

N° 3023.

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE,
RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE,
BOLIVIE,
BRÉSIL, COLOMBIE, etc.

Convention d'union postale, avec
protocole final, règlement d'exé-
cution et dispositions relatives au
transport de la correspondance
par voie aérienne. Signés à
Madrid, le 10 novembre 1931.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC,
BOLIVIA,
BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, etc.

Postal Union Convention, with Final
Protocol, Detailed Regulations
and Provisions relating to the
Conveyance of Letter Post by
Air. Signed at Madrid, November
10, 1931.

TEXTE ESPAGNOL. — SPANISH TEXT.

N^o 3023. — CONVENIO ¹ DE LA UNIÓN POSTAL CELEBRADO ENTRE : ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRASIL, CANADÁ, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CHILE, DOMINICANA, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ESPAÑA, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA, GUATEMALA, HAITÍ, HONDURAS, MÉXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMÁ, PARAGUAY, PERÚ, URUGUAY Y VENEZUELA. FIRMADO EN MADRID, EL 10 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1931.

Texte officiel espagnol, communiqué par le chargé d'Affaires d'Espagne à Berne. L'enregistrement de cette convention a eu lieu le 29 août 1932.

Spanish official text communicated by the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berne. The registration of this Convention took place August 29, 1932.

Los infrascritos, Plenipotenciarios de los Gobiernos de los países arriba enumerados, reunidos en Congreso, en Madrid, haciendo uso del derecho que les concede el artículo 5 del Convenio² vigente de la Unión Postal Universal, e inspirándose en el deseo de extender y perfeccionar sus relaciones postales y de establecer una solidaridad de acción capaz de representar eficazmente en los Congresos Postales Universales sus intereses comunes en lo que se refiere a las comunicaciones por Correo, han convenido en celebrar, bajo reserva de ratificación, el Convenio siguiente :

Artículo 1.

UNIÓN POSTAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS Y ESPAÑA.

Los países contratantes, de acuerdo con la precedente declaración, constituyen, bajo la denominación de Unión Postal de las Américas y España, un solo territorio postal.

Artículo 2.

UNIONES RESTRINGIDAS.

I. Los países contratantes, ya sea por su situación limítrofe, ya sea por la intensidad de sus relaciones postales, podrán establecer entre sí uniones más estrechas, con el fin de reducir tarifas

¹ *Dépôt des ratifications à Madrid :*

ESPAGNE	} 11 août 1932.
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE...}	
RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE	3 octobre 1932.
COSTA-RICA... ..	20 octobre 1932.
PANAMA	8 mars 1933.
MEXIQUE	28 avril 1933.

Adhésion :

CANADA 11 août 1932.

² Vol. CII, page 245 ; vol. CVII, page 552 ; vol. CXVII, page 310 ; vol. CXXII, page 359 ; et vol. CXXX, page 458, de ce recueil.

¹ *Deposit of ratifications in Madrid :*

SPAIN	} August 11, 1932.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA}	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ...	October 3, 1932.
COSTA RICA... ..	October 20, 1932.
PANAMA	March 8, 1933.
MEXICO	April 28, 1933.

Accession :

CANADA August 11, 1932.

² Vol. CII, page 245 ; Vol. CVII, page 552 ; Vol. CXVII, page 310 ; Vol. CXXII, page 359 ; and Vol. CXXX, page 458, of this Series.

¹ TRANSLATION.

No. 3023. — POSTAL UNION CONVENTION CONCLUDED BETWEEN : ARGENTINE, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CHILE, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EQUADOR, SPAIN, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, SALVADOR, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA. SIGNED AT MADRID, NOVEMBER 10, 1931.

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-mentioned countries, assembled in congress at Madrid, making use of the right accorded them by Article 5 of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union and being desirous of extending and improving their postal relations and of establishing community of action for the purpose of effectively defending their common interests at the Universal Postal Congresses in matters relating to postal communications, have agreed to conclude, subject to ratification, the following Convention :

Article 1.

POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS AND SPAIN.

In accordance with the foregoing declaration, the contracting countries shall form, under the title of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, a single postal territory.

Article 2.

LIMITED UNIONS.

1. The contracting countries may, either because they are neighbours or on account of the volume of their postal communications, establish closer unions with one another for the purpose of reducing tariffs or introducing other improvements in any of the services to which the present Convention or the special agreements concluded by this Congress refer.

2. Similarly, as regards matters not covered by the present Convention or by the Convention of the Universal Postal Union, the signatory countries may adopt between themselves such measures as they consider essential by means of correspondence or, if necessary, by the conclusion of a special agreement in virtue of the authority conferred upon them by the present Article or their internal laws.

Article 3.

FREE AND GRATUITOUS TRANSIT.

1. No charge of any kind shall be imposed in respect of transit by land, inland waterway or sea in the territory of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain ; the countries composing that

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

Union accordingly undertake without extra charge to convey through their territory and to carry on the vessels on their register or flying their flag which are used for the transport of their own correspondence, any correspondence, whatever its destination, despatched by the contracting countries.

2. In cases of reforwarding, the contracting countries undertake to send on correspondence by the routes used for their own mails.

Article 4.

POSTAGE RATES.

The rate charged for postal communications between the countries constituting the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain shall be the inland rate in force in each country unless that rate is higher than the rate applicable to correspondence intended for the countries of the Universal Postal Union, in which case the latter shall be charged.

Article 5.

DEFINITION OF CORRESPONDENCE.

The provisions of this Convention shall apply to letters, post-cards, both single and reply-paid, printed papers of every kind, commercial papers, samples of no value, small packets and insured articles. Nevertheless, the small packet and insured article services shall be limited to those countries which agree to maintain them either in their reciprocal relations or in one direction only.

Article 6.

REGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE. -- RESPONSIBILITY.

1. The articles specified in Article 5 may be registered on payment of a fee of the same amount as the inland fee charged by the administration of origin.

2. Except in cases of *force majeure*, the contracting Administrations shall be responsible for the loss of any registered article. The sender shall be entitled to compensation, which shall in no case exceed three dollars or the equivalent in gold francs.

3. Nevertheless the Administrations shall be relieved from responsibility for the loss of a registered article of which the contents fall within the prohibitions laid down in Article 11 of the present Convention, or which is prohibited by the laws or regulations of the country of origin or destination, provided the said country has duly notified the Administration of this prohibition through the usual channel.

4. A special category of registered articles in respect of which no compensation is payable may be established if desired. This category may comprise books, periodicals and other printed matter, commercial papers and samples of no value, on which a reduced fee to be fixed by the administrations concerned shall be paid in addition to the ordinary rate. Nevertheless, the Administrations adopting this new category of registered articles may include therein all the articles to which their corresponding inland service applies.

Article 7.

OBLIGATORY PRE-PAYMENT.

1. All kinds of correspondence, including closed packets, shall be fully prepaid, with the exception of letters in their usual and ordinary form, which shall be forwarded provided they bear at least the postage corresponding to a single-weight unit.
2. Other articles not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid shall be kept back at the office of origin, which shall deal with them in the manner prescribed by its internal laws.
3. In the case of insufficiently prepaid letters, only the difference between the full charge and the postage paid by the sender shall be collected from the addressee.

Article 8.

WEIGHT AND DIMENSIONS.

The limits of weight and size of the various articles shall be those laid down in the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union, except that printed matter in the form of packets may weigh up to 4 kilogrammes, this limit being increased to 5 kilogrammes in the case of works in a single volume.

Article 9.

UNDELIVERED POSTCARDS.

Ordinary postcards which for any reason are not delivered, shall be destroyed in the country of destination, unless the sender's name and address are given on the card and he has asked for its return, in which case it shall be sent back to the country of origin.

Article 10.

EXEMPTIONS FROM POSTAGE.

1. The Contracting Parties agree to exempt from postage in both their inland and the Hispano-American services, the correspondence of the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, of the Transfer Office (*Oficina de Transbordos*) of Panama and of the members of the Diplomatic Corps of the signatory countries. Subject to reciprocity, the official correspondence sent by consuls to their respective countries or exchanged among themselves or despatched by them to the Government of the country to which they are accredited shall be exempt from postage. This exemption shall also apply to vice-consuls when the latter are acting as consuls.

2. The exchange of diplomatic correspondence between the Secretaries of State of the various countries and their embassies or legations shall be effected on a reciprocal basis between the contracting countries and such correspondence shall be sent either by the ordinary post or in diplomatic bags, in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulations of Execution. These bags shall be sent free of charge and shall enjoy all the safeguards of official mail.

3. Correspondence of the kind mentioned in the two previous paragraphs may also be sent post-free as registered mail, but no compensation shall be payable in the event of loss.

4. The following shall be exempt from postage : newspapers, reviews, periodicals, books, pamphlets and other printed papers sent by the publishers or authors to the information offices established by the Hispano-American Postal Administrations.

5. This exemption shall in no case include the air service or the other special inland or Hispano-American services of the contracting countries.

Article II.

PROHIBITIONS.

1. Without prejudice to the restrictions on the circulation of correspondence laid down in the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union and in the internal laws of each country, the following correspondence shall not be forwarded :

- (a) Publications which are prejudicial to public order and security ;
- (b) Pornographic publications ;
- (c) Correspondence of any kind, the purpose of which is the commission of fraudulent acts, swindling or any kind of offence against property or persons. In such cases action shall be taken in accordance with the internal laws of each country ;
- (d) Correspondence, whether ordinary or registered, containing coin, banknotes or negotiable instruments payable to bearer, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary between the Administrations concerned.

2. The Administrations may extend the prohibitions established for their inland services to the Hispano-American service on giving previous notice to the International Office of Montevideo, which shall inform the other Administrations.

3. The Administration of the country of transit or destination in whose postal service any prohibited object is discovered shall act in accordance with its internal laws and shall inform the Administration of the country of origin of the measures taken.

Article II.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

The High Contracting Parties undertake, on the basis of special agreements or by correspondence, to extend to the other countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain all the postal services which have been or may hereafter be established in their respective countries.

Article I3.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

The contracting countries shall have the right to adopt the " postage paid " system for the despatch of news papers or periodicals, whether open or in packets, including those of a purely commercial nature intended for propaganda or advertisement, provided that the latter are not entitled to a reduced rate.

Article I4.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.

Spanish shall be adopted as the official language for matters relating to the postal services. Nevertheless countries whose language is not Spanish may use their own.

Article 15.

PROTECTION AND INTERCHANGE OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

The postal authorities of the contracting countries shall render, when requested to do so, such assistance as may be needed by the officials in charge of bags and correspondence in transit through those countries, and also by the officials which an Administration may decide to send to any of those countries to undertake investigations therein with a view to the development and improvement of the postal services.

For the purpose of increasing the utility of these journeys, the Administrations may agree to organise an interchange of postal officials.

Article 16.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OFFICE.

1. There shall be maintained in the Republic of Panama an International Transfer Office to receive and send on all correspondence transmitted through it and coming from any of the countries of this Union, when such correspondence requires to be transferred.

2. The said Office shall be organised in accordance with the regulations drawn up by agreement between the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and the Postal Administration of Panama.

3. Any amendments which may from time to time be required in the above-mentioned Regulations shall be submitted by the Administrations concerned for the consideration of the International Office of Montevideo, through which they shall be proposed to the Postal Administration of Panama.

4. The organisation and working of the International Transfer Office shall be under the supervision and control of the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs of Panama and the Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, which shall act as mediator and assessor in any dispute between the Postal Administration of Panama and the countries utilising the services of the above-mentioned Office.

5. The staff of the Office, which shall not be subject to dismissal, shall be appointed by the General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs of Panama, in accordance with the provisions laid down on the matter in the Regulations of the Office.

6. The cost of maintenance of this Office shall be defrayed by the countries utilising its services in proportion to the volume of their correspondence exchanged through it.

The Administration of Panama shall advance the sums required to ensure the operation of the services of the Office.

These sums shall be repaid quarterly by each Administration concerned ; however, sums not repaid within six months after the end of each quarter shall bear interest at 7 % per annum, which shall accrue to the maintenance funds of the Transfer Office.

Article 17.

ARBITRATION.

Any dispute or disagreement that may arise in the postal relations of the contracting countries shall be settled by arbitration in the manner laid down in the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union. The arbitrators shall be appointed by the signatory countries with the assistance, if necessary, of the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain.

Article 18.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF THE POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS AND SPAIN.

1. A central office, situated at Montevideo, known as the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and placed under the supervision of the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay shall serve as a medium of liaison, information and consultation for the countries of the Union.
2. This office shall be entrusted with the duty of :
 - (a) Collecting, collating, publishing and distributing information of every kind which specially concerns the Hispano-American postal service ;
 - (b) Giving, at the express request of the parties concerned, its opinion upon questions in dispute ;
 - (c) Giving, on its own initiative or at the request of any of the Administrations of the signatory countries, its opinion on all postal matters affecting or relating to the general interests of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain ;
 - (d) Making known any proposals for modifying the acts of the Congress and notifying the alterations adopted ;
 - (e) Publishing the results of the main provisions and regulations adopted by the Administrations in their inland services and communicated by them for purposes of information ;
 - (f) Distributing the postal maps and guides sent to it by the respective Administrations ;
 - (g) Summarising the Hispano-American postal statistics in accordance with the data communicated annually by each Administration ;
 - (h) Publishing a report on the most rapid routes for the transmission of correspondence from one of the contracting countries to another ;
 - (i) Compiling a detailed table showing all the maritime services belonging to the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain which can be utilised free of charge for the transport of their correspondence under the conditions laid down in Article 3 above ;
 - (j) Publishing the inland postage rates of each of the countries concerned and a table of equivalents ;
 - (k) Drawing up and distributing each year to the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain a report of the work done by it,
 - (l) Undertaking any enquiries or work that may be requested of it in the interests of the contracting countries with a view to promoting social, economic and artistic *rapprochement*, for which purpose the International Office shall at all times be at the disposal of those countries, should they desire any special information on matters connected with the Hispano-American Postal Service.
3. The special expenses incurred in preparing the annual report and table of postal communications of the contracting countries, together with the expenses of Congresses or Conferences, shall be defrayed by the Administrations of those countries in accordance with the classes established in Article 9 of the Regulations of Execution.
4. The General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay shall supervise the expenditure of the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and shall make it such advances as it may need.
5. The sums advanced by the Administration of Uruguay in accordance with the previous paragraph shall be repaid by the debtor Administrations as soon as possible, and at the latest within six months from the date on which the country concerned receives the account made out by the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay. After that date

the sums due shall bear interest at the rate of 7 % per annum, reckoning from the date of expiration of the said period.

6. The contracting countries undertake to include in their budgets an annual sum for the prompt payment of their contribution.

Article 19.

CONGRESSES.

1. The Congresses shall meet at least once in every five years as from the date on which the Convention concluded by the last one comes into force.
2. Each Congress shall fix the place and year in which the next Congress shall meet.

Article 20.

PROPOSALS MADE BETWEEN MEETINGS.

The present Convention may be modified in the interval between Congresses, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter III of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union. In order to become binding the amendments must obtain a unanimous vote if they affect the present Article or Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24, 25 and 26; a two-thirds vote if they affect Articles 8, 11, 12 and 19 and a simple majority if they affect the remaining Articles.

Article 21

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 on which they are communicated by the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain.

Article 22.

APPLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION AND OF INTERNAL LAWS.

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 existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union and its Regulations.
2. Similarly, the internal laws of the said countries shall apply to any matter not governed by either Convention.

Article 23.

PROPOSALS FOR UNIVERSAL CONGRESSES.

All the countries forming the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain shall communicate to each other through the International Office of Montevideo the proposals which they may wish to formulate for the Universal Postal Congresses, six months in advance of the date on which the Congress in question is to be held.

Article 24.

UNITY OF ACTION IN UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESSES.

The signatory countries of the Hispano-American Postal Convention which have ratified that Convention undertake to give instructions to their delegates to Universal Postal Congresses unanimously and firmly to support all the principles laid down in the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and to vote in accordance with those principles, except in cases where the proposals to be discussed solely affect the countries making those proposals.

Article 25.

NEW ACCESSIONS.

In the event of a new accession, the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, in agreement with the Government of the country concerned, shall determine the class in which the latter is to be placed for the apportionment of the expenses of the International Office.

Article 26.

ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION OF THE CONVENTION. — DEPOSIT OF RATIFICATIONS.

1. The present Convention shall come into force on March 1, 1932, and shall remain in force for an indefinite period, each of the Contracting Parties reserving the right to withdraw from this Union on notice being given by its Government to that of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay one year in advance.

2. The deposit of ratifications shall take place at Madrid as soon as possible, preferably before the entry into force of the Convention and Agreements to which the ratifications refer. An Act shall be drawn up of each ratification, a copy being sent by the Spanish Government through the diplomatic channel to the Governments of the other signatory countries.

3. The stipulations of the Pan-American Postal Convention signed at Mexico on November 9, 1926, shall be abrogated on the date on which the present Convention comes into force.

4. Should one or more of the contracting countries fail to ratify the Convention, it shall remain valid for those States that have ratified it.

5. The contracting countries may provisionally ratify the Convention and Agreements by letter, on giving notice to this effect to their respective Administrations through the International Office, subject to confirmation through the diplomatic channel, according to the legislation of each country and after approval by the national congresses.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above-named countries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Madrid on the tenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

For Argentine :

R. CORREA LUNA.

For Brazil :

LUIS GUIMARAES.

For Bolivia :

G. A. OTERO.

For Canada :

For Colombia :

Alberto SÁNCHEZ DE IRIARTE.
E. ZALDÚA PIEDRAHITA.
W. MAC-LELLAN.

For Costa Rica :

Adriano MTIN LANUZA.
Eduardo FOURNIER QUIRÓS.

For Cuba :

M. S. PICHARDO.
José MÉNDEZ.

For Chile :

E. BERMÚDEZ.
Carlos MORLA LYNCH.

For the Dominican Republic :

E. BRACHE Hijo.
Enrique DESCHAMPS.

For Ecuador :

Ricardo CRESPO ORDÓÑEZ.
Abel ROMEO CASTILLO.

For Spain :

A. NISTAL.
A. CAMACHO.
Agustín RAMOS.
Demetrio PEREDA.

For the United States of America :

P. W. IRVING GLOVER.
Eugene R. WHITE.

For Guatemala :

Enrique TRAUMANN.

For Haiti :

Luis M^a. SOLER.

For Honduras :

Antonio GRAIÑO.

For Mexico :

A. J. PANI.
Antonio CASTRO LEAL.

For Nicaragua :

José GARCÍA-PLAZA.

For Panama :

Carlos ORTIZ R.

For Paraguay :

Fernando PIGNET.
R. BLANCO-FOMBONA.

For Peru :

Manuel GARCÍA YRIGOYEN.

For Salvador :

Raúl CONTRERAS.

For Uruguay :

César MIRANDA.

For Venezuela :

Antonio REYES.
León AGUILAR.

FINAL PROTOCOL OF THE CONVENTION.

At the moment of signing the Convention concluded by the Third Pan-American Postal Conference, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows :

I.

1. As a temporary measure, Chile, Ecuador and Peru reserve the right to maintain the rates now applicable in their relations with the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain for both ordinary and registered correspondence.

2. As a temporary measure, the United States of America reserve the right to increase by an amount not exceeding 50 % their present rates for countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain until such time as they are able to make a corresponding increase in their inland rates.

II.

Brazil declares that her Administration cannot accord to the International Office of Montevideo powers exceeding those granted by the Convention of the Universal Postal Union to its Berne Office.

III.

With reference to Article 24 of the Convention, the United States of America reserve complete liberty of action at the Congresses of the Universal Postal Union.

IV.

1. If at the time the Convention comes into force, any country is unable to grant transit free of charge because it is prevented from so doing by the stipulations of existing contracts concluded at an earlier date, that country undertakes to amend such contracts with a view to introducing transit free of charge at the earliest possible moment. All contracts which are renewed or are conclude hereafter shall ensure transit entirely free of charge for mail carried on the vessels covered by those contracts, between the various ports of the Hispano-American postal territory, and also between those ports and the ports of countries outside the Union.

Notwithstanding the existence of contracts which prevent the application of the principle of transit free of charge, no postal administration may submit accounts for the cost of maritime transit in respect of the transport of mail covered by the contracts in question.

2. Each of the contracting countries undertakes to maintain the privileges at present enjoyed by the vessels of the other countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain which convey mail free of charge and also to grant them in future all the privileges which it accords to the vessels of any other country effecting that service.

V.

The Protocol shall remain open to those American countries whose representatives have not signed the Convention, or who, having signed it, wish to accede to the other Agreements approved by the Congress.

Done at Madrid on the tenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

For Argentine :

R. CORREA LUNA.

For Brasil :

Luis GUIMARAES.

For Bolivia :

G. A. OTERO.

For Canada :

For Colombia :

Alberto SÁNCHEZ DE IRIARTE.
E. ZALDÚA PIEDRAHITA.
W. MAC-LELLAN.

For Costa Rica :

Adriano MTIN LANUZA.
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Antonio CASTRO LEAL.

For Nicaragua :

José GARCÍA-PLAZA.

For Panama :

Carlos ORTIZ R.

For Paraguay :

Fernando PIGNET.
R. BLANCO-FOMBONA.

For Peru :

Manuel GARCÍA YRIGOYEN.

For Salvador :

Raúl CONTRERAS.

For Uruguay :

César MIRANDA.

For Venezuela :

Antonio REYES.
León AGUILAR.

REGULATIONS FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE CONVENTION OF THE POSTAL UNION
OF THE AMERICAS AND SPAIN,

CONCLUDED BETWEEN : ARGENTINE, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA,
CHILE, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, SPAIN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GUATEMALA,
HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, SALVADOR, URUGUAY
AND VENEZUELA.

The undersigned, on behalf of their respective administrations, have agreed upon the following rules for ensuring the execution of the foregoing Convention :

Article 1.

EXCHANGE OF MAILS.

1. The Administrations of the contracting countries may send reciprocally through the medium of one or more of them both closed mails and correspondence *a découvert*, under the conditions laid down in the existing Convention and regulations of the Universal Postal Union.

2. Each intermediate Administration shall be required to forward this correspondence by the most rapid routes that it uses for its own correspondence ; it shall convey this correspondence free of charge in the case of services dependent on its own Administration, or shall charge the Administration of origin the same amount as it is itself obliged to pay for the services of foreign Administrations for subsequent transport.

Article 2.

EQUIVALENTS.

The Administrations shall communicate to each other through the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain their inland postage rates and also the equivalents of those rates in gold francs.

These shall come into force on the first day of a month and, at the soonest, sixty days after notification has been given to the International Office.

Article 3.

MAKE-UP OF MAILS. — EMPTY BAGS.

1. Mails containing correspondence exchanged between two countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain shall be made up in accordance with the provisions of Part VI of the Regulations for the Execution of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

2. Bags used by the contracting Administrations for the despatch of correspondence shall be returned empty by the Exchange Offices of destination to those of origin, in the manner prescribed in Article 59 of the above-mentioned Regulations. Nevertheless the Administrations may agree to use them for the despatch of their own correspondence and may also decide the manner in which the cost of the said bags shall be shared by the two Administrations and the amount payable by each.

*Article 4.*PREPAYMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE. — "POSTAGE PAID" SERVICE. —
INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID LETTERS.

1. Correspondence exchanged between the contracting countries shall be prepaid in accordance with the provisions of Article 46 of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

2. In those countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain in which the "postage paid" service has been or may be established for newspapers and periodicals, including those intended for propaganda and advertisement, the packets containing them must bear on their cover the words "porte pagado" (postage paid).

Each Administration shall send to the others through the International Office of Montevideo any indications that may be useful to the Exchange Offices in distinguishing these packets easily from those which do not enjoy this privilege.

3. On the backs of the envelopes of insufficiently prepaid letters the Administration of origin shall stamp the letter "T" and shall indicate the amount due in gold francs.

Article 5.

DIPLOMATIC BAGS.

1. The weight and dimensions of the diplomatic bags exchanged between each of the Ministries for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and their diplomatic representatives in other countries, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the Convention, shall be determined by agreement between the parties concerned, but shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kilogrammes.

2. The Ministries for Foreign Affairs and the diplomatic representatives shall deposit these bags at the post-offices against a receipt, and they shall be delivered by the post-offices to their addressees with the same formalities.

3. These bags shall be provided with locks or padlocks appropriate to the importance of these mails.

4. Diplomatic bags shall be forwarded to the Administration of destination by the same routes as are used by the despatching Administration for its own correspondence, notice of their despatch being given by means of a note on the way-bill of the mail containing these bags.

5. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary between the parties concerned, diplomatic bags shall not be sent post-free by air.

Article 6.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORRESPONDENCE.

Diplomatic and consular correspondence shall bear the following particulars: the name of the embassy, legation or consulate despatching the correspondence and the words "correspondencia diplomática" or "correspondencia consular" in very legible characters, and underneath them the words "libre de porte" (duty-free).

Article 7.

TRANSIT STATISTICS.

As a result of the transit free of charge provided for in Article 3 of the Convention, the Administrations of the contracting countries shall not perform any statistical operations with regard to transit charges in respect of mails which contain only Hispano-American correspondence, provided that this correspondence is forwarded without the intervention of countries or services outside the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain.

Article 8.

COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.

The Director of the International Office shall be appointed by the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on the proposal of the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of that country, and shall receive a monthly salary of 500 Uruguayan pesos.

The secretary, the first translator and other personnel shall be appointed on the proposal of the Director of the International Office by the General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay, the monthly salary of the secretary being fixed at 250 Uruguayan pesos and that of the first translator at 150 Uruguayan pesos.

These officials may only be removed from office at the instance of the Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay and in accordance with the procedure established for permanent officials of that Administration.

Article 9.

EXPENSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.

1. The expenses of the International Office may not exceed the annual sum of 13,000 Uruguayan gold pesos, including the amount required for the establishment of a pensions fund for the personnel of the Office.

2. For the allocation of the annual and extraordinary expenses of the Office, the contracting countries shall be divided into three classes, those of the first class having to contribute eight units, those of the second four units and those of the third two units.

The following shall belong to the first class : Argentine, Brazil, Canada, Spain, United States and Uruguay ; the following to the second class : Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Mexico and Peru, and the following to the third class : Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Salvador and Venezuela.

Article 10.

INFORMATION. — REQUESTS FOR MODIFICATION OF THE ACTS OF THE CONFERENCE.

The International Office shall hold itself always at the disposal of the Contracting Parties for the purpose of furnishing them with any special information they may require upon questions relating to the Hispano-American Postal Service ; it shall attend to requests for the modification or interpretation of the provisions governing the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and shall notify the result of the action taken.

Article II.

PUBLICATIONS.

1. The International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain shall send out a special circular whenever an Administration requests the immediate publication of any change that has been introduced in its services, and shall likewise distribute the documents which it publishes free of charge to each of the Administrations of the contracting countries and to the International Bureau of Berne, the number of copies sent to each Administration being proportional to the number of units contributed.

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

2. The International Office shall transmit to the contracting countries any proposals which it receives, in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the Convention. For this purpose all countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain shall make known through that Office, a sufficient time in advance, as laid down in the Convention, any proposals intended for Universal Congresses, in order that such proposals may be supported by those countries as a whole.

3. The Director of the International Office shall attend the sessions of the Congresses and Conferences of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and may take part in the discussions but without the right to vote.

4. The official language of the International Office is Spanish. Nevertheless, countries whose language is not Spanish may use their own in their relations with the Office.

Article 12.

DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION TO BE SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.

The International Office shall act as intermediary for the regular and general notification of information which is exclusively of interest to the Administrations of the contracting countries. The said Administrations shall send regularly and promptly to the International Office :

- (a) Their postal legislation and any subsequent amendments thereto ;
- (b) Their postal guides, whenever these are published ;
- (c) The maps and guides relating to the postal communications which they utilise, both for their inland and their international service ;
- (d) Information as to the most rapid territorial and maritime routes which can be used for the transmission of correspondence ;
- (e) The results of their annual postal statistics of traffic with other Hispano-American countries ;
- (f) The text of any proposals which they may submit for the consideration of Universal Postal Congresses ;
- (g) Particulars of all kinds which may be of interest to the Hispano-American Postal Service whenever any new measures are adopted ;
- (h) Any information which may be requested by the International Office for publications, reports and other matters within its competence, in such a form as to enable it to carry out its task in the shortest possible time ;
- (i) A detailed table of all maritime services belonging to the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain which can be used free of charge by the others for the transport of their correspondence.

Article 13.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BETWEEN THE MEETINGS OF CONGRESSES.

In the interval between the meetings of Congresses, any Administration shall have the right to make proposals relating to the present Regulations, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18 of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

In order to become binding these proposals must secure two-thirds of the votes cast.

Article 14.

APPLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION AND OF INTERNAL LAWS.

1. All matters which relate to the exchange of correspondence between the contracting countries and which are not provided for by these regulations shall be governed by the provisions of the Regulations of the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

2. Similarly, the internal laws of the said countries shall apply to any matter not governed by the Regulations of either Convention.

Article 15.

ACCOUNTS AND EXPENSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE OF MONTEVIDEO.

1. The General Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay shall prepare each year an account of the expenses referred to in Article 18 of the Convention, and the contracting Administrations shall repay the sums advanced by that Administration in accordance with the said Article.

2. In the absence of an agreement to the contrary the International Office shall liquidate the accounts relating to the services between the contracting countries, in accordance with the general procedure laid down in the existing Convention of the Universal Postal Union.

Article 16.

As long as the depreciation of Uruguayan currency continues, the Administration of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of Uruguay shall increase by 30 % the salaries fixed in Article 8.

Article 17.

ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION OF THE REGULATIONS.

The present Regulations shall come into force on the same day as the Convention to which they refer and shall have the same duration.

Done at Madrid on the tenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

For Argentine :

R. CORREA LUNA.

For Brazil :

Luis GUIMARAES.

For Bolivia :

G. A. OTERO.

For Canada :

For Colombia :

Alberto SÁNCHEZ DE IRIARTE.
E. ZALDÚA PIEDRAHITA.
W. MAC-LELLAN.

For Costa Rica :

Adriano MTIN LANUZA.
Eduardo FOURNIER QUIRÓS.

For Cuba :

M. S. PICHARDO.
José MÉNDEZ.

For Chile :

E. BERMÚDEZ.
Carlos MORLA LYNCH.

For the Dominican Republic :

E. BRACHE Hijo.
Enrique DESCHAMPS.

For Ecuador :

Ricardo CRESPO ORDÓÑEZ.
Abel ROMEO CASTILLO.

For Spain :

A. NISTAL.
A. CAMACHO.
Agustín RAMOS.
Demetrio PEREDA.

For the United States of America :

P. W. IRVING. GLOVER.
Eugene R. WHITE.

For Guatemala :

Enrique TRAUMANN.

For Haiti :

Luis Ma. SOLER.

For Honduras :

Antonio GRAIÑO.

For Mexico :

A. J. PANI.
Antonio CASTRO LEAL.

For Nicaragua :

José GARCÍA-PLAZA.

For Panama :

Carlos ORTIZ R.

For Paraguay :

Fernando PIGNET.
R. BLANCO-FOMBONA.

For Peru :

Manuel GARCÍA YRIGOYEN.

For Salvador :

Raúl CONTRERAS.

For Uruguay :

César MIRANDA.

For Venezuela :

Antonio REYES.
León AGUILAR.

PROVISIONS REGARDING

THE CONVEYANCE OF CORRESPONDENCE BY AIR.

The High Contracting Parties agree to adopt the following provisions relating to air transport :

Article 1.

The whole of the inland and international air lines which are directly or indirectly controlled by an Administration and are used for the conveyance of correspondence shall be placed at the disposal of the rest on the basis of uniform rates and general conditions for all Administrations which use those services without sharing in the working expenses.

Article 2.

The foregoing provision shall not restrict or impair the right of the High Contracting Parties to conclude special agreements among themselves which do not concern the whole Union, provided that the stipulations thereof are not less favourable than those contained in the present Regulations.

Article 3.

The Postal Administrations of the contracting countries shall arrange with their respective Governments that the restrictions imposed on aircraft in transit shall in no case go so far as to prevent the delivery of the correspondence carried by them, whether this is intended for their own country or for re-transmission outside its territory by the route agreed upon between the Parties concerned.

Article 4.

The High Contracting Parties shall co-operate with each other as fully and as effectively as possible, with a view to the re-transmission by the most rapid route of any correspondence which they receive from any of the Parties for conveyance to another country belonging to the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain or to the Universal Postal Union. They also agree to arrange for their respective Administrations to grant priority to the delivery of this class of correspondence.

Article 5.

The accounts relating to the air services established between two or more countries shall be exchanged direct between the Postal Administrations concerned.

Article 6.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to adjust the provisions of existing concessions or contracts which are renewable and which they have concluded or may hereafter conclude with private air transport companies, so as to bring them into line with the provisions laid down in the present Regulations.

Article 7.

An air mail line may only be utilised by any of the Administrations in question after previous agreement with the Administration which controls the service in question, and, in the absence of provisions to the contrary, the latter shall alone be responsible for regulating the conditions, cost and form of payment of the service utilised.

Article 8.

Within a maximum period of six months from the date on which the present provisions come into force, the Administrations of the acceding countries shall forward to the International Office of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, to be co-ordinated, published and distributed, reports on the present conditions, rates and operation of their air services ; they shall also inform it of any future alterations in the said services.

Article 9.

The present provisions shall come into force on the day on which the Convention of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain comes into operation. They shall have the same duration as that Convention, unless they are renewed by common consent between the Parties concerned.

Done at Madrid on the tenth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one.

For Argentine :

R. CORREA LUNA.

For Bolivia :

G. A. OTERO.

For Brazil :

Luis GUIMARAES.

*For Canada :**For Colombia :*

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