

N° 1881.

**ITALIE
ET ROYAUME DES SERBES,
CROATES ET SLOVÈNES**

Accords sur les services télégraphiques, téléphoniques et des postes (annexes A et B). Signés à Belgrade le 12 août 1924.

**ITALY AND
KINGDOM OF THE SERBS,
CROATS AND SLOVENES**

Agreements regarding the Telegraphic, Telephonic and Postal Services (Annexes A and B). Signed at Belgrade, August 12, 1924.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 1881. — AGREEMENTS² BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF ITALY AND THE KINGDOM OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES REGARDING THE TELEGRAPHIC, TELEPHONIC AND POSTAL SERVICES (ANNEXES A AND B). SIGNED AT BELGRADE AUGUST 12, 1924.

French official text communicated by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of these Agreements took place December 19, 1928.

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY and HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES, being desirous of encouraging telegraphic, telephonic and postal communication between their States, have resolved to conclude agreements for this purpose and have therefore appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY :

His Excellency General Alessandro BODRERO, Grand Cross of the Order of the Crown of Italy, Officer of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sava and Commander of the White Eagle with Swords, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of His Majesty the King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes ;

M. Lodovico LUCIOLLI, Grand Cross of the Orders of Saints Maurice and Lazarus and of the Crown of Italy, Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sava, Councillor of State ; and

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES :

His Excellency M. Peter N. MARKOVITCH, Knight of the Order of the White Eagle, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs ;

M. Sava KOUKITCH, Grand Officer of the Order of St. Sava and Grand Officer of the Order of the Crown of Italy, former Director-General of Customs ;

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article I.

The provisions contained in the Agreements annexed hereto shall have effect between the High Contracting Parties in so far as concerns the telegraphic and telephonic services (Annex A) and the postal services (Annex B).

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 Rome, November 14, 1928.

The Above agreements shall be ratified, together or separately, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Belgrade as soon as possible.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries have signed the above Agreements at the same time as the present act, to which they have affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Belgrade on August 12, 1924.

(L. S.) (Signed) BODRERO. (L. S.) (Signed) Pet. N. MARKOVITCH.
 (L. S.) (Signed) L. LUCIOLLI. (L. S.) (Signed) S. R. KOUKITCH.

ANNEX A.

AGREEMENT

REGARDING TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEPHONIC SERVICES.

Article 1.

Telegraphic correspondence and telephone calls between the offices of the High Contracting Parties shall, unless otherwise provided in the present Agreement, be governed by the regulations of the International Telegraphic Convention and the Service Regulations annexed thereto which are at present in force.

Article 2.

1. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the continuous and regular working of the telegraphic and telephonic communications already in existence between the two countries and of the new communications provided for in the following Articles.

2. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to establish the following telegraphic communications :

(a) Immediately, direct communication, by means of a Hughes instrument, between Fiume and Zagreb ; and another line between Fiume and Senj by means of a Morse code instrument.

(b) By January 1st, 1925, at latest, communication between Zara, on the one hand, Preko, Pag and Rab, on the other, with intermediate offices.

(c) As soon as possible, direct telegraphic communication between Fiume and Beograd.

The telegraphic Administrations of the contracting countries shall later provide for the establishment of further lines according to traffic requirements.

Telegrams exchanged between Fiume and all offices in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and telegrams exchanged between Zara and other telegraph offices in the territory of Zara, on the one hand, and the offices of Preko, Uljan, Iz, Sale, Zdrelac, Pasma, Tkon, Beograd, Filip Jakov, Zemunik, Benkovac, Smilic, Novigrad, Posedarje, Nin, Privlaka, Pag, Novalja and Rab, on the other hand, shall be charged for at the inland rates of the country from which the telegrams are despatched. The charges shall be retained by the office which collects them.

3. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to ensure regularity and continuity of service on the telegraph lines in its territory connecting Trieste with Prague and Trieste with Budapest.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to provide as soon possible, whenever traffic requires it, the necessary wires to establish direct telegraphic communication between Fiume and Budapest, between Italy and Roumania and between Italy and Bulgaria.

4. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to despatch *via* Italy all telegraphic correspondence, when the route is not indicated, originating in or in transit through the said Kingdom and addressed to the Americas and other extra-European countries, whenever the rates by the Italian route (land line, cable or wireless) are not higher than the rates of the least expensive routes to each country, and whenever the Italian route is as rapid as the others.

5. The Government of the Kingdom of Italy undertakes, for so long as there is no Italian submarine telegraphic cable between Italy and Greece, to forward by direct telegraph wires connecting the two contracting countries, all telegraphic correspondence, when the route is not indicated, originating in or in transit through the said Kingdom and addressed to Bulgaria, Greece or Roumania, whenever the rates *via* the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes are not higher than those of the least expensive routes to each country and whenever the route in question is as rapid as the others.

Article 3.

1. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to maintain telephonic communication between Trieste and Zara by means of the Lussino-Pag cable and by a land line through the territory of the said Kingdom. In order to facilitate telephone calls the Pag office shall always be included in this line. Furthermore, the said Government reserves the right to employ the section of line on its territory for telephone calls between Pag and any offices in the same Kingdom that may be included in that section, without impeding the service between Trieste and Zara.

The telephonic Administrations of the contracting countries shall be authorised to fix direct between themselves the hours of service at the said offices.

2. For calls between Trieste and Zara, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes shall be entitled to a charge of forty centimes for each ordinary call of three minutes.

3. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes also undertakes to ensure the regular exchange of telephone calls between Trieste, on the one hand, and Graz, Vienna and other Austrian offices, on the other hand, and between Trieste and Prague, by three telephone circuits, which shall also serve for the exchange of telephone calls between offices in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, on the one hand, and Austrian and Prague offices, on the other.

The telephonic Administrations of the two contracting countries shall fix by agreement the charges and hours of service of the different offices according to traffic requirements.

4. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to establish as soon as possible and at the latest by January 1, 1925, a telephonic service between Venice, Udine, Gorizia and Trieste, on the one hand, and Ljubljana, Zagreb and Beograd, on the other hand, employing the circuits mentioned in paragraph 3 of the present Article and others which may subsequently be established.

5. The Government of the Kingdom of Italy undertakes to adopt the necessary measures as soon as possible to establish a telephonic service between Milan, on the one hand, Ljubljana, Zagreb and Belgrade, on the other.

6. For ordinary calls of three minutes the rate shall be fixed in gold francs as follows :

	Venice Ljubljana	Venice Zagreb	Venice Beograd	Udine Ljubljana	Udine Zagreb
Italy	1.80	1.80	1.80	1.—	1.—
Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes . .	0.70	1.50	2.—	0.70	1.50
Total gold frs.	2.50	3.30	3.80	1.70	2.50

	Udine Belgrade	Gorizia Trieste Ljubljana	Gorizia Trieste Zagreb	Gorizia Trieste Belgrade	Trieste Pag
Italy	1.—	0.70	0.70	0.70	1.80
Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes	2.—	0.70	1.50	2.—	0.20
Total gold frs..	3.—	1.40	2.20	2.70	2.—

The above-mentioned rates for communication with Trieste apply both by the direct line and *via* Fiume.

7. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to establish as soon as possible, and not later than January 1, 1925, a telephonic service between Fiume and :

- (a) Susak, Bakar, Kraljevica ;
- (b) Crkvenica, Delnice, Novi, Ogulin, Senj ;
- (c) Gospic, Karlotag, Jablanac, Otocac, Sveti Juraj ;
- (d) Ljubljana, Zagreb and Beograd.

Calls with Ljubljana shall be *via* Trieste until the establishment of direct telephonic communication between Fiume and Ljubljana is completed.

For each ordinary call of three minutes between Fiume and the offices mentioned under (a) the total charge shall be fixed at twenty gold centimes. This charge shall be retained by the office which collects it.

For each ordinary call of three minutes between Fiume and the offices mentioned under (b), (c) and (d), the rates shall be fixed as follows :

Between Fiume and

	Offices mentioned under (b)	Offices mentioned under (c) and Ljubljana	Zagreb	Belgrade
Italy	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes	0.40	0.70	1.20	1.60
Total gold frs..	0.60	0.90	1.40	1.80

8. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties also undertake to establish as soon as possible, and not later than January 1, 1925, a telephonic service between Zara, on the one hand, and Sibenik and Split, on the other hand, and, as soon as possible, between Zara, on the one hand, and Pag, Rab and Uljan, on the other.

For each ordinary call of three minutes between Zara and Sibenik and between Zara and Split the rate shall be fixed as follows :

	Zara-Sibenik	Zara-Split
Italy	0.20	0.20
Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes	0.60	0.80
Total gold frs..	0.80	1.—

For each ordinary call of three minutes between Zara and the offices at Pag, Rab and Uljan the total charge shall be fixed at twenty gold centimes. This charge shall be retained by the office which collects it.

9. In the cases mentioned in paragraphs 2, 6, 7 and 8, the rates shall be tripled for urgent calls.

For ordinary press calls during the night (from 9 p. m. to 8 a. m. Central European time), the charge shall be reduced by 40 %. For subscribers the reduction for press calls during the night shall amount to 50 %.

10. The communications mentioned in paragraphs 2, 6, 7 and 8 shall also include *avis d'appel* for the purpose of summoning a correspondent to a telephone box, the charge for such being half the rate for an ordinary call of three minutes.

11. For calls which may subsequently be exchanged between other towns in Italy and in the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes the charge shall be fixed for each case.

12. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to establish as soon as possible, and not later than January 1st, 1925, the wires necessary for direct telephonic communication between Trieste and Budapest *via* Fiume-Gyekenyes. The rates for calls on this line shall be fixed by agreement between the telegraphic Administrations of the High Contracting Parties.

13. Telephone charges shall figure in the accounts of each Administrations of the contracting countries separately from telegraph charges.

Article 4.

1. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to maintain in use between offices to be designated by the telegraphic Administrations of the two countries, the following telegraphic and telephonic submarine cables :

Pola-Split ;
Lussino-Pag (telephone cable with four conductors) ;
Lussino-Silba ;
Zara-Preko (Island of Uljan) ;
Lagosta-Korcula ;
Cherso-Krk (two cables) ;

which connect Italian territory with the territory of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

In particular, in conformity with Article 3, the Lussino-Pag cable shall continue to be used for telephonic communication between Trieste and Zara over the territory of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

2. In the case of damage or interruption to the said cables and until a special agreement has been concluded between the telegraphic Administrations of the two countries concerned, the Italian telegraphic Administration shall see that the the necessary repairs are carried out as soon as possible, but all expenses in connection therewith shall be shared equally between the two Governments concerned.

3. As regards the Pola-Sibenik and Cazza-Korcula cables, the telegraphic Administrations of the two contracting countries shall arrange as soon as possible to raise them with a view to their use ; the Pola-Sibenik cable to be used for communication between Split and the Italian coast and the Cazza-Korcula cable to be used equally by each Administration according to service requirements.

4. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes recognises the Italian Government as the owner of the second telegraphic cable between Zara and Preko (Island of Uljan), which was laid by the Italian Naval Engineering Service. The Italian Government reserves the right to raise this cable

Article 5.

1. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to reduce their terminal rates by 75 % for press telegrams despatched from or addressed to one of the two contracting countries by political and commercial news-agencies specially designated, one by each Government.

2. The Government of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to grant a reduction of 60 % and 75 % respectively on its transit rate for press telegrams from Italy to Czechoslovakia and *vice versa*, and from Italy to Hungary and *vice versa*, despatched or addressed by the Governments of Italy, Czechoslovakia and Hungary respectively to political and commercial news-agencies specially designated, one by each country.

3. The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to grant a reduction of 60 % to 75 % on their transit rates for press telegrams exchanged :

(a) Between Italy, on the one hand, and European countries beyond the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, on the other hand ;

(b) Between the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, on the one hand, and European countries beyond Italy, on the other hand, whenever the same reduction is granted on their terminal rate by the countries of origin and destination.

The reduction in question shall only apply to press telegrams despatched or addressed to political and commercial news-agencies specially designated, one by each of the countries of origin or destination of the telegrams.

4. The provisions of the present Article shall be applied as from January 1st, 1925.

Article 6.

The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to grant reciprocally free transit for all their internal telegraphic correspondence which, owing to interruption, cannot be forwarded by their lines. The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes undertakes to grant free transit for telegrams from and to Lagosta, *via* Smokvice, originating in, addressed to, or in transit through Italy, until Lagosta can be connected with the Italian telegraphic system.

Article 7.

1. The reimbursement of all charges for telegrams originating in Italy and addressed to the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and *vice versa* shall be made by the Administration directing the office of origin, and no claims shall be communicated from one office to another unless an enquiry is in exceptional cases deemed necessary in the interests of the telegraphic service.

Charges shall be refunded by the Administration of origin of the telegrams at the request of the sender, who must submit :

(a) In the case of a telegram that has not been received, a written declaration by the office of destination confirming the fact that the telegram in question was not delivered ;

(b) In the case of a telegram delayed or altered or mutilated, a copy of the telegram received.

2. The charges for reply-paid vouchers not used by the addressee or left in the possession of the office of destination, relating to reply-paid telegrams sent from or to the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and *vice versa*, shall be refunded to the senders of telegrams of enquiry by and at the expense of the Administration of origin of these telegrams.

In order to obtain the reimbursement of reply vouchers, the senders must submit to the office or Administration of origin :

(a) The reply voucher issued to the addressee, if the latter has not made use of it ;

(b) A declaration by the office of destination showing that the voucher remained in its possession, when the telegram of enquiry was not delivered or when the reply-paid voucher was refused by the addressee.

The charges on reply-paid telegrams sent from Italy to the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes and *vice versa* shall not be included in the telegraph accounts.

3. The provisions of the present Article shall be applied as from January 1, 1925.

Article 8.

The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to apply, in the payment of balances resulting from the telegraph and telephone accounts, the provisions of Article 1 of the Final Protocol of the Detailed Regulations of the principal Postal Convention of Madrid of 1920, regarding the dollar of the United States of America as a currency at gold par and fixing the equivalent of the gold franc at 0.192975 of a dollar.

Article 9.

The present Agreement shall be put into effect fifteen days after the exchange of ratifications, and shall remain in force for as long it is not at variance with any of the provisions in force of the International Telegraphic Convention and of the Detailed Regulations annexed thereto, or until the expiry of three months after being denounced by either of the High Contracting Parties.

The telegraphic Administrations of the High Contracting Parties, however, shall be permitted at any time and by agreement to modify the telegraphic and telephonic rates fixed by the present Agreement.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement.

Done at Belgrade on August 12, 1924.

(Signed) BODRERO.

(Signed) L. LUCIOLLI.

(Signed) Pet. N. MARKOVITCH.

(Signed) S. R. KOUKITCH.

ANNEX B.

AGREEMENT

REGARDING POSTAL SERVICES.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 1.

The Governments of the High Contracting Parties undertake to adopt all the necessary measures to facilitate the improvement of the postal exchange of letters, parcels and insured letters originating in and addressed to the two countries.

The same Governments also undertake to facilitate the re-establishment as soon as possible of the services of insured boxes, postal money orders, recovery orders and cash on delivery packets.

For this purpose the Administrations concerned shall agree direct between themselves with regard to the conditions and the date for the establishment of these services.

Article 2.

As regards all matters not covered by the present Agreement, postal relations between the two countries shall be regulated by the provisions in force of the Conventions, Agreements and Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Union.

Article 3.

Exchange offices, authorised to hand over to each other closed mails or mails *à découvert* shall be designated by agreement between the Administrations of the contracting States, which shall also agree to fix all other details of their exchange service.

If one of the High Contracting Parties, in agreement with the other Party, maintains a postal conveyance service by rail or public route beyond the frontiers of its territory, the other Party must share in the cost of conveyance.

In order to facilitate this exchange between the two countries, the postal Administrations of the contracting States shall, by agreement, establish upon trains proceeding from one country to the other on existing lines, travelling services with a national staff, which may travel beyond the frontier as far as the nearest station in the territory of the other State in which there is a post office for the delivery and receipt of mail (correspondence and postal parcels).

Each administration shall recognise in its territory the service papers of the travelling staff of the other Administration as travel and identity documents valid within the frontier district. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, the creation and abolition of mail services shall be reserved for the central Administrations.

Article 4.

Any reduction of charges and fees laid down in the present Agreement shall be reciprocal. The postal Administrations of the contracting States shall inform each other directly whenever they change the equivalents adopted in regard to the postal services for letters, parcels and insured mail.

Article 5.

Service correspondence must be in French.

LETTER POST.

Article 6.

The charges for the conveyance of letters for the first 20 grammes, and of postcards, between the contracting States shall be fixed at 75 % of the respective international rates, with power to round off rates, when fixing them in the currency of each country, to a maximum of 80 % and a minimum of 70 %.

Article 7.

The rates for printed periodicals despatched direct between the two countries by publishers or authorised booksellers shall be fixed at not more than 25 % of the international rates for printed matter.

Article 8.

The rates for packets of books despatched direct between the two countries by publishers or booksellers shall be fixed at not more than 75 % of the international rates for printed matter. The maximum weight of such consignments shall be fixed at 3 kg. irrespective of the number of volumes.

Article 9.

Each Administration shall have the right to apply its inland rates to the consignments mentioned in Articles 7 and 8, should these rates exceed the maximum specified in those Articles.

PARCELS.

Article 10.

In the mutual relations between Italy and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, parcels shall be accepted up to 10 kg. in weight. Each parcel must be accompanied by a separate despatch note.

Customs declarations must be in French.

The list of Italian offices taking part in the parcels service between 5 and 10 kg. shall be duly communicated.

Article 11.

The charges by weight of parcels exchanged between the countries concerned shall be fixed by special agreements.

Article 12.

The mutual transit of parcels insured or not, and weighing up to 10 kilogrammes, shall be guaranteed when addressed to countries which accept parcels of the kind in question.

The Administrations of the two High Contracting Parties shall notify each other direct, by means of a special schedule, of the countries for which they are able to serve as intermediaries in the conveyance of parcels, and shall indicate therein the amount of the allowances.

Article 13.

As regards the delivery, the accomplishment of Customs formalities, the warehousing, etc. of parcels mutually exchanged, each of the two States shall collect from the addressee the charges fixed by its regulations.

Article 14.

The redirection of parcels in the country of destination shall be subject to the redirection charge based upon the inland regulations.

These charges, as also those referred to in Article 13, shall not be suppressed in the event of the redirection or return of parcels to another country.

Article 15.

Parcels shall be forwarded *à découvert* between exchange offices designated by the Administrations concerned ; nevertheless, small parcels may be enclosed in bags or baskets.

The postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties shall, as soon as possible after completing the preparations necessary for the approval of premises, inform each other of the places where parcels may be mutually delivered.

RESPONSIBILITY.

Article 16.

No responsibility shall be accepted in cases of *force majeure*.

In the event of the loss of a registered packet, the sender shall be entitled to compensation amounting to 50 gold francs calculated on the basis of the equivalent adopted by each of the contracting States for charges on letters at the time of posting.

The maximum compensation granted by either service in the case of the loss, abstraction or damage of an uninsured parcel may not exceed 25 gold francs for a parcel not exceeding 5 kilogrammes in weight, or 40 gold francs for a parcel not exceeding 10 kilogrammes in weight, the franc being calculated on the basis of the equivalent adopted for the charge by each of the contracting States at the time of posting.

Compensation for insured letters, boxes and parcels may not exceed the declared value expressed in the currency of the country of origin.

FINAL PROVISIONS.

Article 17.

The present Agreement shall enter into force one month after the exchange of ratifications.

It shall remain in force for an indefinite period. Nevertheless, either of the High Contracting Parties shall have the right to denounce it at any time, and in this case it shall cease to have effect two months after the date of denunciation.

The denunciation may relate to one or more of the services and, if denounced as regards some only, the arrangement shall remain in force for the other services.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement.

Done at Belgrade, on August 12, 1924.

(Signed) BODRERO.

(Signed) L. LUCIOLLI.

(Signed) Pet. N. MARKOVITCH.

(Signed) S. R. KOUKITCH.