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4/10/81 to Dick Darman
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 9, 1981

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FG 006-12

MG

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD V. ALLEN *RA*

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Acts of the
Universal Postal Union

I am forwarding to you for your signature acts of the Universal Postal Union negotiated and signed by the United States in Rio de Janeiro on October 26, 1979.

The Postmaster General approved these acts on March 5, 1981, and Administration personnel in the Department of State have reviewed and approved the documents.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you approve and sign the attached instruments of ratification.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

Attachments:
a/s

NSC ID 81 01528

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

April 7, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD V. ALLEN

FROM:

HENRY R. NAU

SUBJECT:

Ratification of the Acts of the
Universal Postal Union

Attached are documents of the Universal Postal Union that have been negotiated and signed by the United States in Rio de Janeiro on October 26, 1979. The Postmaster General approved these documents on March 5, 1981, and they are now being forwarded to the President for ratification.

I have had these documents checked out by Elliott Abrams, the Assistant Secretary-Designate for International Organization Affairs at the Department of State. He assures me that the documents contain no surprises or matters on which this Administration may differ from the previous one. I have attached at Tab B the full response and recommendations from Elliott.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the memo to the President at Tab A requesting that he approve and ratify the documents.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

Attachments:
a/s

If you are life-or-death
certain that
they are OK.

4/9/81

RECEIVED 25 MAR 81 19

TO ALLEN

FROM BREMER

DOCDATE 23 MAR 81

026444

KEYWORDS: TREATIES

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF THE ACTS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR ALLEN DUE: 27 MAR 81 STATUS S FILES

FOR ACTION

FOR COMMENT

FOR INFO

NAU

DEAL

COMMENTS

REF#

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ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

<i>Allen</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>4/07</i>	<i>forward to Pres for sig</i>		
<i>Pres</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>4/10</i>	<i>for signature</i>		
		<i>5/14</i>	<i>Pres sign 20 bpr</i>		

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

[Handwritten signature and initials]

RECEIVED

81 APR 8 AM: 10

JANET COLSON

J 8/ 1345

BUD NANCE

J 8/ 1420

DICK ALLEN

He

IRENE DERUS

J

JANET COLSON

*Bud 7
Janet
Are you
sure of
what to
say*

~~BUD NANCE~~

J

KAY

CY TO VP

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CY TO MEESE

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SHOW CC

CY TO DEEVER

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CY TO BRADY

SHOW CC

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE-designate
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1981

Mr. Henry Nau
National Security Council
Old Executive Office Building
Room 365
Washington, D.C. 20615

Dear Henry:

This is in response to your request that I give you my views on the ratification papers on the UPU business. I enclose a memo done for me on this subject indicating that there does not seem to be any problem with it. The Acts themselves run 964 pages and I have therefore not been able to review them in great detail. Nevertheless, there seems to be a broad consensus that we can go along with this.

Sincerely,



Elliott Abrams



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

March 31, 1981

TO: IO - Mr. Abrams

FROM: IO - Marion Creekmore *MUC*

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Acts of the Universal Postal Union

This is in response to your March 28th request for a briefing memo on the subject ratification.

Under the provisions of 39 U. S. Code 407 (copy attached) the United States Postal Service is authorized to negotiate and conclude international postal treaties which are subject to ratification by the President.

In September and October, 1979, a United States Delegation, headed by the Postmaster General, attended the 18th Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Members of the delegation, which included two officials of the IO Bureau, received plenipotentiary powers by the Secretary of State incident to the United States signing the appropriate Acts of the Universal Postal Congress.

After receipt of the certified copy of the Rio Acts of the UPU and of the official English language translation (attached), the Postmaster General had prepared and on March 5, 1981, signed the instrument of Ratification of those Acts. In coordination with the Treaty Affairs Office at the Department of State and in conformity with established procedures, the signed Ratification was forwarded to Treaty Affairs for official transmission to the White House for Presidential approval (copy of Bremer to Allen memorandum also attached).

Specifically, the United States became signatory to the General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union, the Universal Postal Union Convention and its Detailed Regulations. The resulting Rio Acts of the UPU constitute a multilateral agreement among the Member Countries, which sets the rules and regulations for the exchange of international mail.

The Congress is the supreme organ of the Union and meets every five years to revise and update the Acts. The immediately preceding Congress met in Lausanne in 1974. The Rio Congress

considered over 1200 proposals to amend the Acts. These proposals were distributed to nine committees of the Congress for discussion, recommendation of action, and submission to the full Congress in plenary session, for ultimate acceptance, modification, or rejection.


The Rio Acts of the UPU continue the intent of the original Acts: to form a single world-wide postal territory within a basic framework of uniformity in overall mailing regulations, weight specifications, routing systems, postal preparation and processing requirements to facilitate the exchange of mail without the necessity of separate agreements with each country. During all intervening congresses, emphasis has been placed on updating the Acts to reflect the evaluation in transportation modes and mail handling procedures.

Among the principal changes in the Rio Acts are new provisions relating to the boundaries within which each country can set its own international postage rates, and a more flexible weight step structure to which rates are applied; a substantial increase in the terminal dues rate (the rate at which a net mail reporting country reimburses a net mail importing country for imbalances in mail exchanges); the adoption of the International Monetary Funds Special Drawing Rights as the standard monetary unit for the settlement of postal accounts between countries; increases in land and sea transit charges scales and in the basic airmail conveyance rate (which regulate the level at which an intermediate country may be compensated for surface and air transit services it provides in forwarding surface and airmail from one country to another); and an increase in the indemnity limit for registered mail.

The Rio UPU Acts provide for an effective date of July 1, 1981.

We recommend that you convey to Mr. Nau our support for Presidential approval of the Rio Acts.

Attachments: A/S

DRAFTED BY: IO/TRC:CWarvariv 

cc: L/T - JFincher



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

NSC# 1528

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RF

March 23, 1981

COPIES TO:

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. RICHARD ALLEN
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Ratification of the Acts of the
Universal Postal Union

On March 5, 1981, the Postmaster General approved the General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union (including the Final Protocol thereto) and the Universal Postal Convention (including its Final Protocol and Detailed Regulations), signed by the United States at Rio de Janeiro on October 26, 1979.

The documents were negotiated by the Postal Service, subject to the approval of the President, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 407. The Secretariat of the Postal Union has forwarded to the Department of State a certified copy of the official text (French) and an official English translation (with an errata notice) of the foregoing acts.

The ratification, in duplicate, is attached for the President's signature pursuant to the authority granted to the Postal Service by the above cited statute.

L. Paul Bremer, III
Executive Secretary

Attachments:

1. Instrument of ratification, in duplicate.
2. Copies of texts.

L/T - AWRovine AWR
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Amby

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81-022901461

I hereby approve and ratify the foregoing Acts of the Universal Postal Union comprising the General Regulations (including the Final Protocol thereof) and the Universal Postal Convention (including its Final Protocol and Detailed Regulations), signed at Rio de Janeiro on the 26th day of October 1979.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the seal of the United States of America to be hereto affixed.

DONE at the city of Washington

our Lord one thousand
nine hundred eighty-one
and of the Independence
of the United States of
America the two hundred
fifth.

By the President:

Secretary of State

8 1 0 2 2 9 0 1 4 6 2

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

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GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

The undersigned plenipotentiaries of the Governments of member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union, concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have, by common consent, and subject to article 26, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, drawn up in these General Regulations the following provisions securing the application of the Constitution and the functioning of the Union.

Chapter I

Functioning of the Union's bodies

Article 101

Organization and convening of Congresses, Extraordinary Congresses, Administrative Conferences and Special Committees

- 1 The representatives of member countries shall meet in Congress not later than five years after the date on which the Acts of the preceding Congress come into operation.
- 2 Each member country shall arrange for its representation at Congress by one or more plenipotentiaries furnished by their Government with the necessary powers. It may, if need be, arrange to be represented by the delegation of another member country. Nevertheless it shall be understood that a delegation may represent only one member country other than its own.
- 3 In debates, each country shall be entitled to one vote.
- 4 In principle, each Congress shall designate the country in which the next Congress will be held. If that designation proves inapplicable, the Executive Council shall be authorized to designate the country where Congress is to meet, after consultation with the latter country.
- 5 After consultation with the International Bureau, the host Government shall fix the definitive date and the precise locality of Congress. In principle one year before that date the host Government shall send an invitation to the Government of each member country of the Union. This invitation may be sent direct or through the intermediary of another Government or through the Director-General of the International Bureau. The host Government shall also be responsible for notifying the decisions taken by Congress to all the Governments of member countries.
- 6 When a Congress has to be convened without a host Government, the International Bureau, with the agreement of the Executive Council and after consultation with the Government of the Swiss Confederation, shall take the necessary steps to convene and organize the Congress in the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. In this event the International Bureau shall perform the functions of the host Government.
- 7 The meeting place of an Extraordinary Congress shall be fixed, after consultation with the International Bureau, by the member countries which have initiated that Congress.
- 8 Paragraphs 2 to 6 shall be applicable by analogy to Extraordinary Congresses.
- 9 The meeting place of an Administrative Conference shall be fixed after consultation with the International Bureau, by the postal administrations which have initiated the Conference. The notices of convocation shall be sent out by the postal administration of the country in which the conference is to be held.
- 10 Special Committees shall be convened by the International Bureau after consultation, where appropriate, with the postal administration of the member country in which these Special Committees are to meet.

General Regulations

Article 102

Composition, functioning and meetings of the Executive Council

1 The Executive Council shall consist of a Chairman and thirty-nine members who shall exercise their functions during the period between two successive Congresses.

2 The chairmanship shall devolve by right on the host country of Congress. If that country waives this right, it shall become a *de jure* member and, as a result, the geographical group to which it belongs shall have at its disposal an additional seat, to which the restrictive provisions of paragraph 3 shall not apply. In that case, the Executive Council shall elect to the chairmanship one of the member countries belonging to the geographical group of the host country.

3 The thirty-nine members of the Executive Council shall be elected by Congress on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution. At least a half of the membership shall be renewed at each Congress: no member may be chosen by three successive Congresses.

4 The representative of each of the members of the Executive Council shall be appointed by the postal administration of his country. This representative shall be a qualified official of the postal administration.

5 The office of member of the Executive Council shall be unpaid. The operational expenses of this Council shall be borne by the Union.

6 The Executive Council shall coordinate and supervise all the activities of the Union with the following functions:

- a to maintain the closest contact with the postal administrations of member countries with a view to improving the international postal service;
- b to promote, coordinate and supervise all forms of postal technical assistance within the framework of international technical cooperation;
- c to study administrative, legislative and legal problems concerning the international postal service and communicate the results of such studies to postal administrations;
- d to designate the country where the next Congress is to be held in the case provided for in article 101, paragraph 4.
- e to submit subjects for study to the Consultative Council for Postal Studies for examination in accordance with article 104, paragraph 9, f;
- f to examine the annual report prepared by the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and, if necessary, the proposals submitted by the Council;
- g to make any useful contacts with the United Nations, its Councils and its Committees, and with the specialized agencies and other international bodies, for the purpose of making studies and preparing reports to be submitted for approval to the postal administrations of member countries; to send, as occasion arises, representatives of the Union to take part on its behalf in the meetings of these international bodies; to designate in due course the intergovernmental international organizations which should be invited to be represented at a Congress and to instruct the Director-General of the International Bureau to send the necessary invitations;
- h to formulate, as necessary, proposals to be submitted for the approval either of postal administrations of member countries under article 31, paragraph 1, of the Constitution and article 121 of these Regulations, or of Congress when these proposals concern studies entrusted by Congress to the Executive Council or when they arise out of the Executive Council's own activities as defined in this article;
- i to examine, at the request of the postal administration of a member country, any proposal which that administration forwards to the International Bureau under article 120, to prepare observations on it and to instruct the International Bureau to annex these observations to the proposal before submitting it for approval to the postal administrations of member countries;
- j in accordance with the provisions in force:
 - i to ensure control of the activities of the International Bureau;
 - ii to consider and approve the annual budget of the Union;
 - iii to appoint or promote officials to the grade of Assistant Director-General (D 2);
 - iv to approve the annual report on the work of the Union prepared by the International Bureau and where appropriate to furnish observations on it;
 - v to authorize, if circumstances so require, the calling of expenditure to be exceeded in accordance with article 122, paragraphs 3 and 4.

7 In appointing officials to grade D 2, the Executive Council shall consider the professional qualifications of the candidates recommended by the postal administrations of the member countries of which the candidates are

nationals, ensuring that the posts of Assistant Director-General are as far as possible filled by candidates from different regions and from regions other than those from which the Director-General and Deputy Director-General originate, bearing in mind the paramount consideration of the efficiency of the International Bureau, while giving due weight to the Bureau's internal promotion arrangements.

8 At its first meeting, which shall be convened by the Chairman of Congress, the Executive Council shall elect four Vice-Chairmen from among its members and draw up its Rules of Procedure.

9 On convocation by its Chairmen, the Executive Council shall meet in principle once a year, at Union headquarters.

10 The representative of each of the members of the Executive Council participating in its meetings, except for meetings which take place during Congress, shall be entitled to reimbursement of the cost of either an economy class return air ticket or first class return rail ticket, or expenses incurred for travel by any other means subject to the condition that the amount does not exceed the price of the economy class return air ticket.

11 The Chairman of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall represent that body at meetings of the Executive Council on the agenda of which there are questions of interest to the body which he directs.

12 To ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies may, if they express the desire so to do, attend Executive Council meetings as observers.

13 The postal administration of the country in which the Executive Council meets shall be invited to take part in the meetings in the capacity of observer, if that country is not a member of the Executive Council.

14 The Executive Council may invite any international body or any qualified person whom it wishes to associate with its work to its meetings, without the right to vote. It may also invite, under the same conditions, one or more postal administrations of member countries concerned with questions on its agenda.

Article 103

Documentation on the activities of the Executive Council

1 The Executive Council shall send postal administrations of member countries of the Union and Restricted Unions, for information, after each session:

- a a summary record;
- b the "Documents of the Executive Council" containing the reports, discussions, summary record and resolutions and decisions.

2 The Executive Council shall make to Congress a comprehensive report on its work and send it to postal administrations at least two months before the opening of Congress.

Article 104

Composition, functioning and meetings of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies

1 The Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall consist of thirty-five members who shall exercise their functions during the period between two successive Congresses.

2 The members of the Consultative Council shall be elected by Congress, in principle on the basis of as wide a geographical distribution as possible.

3 The representative of each of the members of the Consultative Council shall be appointed by the postal administration of his country. This representative shall be a qualified official of the postal administration.

4 The operational expenses of the Consultative Council shall be borne by the Union. Its members shall not receive any payment. Travelling and living expenses incurred by representatives of administrations participating in the Consultative Council shall be borne by those administrations. However, the representative of each of the countries considered to be disadvantaged according to the lists established by the United Nations shall be entitled to reimbursement of the price of an economy class return air ticket or first class return rail ticket, or expenses incurred for travel by any other means, subject to the condition that the amount does not exceed the price of the economy class return air ticket.

General Regulations

- 5 At its first meeting, which shall be convened and opened by the Chairman of Congress, the Consultative Council shall choose from among its members a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen.
- 6 The Consultative Council shall draw up its Rules of Procedure.
- 7 In principle, the Consultative Council shall meet every year at Union headquarters. The date and place of the meeting shall be fixed by its Chairman, in agreement with the Chairman of the Executive Council and the Director-General of the International Bureau.
- 8 The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Committee Chairmen of the Consultative Council shall form the Steering Committee. This Committee shall prepare and direct the work of each meeting of the Consultative Council and take on all the tasks which the latter decides to assign to it.
- 9 The functions of the Consultative Council shall be the following:
 - a to organize the study of the most important technical, operational, economic and technical cooperation problems which are of interest to postal administrations of all member countries of the Union and to prepare information and opinions on them;
 - b to study teaching and vocational training problems of interest to the new and developing countries;
 - c to take the necessary steps to study and publicize the experiments and progress made by certain countries in the technical, operational, economic and vocational training fields of interest to the postal services;
 - d to study the present position and needs of the postal services in the new and developing countries and to prepare appropriate recommendations on ways and means of improving the postal services in those countries;
 - e to take, in consultation with the Executive Council, appropriate steps in the sphere of technical cooperation with all member countries of the Union and in particular with the new and developing countries;
 - f to examine any other questions submitted to it by a member of the Consultative Council, by the Executive Council or by any administration of a member country.
- 10 The members of the Consultative Council shall take an active part in its work. Member countries not belonging to the Consultative Council may, at their request, cooperate in the studies undertaken.
- 11 If need be, the Consultative Council shall draw up proposals for Congress arising directly from its activities as defined in this article. These proposals shall be submitted by the Consultative Council itself, after consultation with the Executive Council when questions within the latter's competence are concerned.
- 12 The Consultative Council shall, at its last session before Congress, prepare for submission to Congress the draft work programme of the next Council, taking into account the requests of member countries of the Union and of the Executive Council.
- 13 In order to ensure effective liaison between the work of the two bodies, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Council may, if they express the desire so to do, attend Consultative Council meetings as observers.
- 14 The Consultative Council may invite the following to take part in its meetings without the right to vote:
 - a any international body or any qualified person whom it wishes to associate with its work;
 - b postal administrations of member countries not belonging to the Consultative Council.

Article 105

Documentation on the activities of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies

- 1 The Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall send postal administrations of member countries and Restricted Unions, for information, after each session:
 - a a summary record;
 - b the "Documents of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies" containing the reports, discussions and summary record.
- 2 The Consultative Council shall prepare for the Executive Council an annual report on its work.
- 3 The Consultative Council shall prepare for Congress a comprehensive report on its work and send it to postal administrations of member countries at least two months before the opening of Congress.

Article 106

Rules of Procedure of Congresses, Administrative Conferences and Special Committees

- 1 For the organization of its work and the conduct of its debates, Congress shall apply the Rules of Procedure of Congresses which are annexed to the General Regulations.
- 2 Each Congress may amend these rules under the conditions laid down in the Rules of Procedure themselves.
- 3 Each Administrative Conference and each Special Committee shall draw up its rules of procedure. Until such rules are adopted, the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of Congresses annexed to these General Regulations shall be applicable in so far as they are relevant to the debates.

Article 107

Languages used for the publication of documents, for debates and for official correspondence

- 1 For the documents of the Union, the French, English, Arabic and Spanish languages shall be used. The Chinese, German, Portuguese and Russian languages shall also be used provided that only the most important basic documents are produced in these languages. Other languages may also be used on condition that the costs to be borne by the Union under paragraph 6 are not thereby increased.
- 2 The member country or countries which have requested a language other than the official language constitute a language group. The member countries which have not made any express request shall be regarded as having asked for the official language.
- 3 Documents shall be published by the International Bureau in the official language and in the languages of the duly constituted language groups, either directly or through the intermediary of the regional offices of those groups in conformity with the procedures agreed with the International Bureau. Publication in the different languages shall be effected in accordance with a common standard.
- 4 Documents published directly by the International Bureau shall be distributed simultaneously in the different languages requested.
- 5 Correspondence between the postal administrations and the International Bureau and between the latter and outside entities may be exchanged in any language for which the International Bureau has available a translation service.
- 6 The cost of translation into any language other than the official language, including those resulting from the application of paragraph 5, shall be borne by the language group which has asked for that language. The Union shall bear the cost of translation into the official language of documents and correspondence received in Arabic, English and Spanish, as well as all other costs involved in the supply of documents. The ceiling of the costs to be borne by the Union for the production of documents in Chinese, German, Portuguese and Russian shall be fixed by a Congress resolution.
- 7 The costs to be borne by a language group shall be divided among the members of that group in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union. These costs may be divided among the members of the language group according to another system, provided that the countries concerned agree to it and inform the International Bureau of their decision through the intermediary of the spokesman of the group.
- 8 The International Bureau shall give effect to any change in the choice of language requested by a member country after a period which shall not exceed two years.
- 9 For the discussions at meetings of the Union's bodies, the French, English, Spanish and Russian languages shall be admissible, by means of a system of interpretation — with or without electronic equipment — the choice being left to the judgment of the organizers of the meeting after consultation with the Director-General of the International Bureau and the member countries concerned.
- 10 Other languages shall likewise be admissible for the discussions and meetings mentioned in paragraph 9.
- 11 Delegations using other languages shall arrange for simultaneous interpretation into one of the languages mentioned in paragraph 9, either by the system indicated in the same paragraph, when the necessary technical modifications can be made, or by individual interpreters.
- 12 The costs of the interpretation services shall be shared among the member countries using the same language in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union. However, the costs of installing and maintaining the technical equipment shall be borne by the Union.
- 13 Postal administrations may come to an understanding about the language to be used for official correspondence in their relations with one another. In the absence of such an understanding the language to be used shall be French.

General Regulations

Chapter II

International Bureau

Article 108

Election of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau

1 The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau shall be elected by Congress for the period between two successive Congresses, the minimum duration of their term of office being five years. Their term of office shall be renewable once only. Unless Congress decides otherwise, the date on which they take up their duties shall be fixed at 1 January of the year following that in which Congress is held.

2 The election of the Director-General and that of the Deputy Director-General shall take place by secret ballot, the first election being for the post of Director-General. Applications must be submitted by the Governments of member countries, through the intermediary of the Government of the Swiss Confederation. To that end, the Swiss Government shall send a memorandum to the Governments of member countries at least seven months before the opening of Congress, inviting them to send in their applications, if any, within a period of three months. The candidates must be nationals of the member countries which put them forward. In its memorandum, the Government of the Swiss Confederation shall also state whether the Director-General and Deputy Director-General in office have declared their interest in a renewal of their initial term of office. About two months before the opening of Congress the latter Government shall forward the applications received to the International Bureau so that the election documents can be prepared.

3 If the post of Director-General falls vacant, the Deputy Director-General shall take over the functions of Director-General until the expiry of the latter's term of office; he shall be eligible for election to that post and shall automatically be accepted as a candidate, provided that his initial term of office as Deputy Director-General has not already been renewed once by the preceding Congress and that he declares his interest in being considered as a candidate for the post of Director-General.

4 If the posts of Director-General and Deputy Director-General fall vacant at the same time, the Executive Council shall elect, on the basis of the applications received following notification of the vacancies, a Deputy Director-General for the period extending up to the next Congress. With regard to the submission of applications, paragraph 2 shall apply by analogy.

5 If the post of Deputy Director-General falls vacant, the Executive Council shall, on the proposal of the Director-General, instruct one of the Assistant Directors-General at the International Bureau to take over the functions of Deputy Director-General until the following Congress.

Article 109

Duties of the Director-General

1 The Director-General shall organize, administer and direct the International Bureau, of which he is the legal representative. He shall be empowered to classify posts in grades G 1 to D 1 and to appoint and promote officials in those grades. For appointments in grades P 1 to D 1, he shall consider the professional qualifications of the candidates recommended by the postal administrations of the member countries of which the candidates are nationals, taking into account equitable geographical distribution with respect to continents and languages together with all other relevant considerations, while giving due weight to the Bureau's internal promotion arrangements. He shall also consider that, in principle persons occupying grade D 2, D 1 and P 5 posts must be nationals of different member countries of the Union. He shall inform the Executive Council once a year, in the report on the work of the Union, of appointments and promotions in grades P 4 to D 1.

2 The Director-General shall have the following duties:

- a to prepare the draft annual budget of the Union at the lowest possible level consistent with the requirements of the Union and to submit it in due course and simultaneously to the Executive Council and the Supervisory Authority for consideration; to communicate the budget to the member countries of the Union after approval by the Executive Council;
- b to act as an intermediary in relations between:
 - the UPU and the Restricted Unions;
 - the UPU and the United Nations;
 - the UPU and the international organizations whose activities are of interest to the Union;

- c to assume the duties of Secretary-General of the bodies of the Union and supervise in this capacity and taking into account the special provisions of these General Regulations, in particular:
 - the preparation and organization of the work of the Union's bodies;
 - the preparation, production and distribution of documents, reports and minutes;
 - the functioning of the secretariat at meetings of the Union's bodies;
- d to attend the meetings of the bodies of the Union and take part in the discussions without the right to vote, with the possibility of being represented.

Article 110

Duties of the Deputy Director-General

- 1 The Deputy Director-General shall assist the Director-General and shall be responsible to him.
- 2 If the Director-General is absent or prevented from discharging his duties, the Deputy Director-General shall exercise his functions. The same shall apply in the case of a vacancy in the post of Director-General as mentioned in article 108, paragraph 3.

Article 111

Secretariat of the Union's bodies

The Secretariat of the Union's bodies shall be provided by the International Bureau under the responsibility of the Director-General. It shall send all the documents published on the occasion of each session to the postal administrations of the members of the body, to the postal administrations of countries which, while not members of the body, cooperate in the studies undertaken, to the Restricted Unions and to postal administrations of other member countries which ask for them.

Article 112

List of member countries

The International Bureau shall prepare and keep up to date the list of member countries of the Union showing therein their contribution class, their geographical group and their position with respect to the Acts of the Union.

Article 113

Information. Opinions. Requests for interpretation and amendment of the Acts. Inquiries.
Role in the settlement of accounts

- 1 The International Bureau shall be at all times at the disposal of the Executive Council, the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and postal administrations for the purpose of supplying them with any necessary information on questions relating to the service.
- 2 In particular it shall collect, collate, publish and distribute all kinds of information of interest to the international postal service, give an opinion, at the request of the parties involved, on questions in dispute, act on requests for interpretation and amendment of the Acts of the Union and, in general, carry out such studies and editorial or documentary work as are assigned to it by those Acts or as may be referred to it in the interest of the Union.
- 3 It shall also conduct inquiries requested by postal administrations to obtain the views of other administrations on a particular question. The result of an inquiry shall not have the status of a vote and shall not be formally binding.
- 4 It shall bring to the notice of the Chairman of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies, for any necessary action, questions which are within the competence of that organ.
- 5 It shall act as a clearing house in the settlement of accounts of all kinds relating to the international postal service between postal administrations requesting this facility.

General Regulations

Article 114

Technical cooperation

The International Bureau shall develop postal technical assistance in all its forms within the framework of international technical cooperation.

Article 115

Forms supplied by the International Bureau

The International Bureau shall be responsible for arranging the manufacture of postal identity cards, international reply coupons, postal travellers' cheques and cheque book covers and for supplying them, at cost, to postal administrations ordering them.

Article 116

Acts of Restricted Unions and Special Agreements

1 Two copies of the Acts of Restricted Unions and of Special Agreements concluded under article 8 of the Constitution shall be sent to the International Bureau by the offices of such Unions, or failing that, by one of the contracting parties.

2 The International Bureau shall see that the Acts of Restricted Unions and Special Agreements do not include conditions less favourable to the public than those which are provided for in the Acts of the Union and shall inform postal administrations of the existence of such Unions and Agreements. The International Bureau shall notify the Executive Council of any irregularity discovered through applying this provision.

Article 117

Union periodical

The International Bureau shall publish, with the aid of the documents made available to it, a periodical in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Article 118

Annual report on the work of the Union

The International Bureau shall make an annual report on the work of the Union, which shall be sent, after approval by the Executive Council, to postal administrations, the Restricted Unions and the United Nations.

Chapter III

Procedure for the submission and consideration of proposals

Article 119

Procedure for submitting proposals to Congress

1 Subject to the exceptions provided for in paragraph 3, the following procedure shall govern the submission of proposals of all kinds to Congress by postal administrations of member countries:

- a proposals which reach the International Bureau at least six months before the date fixed for Congress shall be accepted;

- b no drafting proposal shall be accepted during the period of six months preceding the date fixed for Congress;
 - c proposals of substance which reach the International Bureau in the interval between six and four months before the date fixed for Congress shall not be accepted unless they are supported by at least two administrations;
 - d proposals of substance which reach the International Bureau during the period of four months preceding the date fixed for Congress shall not be accepted unless they are supported by at least eight administrations;
 - e declarations of support shall reach the International Bureau within the same period as the proposals to which they refer.
- 2 Drafting proposals shall be headed "Drafting proposal" by the administrations which submit them and shall be published by the International Bureau under a number followed by the letter R. Proposals which do not bear this indication but which, in the opinion of the International Bureau, deal only with drafting points shall be published with an appropriate annotation: the International Bureau shall draw up a list of these proposals for Congress.
- 3 The procedure prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply either to proposals concerning the Rules of Procedure of Congresses or to amendments to proposals already made.

Article 120

Procedure for submitting proposals between Congresses

- 1 To be eligible for consideration each proposal concerning the Convention or the Agreements submitted by a postal administration between Congresses shall be supported by at least two other administrations. Such proposals shall lapse if the International Bureau does not receive, at the same time, the necessary number of declarations of support.
- 2 These proposals shall be sent to other postal administrations through the intermediary of the International Bureau.

Article 121

Consideration of proposals between Congresses

- 1 Every proposal shall be subject to the following procedure: a period of two months shall be allowed to postal administrations of member countries for consideration of the proposal notified by an International Bureau circular and for forwarding their observations, if any, to the Bureau. Amendments shall not be admissible. The replies shall be collected by the International Bureau and communicated to postal administrations with an invitation to vote for or against the proposal. Those which have not sent in their vote within a period of two months shall be considered as abstaining. The aforementioned periods shall be reckoned from the dates of the International Bureau circulars.
- 2 If the proposal relates to an Agreement, its Detailed Regulations or their Final Protocols, only the postal administrations of member countries which are parties to that Agreement may take part in the procedure described in paragraph 1.

Article 122

Notification of decisions adopted between Congresses

- 1 Amendments made to the Convention, the Agreements and the Final Protocols to those Acts shall be sanctioned by a diplomatic declaration which the Government of the Swiss Confederation shall be charged to draw up and transmit at the request of the International Bureau to the Governments of member countries.
- 2 Amendments made to the Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols shall be recorded and communicated to postal administrations by the International Bureau. The same shall apply to the interpretations referred to in article 85, paragraph 2, c, ii, of the Convention and in the corresponding provisions of the Agreements.

General Regulations

Article 123

Implementation of decisions adopted between Congresses

Any decision which has been adopted shall not take effect until at least three months after its notification.

Chapter IV

Finance

Article 124

Fixing and regulation of the expenditure of the Union

1 Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 6, the annual expenditure relating to the activities of bodies of the Union may not exceed the following sums for 1981 and subsequent years:

17 186 500 Swiss francs for 1981;

17 586 300 Swiss francs for 1982;

17 848 600 Swiss francs for 1983;

18 187 800 Swiss francs for 1984;

18 556 400 Swiss francs for 1985.

The basic limit for 1985 shall also apply to the following years in case the Congress scheduled for 1984 is postponed.

2 The expenditure relating to the convening of the next Congress (travelling expenses of the secretariat, transport charges, cost of installing simultaneous interpretation equipment, cost of producing documents during the Congress, etc) shall not exceed the limit of 1 750 000 Swiss francs.

3 The Executive Council shall be authorized to exceed the limits laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 to take account of increases in salary scales, pension contributions or allowances, including post adjustments, approved by the United Nations for application to its staff working in Geneva.

4 The Executive Council shall also be authorized to adjust, each year, the amount of expenditure other than that relating to staff on the basis of the Swiss consumer price index.

5 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, the Executive Council, or in case of extreme urgency, the Director-General, may authorize the prescribed limits to be exceeded to meet the cost of major and unforeseen repairs to the International Bureau building, provided however that the amount of the increase does not exceed 65 000 Swiss francs per annum.

6 If the credits authorized in paragraphs 1 and 2 prove inadequate to ensure the smooth running of the Union, these limits may only be exceeded with the approval of the majority of the member countries of the Union. Any consultation shall include a complete description of the facts justifying such a request.

7 Countries which accede to the Union or are admitted to the status of members of the Union as well as those which leave the Union shall pay their contributions for the whole of the year during which their admission or withdrawal becomes effective.

8 Member countries shall pay their contributions to the Union's annual expenditure in advance on the basis of the budget laid down by the Executive Council. These contributions shall be paid not later than the first day of the financial year to which the budget refers. After that date, the sums due shall be chargeable with interest in favour of the Union at the rate of 3 percent per annum for the first six months and of 6 percent per annum from the seventh month.

9 To cover shortfalls in Union financing, a Reserve Fund shall be established the amount of which shall be fixed by the Executive Council. This Fund shall be maintained primarily from budget surpluses. It may also be used to balance the budget or to reduce the amount of member countries' contributions.

10 As regards temporary financing shortfalls, the Government of the Swiss Confederation shall make the necessary short-term advances, on conditions which are to be fixed by mutual agreement. That Government shall supervise, without charge, bookkeeping and accounting of the International Bureau within the limits of the credits fixed by Congress.

Article 125

Contribution classes

1 Member countries shall contribute to defraying Union expenses according to the contribution class to which they belong. These classes are the following:

class of 50 units;
class of 25 units;
class of 20 units;
class of 15 units;
class of 10 units;
class of 5 units;
class of 3 units;
class of 1 unit.

2 Member countries shall be included in one of the above-mentioned contribution classes upon their admission or accession to the Union in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 21, paragraph 4, of the Constitution.

3 Member countries may subsequently change contribution class on condition that this change is communicated to the International Bureau before the opening of Congress. This notification, which shall be brought to the attention of Congress, shall take effect on the date of the entry into force of the financial provisions drawn up by Congress.

4 Member countries may not insist on being lowered more than one class at a time. Member countries which have not made known their wish to change contribution class by the opening of Congress shall remain in the class to which they belonged up to that time.

5 Notwithstanding paragraphs 3 and 4, changes to a higher class shall not be subject to any restriction.

Article 126

Payment for supplies from the International Bureau

Supplies provided by the International Bureau to postal administrations against payment shall be paid for in the shortest possible time and at the latest within three months from the first day of the month following that in which the account is sent by the Bureau. After that period the sums due shall be chargeable with interest in favour of the Union which advanced them, at the rate of 5 percent per annum reckoned from the date of expiry of that period.

Chapter V

Arbitration

Article 127

Arbitration procedure

1 If a dispute has to be settled by arbitration, each of the postal administrations party to the case shall select a postal administration of a member country not directly involved in the dispute. When several administrations make common cause, they shall count only as a single administration for the purposes of this provision.

2 If one of the administrations party to the case does not act on a proposal for arbitration within a period of six months, the International Bureau, if so requested, shall itself call upon the defaulting administration to appoint an arbitrator or shall itself appoint one ex officio.

General Regulations

- 3 The parties to the case may agree to appoint a single arbitrator which may be the International Bureau.
- 4 The decision of the arbitrators shall be taken by a majority of votes.
- 5 In the event of a tie the arbitrators shall select another postal administration, not involved in the dispute either, to settle the matter. Should they fail to agree on the choice, this administration shall be appointed by the International Bureau from among administrations not proposed by the arbitrators.
- 6 If the dispute concerns one of the Agreements, the arbitrators may be appointed only from among the administrations that are parties to that Agreement.

Chapter VI

Final provisions

Article 128

Conditions of approval of proposals concerning the General Regulations

To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to these General Regulations shall be approved by a majority of the member countries represented at Congress. At least two-thirds of the member countries of the Union shall be present at the time of voting.

Article 129

Proposals concerning the Agreements with the United Nations

The conditions of approval referred to in article 128 shall apply equally to proposals designed to amend the Agreements concluded between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations, in so far as those Agreements do not lay down conditions for the amendment of the provisions they contain.

Article 130

Entry into force and duration of the General Regulations

These General Regulations shall come into force on 1 July 1981 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

In witness whereof the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have signed these General Regulations in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Rio de Janeiro, 26 October 1979.

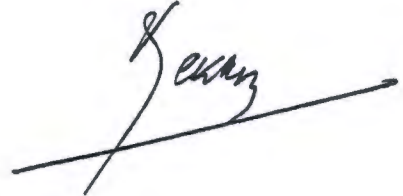
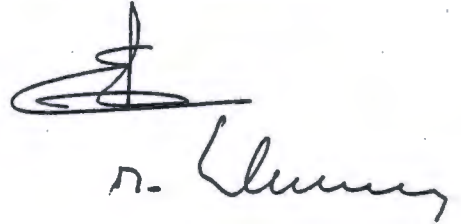
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For THE PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA:

For THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
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For THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY:



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J. Edgar Hoover
Francis P. Riglin
Edward J. McLaughlin
Michael S. Conroy

Michael J. Ryan
Peter Van der Meert
Donna Harrison

For THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF ANGOLA:

António dos Santos

For THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA:

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For THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC:

Silvio Oca
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For AUSTRALIA:

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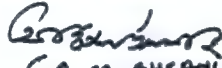
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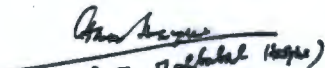
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For THE STATE OF BAHRAIN:


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For THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
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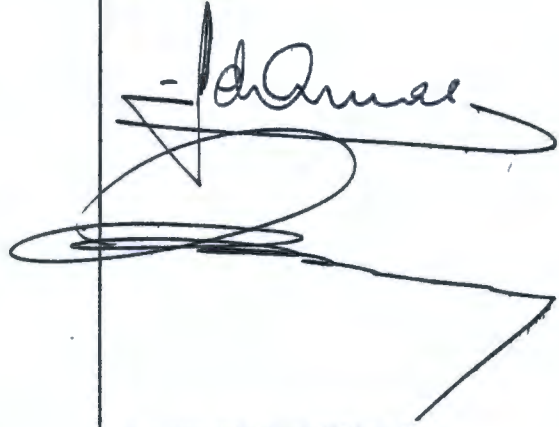

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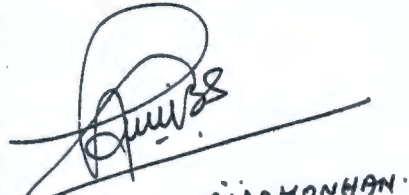

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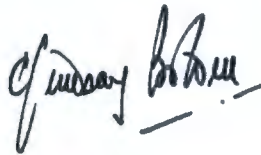
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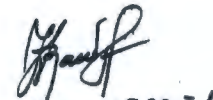
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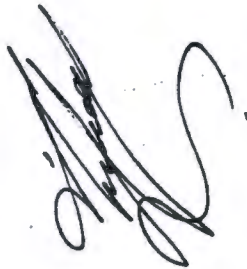
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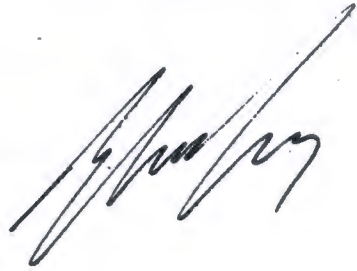

S. C. HOUNDADJO


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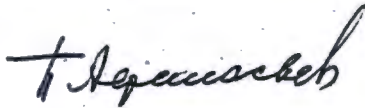
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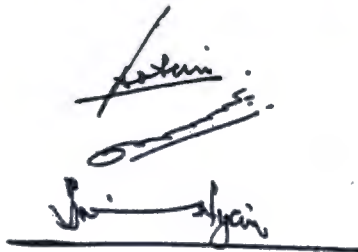
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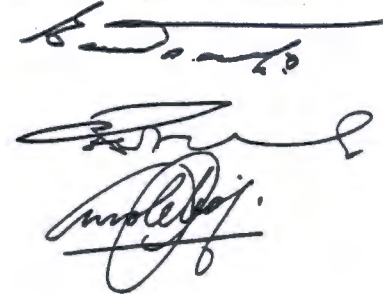
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For THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA:



For THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC
OF BRAZIL:

Adriano Cardoso / Filho de Barros
Luiz de Paula

For THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
CAMEROON:

Angelin

For CANADA:

J.P. Ullman
A. J. J. J.
W. J. J. J.

For THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BULGARIA:

P. K. K. K.

For THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI:

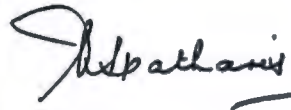
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For CENTRAL AFRICA:



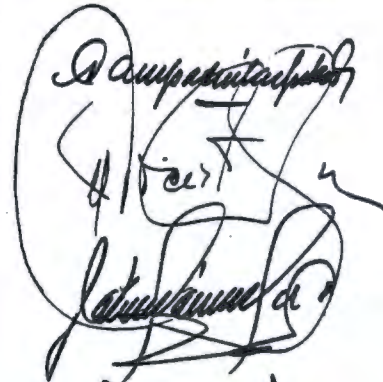
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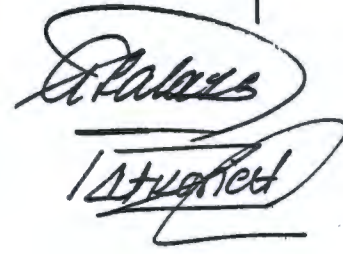
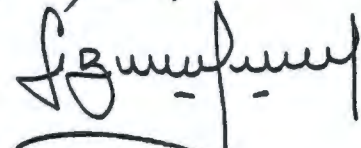

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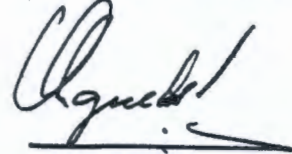


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For THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA:



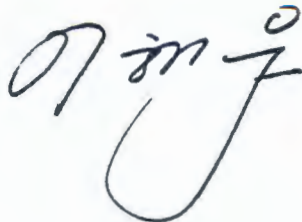
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For THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA:



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Ciguera*

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*P. Jensen
Boige Nordbo*

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For THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT:

Kamal Farouk

For THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR:

For THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:

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المجيد بن علي الجعادي
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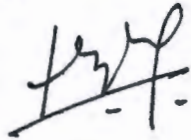
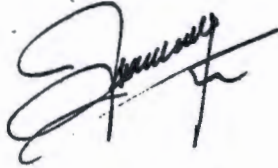
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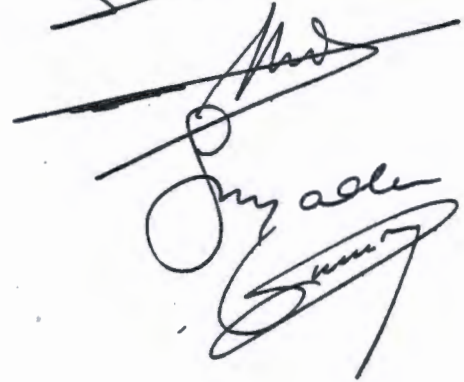
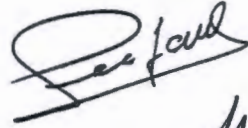
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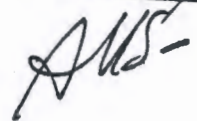
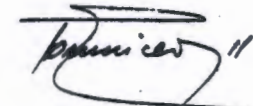
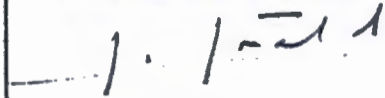


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For THE FRENCH REPUBLIC:



For THE GABONESE REPUBLIC:



For THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND:



For THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA:

For THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND, THE CHANNEL
ISLANDS AND THE ISLE OF MAN:

H. H. H.
L. K. King
D. G. Foot

S. Wilcock
K. B. Baldwin

For GHANA:

P. K. King
C. M. Lawdon

For THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES FOR
WHOSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND IS RESPONSIBLE:

H. H. H.
S. Wilcock

For GREECE:

Κ. Κωνσταντίνου
Πρωθυπουργός
Κωνσταντίνου

For GRENADA:

For THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA:

For THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF GUINEA:

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For THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU:

Utiataire

For THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL
GUINEA:

For GUYANA:

For THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI:

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For THE REPUBLIC OF THE UPPER VOLTA:

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For THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS:

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For THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC:

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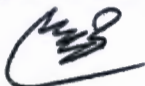
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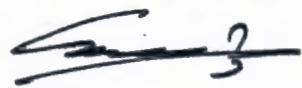
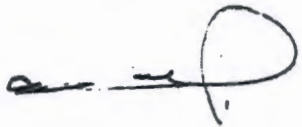

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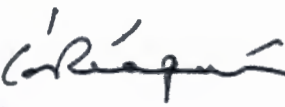
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مجتبای درویشیان



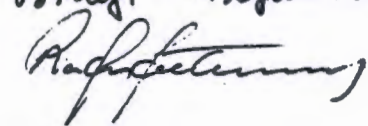
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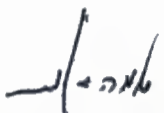

For IRELAND:


P. R. W. W. W.
D. ni Iarain

For THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND:


Povagi Kristjánsson


For ISRAEL:

S. Amichai 
J. Zemel 

For ITALY:

For JAMAICA:

Jayce E. Woodstock

For JAPAN:

M. Okura

A. Fujimori

For THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN
ARAB JAMAHIRIYA:

G. Gaddafi

For THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM
OF JORDAN:

A. Jabber
S. T. Al

For DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA:

For THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA:

Mwakitege
Mumdesi
J. M. Omondi

For KUWAIT:

Amir

For THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC:

For THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO:

mp thaplo
berfandri
H. J. J. J.

For THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC:

Amor

ASSARAH

Harir

Elias F. Ayoub

For THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA:

Amunth

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James (Lester) Rogers

For THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN:

M. Ledli

[Signature]

J. Huber

E. G. J. J. J.

[Signature]

Cordery

For LUXEMBOURG:

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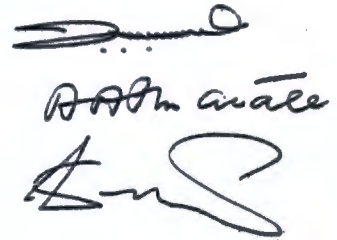
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OF MADAGASCAR:



For MALAYSIA:

M. Yusoff
Abdul Kader
Schahar
Ismail

For MALAWI:



For THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES:

For THE REPUBLIC OF MALI:



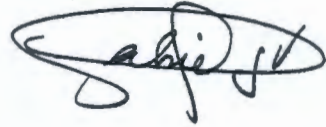
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For THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA:

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For THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO:

For THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES:

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For MAURITIUS:

For THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO:

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For THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC:

Flurbys
N. Hayward

For THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF MOZAMBIQUE:

Justin M. V. Van

For THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU:

For NEPAL:

Jayant

For THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA:

Luis de Garcia

For THE REPUBLIC OF THE NIGER:

N. ...

Amical

For THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF NIGERIA:

I. N. Bolanleke
. . #
M. S. Ugo
M. M. M.
A. A. A.
U. U. U.

For NEW ZEALAND:

F. M. L.
William
M. G. L.

For NORWAY:

L. R.
F. H. d. l.
B. W.
K. S.
C. S.
B. J.

For THE SULTANATE OF OMAN:

R. A.
S. J.
M. S.

For UGANDA:

For PAKISTAN:

S. A. Mahmood

S. Raza Ali

For THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA:

Julio Espinoza

For PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

Samani

Dandi

Samuel M. Manibant

For THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY:

A. Juan

Francisco Cardozo

Luigi A.

For THE NETHERLANDS:

Ruus

Jub

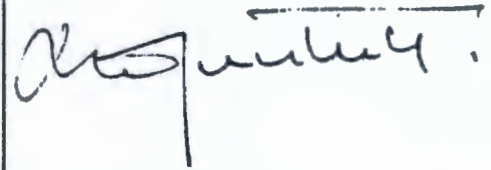
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A. P.

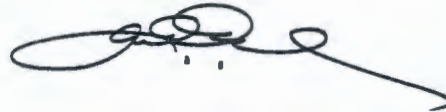
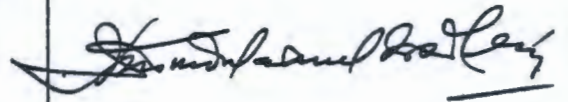
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For PORTUGAL:



For THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES:



For THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC:



For THE STATE OF QATAR:



For THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL:

A. Sidiyasa
A. Sidiyasa
A. Sidiyasa

For THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE:

Deven

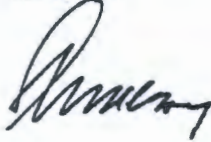
For SINGAPORE:

Angie Hoang
Patricia
[Signature]

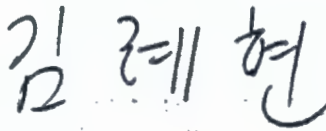
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For THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC:

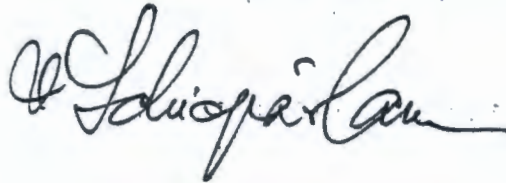
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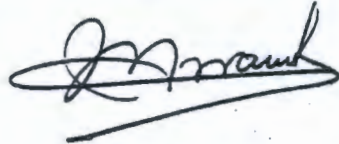
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REPUBLIC OF KOREA:



For THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
ROMANIA:

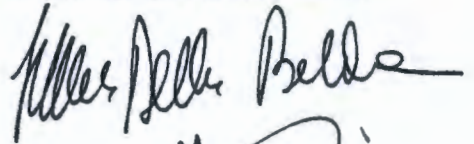


For THE RWANDESE REPUBLIC:



Mathieu Ndirakobuca


For THE REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO:



For THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE:

For THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE SUDAN:

M. Bekhi

S.M.S. GADI *cc*

For THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA:

George

For SWEDEN:

*Anders
Lennart
Theodor
Lennart*

For THE SWISS CONFEDERATION:

M. Redli

[Signature]

J. Redli

J. Redli

[Signature]

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C. Redli

For THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME:

[Signature]

For THE TOGOLESE REPUBLIC:



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For TUNISIA:



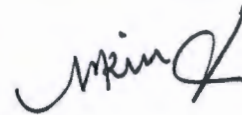
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For THE KINGDOM OF TONGA:



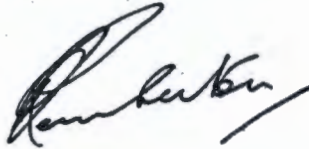
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For TURKEY:



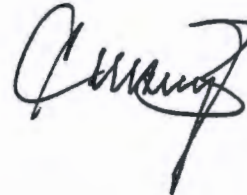
A single handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. K.'.

For THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO:



A single handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. S. B.'.

For THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC:



A single handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. S. S.'.

For THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

[Handwritten signature]

For THE EASTERN REPUBLIC
OF URUGUAY:

Ad (100) [Handwritten signature]

For VATICAN CITY STATE:

Renato J. Martino
Thomas S. Cullen, Jr.
John L. Sweeney

For THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA:

24-10-78
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For THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
OF VIET NAM:

For THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC:

[Handwritten signature]
M. A. Zayed

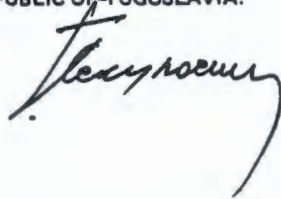
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A. Shamsan

For THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN:

A. H. Kayed.



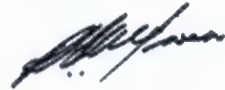
For THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA:



For THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE:



For THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA:



**FINAL PROTOCOL
TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION**

At the moment of proceeding to signature of the General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Article I

Executive Council and Consultative Council for Postal Studies

The provisions of the General Regulations relating to the organization and functioning of the Executive Council and of the Consultative Council for Postal Studies shall be applicable in advance of the coming into operation of those Regulations.

Article II

Expenditure of the Union

Notwithstanding article 130, the calling of annual expenditure relating to the activities of the Union's bodies for 1981, laid down in article 124, shall be applicable from 1 January 1981.

Article III

Entry into force of the new financial system

Notwithstanding its decision to bring the Acts of the Union into force on 1 July 1981, Congress decides to make the financial system, in particular, article 124 of the General Regulations and related decisions, effective as from 1 January 1981.

In witness whereof, the undermentioned plenipotentiaries have drawn up this Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the General Regulations themselves, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

Done at Rio de Janeiro, 26 October 1979.

Signatures: same as on pp 49 to 79.

GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION – ANNEX

Rules of Procedure of Congresses

Summary.

Art

- 1 General provisions
- 2 Delegations
- 3 Delegates' credentials
- 4 Order of seating
- 5 Observers
- 6 Doyen of Congress
- 7 Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Congress and Committees
- 8 Bureau of Congress
- 9 Committees
- 10 Working Parties
- 11 Membership of Committees
- 12 Secretariat of Congress and of Committees
- 13 Languages of debates
- 14 Languages used for drafting Congress documents
- 15 Proposals
- 16 Consideration of proposals in Congress and in Committees
- 17 Debates
- 18 Motions on points of order
- 19 Quorum. General provisions concerning voting
- 20 Voting procedure
- 21 Conditions of approval of proposals
- 22 Election of members of the Executive Council or the Consultative Council for Postal Studies
- 23 Election of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau
- 24 Minutes
- 25 Approval by Congress of draft decisions (Acts, resolutions, etc)
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- 27 Signature of Acts
- 28 Amendment of the Rules

Rules of Procedure of Congress

Article 1

General provisions

The present Rules of Procedure (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") have been drawn up pursuant to the Acts of the Union and are subordinate to them. In the event of a discrepancy between one of their provisions and a provision of the Acts, the latter shall prevail.

Article 2

Delegations

1 The term "delegation" shall denote the person or body of persons designated by a member country to take part in a Congress. The delegation shall consist of a Head of Delegation and, if appropriate, his deputy, one or more delegates and, possibly, one or more attached officials (including experts, secretaries, etc).

2 Heads of delegation, their deputies and also delegates, shall be representatives of member countries within the meaning of article 14, paragraph 2, of the Constitution if in possession of credentials which comply with the conditions laid down in article 3 of these Rules.

3 Attached officials shall be admitted to meetings, but they shall not normally have the right to vote. However, they may be authorized by the Head of their delegation to vote on behalf of their country at Committee meetings. Such authorizations shall be handed, in writing, to the Chairman of the committee concerned, before the beginning of the meeting.

Article 3

Delegates' credentials

1 Delegates' credentials shall be signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the country concerned. They shall be drawn up in due and proper form. The credentials of delegates entitled to sign the Acts (plenipotentiaries) shall specify the scope of such signature (signature subject to ratification or approval, signature ad referendum, definitive signature). In the absence of such specific information, the signature shall be regarded as being subject to ratification or approval. Credentials authorizing the holder to sign the Acts shall implicitly include the right to vote. Delegates in possession of credentials which do not expressly authorize them to sign the Acts shall only be entitled to take part in the debates and to vote.

2 Credentials shall be deposited at the opening of Congress with the authority designated for that purpose.

3 Delegates who are not in possession of credentials or who have not deposited their credentials may, provided their names have been communicated by their Government to the Government of the host country, take part in the debates and vote from the moment they participate in the work of Congress. The same shall apply to those whose credentials are found to be not in order. Such delegates shall cease to be empowered to vote from the time Congress approves the report of the Credentials Committee establishing that their credentials have not been received or are not in order until such time as the position is regularized.

4 The credentials of a member country which arranges for the delegation of another member country to represent it at Congress (proxy) shall be in the same form as those mentioned in paragraph 1.

5 Credentials and proxies sent by telegram shall not be admissible. However, telegrams sent in reply to requests for information relating to credentials shall be accepted.

6 A delegation which, after it has deposited its credentials, is prevented from attending one or more meetings, may arrange to be represented by the delegation of another country, provided that notice in writing is given to the Chairmen of the meeting concerned. However, a delegation may represent only a single country other than its own.

7 The delegates of member countries which are not parties to an Agreement may take part in the debates of Congress concerning that Agreement, without the right to vote.

Article 4

Order of seating

- 1 At Congress and Committee meetings, delegations shall be seated in the French alphabetical order of the member countries represented.
- 2 The Chairman of the Executive Council shall draw lots, in due course, for the name of the country to be placed foremost before the rostrum at Congress and Committee meetings.

Article 5

Observers

- 1 Representatives of the United Nations may take part in the debates of Congress.
- 2 Observers from international intergovernmental organizations designated by the Executive Council shall be admitted to meetings of Congress when questions of interest to these organizations are being discussed.
- 3 Qualified representatives of the Restricted Unions established in accordance with article 8, paragraph 1, of the Constitution shall also be admitted as observers when the Unions concerned express a wish to that effect.
- 4 The observers referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3 shall take part in the debates without the right to vote.
- 5 Requests from non-governmental organizations to take part in Congress shall be subject to an express decision of Congress in each case.

Article 6

Doyen of Congress

- 1 The postal administration of the host country of Congress shall suggest the person to be appointed as Doyen of Congress in agreement with the International Bureau. The Executive Council shall approve this appointment in due course.
- 2 At the opening of the first plenary meeting of each Congress, the Doyen shall act as Chairman until Congress has elected one. He shall also exercise the functions assigned to him under the present Rules.

Article 7

Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Congress and Committees

- 1 At its first plenary meeting, on the proposal of the Doyen, Congress shall appoint the member country and the four member countries which are to act as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, respectively, of Congress. These posts shall be assigned taking as much account as possible of the geographical distribution of the member countries.
- 2 On the Doyen's proposal, Congress shall also designate the member countries which are to act as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees.
- 3 The Chairmen shall open and close the meetings over which they preside, direct the debates, give speakers the floor, put proposals to the vote and announce what majority is required for their adoption, announce decisions and, subject to the approval of Congress, interpret such decisions if necessary.
- 4 The Chairmen shall see that the present Rules are observed and that order is maintained at meetings.
- 5 Any delegation may appeal to Congress or the Committee against a decision taken by the Chairman on the basis of a provision or interpretation of the Rules. The Chairman's decision shall nevertheless hold good unless rescinded by a majority of the members present and voting.
- 6 Should the member country appointed to the Chairmanship be no longer able to exercise this function, one of the Vice-Chairmen shall be appointed by Congress or the Committee to replace it.

Article 8

Bureau of Congress

1 The Bureau shall be the central body responsible for directing the work of Congress. It shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Congress and also of the Chairmen of Committees. It shall meet periodically to review the progress of the work of Congress and its Committees and to make recommendations designed to facilitate such progress. It shall assist the Chairman in drawing up the agenda of each plenary meeting and in coordinating the work of the Committees. It shall make recommendations relating to the closing of Congress.

2 The Secretary-General of Congress and the Assistant Secretary-General, mentioned in article 12, paragraph 1, shall attend the meetings of the Bureau.

Article 9

Committees

Congress shall determine the number of Committees required to carry out its work and shall specify their functions.

Article 10

Working parties

Each Committee may set up working parties to study special questions.

Article 11

Membership of Committees

1 The member countries represented in Congress shall, as of right, be members of the Committees responsible for studying proposals relating to the Constitution, the General Regulations, the Convention and its Detailed Regulations.

2 Member countries represented in Congress which are parties to one or more of the optional Agreements shall, as of right, be members of the Committee and/or Committees responsible for the revision of these Agreements. The right to vote of members of the Committee or Committees shall be confined to the Agreement or Agreements to which they are parties.

3 Delegations which are not members of Committees dealing with the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations may attend meetings of those Committees and take part in the debates without the right to vote.

Article 12

Secretariat of Congress and of Committees

1 The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau shall act as Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General of Congress, respectively.

2 The Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretary-General shall attend the meetings of Congress and of the Bureau of Congress and take part in the debates without the right to vote. They may also attend, under the same conditions, Committee meetings or be represented thereat by a senior official of the International Bureau.

- 3 The work of the Secretariat of Congress, the Bureau of Congress and the Committees shall be performed by the staff of the International Bureau in conjunction with the administration of the host country.
- 4 Senior officials of the International Bureau shall act as Secretaries of Congress, of the Bureau of Congress and of Committees. They shall assist the Chairmen during meetings and shall be responsible for writing the minutes or reports.
- 5 Secretaries of Congress and of Committees shall be assisted by Assistant Secretaries.
- 6 Rapporteurs proficient in French shall take the minutes of Congress and Committees.

Article 13

Languages of debates

- 1 Subject to paragraph 2, French, English, Spanish and Russian may be used for debates, by means of a system of simultaneous or consecutive interpretation.
- 2 The debates of the Drafting Committee shall be held in French.
- 3 Other languages may also be used for the debates mentioned in paragraph 1. The language of the host country shall have priority in this connection. Delegations using other languages shall arrange for simultaneous interpretation into one of the languages mentioned in paragraph 1, either by means of the simultaneous interpretation system, when the necessary technical alterations can be made, or by special interpreters.
- 4 The cost of installing and maintaining the technical equipment shall be borne by the Union.
- 5 The cost of the interpretation services shall be divided among the member countries using the same language in proportion to their contributions to the expenses of the Union.

Article 14

Languages used for drafting Congress documents

- 1 Documents prepared during Congress including draft decisions submitted to Congress for approval shall be published in French by the Secretariat of Congress.
- 2 To this end, documents produced by delegations of member countries shall be submitted in French, either direct or through the intermediary of the translation services attached to the Congress Secretariat.
- 3 The above services, organized at their own expense by the language groups set up in accordance with the relevant provisions of the General Regulations, may also translate Congress documents into their respective languages.

Article 15

Proposals

- 1 All questions brought before Congress shall be the subject of proposals.
- 2 All proposals published by the International Bureau before Congress shall be regarded as being submitted to Congress.
- 3 From the time Congress opens, no proposal shall be considered except those amending earlier proposals.

4 The following shall be regarded as amendments: any proposal involving a deletion from, or an addition to, part of the original proposal or the revision of a part of that proposal. No proposed change shall be regarded as an amendment if Congress or the Committee considers that it is incompatible with the original proposal.

5 Amendments submitted at Congress to proposals already made shall be handed in to the Secretariat in writing, in French, before noon on the day but one before the day on which they will be discussed, so that they can be distributed to delegates the same day. This time limit shall not apply to amendments arising directly from the debates in Congress or in a Committee. In the latter case, if so requested, the author of the amendment shall submit a written version in French, or in case of difficulty, in any other language used for debates. The Chairman concerned shall read it out or have it read out.

6 The procedure laid down in paragraph 5 shall also apply to the submission of proposals that are not designed to amend the text of the Acts (draft resolutions, draft recommendations, draft formal opinions, etc.).

7 Any proposal or amendment shall give the final form of the text which is to be inserted in the Acts of the Union, subject, of course to revision by the Drafting Committee.

Article 16

Consideration of proposals in Congress and in Committees

1 Drafting proposals (the number of which shall be followed by the letter R) shall be assigned to the Drafting Committee either direct, if the International Bureau has no doubt as to their nature (a list of such proposals shall be drawn up for the Drafting Committee by the International Bureau), or, if the International Bureau is in doubt as to their nature, after the other Committees have confirmed that they are purely of a drafting nature (a list of such proposals shall likewise be drawn up for the Committees concerned). If, however, such proposals are linked with other proposals of substance to be considered by Congress or by other Committees, the Drafting Committee shall postpone consideration of them until after Congress or the other Committees have taken a decision on the corresponding proposals of substance. Proposals whose numbers are not followed by the letter R but which, in the opinion of the International Bureau, are of a drafting nature, shall be referred direct to the Committees concerned with the corresponding proposals of substance. When these Committees begin work, they shall decide which of the proposals shall be assigned direct to the Drafting Committee. A list of these proposals shall be drawn up by the International Bureau for the Committees concerned.

2 If the same question is the subject of several proposals, the Chairman shall decide the order in which they are to be discussed, starting as a rule, with the proposal which departs most from the basic text and entails the most significant change in relation to the status quo.

3 If a proposal can be subdivided into several parts, each part may, if the originator of the proposal or the Assembly so agrees, be considered and voted upon separately.

4 Any proposal withdrawn in Congress or in Committee by its originator may be re-submitted by the delegation of another member country.

5 If there is an amendment to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted upon first. However, any amendment to a proposal which is accepted by the delegation submitting the proposal shall be immediately included in the text thereof.

6 If there are several amendments to a proposal, that which departs most from the original text shall be put to the vote first; the remaining amendments shall then be voted on beginning with that which contains the next greatest departure from the original text, and so on until all the amendments have been considered. If one or more amendments are adopted, the proposal so amended shall then itself be put to the vote. If no amendment is adopted, a vote shall be taken on the initial proposal.

7 The Chairmen of Congress and the Chairmen of Committees shall arrange for the text of the proposals, amendments or decisions adopted to be passed to the Drafting Committee, in writing, after each meeting.

Article 17

Debates

- 1 Delegates may not take the floor until they have been given permission to do so by the Chairman of the meeting. They shall be urged to speak slowly and distinctly. The Chairman shall afford delegates the possibility of freely and fully expressing their views on the subject discussed, so long as that is compatible with the normal course of the debate.
- 2 Unless a majority of the members present and voting decides otherwise, speeches shall not exceed five minutes. The Chairman shall be authorized to interrupt any speaker who exceeds the said authorized time. He may also ask the delegate not to depart from the subject.
- 3 During a debate, the Chairman may with the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, declare the list of speakers closed after reading it out. When the list is exhausted, he shall declare the debate closed although even after the closing of the list he may grant the right to reply to any of the speeches delivered.
- 4 The Chairman may also with the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, limit the number of speeches by any one delegation on a proposal or a certain group of proposals; but the originator of the proposal shall be given the opportunity of introducing it and speaking subsequently if he asks to do so in order to make new points in reply to the speeches of other delegations, so that he may, if he wishes, be the last speaker.
- 5 With the agreement of the majority of the members present and voting, the Chairman may limit the number of speeches on a proposal or a certain group of proposals; but this limit may not be less than five for and five against the proposal under discussion.

Article 18

Motions on points of order

- 1 It shall be permissible at any time to ask to speak on a point of order or for a personal reason. Such a request shall be discussed forthwith so that a decision may be taken without delay.
- 2 A delegation which submits a motion on a point of order may not touch on the substance of the problem under discussion.
- 3 The order of priority of motions on points of order is as follows:
 - a a call to order;
 - b suspension of the meeting;
 - c closure of the meeting;
 - d adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion;
 - e closure of the debate on the question under discussion;
 - f any other motion (eg a motion to change the order fixed by the Chairman for examining the proposals, questions of competence), the order of priority of which shall have been decided by the Chairman.
- 4 During the discussion of a question, a delegation may propose that the meeting be suspended or closed giving its reasons for so proposing. If this proposal is supported, two speakers shall be allowed to speak against the suspension or closure of the meeting and only on that subject, after which the motion shall be put to the vote.
- 5 A delegation may propose adjournment of the debate on any question for a specified period. In this case, only two speakers against the adjournment may speak, after which the motion shall be put to the vote.
- 6 A delegation may, at any time, propose that the debate on the question under discussion be closed. In that case, only two speakers against the motion may speak after which the motion shall be put to the vote.
- 7 The proposer may withdraw a motion on points of order before it has been put to the vote. Any motion, whether amended or not, which is so withdrawn may be re-introduced by another delegation.

Rules of Procedure of Congress

Article 19

Quorum. General provisions concerning voting

- 1 Half the member countries represented at Congress or on the Committee and having the right to vote shall constitute a quorum. Regarding the Agreements, the quorum shall be formed by the presence or representation at the meeting of at least half of the member countries represented which are parties to the Agreement concerned.
- 2 Questions which cannot be settled by common consent shall be decided by vote.
- 3 Delegations which are present but do not take part in a given vote, or which state that they do not wish to take part therein, shall not be regarded as being absent for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is formed as required in paragraph 1.
- 4 When the number of abstentions, and blank or null and void ballot papers exceeds half the number of votes cast (for, against and abstentions), consideration of the matter shall be deferred until a subsequent meeting, at which abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers shall be disregarded.

Article 20

Voting procedures

- 1 Votes shall be taken by the traditional system or by the electronic voting system. They shall normally be taken by the electronic system when that system is available to the assembly. However, in the case of a secret ballot, the traditional system may be used if one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests.
- 2 For the traditional system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:
 - a by show of hands. If there is doubt about the result of such a vote, the Chairman, if he so wishes or if a delegation so requests, may arrange for a roll-call vote on the same question;
 - b by roll-call, at the request of a delegation or if so decided by the Chairman. The roll shall be called according to the French alphabetical order of the countries represented, beginning with the country whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. The result of the vote together with a list of the countries grouped according to the way they voted, shall be included in the minutes of the meeting;
 - c by secret ballot, using ballot papers, if requested by two delegations. In this case, the Chairman of the meeting shall appoint three tellers and make the necessary arrangements for the holding of a secret ballot.
- 3 For the electronic system, the methods of voting shall be as follows:
 - a non-recorded vote: it replaces a vote by show of hands;
 - b recorded vote: it replaces a roll-call vote; however, the names of the countries shall not be called unless one delegation, supported by a majority of the delegations present and voting, so requests;
 - c secret ballot: it replaces the secret ballot by ballot papers.
- 4 Once the voting has begun, no delegation may interrupt it, except to raise a point of order relating to the way in which the vote is being taken.
- 5 After the vote, the Chairman may permit delegates to explain why they voted as they did.

Article 21

Conditions of approval of proposals

- 1 To be adopted, proposals involving amendments to the Acts must:
 - a in the case of the Constitution, be approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the Union;
 - b in the case of the General Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries represented in Congress; two-thirds of the member countries of the Union shall be present when the vote is taken;

- c in the case of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting;
 - d in the case of the Agreements and their Detailed Regulations, be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting which are parties to the Agreements.
- 2 Procedural matters which cannot be settled by common consent shall be decided by a majority of the member countries present and voting. The same shall apply to decisions not concerning changes in the Acts, unless Congress decides otherwise by a majority of the member countries present and voting.
 - 3 Subject to article 19, paragraph 4, "member countries present and voting" means member countries voting "for" or "against", abstentions being ignored in counting the votes required to constitute a majority as well as blank or null and void ballot papers in the case of a secret ballot.
 - 4 In the event of a tie, a proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Article 22

Election of the members of the Executive Council or the Consultative Council for Postal Studies

In order to decide between countries which have obtained the same number of votes in elections of members of the Executive Council or the Consultative Council for Postal Studies, the Chairmen shall draw lots.

Article 23

Election of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General of the International Bureau

- 1 The elections of the Director-General of the International Bureau and of the Deputy Director-General shall take place by secret ballot successively at one or more meetings held on the same day. The candidate who obtains a majority of the votes cast by the member countries present and voting shall be elected. As many ballots shall be held as are necessary for a candidate to obtain this majority.
- 2 "Member countries present and voting" shall mean member countries voting for one of the candidates whose applications have been announced in due and proper form, abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers being ignored in counting the votes required to constitute a majority.
- 3 If the number of abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers exceeds half the number of votes cast in accordance with paragraph 2, the election shall be deferred to a later meeting, at which abstentions and blank or null and void ballot papers shall no longer be taken into account.
- 4 The candidate who obtains the least number of votes in any one ballot shall be eliminated.
- 5 In the event of a tie, an additional ballot, and if necessary a second additional ballot shall be held in an attempt to decide between the tying candidates, the vote relating only to these candidates. If the result is inconclusive, the election shall be decided by drawing lots. The lots shall be drawn by the Chairman.

Article 24

Minutes

- 1 The minutes of the meetings of Congress and Committees shall record the course of the meetings, briefly summarize speeches, and mention proposals and the outcome of the debates. Minutes shall be prepared of the plenary meetings and summarized minutes of the Committee meetings.
- 2 The minutes of Committee meetings may be replaced by reports to Congress if Congress so decides. As a general rule, working parties shall prepare a report for the body that set them up.

Rules of Procedure of Congresses

3 Each delegate, however, shall be entitled to ask for any statement made by him to be included in the minutes or in the report either verbatim or in summary form, provided the French text is handed to the Secretariat not later than two hours after the end of the meeting.

4 Delegates shall be allowed a period of twenty-four hours, from the moment when the draft minutes or the draft report are distributed, in which to make their comments to the Secretariat, which, if necessary, shall act as an intermediary between the party concerned and the Chairman of the meeting in question.

5 As a general rule and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, at the beginning of each meeting of Congress, the Chairman shall submit the minutes of a previous meeting for approval. The same shall apply in regard to those Committees whose proceedings are recorded in the form of minutes or a report. The minutes or reports of the last meetings which it has not been possible to approve in Congress or in a Committee shall be approved by the respective Chairmen of the meetings. The International Bureau shall also take account of any comments received from delegates of member countries within forty days of the dispatch of the minutes to them.

6 The International Bureau shall be authorized to correct in the minutes or reports of meetings of Congress and Committees any material errors which were not brought to light when the minutes were approved in accordance with paragraph 5.

Article 25

Approval by Congress of draft decisions (Acts, resolutions, etc)

1 As a general rule, each draft Act submitted by the Drafting Committee shall be studied article by article. It can only be regarded as adopted after an overall favourable vote. Article 21, paragraph 1, shall apply to such a vote.

2 During this study, any delegation may reopen a proposal which has been carried or rejected in Committee. An appeal relating to a rejected proposal shall be subject to the delegation's having notified the Chairman of Congress accordingly, in writing, at least one day before the meeting at which the relevant provisions of the draft Act is to be submitted to Congress for approval.

3 Nonetheless, it shall always be possible, if the Chairman considers it desirable for the progress of Congress work, to consider appeals before considering the draft Acts submitted by the Drafting Committee.

4 When a proposal has been adopted or rejected by Congress, it can only be reconsidered by the same Congress if the appeal has been supported by at least ten delegations and approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. This possibility is limited to proposals submitted direct to plenary meetings, it being understood that a single question cannot give rise to more than one appeal.

5 The International Bureau shall be authorized to correct in the final Acts any material errors which have not come to light during the study of the draft Acts, the numbering of articles and paragraphs and references.

6 Paragraphs 2 to 5 shall also apply to draft decisions other than draft Acts (resolutions, formal opinions, etc).

Article 26

Reservations to Acts

Reservations must be submitted in writing in French (proposals concerning the Final Protocol), in order that they may be considered by Congress before the signing of Acts.

Article 27

Signature of Acts

Acts finally approved by Congress shall be submitted to the plenipotentiaries for signature.

Article 28

Amendment of the Rules

1 Each Congress may amend the Rules of Procedure. In order to be accepted for discussion, proposals to amend the present Rules, unless submitted by a UPU body empowered to put forward proposals, shall be supported in Congress by at least ten delegations.

2 To be adopted, proposals for amendments to the present Rules must be approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries represented in Congress.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

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Note by the International Bureau

In application of the Convention, article 8, paragraph 1, the amounts shown in gold francs are convertible into Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by applying the linking coefficient of 3.061 gold francs = 1 SDR ratified by resolution C 29 of the 1979 Rio de Janeiro Congress.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 3, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have by common consent and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution drawn up in this Convention the rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services.

Part I**Rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service****Chapter I****General provisions****Article 1****Freedom of transit**

1 Freedom of transit, the principle of which is set forth in article 1 of the Constitution, shall carry with it the obligation for each postal administration to forward always by the quickest routes which it uses for its own items, closed mails and à découvert letter-post items which are passed to it by another administration. This obligation shall also apply to airmail correspondence, whether or not the intermediate postal administrations take part in reforwarding it.

2 Member countries which do not participate in the exchange of letters containing perishable biological substances or radioactive substances shall have the option of not admitting these items in transit à découvert through their territory. The same shall apply to the items referred to in article 36, paragraph 8.

3 Member countries not providing the insured letters service or not accepting liability for insured letters carried by their sea or air services shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for registered items.

4 Freedom of transit for postal parcels to be forwarded by land and sea routes shall be limited to the territory of the countries taking part in this service.

5 Freedom of transit for air parcels shall be guaranteed throughout the territory of the Union. Nevertheless, member countries which are not parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement shall not be required to forward air parcels by surface.

6 Member countries which are parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement but which do not provide an insured parcels service or which do not accept liability for insured items carried by their sea or air services, shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

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Article 2

Failure to give freedom of transit

When a member country fails to observe the provisions of article 1 of the Constitution and of article 1 of the Convention regarding freedom of transit, postal administrations of other member countries may discontinue their postal service with that country. They shall give prior notice of this step to the administrations concerned by telegram, and inform the International Bureau of the fact.

Article 3

Land transit without the participation of the services of the country crossed

The conveyance of mail in transit through a country without the participation of the services of that country shall be subject to the prior authorization of the country crossed. This form of transit shall not involve the liability of the latter country.

Article 4

Temporary suspension and resumption of services

1 When, owing to exceptional circumstances, a postal administration is obliged to suspend temporarily its services wholly or in part, it shall announce the fact immediately, if need be by telegraph or telex, to the administration or administrations concerned. It shall do likewise when the suspended services are resumed.

2 The International Bureau must be notified of the suspension or resumption of services if a general announcement is considered necessary. If necessary, the International Bureau shall notify administrations by telegram or telex.

Article 5

Ownership of postal items

A postal item shall remain the property of the sender until it is delivered to the rightful owner, except when the item has been seized in pursuance of the legislation of the country of destination.

Article 6

Creation of new service

Administrations may by mutual consent create a new service not expressly provided for in this Convention. Charges for a new service shall be laid down by the administration concerned, having regard to the expenses of operating the service.

Article 7

Charges

1 The charges for the various international postal services shall be laid down in the Convention and the Agreements.

2 No postal charge of any kind may be collected other than those provided for in the Convention and Agreements.

Article 8

Monetary standard. Equivalents

- 1 The monetary unit used in the Convention and the Agreements as well as in their Detailed Regulations shall be the gold franc laid down in article 7 of the Constitution convertible into the International Monetary Fund (IMF) accounting unit, which is at present the Special Drawing Right (SDR).
- 2 Union member countries shall be entitled to choose, by mutual agreement, another monetary unit or one of their national currencies for preparing and settling accounts.
- 3 In each member country, the charges shall be fixed on the basis of the closest possible equivalent of the SDR in the currency of that country.
- 4 Union member countries whose currency exchange rates in relation to the SDR are not calculated by the IMF or which are not members of that specialized agency shall be requested to declare unilaterally an equivalence between their currencies and the SDR.
- 5 Each postal administration shall be free to round its charges up or down, whichever is best adapted to its monetary system.
- 6 Postal administrations shall not be bound to amend the equivalents of the charges prescribed in the Convention and in the Agreements or the sales price of international reply coupons when, as a result of fluctuations in the equivalent used to establish charges in accordance with the present article, the limits authorized by the Convention are not exceeded by more than 15 percent.

Article 9

Postage stamps

Postage stamps for denoting payment of postage shall be issued by postal administrations only.

Article 10

Forms

- 1 The texts, colours and dimensions of forms shall be prescribed in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements.
- 2 Forms for the use of administrations in their relations with one another shall be drawn up in French with or without interlinear translation, unless the administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.
- 3 Forms for the use of the public shall bear an interlinear translation in French when they are not printed in that language.

Article 11

Postal identity cards

- 1 Each postal administration may issue to persons who apply for them postal identity cards valid as proof of identity for postal transactions effected in member countries which have not announced their refusal to recognize them.
- 2 The administration which issues a card shall be authorized to collect, on this account, a charge which may not exceed 5 francs.
- 3 Administrations shall be relieved of all liability when it is established that the delivery of a postal item or the payment of a monetary article was effected on presentation of a genuine card. Moreover, they shall not be liable for consequences arising from the loss, theft or fraudulent use of a genuine card.

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- 4 A card shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue. Nevertheless, it shall cease to be valid:
- a when the appearance of the holder is altered to such an extent that it no longer corresponds to the photograph or to the description;
 - b when it is damaged in such a way that it is no longer possible to check a particular entry concerning the holder;
 - c when it shows signs of forgery.

Article 12

Settlement of accounts

Settlements between postal administrations of international accounts arising from postal traffic may be regarded as current transactions and effected in accordance with the current international obligations of the member countries concerned, when there are agreements to this effect. In the absence of such agreements, accounts shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations.

Article 13

Undertakings regarding penal measures

The Governments of member countries shall undertake to adopt, or to propose to the legislatures of their countries, the necessary measures:

- a for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, of international reply coupons and of postal identity cards;
- b for punishing the use or uttering:
 - i of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit or used impressions of franking machines or printing presses;
 - ii of counterfeit international reply coupons;
 - iii of counterfeit postal identity cards;
- c for punishing the fraudulent use of genuine postal identity cards;
- d for prohibiting and suppressing all fraudulent operations of manufacturing and uttering adhesive stamps and stamped impressions in use in the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the adhesive stamps and stamped impressions issued by the postal administration of a member country;
- e for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal items of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances, where their insertion has not been expressly authorized by the Convention and the Agreements.

Chapter II

Exemption from postal charges

Article 14

Exemption from postal charges

Cases of exemption from postal charges shall be expressly laid down by the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 15

Exemption from postal charges on letter-post items relating to the postal service

Subject to article 69, paragraph 4, letter-post items relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges if they are:

- a sent by postal administrations or their offices;
- b exchanged between bodies of the Universal Postal Union and bodies of the Restricted Unions, between the bodies of those Unions or sent by such bodies to postal administrations or their offices.

Article 16

Exemption from postal charges of items which concern prisoners of war and civilian internees

1 Subject to article 69, paragraph 2, letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles addressed to or sent by prisoners of war, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Prisoner-of-War Information Agency provided for in articles 122 and 123 respectively of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, shall be exempt from all postal charges. Belligerents apprehended and interned in a neutral country shall be classed with prisoners of war proper so far as the application of the foregoing provisions is concerned.

2 Paragraph 1 shall apply to letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles originating in other countries and addressed to or sent by civilian internees as defined by the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agency prescribed in articles 136 and 140 respectively of that Convention.

3 The national Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agencies mentioned above shall also enjoy exemption from postal charges in respect of letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles which concern the persons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, which they send or receive, either direct or as intermediaries, under the conditions laid down in those paragraphs.

4 Parcels shall be admitted free of postage up to a weight of 5 kg. The weight limit shall be increased to 10 kg in the case of parcels the contents of which cannot be split up and of parcels addressed to a camp or the prisoners' representatives there ("*hommes de confiance*") for distribution to the prisoners.

Article 17

Exemption of literature for the blind from postal charges

Subject to article 69, paragraph 2, literature for the blind shall be exempt from postage, the special charges listed in article 24, paragraph 1, and the cash-on-delivery charge.

Part II

Provisions concerning the letter post

Chapter I

General provisions

Article 18

Letter-post items

Letter-post items shall consist of letters, postcards, printed papers, literature for the blind and small packets.

Article 19

Postage charges and limits of weight and size. General conditions

1 The postage charge for the conveyance of letter-post items throughout the entire extent of the Union as well as the limits of weight and size, shall be fixed in accordance with columns 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the table below. The basic charges (col 3) may be increased by 100 percent (col 4) or reduced by 70 percent (col 5) at most. Except in the case provided for in article 26, paragraph 6, they shall cover delivery of the items to the place of address provided that this delivery service is operated in the country of destination for the items in question.

Convention

Category	Weight step	Basic charges	Charges upper limit (increase of 100%)	Charges lower limit (reduction of 70%)	Limits of weight	Limits of size
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		c	c	c		
Letters	up to 20 g	75	180	22.80	2 kg	Maxima: length, width and depth combined: 900 mm but the greatest dimension may not exceed 600 mm with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll form: length plus twice the diameter, 1040 mm, but the greatest dimension may not exceed 900 mm with a tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: to have a surface measuring not less than 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll form: length plus twice the diameter: 170 mm but the greatest dimension may not be less than 100 mm.
	above 20 g	180	360	64		
	up to 100 g	360	720	108		
	above 100 g	690	1380	207		
	up to 250 g	1200	2400	360		
	above 250 g	1980	3900	585		
Postcards		62.80	106	18.75		Maxima: 106 x 148 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. Length at least equal to the width multiplied by $\sqrt{2}$ (approximate value 1.4)
Printed papers	up to 20 g	37.50	75	11.25	2 kg (for books and pamphlets: 5 kg; this limit of weight may be raised to 10 kg after agreement between the administrations concerned)	Maxima: length, width and depth combined: 900 mm but the greatest dimension may not exceed 600 mm with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll form: length plus twice the diameter, 1040 mm, but the greatest dimension may not exceed 900 mm with a tolerance of 2 mm. Minima: to have a surface measuring not less than 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm. In roll form: length plus twice the diameter: 170 mm, but the greatest dimension may not be less than 100 mm.
	above 20 g	82.80	165	24.75		
	up to 100 g	180	300	45		
	above 100 g	270	540	81		
	up to 250 g	450	900	135		
	above 250 g	630	1260	189		
Literature for the blind	see article 17				7 kg	
Small packets	up to 100 g	82.80	165	24.75	1 kg	
	above 100 g	180	300	45		
	up to 250 g	270	540	81		
	above 250 g	450	900	135		
	up to 1000 g					

2 Member countries may, exceptionally, modify the weight-step structure shown in paragraph 1, subject to the following conditions:

- a for any category, the minimum weight step shall be that shown in paragraph 1;
- b for any category, the last weight step shall not exceed the maximum weight shown in paragraph 1;
- c for any category, the charges for the weight steps adopted by a member country shall bear the same relation to one another as exist between the basic charges in the weight-step structure laid down in paragraph 1.

3 Exceptionally, member countries which have abolished postcards as a separate category of letter-post item in their internal service may apply to international service postcards the charge for letters.

4 Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, a, postal administrations may apply a first weight step of 50 g to printed papers.

5 Subject to article 8, paragraph 5, the charges adopted within the limits laid down in paragraph 1, shall as far as possible, bear the same relation to one another as the basic charges. Exceptionally, and within the limits prescribed in paragraph 1, each postal administration shall be free to apply to the charges for postcards, printed papers or small packets a rate of increase or reduction different from that which it applies to the charges for letters.

6 Each postal administration may allow a reduction of not more than 50 percent of the tariff for printed papers, for newspapers and periodicals published in its country, while reserving the right to restrict this reduction to newspapers and periodicals which fulfil the conditions required by internal regulations for transmission at the tariff for newspapers. This reduction shall not extend to commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price-lists, etc, no matter how regularly they are issued; the same shall apply to advertisements printed on sheets annexed to newspapers and periodicals.

7 Administrations may likewise concede the same reduction for books and pamphlets, for musical scores and for maps, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisement other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves.

8 The charge applicable to printed papers for the same addressee at the same address inserted in one or more special bags shall be calculated by weight steps of 1 kg up to the total weight of each bag. Administrations may allow a reduction in the charge of up to 10 percent for printed papers sent in special bags. These items shall not be subject to the limits of weight laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

9 The administration of origin may apply to non-standardized letters and printed papers in envelopes of the first weight step and to letters in the form of cards which do not meet the conditions laid down in article 20, paragraph 1, b, a charge which may not be higher than the charge relating to items of the second weight step. The administration of origin may also apply to letters and printed papers in envelopes weighing over 20 g, and which do not meet the other conditions laid down in article 20, paragraph 1, a charge which may not be higher than the charge for the weight step immediately above the step in which the item actually falls.

10 The combining of one item of articles on which different charges are payable shall be authorized on condition that the total weight does not exceed the maximum weight of the category whose rate is the highest. The charge applicable to the total weight of the item shall be that of the category with the highest rate.

11 The letter-post items sent on postal service as mentioned in article 15 shall not be subject to the limits of weight and size laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

12 Administrations may apply to letter-post items posted in their countries the maximum limit of weight laid down for articles of the same kind in their internal service provided that such items do not exceed the limit of weight mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 20

Standardized items

1 In connection with the provisions of article 19, paragraph 1, rectangular items shall be considered standardized if their length is not less than their width multiplied by $\sqrt{2}$ (approximate value 1.4) and if they satisfy, according to their presentation, the following conditions:

a for items in envelopes:

i items in ordinary envelopes:

- minimum dimensions: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;
- maximum dimensions: 120 x 235 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;
- maximum weight: 20 g;
- maximum thickness: 5 mm;

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- in addition, the address shall be written on the envelope on the plain side which is not provided with a closing flap and in a rectangular area situated at least:
- 40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);
 - 15 mm from the right-hand edge;
 - 15 mm from the bottom edge;
 - and not more than 140 mm from the right-hand edge;
- ii items in envelopes with transparent panels:
- dimensions, weight and thickness of items in ordinary envelopes; in addition to the general conditions of admission set out in article 123 of the Detailed Regulations, such items shall satisfy the following conditions:
 - the transparent panel shall be at least:
 - 40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);
 - 15 mm from the right-hand edge;
 - 15 mm from the left-hand edge;
 - 15 mm from the bottom edge; - the panel may not be bordered by a coloured band or frame;
- iii all items in envelopes:
- the sender's address, when it appears on the front, shall be placed in the top left-hand corner; this position shall also be assigned to service indications or labels, if any, which may be located beneath the sender's address; the items shall be closed by completely sticking down the sealing flap of the envelope;
- b for items in card form:
- dimensions and consistency of postcards;
- c for items mentioned in a and b:
- on the address side on which the address shall be written in the direction of the length a rectangular area 40 mm (- 2 mm) in depth from the upper edge and 74 mm in width from the right-hand edge shall be reserved for affixing the postage stamp or stamps and the cancellation impression. Inside this area the postage stamps or franking impression shall be applied in the top right-hand corner.
 - No wording or extraneous matter whatsoever may appear:
 - below the address,
 - to the right of the address, from the franking and cancelling area to the bottom edge of the item,
 - to the left of the address, in an area at least 15 mm wide and running from the first line of the address to the bottom edge of the item,
 - in an area 15 mm high starting from the bottom edge of the item and 140 mm long starting from the right-hand edge of the item. This area may be partly identical with those defined above.
- 2 The following items shall not be considered standardized:
- folded cards;
 - items closed by means of staples, metal eyelets or hook fastenings;
 - punched cards sent unenclosed (without an envelope);
 - items whose envelopes are made of material which has fundamentally different physical properties from paper (except from the material used for making the panel of window envelopes);
 - items containing articles causing protusions;
 - folded letters sent unenclosed (without an envelope) which are not closed on all sides and which are not rigid enough for mechanical processing.

Article 21

Perishable biological substances. Radioactive materials

- 1 Perishable biological substances and radioactive materials made up and packed in accordance with the respective provisions of the Detailed Regulations shall be subject to the tariff for letters and to registration. Their admission shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only. Such substances shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding air surcharges.
- 2 Furthermore, perishable biological substances may be exchanged only between officially recognized qualified laboratories, while radioactive materials may be posted only by duly authorized senders.

Article 22

Items wrongly admitted

1 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in articles 19 and 21 and the Detailed Regulations shall not be admitted. Such items which have been wrongly admitted shall be returned to the administration of origin. Nevertheless, the administration of destination shall be authorized to deliver them to the addressees. In that event it shall collect on them, as necessary, the charges prescribed for the category of the letter post to which they belong by reason of their method of closure, contents, weight or size. Items of which the weight exceeds the maximum limits laid down in article 19, paragraph 1, may be charged according to their actual weight.

2 Paragraph 1 shall apply by analogy to items coming within the provisions of article 36, paragraphs 2 and 3.

3 Items containing the other articles prohibited by article 36 which have been wrongly admitted to the post shall be dealt with according to the provisions of that article.

Article 23

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1 A member country shall not be bound to forward or deliver to the addressee letter-post items which senders resident in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign country with the object of profiting by the lower charges in force there. The same shall apply to such items posted in large quantities, whether or not such postings are made with a view to benefiting from lower charges.

2 Paragraph 1 shall be applied without distinction both to correspondence made up in the country where the sender resides and then carried across the frontier and to correspondence made up in a foreign country.

3 The administration concerned may either return its items to origin or charge postage on the items at its internal rates. If the sender refuses to pay the postage, the items may be disposed of in accordance with the internal legislation of the administration concerned.

4 A member country shall not be bound to accept, forward or deliver to the addressees letter-post items which senders post or cause to be posted in large quantities in a country other than the country where they reside. The administration concerned may send back such items to origin or return them to the senders without repaying the prepaid charge.

Article 24

Special charges

1 The charges prescribed in the Convention which are collected in addition to the postage charges mentioned in article 19 shall be known as "special charges". Their amount shall be fixed in accordance with the indications in the table below.

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
a Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting (article 25, paragraph 1)	Same charge as in internal service	
b Charge on items posted outside normal courier opening hours (article 25, paragraph 2)	Same charge as in internal service	

Convention

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
c Charge for collection at the sender's address (article 25, paragraph 3)	Same charge as in internal service	
d Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours (article 25, paragraph 4)	Same charge as in internal service	
e Poste restante charge (article 25, paragraph 6)	Same charge as in internal service	
f Charge for delivery to the addressee of a small packet exceeding 500 g (article 25, paragraph 6)	60 centimes at most	This charge may be increased by 30 centimes at most when the item is delivered to the place of address
g Storage charge (article 26)	Charge collected at the rate laid down by internal legislation for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 g except literature for the blind	
h Charge on unpaid or underpaid unregistered items (article 30, paragraphs 1 and 2)	Charge adopted for letters in the first weight step by the country of delivery multiplied by the ratio between the amount of deficient postage and the same charge adopted by the country of origin; to this charge shall be added a handling charge of 1 franc at most or the charge prescribed by internal legislation	The delivering administration may, if it so wishes, collect only the handling charge
i Express charge (article 32, paragraphs 2, 3 and 6)	Charge which may not be less than the amount of postage payable on an unregistered single rate letter and not more than 6 francs	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the charge per item. When express delivery involves special demands an additional charge may be levied in accordance with the provisions governing items of the same kind in the internal service. If the addressee asks for express delivery, the charge of the internal service may be collected
j Charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address (article 33, paragraph 2)	4 francs at most	
k Charge for a request for redirection (article 34, paragraph 3)	Same charge as in internal service	
l Charge for redirection or return (article 34, paragraph 4, and article 35, paragraph 8)	Same charge as in internal service	
m Presentation to customs charge (article 38)	8 francs at most	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding 10 francs
n Charge collected for delivery of an item free of charges and fees (article 40, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5)	i Charge not exceeding 3 francs collected by the administration of origin ii Additional charge not exceeding 4 francs per request made after posting, collected by the administration of origin iii Commission charge not exceeding 3 francs collected for the benefit of the administration of destination	

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
o Inquiry charge (article 42, paragraph 4)	2 francs at most	
p Registration charge (article 44, paragraphs 1, b, and 2, and article 47, paragraphs 1, b, and 2)	4 francs at most	i For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the amount of the charge per item ii In addition to the charge per item or bulk charge, administrations may collect, from the sender or from the addressee, special charges in accordance with their internal legislation, to take account of any exceptional security measures taken with regard to registered items and insured letters
q Insurance charge (article 47, paragraph 1, c)	At most 1 franc for each 200 francs of insured value or fraction thereof or 1/2 percent of the scale of the insured value, whatever the country of destination, even in countries which undertake to cover risks of force majeure	
r Charge for cover against risks due to force majeure (article 44, paragraph 3)	40 centimes at most for each registered item	
s Advice of delivery charge (article 48, paragraph 1)	3 francs at most	
t Charge for delivery to the addressee in person (article 48, paragraph 1)	50 centimes at most	

2 Member countries whose internal service charges are higher than those which are fixed in paragraph 1 shall be authorized to apply them also in the international service.

Article 25

Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting. Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours. Charge for collection at the sender's address. Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours. Poste restante charge. Charge for delivery of small packets

1 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to the provisions of their legislation, for items handed over for dispatch after the latest time for posting.

2 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items posted at the counter outside normal opening hours.

3 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items collected by them from the sender's address.

4 Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the addressee an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items withdrawn at the counter outside normal opening hours.

5 Administrations of countries of destination may collect on items addressed poste restante the special charge, if any, prescribed by their legislation for items of the same kind in their internal service.

6 Administrations of countries of destination shall be authorized to collect on each small packet exceeding the weight of 500 grammes delivered to the addressee, the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, f.

Convention

Article 26

Storage charge

The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, according to its legislation, a storage charge for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 grammes of which the addressee has not taken delivery within the period during which the item is held at his disposal free of charge. This charge shall not apply to literature for the blind.

Article 27

Payment of postage

- 1 As a general rule, items mentioned in article 18, with the exception of those which are dealt with in articles 15 to 17, shall be fully prepaid by the sender.
- 2 The administration of the country of origin may return unpaid or underpaid letter-post items to the sender for the latter to make up the postage himself.
- 3 The administration of origin may also itself undertake to prepay underpaid letter-post items or make up the postage on underpaid items and collect the missing amount from the sender.
- 4 If the administration of origin does not apply any of the options provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 or if the postage cannot be made up by the sender, unpaid or underpaid letters and postcards shall still be forwarded to the country of destination. Other unpaid or underpaid items may also be forwarded.
- 5 Items properly paid for their first transmission and on which the supplementary charge has been paid before their redirection shall be considered as duly prepaid.

Article 28

Methods of denoting prepayment

- 1 Prepayment shall be denoted by means of any of the following methods:
 - a postage stamps, valid in the country of origin, printed or affixed;
 - b impressions of officially approved franking machines operating under the direct supervision of the postal administration;
 - c impressions made by a printing press or other printing or stamping process when such system is authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin;
 - d inscription "*Abonnement-poste*" followed by an indication showing that postage has been paid, eg "*Taxe perçue*" (TP), for newspapers or packets of newspapers and periodicals sent under the Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals Agreement, provided that such inscription and indication is made in one of the ways laid down in subparagraph c.
- 2 Prepayment of printed papers for the same addressee at the same address which are inserted in a special bag shall be denoted by one of the methods referred to in paragraph 1 and the total amount shown on the address label on the bag.