

N° 3865.

**TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE ET
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOVIÉTIQUES SOCIALISTES**

*Arrangement concernant l'échange
des colis postaux. Signé à Mos-
cou, le 8 juin 1935.*

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA
AND UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

*Agreement regarding the Exchange
of Parcels by Parcel Post. Signed
at Moscow, June 8th, 1935.*

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3865. — AGREEMENT ² BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF PARCELS BY PARCEL POST. SIGNED AT MOSCOW, JUNE 8TH, 1935.

French official text communicated by the Chargé d'Affaires a. i. of the Permanent Delegation of the Czechoslovak Republic to the League of Nations. The registration of this Agreement took place April 1st, 1936.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, of the one part, and THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, of the other part, being desirous to co-operate in consolidating and developing friendly relations and economic intercourse between their two countries, have decided to conclude an Agreement regarding the exchange of postal parcels, whether despatched from those countries or passing through them in transit, and have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC :

Dr. Edouard BENEŠ, Minister for Foreign Affairs ;

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS :

Monsieur Maxime LITVINOFF, Member of the Central Executive Committee, People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs.

The above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries, after exchanging their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article I.

1. A regular postal service for ordinary and insured postal parcels shall be established between the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

2. This service shall be effected : (a) by land, *i. e.*, in transit through intermediate countries ; (b) by air over the lines connecting the airports of the Contracting Parties.

The routes for the transport of postal parcels and the offices where they shall be exchanged shall be designated by the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties, who shall notify one another thereof.

The provisions of the present Agreement shall apply, not only to postal parcels exchanged direct between the Contracting Parties, but also to postal parcels sent in accordance with Article 2 hereunder in transit through the contracting countries.

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 The exchange of ratifications took place at Prague, January 31st, 1936.

Article 2.

Each Contracting Party shall guarantee to the other Party freedom of transit through its territory by land, sea or air for postal parcels as follows : the Czechoslovak Republic grants the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics transit through its territory for postal parcels consigned to and despatched from countries with which it maintains a parcel post service ; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics grants freedom of transit through its territory for postal parcels consigned to and despatched from countries with the Governments of which it has concluded an agreement concerning a parcel post service.

Each Contracting Party shall only grant the other Party freedom of transit by air across its territory for parcels sent to another country if it maintains a direct air service for postal parcels with that country.

Article 3.

Each Contracting Party may, in accordance with its internal regulations, introduce restrictions regarding the contents of postal parcels both in the direct and in the transit service. Such restrictions shall be notified in due course by each Contracting Party to the other.

Article 4.

1. In the direct service between the two Contracting Parties postal parcels not exceeding 10 kg. in weight shall be accepted ; the weight of postal parcels in transit shall not exceed 5 kg.

2. The dimensions of the parcels in the direct service shall not exceed 150 cm. in one dimension, the length plus the maximum girth in a direction other than lengthwise not exceeding 300 cm.

3. The insured value shall not exceed the actual value of the contents of the parcel and must be expressed in the currency of the country of origin. The insured amount must, furthermore, be converted by the sender or by the office of origin into francs at the actual rate of exchange. The insured value shall not exceed 1,000 francs.

4. The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties may, by mutual agreement, modify the limits of weight, dimensions and insured value of the parcels laid down in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article.

5. As regards the handing in and delivery of postal parcels and the disposal of articles the importation of which is prohibited or subject to restrictions, the arrangements and regulations in force in the contracting countries shall be applied except where they are inconsistent with the present Agreement.

6. The following shall not be accepted for despatch from one of the contracting countries to the other :

(a) Parcels which exceed the dimensions laid down in paragraph 2 of this Article ;

(b) Parcels insufficiently packed ;

(c) Urgent parcels ;

(d) Parcels for delivery free of charge and cash-on-delivery parcels.

The Contracting Parties may, however, subsequently agree to include the above-mentioned or other parcels referred to in (a), (c) and (d) of this Article.

Article 5.

Each contracting country shall be bound to accept in transit through its own territory, in accordance with Article 2, only postal parcels which fulfil the conditions specified in the previous

Article, provided other countries concerned do not apply more extensive restrictions to postal parcels exchanged with the Contracting Parties.

Article 6.

The Contracting Parties reserve the right of their Postal Administrations to suspend, in the event of exceptional circumstances, temporarily and either completely or partially, the exchange of postal parcels in either direction. The Postal Administration responsible for such suspension is bound to notify the other Administration immediately. If the measure is introduced at short notice, the Postal Administration affected shall at once be informed by telegram.

These provisions shall also apply to postal parcels in transit.

Article 7.

1. Postal parcels must be fully prepaid by the sender on consignment.
2. The postage is made up of sums accruing to each Postal Administration taking part in the conveyance by land or sea.
3. The postage on postal parcels exchanged direct between the Contracting Parties by land shall be calculated as follows :

	Share of Czechoslovak Republic		Share of U.S.S.R.	
	Fr.	ct.	Fr.	ct.
(a) Postal parcels sent from the Czechoslovak Republic to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and <i>vice versa</i> , and forwarded through the European part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :				
Up to 1 kg.	—	30	2	—
From 1 to 5 kg.	—	50	2	—
From 5 to 10 kg.	1	—	4	—
(b) Postal parcels sent from the Czechoslovak Republic to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and <i>vice versa</i> , and forwarded through both parts (European and Asiatic) of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :				
Up to 1 kg.	—	30	4	—
From 1 to 5 kg.	—	50	4	—
From 5 to 10 kg.	1	—	8	—

4. In addition to the charges referred to in the preceding paragraph, each Contracting Party shall have the right to collect on its behalf a postage fee not exceeding 50 centimes for each parcel sent by sea.

5. In addition to the charges specified in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article, postal parcels conveyed by air shall pay an air mail fee consisting of the rates accruing to the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties taking part in their conveyance by air. This air mail fee shall be calculated from Table CP 19 of the International Provisions regarding the Conveyance of Postal Parcels by Air, which lay down the conditions on which the Contracting Parties accept air mail parcels addressed to their own countries and to countries for which they may serve as intermediaries.

6. The insurance fee in respect of insured postal parcels exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall not exceed 50 centimes on every 300 francs or fraction of 300 francs of insured value ; 5 centimes of the amount shall be credited to the country of destination.

7. The Postal Administration of the country in which the parcel was handed in may collect on its own behalf from the senders of insured parcels a despatch fee not exceeding 50 centimes per parcel.

Article 8.

The rate for the transit of postal parcels by land accruing to the Czechoslovak Republic shall be fixed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Parcel Post Agreement of the Universal Postal Union, namely :

For parcels up to the weight of 1 kg.	30 centimes
» » from 1 to 5 kg.	50 »
» » » 5 to 10 kg.	100 »

The fee accruing to the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the transit of postal parcels by land up to the weight of 5 kg. is fixed as follows :

- (a) 4 francs when sent through one part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (European or Asiatic) ;
- (b) 8 francs when sent through both parts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (European and Asiatic) via the Trans-Siberian Railway, and 6 francs for parcels sent through both parts of the Union (European and Asiatic) via Central Asia.

The rate for sea transit of parcels is 50 centimes per packet.

Article 9.

1. Parcels are delivered to the addressees as quickly as possible and in accordance with the conditions in force in the country of destination.

2. The Postal Administration of the country of destination is authorised to collect from the addressees in respect of Customs clearance and of delivery at the addressee's residence a fee not exceeding 50 centimes per parcel.

Nevertheless, the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall have the right to modify by common agreement the amount of the fee fixed in this clause.

3. When parcels are not delivered at the addressee's residence, the addressee must be advised without delay of their arrival. A special charge, which may not exceed that for an ordinary letter in the inland service, may be collected for the delivery of such an advice.

Article 10.

The country of destination is authorised to collect a warehousing charge fixed by its legislation for parcels which are addressed "poste restante" or which are not claimed within the prescribed periods.

This charge may in no case exceed 5 francs.

Article 11.

The sender of a parcel must indicate on the back of the despatch note the manner in which it is to be disposed of if it proves to be undeliverable.

The following instructions only are admitted :

- (a) That the parcel be returned immediately ;
- (b) That the parcel be redirected to the same addressee in another locality ;
- (c) That the parcel be delivered to another addressee ; or
- (d) That the parcel be considered as left at the disposal of the Postal Administration of the country of destination.

Article 12.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties may refuse to allow messages to be written on the coupons of the despatch notes.

Article 13.

As regards the period for the retention of parcels which, for any reason whatsoever, could not be delivered or redirected, the internal regulations in force in the country of destination shall apply. On the expiration of this period, they shall be returned to the country of origin without any preliminary advice of non-delivery being sent.

Nevertheless, the parcel shall be returned immediately if the sender has asked for its return by means of a note written on the back of the despatch note and on the parcel (see Article 11), in a language known in the country of destination.

When parcels are returned the following charges shall be collected from the sender : return postage and any warehousing, redirection, insurance and Customs clearance charges payable.

Article 14.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties agree to urge the services concerned in their respective countries to have Customs and other non-postal charges cancelled on parcels which are returned to the country of origin, abandoned by the sender, or destroyed.

The same applies to cases of loss, abstraction or damage which take place in their service.

Article 15.

Of the insurance fee for insured parcels conveyed in transit through the territories of the Contracting Parties, the transit country shall receive the amount of 5 centimes per 300 francs of the insured value for transit by land and 10 centimes for transit by sea.

Article 16.

If a postal parcel conveyed in transit is so seriously damaged that it cannot be sent further without repacking, the intermediate Postal Administration shall be entitled to debit the next Postal Administration with the cost of repacking, which shall be paid by the addressee and shall not exceed 50 centimes. If the parcel is returned to the country of origin, this charge shall be payable by the sender.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties may also apply the provisions of this Article to direct exchanges between their two countries.

Article 17.

1. The direct conveyance and the conveyance in transit of parcels and of the documents relating thereto by land and by sea shall be effected "à découvert" and not in closed mails.

2. The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties reserve the right to modify by common agreement the method of forwarding both postal parcels and the documents relating thereto.

Article 18.

Each parcel shall be accompanied by a despatch note and Customs declarations in French. A copy of the declaration shall be kept by the country of transit. The number of declarations shall be agreed upon by the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

Article 19.

Postal parcels containing articles the importation or conveyance in transit of which is forbidden may not be confiscated, provided the Customs declarations give a correct description of their contents, but shall be returned to the country of origin.

Article 20.

1. If the contents of a parcel have been completely or partially lost, damaged or abstracted during conveyance, the sender shall be entitled to compensation up to the amount of the loss, damage or theft, provided always that the damage is not due to the fault or negligence of the sender or to the nature of the articles sent.

Such compensation shall be paid in the case of ordinary parcels within the limits laid down in the International Parcel Post Agreement ; in the case of insured parcels, such compensation shall not exceed the insured value.

2. The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for the loss of a parcel or for the abstraction of or damage to its contents, if this is due to circumstances beyond their control.

3. Compensation shall be paid in the country of despatch in the currency of that country at the equivalent rates provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the present Agreement.

4. When compensation is paid by the Postal Administration of a country on behalf of another Administration, the latter shall be bound to refund the amount paid in the currency of the debtor Administration not later than two months from the date at which it was notified of the payment.

Article 21.

1. The accounts for the direct exchange of postal parcels shall be made up monthly in accordance with the Detailed Regulations for the Execution of the Parcel Post Agreement. The accounts shall be sent, with all the relevant documents relating thereto, to the Postal Administration of the other Contracting Party within one month, if possible, and not later than six weeks after the month to which the accounts relate. The said accounts must be checked and returned within one month of the date on which they are received.

2. The amounts of the monthly accounts, drawn up and approved by the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties, must be included by the creditor Administration in the general quarterly account, the balance of which shall be payable within one month of the date on which the account is received.

If the balance is not paid within the period indicated above, the sums due shall bear interest at the rate of 5% per annum from the expiry of the said period.

This payment must be made within two months at the most from the date referred to above.

3. The balance remaining after the above-mentioned accounts have been closed shall be paid to the creditor Postal Administration through the banks in the capital of the creditor country in the currency of the latter or, after mutual agreement, in the currency of another country.

4. Any expenses in connection with payment shall be borne by the debtor Administration.

Article 22.

The franc taken as the monetary unit in the present Agreement is the gold franc referred to in Article 29 of the Universal Postal Convention.

Article 23.

The reciprocal exchange of postal parcels, whether ordinary or insured, between the Contracting Parties and in transit through their territories, shall be effected, as regards anything not provided for in the present Agreement and not inconsistent with its clauses, in accordance with the provisions of the International Parcel Post Agreement and of the Final Protocol and Detailed Regulations for the execution of that Agreement.

Article 24.

The present Agreement shall be ratified. The exchange of the instruments of ratification shall take place at Prague as soon as possible.

The provisions of the present Agreement shall come into force one month after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Article 25.

The present Agreement is concluded for an indeterminate period. Nevertheless, either of the Contracting Parties has the right to denounce it subject to twelve months' notice.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Moscow, this 8th day of June, 1935.

(L. S.) Dr. Edvard BENEŠ.

(L. S.) Maxime LITVINOFF.