

No. 4086

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
CEYLON**

Parcel Post Agreement. Signed at Washington, on 25 November 1955, and at Colombo, on 18 July 1955

Detailed Regulations for the execution of the above-mentioned Agreement. Signed at Washington, on 25 November 1955, and at Colombo, on 18 July 1955

Official text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 25 November 1957.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
CEYLAN**

Arrangement relatif à l'échange de colis postaux. Signé à Washington, le 25 novembre 1955, et à Colombo, le 18 juillet 1955

Règlement d'exécution de l'Arrangement susmentionné. Signé à Washington, le 25 novembre 1955, et à Colombo, le 18 juillet 1955

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistrés par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 25 novembre 1957.

No. 4086. PARCEL POST AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (INCLUDING ALASKA, PUERTO RICO, VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, SAMOA AND HAWAII) AND THE POST OFFICE OF CEYLON. SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON 25 NOVEMBER 1955, AND AT COLOMBO, ON 18 JULY 1955

In order to establish an exchange of postal parcels between the United States of America and Ceylon, the undersigned, duly authorised for that purpose, have agreed upon the following Articles :

Article 1

LIMITS OF WEIGHT AND SIZE

1. A parcel for the United States of America posted in Ceylon shall not exceed 22 lbs. in weight, 3 feet 6 inches in length or 6 feet in length and girth combined, and a parcel for Ceylon posted in the United States of America shall not exceed 22 lbs. in weight nor the following dimensions :

Greatest length 4 feet (122 centimeters), on condition that parcels over 42 inches (107 centimeters) but not over 44 inches (112 centimeters) long, do not exceed 24 inches (61 centimeters) in girth; that parcels over 44 inches (112 centimeters) but not over 46 inches (117 centimeters) long, do not exceed 20 inches (51 centimeters) but not over 48 inches (122 centimeters) long, do not exceed 16 inches (41 centimeters) in girth; and that parcels up to 3½ feet (107 centimeters) in length, do not exceed 6 feet (183 centimeters) in length and girth combined.

2. As regards the exact calculation of the weight and dimensions of a parcel, the view of the despatching office shall (except in a case of obvious error) be accepted.

Article 2

TRANSIT PARCELS

1. Each Postal Administration guarantees the right of transit through its service, to or from any country with which it has parcel-post communication,

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1956, in accordance with article 33.

of parcels originating in, or addressed for delivery in the service of, the other contracting Administration.

2. Each Postal Administration shall inform the other to which countries parcels may be sent through it as intermediary, and the amount of the charges due it therefor, as well as other conditions.

3. To be accepted for onward transmission, parcels sent by one of the contracting Administrations through the service of the other Administration must comply with the conditions prescribed from time to time by the intermediate Administration.

Article 3

PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE—RATES

1. The prepayment of the postage on a parcel shall be compulsory, except in the case of a redirected or returned parcel.

2. The postage shall be made up of the sums accruing to each Administration taking part in the conveyance by land or sea.

Article 4

TERRITORIAL RATE

1. For parcels despatched from one of the two countries for delivery in the other, the territorial rate of the United States of America shall be 70 centimes (gold) or .70 gold francs per kilogram and the territorial rate of Ceylon shall be 80 centimes (gold) or .80 francs per kilogram.

2. Each of the two Administrations may vary its territorial rates by mutual agreement in accordance with any alterations of these charges which may be decided upon in connection with its parcel post relations with other countries generally.

3. Three months advance notice must be given of any increase or reduction of the rates mentioned in the foregoing sections of this Article. Such reductions or increase shall be effective for a period of not less than one year.

Article 5

SEA RATE

Each of the two Postal Administrations shall be entitled to fix the rate for any sea service which it provides,

Article 6

FEE FOR CLEARANCE THROUGH THE CUSTOMS

Each of the two Administrations may collect, in respect of delivery to the customs and clearance through the customs such fee as it may from time to time fix for similar services in its parcel post relations with other countries generally.

Article 7

CUSTOMS AND OTHER NON-POSTAL CHARGES

Customs charges and all other non-postal charges shall be paid by the addressees of parcels, except as provided otherwise in this Agreement and Detailed Regulations.¹

Article 8

WAREHOUSING CHARGES

For parcels which are addressed "poste restante" or which are not claimed at the office of destination within the prescribed period of free detention, the country of destination is authorised to collect the warehousing charge fixed by its legislation. In the case of undelivered parcels, accrued warehousing charges if any shall be claimed from the Administration of origin. This charge may in no case exceed 5 gold francs.

Article 9

PROHIBITIONS

1. Postal parcels must not contain any letter, note or document having the character of an actual personal correspondence, nor any object bearing an address other than that of the addressee of the parcel or of persons living with him.

2. It is also forbidden to enclose in a postal parcel—

- (a) articles which from their nature or packing may be a source of danger to the officers of the Post Office or may soil or damage other parcels;
- (b) explosive, inflammable, or dangerous substances (including loaded metal caps, live cartridges and matches);
- (c) live animals (except bees which must be enclosed in boxes so constructed as to avoid all danger to postal officers and to allow the contents to be ascertained);
- (d) articles the admission of which is forbidden by law or by the Customs or other regulations;
- (e) articles of an obscene or immoral nature.

¹ See p. 320 of this volume.

It is moreover forbidden to send coin, bank notes, currency notes or any kind of securities payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured, or unmanufactured, precious stones, jewels or other precious articles in uninsured parcels.

If a parcel which contains coin, bank notes, currency notes, or any kind of securities payable to bearer; platinum, gold or silver (whether manufactured or unmanufactured); precious stones, jewelry or other precious articles is sent uninsured, it shall be placed under insurance by the country of destination and treated accordingly.

3. A parcel which has been wrongly admitted to the post shall be returned to the country of origin, unless the Administration of the country of destination is authorised by its legislation to dispose of it otherwise. Nevertheless, the fact that a parcel contains a letter or communications which constitute an actual and personal correspondence shall not, in any case entail the return of the parcel to the country of origin. The letter is, however, marked for the collection of postage due from the addressee at the regular rate.

4. Explosive, inflammable or dangerous substances and articles of an obscene or immoral nature shall not be returned to the country of origin; they shall be disposed of by the Administration which has found them in the mails in accordance with its own internal regulations.

5. If a parcel wrongly admitted to the post is neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the Administration of the country of origin shall be informed in a precise manner of the treatment accorded to the parcel in order that it may take such steps as are necessary.

Article 10

ADVICE OF DELIVERY

The sender may obtain an advice of delivery for an insured parcel under the conditions prescribed for correspondence by the Convention of the Universal Postal Union,¹ and at a rate to be fixed by the Administration of origin.

Article 11

REDIRECTION

1. A parcel may be redirected in consequence of the addressee's change of address in the country of destination. The Administration of the country of destination may collect the redirection charge prescribed by its internal

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 169, p. 3; Vol. 186, p. 356; Vol. 202, p. 340, and Vol. 227, p. 390.

regulations. Similarly, a parcel may be redirected from one of the two countries to another country provided that the parcel complies with the conditions required for its further conveyance *and provided as a rule that the extra postage is prepaid at the time of redirection or documentary evidence is produced that the addressee will pay it.*

2. Additional charges levied in respect of redirection and not paid by the addressee or his representative shall not be cancelled in case of further redirection or of return to origin, but shall be collected from the addressee or from the sender as the case may be, without prejudice to the payment of any special charges incurred which the country of destination does not agree to cancel.

Article 12

MISSENT PARCELS

Parcels received out of course, or wrongly allowed to be despatched, shall be retransmitted or returned in accordance with the provisions of Article 1, Section 2 and Article 15, Sections 1 and 2 of the Detailed Regulations.

Article 13

NON-DELIVERY

1. The sender may request at the time of posting that, if the parcel cannot be delivered as addressed, it may be either (a) treated as abandoned, or (b) tendered for delivery at a second address in the country of destination. No other alternative is admissible. If the sender avails himself of this facility, his request must appear on the cover of the parcel, and must be in conformity with, or analogous to one of the following forms :

“If not deliverable as addressed, abandon.” “If not deliverable as addressed, deliver to . . .”.

The same request must also appear on the customs declaration or on the despatch note.

2. In the absence of a request by the sender to the contrary, a parcel which cannot be delivered shall be returned to the sender without previous notification and at his expense after retention for the period prescribed by the regulations of the Administration of the country of destination.

Nevertheless a parcel which is definitely refused by the addressee shall be returned immediately.

3. The charges due on returned undelivered parcels shall be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Article 28.

Article 14

CANCELLATION OF CUSTOMS CHARGES

The customs charges on parcels which are returned to the country of origin, abandoned by the senders, redirected to a third country or destroyed shall be cancelled both in Ceylon and in the United States of America.

Article 15

SALE—DESTRUCTION

Articles of which the early deterioration or corruption is to be expected and these only, may be sold immediately, even when in transit on the outward or return journey, without previous notice or judicial formality. If for any reason a sale is impossible, the spoiled or putrid articles shall be destroyed.

Article 16

ABANDONED PARCELS

Parcels which cannot be delivered to the addressees and which the senders have abandoned shall not be returned by the Post Office of the country of destination, but shall be treated in accordance with its legislation.

No claim shall be made by the Administration of destination against the Administration of origin in respect of such parcels.

Article 17

INQUIRIES

1. A fee, as for advice of delivery, may be charged for every inquiry concerning a parcel.

No fee shall be charged if the sender has already paid the special fee for an advice of delivery.

2. Inquiries shall be admitted only within the period of one year from the day following the date of posting.

3. When an inquiry is the outcome of an irregularity in the postal service, the inquiry fee shall be refunded.

Article 18

INSURED PARCELS—RATES AND CONDITIONS

1. Parcels may be insured up to the limit of 500 gold francs or the equivalent of that amount in the currency of the country of mailing.

2. Each Administration shall have the right to fix its own scale of fees for insurance fixed by its legislation.

3. The Administration of origin shall have the right to collect from the sender of an insured parcel a despatch fee in addition.

4. A receipt must be given free of charge at the time of posting to the sender of an insured parcel.

Article 19

FRAUDULENT INSURANCE

The insured value may not exceed the actual value of the contents of the parcel, but it is permitted to insure only part of this value.

The fraudulent insurance of a parcel for a sum exceeding the actual value shall be subject to any legal proceedings which may be admitted by the laws of the country of origin.

Article 20

RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE

1. Except in the cases mentioned in the following Article the two Administrations shall be responsible for the loss of insured parcels only and for the loss, damage or abstraction of their contents or of a part thereof. The sender or other rightful claimant is entitled under this head to compensation corresponding to the actual amount of the loss, damage or abstraction, but not exceeding the amount for which the parcel was insured. Compensation is paid to the addressee if he proves that the sender has waived his rights in his favour.

2. In calculating the amount of compensation indirect loss or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration.

3. Compensation shall be calculated on the current price of goods of the same nature at the place and time at which the goods were accepted for transmission.

4. Where compensation is due for the loss, destruction or complete damage of a parcel or for the abstraction of the whole of the contents, the sender is entitled to the return of the postage also. In the case of parcels mailed in the United States of America, the postage is returned only if claimed.

5. In all cases the insurance fee shall be retained by the Postal Administration concerned.

6. When an insured parcel originating in one country and destined to be delivered in the other country is re-forwarded from there to a third country, or is returned to a third country, at the request of the sender or of the addressee,

the party entitled to the indemnity in case of loss, rifling, or damage occurring subsequent to the reforwarding or return of the parcel by the original country of destination can lay claim in such case only to the indemnity which the country where the loss, rifling or damage occurred consents to pay, or which that country is obliged to pay in accordance with the agreement made between the countries directly interested in the reforwarding or return. Either of the two countries signing the present Agreement which wrongly forwards an insured parcel to a third country is responsible to the sender to the same extent as the country of origin, that is, within the limits of the present Agreement.

7. In the absence of special agreement to the contrary between the countries involved, which agreement may be made by correspondence, no indemnity will be paid by either country for the loss of transit insured parcels, that is, parcels originating in a country not participating in this Agreement and destined for one of the two contracting countries, or parcels originating in one of the two contracting countries, and destined for a country not participating in this Agreement.

Article 21

EXCEPTIONS TO THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The two Administrations shall be relieved of all responsibility :

1. (a) in cases beyond control (force majeure);
- (b) when, their responsibility not having been proved otherwise, they are unable to account for parcels in consequence of the destruction of official documents through a cause beyond control (force majeure);
- (c) when the damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender, or when it arises from the nature of the article;
- (d) for parcels of which the contents fall under the ban of one of the prohibitions mentioned in Article 9;
- (e) for parcels which have been fraudulently insured for a sum exceeding the actual value of the contents;
- (f) for parcels seized by the Customs because of the false declaration of contents;
- (g) in respect of parcels regarding which the sender has not made inquiry within the period prescribed by Article 17;
- (h) in respect of any parcels containing precious stones, jewellery or any articles of gold, silver or platinum or any other precious object not packed in the manner laid down in Article 6, Section 4, of the Detailed Regulations.
- (i) in respect of parcels which contain matter of no intrinsic value or perishable matter, or which did not conform to the stipulations of this Agreement, or which were not posted in the manner prescribed; but the country responsible for the loss, rifling, or damage may pay indemnity for such parcels without recourse to the other Administration.

2. The responsibility of properly enclosing, packing and sealing insured parcels rests upon the sender, and the Postal Service of neither country will assume liability for loss, rifling or damage arising from defects which may not be observed at the time of posting.

Article 22

TERMINATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. The two Administrations shall cease to be responsible for parcels which have been delivered in accordance with their internal regulations and of which the addressees or their agents have accepted delivery without reservation.

2. Responsibility is, however, maintained when the addressee or, in the case of return, the sender makes reservations in taking delivery of a parcel the contents of which have been abstracted or damaged.

Article 23

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

The payment of compensation shall be undertaken by the Administration of the country of origin except in the cases indicated in Article 20, Section 1, third sub-paragraph where payment is made by the Postal Administration of the country of destination. The paying office retains the right to make a claim against the Administration responsible.

Article 24

PERIOD FOR PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

1. Compensation shall be paid as soon as possible and, at the latest, within one year from the day following the date of the inquiry.

2. The Administration of the country of origin or of destination, as the case may be, is authorised to pay compensation to the person entitled to receive it on behalf of the administration concerned which, after being duly informed of the application, has let nine months pass without giving a decision in the matter.

3. The Administration responsible for making payment may, exceptionally, postpone it beyond the period of one year when a decision has not yet been reached on the question whether the loss, damage or abstraction is due to a cause beyond control.

Article 25

INCIDENCE OF COST OF COMPENSATION

1. Until the contrary is proved, responsibility shall rest with the Administration which, having received the parcel from the other Administration

without making any reservation and having been furnished with all the particulars for investigation prescribed by the regulations, cannot establish either proper delivery to the addressee or his agent, or other proper disposal of the parcel.

2. If in the case of a parcel despatched from one of the two countries for delivery in the other, the loss, or damage or abstraction has occurred in course of conveyance without its being possible to prove in the service of which country the irregularity took place, the two Administrations shall bear in equal shares the amount of compensation.

3. When the loss, rifling, or damage of an insured parcel is detected upon opening the receptacle at the receiving exchange office and after it has been regularly pointed out to the despatching exchange office, the responsibility falls on the Administration to which the latter office belongs, unless it be proved that the irregularity occurred in the service of the receiving Administration.

4. By paying compensation the Administration concerned takes over, to the extent of the amount paid, the rights of the person who has received compensation in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or a third party.

If a parcel which has been regarded as lost is subsequently found, in whole or in part, the person to whom the compensation has been paid shall be informed that he is at liberty to take possession of the parcel against repayment of the amount paid as compensation.

Article 26

REPAYMENT OF THE COMPENSATION TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The Administration responsible or on whose account the payment is made in accordance with Article 23 is bound to repay the amount of the compensation within a period of six months after notification of payment. The amount shall be recovered from the country responsible through the accounts provided for in Article 21 of the Detailed Regulations.

The Administration of which the responsibility is duly proved and which has originally declined to pay compensation is bound to bear all the additional charges resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

Article 27

CREDITS FOR CONVEYANCE

For each parcel despatched from one of the two countries for delivery in the other, the despatching Administration shall allow to the Administration of destination the rates which accrue to it by virtue of the provisions of Articles 4, 5 and 31.

For each parcel despatched from one of the two countries in transit through the other, the despatching Administration shall allow to the other Administration the amount required for the conveyance and insurance of the parcel.

Article 28

CLAIMS IN CASE OF REDIRECTION OR RETURN

In case of the redirection or of the return of a parcel from one country to the other, the retransmitting Administration shall claim from the other the charges due to it any to and other Administration taking part in the redirection or return. The claim shall be made on the Parcel Bill relating to the mail in which the parcel is forwarded.

Article 29

CHARGE FOR REDIRECTION IN THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

In case of redirection to another country or of return to the country of origin, the redirection charge prescribed by Article 11, Section 2, shall accrue to the country which redirected the parcel within its own territory.

Article 30

MISCELLANEOUS FEES

1. The following fees shall be retained in full by the Administration which has collected them :

(a) the fee for Advice of Delivery referred to in Article 10;

(b) the inquiry fee referred to in Article 17, section 1.

2. The fee for delivery to the Customs and clearance through the Customs referred to in Article 6 and the warehousing charges referred to in Article 8 shall be retained by the Administration of the country of destination.

Article 31

INSURANCE FEE

1. In respect of insured parcels the Administration of the country of origin shall allow to the Administration of the country of destination as an insurance credit 5 centimes gold for each 300 gold francs or fraction thereof of insured value or its equivalent in the currency of the country of mailing.

2. In the case of parcels originating in the United States, one rate of insurance shall be equal to \$98.00 or fraction thereof of the insured value of each parcel and on parcels originating in Ceylon one rate shall be equal to Rs. 467/—.

Article 32

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Parcels shall not be subjected to any postal charges other than those contemplated in this Agreement except by mutual consent of the two Administrations.

2. In extraordinary circumstances either Administration may temporarily suspend the parcel post, either entirely or partially, on conditions of giving immediate notice, if necessary by telegraph, to the other Administration.

3. The two Administrations have drawn up the following Detailed Regulations for ensuring the execution of the present Agreement. Further, matters of detail, not inconsistent with the general provisions of this Agreement and not provided for in the Detailed Regulations may be arranged from time to time by mutual consent.

4. The internal legislation of the United States of America and Ceylon shall remain applicable as regards everything not provided for by the stipulations contained in the present agreement and in the Detailed Regulations for their execution.

5. The francs and centimes mentioned in this Agreement are gold francs as defined in the Universal Postal Union Convention.

Article 33

DURATION

The present Agreement will have effect from the first day of July, 1956 and govern the exchange of insured and uninsured postal parcels until they are modified by mutual consent of the parties, or until one year after the date on which one of the parties shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

EXECUTED in duplicate and signed at Washington, the 25th day of November, 1955 and at Colombo, the eighteenth day of July, 1955.

Maurice H. STANS
The Acting Postmaster General
of the United States of America
[SEAL]

S. NATESAN
The Minister of Posts
and Broadcasting
Colombo, Ceylon

DETAILED REGULATIONS¹ FOR THE EXECUTION OF
THE PARCEL POST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CEYLON,² SIGNED
AT WASHINGTON, ON 25 NOVEMBER 1955, AND AT
COLOMBO, ON 18 JULY 1955

Article 1

CIRCULATION

1. Each Administration shall forward by the routes and means which it uses for its own parcels, parcels delivered to it by the other Administration for conveyance in transit through its territory.

2. Missent parcels shall be retransmitted to their proper destination by the most direct route at the disposal of the Administration retransmitting them. Insured parcels, when missent, may not be reforwarded to their destination except as insured mail. If this is impossible, they must be returned to origin.

Article 2

METHOD OF TRANSMISSION—PROVISION OF BAGS

1. The exchange of parcels between the two countries shall be effected by the offices appointed by agreement between the two Administrations.

2. Parcels shall be exchanged between the two countries in bags duly fastened and sealed.

In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the transmission of parcels sent by one of the two contracting countries in transit through the other shall be effected *à découvert*.

3. A label showing the office of exchange of origin and the office of exchange of destination shall be attached to the neck of each bag, the number of parcels contained in the bag being indicated on the back of the label.

4. The bag containing the parcel bill and other documents shall be distinctively labelled.

5. Insured parcels shall be forwarded in separate bags. The neck label attached to any bag containing one or more insured parcels shall be marked with any distinctive symbol that may from time to time be agreed upon by the two Administrations.

6. The weight of any bag of parcels shall not exceed 80 pounds avoirdupois.

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1956, in accordance with article 24.

² See p. 296 of this volume.

7. The Postal Administrations of Ceylon and of the United States of America shall provide the respective bags necessary for the despatch of their parcels and each bag shall be marked to show the name of the office or country to which it belongs.

8. Bags must be returned empty by the next mail to the country to which the bags belong. The bags shall be made up in bundles of ten (nine bags enclosed in one) and despatched as separate mail addressed to such office of exchange as the Administration of origin shall appoint. The number of bags so forwarded shall be advised on a parcel bill, which shall be separate from that used for advising the parcels themselves and shall be numbered in a separate annual series. Each Administration shall be required to make good the value of any bags which it fails to return.

Article 3

INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED

1. Each Administration shall communicate to the other Administration all necessary information on points of detail in connection with the exchange of parcels between the two Administrations and also :

- (a) The names of the countries to which it can forward parcels handed over to it.
- (b) The total amount to be credited to it by the other Administration for each destination.
- (c) Any other necessary information.

2. Each Administration shall make known to the other the names of the countries to which it intends to send parcels in transit through the other.

Article 4

FIXING OF EQUIVALENTS

In fixing the charges for parcels, each of the two Administrations shall be at liberty to adopt such approximate equivalents as may be convenient in its own currency.

Article 5

MAKE UP OF PARCELS

Every parcel shall :

- (a) bear the exact address of the addressee in Roman characters. Addresses in pencil shall not be allowed provided that parcels bearing addresses written with copying-ink pencil on a surface previously damped shall be accepted. The address shall be written on the parcel itself or on a label so firmly attached to it that it cannot become detached. It is advisable to

- enclose in a parcel a copy of the address together with a note of the sender's address.
- (b) be packed in a manner adequate for the length of the journey and for the protection of the contents. Articles liable to injure officers of the Post Office or to damage other parcels shall be so packed as to prevent any risk.
- (c) have sufficient space to take necessary service instructions as well as stamps and labels.

Article 6

SPECIAL PACKING

1. Liquids and substances which easily liquefy shall be packed in two receptacles. Between the first receptacle (bottle, flask, pot, box, etc.) and the second (box of metal or of stout wood, or strong fiberboard of equal strength) shall be left a space which shall be filled with sawdust, bran or some other absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb all the liquid contents in the case of breakage.

2. Dry coloring powders such as aniline blue, etc., shall be admitted only if enclosed in stout metal boxes placed inside wooden boxes with sawdust between the two receptacles.

Dry non-coloring powders must be placed in boxes of metal, wood or cardboard; these boxes must themselves be enclosed in a cover of linen or parchment.

3. Parcels containing films, as well as the despatch notes relating to them, must have affixed a caution label with the notation in black letters "keep away from fire, heat and open flame lights" or a similar notation.

4. Every parcel containing precious stones, jewelry, articles of gold or silver, platinum or any other precious object shall be packed in a strong case of wood or metal with an outer covering of cloth or stout paper.

Article 7

CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS AND DESPATCH NOTES

1. Each parcel sent from either country must be accompanied by a customs declaration; also in the case of parcels sent to Ceylon, by a despatch note. The customs declarations and despatch notes must be firmly attached to the parcels to which they relate.

2. The two Administrations accept no responsibility in respect of the accuracy of customs declarations.

Article 8

ADVICE OF DELIVERY

1. Insured parcels of which the senders ask for an advice of delivery shall be very prominently marked "Advice of Delivery" or "A. R".

2. Such parcels shall be accompanied by a form similar to that annexed to the Detailed Regulations of the Postal Union Convention.¹ This advice of delivery form shall be prepared by the office of origin or by any other office appointed by the Administration of the country of origin, and it shall be firmly attached to the parcel to which it relates. If it does not reach the office of destination, that office of destination shall make out officially a new advice of delivery form.

3. The office of destination, after having duly filled out the form, shall return it by ordinary post unenclosed and free of postage to the address of the sender of the parcel.

4. When the sender makes inquiry concerning an advice of delivery which has not been returned to him after a reasonable interval, action shall be taken in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 9 following. In that case a second fee shall not be charged, and the office of origin shall enter at the top of the form the words "Duplicate advice of delivery".

Article 9

ADVICE OF DELIVERY APPLIED FOR AFTER POSTING

When the sender applies for an advice of delivery after a parcel has been posted, the office of origin shall fill out an advice of delivery form and shall attach it to a form of inquiry to which postage stamps representing appropriate fee have been affixed. The form of inquiry accompanied by the advice of delivery form shall be treated according to the provisions of Article 18 below, with the single exception that, in the case of the due delivery of the parcel, the office of destination shall withdraw the form of inquiry and shall return the advice of delivery form to the office of origin in the manner prescribed in paragraph 3 of the preceding Article.

Article 10

INDICATION OF INSURED VALUE

Every insured parcel and its relative customs declaration shall bear an indication of the insured value in the currency of the country of origin; the indication on the customs declaration shall be without erasure or correction,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 169, p. 3; Vol. 186, p. 356; Vol. 202, p. 340, and Vol. 227, p. 390.

even if certified. The indication on the parcel shall be both in words and in figures. The amount of the insured value shall be converted into gold francs by the Administration of origin. The result of the conversion shall be indicated distinctly by new figures placed beside or below those representing the amount of the insured value in the currency of the country of origin.

Article 11

INSURANCE, LABELS, ETC.

1. Every insured parcel and its despatch note as well shall bear on the address side an insurance number and a small red label with the words "Insured" or "*Valeur déclarée*" in large letters, or these words shall be marked or stamped on the parcel and the despatch note.

2. The wax or other seals, the labels of whatever kind and any postage stamps affixed to insured parcels shall be so spaced that they cannot conceal injuries to the cover. Moreover, the labels and postage stamps, if any, shall not be folded over two sides of the cover so as to hide the edge.

Article 12

SEALING OF INSURED PARCELS

1. Ordinary parcels may be sealed at the option of the senders, or careful tying is sufficient as a mode of closing.

2. Every insured parcel shall be sealed by means of wax or lead or other seals, the seals being sufficient in number to render it impossible to tamper with the contents without leaving an obvious trace of violation. Either Administration may require a special design or mark of the sender on the sealing of insured parcels mailed in its service, as a means of protection.

3. The Customs Administration of the country of destination is authorised to open the parcels. To that end, the seals or other fastenings may be broken. Parcels opened by the Customs must be refastened and also officially resealed.

Article 13

INDICATION OF WEIGHT OF INSURED PARCELS

The exact weight in pounds and ounces of each insured parcel shall be entered by the Administration of origin :

(a) on the address side of the parcel;

- (b) on the Despatch note, in the place reserved for the purpose. The Despatch Note shall be impressed by the office of posting with the stamp showing the place and date of posting.

Article 14

SERIAL NUMBER AND PLACE OF POSTING

Each parcel and its despatch note as well, in the case of parcels mailed to Ceylon, shall bear a serial number (insurance number) and the name of the office and date of posting. An office of posting shall not use two or more series of numbers at the same time, unless each series is provided with a distinctive mark.

Article 15

RETRANSMISSION

1. The Administrations retransmitting a missent parcel shall not levy Customs or other non-postal charges upon it.

When an Administration returns such a parcel to the country from which it has been directly received, it shall refund the credits received and report the error by means of a verification note.

In other cases the retransmitting Administration shall allow to the Administration to which it forwards the parcel the credits due for onward conveyance; and if the amount credited to it, is insufficient to cover the expenses of retransmission which it has to defray it shall then recover the amount of the deficiency by claiming it from the office of exchange from which the missent parcel was directly received. The reasons for this claim shall be notified to the latter by means of a verification note.

2. When a parcel has been wrongly allowed to be despatched in consequence of an error attributable to the postal service and has, for this reason, to be returned to the country of origin, the Administration which sends the parcel back shall allow to the office from which it was received the sums credited in respect of it.

3. The charges on a parcel redirected, in consequence of the removal of the addressee or of an error on the part of the sender to a country with which the United States of America or Ceylon has parcel post communication shall be claimed from the Administration of the country to which the parcel is redirected, unless the charge for a conveyance is paid at the time of redirection, in which case the parcel shall be dealt with as if it had been addressed directly from the retransmitting country to the new country of destination.

4. A parcel which is redirected shall be transmitted in its original packing and, in the case of parcels mailed to Ceylon, accompanied with its relative despatch note. If the parcel, for any reason whatsoever has to be repacked, the name of the office of origin of the parcel and the original serial number and, if practicable, the date of posting at that office, shall be entered on the parcel.

Article 16

RETURN OF UNDELIVERABLE PARCELS

1. If the sender of an undeliverable parcel has made a request not provided for by Article 13 Section 1, of the Agreement, the office of destination need not comply with it, but may return the parcel to the country of origin, after retention for the period prescribed by the regulations of the country of destination.

2. The Administration which returns a parcel to the sender shall indicate clearly and concisely thereon the cause of non-delivery. This information may be furnished in manuscript or by means of a stamped impression or a label.

3. A parcel to be returned to the sender shall be entered on the parcel bill with the word "Rebut" or analogous terms in the "Observations" column. It shall be dealt with and charged like a parcel redirected in consequence of the removal of the addressee.

Article 17

SALE—DESTRUCTION

When a parcel has been sold or destroyed in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the Agreement, a report of the sale or destruction shall be prepared.

Article 18

INQUIRIES CONCERNING PARCELS

For inquiries concerning parcels a form shall be used similar to the specimen annexed to the Detailed Regulations of the Parcel Post Agreement of the Universal Postal Union. These forms shall be forwarded to the offices appointed by the two Administrations to deal with them and they shall be dealt with in the manner mutually arranged between the two Administrations.

Article 19

PARCEL BILL

1. Separate parcel bills must be prepared for the ordinary parcels on the one hand, and for the insured parcels on the other hand. The parcel bills are prepared in duplicate. The original is sent in the regular mails, while the

duplicate is inserted in one of the bags. The bag containing the parcel bill is designated by the word "Bill" marked conspicuously on the label.

2. The ordinary parcels included in each despatch sent from one country to the other are to be entered on the parcel bills to show the total number of parcels and the total net weight thereof.

The total number of sacks comprising each despatch must also be shown on the parcel bills.

3. Insured parcels shall be entered individually on the parcel bills to show the insurance number and the name of the office of origin as well as the total net weight of the parcels.

4. Parcels sent *à découvert* must be entered separately on the parcel bills.

5. Redirected or returned parcels shall be entered individually. Redirected parcels shall be designated as such in the parcel bills by means of the note "Redirected"; returned parcels by the note "Returned". A statement of the charges which may be due on these parcels should be shown in the "Observations" column.

6. Each despatching office of exchange shall number the parcel bills in the upper left-hand corner in an annual series, for each office of exchange of destination, and as far as possible, shall enter below the number the name of the ship conveying the mail. A note of the last number of the preceding year shall be made on the first parcel bill of the following year.

7. The exact method of advising parcels or the receptacles containing them sent by one Administration in transit through the other together with any details of procedure in connection with the advice of such parcels or receptacles for which provision is not made in this agreement, shall be settled by mutual agreement through correspondence between the two Administrations.

Article 20

CHECK BY OFFICES OF EXCHANGE—NOTIFICATION OF IRREGULARITIES

1. On receipt of a mail, whether of parcels or of empty bags, the office of exchange shall check the parcels and the various documents which accompany them, or the empty bags as the case may be, against the particulars entered in the relative parcel bill and, if necessary, shall report missing articles or other irregularities by means of a verification note.

2. Discrepancies in the credits and accounting shall be notified to the despatching offices of exchange by verification notes. The accepted verification notes shall be attached to the parcel bills to which they relate. Corrections made on parcel bills not supported by vouchers shall not be considered valid.

Article 21

ACCOUNTING FOR CREDITS

1. Each Postal Administration shall cause each of its offices of exchange to prepare quarterly for all the Parcel Mails despatched to it during each month by each of the offices of exchange of the other Administration, a statement of the total amounts entered on the parcel bills, whether to its credit or to its debit.

2. These statements shall be afterwards summarized by the same Administration in a quarterly account, which accompanied by the above-mentioned statements, the parcel Bills and the Verification Notes, if any, relating thereto, shall be forwarded to the corresponding Administration in the course of the quarter following that to which it relates.

3. The quarterly accounts, after having been checked and accepted on both sides, shall be summarized in a general half yearly/yearly account prepared by the Administration to which the balance is due.

Article 22

SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

1. Payment of the balance due shall be made directly by the debtor to the creditor postal Administration by means of a sight draft payable in the capital or a commercial city of the creditor country or by some other means mutually agreed upon by correspondence.

2. The preparation and transmission of a general account and the payment of the balance of that account shall be effected as early as possible and, at the latest within a period of six months from the end of the period to which the account relates. After the expiration of this term the sums due from one Administration to the other shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum to be reckoned from the date of expiration of the said term.

Article 23

COMMUNICATION AND NOTIFICATIONS

Each Administration shall furnish to the other all necessary information on points of detail in connection with the working of the services.

Article 24

The present regulation shall be brought into operation on the day on which the agreement for the exchange of parcels comes into force. They shall have the same duration as the Agreement.

EXECUTED in duplicate and signed at Washington, the 25th day of November, 1955 and at Colombo, the eighteenth day of July, 1955.

Maurice H. STANS
The Acting Postmaster General
of the United States of America
[SEAL]

S. NATESAN
The Minister of Posts
and Broadcasting
Colombo, Ceylon