

N° 3403.

BELGIQUE ET FRANCE

Convention télégraphique entre
l'Afrique-Équatoriale française et
le Congo belge, et règlement de
service y annexé. Signés à Braz-
zaville, le 4 mai 1922.

BELGIUM AND FRANCE

Telegraphic Convention between
French Equatorial Africa and the
Belgian Congo, and Detailed
Regulations annexed thereto.
Signed at Brazzaville, May 4th,
1922.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.No. 3403. — TELEGRAPHIC CONVENTION² BETWEEN FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA AND THE BELGIAN CONGO. SIGNED AT BRAZZAVILLE, MAY 4TH, 1922.

French official text communicated by the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place April 16th, 1934.

M. ALFASSA, Colonial Governor, Acting Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa, and

The Governor-General of the Belgian Congo, represented by M. E. J. JAMAR, Chief Inspector of the Postal and Telegraph Service of the Belgian Congo,

Whereas the Telegraph Convention³ of June 23rd, 1903, between France and the Congo Free State, amended by the Additional Act of April 7th, 1906, and by the Declaration⁴ of April 24th, 1918, no longer responds to the present conditions in respect of exchanges between the two colonies, have decided to conclude a new Telegraph Convention and have agreed, subject to ratification, upon the following provisions :

(1) The two Contracting Parties undertake to carry out all necessary measures to provide regular telegraphic communications between the two colonies.

(2) Nevertheless, they declare that they accept no liability in respect of the telegraph service.

(3) They reserve the right to stop the transmission of any private telegram which may appear to be dangerous to the security of the State or which may be contrary to the laws of the country or to public order or morals.

(4) Each Government also reserves the right to suspend the telegraph service for an indefinite time should it think necessary, either as a whole or on certain lines or sections and in respect of certain correspondence, provided that it immediately notifies the other Government.

(5) The Contracting Parties undertake to forward communications in transit by all the means of transmission at their disposal for the despatch of their own telegrams and to apply to international communications their normal transit or terminal charges as notified to the office of the International Telegraph Union.

(6) They hereby declare that, in respect of the order of forwarding telegrams, they will apply the rules of the St. Petersburg International Telegraph Convention⁵ and the

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² Came into force May 4th, 1922.

³ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 110, page 832.

⁴ *British and Foreign State Papers*, Vol. 111, page 655.

⁵ Vol. LVII, page 201 ; Vol. LXXVIII, page 489 ; Vol. LXXXVIII, page 347 ; and Vol. XCII, page 396, of this Series.

service regulations attached thereto, or any other agreement of a similar character which may supersede them.

(7) The provisions of the present Convention are completed by the regulations annexed hereto, the provisions of which may by joint agreement be amended at any time by the Governments of the two colonies.

(8) All traffic on the telegraph systems of Equatorial Africa and the Belgian Congo shall be subject to the rules of the extra-European regime.

Any cases for which no provision is made by the present Convention or by the regulations which complete it shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of the International Telegraph Convention and the service regulations annexed thereto.

(9) The Telegraph Convention of June 23rd, 1903, between France and the Congo Free State, the Additional Act to that Convention dated April 7th, 1906, and the Declaration of April 24th, 1918, are hereby abrogated.

(10) The present Convention shall be put into force on a date to be fixed by agreement between the two Administrations and shall remain in force for an indefinite time and until the expiry of one year from the date on which it is denounced by one of the Contracting Parties.

Done at Brazzaville, in duplicate, the fourth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

(S.) M. ALFASSA,
*Acting Governor-General
of French Equatorial Africa.*

On behalf of the Governor-General
of the Belgian Congo :

(S.) JAMAR,
*Chief Inspector of the Postal and Telegraph Service
of the Belgian Congo.*

SERVICE REGULATIONS

CONCERNING TELEGRAPH AND WIRELESS TELEGRAPH MESSAGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA AND THE BELGIAN CONGO, ANNEXED TO THE TELEGRAPH CONVENTION.

Article 1.

The charges in the inter-colonial service are fixed as follows :

- (a) Direct exchange 0.25 franc per word.
- (b) An extra charge of 0.25 franc per word for all traffic using the Loango-Libreville cable or the home country wireless telegraph in communications with local stations in French Equatorial Africa.
- (c) Inter-colonial transit : the normal transit charge, with a reduction of 50 % for official telegrams.

These charges shall be calculated in gold francs and shall apply to all official and private traffic on the systems of French Equatorial Africa and the Belgian Congo, without the intervention of another administration or company, subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) above.

They shall be doubled in the case of urgent telegrams.

Article 2.

The exchange office shall be fixed by simple agreement between the two Administrations concerned.

Article 3.

The local wireless telegraph stations in the interior of the territories of French Equatorial Africa and of the Belgian Congo shall be regarded as forming an extension of the land telegraph systems of these two Administrations.

Likewise, the coast wireless stations belonging to either Administration shall be regarded as ordinary telegraph offices in respect of messages other than those from or to ship wireless stations.

Article 4.

The two Administrations shall communicate to each other the names of the offices open in their respective territories for the official and private telegraph service.

Article 5.

Each Administration shall retain for itself all the charges which it collects for the traffic mentioned in Article 1, including any accessory charges and charges for reply-paid telegrams.

Article 6.

The two Administrations shall render to each other accounts for the following :

(1) Charges connected with inter-colonial telegrams as provided under Article 1, sections (b) and (c), of the present Regulations ;

(2) Transit and terminal charges for international telegrams ;

(3) Coast and ship charges for wireless messages. For this purpose, two separate accounts shall be drawn up monthly by the Belgian Congo.

One for telegrams exchanged between the offices of the Belgian Congo and those of the Middle Congo, of Oubangi-Chari and of Tchad.

The other for telegrams exchanged between the offices of the Belgian Congo and those of Gaboon.

These accounts shall be made out in a single copy and forwarded for audit, the former to the head of the Postal and Telegraph Service at Brazzaville and the latter to the head of the Postal and Telegraph Service at Libreville.

Article 7.

Official telegrams from French Equatorial Africa handed in at or passed for forwarding to a telegraph office of the Belgian Congo shall be deemed to be transit telegrams.

The same shall apply to Belgian Congo official telegrams handed in at or passed for forwarding to a telegraph office of French Equatorial Africa.

Article 8.

Rebates on inter-colonial service transit telegrams shall be fixed according to the number of telegrams, each telegram being regarded as containing the average number of words, as calculated according to statistics compiled by both Parties. These statistics shall be compiled for the month of February of each year.

Article 9.

Accounts shall be settled once every six months. The balance resulting from the settlement of accounts shall be paid by the debtor office to the creditor office by means of a cheque drawn in the currency of the creditor country, that is to say :

(1) In Congo francs on Kinshasa, to the name of the Chief Cashier of the Postal Service, or in Belgian francs on Brussels, to the name of the Ministry of the Colonies, if the balance is in favour of the Belgian Congo ;

(2) In French francs on Brazzaville, to the name of the Chief Cashier of the Postal Service, or on Paris, to the name of the Central Paying Cashier, if the balance is in favour of French Equatorial Africa.

Article 10.

The hours when the wireless stations belonging to the respective Administrations are in operation shall be fixed in such a way as not to interfere with communications and to ensure the reasonable despatch of the correspondence of various kinds.

Done at Brazzaville, in duplicate, the fourth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

(S.) M. ALFASSA,
*Acting Governor-General
of French Equatorial Africa.*

On behalf of the Governor-General
of the Belgian Congo :

(S.) JAMAR,
*Chief Inspector of the Postal and Telegraph Service
of the Belgian Congo.*