

PARCEL POST

*Agreement signed at Seoul February 17 and at Washington April 13, 1949*¹

*Approved and ratified by the President of the United States May 4, 1949
Entered into force December 1, 1949*

64 Stat. B46; Treaties and Other
International Acts Series 2002

PARCEL POST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Post Office Department of the United States of America and the Department of Communications of the Republic of Korea have agreed upon the following articles for the purpose of improving the relations of parcel post between the two countries:

ARTICLE I

Exchange of Parcels

Between the United States of America including Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, and Hawaii on one hand and the Republic of Korea on the other hand, there may be exchanged parcels up to the limits of weight and dimensions stated in the detailed regulations for the execution of this agreement.

ARTICLE II

Transit of Parcels

1. Each Postal Administration guarantees the right of transit through its service, to or from any country with which it has parcel post communication, of parcels originating in or addressed for delivery in the service of the other Administration.

2. Parcels sent in open mail and in transit to or from one of the services of the two Postal Administrations through the other are subject to the conditions of exchange of parcels between them as well as those between intermediate Administration and that of the third country concerned.

¹ For detailed regulations for execution of the agreement, see 64 Stat. B57 or p. 13 of TIAS 2002

3. Parcels sent in closed mails and in transit to or from one of the services of the two Postal Administrations through the other are subject to the conditions specially agreed upon between the Chiefs of the two Postal Administrations.

ARTICLE III

Postage

1. Each Postal Administration is entitled to fix its postage rates for parcels to be collected from the sender.

2. The postage mentioned in the preceding section must be prepaid by the sender.

ARTICLE IV

Preparation of Parcels

Every parcel shall be packed in a manner adequate for the length of the journey and the protection of the contents as set forth in the Detailed Regulations.²

ARTICLE V

Prohibitions

1. The following articles are prohibited transmission by parcel post:

(a) A letter or a communication having the nature of a letter. Nevertheless, it is permitted to enclose in a parcel an open invoice, confined to the particulars which constitute an invoice.

(b) An enclosure which bears an address different from that placed on the cover of the parcel.

(c) Any live animal.

(d) Any article the admission of which is not authorized by the customs or other laws or regulations in force in either country.

(e) Any explosive or inflammable article, and in general, any articles the conveyance of which is dangerous.

(f) Document, pictures, and other articles injurious to public morals.

2. When a parcel contravening any of these prohibitions is handed over by one of the two Postal Administrations to the other, the latter shall proceed in accordance with its laws and inland regulations. However explosive or inflammable articles, as well as documents, pictures and other articles injurious to public morals are not to be returned to origin; they are to be destroyed on the spot by the Administration which has found them in the mails.

3. The two Postal Administrations shall furnish each other with a list of prohibited articles.

² See footnote 1, p. 500.

ARTICLE VI

Certificate of Mailing

The sender of a parcel may request, at the time of mailing, a certificate of mailing upon payment of a fee which may be fixed by the Postal Administration of the country of origin.

ARTICLE VII

Inquiry

An inquiry made after the mailing of a parcel is admitted only within the period of one year, counting from the day following that of mailing.

ARTICLE VIII

Customs Duties

Parcels are subject to all customs laws and regulations in force in the country of destination. The duties collectable on that account are collected from the addressee on delivery of the parcel.

ARTICLE IX

*Fee for Customs Formalities**Fee for Delivery**Storage Charges*

1. The Postal Administration of the country of destination may collect from the addressee for the fulfillment of customs formalities, a fee not exceeding 50 centimes per parcel.

2. The Postal Administration of the country of destination may collect from the addressee for delivery of parcels at the addressee's residence, a fee not exceeding 50 centimes per parcel. The same fee may be charged for each presentation after the first at the addressee's residence.

3. The Postal Administration of the country of destination may collect from the addressee a suitable storage charge for parcels which are not withdrawn within the period which it has fixed. This charge may not, however, exceed 5 francs per parcel.

4. The fees and charges prescribed by the above three sections shall not be cancelled even in case the parcel is redirected or returned out of the country.

ARTICLE X

Redirection

1. A parcel may be redirected, at the request of the addressee, in consequence of the addressee's change of address in the country of destination.

2. For parcels redirected in its territory, the Postal Administration of the country of destination may collect from the addressee additional charges fixed by its internal regulations. These charges shall not be cancelled even in case the parcel is redirected or returned out of the country.

3. A parcel may be redirected out of the country only at the addressee's request, and provided that the parcel complies with the conditions required for its further conveyance.

4. When a parcel is redirected out of the country, the charges for conveyance due to the Postal Administrations concerned as well as the various charges cancellation of which is not allowed by the retransmitting Administration, shall be collected additionally from the addressee.

5. The sender is entitled to forbid any redirection, by means of a suitable entry on the parcel and on the customs declaration.

ARTICLE XI

Recall—Change of Address

1. So long as a parcel has not been delivered to the addressee, the sender may recall it or cause its address to be altered.

For this service, the Postal Administration of the country of origin may collect the charge fixed by its internal regulations.

2. The provisions of Sections 2 to 4 of the preceding article are applicable to the parcel returned or redirected in consequence of the recall or the change of address.

ARTICLE XII

Non-delivery

1. The sender of a parcel may make a request at the time of mailing as to the disposal of the parcel in the event it is not deliverable as addressed, the particulars of which are set forth in the Detailed Regulations.

2. If the sender does not make any request in accordance with the preceding section or the sender's request has not resulted in delivery, undeliverable parcels will be returned to the sender without previous notification at the expiration of thirty days counting from the day following that of receipt at the office of destination, while parcels refused by the addressee will be returned at once.

3. The provisions of Article X, Section 2 and 4 are applicable to the parcel redirected in the country of destination or returned to origin in consequence of non-delivery.

The same provisions are also applicable to the parcel returned to origin for the reason that it contains any prohibited articles.

4. Undeliverable parcels which the sender has marked "Abandon" are not returned but are disposed of in accordance with the legislation of the

country of destination after the expiration of the period mentioned in Section 2 above.

ARTICLE XIII

Sale-Destruction

1. Articles liable to deterioration or corruption, and these only, may be sold immediately, even on the outward or return journey, without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right party.

2. If for any reason a sale is impossible, the spoilt or putrid articles are destroyed.

ARTICLE XIV

Parcels Wrongly Accepted-Missent Parcels

1. If parcels of which the weight or dimensions exceed the limits allowed have been wrongly accepted and dispatched, they are returned to origin by the Postal Administration to which the parcels were sent.

2. Parcels, when missent, are reforwarded to their correct destination by the most direct route at the disposal of the Postal Administration to which the parcels were missent; nevertheless, the parcels which cannot be reforwarded to their correct destination are returned to origin.

3. The parcels mentioned in the two sections above must not be charged by the retransmitting country with customs or other non-postal charges.

ARTICLE XV

Cancellation of Customs Charges

The two Postal Administrations agree to urge the services concerned in their countries to cancel customs and other non-postal charges on parcels which are returned to origin, abandoned by the sender, destroyed because the contents are completely damaged, or redirected to a third country.

ARTICLE XVI

Indemnity

1. The two postal Administrations will not be responsible for the loss of parcels exchanged between the two countries nor for the abstraction of or damage to their contents; but either Administration is at liberty to indemnify for the loss, abstraction, or damage which may occur in its service, without recourse to the other Administration.

2. The two Postal Administrations are not responsible for the loss of parcels mentioned in Article 2, Section 2 and 3, nor for the abstraction of or damage to their contents unless an arrangement to the contrary is made between the Chiefs of the two Postal Administrations.

ARTICLE XVII

Credits

1. For each parcel exchanged between the two countries, the Postal Administration of the country of origin shall pay to that of the country of destination the sums indicated in the Detailed Regulations.

2. In case of redirection or of return of parcels from one of the two countries to the other, the retransmitting Administration shall claim from the other the sums equal to its credits mentioned in the preceding section and the following charges, as the case may be:

- a. Sea rates due to the retransmitting Administration.
- b. Charges which are not cancelled by the retransmitting Administration.
- c. Charges due to a third country.

3. As regards parcels originating in one of the two countries and sent through the other to a third country, the Postal Administration of the country of origin shall pay to the intermediate Administration the sums required by the latter.

4. As regards parcels originating in a third country and sent to one of the two countries through the other in open mail, the intermediate Administration shall pay to the Administration of destination the sums indicated in the Detailed Regulations.

ARTICLE XVIII

Postal Charges Other Than Those Prescribed Not To Be Collected

The parcels to which the Agreement applies shall not be subject to any postal charges other than those contemplated by the different articles thereof.

ARTICLE XIX

Air Parcels. Parcels for Delivery Free of Charge

The Chiefs of the two Postal Administrations may come to special arrangements for the exchange of air parcels and of parcels for delivery free of charge.

ARTICLE XX

Standard Monetary Unit

The franc regarded as the monetary unit in the provisions of this Agreement is the gold franc of 100 centimes of a weight of 10/31 of a gram and of a fineness of 0.900.

ARTICLE XXI

Temporary Suspension of Service

In extraordinary circumstances such as will justify the measure, either Postal Administration may temporarily suspend the Parcel Post Service, either

entirely or partially, on condition of giving immediate notice to the other Administration.

ARTICLE XXII

Detailed Regulations. Application of Internal Legislation

1. The details necessary for the execution of this Agreement will be fixed in the form of Detailed Regulations between the two Postal Administrations.
2. As regards the items not provided for in this Agreement the internal legislation shall remain applicable in each country.
3. The two Postal Administrations notify each other of their laws, ordinances, and tariffs concerning the exchange of parcel post, as well as all modifications thereof which may be subsequently made.

ARTICLE XXIII

Entry into Force and Duration of Agreement

1. This Agreement shall take effect and operation thereunder shall begin on a date to be mutually settled between the Administrations of the two countries. It shall remain in force until one of the contracting Administrations has given notice to the other six months in advance of its intention to terminate it.
2. Done in duplicate and signed at Seoul on the 17th day of February 1949 and at Washington on the 13th day of April 1949.

J. M. DONALDSON [SEAL]
Postmaster General, United States of America

YUN SUK KOO
Minister of Communications, Republic of Korea

[For detailed regulations for execution of the agreement, see 64 Stat. B57 or p. 13 of TIAS 2002.]