance	Weight steps							
a expressed in nautical miles	b expressed in km after conversion on the basis of 1 n.m. = 1.852 km	up to 1kg	above 1 up to 3 kg	above 3 up to 5 kg	above 5 up to 10 kg	above 10 up to 15 kg	above 15 up to 20 kg	above 20 kg, for each step or fraction of 5 kg
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR
Up to 500 n.m.	Up to 926 km	0.16	0.39	0.69	1.21	1.96	2.71	0.59
Above 500 up to 1000	Above 926 up to 1852	0.20	0.46	0.82	1.44	2.35	3.27	0.78
Above 1000 up to 2000	Above 1852 up to 3704	0.20	0.52	0.95	1.67	2.71	3.72	0.91
Above 2000 up to 3000	Above 3704 up to 5556	0.23	0.59	1.05	1.86	3.01	4.15	1.05
Above 3000 up to 4000	Above 5556 up to 7408	0.26	0.62	1.11	1.99	3.23	4.48	1.14
Above 4000 up to 5000	Above 7408 up to 9260	0.26	0.65	1.18	2.12	3.43	4.77	1.24
Above 5000 up to 6000	Above 9260 up to 11112	0.29	0.69	1.24	2.22	3.63	5.00	1.31
Above 6000 up to 7000	Above 11112 up to 12964	0.29	0.72	1.31	2.32	3.76	5.23	1.37
Above 7000 up to 8000	Above 12964 up to 14816	0.29	0.75	1.34	2.42	3.92	5.42	1.44
Above 8000 per additional 1000	Above 14816 per additional 1852	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.16	0.03

In case of allocation of rates in accordance with article 54, paragraph 3, the following

guideline rates are recommended:

Distance steps	Sea rate		
a expressed in nautical miles	b expressed in km after conversion on the basis of 1 n.m. = 1.852 km	per parcel	per kg of gross weight of mails
		SDR	SDR
Up to 500 n.m.	Up to 926 km	1.05	0.16
Above 500 up to 1000	Above 926 up to 1852	1.27	0.20
Above 1000 up to 2000	Above 1852 up to 3704	1.44	0.20
Above 2000 up to 3000	Above 3704 up to 5556	1.63	0.23
Above 3000 up to 4000	Above 5556 up to 7408	1.73	0.26
Above 4000 up to 5000	Above 7408 up to 9260	1.86	0.26
Above 5000 up to 6000	Above 9260 up to 11 112	1.96	0.29
Above 6000 up to 7000	Above 11 112 up to 12 964	2.03	0.29
Above 7000 up to 8000	Above 12 964 up to 14 816	2.09	0.29
Above 8000 per additional 1000	Above 14 816 per additional 1852	0.07	0.03

3 If necessary, the distance steps used to determine the amount of the sea rate applicable between two countries shall be calculated on the basis of a weighted average distance, determined in terms of the tonnage of the mails carried between the respective ports of the two countries.

4 Sea conveyance between two ports of the same country may not give rise to the collection of the rate referred to in paragraph 2 when the administration of that country already receives, for the same parcels, payment in respect of land conveyance.

5 As regards air parcels, the sea rate for intermediate administrations or services shall be applicable only where the parcel is conveyed by an intermediate sea service; for this purpose every sea service provided by the country of origin or destination shall be regarded as an intermediate service.

Article 50

Reduction or increase of the sea rate

1 Administrations may increase by 50 percent at most the sea rate laid down in article 49, paragraph 2. On the other hand, they may reduce it as they wish.

2 This option shall be subject to the conditions laid down in article 47, paragraph 5.

3 In the case of an increase, this shall also be applied to parcels originating in the country to which

the services providing sea conveyance belong; nevertheless, this obligation shall not apply either in the relations between a country and the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or in the relations between these territories.

Article 51

Application of new rates following unforeseeable changes in routeing

When, for reasons of *force majeure* or any other unforeseeable occurrence, an administration is obliged to use for the conveyance of its own parcels a new dispatch route which causes additional sea or land conveyance costs, it shall be required to inform immediately by telegram or any other appropriate means of telecommunication all the administrations whose parcel mails or *à découvert* parcels are sent in transit by way of its country. From the fifth day following the day on which this information is sent, the intermediate administration shall be authorized to charge the administration of origin the land and sea rates which correspond to the new route.

Article 52

Basic rates and calculation of air conveyance dues

1 The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be fixed at a maximum of 0.568 thousandth of an SDR per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre; this rate shall be applied proportionately to fractions of a kilogramme.

2 Air conveyance dues relating to air parcel mails shall be calculated according to, on the one hand, the actual basic rate specified in paragraph 1 and the kilometric distances given in the "List of Airmail Distances" referred to in article 225, paragraph 1, b, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and, on the other, the gross weight of the mails.

3 The air conveyance dues payable to the intermediate administration for *à découvert* air parcels shall be fixed in principle as indicated in paragraph 1, but per half-kilogramme for each country of destination. Nevertheless, when the territory of the country of destination of these parcels is served by one or more lines with several stops in that territory, dues shall be calculated on the basis of a weighted average rate taking into account the weight of the parcels offloaded at each stop. The dues to be paid shall be calculated for each individual parcel, the weight of each being rounded upwards to the next half-kilogramme.

4 Each administration of destination which provides air conveyance of air parcels within its country shall be entitled to reimbursement of the additional costs incurred for such conveyance provided that the weighted average distance of the sectors flown exceeds 300 km. These dues shall be uniform for all mails from abroad, whether or not the air parcels are reforwarded by air.

5 The dues referred to in paragraph 4 shall be fixed in the form of a single price calculated for all air parcels addressed to the country, on the basis of the rate actually paid for air conveyance of parcels within the country of destination less the corresponding surface conveyance costs, but not exceeding the maximum rate provided for in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average of the sector distances covered by air parcels of the international service on the internal air network. The weighted average distance shall be calculated by the International Bureau in terms of the gross weight of all the air parcel mails arriving at the country of destination, including the air parcels which are not reforwarded by air within that country.

6 Entitlement to reimbursement of the dues referred to in paragraph 4 shall be subject to the conditions laid down in article 47, paragraph 5.

7 Transshipment at the same airport, in the course of transmission, of air parcels conveyed successively by several separate air services shall be performed without remuneration.

8 No transit land rate shall be payable for:

a the transfer of airmails between two airports serving the same town;

b the transport of such mails between an airport serving a town and a warehouse situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 53

Air conveyance dues for lost or destroyed air parcels

In case of loss or destruction of air parcels as a result of an accident occurring to the aircraft or through any other cause involving the liability of the air carrier, the administration of origin shall be exempt from any payment in respect of the air conveyance of the air parcels lost or destroyed, for any part of the flight of the line used.

CHAPTER II

ALLOCATION OF RATES

Article 54

General principles

1 Allocation of rates to the administrations concerned shall be made, in principle, in respect of each parcel.

2 However, in the case of transmission by closed mails, the administration of origin may agree with the administration of destination to allocate rates in bulk for each weight step.

3 Also in the case of transmission by closed mails, the administration of origin may agree with the administration of destination and, as appropriate, with the intermediate administrations to credit them with sums calculated per parcel or per kilogramme of gross weight of the mails on the basis of the land and sea rates.

Article 55

Service parcels.

Parcels of prisoners of war and civilian internees

Rates shall not be allocated for service parcels and for prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels, apart from the air conveyance dues applicable to air parcels.

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 56

Application of the Convention

The Convention shall be applicable, where appropriate, by analogy, in all cases not expressly governed by this Agreement.

Article 57

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning this Agreement and its Detailed Regulations

- 1 To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to this Agreement and its Detailed Regulations must be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting which are parties to the Agreement. At least half of these member countries represented at Congress must be present at the time of voting.
- 2 To become effective, proposals relating to the Detailed Regulations of this Agreement which have been referred by Congress to the Executive Council for a decision or which have been introduced between Congresses must be approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Council which are parties to this Agreement.
- 3 To become effective, proposals introduced between Congresses relating to this Agreement must obtain:
 - a unanimity of votes if they involve either the addition of new provisions or amendments of substance to the articles of this Agreement and of its Final Protocol;
 - b a majority of the votes if they involve:
 - i interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement and its Final Protocol;
 - ii drafting amendments to be made to the Acts specified in subparagraph i.

Article 58

Parcels addressed to or originating in countries not participating in the Agreement

- 1 The administrations of countries participating in this Agreement which maintain an exchange of parcels with the administrations of non-participating countries shall, in the absence of any objection on the part of the latter, allow the administrations of all the participating countries to avail themselves of these services.
- 2 For transit by the land, sea and air services of the countries participating in the Agreement, parcels addressed to or originating in a non-participating country shall be treated in the same way as parcels exchanged between participating countries in so far as the amount of the land and sea rates and of the air conveyance dues is concerned. The same shall apply, with respect to liability, whenever it is established that loss, theft or damage occurred in the service of one of the participating countries and when the indemnity has to be paid in a participating country either to the sender or, where article 40, paragraph 8, is applied, to the addressee.

PART VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 59

Entry into force and duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall come into force on 1 January 1991 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have signed this Agreement in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau.^[6] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989.

[Signatures not reproduced here]

FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE POSTAL PARCELS AGREEMENT

At the moment of proceeding to signature of the Postal Parcels Agreement concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Article I

Exceptional inward land rates

1 Notwithstanding article 47, the administrations listed below reserve the right to fix their inward land rates over 30 percent higher than their outward land rates:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria (People's Rep), Congo (People's Rep), Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, German Dem Rep, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolian People's Rep, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Rep, Uganda, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen Arab Rep, Yemen (People's Dem Rep), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2 Notwithstanding article 47, the postal administration of the Arab Republic of Egypt reserves the right to collect an exceptional inward land rate of 6.53 SDR per parcel, in addition to the rates mentioned in that article.

Article II

Exceptional transit land rates

For the time being, the administrations listed in the table below shall be authorized to collect the exceptional transit land rates indicated therein, in addition to the transit rates mentioned in article 48, paragraph 1:

No.	Authorized administrations	Amount of the exceptional transit land rate for parcels of the following weight steps:	

		up to 1 kg	over 1 and up to 3 kg	over 3 and up to 5 kg	over 5 and up to 10 kg	over 10 and up to 15 kg	over 15 and up to 20 kg
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR	SDR
1	Afghanistan	1.54	1.96	2.45	2.94	4.57	5.88
2	United States of America	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27
3	Argentina	0.65	1.31	1.63	2.61	3.92	4.90
4	Australia	0.70	0.70	0.95	1.45	2.10	2.75
5	Bahamas	0.65	0.74	0.82	0.98		
6	Bahrain	0.83	0.88	0.98	1.31	1.50	1.96
7	Bangladesh	0.98	1.31	1.47	1.63		
8	Barbados	0.82	0.90	0.88	0.78		
9	Belgium	0.16	0.33	0.49	0.82	1.14	1.47
10	Belize	3.01	3.59	3.87	4.95	6.14	7.12
11	Benin	0.20	0.33	0.49	0.98	1.47	1.96
12	Bolivia	0.33	0.39	0.46	0.65	0.98	1.31
13	Botswana	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.45	2.94	3.27
14	Brazil	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27	6.53	7.84
15	Brunei Darussalam	0.29	0.49	0.88	1.57		
16	Bulgaria (People's Rep)	0.33	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61
17	Central African Republic	0.20	0.49	0.65	1.31	1.96	2.61
18	Chile	1.31	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.92	5.23
19	China (People's Rep)	1.31	2.35	3.01	3.43	3.92	4.90
20	Cyprus	1.31	1.63	2.12	2.45	3.27	4.25
21	Congo (People's Rep)	0.82	0.98	1.31	1.96	3.27	3.92
22	Côte d'Ivoire (Rep)	0.20	0.33	0.49	0.98	1.63	2.29
23	Dominica	1.80	1.96	2.07	2.56	3.74	4.51
24	Egypt	0.98	0.98	0.98	1.96	1.96	1.96
25	El Salvador	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
26	United Arab Emirates	1.11	1.24	1.31	1.11	0.72	0.65
27	Ecuador	0.98	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27
28	France	0.33	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61
29	Gambia	0.56	0.59	0.57	0.52		
30	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom	4.41	5.23	5.55	7.02	8.66	9.96
31	Grenada	1.80	1.96	2.07	2.56	3.74	4.51

32	Guyana	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.46		
33	India	1.55	1.55	1.55	2.06	2.06	2.06
34	Iran (Islamic Rep)	0.33	0.39	0.46	0.52	0.65	0.85
35	Iraq	0.33	0.39	0.49	0.65	1.31	1.63
36	Jamaica	0.65	0.82	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61
37	Kenya	0.98	1.14	1.31	1.63		
38	Madagascar	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27
39	Malaysia	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.65		
40	Malawi	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.46		
41	Malta	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.46		
42	Mauritius	0.56	0.59	0.57	0.52		
43	Myanmar	0.23	0.20	0.20	0.29		
44	Nepal	0.65	0.82	0.98	1.14	1.47	1.80
45	Nigeria	0.98	1.14	1.31	1.63		
46	Oman	1.14	1.21	1.31	1.47		
47	Uganda	0.98	1.14	1.31	1.63		
48	Pakistan	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.63		
49	Panama (Rep)	0.33	0.49	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.63
50	Papua New Guinea	0.15	0.25	0.31	0.54	0.65	0.78
51	Peru	0.33	0.39	0.46	0.65	0.98	1.31
52	Qatar	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.46		
53	Dem People's Rep Korea	0.98	1.31	1.63	1.80	1.96	2.12
54	Romania	0.33	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61
55	St Christopher and Nevis	4.41	5.23	5.55	7.02	8.66	9.96
56	Saint Lucia	1.80	1.96	2.07	2.56	3.74	4.51
57	St Vincent & Grenadines	3.01	3.59	3.87	4.95	6.14	7.12
58	Solomon Islands	3.01	3.59	3.87	4.95	6.14	7.12
59	Seychelles	1.80	1.96	2.07	2.56	3.74	4.51
60	Sierra Leone	0.46	0.65	0.82	0.91		
61	Singapore	0.33	0.36	0.39	0.65		
62	Sudan	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27		
63	Sri Lanka	0.98	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.27	3.92
64	Syrian Arab Rep	0.65	0.98	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.29
65	Tanzania (United Rep)	0.98	1.14	1.31	1.63		
66	Thailand	1.14	1.31	1.80	2.12	2.61	3.43
67	Trinidad and Tobago	0.65	0.82	0.98	1.31		
68	Turkey	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63
69	Tuvalu	1.80	1.96	2.07	2.56	3.74	4.51
70	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics via the European part of the USSR	0.59	1.40	2.55	4.51	7.38	10.13

	Via the Asian part of the USSR	1.67	3.99	7.32	12.90	21.27	29.17
	Via the European and Asian parts of the USSR	2.16	5.06	9.34	16.53	27.25	37.31
71	Venezuela	0.49	0.98	1.47	2.12	2.94	3.92
72	Yemen (People's Dem R.)	1.31	1.31	1.96	2.61	3.92	5.23
73	Yugoslavia	0.29	0.39	0.65	0.72	1.18	1.03
74	Zaire	0.26	0.59	0.98	1.96	3.27	3.92
75	Zambia	1.37	1.83	2.74	3.66	5.08	7.06
76	Zimbabwe	1.31	1.63	1.96	2.45	2.94	3.27

Article III

Weighted average distance for conveyance of parcels in transit

Article 48, paragraph 2, last sentence, shall not apply to the following countries unless they so request: Bulgaria (People's Rep), Byelorussia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Mongolian People's Rep, Polish People's Rep, Ukraine and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article IV

Sea rates

Argentina, Australia, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the Comoros, Congo (People's Rep), Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Fed Rep of, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania (United Rep), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen (People's Dem Rep) and Zambia reserve the right to increase by 50 percent at the most the sea rates provided for in articles 49 and 50.

Article V

Determination of average rates

Notwithstanding article 54, paragraph 3, of the Agreement and article 150, paragraph 2, of the Detailed Regulations, the United States of America shall be authorized to establish average land and sea rates per kilogramme based on the weight distribution of parcels received from all administrations.

Article VI

Supplementary rates

1 Every parcel sent by surface or air addressed to Corsica, the French Overseas Departments, the French Overseas Territories and the Communities of Mayotte and Saint Pierre and Miquelon shall be

subject to an inward land rate not exceeding the corresponding rate for France. When such a parcel transits metropolitan France it shall, in addition, give rise to the collection of the following supplementary rates and dues:

a "surface" parcels

i the French transit land rate;

ii the French sea rate corresponding to the distance step between metropolitan France and each of the Departments, Territories and Communities in question;

b air parcels

i the French transit land rate for parcels in transit *à découvert*;

ii the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between metropolitan France and each of the Departments, Territories and Communities in question.

2 Every parcel conveyed by the Iraq-Syria trans-desert motor services shall give rise to the collection of a special supplementary rate fixed as follows:

Weight steps	Supplementary rates	Weight steps	Supplementary rates
1	2	1	2
kg	SDR	kg	SDR
Up to 1	0.16	over 5 and up to 10	1.63
over 1 and up to 3	0.49	over 10 and up to 15	2.45
over 3 and up to 5	0.82	over 15 and up to 20	3.27

3 The postal administrations of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of the Sudan shall be authorized to collect a supplementary rate of 0.65 SDR over and above the transit land rates laid down in article 48, paragraph 1, of the Agreement for each parcel in transit via Lake Nasser between El Shallal (Egypt) and Wadi Haifa (Sudan).

4 Every parcel sent in transit between Denmark and the Farøe Islands shall give rise to the collection of the following supplementary rates:

a surface parcels

i the Danish transit land rate;

ii the Danish sea rate corresponding to the distance step between Denmark and the Farøe Islands;

b air parcels

- the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between Denmark and the Farøe Islands.

5 The postal administration of Chile shall be authorized to collect a supplementary rate of 2.61 SDR per kilogramme at most for the conveyance of parcels to Easter Island.

6 Every parcel sent by surface or by air, in transit between continental Portugal and the autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores, shall give rise to the collection of the following supplementary rates:

a surface parcels

i the Portuguese transit land rate;

ii the Portuguese sea rate corresponding to the distance step between continental Portugal and each of the autonomous regions in question;

b air parcels

i the Portuguese transit land rate;

ii the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between continental Portugal and each of the autonomous regions in question.

7 Parcels addressed to the island provinces of Grand Canary and Tenerife and forwarded in transit via continental Spain shall give rise to the collection, in addition to the corresponding inward land rate, of the following supplementary rates:

a surface parcels

i the Spanish transit land rate;

ii the Spanish sea rate corresponding to a distance of from 1000 to 2000 nautical miles;

b air parcels

- the air conveyance costs corresponding to the airmail distance between continental Spain and each of the island provinces in question.

Article VII

Special tariffs

1 The administrations of Belgium, France and Norway may collect higher land rates for air parcels than for surface parcels.

2 The administration of Lebanon shall be authorized to collect for parcels up to 1 kilogramme the charge applicable to parcels over 1 and up to 3 kg.

3 The administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect 0.20 SDR per kilogramme for surface airlifted (S.A.L.) parcels in transit.

Article VIII

Supplementary charges

Exceptionally, administrations shall be authorized to exceed the upper limits of the supplementary charges shown in articles 10 to 13 and 15 if this is necessary to bring these charges into line with the costs of operating their services. However, in the case of return to sender (article 30, paragraph 3, b) or redirection (article 32, paragraph 6, c), the amount of the charges passed on may not exceed the rates laid down in the agreement. Administrations wishing to apply this provision must notify the International Bureau of their intention as soon as possible.

Article IX

Treatment of parcels wrongly accepted

Byelorussia, Bulgaria (People's Rep), Cuba, Dem People's Rep of Korea, Ukraine and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reserve the right to provide information about the seizure of a postal parcel or part of its contents only within the limits of the information provided by the customs authorities and in accordance with their internal legislation.

Article X

Withdrawal from the post.

Alteration or correction of address

Notwithstanding article 38, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama (Rep) and Venezuela shall be authorized not to return postal parcels after the addressee has requested their clearance by Customs, since this is incompatible with those countries' customs legislation.

Article XI

Prohibitions

1 The postal administration of Canada shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing the valuable articles covered in article 20, b, since this is contrary to its internal regulations.

2 Exceptionally, the postal administration of Lebanon shall not accept parcels containing coins, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver whether manufactured or not, precious stones or other valuable articles, or containing liquids or easily liquefiable elements or articles made of glass or similar or fragile articles. It shall not be bound by the provisions of article 40, including with respect to the cases set forth in articles 41 and 43.

Article XII

Exceptions to the principle of liability

Notwithstanding article 40, Bolivia, the Republic of Iraq, the Republic of the Sudan, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Republic of Zaire shall be authorized to pay no indemnity for damage to parcels coming from any country and addressed to Bolivia, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen (People's Dem Rep), or Zaire and containing liquids or substances which easily liquefy, glass articles or articles of a similar fragile or perishable nature.

Article XIII

Compensation

1 Notwithstanding article 40, Angola, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Gambia, those of the Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose internal regulations do not permit them to comply, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Nauru, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe shall have the right not to pay compensation for uninsured parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service.

2 Notwithstanding article 40, paragraph 8, the United States of America shall be authorized to maintain the sender's right to indemnity for insured parcels after the addressee has taken delivery thereof, unless the sender waives this right in favour of the addressee.

3 The postal administration of Brazil shall be authorized not to apply article 40 with respect to liability in cases of damage, including the cases referred to in articles 41 and 43.

4 The United States of America, when acting as an intermediate administration, shall be authorized not to indemnify other administrations in the event of loss of, theft from or damage to transit insured parcels conveyed *à découvert* or forwarded in closed mails.

Article XIV

Payment of the indemnity

The postal administrations of Angola, Guinea, Lebanon and Mauritania (Islamic Rep) shall not be obliged to comply with article 44, paragraph 4, of the Agreement as regards finally settling a claim within three months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified on its behalf by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

Article XV

Non-liability of the postal administration

The postal administration of Nepal shall be authorized not to apply article 41, paragraph 1, b.

Article XVI

Advice of delivery

The postal administration of Canada shall be authorized not to apply article 28, given that it does not offer the advice of delivery service for parcels in its internal service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries below have drawn up this Protocol which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the actual text of the Agreement to which it relates, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau.^[7] A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Washington, 14 December 1989.

[Signatures not reproduced here]

[1] Constitution, done at Vienna on 10 July 1964: [ATS 1966 No. 2](#) UNTS 611 p. 7, was amended by Additional Protocol, done at Tokyo on 14 November 1969: [ATS 1971 No. 18](#) UNTS 810 p. 53,

Second Additional Protocol, done at Lausanne on 5 July 1974: [ATS 1977 No. 5](#) UNTS 1005 p. 9, and Third Additional Protocol, done at Hamburg on 27 July 1984: [ATS 1988 No. 5](#) UNTS 1415 p. 11.

[2] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989. Instrument of ratification of the Fourth Additional Protocol to the Constitution, General Regulations, Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol, and Postal Parcels Agreement, and Final Protocol, was deposited for Australia 25 August 1994.

[3] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989.

[4] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989.

[5] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989.

[6] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989.

[7] Signed for Australia 14 December 1989.