## UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Convention and final protocol signed at Madrid November 30, $1920^{1}$
Ratified and approved by the Postmaster General of the United States, with the exception of certain provisions, December 31, $1921^{2}$
Approved by the President of the United States, with the exception of certain provisions, January 23, $19222^{2}$
Ratifications exchanged at Madrid December 1, 1921; ratification of the United States deposited at Madrid February 24, 1922
Entered into force January 1, 1922
Terminated by convention of August 28, 1924 ${ }^{3}$
42 Stat. 1971; Post Office Department print
[TRANSLATION]
Universal Postal Convention, concluded between Germany, United States of America, Philippine Islands, the other Island Possessions of the United States of America, Argentine Republic, Austria, Belgium and the Colony of the Belgian Congo, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ecuador, Spain and the Spanish Colonies, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Algeria, the French Colonies and Protectorates of Indo China, the whole of the other French Colonies, Great Britain, and Various British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates, British India, the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Greece, Guatemala, Republic of Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy and the Italian Colonies, Japan, Chosen (Korea), the whole of the other Japanese Dependencies, Republic of Liberia, Luxemburg, Morocco (except the Spanish Zone), Morocco (Spanish Zone), Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Republic of Panama, Paraguay, Netherlands, Dutch East Indies, Dutch Colonies in America, Peru, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Portuguese Colonies in Africa, in Asia and Oceania, Roumania, Salvador, Territory of the Sarre, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and

[^0]Slovenes, Kingdom of Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia, Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, and United States of Venezuela.
The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-named countries, being assembled in Congress at Madrid, by virtue of Article 25 of the Universal Postal Convention concluded at Rome on the 26th of May, 1906, ${ }^{4}$ have by mutual consent and subject to ratification, revised the said Convention to read as follows:

## Article 1

## Definition of the Postal Union

The countries between which the present Convention is concluded, as well as those which may adhere to it hereafter, form, under the title of Universal Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence between their post offices.

Article 2

## Articles to Which the Convention Applies

The provisions of this Convention cover letters, post cards, both single and reply-paid, printed papers of every kind, commercial papers, and samples of merchandise originating in one of the countries of the Union and addressed to another of those countries. They also apply to the exchange by post of the articles above mentioned between the countries of the Union and countries outside of the Union, whenever the services of two of the contracting parties at least are used for that exchange.

## Article 3

## Conveyance of Mails Between Contiguous Countries; Third Services

1. The Postal Administrations of contiguous countries or countries able to correspond directly with each other without making use of the services of a third Administration settle, by mutual consent, the conditions of conveyance across the frontier or from one frontier to the other of the mails which they exchange.
2. In the absence of any other arrangement, the direct sea conveyance between two countries by means of packets or vessels maintained by one of them is considered as a third service; and this conveyance, as well as conveyance between two offices of the same country, by means of sea or land services maintained by another country, is governed by the terms of the following article.
3. The high contracting parties undertake not to impose, on postal grounds, special obligations on packets employed in regular mail services and

[^1]maintained by a country of the Union, in exchange for advantages and privileges which may exist or be established in favor of any class of merchant ships, especially as regards the formalities and arrangements on entering or leaving port.

## Article 4

## Transit and Warehousing Charges

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

Administrations have the right to suppress the postal service with any country which does not observe the provisions of the preceding paragraph. These Administrations must give previous notice of this measure, by telegraph, to the Administration concerned.
2. The several Postal Administrations of the Union may send reciprocally through the medium of one or of several of them, both closed mails and correspondence $\grave{a}$ découvert, according to the needs of the traffic and the requirements of the postal service.
3. Correspondence exchanged in closed mails between two Administrations of the Union, by means of the services of one or of several other Administrations of the Union is subject to the following transit charges to be paid to each of the countries traversed or whose services participate in the conveyance, viz.:

1) For land transits:
(a) 1 franc 50 centimes per kilogram of letters and post cards and 20 centimes per kilogram of other articles, if the distance traversed does not exceed 3,000 kilometers;
(b) 3 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards and 40 centimes per kilogram of other articles, if the distance traversed exceeds 3,000 kilometers but does not exceed 6,000 kilometers;
(c) 4 francs 50 centimes per kilogram of letters and post cards and 60 centimes per kilogram of other articles, if the distance traversed exceeds 6,000 kilometers but does not exceed 9,000 kilometers;
(d) 6 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards and 80 centimes per kilogram of other articles, if the distance traversed exceeds 9,000 kilometers.
2) For sea transits:
(a) 1 franc 50 centimes per kilogram of letters and post cards and 20 centimes per kilogram of other articles, if the distance traversed does not exceed 300 nautical miles. Sea conveyance over a distance not exceeding 300 nautical miles is, however, gratuitous if the Administration concerned already receives, on account of the mails conveyed, the remuneration applicable to territorial transit;
(b) 4 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards and 50 centimes per kilogram of other articles, exchanged over a distance exceeding 300 nautical miles between European countries, between Europe and ports of Africa and Asia on the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, or between one of these ports and another, and between Europe and North America. The same rates are applicable to conveyance anywhere within the Union, between two ports of a single State, as well as between the ports of two States served by the same line of packets when the sea transit involved does not exceed 1,500 nautical miles;
(c) 8 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards and 1 franc per kilogram of other articles, for all transits not included in the categories given above in paragraphs ( $a$ ) and ( $b$ ).

In the case of sea conveyance performed by two or more Administrations, the charges paid for the entire transit may not exceed 8 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards, and 1 franc per kilogram of other articles; these charges are, when occasion arises, shared between the Administrations participating in the service, in proportion to the distances traversed, without prejudice to any other arrangement which may be made between the parties interested.
4. For the warehousing in a port of closed mails, brought by one vessel and intended to be taken on by another, a fixed payment of 50 centimes per bag is made to the Post Office of the place where the mails are warehoused, provided that such Office does not receive payment for a land or sea transit. Simple transshipment, however, from vessel to vessel does not give rise to any payment.
5. Correspondence exchanged à découvert between two Administrations of the Union is subject to the following transit charges per article, and irrespective of weight or destination, namely:

6. The transit rates specified in the present article do not apply to conveyance within the Union by means of extraordinary services specially established or maintained by one Administration at the request of one or several other Administrations. The conditions of this class of conveyance are regulated by mutual consent between the Administrations concerned.

Moreover, in all cases where the transit, either by land or by sea, is at present gratuitous or subject to more advantageous conditions, such state of things is maintained.
7. The expenses of transit and warehousing are borne by the Administration of the country of origin.
8. The general accounting for these expenses is based on statements pre-
pared once in every three years, during a period of 28 days to be determined in the detailed regulations ${ }^{5}$ of the present Convention.
9. The correspondence mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 13 hereafter, reply halves of double post cards returned to the country of origin, articles redirected or missent, undelivered articles, advices of delivery, postoffice money orders, and all other documents relative to the postal service are exempt from all charges for land or sea transit.
10. When the annual balance of the accounts for transit and warehousing charges between two Administrations does not exceed 1,000 francs, the debtor Administration is relieved of all payment under this heading.

## Article 5

## Aerial Services

Aerial services established for the conveyance of correspondence between two or more countries are considered as analogous to the extraordinary services to which article 4, § 6, refers.

The conditions of conveyance are settled by mutual consent between the Administrations concerned. The transit charges applicable to each aerial service are, however, uniform for all Administrations which use the service without sharing in the working expenses.

## Article 6

## Rates of Postage, Surcharges, and General Conditions

1. The rates of postage for the conveyance of correspondence throughout the entire extent of the Union, including delivery at the residence of the addressees in the countries of the Union where a delivery is or shall be organized, are fixed as follows in case of prepayment:
1) For letters, 50 centimes for the first 20 grams and 25 centimes for every 20 grams or fraction of 20 grams above the initial weight of 20 grams;
2) For postcards, 30 centimes for single cards or for each of the two halves of reply post cards;
3) For printed papers of every kind, commercial papers, and samples of merchandise, 10 centimes for each article or packet bearing a separate address and for every 50 grams or fraction of 50 grams, provided that such article or packet does not contain any letter or written note having the character of actual personal correspondence, and that it is made up in such a manner as to admit of its being easily examined.

The rate on commercial papers must not be less than 50 centimes per packet, and the rate on samples must not be less than 20 centimes per packet.

[^2]Exceptionally, articles printed in relief for the special use of the blind are admitted at the rate of 5 centimes per packet and for every 500 grams or fraction of 500 grams.
2. Over and above the rates fixed by the preceding paragraph a surcharge proportionate to the expenses incurred may be levied on every article forwarded by services maintained by Administrations outside the Union, or by extraordinary services within the Union which involve special payment.

When the rate of prepayment for the single post card comprises the surcharge authorized by the preceding paragraph, the same rate is applicable to each half of the reply-paid post card.

The country of destination is authorized to impose a special surcharge, in accordance with its internal legislation, on articles addressed poste restante. If the article is redirected or returned as undelivered, the surcharge is canceled.
3. Correspondence of every kind not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid is liable to a charge equal to double postage or double the amount of the deficiency, to be paid by the addressees; but that charge may not be less than 30 centimes.
4. Articles other than letters and post cards must be prepaid at least partially.

The privilege of not prepaying postage or of prepaying partially does not apply to letters, post cards, or to other articles sent with the evident intention of avoiding payment of postage.
5. Letters may not exceed 2 kilograms in weight, or measure more than 45 centimeters in any direction, or, if they are in the form of a roll, 75 centimeters in length and 10 centimeters in diameter.
6. Packets of samples of merchandise may not contain any article having a saleable value; they must not exceed 500 grams in weight, or measure more than 30 centimeters in length, 20 centimeters in breadth, and 10 centimeters in depth, or, if they are in the form of a roll, 30 centimeters in length and 15 centimeters in diameter.
7. Packets of commercial papers and printed papers may not exceed 2 kilograms in weight, or measure more than 45 centimeters in any direction. Packets in the form of a roll may, however, be allowed to pass through the post so long as they do not exceed 10 centimeters in diameter and 75 centimeters in length.

Packets of printed papers intended for the special use of the blind, and printed volumes sent singly, may weigh as much as 3 kilograms, but may not exceed the dimensions prescribed for other classes of printed papers.
8. Stamps or forms of prepayment, obliterated or not, as well as all printed papers representing a monetary value, save the exceptions authorized by the detailed Regulations of the present Convention are excluded from transmission at the reduced rate.

## Article 7

## Registered Articles; Advices of Delivery; Requests for Information

1. The articles specified in article 6 may be registered.

The reply halves of reply-paid post cards can not, however, be registered by the original senders.
2. Every registered article is liable, at the charge of the sender:

1) To the ordinary prepaid rate of postage on the article, according to its character;
2) To a fixed registration fee of 50 centimes at most, including the issue of a certificate of posting to the sender.
3. The sender of a registered article may obtain an advice of the delivery of such article by paying, at the time of posting, a fixed fee of 50 centimes at most. Double this fee may be charged for advices of delivery applied for after the posting of the article and for requests for information relating to ordinary or registered articles. In the case of requests for information respecting registered articles, no fee is charged if the sender has already paid the special fee for an advice of delivery.

Article 8

## Trade Charges on Packets

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

These articles are subject to the same regulations and rates as registered articles.

The sender pays, in addition, a fixed trade charge fee of 10 centimes.
The maximum trade charge is equal to the maximum amount fixed for money orders addressed to the country in which the article originated.

In the absence of any contrary arrangement between the Administrations concerned, the amount of the trade charge is expressed in the money of the country of destination.
2. Subject to the same reservation, the amount collected from the addressee is to be transmitted to the sender by means of a money order, after deducting a collection fee of 15 centimes and the ordinary rate chargeable for money orders calculated on the amount of the balance.

Trade charge money orders which have not been paid to the payees for any reason whatever are not repaid to the office of issue, and their amount accrues definitely to the Administration of the country from which the articles marked with the trade charge were sent, after the expiration of the legal period of validity.

In all other respects, trade charge money orders are subject to the provisions of the Agreement concerning the Money Order Service.
3. For the loss of a registered article marked with a trade charge the responsibility of the postal service toward the sender is fixed under the conditions settled by article 10 hereafter for registered articles.
4. The sums duly collected from the addressee, after deduction of the charge for the money order and the collection fee, are guaranteed to the sender under the conditions laid down by the Agreement concerning the Money Order Service for sums converted into money orders, except in the case provided for in the second paragraph of $\S 1$ of Article 10 below.
5. If the article has been delivered to the addressee without the collection of the trade charge, the sender is entitled to compensation, unless the failure to collect the charge is due to fault or negligence on his part. The compensation may not, in any case, exceed the amount of the trade charge. The same rule applies if the amount collected from the addressee is less than the amount of the trade charge indicated. By paying compensation the Administration takes over the rights of the sender in any action which may be taken against the addressee or third parties.

The responsibility rests with the Office of the country of destination, unless the latter can prove that the failure to collect the trade charge or the collection of a smaller sum is due to a breach of the regulations by the Office of the country of origin.
6. As regards articles marked with trade charges of which the amount has been duly collected from the addressee but not forwarded to the sender, the Office of origin is authorized to pay this amount to the proper person within a year at latest from the day following the date of application. This payment is made on behalf of the Office of destination. Any compensation for articles marked with trade charges delivered to the addressee without collection of the amount indicated or against collection of a smaller amount, as well as for articles of which the amount has been collected fraudulently, must be paid by the Office of origin to the proper person within the same period. The payment is also made on account of the Office of destination, if the responsibility rests with that Office by virtue of the provisions of $\S 5$ above. The same rules apply if the Office of destination, duly informed of the application, has let six months pass without settling the matter. This period is extended to nine months in relations with oversea countries. The periods include the time necessary for the dispatch of the request to the Office of destination and its return to the Office of origin.

The Office of origin may, however, postpone exceptionally the compensation of the sender beyond the period before mentioned, when, at the expiration of this period, it has not been definitely informed as to the disposal of the article with trade charge, or as to the responsibility incurred.

The Office of destination is bound to repay to the Office of dispatch the sums advanced under the conditions prescribed in $\S 5$ above.

## Article 9

## Identity Cards

1. Each Administration may issue, to persons who apply for them, identity cards intended to serve as proofs of identity for all kinds of post office business. These cards are valid in all the countries of the Union except those which may notify that they do not adhere to this service.
2. The Administration which issues an identity card is authorized to make, on this account, a charge which must be represented by postage stamps on the card; this charge may not exceed 1 franc.
3. Administrations are relieved from all responsibility when it is established that a postal packet was delivered or a money order was paid on presentation of a proper identity card.
4. The holder of an identity card is responsible for the consequences of the loss, abstraction or fraudulent use of the card.
5. The identity card is valid for two years from the date of issue. If, during the period of validity of the card, the personal appearance of the holder is modified to such an extent that it no longer agrees with the photograph or description, the card must be renewed, even before the expiration of this period.

Article 10

## Responsibility for Registered Articles

1. In case of the loss of a registered article, and except in cases beyond control, the sender is entitled to an indemnity of 50 francs.

Administrations are, however, relieved from all responsibility for the loss of registered articles of which the contents fall within the prohibitions prescribed by article 18, section 2, of the present Convention.
2. Countries prepared to undertake risks arising from causes beyond control are authorized to collect from the sender, on this account, a supplementary charge of 50 centimes at most for each registered article.
3. The payment of the indemnity must be undertaken by the Administration to which the dispatching Office is subordinate. That Administration can make a claim on the Administration responsible, that is to say, against the Administration on the territory or in the service of which the loss took place.

In case of the loss, under circumstances beyond control, on the territory or in the service of a country undertaking the risks mentioned in the preceding paragraph, of a registered article sent from another country, the country in which the loss occurred is responsible for it to the dispatching Office, if
the latter undertakes risks in cases beyond control in dealing with its own public.
4. Until the contrary is proved, responsibility rests with the Administration which, having received the article without making any observation, and being furnished with all the particulars for inquiry prescribed by the regulations, cannot establish delivery to the addressee or regular transfer to the following Administration, as the case may be. For articles addressed "Poste Restante," or held at the disposal of the addressees, responsibility ceases on delivery to a person who has proved his identity according to the rules in force in the country of destination, and whose name and description correspond to those indicated in the address.
5. The payment of the indemnity by the dispatching. Office must take place as soon as possible, and at the latest within six months of the date of the application. This period is extended to nine months in relations with oversea countries.

The dispatching Office may exceptionally postpone settlement of the indemnity beyond the period mentioned when, on its expiration, it has not been definitely informed as to the disposal of the article inquired for, or when the question whether the loss of the article is due to a cause beyond control is not yet decided.

The Office of origin is, however, authorized to settle with the sender on account of the Office, whether intermediate or of destination, which, duly informed of the application, has let six months (nine months in relations with oversea countries) pass without settling the matter.

The Office responsible or on whose account the payment is made in accordance with the preceding paragraph is bound to repay to the dispatching Office the amount of the indemnity and, if occasion arise, interest, within a period of three months after notice of payment. This repayment is made free of cost to the creditor Office, by means of either a money order or a draft, or in coin current in the creditor country. After the period of three months, the sum due to the dispatching Office bears interest, at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, dating from the day of expiration of the said period.

In case an Office of which the responsibility is duly proved has at first declined to pay the indemnity, it must, in addition, bear all the necessary charges resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.
6. It is understood that the application for an indemnity is only entertained if made within a year, counting from the day following the posting of the registered article; after this term the applicant has no right to any indemnity.
7. If the loss has occurred in course of conveyance without its being possible to ascertain on the territory or in the service of what country the loss took place, the Administrations concerned bear the loss in equal shares.
8. Administrations cease to be responsible for registered articles for which the owners have given a receipt and accepted delivery, as well as for articles
which they cannot account for in consequence of the destruction of official documents through a cause beyond control.

## Article 11

## Withdrawal of Correspondence; Alteration of Address, or of Conditions of Dispatch

1. The sender of an article of mail can have it withdrawn from the post or have its address altered, so long as the article has not been delivered to the addressee.
2. The request to this effect is sent by post or by telegraph at the expense of the sender, who must pay as follows:
1) For every request by post, the charge for a registered single-rate letter;
2) For every request by telegraph, the charge for a telegram according to the ordinary tariff.
3. The sender of a registered article marked with a trade charge can, under the conditions laid down for requests for alteration of address, demand the total or partial cancellation of the amount of the trade charge.

Article 12
Determination of equivalents with reference to the franc for fixing postage rates and settling accounts
The franc, taken as the basis of postage rates, is the gold franc corresponding in weight and fineness to the gold coins established by the legislation in force in the various countries which have adopted that monetary unit.

In all countries of the Union postage rates are fixed at equivalents corresponding, as exactly as possible, in the actual currency of each country, to the value of the gold franc.

The payments to be made by the Post offices of the various countries under the terms of the present Convention, for the settlement of their accounts with each other, are made on the basis of the gold franc.

Article 13

## Prepayment; Reply Coupons; Exemptions from Postage

1. Prepayment of postage on every description of article can be effected either by means of postage stamps valid in the country of origin for the correspondence of private individuals, or by means of impressions of stamping machines, officially adopted and working under the immediate control of the Administration.

The following are considered as duly prepaid: reply post cards bearing postage stamps of the country of issue, articles properly prepaid for their
first transmission and on which complementary postage has been paid before their redirection, as well as newspapers or packets of newspapers with the words "Abonnements-poste," or the equivalent, which are sent in virtue of the special Agreement for newspaper subscriptions, provided for in article 21 of the present Convention.
2. Reply coupons may be sold in those countries of which the Postal Administrations have agreed to issue them. The minimum selling price of a reply coupon is 50 centimes, or the equivalent of this sum in the money of the issuing country.

This coupon is exchangeable in any country of the Union for a stamp or stamps representing the postage on a single-rate letter originating in that country for abroad. The exchange must, however, be made before the end of the second month following the month of issue; this period is increased by four months in relations with oversea countries. The Detailed Regulations of the Convention settle the other conditions of this exchange and in particular the intervention of the International Bureau in manufacturing, supplying, and accounting for the coupons.
3. Official correspondence relative to the Postal Service exchanged between Postal Administrations, between these Administrations and the International Bureau, between Post Offices of Union countries, and between these Offices and the Administrations, is exempt from postage.
4. The same privilege is accorded to correspondence concerning prisoners of war, dispatched or received, either directly or as intermediary, by the Information Bureaus established on behalf of such persons, in belligerent countries or in neutral countries which have received belligerents on their territories.

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

Belligerents received and interned in a neutral country are treated like prisoners of war, properly so-called, in so far as the application of the abovementioned rules is concerned.
5. Correspondence posted on the high seas in the letter box on board a vessel or handed to postal officials on board or to the commanders of ships may, in the absence of different arrangements between the Administrations concerned, be prepaid by means of the postage stamps, and according to the tariff of the country to which the said vessel belongs or by which it is maintained. If the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two terminal points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call, prepayment is valid only if it is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the vessel happens to be.

Article 14

## Retention of Postage Collections

1. Each Administration keeps the whole of the sums which it collects by virtue of the various articles of the present Convention, exceptions being made in the case of the credit due for the money orders referred to in paragraph 2 of article 8 , and also in regard to reply coupons (art. 13).
2. Consequently, there is no necessity under this head for any accounts between the several Administrations of the Union, subject to the reservations made in paragraph 1 of the present article.
3. Letters and other postal packets must not be subjected, either in the country of origin or in that of destination, to any postal tax or postal duty at the expense of the senders or addressees other than those prescribed by the present Convention.

Article 15

## Express Packets

1. All classes of correspondence are, at the request of the senders, sent out for delivery by special messenger immediately after arrival, in those countries of the Union which agree to undertake this service.
2. Such correspondence, which is called "express," is subject to a special charge for delivery; this charge is fixed at 1 franc in addition to the ordinary postage, and must be fully paid in advance by the sender. It is retained by the Administration which collects it.
3. When the addressee's house is situated outside the free delivery zone of the office of destination, that Office may collect an additional charge up to the amount of the fee fixed for express delivery in its inland service, less the fixed charge paid by the sender, or its equivalent in the money of the country which levies this additional charge.

The additional charge prescribed above is not canceled in case of redirection or nondelivery and is retained by the Administration which has collected it.
4. "Express" packets, upon which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been prepaid, are delivered by the ordinary means, unless they have been treated as express by the office of origin.

Article 16

## Redirection; undelivered correspondence

1. No supplementary postage is charged for the redirection of articles of mail within the Union.
2. Undelivered correspondence does not, when returned, involve the repayment of the transit charges due to intermediate Administrations for the previous conveyance of such correspondence.
3. Unpaid letters and post cards and insufficiently paid articles of every description, which are returned to the country of origin as redirected or as undeliverable, are delivered to the addressees or senders, against payment of the charges due on them on departure or arrival or in course of transmission in consequence of redirection after the first transmission.

## Article 17

## Closed mails exchanged with warships

1. Closed mails may be exchanged between the Post Offices of any one of the contracting countries and the commanding officers of naval divisions or ships of war of the same country stationed abroad, or between the commanding officer of one of those naval divisions or ships of war and the commanding officer of another division or ship of the same country, through the medium of the land or sea services maintained by other countries.
2. Correspondence of every description inclosed in these mails must consist exclusively of such as is addressed to or sent by the officers and crews of the ships to or from which the mails are forwarded; the rates and conditions of dispatch applicable to them are settled, according to its internal regulations, by the Postal Administration of the country to which the ships belong.
3. In the absence of any contrary arrangement between the Offices concerned, the Post Office which dispatches or receives the mails in question is accountable to the intermediate Offices for transit charges calculated in accordance with the provisions of article 4.

## Article 18

## Prohibitions

1. Apart from the exceptions prescribed by the present Convention and Detailed Regulations, articles which do not fulfill the conditions laid down for each class of correspondence are not to be forwarded.
2. It is forbidden to send by post:
(a) Samples and other articles which, from their nature, may expose postal officials to danger, or soil or damage the correspondence;
(b) Explosive, inflammable, or dangerous súbstances; animals and insects, living or dead, except in the cases provided for in the Detailed Regulations of the present Convention;
(c) Samples of which the number forwarded by the same sender to the same addressee shows an obvious intention of avoiding the payment of the customs charges due to the country of destination;
(d) Articles liable to customs duty;
(e) Opium, morphine, cocaine, and other narcotics;
(f) Obscene or immoral articles;
( $g$ ) Any articles whatever of which the importation or circulation are forbidden in the countries of origin or destination.
3. Packets falling under the prohibitions of the present article, which have been wrongly admitted to the post, must be returned to the Post Office of origin, except in cases where the Administration of the country of destination is authorized by its laws or by its internal regulations to dispose of them otherwise.

Explosive, inflammable, or dangerous substances, and obscene or immoral articles, however, are not returned to the country of origin; they are destroyed on the spot under the direction of the Administration which has found them.
4. The right is, moreover, reserved to the Government of every country of the Union to refuse to convey over its territory, or to deliver, articles admitted at reduced rates in regard to which the laws, ordinances, or decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country have not been complied with, or correspondence of any kind bearing conspicuously inscriptions, designs, etc., forbidden by the legal enactments or regulations in force in the same country.
5. The high contracting parties undertake to adopt or to propose to their legislatures the measures necessary for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion of opium, morphine, cocaine, and other narcotics in the mail articles specified in article 2 of the present Convention.

## Article 19

## Relations with countries outside the Union

1. Offices of the Union which have relations with countries situated outside the Union are to lend their assistance to all the other Offices of the Union:
1) For the transmission, by their services, either à découvert or in closed mails, if this method of transmission is admitted by mutual consent between the Offices of origin and destination of the mails, of correspondence addressed to or originating in countries outside the Union;
2) For the exchange of correspondence, either à découvert or in closed mails, across the territories or by means of services maintained by the said countries outside the Union;
3) That the correspondence conveyed may be subject outside the Union, as within the Union, to the transit charges fixed by article 4.
2. The total charges for the sea transit, within and without the Union, may not exceed 15 francs per kilogram of letters and post cards and 1 franc per kilogram of other articles. If occasion arise these charges are divided, in the ratio of distances, between the Offices taking part in the conveyance.
3. The charges for transit, by land or sea, without as well as within the limits of the Union, on the correspondence to which the present article applies
are established in the same manner as the transit charges relating to correspondence exchanged between Union countries by means of the services of other countries of the Union.
4. The transit charges on correspondence for countries outside the Postal Union are payable by the office of the country of origin, which fixes the postage rates in its services for the said correspondence, but these rates may not be lower than the normal Union tariff.
5. The transit charges on correspondence originating in countries outside the Union are not payable by the Office of the country of destination. That Office delivers without charge correspondence transmitted to it as fully prepaid; it charges unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence according to the rules applicable in its own service to similar articles addressed to the country where the said correspondence originates.
6. With regard to responsibility in the matter of registered articles, correspondence is treated:

For transmission within the limits of the Union, in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention;

For the transmission outside the limits of the Union, in accordance with the conditions notified by the Office of the Union which serves as the intermediate Office.

Article 20

## Counterfeit Impressions and Postage Stamps

The high contracting parties undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective legislatures, the necessary measures for punishing the fraudulent use, for the prepayment of correspondence, of counterfeit postage stamps or stamps already used, as well as of counterfeit impressions of stamping machines or of impressions already used. They also undertake to adopt or to propose to their respective legislatures, the necessary measures for prohibiting and repressing the fraudulent manufacture, sale, hawking, or distribution of impressed and adhesive stamps in use in the postal service, forged or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the impressed and adhesive stamps issued by the Administration of any one of the contracting countries.

Article 21

## Services Governed By Special Agreements

The arrangements relating to insured letters and boxes, postal money orders, postal parcels, collection of bills and drafts, subscriptions to newspapers, and transfers to and from postal cheque accounts, form the subject of special agreements between the various countries or groups of countries composing the Union.

## Article 22

## Detailed Regulations; Special Agreements Between Administrations

1. The Postal Administrations of the various countries composing the Union are empowered to draw up, by mutual agreement, in the form of Detailed Regulations, all the measures of order and detail which are judged necessary.
2. The several Administrations may, moreover, make among themselves the necessary agreements on the subject of questions which do not concern the Union generally, provided that these agreements do not infringe the present Convention.
3. The Administrations concerned are, however, permitted to come to mutual arrangements for the adoption of lower rates of postage within a radius of 30 kilometers.

Article 23

## Internal Laws; Restricted Unions

1. The present Convention involves no alteration in the legislation of any country as regards anything which is not covered by the provisions of this Convention.
2. It does not restrict the right of the contracting parties to maintain and to conclude treaties, as well as to maintain and establish more restricted Unions, with a view to the reduction of postage rates or to any other improvement of postal relations.

Article 24

## International Bureau

1. Under the name of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union a central Office is maintained which is conducted under the supervision of the Swiss Postal Administration, and the expenses of which are borne by all the Administrations of the Union.
2. This office is entrusted with the duty of collecting, collating, publishing, and distributing information of every kind which concerns the international postal service; of giving, at the request of the parties concerned, an opinion upon questions in dispute; of making known proposals for modifying the acts of the Congress; of notifying alterations adopted; and, in general, of taking up such studies and duties as may be confided to it in the interest of the Postal Union.

## Article 25

## Disputes To Be Settled by Arbitration

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

If one of the Offices concerned does not take any action on a proposal for arbitration within 12 months from the day following the date of the first application, the International Bureau, on a request to that effect, may call on the defaulting Administration to appoint an arbitrator, or may appoint one officially.
2. The decision of the arbitrators is given on an absolute majority of votes.
3. In case of an equality of votes the arbitrators choose, with the view of settling the difference, another Administration with no interest in the question in dispute.
4. The terms of the present article apply equally to all the Agreements concluded by virtue of the foregoing article 21.

Article 26

## Adhesions to the Convention

1. Countries which have not taken part in the present Convention are admitted to adhere to it upon their request.
2. This adhesion is notified diplomatically to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, and by that Government to all the countries of the Union.
3. It implies complete participation in all the clauses and admission to all the advantages given by the present Convention.
4. The Government of the Swiss Confederation settles, by agreement with the Government of the country concerned, the share to be contributed by the Administration of this latter country toward the expenses of the International Bureau, and, if necessary, the rates to be charged by that Administration in accordance with Article 12 above.

Article 27
Congresses and Conferences

1. Congresses of plenipotentiaries of the contracting countries, or simple administrative Conferences, according to the importance of the questions to be solved, are held when a demand for them is made or approved by twothirds, at least, of the Governments or Administrations, as the case may be.
2. A Congress shall, in any case, be held not later than five years after the date of the entry into force of the acts settled at the last Congress.
3. Each country may be represented either by one or several delegates, or by the delegation of another country. But it is understood that the delegate or delegates of one country can undertake the representation of two countries only, including the country they represent.
4. In the deliberations each country has one vote only.
5. Each Congress settles the place of meeting of the next Congress.
6. For Conferences, the Administrations settle the places of meeting on the proposal of the International Bureau.

Article 28

## Proposals Made Between Congresses

1. In the interval between meetings, any postal Administration of a country of the Union has the right to address to the other participating Administrations through the medium of the International Bureau, proposals concerning the business of the Union.

In order to be considered, every proposal must be supported by at least two Administrations, not including that which originates the proposal. When the International Bureau does not receive, at the same time as the proposal, the necessary number of declarations of support, the proposal falls.
2. Every proposal is subject to the following procedure:

A period of six months is allowed to the Administrations of the Union to examine the proposals and to communicate their observations, if any, to the International Bureau. Amendments are not admitted. The answers are tabulated by the International Bureau, and communicated to the Administrations, with an invitation to declare themselves for or against. Those who have not furnished their vote within a period of six months from the date of the second circular of the International Bureau notifying to them the observations which have been received, are considered as abstaining.
3. In order to become binding, the proposals must obtain:

1. Unanimity of votes if they involve the addition of new provisions or any modification of the provisions of the present article or of articles 2,3 , $4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,14,15,17,20,29,30$, and 31 ;
2. Two-thirds of the votes if they involve a modification of the provisions of the present Convention other than those of the above-mentioned articles;
3. A simple majority, if they affect the interpretation of the provisions of the present Convention, except in the case of dispute provided for by the foregoing article 25.
4. Resolutions duly adopted are sanctioned in the first two cases, by a diplomatic declaration, which the Government of the Swiss Confederation undertakes to prepare and forward to all the Governments of the contracting countries, and in the third case by a simple notification from the International Bureau to all the Administrations of the Union.
5. No modification or resolution adopted comes into force until at least three months after its notification.

Article 29

## Protectorates and Colonies Included in the Union

For the application of the foregoing articles 24, 27, and 28, the following are considered as forming a single country or Administration, as the case may be:

1. The Colony of the Belgian Congo;
2. The Empire of British India;
3. The Dominion of Canada;
4. The Commonwealth of Australia with British New Guinea;
5. The Union of South Africa;
6. The other Dominions and the whole of the British Colonies and Protectorates;
7. The Philippine Islands;
8. The whole of the other island possessions of the United States of America, comprising the islands of Hawaii, Porto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States of America;
9. The whole of the Spanish Colonies;
10. Algeria;
11. The French Colonies and Protectorates in Indo-China;
12. The whole of the other French Colonies;
13. The whole of the Italian Colonies;
14. Chosen (Korea) ;
15. The whole of the other Japanese Dependencies;
16. The Dutch East Indies;
17. The Dutch Colonies in America;
18. The Portuguese Colonies of Africa;
19. The Portuguese Colonies in Asia and Oceania.

Article 30
Duration of the Convention
The present Convention shall come into force on the 1st of January 1922, and shall remain in operation for an indefinite period; but each contracting party has the right to withdraw from the Union by notice given one year in advance by its Government to the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

Each country is, however, authorized to put the postage rates into force before the above-mentioned date, on condition of informing the International Bureau to that effect at least one month in advance, and, if necessary, by telegram.

Article 31

## Previous Conventions Canceled; Ratification

1. From the date on which the present Convention comes into force the provisions of the Convention of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Rome in 1906 are repealed.
2. The present Convention shall be ratified as soon as possible. The acts of ratification shall be exchanged at Madrid.
3. In faith whereof the plenipotentiaries of the above-named countries have signed the present Convention at Madrid on the thirtieth of November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

For Germany :
Ronge
Schenk
Orth
For the United States of America:
Conde de Colombi
For Otto Praeger
For the Philippine Islands and the island possessions of the United States of America:
Conde de Colombi For S. M. Weber

For the Argentine Republic:
A. Barrera Nicholson

For Austria:
Eberan
For Belgium:
A. Pirard

Tixhon
Hub. Krains
For the Colony of the Belgian Congo:
M. Halewyck
G. Tondeur

For Bolivia :
Luis Rodriguez
For Brazil:
Alcibiades Peganha
J. Henrique Aderne

For Bulgaria:
N. Startcheff
N. Boschnakoff

For Chile:
A. de la Cruz

Florencio Marquez de la Plata Gus. Cousiño

For China:
Liou Fou-tcheng

For the Republic of Colombia:
W. MacLellan

Gabriel Roldan
For the Republic of Costa Rica: Manuel M. de Peralta
For the Republic of Cuba: Juan Iruretagoyena
For Denmark: Hollnagel Jensen Holmblad

For the Dominican Republic: Leopoldo Lovelace

For Egypt: N. T. Borton

For the Republic of Ecuador: Luis Robalino Dávila Leónidas A. Yerovi

For Spain:
Conde de Colombi
José de Garcia Torres
Guillermo Capdevila
José de España
Martin Vicente Antonio Camacho

For the Spanish Colonies:
Bernardo Rolland
Manuel G. Acebo
For Ethiopia: Weuldeu-Berhane
For Finland: G. E. F. Albrecht

For France:
M. Lebon
P. M. Georges Bonnet
M. Lebon
G. Blin
P. Bouillard

Barrail

For Algeria:
H. Treuillé

For the French Colonies and Protectorates of Indochina:
André Touzet
For the whole of the other French Colonies:
G. Demartial

For Great Britain and various British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates:
F. H. Williamson
E. J. Harrington
E. L. Ashley Foakes

For British India:
G. R. Clarke

For the Commonwealth of Australia: Justinian Oxenham
For Canada:
F. H. Williamson

For New Zealand:
R. B. Morris

For the Union of South Africa:
H. W. S. Twycross
D. J. O'Kelly

For Greece :
P. Scassi

Th. Penthéroudakis
For Guatemala:
Juan J. Ortega
Enrique Traumann
For the Republic of Haiti:
Luis Ma. Solér
For the Republic of Honduras:
Ricardo Beltran y Rózpide
For Hungary:
C. de Fejér
G. Baron Szalay

For Iceland:
Hollnagel Jensen
For Italy and the Italian Colonies:
E. Delmati
T. C. Giannini
S. Ortisi

For Japan:
S. Nakanishi

Arajiro Miura
Y. Hiratsuka

For Chosen:
S. Nakanishi

Arajiro Miura
Y. Hiratsuka

For all the other Japanese Dependencies:
S. Nakanishi

Arajiro Miura
Y. Hiratsuka

For the Republic of Liberia:
Luis MA. Solér
For Luxemburg:
G. FAbER

For Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone) : Gérard Japy J. Walter

For Morocco (Spanish Zone):
M. Aguirre de Cárcer
L. López-Ferrer
G. Garcia de Castro

For Mexico:
P. Cosme Hinojosa

Julio Poulat
Alfonso Reyes
For Nicaragua:
M. Igo. Terán

For Norway:
Summerchild
Klaus Helsing
For the Republic of Panama:
J. D. Arosemena

For Paraguay:
Fernando Pignet
For the Netherlands:
A. W. Kymmell
J. S. v. Gelder

For the Netherlands Indies:
Wigman
W. F. Gerdes Oosterbeek
J. van der Werp

For the Netherlands Colonies in -America:
Wigman
W. F. Gerdes Oosterbeek
J. van der Werf

For Peru:
D. C. Urrea
O. Barrenechea y Raigada

For Persia:
Husséin Kahn Alaï
C. Molitor

For Poland:
W. Dobrowolski

Maciejewsei
Dr. Marjan Blachier


Final Protocol
At the moment of proceeding to sign the Conventions adopted by the Universal Postal Congress of Madrid, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows:

## I

The provisions of article 11 of the Convention do not apply to Great Britain and to the British Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates, of which the internal legislation does not permit the withdrawal of correspondence at the request of the sender.

## II

Each country of the Union, whether or not it has the franc for its monetary unit, is empowered to fix in its own currency, by agreement with the Swiss Postal Administration, the equivalents of the rates prescribed by the present Convention.

These equivalents must not exceed the rates fixed by the present Convention, or be less than the rates in force on the 1st of October, 1920. They may, however, be modified in accordance with the rise or fall of the value of the legal currency of the country concerned, on condition that they do not fall below the rates adopted when the Convention of Rome came into force.

## III

When the rates in force in one country are, when compared with the gold franc, so much lower than those of another country that it becomes advan-
tageous to send articles of mail addressed to the first country unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, the Administration of the second country may declare complete prepayment to be obligatory.

The Administration of the country with regard to which this measure is taken is authorized to apply it, as a reciprocal measure and for the same period, to correspondence addressed to other country.

Each country is empowered not to accept reply-paid post cards in the service with other countries when the difference between the postage rates of the two countries is such that the use of these cards may give rise to abuses on the part of the public.

## IV

Countries of the Union are empowered to charge a surtax, which may not exceed 30 centimes per 20 grams or fraction of 20 grams, for each article which, at the request of the sender, is conveyed in a floating safe placed on board a mail vessel. The surtax is retained by the country of origin of the article.

The use of floating safes is regulated by mutual agreement between the Administrations which agree to provide this service in their reciprocal relations.

## V

Note is taken of the declaration made by the British delegation in the name of their Government to the effect that it has assigned to New Zealand, with the Cook Islands and other island dependencies, the vote which article 29, par. 6, of the Convention attributes to the other dominions and the whole of the British colonies and protectorates.

## VI

The protocol remains open to those countries whose representatives have to-day signed only the principal Convention, or only a certain number of the Conventions settled by the Congress, in order to permit them to adhere to the other Conventions signed this day, or to one or other of them.

## VII

If one or more of the contracting parties to the Postal Conventions signed to-day at Madrid should not ratify one or other of those Conventions, this Convention shall be none the less valid for the States which shall have ratified it.

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

Done at Madrid, the 30th of November, one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

## For Germany:

Ronge
Schenk
Orth
For the United States of America:
Conde de Colombi
For Otto Praeger
For the Philippine Islands and the island possessions of the United States of America:
Conde de Colombi
For S. M. Weber
For the Argentine Republic:
A. Barrera Nicholson

For Austria:
Eberan
For Belgium:
A. Pirard

Tixhon
Hub. Krains
For the Colony of the Belgian Congo:
M. Halewyck
G. Tondeur

For Bolivia:
Luis Rodriguez
For Brazil:
Alcibiades Peģanha
J. Henrique Aderne

For Bulgaria:
N. Startcheff
N. Boschnakopf

For Chile:
A. de la Cruz

Florencio Marquez de la Plata
Gus. Gousiño
For China:
Liou Fou-tcheng
For the Republic of Colombia:
W. Maclellan

Gabriel Roldan
For the Republic of Costa Rica :
Manuel M. de Peralta
For the Republic of Cuba:
Juan Ir uretagoyena

For Denmark :
Hollnagel Jensen
Holmblad
For the Dominican Republic:
Leopoldo Lovelace
For Egypt:
N. T. Borton

For the Republic of Ecuador:
Luis Robalino Dávila
Leónidas A. Yerovi
For Spain:
Conde de Colombi
José de Garcia Torres
Guileermo Capdevila
José de España
Martin Vicente
Antonio Camacho
For the Spanish Colonies:
Bernardo Rolland
Manuel G. Acebo
For Ethiopia:
Weuldeu-Berhane
For Finland:
G. E. F. Albrecht

For France:
M. Lebon
P. M. Georges Bonnet
M. Lebon
G. Blin
P. Bouillard

Barrail
For Algeria:
H. Treuillé

For the French Colonies and Protectorates of Indochina:
André Touzet
For all the other French Colonies:
G. Demartial

For Great Britain and various British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates:
F. H. Williamson
E. J. Harrington
E. L. Ashley Foakes

For British India :
G. R. Clarke

For the Commonwealth of Australia:
Justinian Oxenham
For Canada:
F. H. Williamson

For New Zealand:
R. B. Morris

For the Union of South Africa:
H. W. S. Twygross
D. J. O'Kelly

For Greece:
P. Scassi

Th. Pentheroudakis
For Guatemala : Juan J. Ortega Enrique Traumann
For the Republic of Haiti: Luis Ma. Solér
For the Republic of Honduras: Ricardo Beltrán y Rózpide
For Hungary:
C. de Fejér
G. Baron Szalay

For Iceland: Hollnagel Jensen
For Italy and the Italian Colonies: E. Delmati
T. C. Giannini
S. Ortisi

For Japan: S. Nakanishi Arajiro Miura Y. Hiratsuka

For Chosen: S. Nakanishi Arajiro Miura
Y. Hiratsuka

For all the other Japanese Dependencies: S. Nakanishi Arajiro Miura Y. Hiratsuka

For the Republic of Liberia: Luis Ma. Solér
For Luxemburg:

$$
\text { G. } \text { FABER }^{2}
$$

For Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone) :
GÉrard Japy
J. Walter

For Morocco (Spanish Zone) :
M. Aguirre de CÁrcer
L. López-Ferrer
C. Garcia de Castro

For Mexico:
P. Cosme Hinojosa

Julio Poulat
Alfonso Reyes
For Nicaragua:
M. Igo. Terán

For Norway:
Summerchild
Klaus Helsing
For the Republic of Panama:
J. D. Arosemena

For Paraguay:
Fernando Pignet
For the Netherlands: A. W. Kymmeil J. S. v. Gelder

For the Netherlands Indies: Wigman W.F. Gerdes Oosterbeek J. van der Werf

For the Netherlands Colonies in America:
Wigman
W. F. Gerdes Oosterbeek
J. van der Werf

For Peru:
D. C. Urrea
O. Barrenechea y Raigada

For Persia:
Husséin Khan Alaï
C. Molitor

For Poland: W. Dobrowolski Maciejewski Dr. Marjan Blachier
For Portugal:
Henrique Mousinho de AlbuquerQue
For the Portuguese Colonies in Africa: Juvenal Eivas Floriado Santa Barbara
For the Portuguese Colonies in Asia and Oceania: José Emilio dos Santos e Silva
For Roumania: D. G. Marinesco Eug. Boukman
For Salvador:
Ismael G. Fuentes
For the Territory of the Saar: Douarche

For the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes:
Drag. Dimitriyevitgh
S. P. Toutoundjitch

Dr. Franya Pavlitch
Costa Zlatanovitch
For the Kingdom of Siam:
Phra Sanpakitch Preecha
For Sweden:
Julius Juhlin
Thore Wennguist
For Switzerland:
Mengotti
F. Boss

For Czechoslovakia:
Dr. Otokar Ruzicka
Vaclay Kugera
For Tunis:
Gérard Japy
A. Barbarat

For Turkey: Méhméd-Ali
For Uruguay: Adolfo Agorio
For the United States of Venezuela:
Pedro-Emilio Coll
Barceló
A. Posse
[For text of regulations for execution of the convention, see 42 Stat. 2010.]


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ For text of regulations for execution of the convention, ses 42 Stat. 2010.
    ${ }^{2}$ The United States excepted the provisions contained in para. 3 of art. 3 and in the last sentence of para. 1 of art. 25.
    ${ }^{8}$ Post, p. 443.

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ Ante, vol. 1, p. 492.

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ See footnote 1, p. 282.

