

Part III

Provisions concerning the letter post: Relations between postal administrations

Chapter I

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 **All 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 **A 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
	200 up to 300	0.20
	300 up to 400	0.22
	400 up to 500	0.24
	500 up to 600	0.26
	600 up to 700	0.27
	700 up to 800	0.29
	800 up to 900	0.31
	900 up to 1 000	0.32
	1 000 up to 1 100	0.34
	1 100 up to 1 200	0.35
	1 200 up to 1 300	0.37
	1 300 up to 1 500	0.39
	1 500 up to 2 000	0.43
	2 000 up to 2 500	0.49
	2 500 up to 2 750	0.53
	2 750 up to 3 000	0.56
	3 000 up to 4 000	0.62
	4 000 up to 5 000	0.72
	5 000 up to 6 000	0.81
	6 000 up to 7 000	0.89
	7 000 up to 8 000	0.97
	8 000 up to 9 000	1.05
	9 000 up to 10 000	1.12
	10 000 up to 11 000	1.19
	11 000 up to 12 000	1.26
	12 000 up to 13 000	1.32
	13 000 up to 14 000	1.39
	14 000	1.45

Convention

Distances traversed		Charge per kg gross
1		2
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	SDR
Up to 100 nautical miles	Up to 185 km	0.17
Above 100 up to 200	Above 185 up to 370	0.19
200 300	370 556	0.21
300 400	556 741	0.22
400 500	741 926	0.23
500 600	926 1 111	0.24
600 700	1 111 1 296	0.24
700 800	1 296 1 482	0.25
800 900	1 482 1 667	0.25
900 1 000	1 667 1 852	0.26
1 000 1 100	1 852 2 037	0.26
1 100 1 200	2 037 2 222	0.27
1 200 1 300	2 222 2 408	0.27
1 300 1 500	2 408 2 778	0.28
1 500 2 000	2 778 3 704	0.29
2 000 2 500	3 704 4 630	0.31
2 500 2 750	4 630 5 093	0.32
2 750 3 000	5 093 5 556	0.32
3 000 4 000	5 556 7 408	0.34
4 000 5 000	7 408 9 260	0.36
5 000 6 000	9 260 11 112	0.38
6 000 7 000	11 112 12 964	0.40
7 000 8 000	12 964 14 816	0.41
8 000 9 000	14 816 16 668	0.42
9 000 10 000	16 668 18 520	0.43
10 000 11 000	18 520 20 372	0.45
11 000 12 000	20 372 22 224	0.46
12 000 13 000	22 224 24 076	0.47
13 000 14 000	24 076 25 928	0.48
14 000	25 928	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 kilogramme.
- 2.2 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogramme.
- 2.2.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes shall be considered as weighing 5 kilogrammes 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 kilogramme 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 kilogramme;
 - 4.1.2 application of rates per item and per kilogramme 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 kilogrammes;
- the number of M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes.

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 **airmails**, 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 links.

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

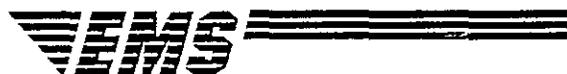
1 EMS shall be the quickest postal service by physical means. It shall consist of the collection, dispatch and delivery in a very short space of time of correspondence, documents or goods.

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: same as on pages 31 to 63.

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 grammes 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 kilogrammes** 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 kilogramme 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: same as on pages 31 to 63.