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Fifth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union of 10 July 1964

Seoul, 14 September 1994

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Fifth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union of 10 July 1964

General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union

Universal Postal Convention, and Final Protocol

Postal Parcels Agreement, and Final Protocol

(Seoul, 14 September 1994)

Fifth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union of 10 July 1964

(Seoul, 14 September 1994)

The plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, met in Congress at Seoul, 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.

Article I

(Article 8 amended)

Restricted Unions. Special Agreements

1 Member countries, or their postal administrations if the legislation of those countries so permits, may establish Restricted Unions and make Special Agreements concerning the international postal service, provided always that they do not introduce provisions less favourable to the public than those provided for by the Acts to which the member countries concerned are parties.

2 Restricted Unions may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of the Union, to the Council of Administration and to the Postal Operations Council.

3 The Union may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of Restricted Unions.

Article II

(Article 13 amended)

Bodies of the Union

1 The Union's bodies shall be Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council and the International Bureau.

2 The Union's permanent bodies shall be the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council and the International Bureau.

Article III

(Article 17 amended)

Council of Administration

1 Between Congresses, the Council of Administration (CA) shall ensure the continuity of the work of the Union in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of the Union.

2 The members of the Council of Administration shall carry out their functions in the name and in the interests of the Union.

Article IV

(Article 18 amended)

Postal Operations Council

The Postal Operations Council (POC) shall be entrusted with operational, commercial, technical and economic questions concerning the postal service.

Article V

(Article 20 amended)

International Bureau

A central office operating at the seat of the Union under the title of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, directed by a Director-General and placed under the control of the Council of Administration, shall serve as an organ of execution, support, liaison, information and consultation.

Article VI

(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 shall contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the Postal Operations 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 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 Postal Operations 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

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 IX

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 1996 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. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[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 4, 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 Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration

1 The Council of Administration shall consist of forty-one 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 Council of Administration shall elect to the chairmanship one of the member countries belonging to the geographical group of the host country.

3 The forty other members of the Council of Administration 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 Each member of the Council of Administration shall appoint its representative, who shall be competent in postal matters.

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

6 The Council of Administration shall have the following functions:

6.1 to supervise the activities of the Union between Congresses, ensuring compliance with the decisions of Congress, studying questions with respect to governmental policies on postal issues, and taking account of international regulatory developments such as those relating to trade in services and to competition;

6.2 to consider and approve, within the framework of its competence, any action considered necessary to safeguard and enhance the quality of and to modernize the international postal service;

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

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

6.5 to authorize the ceiling of expenditure to be exceeded, if circumstances so require, in accordance with article 125, paragraphs 2*bis*, 3, 4 and 5;

6.6 to lay down the Financial Regulations of the UPU;

6.7 to lay down the rules governing the Reserve Fund;

6.8 to lay down the rules governing the Special Fund;

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

6.10 to lay down the rules governing the Voluntary Fund;

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

6.12 to authorize election of a lower contribution class, if it is so requested, in accordance with the conditions set out in article 126, paragraph 6;

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

6.14 to create or abolish International Bureau posts taking into account the restrictions imposed by the expenditure ceiling fixed;

6.15 to appoint or promote officials to the grade of Assistant Director-General (D2);

6.16 to lay down the Regulations of the Social Fund;

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

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

6.19 after consulting the Postal Operations Council, 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;

6.20 to establish principles, as may be considered necessary, for the Postal Operations Council to take into account in its study of questions with major financial repercussions (charges, terminal dues, transit charges, basic airmail conveyance rates and the posting abroad of letter-post items), to follow closely the study of these questions, and to review and approve, for conformity with the aforementioned principles, Postal Operations Council proposals relating to these questions;

6.21 to study, at the request of Congress, the Postal Operations Council or postal administrations, administrative, legislative and legal problems concerning the Union or the international postal service. It shall be for the Council of Administration to decide, in the abovementioned fields, whether it is expedient to undertake the studies requested by postal administrations between Congresses;

6.22 to approve the recommendations of the Postal Operations Council for the amendment, between two Congresses and in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, of the postage charges for letter-post items;

6.23 to formulate proposals which shall be submitted for the approval either of Congress or of postal administrations in accordance with article 122;

6.24 to approve, within the framework of its competence, the recommendations of the Postal Operations Council for the adoption, if necessary, of regulations or of a new procedure until such time as Congress takes a decision in the matter;

6.25 to consider the annual report prepared by the Postal Operations Council and any proposals submitted by the Council;

6.26 to submit subjects for study to the Postal Operations Council for examination in accordance with article 104, paragraph 9.17;

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

6.28 to determine in due course and after consulting the Postal Operations Council, the number of Committees required to carry out the work of Congress and to specify their functions;

6.29 to designate, after consulting the Postal Operations Council and 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;

6.30 to decide whether minutes of meetings of a Committee of Congress should be replaced by reports;

6.31 to review and approve the draft Strategic Plan for presentation to Congress developed by the Postal Operations Council with the support of the International Bureau; to review and approve annual revisions of the Plan approved by Congress on the basis of recommendations from the Postal Operations Council, and to consult with the Postal Operations Council on the development and annual updating of the Plan.

7 In appointing officials to grade D2, the Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration shall elect four Vice-Chairmen from among its members and draw up its Rules of Procedure.

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

10 The Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Committee Chairmen and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Working Party of the Council of Administration shall form the Management Committee. This Committee shall prepare and direct the work of each session of the Council of Administration and take on all the tasks which the latter decides to assign to it or the need for which arises in the course of the strategic planning process.

11 The representative of each of the members of the Council of Administration 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 ticket. The same entitlement shall be granted to each member of its Committees, Working Parties or other bodies when these meet outside Congress and the sessions of the Council.

12 The Chairman of the Postal Operations Council shall represent that body at meetings of the Council of Administration on the agenda of which there are questions of interest to the body which he directs.

13 To ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Postal Operations Council may designate representatives to attend Council of Administration meetings as observers.

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

15 The Council of Administration may invite any international body, any representative of an association or enterprise, 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.

16 The members of the Council of Administration shall take an active part in its work. Member countries not belonging to the Council of Administration may, at their request, cooperate in the studies undertaken, subject to such conditions as the Council may establish to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of its work. They may also be invited to chair Working Parties when their experience or expertise justifies it. The participation of member countries not belonging to the Council of Administration shall be carried out without additional expense for the Union.

Article 103

Documentation on the activities of the Council of Administration

1 After each session, the Council of Administration shall inform the member countries of the Union and the Restricted Unions about its activities by sending them, *inter alia*, a summary record and its resolutions and decisions.

2 The Council of Administration 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 Postal Operations Council

1 The Postal Operations Council shall consist of forty members who shall exercise their functions during the period between successive Congresses.

2 The members of the Postal Operations Council shall be elected by Congress on the basis of qualified geographical distribution. Twenty-four seats shall be reserved for developing countries and sixteen seats for developed countries. At least half of the members shall be renewed at each Congress.

3 The representative of each of the members of the Postal Operations 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 Postal Operations 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 Postal Operations 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, except for meetings which take place during Congress, 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 any 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 Postal Operations Council shall choose from among its members a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, the Committee Chairmen and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Working Party.

6 The Postal Operations Council shall draw up its Rules of Procedure.

7 In principle, the Postal Operations 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 Council of Administration and the Director-General of the International Bureau.

8 The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Committee Chairmen and the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Working Party of the Postal Operations Council shall form the Management Committee. This Committee shall prepare and direct the work of each meeting of the Postal Operations Council and take on all the tasks which the latter decides to assign to it or the need for which arises in the course of the strategic planning process.

9 The functions of the Postal Operations Council shall be the following:

9.1 to conduct the study of the most important operational, commercial, technical, economic and technical cooperation problems which are of interest to postal administrations of all member countries, including questions with major financial repercussions (charges, terminal dues, transit charges, airmail conveyance rates, parcel-post rates, and the posting abroad of letter-post items), and to prepare information, opinions and recommendations for action on them;

9.2 to revise the Detailed Regulations of the Union within six months following the end of the Congress unless the latter decides otherwise. In case of urgent necessity, the Postal Operations Council may also amend the said Regulations at other sessions. In both cases, the Operations Council shall be subject to Council of Administration guidance on matters of fundamental policy and principle;

9.3 to coordinate practical measures for the development and improvement of international postal services;

9.4 to take, subject to Council of Administration approval within the framework of the latter's competence, any action considered necessary to safeguard and enhance the quality of and to modernize the international postal service;

9.5 to revise and amend, between two Congresses, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Universal Postal Convention, and subject to Council of Administration approval, the postal charges for letter-post items;

9.6 to formulate proposals which shall be submitted for the approval either of Congress or of postal administrations in accordance with article 122; the approval of the Council of Administration is required when these proposals concern questions within the latter's competence;

9.7 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 121, 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;

9.8 to recommend, if necessary, and where appropriate after approval by the Council of Administration and 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;

9.9 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;

9.10 to develop, with the support of the International Bureau and in consultation with and with the approval of the Council of Administration, the draft Strategic Plan for consideration by Congress, and to revise the Plan approved by Congress on an annual basis, also with the support of the International Bureau and the approval of the Council of Administration;

9.11 to approve those parts of the annual report on the work of the Union prepared by the International Bureau which concern the responsibilities and functions of the Postal Operations Council;

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

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

9.14 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;

9.15 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;

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

9.17 to examine any other questions submitted to it by a member of the Postal Operations Council, by the Council of Administration or by any administration of a member country.

10 The members of the Postal Operations Council shall take an active part in its work. The postal administrations of member countries not belonging to the Postal Operations Council may, at their request, cooperate in the studies undertaken, subject to such conditions as the Council may establish to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of its work. Such postal administrations may also be requested to the Working Parties where their expertise or experience justify it.

11 The Postal Operations 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 draft Strategic Plan as well as the requests of member countries of the Union and of the Council of Administration 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.

12 In order to ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Council of Administration may designate representatives to attend Postal Operations Council meetings as observers.

13 The Postal Operations Council may invite the following to take part in its meetings without the right to vote:

13.1 any international body or any qualified person whom it wishes to associate with its work;

13.2 postal administrations of member countries not belonging to the Postal Operations Council;

13.3 any association or enterprise that it wishes to consult with respect to its work.

Article 105

Documentation on the activities of the Postal Operations Council

1 After each session, the Postal Operations Council shall inform the member countries of the Union and the Restricted Unions about its activities by sending them, *inter alia*, a summary record and its resolutions and decisions.

2 The Postal Operations Council shall prepare for the Council of Administration an annual report on its work.

3 The Postal Operations 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

Working languages of the International Bureau

The working languages of the International Bureau shall be French and English.

Article 108

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 member countries which have made the request shall bear all of the costs involved.

2 The member country or countries which have requested a language other than the official language constitute a language group. The member countries using the official language shall constitute the French Language Group.

3 Documentation shall be published by the International Bureau in the official language and in the languages of the other 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 far as possible, 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 costs of translation into any language, including those resulting from the application of paragraph 5, shall be borne by the language group which has asked for that language. The French Language Group shall bear the cost of translation into the official language of documents and correspondence received in Arabic, English and Spanish. All other costs involved in the supply of documents shall be borne by the Union. 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 judgement 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 109

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 Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration 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 110

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 G1 to D1 and to appoint and promote officials in those grades. For appointments in grades P1 to D1, he shall consider the professional qualifications of the candidates recommended by the postal administrations of the member countries of which the candidates are nationals or in which they exercise their professional activities, 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. However, in the case of posts requiring special qualifications, the Director-General may seek applications from outside. He shall also consider, for the appointment of a new official, that, in principle, persons occupying grade D2, D1 and P5 posts must be nationals of different member countries of the Union. For the promotion of an official of the International Bureau to grades D1 and P5, he shall not be bound to apply that principle. Moreover, the requirements of equitable geographical and language distribution shall rank behind merit in the recruitment process. The Director-General shall inform the Council of Administration once a year, in the Report on the work of the Union, of appointments and promotions in grades P4 to D1.

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 Postal Operations 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 Council of Administration for consideration; to communicate the budget to the member countries of the Union after approval by the Council of Administration and to execute it;

2.4 to execute the specific activities requested by the bodies of the Union and those assigned to him by the Acts;

2.5 to take action to achieve the objectives set by the bodies of the Union, within the framework of the established policy and the funds available;

2.6 to submit suggestions and proposals to the Council of Administration or to the Postal Operations Council;

2.7 to prepare, for the Postal Operations Council and on the basis of directives issued by the latter, the draft Strategic Plan to be submitted to Congress and the draft annual revision;

2.8 to ensure the representation of the Union;

2.9 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;

- the UPU and the international organizations or the associations or enterprises that the bodies of the Union wish to consult or associate with their work;

2.10 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;

2.11 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 111

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 109, paragraph 3.

Article 112

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 113

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 114

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 Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council 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 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 115

Technical cooperation

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

Article 116

Forms supplied by the International Bureau

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

Article 117

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 Council of Administration of any irregularity discovered through applying this provision.

Article 118

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 119

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 Council of Administration, to postal administrations, the Restricted Unions and the United Nations.

CHAPTER III

PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

Article 120

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 121

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 Postal Operations Council unless the latter agrees to the urgent necessity.

Article 122

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 Postal Operations 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 123

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 Postal Operations Council shall be communicated to postal administrations by the International Bureau. The same shall apply to the interpretations referred to in article 59.3.3.2 of the Convention and in the corresponding provisions of the Agreements.

Article 124

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 125

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 1996 and subsequent years:

35,278,600 Swiss francs for 1996;

35,126,900 Swiss francs for 1997;

35,242,900 Swiss francs for 1998;

35,451,300 Swiss francs for 1999;

35,640,700 Swiss francs for 2000.

The basic limit for 2000 shall also apply to the following years in case the Congress scheduled for 1999 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 3,599,300 Swiss francs.

2bis The Council of Administration shall be authorized to exceed the limits laid down in paragraph 1 to take account of the publication of the new edition of the International List of Post Offices. The total amount of the overrun authorized for this purpose shall not exceed 900,000 Swiss francs.

3 The Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration, 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 125,000 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 Council of Administration. 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 In exceptional circumstances, the Council of Administration may release a member country from all or part of the interest owed if that country has paid the full capital amount of its debts in arrears.

10 A member country may also be released, within the framework of an amortization schedule approved by the Council of Administration for its accounts in arrears, from all or part of the interest accumulated or to accrue; such release shall, however, be subject to the full and punctual execution of the amortization schedule within an agreed period of five years at most.

11 To cover shortfalls in Union financing, a Reserve Fund shall be established the amount of which shall be fixed by the Council of Administration. 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.

12 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 126

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 Council of Administration.

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 Council of Administration 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 127

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 128

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 129

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 130

Proposals concerning the Agreements with the United Nations

The conditions of approval referred to in article 129 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 131

Entry into force and duration of the General Regulations

These General Regulations shall come into force on 1 January 1996 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. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

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 Council of Administration 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 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 Council of Administration 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 Council of Administration, 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

Congress and 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 Postal Operations 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 Postal Operations 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 Postal Operations Council for consideration;
- ii the numbers of the proposals referred to the Postal Operations 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" shall mean 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 Council of Administration or
the Postal Operations Council

In order to decide between countries which have obtained the same number of votes in elections of members of the Council of Administration or the Postal Operations Council, 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 Council of Administration 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 The drafts of decisions other than those amending the Acts, submitted by the Drafting Committee, shall as a general rule be considered en bloc. Paragraphs 2 to 5 shall also apply to the drafts of these decisions.

Article 25

Assignment of studies to the Council of Administration and
the Postal Operations Council

On the recommendation of its Bureau, Congress shall assign studies to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council, in accordance with the respective compositions and responsibilities of these two bodies as they are set forth in articles 102 and 104 of the General Regulations.

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 at 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 4, 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

SOLE CHAPTER

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Freedom of transit

1 The principle of the freedom of transit is set forth in article 1 of the Constitution. It shall carry with it the obligation for each postal administration to forward always by the quickest routes and the most secure means which it uses for its own items, closed mails and *à découvert* letter-post items which are passed to it by another administration.

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 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 the country crossed.

3 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.

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

5 If a member country fails to observe the provisions regarding freedom of transit, other member countries may discontinue their postal service with that country.

Article 2

Ownership of postal items

1 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 3

Creation of new service

1 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 4

Monetary unit

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).

Article 5

Postage stamps

1 Only postal administrations shall issue postage stamps attesting payment of postage according to the Acts of the Union. Postal prepayment impressions, franking machine impressions and impressions made by a printing press or other printing or stamping process in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations may be used only with the authorization of the postal administration.

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 6

Charges

1 The charges for the various international postal services shall be laid down in the Convention and the Agreements. The charges shall in principle be related to the costs of providing these services.

2 The charges collected, including those laid down for guideline purposes in the Acts, shall be at least equal to those collected on internal service items presenting the same characteristics (category, quantity, handling time, etc).

3 Postal administrations shall be authorized to exceed any charges appearing in the Convention and the Agreements, including those laid down for guideline purposes:

3.1 if the charges they collect for the same services in their internal service are higher than the ones laid down;

3.2 if this is necessary to cover the costs of operating their services or on any other reasonable grounds.

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

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

Article 7

Exemption from postal charges

1 Principle

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

2 Postal service

2.1 Letter-post items relating to the postal service sent by postal administrations or their offices shall be exempt from all postal charges.

2.2 Letter-post items relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges, with the exception of air surcharges, if they are:

2.2.1 exchanged between bodies of the Universal Postal Union and bodies of the Restricted Unions;

2.2.2 exchanged between bodies of those Unions;

2.2.3 sent by such bodies to postal administrations or their offices.

3 Prisoners of war and civilian internees

3.1 Letter-post items, postal parcels and postal financial services items addressed to or sent by prisoners of war, either direct or through the offices mentioned in the Detailed Regulations, shall be exempt from all postal charges, with the exception of air surcharges. 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.

3.2 The provisions set out under 3.1 shall also apply to letter-post items, postal parcels and postal financial services items 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 offices mentioned in the Detailed Regulations.

3.3 The offices mentioned in the Detailed Regulations shall also enjoy exemption from postal charges in respect of letter-post items, postal parcels and postal financial services items which concern the persons referred to under 3.1 and 3.2, which they send or receive, either direct or as intermediaries.

3.4 Parcels shall be admitted free of postage up to a weight of 5 kilograms. The weight limit shall be increased to 10 kilograms 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.

4 Literature for the blind

4.1 Literature for the blind shall be exempt from all postal charges, with the exception of air surcharges.

PART II

PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LETTER POST: PROVISION OF SERVICES

CHAPTER 1

BASIC SERVICES

Article 8

Letter-post items

1 Letter-post items shall be classified according to one of the following two systems. Every postal administration shall be free to choose the system that it applies to its outward traffic.

2 The first system shall be based on the speed of treatment of the items. The latter shall therefore be divided into:

2.1 priority items, ie items conveyed by the quickest route (air or surface) with priority; weight limits: 2 kilograms in general, 5 kilograms for items containing books and pamphlets (optional service), 7 kilograms

for literature for the blind;

2.2 non-priority items, ie items for which the sender has chosen a lower rate, implying a longer delivery time; weight limits: same as those in 2.1.

3 The second system shall be based on the contents of the items. The latter shall therefore be divided into:

3.1 letters and postcards, together called "LC"; weight limit: 2 kilograms;

3.2 printed papers, literature for the blind and small packets together called "AO"; weight limits 2 kilograms for small packets, 5 kilograms for printed papers, 7 kilograms for literature for the blind.

4 In the classification system based on contents:

4.1 letter-post items conveyed by air with priority shall be called "airmail items";

4.2 surface items conveyed by air with reduced priority shall be called "S.A.L. items".

5 Every administration may admit priority items and airmail items consisting of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed on all sides. Such items shall be called "aerogrammes".

6 Mail consisting of letter-post items posted in bulk by the same sender and received in the same dispatch or in separate dispatches, in accordance with the conditions specified in the Detailed Regulations, shall be called "bulk mail".

7 Special bags containing newspapers, periodicals, books and other printed papers for the same addressee at the same address shall, in both systems, be called "M bags"; weight limit: 30 kilograms.

8 The limits of size and the conditions of admission, as well as particulars regarding the limits of weight, are laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 9

Postage charges

1 The administration of origin shall fix the postage charges for the conveyance of letter-post items throughout the entire extent of the Union. The postage charges 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. The conditions of application are laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

2 Guideline postage charges are given in the table below:

Items	Weight step	Guideline charges
1	2	3
		SDR
2.1 Charges in the system based on speed:		
Priority items	up to 20g	0.37
	above 20g up to 100g	0.88
	above 100g up to 250g	1.76
	above 250g up to 500g	3.38
	above 500g up to 1000g	5.88
	above 1000g up to 2000g	9.56
	per additional step of 1000g	4.78 (optional)
Non-priority items	up to 20g	0.18
	above 20g up to 100g	0.40

	above 100g up to 250g	0.74
	above 250g up to 500g	1.32
	above 500g up to 1000g	2.21
	above 1000g up to 2000g	3.09
	per additional step of 1000g	1.54 (optional)

2.2 Charges in the system based on contents:

Letters	up to 20g	0.37
	above 20g up to 100g	0.88
	above 100g up to 250g	1.76
	above 250g up to 500g	3.38
	above 500g up to 1000g	5.88
	above 1000g up to 2000g	9.56

Postcards		0.26
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Printed papers	up to 20g	0.18
	above 20g up to 100g	0.40
	above 100g up to 250g	0.74
	above 250g up to 500g	1.32
	above 500g up to 1000g	2.21
	above 1000g up to 2000g	3.09
	per additional step of 1000g	1.54

Small packets	above 20g up to 100g	0.40
	above 100g up to 250g	0.74
	above 250g up to 500g	1.32
	above 500g up to 1000g	2.21
	above 1000g up to 2000g	3.09

3 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and to amend, subject to Council of Administration approval, the guideline charges given under 2 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.

4 The administration of origin may allow, for letter-post items containing:

4.1 newspapers and periodicals published in its country, a reduction of not more than 50 percent of the tariff applicable to the category of items used;

4.2 books and pamphlets, music scores and maps, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisement other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves, the same reduction as that provided for under 4.1.

5 The charge applicable to M bags shall be calculated by weight steps of 1 kilogram up to the total weight of each bag. The administration of origin 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 under 4.

6 The administration of origin may apply to non-standardized items charges different from those applicable to standardized items. Standardized items are defined in the Detailed Regulations.

7 In the system based on contents, 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").

Article 10

Rate-fixing based on method of conveyance or speed

1 The charges applicable to priority items, which shall always be conveyed by the quickest route (air or surface), shall include any additional costs of fast transmission.

2 Administrations that apply the system based on contents shall be authorized:

2.1 to collect air surcharges for airmail items. 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;

2.2 to collect for S.A.L. items surcharges lower than those which they collect for airmail items;

2.3 to fix combined charges for the prepayment of airmail items and S.A.L. items, taking into account the cost of the postal services rendered by them and the cost of the air conveyance.

3 The reductions in charges pursuant to articles 9.4 and 9.5 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 11

Preferential rates

1 Above the minimum level of charges laid down in article 6.2, postal administrations may allow reduced charges based on their internal legislation for letter-post items posted in their country. They may, for instance, give preferential rates to major users of the Post.

Article 12

Special charges

1 No delivery charge may be collected from the addressee in respect of small packets weighing less than 500 grams.

2 Where domestic small packet items weighing over 500 grams are subject to a delivery charge, the same charge may be collected in respect of incoming international small packets.

3 Administrations shall be authorized to collect in the cases mentioned below the same charges as in the domestic service.

3.1 Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting, collected from the sender.

3.2 Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours, collected from the sender.

3.3 Charge for collection at the sender's address, collected from the sender.

3.4 Charge, for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours, collected from the addressee.

3.5 Poste restante charge collected from the addressee.

3.6 A storage charge for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 grams 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 13

Payment of postage

1 As a general rule, letter-post items shall be fully prepaid by the sender. The methods of denoting prepayment are defined in the Detailed Regulations.

2 The administration 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. In this case, it shall be authorized to also collect a handling charge of 0.33 SDR at most. The missing prepayment shall be denoted by one of the methods defined in the Detailed Regulations.

4 In cases in which the options described under 2 and 3 are not applied, unpaid or underpaid items shall be liable to a special charge, payable by the addressee or, in the case of returned items, by the sender. Calculation of this special charge is defined in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 14

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 15

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 an unregistered priority item or an unregistered airmail letter sent abroad. Where not 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.

CHAPTER 2

SPECIAL SERVICES

Article 16

Registered items

1 Letter-post items may be sent as registered items.

2 The charge on registered items shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of the postage charge, according to the classification system and category of item, and of a fixed registration charge of 1.31 SDR at most. For each M bag, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the charge per item.

3 In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect from the sender or from the addressee, in addition to the charge mentioned under 2, the special charges provided for by their internal legislation.

4 Postal administrations prepared to cover risks of *force majeure* shall be authorized to collect a special charge of 0.13 SDR at most for each registered item.

Article 17

Recorded delivery items

1 Letter-post items may be sent by the recorded delivery items service in relations between administrations which agree to provide this service.

2 The charge on recorded delivery items shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of the postage charge, according to the classification system and category of item, and of the recorded delivery charge fixed by the administration of origin. This charge shall be less than the registration charge.

Article 18

Insured items

1 Priority and non-priority items and letters containing securities, valuable documents or articles shall be called "insured items" and 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 In principle, the amount of the insured value shall be unlimited. Every administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 4000 SDR. However, the limit of insured value adopted in the internal service shall be applicable if it is less than that amount.

3 The charge on insured items shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of the ordinary postage charge, the fixed registration charge laid down in article 16.2 and an insurance charge.

4 Instead of the fixed registration charge, postal administrations may collect the corresponding charge of their internal service or, exceptionally, a charge of 3.27 SDR at most.

5 The insurance charge shall be at most 0.33 SDR for each 65.34 SDR of insured value or fraction thereof, or 0.5 percent of the scale of the insured value. This charge shall apply whatever the country of destination, even in countries which undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.

6 In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect from the sender or from the addressee, in addition to the charges mentioned under 3, 4 and 5, the special charges provided for by their internal legislation.

Article 19

Express items

1 At the sender's request, letter-post items for countries where the administration performs the service shall be delivered by special messenger as soon as possible after their arrival at the delivery office. Any

administration shall have the right to confine this service to priority items, to airmail items and, when this is the only means used between two administrations, to surface LC items. Express items may be dealt with in a different manner as long as the overall level of the service provided to the addressee is at least equal to that which would have been obtained through special messenger delivery.

2 If the items arrive at the delivery office after the last routine delivery, they shall be delivered by special messenger on the same day and under the same conditions as apply internally, in those countries which provide this facility.

3 Administrations which have various streams of letter mail shall enter express items into the fastest internal letters stream upon their arrival at the inward office of exchange and thereafter handle these items in the speediest manner possible.

4 Express items shall be subject, in addition to the postage, to a charge which may not be less than the amount of postage prepayable on an unregistered priority/non-priority item, as the case may be, or on an unregistered single rate letter and not more than 1.63 SDR. For each M bag, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the charge per item. This charge shall be paid in full in advance.

5 When express delivery involves special demands, an additional charge may be collected in accordance with the provisions relating to items of the same kind in the internal service.

6 If the regulations of the administration of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office for express delivery immediately on arrival of 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 20

Advice of delivery

1 The sender of a registered item, a recorded delivery item or an insured item may apply for an advice of delivery at the time of posting by paying a charge of 0.98 SDR at most. 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, a second charge shall not be collected.

Article 21

Delivery to the addressee in person

1 At the sender's request, and in the service between those administrations which have given their consent, registered items, recorded delivery items and insured items shall be delivered to the addressee in person. Administrations may agree to allow this option only for such items accompanied by an advice of delivery. In all cases, the sender shall pay a charge for delivery to the addressee in person of 0.16 SDR at most

Article 22

Items for delivery free of charges and fees

1 In the service between postal administrations which 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. If necessary, they shall make a provisional payment.

3 The administration of origin shall collect from the sender a charge of 0.98 SDR at most 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 an additional charge not exceeding 1.31 SDR per request. If the request is to be forwarded by telecommunications, the sender shall pay in addition the corresponding charge.

5 The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect on each item a commission charge not exceeding 0.98 SDR. This charge shall be independent of the presentation-to-Customs charge. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.

6 Every administration may restrict to registered items and insured items the service of delivery free of charges and fees.

Article 23

International business reply service

1 Administrations may agree with each other to participate in an optional international business reply service (IBRS).

2 Administrations which operate this service shall comply with the provisions laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

3 Two administrations may, nevertheless, agree bilaterally on another system to be applied between themselves.

4 Administrations may establish a compensation system that takes account of the costs borne.

Article 24

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 priority items or 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.

CHAPTER 3

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

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 residing in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign country with the object of profiting by the more favourable rate conditions there.

2 The provisions set out under 1 shall be applied without distinction both to letter-post items made up in the sender's country of residence and then carried across the frontier and to letter-post items made up in a foreign country.

3 The administration of destination may claim from the sender and, failing this, from the administration of posting, payment of the internal rates. If neither the sender nor the administration of posting agrees to pay these rates within a time limit set by the administration of destination, the latter may either return the items to

the administration of posting and shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of the redirection costs, or handle them in accordance with its own legislation.

4 A member country shall not be bound to 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, without receiving appropriate remuneration. The administration of destination may claim from the administration of posting payment commensurate with the costs incurred and which may not exceed the higher of the following two amounts: either 80 percent of the domestic tariff for equivalent items, or 0.14 SDR per item plus 1 SDR per kilogram. If the administration of posting does not agree to pay the amount claimed within a time limit set by the administration of destination, the administration of destination may either return the items to the administration of posting and shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of the redirection costs, or handle them in accordance with its own legislation.

Article 26

Items not admitted. Prohibitions

1 Items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in the Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall not be admitted.

2 Items other than insured items 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. However, if the internal legislation of the countries of origin and destination permits this, such articles may be sent in a closed envelope as registered items.

3 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.

4 Except as otherwise provided in the Detailed Regulations, printed papers and literature for the blind:

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

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

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

5.1 narcotics and psychotropic substances;

5.2 explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances: nevertheless, the perishable biological substances and radioactive substances mentioned in article 24 shall not come within this prohibition;

5.3 obscene or immoral articles;

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

6 The insertion of live animals in letter post items shall be prohibited.

6.1 However, the following shall be admitted in letter-post items other than insured items:

6.1.1 bees, leeches and silk-worms;

6.1.2 parasites and destroyers of noxious insects intended for the control of those insects and exchanged between officially recognized institutions.

7 The treatment of items wrongly admitted is set out in the Detailed Regulations. Nevertheless, items containing articles mentioned in 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination,

delivered to the addressees or returned to origin.

Article 27

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.

2 Items shall not however be redirected:

2.1 if the sender has forbidden redirection by means of a note on the address side in a language known in the country of destination;

2.2 if they bear in addition to the addressee's address the expression "or occupant".

3 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.

4 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations, no additional charge shall be collected for letter-post items redirected 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.

5 The conditions for redirection are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 28

Undeliverable items

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

2 The return of undeliverable items as well as their period of retention are governed by the Detailed Regulations.

3 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations, no additional charge shall be collected for undeliverable items returned to the country of origin. 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 29

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:

1.1 has not been delivered to the addressee;

1.2 has not been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authorities because of infringement of article 26;

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

2 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.

3 The sender shall pay, for each request, a special charge of 1.31 SDR at most.

4 The request shall be forwarded by post or by telecommunication at the sender's expense. The forwarding conditions and the provisions relating to the use of telecommunications are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

5 The charges prescribed under 3 and 4 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.

Article 30

Inquiries

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

2 Within this timespan, inquiries shall be accepted as soon as the problem is reported by the sender or the addressee. However, where a sender's inquiry concerns an undelivered item and the anticipated transmission time has not expired, the sender should be informed of this transmission time.

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

4 Inquiries shall be free of charge. However, if a request is made for transmission by telecommunications or by EMS, the additional costs shall, in principle, be borne by the person making the request. The relevant provisions are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

CHAPTER 4

CUSTOMS MATTERS

Article 31

Customs control

1 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 32

Presentation-to-Customs charge

1 Items submitted to customs control in the country of origin or of destination, as the case may be, may be subjected to a special charge of 2.61 SDR at most as a postal charge. For each M bag, the special charge may be up to 3.27 SDR at most. This charge shall only be collected for the submission to Customs and customs clearance of items which have attracted customs charges or any other similar charge.

Article 33

Customs duty and other fees

1 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.

CHAPTER 5

LIABILITY

Article 34

Liability of postal administrations. Indemnities

1 General

1.1 Except for the cases provided for in article 35, postal administrations shall be liable for:

1.1.1 the loss of, theft from or damage to registered items and insured items;

1.1.2 the loss of recorded delivery items.

1.2 Postal administrations may undertake to cover risks arising from a case of *force majeure*.

2 Registered items

2.1 The sender of a registered item shall be entitled to an indemnity if his item is lost.

2.1.1 The indemnity for the loss of a registered item shall amount to 30 SDR, including the cost of the charges paid on posting the item.

2.1.2 The indemnity for the loss of a registered M bag amounts to 150 SDR, including the cost of the charges paid on posting the item.

2.2 The sender of a registered item shall be entitled to an indemnity if the contents of his item are rifled or damaged. However, the packing must have been recognized as being sufficient to guarantee the contents effectively against accidental risks of theft or damage.

2.2.1 The indemnity for a rifled or damaged registered item shall correspond, in principle, to the actual value of the theft or damage. It may, however, in no case exceed the amounts fixed under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2. Consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into account.

3 Recorded delivery items

3.1 If a recorded delivery item is lost, the sender shall be entitled to refund of the charges paid.

3.2 The sender shall also be entitled to a refund of the charges paid in the event of total theft of or total damage to the contents. However, the packing must have been recognized as being sufficient to guarantee the contents effectively against accidental risks of theft or damage.

4 Insured items

4.1 In the event of theft from or damage to an insured item, 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.

4.2 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.

4.3 When an indemnity is due for the loss of, total theft from or total damage to an insured item, the sender, or the addressee, as the case may be, shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges and fees paid. However, the insurance charge shall in no case be repaid; it shall be retained by the administration of origin.

5 Notwithstanding the provisions set out under 2.1 and 4.1, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after delivery of a rifled or damaged registered item or insured item.

6 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 2.1. The same shall apply to the administration of destination when the indemnity is paid to the addressee. However, the amounts laid down in 2.1 shall remain applicable:

6.1 in the event of recourse against the administration liable; or

6.2 if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee or vice versa.

Article 35

Non-liability of postal administrations

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for registered items, recorded delivery items and insured items which they have delivered according to the conditions laid down in their regulations for items of the same kind. Liability shall, however, be maintained:

1.1 when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the item;

1.2 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;

1.3 when, internal regulations permitting, the registered item was delivered to a private mail-box and, in the course of the inquiry, the addressee declares that he did not receive the item;

1.4 when the addressee or, in the case of return to origin, the sender of an insured item although having given a proper discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage. He shall furnish proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2 Postal administrations shall not be liable:

2.1 in cases of *force majeure*, subject to article 34.1.2;

2.2 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;

2.3 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;

2.4 in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 26, in so far as these items have been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of their contents;

2.5 when the items have been seized under the legislation of the country of destination, as notified by the administration of that country;

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

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

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 36

Sender's liability

1 The sender of a letter-post item shall be liable for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance.

2 The sender shall be liable within the same limits as postal administrations.

3 The sender shall remain liable even if the office of posting accepts such an item.

4 The sender shall not be liable if there has been fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.

Article 37

Payment of indemnity

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 with the administration of destination. The obligation to refund the charges for recorded delivery items shall rest with the administration of origin.

2 The sender may waive his rights to the indemnity in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee may waive his rights in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

3 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 two months to pass without finally settling the matter, or without having reported:

3.1 that the damage appeared to be due to a case of *force majeure*;

3.2 that the item had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

4 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant in cases where the inquiry form is not properly completed and has to be returned for additional information, thereby causing the time limit set in 3 to be exceeded.

Article 38

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or the addressee

1 If, after payment of the indemnity, a registered item or an insured item or part of the contents previously considered as lost is found, the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, 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 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.

3 In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured item 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.

CHAPTER 6

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Article 39

General provisions

1 Administrations may agree with each other to participate in electronic mail services.

2 Electronic mail is a postal service which uses telecommunications for transmitting within seconds messages true to the original posted by the sender in either a physical or an electronic form for delivery to the addressee in a physical or electronic form. In the case of physical delivery, the information is generally transmitted by electronic means for the longest possible part of the way and reproduced in physical form as

near as possible to the addressee. Physical messages are delivered in an envelope to the addressee as a letter-post item.

3 The tariffs applicable to electronic mail are fixed by administrations, taking costs and market requirements into account.

Article 40

Facsimile-based services

1 The bureaufax range of services permits the transmission of texts and illustrations true to the original by facsimile.

Article 41

Text-based services

1 The range of text-based services permits the transmission of texts and illustrations produced by means of data-processing equipment (PC, mainframe computer).

PART III

PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LETTER POST: RELATIONS BETWEEN POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS

CHAPTER 1

TREATMENT OF LETTER-POST ITEMS

Article 42

Quality of service targets

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

2 Administrations of origin shall publish service targets for priority and airmail items for abroad by reference to the targets fixed by the administrations of origin and destination and including the conveyance time.

3 Postal administrations shall undertake to verify periodically that the established times are achieved either within the framework of the surveys organized by the International Bureau or by the Restricted Unions, or on the basis of bilateral agreements.

4 It is also desirable that postal administrations should verify periodically that the established times are achieved, using other quality control systems, in particular, external quality control.

5 Wherever possible, administrations shall implement quality measurement systems for international mails (both outgoing and incoming); this should, as far as possible, include measurement from posting to delivery (end to end).

6 An member countries shall provide the International Bureau with up-to-date information about the latest acceptance times (*heures limites de dépôt*) against which they operate for international postal purposes.

7 Where possible, separate information shall be provided for priority and non-priority streams of traffic.

Article 43

Exchange of items

1 Administrations may exchange, via one or more of their number, closed mails as well as *à découvert* items according to needs and service requirements.

2 When the conveyance of mail in transit through a country takes place without the participation of the postal administration of that country, this administration shall be informed in advance. This form of transit shall not involve the liability of the postal administration of the transit country.

3 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.

4 Exchanges shall take place on the basis of the provisions of the Detailed Regulations.

Article 44

Exchange of closed mails with military units

1 Closed mails may be exchanged through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries:

1.1 between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations;

1.2 between the commanding officers of such military units;

1.3 between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of naval or air units, warships or military aircraft of the same country stationed abroad;

1.4 between the commanding officers of naval or air units, warships or military aircraft of the same country.

2 Letter-post items enclosed in the mails referred to under 1 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.

3 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, the terminal dues and the air conveyance dues.

Article 45

Temporary suspension of services

1 When exceptional circumstances oblige a postal administration temporarily to suspend its services wholly or in part it shall immediately inform the administrations concerned.

CHAPTER 2

TREATMENT OF CASES OF LIABILITY

Article 46

Determination of liability between postal administrations

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 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.

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

4 Postal administrations not providing the insured items service shall assume, in respect of such items conveyed in closed mails, the liability laid down for registered items. This provision shall also apply when postal administrations do not accept liability for insured items carried on board the ships or aircraft used by them.

5 If the loss, theft or damage occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration which does not provide the insured items service, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration. The same rule shall apply if the amount of the damage is higher than the maximum insured value adopted by the intermediate administration.

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, theft or damage.

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.

CHAPTER 3

TRANSIT CHARGES AND TERMINAL DUES

Article 47

Transit charges

1 Subject to article 50, 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. The latter shall constitute remuneration for the services rendered in respect of land transit and sea transit.

2 *À découvert* items may also be subject to transit charges. The conditions for application are specified in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 48

Transit charge scales

1 The transit charges shall be calculated in accordance with the scales set out in the following table:

Distances traversed	Charge per kg gross
1	2
1.1 Distances traversed by land expressed in kilometres	SDR
Up to 100 km	0.14
Above 100 up to 200	0.17
Above 200 up to 300	0.20
Above 300 up to 400	0.22
Above 400 up to 500	0.24
Above 500 up to 600	0.26
Above 600 up to 700	0.27
Above 700 up to 800	0.29
Above 800 up to 900	0.31

Above 900 up to 1000	0.32
Above 1000 up to 1100	0.34
Above 1100 up to 1200	0.35
Above 1200 up to 1300	0.37
Above 1300 up to 1500	0.39
Above 1500 up to 2000	0.43
Above 2000 up to 2500	0.49
Above 2500 up to 2750	0.53
Above 2750 up to 3000	0.56
Above 3000 up to 4000	0.62
Above 4000 up to 5000	0.72
Above 5000 up to 6000	0.81
Above 6000 up to 7000	0.89
Above 7000 up to 8000	0.97
Above 8000 up to 9000	1.05
Above 9000 up to 10000	1.12
Above 10000 up to 11000	1.19
Above 11000 up to 12000	1.26
Above 12000 up to 13000	1.32
Above 13000 up to 14000	1.39
Above 14000	1.45

1.2 Distances traversed by sea

expressed in nautical miles	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
Above 200 up to 300	Above 370 up to 556	0.21
Above 300 up to 400	Above 556 up to 741	0.22
Above 400 up to 500	Above 741 up to 926	0.23
Above 500 up to 600	Above 926 up to 1111	0.24
Above 600 up to 700	Above 1111 up to 1296	0.24
Above 700 up to 800	Above 1296 up to 1482	0.25
Above 800 up to 900	Above 1482 up to 1667	0.25
Above 900 up to 1000	Above 1667 up to 1852	0.26
Above 1000 up to 1100	Above 1852 up to 2037	0.26
Above 1100 up to 1200	Above 2037 up to 2222	0.27
Above 1200 up to 1300	Above 2222 up to 2408	0.27
Above 1300 up to 1500	Above 2408 up to 2778	0.28
Above 1500 up to 2000	Above 2778 up to 3704	0.29
Above 2000 up to 2500	Above 3704 up to 4630	0.31
Above 2500 up to 2750	Above 4630 up to 5093	0.32
Above 2750 up to 3000	Above 5093 up to 5556	0.32
Above 3000 up to 4000	Above 5556 up to 7408	0.34
Above 4000 up to 5000	Above 7408 up to 9260	0.36
Above 5000 up to 6000	Above 9260 up to 11112	0.38
Above 6000 up to 7000	Above 11112 up to 12964	0.40
Above 7000 up to 8000	Above 12964 up to 14816	0.41

Above 8000 up to 9000	Above 14816 up to 16668	0.42
Above 9000 up to 10000	Above 16668 up to 18520	0.43
Above 10000 up to 11000	Above 18520 up to 20372	0.45
Above 11000 up to 12000	Above 20372 up to 22224	0.46
Above 12000 up to 13000	Above 22224 up to 24076	0.47
Above 13000 up to 14000	Above 24076 up to 25928	0.48
Above 14000	Above 25928	0.49

2 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and amend the scales mentioned under 1 between Congresses. Any revision made, in accordance with a methodology that ensures equitable remuneration for administrations which conduct transit operations, must be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data. Any change decided upon shall enter into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.

Article 49

Terminal dues

1 Subject to article 50, each administration which receives letter-post items from another administration shall have the right to collect from the dispatching administration a payment for the costs incurred for the international mail received.

2 Payment

2.1 Payment for the letter-post items, excluding M bags, shall be 3.427 SDR per kilogram.

2.2 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogram.

2.2.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilograms shall be considered as weighing 5 kilograms for terminal dues payment purposes.

3 Revision mechanism

3.1 When, in a given relation, an administration dispatching or receiving a mail flow of more than 150 tonnes a year (M bags excluded) establishes that the average number of items contained in 1 kilogram of mail dispatched or received deviates from the world average of 17.26 items, it may have the rate revised if, compared with this world average:

3.1.1 the number of items is more than 21 or

3.1.2 the number of items is less than 14.

3.1.3 In the case provided for under 3.1.2 the revision shall not be applicable if the flow in question is destined for a developing country included in the list approved for this purpose by Congress.

3.1.4 When an administration requests application of the revision provided for under 3.1, the corresponding administration may do likewise, even if the flow in the other direction is less than 150 tonnes a year.

3.1.4.1 The provisions under 3.1.4 shall not apply to the developing countries included in the list approved for this purpose by Congress.

3.2 The revision shall be carried out on the terms specified in the Detailed Regulations.

4 Bulk mail

4.1 For bulk mail, the administration of destination may request specific payment according to one of the following formulas:

4.1.1 application of the world average rates of 0.14 SDR per item and 1 SDR per kilogram;

4.1.2 application of rates per item and per kilogram reflecting the handling costs in the country of destination. These costs must be in relation with the domestic rates in accordance with the conditions specified in the Detailed Regulations.

4.2 Subject to the provisions under 3.1.3, when an administration of destination requests specific payment for bulk mail, the dispatching administration shall be entitled to request that the remainder of the flow be subject to the revision provided for under 3.1.

5 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to amend the payments mentioned under 2 and 4.1.1 between Congresses. Any revision carried out shall be based on available economic and financial data. Any amendment decided upon shall come into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council. The latter shall also be authorized to define the ways and means of implementing the payment system mentioned under 4.1.2.

6 Any administration may waive wholly or in part the payment provided for under 1.

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

Article 50

Exemption from transit charges and terminal dues

1 The letter-post items relating to the postal service referred to in article 7.2.2, 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 51

Accounting for transit charges and terminal dues

1 Transit charges

1.1 Accounting for surface-mail transit charges shall be done annually by the administration of transit, for each administration of origin. It shall be based on the weight of the mails sent during the year concerned and received in transit. The scales laid down in article 48 shall be applied.

1.2 The transit charges shall be borne by the administration of origin of the mails. They shall be payable, subject to the exception provided for under 1.4, to the administrations of the countries which are crossed or whose services take part in the land or sea conveyance of the mails.

1.3 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.

1.4 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. The postal administration of the port of embarkation concerned shall give its prior agreement.

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

2 Terminal dues

2.1 For letter-post items, with the exception of M bags, accounting for terminal dues shall be done annually by the creditor administration, according to the actual weight of the mails received during the year concerned. The rates laid down in article 49 shall be applied.

2.2 For M bags, accounting for terminal dues shall be done annually by the creditor administration, on the basis of the weight subject to terminal dues in accordance with the conditions laid down in article 49.

2.3 To enable the annual weight to be determined, the administrations of origin of the mails shall permanently indicate, for each mail:

- the weight of the mail (excluding M bags):
- the weight of the M bags weighing more than 5 kilograms;
- the number of M bags weighing less than 5 kilograms.

2.4 When it is necessary to determine the number and weight of bulk items, the modalities indicated in the Detailed Regulations for this category of mail shall be applied.

2.5 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 those laid down in the Detailed Regulations for the statistical period.

2.6 The debtor administration shall be exempted from payment of terminal dues when the annual balance does not exceed 326.70 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 128 of the General Regulations. The arbitrators shall be empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the transit charges or terminal dues to be paid.

CHAPTER 4

AIR CONVEYANCE DUES

Article 52

General principles

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

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

1.2 in the case of priority items and airmail items in transit *à découvert*, including missent items, by the administration which forwards the items to another administration.

2 These same regulations shall be applicable to airmail, priority items and airmail items in transit *à découvert* exempt from transit charges.

3 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 kilometres. Unless agreement has been reached that no charge should be made, the dues shall be uniform for all priority mails and airmails originating abroad whether or not this mail is reforwarded by air.

4 However, where the terminal dues levied by the administration of destination are based specifically on costs or on domestic rates, no additional reimbursement for internal air conveyance shall be made.

5 The administration of destination shall exclude, for the purpose of calculating the weighted average distance, the weight of all mails for which the terminal dues calculation has been based specifically on costs or on the domestic rates of the administration of destination.

6 In the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, article 48 shall apply to airmail correspondence for any transit by land or by sea. Nevertheless, no transit charges shall be payable for:

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

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

Article 53

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 approved by the Postal Operations Council. It shall be calculated by the International Bureau according to the formula specified in the Detailed Regulations.

2 The calculation of air conveyance dues on closed mails, priority items and airmail items in transit *à découvert*, as well as the relevant methods of accounting, are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

CHAPTER 5

TELEMATIC LINKS

Article 54

General provisions

1 Administrations may agree to establish telematic links amongst themselves and with other partners.

2 The postal administrations concerned shall be free to choose the suppliers and the technical facilities (hardware and software) to support the exchange of data.

3 In consultation with the supplier of network services, postal administrations shall agree bilaterally on the method of payment for these services.

4 Postal administrations shall not be financially or legally liable if another administration fails to make the payments owed in respect of services relating to the provision of telematic link.

CHAPTER 6

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 55

Settlement of accounts

1 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 56

Provision of information, International Bureau publications, retention of documents, forms

1 The provisions relating to the provision of information concerning the execution of the postal service, International Bureau publications, retention of documents and the forms to be used are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

PART IV

EMS

Article 57

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 EMS shall be regulated on the basis of bilateral agreements. Aspects that are not expressly governed by the latter shall be subject to the appropriate provisions of the Acts of the Union.

3 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.



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

PART V

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 58

Undertakings regarding penal measures

1 The Governments of member countries shall undertake to adopt, or to propose to the legislatures of their countries, the necessary measures:

1.1 for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, and of international reply coupons;

1.2 for punishing the use or uttering:

1.2.1 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;

1.2.2 of counterfeit international reply coupons;

1.3 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:

1.4 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.

Article 59

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 which have been referred by Congress to the Postal Operations Council for a decision or which have been introduced between Congresses must be approved by a majority of the members of the Postal Operations Council.

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

3.1 two thirds of the votes, at least one half of the member countries of the Union having replied to the consultation, if they involve amendments to articles 1 to 7 (part I), 8 to 11, 13, 16 to 18, 20, 24 to 26, 34 to 38 (part II), 43.2, 44 to 51, 55 (part III) and 58 to 60 (part V) of the Convention or to any of the articles of its Final Protocol;

3.2 a majority of the votes, at least one half of the member countries of the Union having replied to the consultation, if they involve amendments of substance to provisions other than those mentioned under 3.1;

3.3 a majority of the votes if they involve:

3.3.1 drafting amendments to the provisions of the Convention other than those mentioned under 3.1;

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

4 Notwithstanding the provisions under 3.1, any member country whose national legislation is as yet incompatible with the proposed amendment may, within ninety days from the date of notification of the latter, make a written declaration to the Director-General of the International Bureau stating that it is unable to accept the amendment.

Article 60

Entry into force and duration of the Convention

1 This Convention shall come into force on 1 January 1996 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. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[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 2 shall not apply to Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dominica, Egypt, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 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, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Rep), Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2 Nor shall article 2 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

Charges

1 Notwithstanding article 6.4, the administration of Canada shall be authorized to collect postal charges other than those provided for in the Convention and Agreements, when such charges are consistent with the legislation of its country.

Article III

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

1 Notwithstanding article 7.4, 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 charges for special services which may not, however, exceed those in their internal service.

2 Notwithstanding article 7.4, the administrations of Canada, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan and United States of America may collect the charges for special services which are applied to literature for the blind in their internal service.

Article IV

Small packets

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

Article V

Printed papers. Maximum weight

1 Notwithstanding article 8.3.2, the administrations of Canada and Ireland shall be authorized to limit to 2 kilograms the maximum weight of inward and outward printed papers.

Article VI

Registered M bags

1 The postal administrations of Canada and United States of America shall be authorized not to accept registered M bags and not to provide registered handling for such bags received from other countries.

Article VII

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1 The postal administrations of Greece, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America reserve the right to impose a charge, equivalent to the cost of the work it incurs, on any administration which, under the provisions of article 25.4, sends to it items for disposal which were not originally dispatched as postal items by their services.

2 Notwithstanding article 25.4, the postal administration of Canada reserves the right to collect from the administration of origin such amount as will ensure recovery of not less than the costs incurred by it in the handling of such items.

3 Article 25.4 allows the administration of destination to claim, from the administration of posting, appropriate remuneration for delivering letter-post items posted abroad in large quantities. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reserves the right to limit any such payment to the appropriate domestic tariff for equivalent items in the country of destination.

4 Article 25.4 allows the administration of destination to claim, from the administration of posting, appropriate remuneration for delivering letter-post items posted abroad in large quantities. The following countries reserve the right to limit any such payment to the limits authorized in the Convention and Detailed Regulations for bulk mail: Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Grenada, Guyana, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand and United States of America.

5 Notwithstanding the reservations under 4, the following countries reserve the right to apply in full the provisions of article 25 of the Convention to mail received from Union member countries: Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Monaco, Portugal, Senegal, Syrian Arab Rep, Togo.

Article VIII

Prohibitions

1 Exceptionally, the postal administration of Lebanon shall not accept registered items 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 35.1 with regard to its liability in cases of theft or damage, or where items containing articles made of glass or fragile articles are concerned.

2 Exceptionally, the postal administrations of Bolivia, China (People's Rep), Iraq, Nepal and Viet Nam shall not accept registered items 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.

3 The postal administration of Myanmar reserves the right not to accept insured items containing the valuable articles listed in article 26.2, as this is contrary to its internal regulations.

4 The postal administration of Nepal does not accept registered or insured items containing currency notes or coins, except by special agreement to that effect.

Article IX

Articles subject to customs duty

1 With reference to article 26, the postal administrations of Bangladesh and El Salvador do not accept insured items containing articles subject to customs duty.

2 With reference to article 26, the postal administrations of Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cambodia, Central African Rep, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dem People's Rep of Korea, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Panama (Rep), Peru, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela do not accept ordinary and registered letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

3 With reference to article 26, the postal administrations of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Senegal, Viet Nam and Yemen do not accept ordinary letters containing articles subject to customs duty.

4 Notwithstanding the provisions set out under 1 to 3, the sending of serums, vaccines and urgently required medicaments which are difficult to procure shall be permitted in all cases.

Article X

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration or correction of address

1 Article 29 shall not apply to Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dem People's Rep of Korea, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 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, 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 29 shall apply to Australia only in so far as that article is consistent with its domestic legislation.

Article XI

Inquiries

1 Notwithstanding article 30.4, the postal administrations of Cape Verde, Chad, Gabon, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Greece, Iran (Islamic Rep), Mongolia, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Rep and Zambia reserve the right to collect from customers charges on inquiries lodged.

2 Notwithstanding article 30.4, the postal administrations of Argentina, Czech Rep and Slovakia reserve the right to collect a special charge when, on completion of the investigation conducted in response to the inquiry, it emerges that the latter was unjustified.

Article XII

Presentation-to-Customs charge

1 The postal administration of Gabon reserves the right to collect a presentation-to-Customs charge from customers.

Article XIII

Liability of postal administrations

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo (Rep), Côte d'Ivoire (Rep), Djibouti, India, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Turkey shall be authorized not to apply article 34.1.1.1 with respect to liability in cases of theft from or damage to registered items.

2 Notwithstanding articles 34.1.1.1 and 35.1, the postal administrations of Chile, China (People's Rep) and Colombia shall be liable only for the loss of, total theft of or total damage to the contents of registered items.

3 Notwithstanding article 34, the postal administration of Saudi Arabia shall accept no liability in case of loss of or damage to items containing articles mentioned in article 26.2.

Article XIV

Non-liability of postal administrations

1 The postal administration of Bolivia shall not be required to observe article 35.1 as regards maintenance of its liability in case of total theft or total damage of registered items.

Article XV

Payment of indemnity

1 The postal administrations of Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guinea, Mexico, Nepal and Nigeria shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 in so far as concerns finally settling the matter within a period of two 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 Congo (Rep), Djibouti, Guinea, Lebanon and Madagascar shall not be obliged to comply with article 37.3 in so far as concerns finally settling a claim within a period of two months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

Article XVI

Special transit charges

1 The postal administration of Greece reserves the right to raise by 30 percent the land transit charges and by 50 percent the sea transit charges given in article 48.1.

2 The postal administration of the Russian Federation shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.65 SDR in addition to the transit charges indicated in article 48.1.1 for each kilogram of letter-post items conveyed in transit over the Trans-Siberian route.

3 The postal administrations of Egypt and Sudan shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.16 SDR in addition to the transit charges indicated in article 48.1 for each bag of letter post in transit via Lake Nasser between Shallal, Egypt, and Wadi Halfa, Sudan.

4 The postal administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect a supplement of 0.98 SDR to the transit charges mentioned in article 48.1 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.

5 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 transhipped 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.

6 Notwithstanding article 48.1, 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.

7 Notwithstanding article 48.1, the Syria-Iraq motor services shall be considered as extraordinary services giving rise to the collection of special transit charges.

Article XVII

Internal air conveyance dues

1 Notwithstanding article 52.3, the postal administrations of Bahamas, Cape Verde, Congo (Rep), Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras (Rep), Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu reserve the right to collect the dues for the air conveyance of international mails within their countries.

2 Notwithstanding article 52.3, the postal administration of Myanmar reserves the right to collect the dues for the conveyance of international mails within its country whether or not these mails are reforwarded by air.

3 Notwithstanding articles 52.4 and 52.5, the postal administrations of Canada, Iran (Islamic Rep), Turkey and United States of America shall have the right to recover from the postal administrations concerned, in the

form of uniform dues, the internal air conveyance costs they incur for mail received from any administration for which they apply terminal dues compensation based specifically on costs or on internal tariffs.

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 in a single original which shall be deposited with the Director-General of the International Bureau. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[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 4, of the Constitution, drawn up the following Agreement.

PART I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose of the Agreement

1 This Agreement shall govern the postal parcels service between contracting countries.

2 In this Agreement, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, the abbreviation "parcels" shall apply to all postal parcels.

Article 2

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. The postal administration shall remain responsible for the execution of the Agreement.

PART II

PROVISION OF SERVICES

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 3

Principles

1 Parcels may be exchanged either direct or via one or more countries. The exchange of parcels whose individual weight exceeds 10 kilograms shall be optional, with a maximum individual weight of 31.5 kilograms.

2 Parcels conveyed by air with priority shall be called "air parcels".

3 Details of limits of weight, limits of size and conditions of acceptance are given in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 4

Weight system

1 The weight of the parcels shall be expressed in kilograms.

Article 5

Principal charges

1 Administrations shall set the principal charges to be collected from senders.

2 The principal charges shall be linked with the rates. As a general rule, the sum thereof shall not in total exceed the rates set by administrations under articles 34 to 36.

Article 6

Air surcharges

1 Administrations shall set the air surcharges to be collected for air parcels.

2 The surcharges shall be related to the air conveyance dues. 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.

Article 7

Special charges

1 Administrations shall be authorized to collect in the cases mentioned below, the same charges as in the domestic service.

1.1 Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours, collected from the sender.

1.2 Charge for collection at the sender's address, collected from the sender.

1.3 *Poste restante* charge, collected by the administration of destination at the time of delivery, on every parcel addressed "*poste restante*". In the event of return to sender or redirection, the amount passed on may not exceed 0.49 SDR.

1.4 Storage charge on every parcel which has not been taken possession of within the prescribed period, 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. In the event of return to sender or redirection, the amount passed on may not exceed 6.53 SDR.

2 Where a parcel is normally delivered to the addressee's address, no delivery charge may be collected from the addressee. Where delivery to the addressee's address is not normally provided, the advice of arrival should be delivered free of charge. In this case, if delivery to the addressee's address is offered as an option in response to the advice of arrival, a delivery charge may be collected from the addressee. This should be the same charge as in the domestic service.

3 Administrations prepared to cover risks of *force majeure* may collect, in respect of uninsured parcels, a charge for cover against risks of *force majeure* of a maximum of 0.20 SDR per parcel. In respect of insured parcels, the amount is laid down in article 11.4.

Article 8

Prepayment

1 Parcels shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps or by any other method authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin.

Article 9

Free postage

1 Service parcels

1.1 Parcels relating to the postal service, and called "service parcels", shall be exempt from all postal charges if exchanged between the following:

1.1.1 postal administrations;

1.1.2 postal administrations and the International Bureau;

1.1.3 post offices of member countries;

1.1.4 post offices and postal administrations.

1.2 Air parcels, with the exception of those originating from the International Bureau, shall be exempt from air surcharges.

2 Parcels of prisoners of war and civilian internees

2.1 Parcels intended for or sent by the prisoners and organizations mentioned in the Convention shall be called "prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels". These parcels shall be exempted from all charges, except for air surcharges.

CHAPTER 2

SPECIAL SERVICES

Article 10

Express parcels

1 At the sender's request, parcels for countries where the administration performs the service, shall be delivered to the place of address by special messenger as soon as possible after their arrival at the delivery office. They are then called "express parcels".

2 Express parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge of not more than 1.63 SDR. This charge must be fully paid in advance. It is payable even if the parcel cannot be delivered by special messenger but only the advice of arrival.

3 When express delivery places special demands on the administration of destination, the latter may collect a supplementary charge under the provisions concerning items 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.

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

Article 11

Insured parcels

1 Any parcel which is insured for a declared value shall be called an "insured parcel". The exchange shall be restricted to those postal administrations which admit insured parcels.

2 Each administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 4000 SDR. However, the limit of insured value adopted in the internal service may be applied if it is less than that amount.

3 The charge on insured parcels shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of the principal charge, an optional dispatch charge and an ordinary insurance charge.

3.1 Any air surcharges and charges for special services shall be added to the principal charge.

3.2 The dispatch charge shall not exceed the registration charge laid down in the Convention. Instead of the fixed registration charge, postal administrations may collect the corresponding charge of their internal service or, exceptionally, a charge of 3.27 SDR at most.

3.3 The ordinary insurance charge shall be at most 0.33 SDR for each 65.34 SDR or fraction of 65.34 SDR insured value, or 0.5 percent of the insured value step.

4 Administrations which undertake to cover risks of *force majeure* shall be authorized to collect a charge for cover against risks of *force majeure*. This shall be set so that the sum of this charge and the ordinary insurance charge do not exceed the maximum prescribed in 3.3.

5 In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may also collect from the sender or from the addressee the special charges provided for by their internal legislation.

Article 12

Cash-on-delivery parcels

1 Any parcel subject to a COD charge and covered by the Cash-on-Delivery Agreement shall be called a "cash-on-delivery parcel". The exchange of cash-on-delivery parcels shall require prior agreement between administrations of origin and destination.

Article 13

Fragile parcels. Cumbersome parcels

1 Any parcel containing articles which are liable to break easily and which are to be handled with special care shall be called a "fragile parcel".

2 Any parcel whose dimensions exceed the limits laid down in the Regulations or those which administrations may set between themselves shall be called a "cumbersome parcel".

3 Any parcel which, by reason of its shape or structure, does not readily lend itself to loading with other parcels or which requires special precautions shall also be called a "cumbersome parcel".

4 Fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge equal to not more than 50 percent of the principal charge. If the parcel is both fragile and cumbersome the supplementary charge shall be collected once only. However, the air surcharges in respect of these parcels shall not be increased.

5 The exchange of fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be restricted to those administrations which admit such items.

Article 14

Consignment service

1 Administrations may agree among themselves to take part in an optional "Consignment" service for collective items from one consignor sent abroad.

2 Wherever possible, this service shall be identified by a logo consisting of the following components:

- the word "CONSIGNMENT" in blue;
- three horizontal bands (one red, one blue and one green).

≡ CONSIGNMENT ≡

3 The details of this service shall be laid down bilaterally between the administration of origin and the administration of destination on the basis of provisions defined by the Postal Operations Council.

Article 15

Advice of delivery

1 The sender of a parcel may request an advice of delivery under the conditions laid down in the Convention. However, administrations may restrict this service to insured parcels if such restriction is provided for in their internal service.

2 The advice of delivery charge shall be 0.98 SDR at most.

Article 16

Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees

1 In relations between postal administrations which 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 a parcel is subject on delivery. This is a "parcel for delivery free of charges and fees".

2 Senders shall undertake to pay the amounts which may be claimed by the office of destination. If necessary, they shall make a provisional payment.

3 The administration of origin shall collect from the sender a charge not exceeding 0.98 SDR per parcel which it shall retain as payment for services rendered in the country of origin.

4 The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect a commission charge not exceeding 0.98 SDR per parcel. This charge shall be independent of the presentation-to-Customs charge. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.

Article 17

Advice of embarkation

1 In relations between administrations which agree to provide this service, the sender may request that an advice of embarkation be sent to him.

2 The advice of embarkation charge shall be 0.36 SDR at most per parcel.

CHAPTER 3

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 18

Prohibitions

1 The insertion of the following articles shall be prohibited in all categories of parcels:

1.1 articles which, by their nature or their packing, may expose officials to danger, or soil or damage other parcels or postal equipment;

1.2 narcotics and psychotropic substance;

1.3 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;

1.4 live animals, unless their conveyance by post is authorized by the postal regulations of the countries concerned;

1.5 explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances;

1.6 radioactive materials;

1.7 obscene or immoral articles;

1.8 articles of which the importation or uttering is prohibited in the country of destination.

2 It shall be prohibited to insert 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. In addition, 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. It may limit the actual value of these items.

3 The exceptions to the prohibitions and the treatment of parcels wrongly admitted are set out in the Detailed Regulations. However, parcels containing articles listed under 1.2, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to origin.

Article 19

Redirection

1 If an addressee changes his address, a parcel may be redirected either within the country of destination or out of that country. The same applies if an address is altered or corrected in application of article 21.

2 The sender may forbid any redirection.

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

4 The conditions for redirection are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 20

Delivery. Undeliverable parcels

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. The periods of retention are laid down in the Detailed Regulations. 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 If a parcel cannot be delivered or if it is held officially, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the instructions given by the sender within the limits set by the Detailed Regulations.

3 If an advice of non-delivery is made out, the reply to such an advice may give rise to collection of a charge of 0.65 SDR at most. 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 telecommunications, the corresponding charge shall also be collected.

4 Any undeliverable parcel shall be returned to the sender's country of residence. The conditions for return are given in the Detailed Regulations.

5 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.

6 Articles contained in a parcel whose early deterioration or decay is to be feared, and those articles only, may be sold immediately, without prior notice or legal formality. The sale shall be on behalf of the rightful owner even in course of transmission on either the outward or the return journey. If sale is impossible, the spoilt or decayed articles shall be destroyed.

Article 21

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration or correction of address at the sender's request

1 The sender of a parcel may, under the terms set out in the Convention, ask for it to be returned or for its address to be altered. He must guarantee payment of the amounts due for any onward transmission.

2 However, administrations shall have the option of not accepting the requests referred to in 1 when they do not accept them in their internal service.

3 The sender shall pay, for each request, a charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of address of 1.31 SDR at most. If the request is to be sent by telecommunications, the appropriate charge shall be added to this charge.

Article 22

Inquiries

1 Inquiries shall be entertained within a period of a year from the day after that on which the parcel was posted. Within this period, inquiries shall be accepted as soon as the problem is reported by the sender or the addressee. However, where a sender's inquiry concerns an undelivered parcel and the published anticipated transmission time has not expired, the sender should be informed of this transmission time.

2 The processing of inquiries shall be free of charge. However, if, at the request of the customer, inquiries are transmitted by telecommunication or by EMS, they may be subject to a charge equivalent to the price of the service requested.

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

4 Separate inquiries shall be made for uninsured and insured parcels.

CHAPTER 4

CUSTOMS MATTERS

Article 23

Customs control

1 The postal administrations of the countries of origin and destination shall be authorized to submit parcels to customs control, according to the legislation of those countries.

Article 24

Presentation-to-Customs charge

1 Parcels submitted to customs control in the country of origin may be subjected to a presentation-to-Customs charge of 0.65 SDR at most per parcel. As a general rule, the charge shall be collected at the time of

posting of the parcel.

2 Parcels submitted to customs control in the country of destination may be subjected to a charge of 3.27 SDR at most per parcel. This charge shall only be collected for the submission to Customs and customs clearance of items which have attracted customs charges or any other similar charges. In the absence of special agreement, 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.

Article 25

Customs duty and other 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.

CHAPTER 5

LIABILITY

Article 26

Liability of postal administrations. Indemnities

1 Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to parcels, except as provided for in article 27.

2 Administrations may undertake to cover risks arising from a case of *force majeure*.

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:

3.1 for insured parcels, the amount of the insured value in SDRs;

3.2 for other parcels, amounts calculated by combining the rate of 40 SDR per parcel and the rate of 4.50 SDR per kilogram.

4 Administrations may agree to apply, in their reciprocal relations, the amount of 130 SDR per parcel regardless of the weight.

5 The indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into 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 the addressee, as the case may be, 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 the provisions set out in 3, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after taking delivery of a rifled or damaged parcel.

9 The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for uninsured parcels, provided that they are not lower than those laid

down in 3.2. The same shall apply to the administration of destination when the indemnity is paid to the addressee. However, the amounts laid down in 3.2 shall remain applicable:

9.1 in the event of recourse against the administration liable; or

9.2 if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee or vice versa.

Article 27

Non-liability of postal administrations

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for parcels which they have delivered, according to the conditions laid down in their internal regulations for items of the same kind. Liability shall however be maintained:

1.1 when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the parcel;

1.2 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;

1.3 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; he shall furnish proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2 In the cases listed below, postal administrations shall not be liable:

2.1 in cases of *force majeure*, subject to article 26.2;

2.2 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;

2.3 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;

2.4 in the case of parcels whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 18, in so far as these parcels have been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of their contents;

2.5 when the parcels have been seized under the legislation of the country of destination, as notified by the administration of that country;

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

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

2.8 in the case of prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcels.

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 28

Sender's liability

1 The sender of a parcel shall be liable for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance.

2 The sender shall be liable within the same limits as postal administrations.

3 The sender shall remain liable even if the office of posting accepts such a parcel.

4 On the other hand, the sender shall not be liable if there has been fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.

Article 29

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 with the administration of destination.

2 The sender may waive his rights to the indemnity in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee may waive his rights in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

3 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 two months to pass without finally settling the matter, or without having reported:

3.1 that the damage appeared to be due to a case of *force majeure*;

3.2 that the item had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

4 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant in cases where the inquiry form is not properly completed and has to be returned for additional information, thereby causing the time limit set in paragraph 3 to be exceeded.

Article 30

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 informed 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 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.

3 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 the addressee, as the case may be, shall repay the amount of this indemnity. The insured parcel shall be returned to him, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance.

PART III

RELATIONS BETWEEN POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS

CHAPTER 1

TREATMENT OF POSTAL PARCELS

Article 31

Quality-of-service targets

1 Administrations of destination shall set 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, set a service target for the handling of surface parcels addressed to their countries.

3 Administrations of origin shall set service targets for air and surface parcels for abroad by reference to the targets set by the administrations of destination.

4 Administrations shall monitor actual performance against the service targets fixed by them.

Article 32

Exchange of parcels

1 The exchange of parcels shall take place on the basis of the provisions of the Detailed Regulations.

CHAPTER 2

TREATMENT OF CASES OF LIABILITY

Article 33

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 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 calculated in article 26.3.2, for a parcel of 1 kilogram, this sum shall be borne equally by the administration of origin and the administration of destination, intermediate administrations being excluded.

3 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.

4 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. The same rule shall apply if the amount of the loss is higher than the maximum insured value adopted by the intermediate administration.

5 The rule laid down in 4 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. This administration shall nevertheless assume, in respect of the transit of insured parcels in closed mails, the liability laid down for uninsured parcels.

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, theft or damage.

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.

CHAPTER 3

RATES AND AIR CONVEYANCE DUES

Article 34

Inward land rate

1 Parcels exchanged between two administrations shall be subject to inward land rates for each country and each parcel calculated by combining the following guideline rate per parcel and guideline rate per kilogram:

Guideline rate:

- per parcel: 2.85 SDR;
- per kilogram of gross weight of the mail: 0.28 SDR.

2 Bearing in mind the above guideline rates, administrations shall set their inward land rates to bring these into relation with the costs of their service.

3 The rates mentioned in 1 and 2 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

4 The inward land rates shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of each country.

Article 35

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 transit land rates, payable to the countries whose services take part in the routeing on land, calculated by combining the rate per parcel and the rate per kilogram below, according to the distance step applicable:

Distance steps	Rate per parcel	Rate per kg of gross weight of the mail
1	2 SDR	3 SDR
Up to 600 km	0.77	0.10
Above 600 up to 1000 km	0.77	0.19
Above 1000 up to 2000 km	0.77	0.29
Above 2000 km	0.77	0.29 + 0.08 for each additional 1000 km

2 For parcels in transit *à découvert*, intermediate administrations shall be authorized to claim a single rate of 0.40 SDR per item.

3 The rates mentioned in 1 and 2 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin under this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

4 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and amend the table mentioned under 1 between Congresses. Any revision made, in accordance with a methodology that ensures equitable remuneration for administrations which conduct transit operations, must be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data. Any change decided upon shall enter into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.

5 No transit land rate shall be payable for:

5.1 the transfer of airmails between two airports serving the same town;

5.2 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 36

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 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 by combining the rate per parcel and the rate per kilogram below, according to the distance step applicable:

Distance steps			
a expressed in nautical miles	b expressed in km after conversion on the basis of 1 n.m. = 1.852 km	Rate per parcel SDR	Rate per kg of gross weight of the mail SDR
Up to 500 n.m.	Up to 926 km	0.58	0.06
Above 500 up to 1000	Above 926 up to 1852	0.58	0.09
Above 1000 up to 2000	Above 1852 up to 3704	0.58	0.12
Above 2000 up to 3000	Above 3704 up to 5556	0.58	0.14
Above 3000 up to 4000	Above 5556 up to 7408	0.58	0.16
Above 4000 up to 5000	Above 7408 up to 9260	0.58	0.17
Above 5000 up to 6000	Above 9260 up to 11,112	0.58	0.19
Above 6000 up to 7000	Above 11,112 up to 12,964	0.58	0.20
Above 7000 up to 8000	Above 12,964 up to 14,816	0.58	0.21
Above 8000	Above 14,816	0.58	0.21 + 0.01 per additional 1000 nautical miles (1852 km)

3 Administrations may increase by 50 percent at most the sea rate calculated in accordance with article 36.2. On the other hand, they may reduce it as they wish.

4 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to revise and amend the table mentioned under 2 between Congresses. Any revision made, in accordance with a methodology that ensures equitable remuneration for administrations which conduct transit operations, must be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data. Any change decided upon shall enter into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.

Article 37

Allocation of rates

1 Allocation of rates to the administrations concerned shall be made, in principle, in respect of each parcel.

2 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.

Article 38

Air conveyance dues

1 The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be approved by the Postal Operations Council. It shall be calculated by the International Bureau according to the formula specified in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention.

2 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.

3 The calculation of air conveyance dues on closed mails and air parcels in transit *à découvert* is set out in the Detailed Regulations.

CHAPTER 4

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 39

Provision of information, retention of documents, forms

1 The provisions relating to the provision of information concerning the execution of the postal service, retention of documents and the forms to be used are set out in the Detailed Regulations.

Article 40

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.

Article 41

Application of the Convention

1 The Convention shall be applicable, where appropriate, by analogy, in all cases not expressly governed by this Agreement.

PART IV

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 42

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 Postal Operations Council for a decision or which have been introduced between Congresses must be approved by a majority of the members of the Postal Operations Council which are parties to this Agreement.

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

3.1 two thirds of the votes, at least one half of the member countries which are parties to the Agreement having replied to the consultation, if they involve either the addition of new provisions or amendments of substance to the articles of this Agreement and of its Final Protocol;

3.2 a majority of the votes if they involve:

3.2.1 interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement and its Final Protocol;

3.2.2 drafting amendments to be made to the Acts specified in 3.2.1.

4 Notwithstanding the provisions under 3.1, any member country whose national legislation is as yet incompatible with the proposed amendment or addition may, within ninety days from the date of notification of the latter, make a written declaration to the Director-General of the International Bureau stating that it is unable to accept the amendment or addition.

Article 43

Entry into force and duration of the Agreement

1 This Agreement shall come into force on 1 January 1996 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. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[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

Principles

1 Notwithstanding article 3, paragraph 1, the postal administration of Canada shall be authorized to limit to 30 kilograms the maximum weight of inward and outward parcels.

Article II

Insured parcels

1 The postal administration of Sweden reserves the right to provide its customers with the insured parcels service outlined in article 11 in accordance with specifications other than those defined in article 11 and in the relevant articles of the Detailed Regulations.

Article III

Advice of delivery

1 The postal administration of Canada shall be authorized not to apply article 15, given that it does not offer the advice of delivery service for parcels in its internal service.

Article IV

Prohibitions

1 The postal administrations of Canada, Myanmar and Zambia shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing the valuable articles covered in article 18.2, since this is contrary to their 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 26, including with respect to the cases set forth in articles 27 and 33.

3 The postal administration of Brazil shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing coins and currency notes in circulation, as well as any securities payable to bearer, since this is contrary to its internal regulations.

4 The postal administration of Ghana shall be authorized not to accept insured parcels containing coins and currency notes in circulation, since this is contrary to its internal regulations.

5 In addition to the articles listed in article 18, the postal administration of Saudi Arabia shall be authorized not to accept parcels containing:

5.1 medicines of any kind unless they are accompanied by a medical prescription issued by a competent official authority;

5.2 products designed for extinguishing fires, and chemical liquids;

5.3 articles contrary to the principles of the Islamic religion.

Article V

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration or correction of address at the sender's request

1 Notwithstanding article 21, 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 VI

Inquiries

1 The postal administrations of Afghanistan, Cape Verde, Congo (Rep), Gabon, Iran (Islamic Rep), Mongolia, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Suriname, Syrian Arab Rep and Zambia reserve the right to collect an inquiry charge from customers.

2 The postal administrations of Argentina, Czech Rep and Slovakia reserve the right to collect a special charge when, on completion of the investigation conducted in response to the inquiry, it emerges that the latter was unjustified.

Article VII

Presentation-to-Customs charge

1 The postal administrations of Congo (Rep), Gabon and Zambia reserve the right to collect a presentation-to-Customs charge from customers.

Article VIII

Compensation

1 Notwithstanding article 26, the following administrations shall have the right not to pay compensation for uninsured parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Dominica, 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, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

2 Notwithstanding article 26, the administrations of Argentina and Greece shall have the right not to pay compensation for uninsured parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service to countries which do not pay such compensation In accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

3 Notwithstanding article 26.8, 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.

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 IX

Exceptions to the principle of liability

1 Notwithstanding article 26, Bolivia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and Zaire shall be authorized to pay no indemnity for damage to parcels coming from any country and addressed to them, containing liquids or substances which easily liquefy, glass articles or articles of a similar fragile or perishable nature.

2 Notwithstanding article 26, Saudi Arabia shall have the right not to pay compensation for parcels containing articles prohibited under article 18 of the Postal Parcels Agreement.

Article X

Non-liability of the postal administration

1 The postal administration of Nepal shall be authorized not to apply article 27.1.3.

Article XI

Payment of the indemnity

1 The postal administrations of Angola, Guinea and Lebanon shall not be obliged to comply with article 29.3 as regards finally settling a claim within two months. Nor do they agree to the rightful claimant's being indemnified, on their behalf, by another administration upon expiry of the above-mentioned period.

Article XII

Exceptional inward land rates

1 Notwithstanding article 34, the administration of Afghanistan reserves the right to collect an additional exceptional inward land rate of 7.50 SDR per parcel.

Article XIII

Exceptional transit land rates

1 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 35.1:

No	Authorized administration	Amount of the exceptional transit land rate		
		Rate per parcel	Rate per kg of gross weight of the mail	
1	2	3	4	
		SDR	SDR	
1	Afghanistan	0.48	0.45	
2	Bahrain	0.85	0.55	
3	Chile		0.21	
4	Egypt	1.00	0.25	
5	France	1.00	0.20	
6	Greece	1.16	0.29	
7	India	0.40	0.51	
8	Malaysia	0.39	0.05	
9	Russian Federation	0.77	Twice the amount per kg shown in column 3 of the table in article 35.1 for the distance concerned	
10	Singapore	0.39	0.05	
11	Sudan	1.61	0.65	
12	Syrian Arab Rep		0.65	
13	Thailand	0.58	0.14	
14	United States of America		According to distance step:	
			Up to 600 km	0.10
			Above 600 up to 1000 km	0.18
			Above 1000 up to 2000 km	0.25
			Above 2000 km for each additional 1000 km	0.10

Article XIV

Sea rates

1 The following administrations reserve the right to increase by 50 percent at the most the sea rates provided for in article 36: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Comoros, Congo (Rep), Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Overseas Dependent Territories of the United Kingdom, Greece, Grenada, Guyana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania (United Rep), Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.

Article XV

Supplementary rates

1 Every parcel sent by surface or air addressed to 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:

1.1 "surface" parcels

1.1.1 the French transit land rate;

1.1.2 the French sea rate corresponding to the distance step between metropolitan France and each of the Departments, Territories and Communities in question;

1.2 air parcels

1.2.1 the French transit land rate for parcels in transit *à découvert*;

1.2.2 the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between metropolitan France and each of the Departments, Territories and Communities in question.

2 The postal administrations of Egypt and Sudan shall be authorized to collect a supplementary rate of 1 SDR over and above the transit land rates laid down in article 35.1 for each parcel in transit via Lake Nasser between El Shallal (Egypt) and Wadi Halfa (Sudan).

3 Every parcel sent in transit between Denmark and the Farøe Islands or between Denmark and Greenland shall give rise to the collection of the following supplementary rates:

3.1 "surface" parcels

3.1.1 the Danish transit land rate;

3.1.2 the Danish sea rate corresponding to the distance step between Denmark and the Farøe Islands or between Denmark and Greenland, respectively;

3.2 air parcels

3.2.1 the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between Denmark and the Farøe Islands or between Denmark and Greenland, respectively.

4 The postal administration of Chile shall be authorized to collect a supplementary rate of 2.61 SDR per kilogram at most for the conveyance of parcels to Easter Island.

5 Every parcel sent by surface or by air, in transit between metropolitan Portugal and the autonomous regions of Madeira and the Azores, shall give rise to the collection of the following supplementary rates:

5.1 "surface" parcels

5.1.1 the Portuguese transit land rate;

5.1.2 the Portuguese sea rate corresponding to the distance step between metropolitan Portugal and each of the autonomous regions in question;

5.2 air parcels

5.2.1 the Portuguese transit land rate;

5.2.2 the air conveyance dues corresponding to the airmail distance between metropolitan Portugal and each of the autonomous regions in question.

6 Parcels addressed to the island provinces of Grand Canary and Tenerife and forwarded in transit via metropolitan Spain shall give rise to the collection, in addition to the corresponding inward land rate, of the following supplementary rates:

6.1 "surface" parcels

6.1.1 the Spanish transit land rate;

6.1.2 the Spanish sea rate corresponding to a distance of from 1000 to 2000 nautical miles;

6.2 air parcels

6.2.1 the air conveyance costs corresponding to the airmail distance between metropolitan Spain and each of the island provinces in question.

Article XVI

Air conveyance dues

1 Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China (People's Rep), Colombia, Congo (Rep), Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gabon, Guyana, Honduras (Rep), India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep), Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia shall be authorized to claim reimbursement of the additional costs incurred for providing air conveyance of foreign-origin air parcels within their country. These air conveyance dues shall be uniform for all mails from abroad whether or not the air parcels are reforwarded by air.

2 Spain shall be authorized to claim reimbursement, on a reciprocal basis, of the additional costs incurred for providing air conveyance within its country of air parcels received from the administrations listed in paragraph 1 of this article. These air conveyance dues shall be uniform for all mails received, whether or not they are reforwarded by air.

Article XVII

Special tariffs

1 The administrations of Belgium, France, Norway and United States of America 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 kilogram the charge applicable to parcels over 1 and up to 3 kilograms.

3 The administration of Panama (Rep) shall be authorized to collect 0.20 SDR per kilogram for surface airlifted (S.A.L.) parcels in transit.

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. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Seoul, 14 September 1994.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]