

**No. 4167**

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**UNITED NATIONS  
and  
LEBANON**

**Exchange of letters (with enclosure) constituting an agreement concerning the United Nations Emergency Force postal arrangements. Gaza, 21 December 1957 and 5 February 1958, and Beirut, 20 January 1958**

*Official text: English.*

*Registered ex officio on 5 February 1958.*

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
et  
LIBAN**

**Échange de lettres (avec pièce jointe) constituant un accord relatif aux services postaux de la Force d'urgence des Nations Unies. Gaza, 21 décembre 1957 et 5 février 1958, et Beyrouth, 20 janvier 1958**

*Texte officiel anglais.*

*Enregistré d'office le 5 février 1958.*

No. 4167. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND LEBANON CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS. GAZA, 21 DECEMBER 1957 AND 5 FEBRUARY 1958, AND BEIRUT, 20 JANUARY 1958

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I

HQ UNEF ME  
GAZA, EGYPT

21 Dec. 57

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my conversations with the Prime Minister of Lebanon on 29 October 1957 concerning facilities for the use of the Beirut International Airport as a transshipment point for UNEF personnel, supplies and mail, and to my *Aide-Mémoire*<sup>2</sup> delivered to your Ministry on the same date. I should like at this time to propose further arrangements concerning the handling of UNEF mail.

As you undoubtedly know UNEF has up to the present time maintained a Base Post Office in Naples and the Italian postal administration has acted as the "administration of origin" for UNEF outbound mail and the "administration of destination" for UNEF inbound mail. On approximately 1 February 1958, however, the regular flights of UNEF aircraft between Naples and UNEF's area of operations will come to an end and it will be necessary to close the UNEF Base Post Office in Naples. At that time it is desired to put into effect arrangements for Lebanon to replace Italy as the "administration of origin and destination" for UNEF mails, and to handle such mails through Beirut in accordance with the enclosed summary. I understand that the Lebanese Postal Administration is in principle willing to take over the functions which have up to this time been performed by the Italian Postal Administration, and I would appreciate having confirmation of your Government's acceptance.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 20 January 1958 by the exchange of the said letters.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 192 of this volume.

Since it will be necessary to give sufficient notice to the Participating States and to the Universal Postal Union, I would appreciate having your reply at the earliest possible opportunity.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

E. L. M. BURNS  
Major-General  
Commander, UNEF

His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Beirut, Lebanon

#### SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE HANDLING OF MAIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

The following arrangements, based on present practice with respect to UNEF mails, as accepted by the governments and postal authorities concerned, are proposed in order (a) to ensure prompt and effective processing and transmission of correspondence addressed to members of UNEF and of mail by them, and (b) to grant the free mailing privilege for private correspondence sent by members of UNEF. This free mailing privilege extends, at present, only to letter-mail, postcards and similar forms of correspondence.

##### 1. BASIS OF ARRANGEMENTS

(i) All mail addressed to or emanating from members of UNEF will be channelled through a *UNEF Base Post Office* which will be established at Beirut, Lebanon. As between this Base Post Office and another UNEF Base Post Office established in the *area of operations* of UNEF in the Middle-East, mail shall be transported by UNEF air shuttle.

(ii) In accordance with arrangements to be made with the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese postal administration will forward to *UNEF BPO* at Beirut all mail addressed to UNEF and will accept to forward to the Participating countries (i. e. countries providing military contingents to UNEF) mail emanating from UNEF and transmitted by UNEF BPO Beirut.<sup>1</sup> (The Lebanese postal administration will become, thus, the "Administration of origin" for UNEF outbound mail and the "Administration of destination" for UNEF inbound mail).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All inbound and outbound mail, including all types of parcels, shall be treated as mail in transit and as such shall be exempt from Lebanese regulations concerning customs, censorship and currency control.

<sup>2</sup> "Outbound mail" as used herein refers to mail despatched from the UNEF area; "inbound mail" as used herein refers to mail despatched to the UNEF area.

(iii) The postal administration of each Participating government has accepted to deliver to addresses in the letter's territories through normal postal channels, UNEF mail received under these arrangements. The postal administration of each Participating government has designated for this purpose a "central postal address".<sup>1</sup>

All outbound UNEF mail shall be addressed to and delivered to the "central postal address" of each Participating country. Mail originating in Participating countries and addressed to members of UNEF will carry the addresses stated in paragraph 2A below.

(iv) Outbound UNEF mail destined to addresses within countries other than Participating countries will be forwarded to UNEF BPO, Lebanon and will be mailed under international postal rates at UNEF expense. The Lebanese postal stamps will be affixed in accordance with arrangements with the Lebanese postal administration.

## 2. DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### A. *Particulars for handling inbound mail*

Inbound mail addressed to UNEF personnel shall consist of all normal classes of mail accepted by the various postal administrations in the countries of origin and shall be addressed and handled as follows :

(i) mail originating in a Participating country and addressed to a member of the military contingent of such country shall be addressed in such manner as the various Participating countries shall decide. This mail shall be transported in closed bags through channels of the postal administration of origin with a despatch label addressed :

*From* (name of country)  
*To* UNEF Base Post Office  
Beirut, Lebanon

(ii) all other mail shall be transported through normal civil postal channels and shall be addressed

Rank, name and service number  
Military unit (followed by name of country)  
UNEF Base Post Office  
Beirut, Lebanon

### B. *Particulars for handling outbound mail*

(i) All outbound free mail shall be in conformity with regulations prescribed by the United Nations as to the weight and types of paper and mail envelopes and shall bear on the upper left hand margin of the envelope the return address of the sender as follows :

Rank, name, and service number  
Military unit  
UNEF (and name of country)

<sup>1</sup> These addresses are presently as follows :

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
Bogotá, Colombia  
Montreal, Canada

Copenhagen, Denmark  
Oslo, Norway  
Malmo, Sweden

At present India and Yugoslavia will route their mail through Cairo instead of the UNEF Base Post Office, Beirut.

(ii) all outbound free mail shall be collected at the BPO in the UNEF Area of operations and the stamp imprint shall be affixed in the upper right hand corner or otherwise conspicuously in a space customarily used for postage stamps. This "franking" cancellation shall appear as follows with an imprint of the United Nations Seal :

United Nations Emergency Force  
(Date cancellation)

(iii) after cancellation, this mail shall be placed in bags according to Participating countries of destination ; these bags shall be closed and addressed to the "central postal addresses" for each of the Participating countries.

(iv) Outbound mail shall be transported to the BPO, Beirut, Lebanon accompanied by the normal international manifest forms identifying the bags and weights. The BPO at Beirut shall transfer UNEF outbound mail to the Lebanese postal administration for delivery through normal air mail channels to the Participating countries of destination.

## II

RÉPUBLIQUE LIBANAISE  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET DES LIBANAIS D'OUTRE-MER  
LE MINISTRE <sup>1</sup>

1054/5/61/3

Beirut, January 20, 1958

Major-General E. L. M. Burns  
Commander, UNEF  
Gaza, Egypt

Sir :

I have the honour to refer to your letter of December 21st, 1957, and to the conversations you had with the Prime Minister of Lebanon on October 29, 1957, concerning facilities for the use of the Beirut International Airport as a transshipment point for the UNEF personnel, supplies and mail.

I take note of the UNEF's intention to put into effect arrangements for Lebanon to replace Italy as the "Administration of origin and destination" for the UNEF mails, to establish in Beirut a UNEF base Post Office in lieu of Naples and to have these mails handled by the Lebanese Postal Administration.

Confirming the Government of Lebanon's agreement in principle to these arrangements conveyed on my behalf by my representative, Mr. Edward Ghorra, to your representatives at the conclusion of their meeting on the 26th of December,

<sup>1</sup> Lebanese Republic.  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Lebanese Overseas.  
The Minister.

1957, I wish hereby to inform you that the "Ministère des Postes et Télégraphes" has already taken the necessary steps to implement our agreement on or about the first of February, 1958.

It is our understanding that the above arrangement shall be carried out by both parties according to the obligations emanating from Lebanon's membership in the Universal Postal Union. It is also our understanding that the UNEF will pay the Lebanese Postal Administration all expenses defrayed by it in the execution of this arrangement and that payment shall be made in Beirut in United States Dollars at the official rate of the dollar established by U.P.U.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Charles MALIK  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

### III

UNEF HEADQUARTERS  
GAZA

5 February 1958

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1054/5/61/3 of 20 January 1958, in which you express your agreement to the proposals in my letter to you of 21 December 1957 concerning UNEF postal arrangements with your Government. I am pleased to confirm the understandings set forth in the final paragraph of your letter, subject to the clarification which has been made with your postal authorities that the expenses to be charged to UNEF are the transit charges only on "UNEF free mail" according to Universal Postal Union schedules.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the co-operation and assistance which have been received from the officials of your Government enabling the smooth transfer of our postal facilities from Naples to Beirut.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

E. L. M. BURNS  
Lieutenant-General  
Commander, UNEF

His Excellency Dr. Charles Malik  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Beirut, Lebanon