N° 767.

RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE,
BOLIVIE, BRÉSIL,
COLOMBIE, COSTA-RICA, etc.


ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,
BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA,
COSTA RICA, etc.

Pan-American Postal Union. Principal Convention, signed at Buenos Aires, September 15, 1921.
No. 767. — PAN-AMERICAN POSTAL UNION. — PRINCIPAL CONVENTION CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COLUMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, GUATEMALA, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, EL SALVADOR, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA, SIGNED AT BUENOS- AIRES, SEPTEMBER 15, 1921.

The undersigned, Plenipotentiaries of the countries above-named, being assembled in Congress at Buenos Aires in exercise of the authority conferred upon them by Article 23 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid and being animated by the desire to extend and perfect the Pan American postal services and to establish solidarity of action with a view to the effective representation at Universal Postal Congresses of the common interests of the American Republics in all that refers to communication by post have agreed, subject to ratification, upon the following Convention:

Article 1.

PAN-AMERICAN POSTAL UNION.

With the object of improving the working of the Postal services, the contracting countries which in accordance with the above declaration, constitute the Pan American Postal Union do agree upon the following articles:

Article 2.

FREE AND GRATUITOUS TRANSIT.

(1) The countries adhering to this Convention shall form a single postal territory.

(2) Each of the contracting countries is bound to transport freely and gratuitously through its territory, by means of the services maintained by its postal administration, or which it utilizes for the direct despatch of its own postal correspondence, all correspondence which it receives from any of the said countries destined for any other contracting country, or for any country forming part of the Universal Postal Union.

Nevertheless, the cost of land or sea conveyance of correspondence shall be chargeable to the country of origin when its subsequent transportation demands the intervention of countries other than those adhering to this Convention, and when such transportation is not gratuitous.

1 Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.
Article 3.
FREE DETERMINATION OF RATES OF POSTAGE.

(1) The determination of rates of postage is established as a fundamental principle. In the postal relations between the contracting countries, those rates of postage shall apply which each of the postal Administrations may establish, up to one-half of the equivalent in dollars of the maximum fixed by the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid.

Article 4.
SCOPE OF THE CONVENTION, AND SPECIAL AGREEMENTS.

(1) The provisions of this Convention shall apply to letters, post-cards, printed matter of all kinds, commercial papers and samples.

(2) Neighbouring or contiguous countries, and countries having a large volume of postal traffic with one another, may establish between themselves closer unions in regard to any of the services instituted by the present Convention and the other special arrangements drawn up by this Congress.

Article 5.
OBLIGATORY PREPAYMENT.

Prepayment of full postage is obligatory in the contracting countries on every class of correspondence, including sealed packages, with the sole exception of letters in their usual and ordinary form, upon which it is obligatory to prepay at least the minimum rate. On letters insufficiently prepaid only the amount of the unpaid postage may be collected.

Article 6.
FREE POSTAGE.

(1) The Contracting Parties agree to grant free postage, in their national as well as in the Pan-American service, for the correspondence of the International Office of the Pan-American Postal Union, and for that of the members of the diplomatic corps of the signatory countries. Subject to reciprocity, consuls shall enjoy free postage for official correspondence which they despatch to their respective countries, for that which they exchange among themselves, and for that which they despatch to the Government of the country to which they are accredited.

(2) The correspondence of the diplomatic corps, which is exchanged between the Foreign Ministries of the respective countries and their Embassies and Legations abroad, shall be despatched by means of diplomatic bags, which shall enjoy free postage and all the safeguards of official despatches.

(3) Further, the Contracting Parties agree to extend the privilege of free postage to one exchange copy to each addressee of newspapers and other American periodicals, when these publications are of a responsible character and deal with affairs of general interest.

Article 7.
PROHIBITIONS.

Without prejudice to the provisions of the internal legislation of each country regarding restrictions on the circulation of correspondence, it shall be prohibited to distribute obscene publications or publications endangering security and public order.
Article 8.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

The contracting countries undertake to adhere as soon as possible to the arrangements regarding special services established by the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid which are not already in operation.

They also undertake to extend to the whole American Continent the said postal services which are in operation within their own countries.

Article 9.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

1. The signatory countries shall adopt the "Postage paid" service, in furtherance of which they undertake to permit the circulation of newspapers or periodical publications, singly or in packages, except those issued for propaganda or exclusively for commercial advertising.

2. In case any Administration not adhering to this Convention— notwithstanding the special measures in force in the contracting countries in the matter of packet or other analogous privileges granted in return for free postal conveyance— shall claim under the terms of section 3 of Article 3 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid to charge any of the countries which form the Pan American Postal Union for maritime transit, the shipping companies which enjoy the said privileges shall be required to reimburse the sums which their agents may have charged for maritime transit; and in the event of refusal the Contracting Parties may, at the request of the Administration concerned, withdraw the advantages or privileges accorded.

Article 10.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

Spanish is adopted as the official language for matters relating to the postal service. Those countries whose language is not Spanish may use their own.

Article 11.

PROTECTION OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

The authorities of the contracting countries shall render, when requested to do so, such assistance as may be needed by postal officials in charge of bags and correspondence in transit through the said countries.

Article 12.

ARBITRATION.

Any conflict or disagreement that may arise in the postal relations of the American countries shall be settled by arbitration, which shall be effected in the manner established by Article 25 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid.
Arbitrators shall be appointed from among the signatory countries in consultation with the International Office of the Pan American Postal Union.

Article 13.

International Office of the Pan American Postal Union.

1. The present Central Office at Montevideo shall be retained under the name of International Office of the Pan American Postal Union. It shall be under the supervision of the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of the Republic of Uruguay and its expenses shall be borne by the postal Administrations of all the contracting countries.

2. The International Office of the Pan American Postal Union shall be responsible for:
   (a) collecting, collating, publishing and distributing data of every kind which specially concern the Pan American international postal service;
   (b) giving its opinion, at the request of the parties concerned, upon disputes arising out of the measures which govern the relations between the American postal administrations;
   (c) transmitting proposals that may be made for the amendment of the acts of the Congress;
   (d) notifying any changes that may be adopted;
   (e) publishing the results of the main provisions and regulations adopted by the Administrations in their internal services, and communicated by them for purposes of information;
   (f) compiling a Pan American Postal Directory;
   (g) preparing a Pan American Postal Map;
   (h) issuing a statistical summary of the Pan American Postal traffic, on the basis of the data which each Administration communicates to it annually;
   (i) compiling a table showing the most rapid routes for the transmission of postal correspondence from one to another of the contracting countries;
   (j) publishing the table of equivalents and the postal tariff of the national service of each of the countries concerned;
   (k) and, in general, undertaking any inquiries, or work that may be requested of it in the interests of the contracting countries.

3. The International Office of the Pan American Postal Union shall assume the duties which Article 13 of the Universal Postal Convention and Article 7 of the Regulations for its Execution assign to the International Bureau of Berne in the event of any of the contracting Administrations adhering to the agreement concerning reply-coupons.

4. The special expenses incurred in preparing the Pan American Postal Directory and the map of the postal communications of America, together with the expenses of Congresses or Conferences, shall be borne by the Administrations of the signatory countries in equal parts.

5. The general Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay shall supervise the expenditure of the International Office of the Pan American Postal Union, and shall make such advances of funds as it may need.

Article 14.

Application of Universal Postal Convention and of Domestic Legislation.

1. All matters which relate to the exchange of correspondence between the contracting countries and which are not provided for by this Convention shall be subject to the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention and of the Detailed Regulations for its Execution.
(2) Similarly, the domestic legislation of the contracting countries shall apply to any matter not governed by the one Convention or the other.

**Article 15.**

**Proposals made between Congresses.**

The present Convention may be modified in the interval between Congresses or meetings, according to the procedure established by Article 28 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid. In order to become effective, modifications of the present article, and of Articles 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 18 must obtain unanimity of votes; modifications of Articles 5, 6 and 9 must obtain two-thirds of the votes, and modifications of the remaining articles may be made by a simple majority.

**Article 16.**

**Modifications and Amendments.**

Modifications or resolutions adopted by the Contracting Parties, including those of a domestic order which affect the international service, shall take effect four months after the date of their publication by the International Office of the Pan American Postal Union.

**Article 17.**

**Meetings of Congresses.**

(1) Congresses shall meet at least every five years, reckoned from the date on which the Convention adopted at the last Congress was put into effect.
(2) Each Congress shall fix the place of meeting of the next Congress.

**Article 18.**

**Monetary Unit.**

For the purposes of this Convention the dollar is established as the monetary unit.

**Article 19.**

**Entry into Force and Duration of the Convention and Deposit of Ratifications.**

The present Convention shall come into force on January 1, 1923; but countries which have ratified it may put it into execution before that date. It shall remain in force indefinitely, each of the contracting countries reserving the right to withdraw from this Union by giving notice to the Government of the Republic of Uruguay one year in advance.

The ratifications shall be deposited at Buenos-Aires as soon as possible. Certification of the deposit of each ratification shall be made, and the Government of the Argentine Republic shall forward a copy through the diplomatic channel to the Governments of the other signatory countries.

On the date on which the present Convention comes into force the provisions of the South American Postal Convention, concluded at Montevideo on February 2, 1911, shall be abrogated.
Should one or more of the participating countries not ratify this Convention, it shall remain valid for those States that have ratified it.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries of the countries above-named have signed the present Convention, at Buenos-Aires, this fifteenth day of September, 1921.

For Argentine: AMADEO E. GRANDI, EDUARDO F. GIUFFRA.

For Bolivia: LUIS SANSUSTE.

For Brazil: LABIENNO SALGADO DOS SANTOS, JOSÉ HENRIQUE ADERNE.

For Colombia: CARLOS CUERVO MARQUEZ.

For Costa Rica: CARLOS F. VALENZUELA.

For Cuba: ALBERTO DE LA TORRE Y SOUBLETTE.

For Chile: JULIO MAQUIEIRA, JORGE SAAVEDRA AGÜERO, PEDRO A. RIVERA.

For the Dominican Republic:

For Ecuador: MANUEL BUSTAMANTE.

For Salvador: GUSTAVO A. RUIZ.

For the United States of America: O. K. DAVIS, EDWIN SANDS.

For Guatemala: ALBERTO DODERO, JULIO ALVAREZ.

For Mexico: JOSÉ V. CHAVES, JULIO JIMENEZ RUEDA.

For Nicaragua: BARTOLOMÉ M. PONS.

For Panama: ESTANISLAO S. ZEBALLOS.

For Paraguay: JUAN B. GAONA (hijo). ¹

For Peru: CÉSAR SÁNCHEZ AIZCORBE, FRANCISCO ENRIQUE MÁLAGA GRENET.

For Uruguay: DANIEL MUÑOZ, JUAN RAMPÓN.

For Venezuela: CARLOS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ.

¹ (Junr).
FINAL PROTOCOL OF THE PRINCIPAL CONVENTION.

At the moment of signing the Convention concluded by the Pan American Postal Congress, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed upon the following:

I.

The Contracting Parties reserve the right to maintain their existing postal rates with each other until the next Pan American postal Congress.

II.

Upon the establishment of the Pan American Railroad each of the contracting countries shall contribute to the cost of the service of transportation of postal correspondence by rail in proportion to the weight of the correspondence which it despatches, unless it is conveyed free of charge.

III.

The contracting countries undertake to exert their best endeavours to arrange with the shipping companies which transport their correspondence to foreign countries to reduce existing freights, and in no case to charge for the return service a sum greater than that which they receive in the country of origin.

It is understood that the above clause does not apply to cases in which, in return for packet or other privileges, the companies are obliged to transport correspondence free of charge.

IV.

Panama places on record the fact that she is not able to accept the provisions of Section 2, Article 2 of the Convention, relating to gratuitous transit.

V.

The Bolivian Administration declares that it does not consider itself obliged to establish immediately a service for letters, etc., of declared value, in accordance with the terms of Article 8 of the present Convention, and proposes for urgent reasons to postpone its introduction to a more opportune time.

VI.

Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay reserve the right to fix their rates in gold francs in conformity with the monetary unit of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid.

VII.

The Protocol remains open to those countries whose representatives have not this day signed the Principal Convention, or have signed only a certain number of the Conventions adopted by the Congress, in order that they may have an opportunity of adhering to the other Conventions which they have not signed.
VIII.

The Congress invites Spain to adhere to the present Convention and to the regulations for its execution, and accordingly requests the International Office at Montevideo to issue the necessary invitation.

For Argentine:  
AMADEO E. GRANDI,  
EDUARDO F. GIUFFRA.

For Brazil:  
LABIENNO SALGADO DOS SANTOS,  
JOSÉ HENRIQUE ADERNE.

For Costa Rica:  
CARLOS F. VALENZUELA.

For Chile:  
TULIO MAQUIEIRA,  
JORGE SAAVEDRA AGUERO,  
PEDRO A. RIVERA.

For Bolivia:  
LUIS SANSUSTE.

For Colombia:  
CARLOS CUERVO MARQUEZ.

For Cuba:  
ALBERTO DE LA TORRE Y SOUBLETTE.

For the Dominican Republic:  
MANUEL BUSTAMANTE.

For Ecuador:  
O. K. DAVIS,  
EDWIN SANDS.

For Mexico:  
JOSÉ V. CHAVES,  
JULIO JIMENEZ RUEDA.

For Panama:  
ESTANISLAO S. ZEBALLOS.

For Peru:  
CÉSAR SÁNCHEZ AIZCORBE,  
FRANCISCO ENRIQUE MÁLAGA GRENET.

For Salvador:  
GUSTAVO A. RUIZ.

For Guatemala:  
ALBERTO DODERO,  
JULIO ALVAREZ.

For Nicaragua:  
BARTOLOMÉ M. PONS.

For Paraguay:  
JUAN B. GAONA, (hijo).  

For Uruguay:  
DANIEL MUÑOZ,  
JUAN RAMPÓN.

For Venezuela:  
CARLOS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ.

1 (Junr.)

No. 767
DETAILED REGULATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PRINCIPAL CONVENTION

concluded between the United States of America, Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Salvador, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The undersigned, in the name of their respective Governments, have agreed upon the following regulations to ensure the execution of the foregoing Convention:

I.

During each statistical period, the closed mails for countries outside America shall not be placed in the bags which contain American correspondence not liable to transit charges. The bag or package containing this American correspondence shall be marked plainly and legibly: "Transit Free". If the mails for exchange offices of other continents are of small volume, several of them may be included in one or more bags addressed to the American office which effects the shipment.

II.

For the purpose of collecting the charges, referred to in Article 3 of the Convention, the Administrations shall fix a table of equivalents in the currency of their respective countries, and shall communicate it to the International Office of the Pan American Postal Union for the purposes of Section 2 (j) of Article 13 of the Principal Convention.

III.

In order to benefit by the exemption of postage provided for in Article 6 of the Convention, the exchange copies of newspapers, periodicals and reviews must be marked "exchange" beside the address in easily legible characters.

IV.

(1) The expenses of the International Office of the Pan American Postal Union are fixed at a maximum of 12,000 Uruguayan gold pesos per annum, this sum including provision of a pensions fund for the staff of the office.

(2) The Director of the International Office shall be appointed by the Government of the Republic of Uruguay, on the nomination of the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of that country. He shall receive a monthly salary of 400 Uruguayan gold pesos. The Secretary and other staff shall be appointed on the nomination of the Director of the International Office by the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay. The salary of the Secretary is fixed at 200 Uruguayan gold pesos per month.

The said employees may be dismissed at the instance of the Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay, in accordance with the procedure which obtains in the case of permanent employees of that Administration.
(3) For purposes of meeting the annual expenses of the office, the contracting countries are divided into four classes: those of the first class contributing 16 units; those of the second class 8 units; those of the third class 4 units; and those of the fourth class 2 units.

The countries in the first class are Argentine, Brazil, United States of America and Uruguay.

In the second class, Cuba and Mexico.

In the third class, Chile, Colombia and Peru.

In the fourth class, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela.

V.

The International Office of the Pan American Postal Union shall serve as intermediary for regular and general announcements exclusively concerning the Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

In particular, the said Administrations shall send to the International Office of the Pan American Union the following:

(a) The Postal Directory of their own country;

(b) The map of postal communications used in their home and foreign services;

(c) The statistics of postal traffic with other American countries;

(d) A list of the most rapid land or sea routes which are used for the transmission of their correspondénte; and

(e) the text of proposals submitted for the consideration of Universal Postal Congresses.

VI.

(1) The International Office of the Pan-American Postal Union shall issue a special circular when any Administration requests the immediate publication of any change which it may have introduced into its services; and shall also distribute free of charge to each of the Administrations of the contracting countries and to the International Bureau at Berne the documents which it publishes, furnishing each Administration with a number of copies in proportion to the units which it contributes to the expenses of the Office.

Additional copies of documents which Administrations may apply for shall be paid for by them at cost price.

(2) The International Office shall always be at the disposal of the Contracting Parties for supplying them with any special information they may require in regard to matters affecting the Pan-American postal service.

(3) It shall keep the Pan-American Postal Directory up-to-date by means of supplements or in any other manner which it deems convenient.

(4) It shall circulate requests for modifications or interpretations of the special provisions governed by the present Convention, and shall in each case notify the result.

(5) It shall prepare the business to be submitted to Pan American Congresses and Conference and undertake the necessary copying and printing, and the editing and distribution of amendments, minutes of proceedings, and other information.

(6) The Director of the Office shall attend the sessions of the Congresses and Conferences with the right to take part in the discussions, but not to vote, except when he represents one of the contracting countries.

(7) The Office shall circulate to the contracting countries the proposals which it receives, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (e) of the foregoing article, in order to facilitate mutual co-operation and uniform action by the associated nations at future Universal Postal Congresses.

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(8) The Director of the Office shall present an annual report on his work to the Administrations of the contracting countries.

(9) The official language of the Office shall be Spanish, but countries which use another language may employ it in their dealings with the Office.

VII.

(1) The General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telegraphs of the Republic of Uruguay shall draw up annually the accounts of the expenses referred to in Section 4 of Article 13 of the principal Convention, and in accordance with these accounts the contracting Administrations shall refund any advances which it has made.

(2) In the absence of any arrangement to the contrary the International Office shall effect the settlement of accounts relative to services between the contracting countries, in accordance with the general procedure established by the Universal Postal Convention.

VIII.

Insufficient prepayment of letters shall be noted at the collecting or distributing offices and the letter shall be stamped "T" on the envelope. The office of destination shall collect the unpaid postage according to the rates in force in the country of origin.

IX.

Official correspondence which the Administrations exchange between themselves shall be marked on the envelope above the address in brackets with a description of the documents enclosed (advices of delivery, postal cheques, lists of amendments, etc., etc.) so as to facilitate sorting in the office of destination.

X.

The countries of destination may use the bags of the countries of origin for return correspondance, but shall return them empty to the office of origin, if they are not used immediately.

XI.

In the interval between meetings, each Administration has the right to propose modifications of the present Regulations, following the procedure laid down in Article XLIV of the Regulations of Madrid.

In order to become effective such proposals must obtain a two-thirds vote.

XII.

The present Regulations shall take effect on the same day as the Principal Convention to which they relate, and shall have the same duration.

Done at Buenos Aires, September 15, 1921.
Temporary Article.

Pending the transformation of the International Office of South American Mails into the Pan American Office, the present Director and Secretary shall continue in office.


For Brazil: Labienni Salgado Dos Santos, José Henrique Aderne.

For Costa Rica: Carlos F. Valenzuela.

For Chile: Tulio Maquieira, Jorge Saaavedra Agüero, Pedro A. Rivera.

For Ecuador: Manuel Bustamante.

For Salvador: Gustavo A. Ruiz.

For Mexico: José V. Chaves, Julio Jimenez Rueda.

For Bolivia: Luis Sansuste.

For Colombia: Carlos Cuervo Marquez.

For Cuba: Alberto de la Torre y Soufflette.

For the Dominican Republic:


For Guatemala: Alberto Dodero, Julio Alvarez.

For Nicaragua: Bartolomé M. Pons.

For Panama: Estanislao S. Zeballos.

For Peru: Francisco Enrique Málaga Grenet, César Sánchez Aizcorbe.

For Paraguay: Juan B. Gaona, (hijo) 1.

For Uruguay: Juan Rampón, Daniel Muñoz.

For Venezuela: Carlos Cuervo Marquez.

1 (Junr.).
FINAL PROTOCOL OF THE REGULATIONS

At the moment of signing the Detailed Regulations for the Execution of the Principal Convention adopted by the Pan-American Postal Congress, the plenipotentiaries signing it have agreed upon the following:

I.

The Protocol remains open to those countries whose representatives have not this day signed the Principal Convention, or have signed only a certain number of the Conventions adopted by the Congress, so as to permit them to adhere to the other Conventions which they have not signed.

II.

The budget of the International Office of the Pan-American Postal Union shall take effect when the present Convention is ratified by the Government of the Republic of Uruguay.

III.

The stipulation of Article 10, referring to the use of bags, does not apply to the United States of America.


For Brazil: Labienno Salgado Dos Santos, Jose Henrique Aderne.

For Costa Rica: Carlos F. Valenzuela.

For Bolivia: Luis Sansuste.

For Colombia: Carlos Cuervo Marquez.

For Cuba: Alberto De La Torre Y Soulette.

For Chile: Tulio Maquieira, Jorge Saaavedra Aguero, Pedro A. Rivera.

For Ecuador: Manuel Bustamante.


For Mexico: Jose V. Chaves, Julio Jimenez Rueda.

For Panama: Estanislao S. Zeballos.
For Peru: CÉSAR SÁNCHEZ AIZCORBE, FRANCISCO HENRIQUE MÁLAGA GRENET.

For the Dominican Republic:

For Salvador: GUSTAVO A. RUIZ.

For Guatemala: ALBERTO DODERO, JULIO ALVAREZ.

For Nicaragua: BARTOLOMÉ M. PONS.

For Paraguay: JUAN B. GAONA, (hijo).\(^1\)

For Uruguay: DANIEL MUÑOZ, JUAN RAMPÓN.

For Venezuela: CARLOS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ.

In virtue of the Royal Decree dated March 17 (1924) of the present year, Spain, accepting the invitation of the Pan American Postal Congress referred to in Article VIII of the Final Protocol of the Principal Convention, adhered both to the Convention and to the Regulations for its execution on June 4 last, a notification to this effect having been made to the Government of the Argentine Republic by His Catholic Majesty's Ambassador at Buenos Ayres.

The present Convention was promulgated by Royal Decree on August 23 last, was published in the "Gaceta de Madrid" on the 28 of the same month and came into force on September 1.

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\(^1\) (Junr.).

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