

N° 989.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
ET LETTONIE**

Convention relative à l'échange des
mandats-poste, signée à Washing-
ton, le 21 octobre, et à Riga, le
14 novembre 1922.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND LATVIA**

Convention for the Exchange of
Money Orders, signed at Wash-
ington, October 21, and at Riga,
November 14, 1922.

No. 989. — CONVENTION ¹ FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 21, AND AT RIGA, NOVEMBER 14, 1922.

Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Lettonie. L'enregistrement de cette Convention a eu lieu le 30 octobre 1925.

Desiring to establish a system of exchange of Postal Money Orders between the two countries, the undersigned Edward KADIKIS, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of the Republic of Latvia, and Hubert WORK, Postmaster-General of the United States, duly authorised for that purpose, have formulated the following articles of agreement :

Article I.

EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS.

(1) There shall be a regular exchange of Postal Money Orders between the Republic of Latvia and the United States of America, with its possessions, except the Panama Canal Zone and the Philippine Islands.

(2) Each country shall communicate to the other a list of the post offices designated to participate in the exchange of orders.

Article II.

EXCHANGE OFFICES.

The exchange of orders shall be conducted through the medium of exchange offices. On the part of the United States the exchange office shall be New York, and on that of the Republic of Latvia the exchange office shall be Riga.

Article III.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT.

(1) The maximum of each order is fixed at one hundred dollars.

(2) No order shall contain any fraction of a cent.

¹ Cette Convention est entrée en vigueur le 2 janvier 1923.

Article IV.

AMOUNTS EXPRESSED IN UNITED STATES MONEY.

The amounts of orders in both directions shall be expressed in United States currency (dollars and cents) and, in consideration of the fluctuations in the rate of exchange, it is agreed that all amounts shall be converted into their proper equivalents by the exchange office of Riga, that is to say, that the amounts received for orders issued in the Republic of Latvia and payable in the United States shall be converted into dollars and cents according to the rate of exchange on the eve of the dispatch of the list described in Article VIII, and the amounts of orders issued in the United States for payment in Latvia shall be converted into the money of the country of payment at the current rate of exchange on the day of the arrival of the list from New York.

Article V.

CURRENCY.

The amount of the orders shall be deposited by the remitter and paid to the payee in gold or its nearest legal equivalent. However, in case there be money in legal circulation of less value than gold, each Administration shall have the right to receive and use such money in its transactions with the public, taking into account the difference in value.

Article VI.

COMMISSIONS.

(1) The Postal Administration of Latvia shall have the right to fix the commission (fee) which the public shall pay for orders issued by its offices, and the Administration of the United States shall have the same right with regard to the orders which it may issue.

(2) Each country shall communicate to the other a list of the commissions which it may collect and the public shall pay for that service. These commissions shall be paid in advance at the office of issue and shall not be refunded.

(3) The country of origin shall keep the fees by the public on all money orders issued within its own jurisdiction and no commission shall be exacted or other charge made by either Administration for any other services performed in connection with the exchange of money orders.

Article VII.

APPLICANT MUST SUPPLY PARTICULARS.

The applicant for a money order shall be required to furnish, if possible, the full surname and Christian name (or at least the initial of one Christian name) both of the remitter and the payee, or the name of the firm or company who are remitters or payees, and the address of the remitter and payee.

Article VIII.

MONEY ORDER LISTS.

(1) The particulars relating to each order issued in the United States on Latvia shall be entered by the exchange office of New York on a list identical with Model " A " (thus indicated in the

appendix), in which shall be expressed the amount of each order in the money of the United States. That list having received the impression of the dating stamp of the office at New York, shall be transmitted to the exchange office at Riga, where it shall be stamped in like manner (with the date of receipt) and where the necessary arrangements for payment of the order shall be made.

(2) In the same way, the particulars relating to orders issued in Latvia on the United States shall be entered by the exchange office at Riga in a list identical with Model " B " (thus indicated in the appendix), in which shall be entered the amount of each order in the money of the United States. That list, after receiving the impression of the dating stamp of the exchange office, shall be transmitted to the exchange office of New York, State of New York, where in like manner it shall be stamped with the date of receipt and where the necessary arrangements shall be made for payment of the orders.

(3) Each list, as well as each order listed, shall be numbered consecutively 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc., in the order of dispatch, commencing with July 1 of each year, and each of the Contracting Parties shall acknowledge receipt by means of the first subsequent list sent to the other country.

(4) A list shall be transmitted by every mail dispatched from Riga for New York and vice versa, and a duplicate of each list shall be dispatched by the next following mail.

(5) Should it happen on the date of dispatch of the list that there are no orders to send, a list shall be sent nevertheless with the following words written across it: " No orders ".

(6) Should the original list or the duplicate thereof fail to be received at the expected time, the dispatching exchange office, upon receiving notice of that fact, shall transmit a duplicate or a triplicate of the missing list duly authenticated.

(7) The original orders issued in the United States for payment in the Republic of Latvia shall be retained in the records of the exchange office at New York, and the orders issued in Latvia for payment in the United States shall be retained in the exchange office at Riga, to be available in conducting correspondence regarding the remittances thus represented.

Article IX.

HOW PAYMENT IS EFFECTED.

(1) As soon as a list arrives at the office of destination, that office shall issue the orders according to the amounts specified in the lists in favour of the payees and remit them free from postage to the respective addresses or to the offices of destination, in conformity with the regulation in force in each country for the payment of postal money orders.

(2) When the list contains irregularities which cannot be corrected at the receiving exchange office, that office shall ask for explanations with the least possible delay; and in the meantime the issue of inland money orders corresponding to the entries shall be suspended until the explanations are received.

(3) One copy of each exchange list shall be returned by the receiving exchange office to the dispatching office, but before returning such copy, the receiving office shall enter therein the names of the respective offices of payment of the orders enumerated in the list, and in the lists from the United States returned by the exchange office at Riga, the latter office shall also enter the amount of each order in the money of Latvia according to the conversion made by it.

Article X.

PAYMENT SUBJECT TO RULES OF COUNTRY DRAWN ON.

(1) The orders issued by each country on the other shall be subject as regards payment to the regulations which govern payment of domestic money orders in the country on which they are drawn.

(2) The paid orders shall remain in the possession of the country of payment.

Article XI.

CORRECTION OF ERRORS.

When it becomes necessary to rectify an error in the name of the remitter or of the payee, or when the amount is to be returned to the sender, the one interested shall apply directly to the office where the order was issued.

Article XII.

DUPLICATE ORDERS.

Duplicate orders may be issued only by the Postal Administration of the paying country and in accordance with its regulations on the subject.

Article XIII.

REPAYMENT.

(1) Repayment shall be effected by the country of issue only after authorisation is received from the country of destination; the amount repaid must be placed to the credit of the former in the monthly account. (Article XV.)

(2) Each Administration shall determine the course pursued in repayment to the remitter.

Article XIV.

VOID ORDERS.

(1) Orders which have not been paid within twelve months after that in which they were issued shall become void and the amounts received shall revert to and be placed at the disposal of the country of origin.

(2) At the end of each month the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs shall prepare and send to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, Division of Money Orders, at Washington, a detailed statement of all orders issued in the United States and drawn on Latvia which have not been paid within twelve months after the last day of the month of issue and under the terms of this article have become void and reverted to the country of issue.

(3) On the other hand, the Post Office Department of the United States, at the end of each month, shall send to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of Latvia a list of postal money orders issued in the latter country and drawn on the United States which, in accordance with this article, have become void.

(4) All orders which have become void shall be entered in the monthly account to the credit of the country of issue.

Article XV.

ACCOUNTS.

(1) At the end of each month the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of Latvia shall prepare an account in which shall be entered in detail the totals of the lists showing the amounts of orders issued during the same month in each of the two countries and the balance resulting from such transactions.

(2) Two copies of that account shall be transmitted to the Post Office Department of the United States at Washington. If, after proper verification, the balance, which must always be expressed in money of the United States, is found to be against the Postal Administration of Latvia, it shall be paid at New York in money of the United States by means of a bill of exchange

payable at sight. If the balance be found against the United States, it shall be paid in United States money by means of a bill of exchange payable at sight, drawn on New York and remitted by the Post Office Department at Washington.

(3) Payments may also be made in cash or by means of bills of exchange drawn on places other than New York by mutual agreement between the two Administrations.

Article XVI.

REMITTANCES ON ACCOUNT.

(1) If, pending settlement of a monthly account, either of the two Administrations shall ascertain that it owes the other a balance in excess of five thousand dollars, it shall immediately cancel the indebtedness, or at least make a remittance of the approximate amount due. The accounts and the letters relating to remittances on account shall be in accordance with the forms " C ", " D ", " E," and " F ", annexed to this Convention.

(2) If the debtor Administration fails to effect payment within six months from the time when such balance accrues, the creditor Administration shall have the right to demand and receive interest at the rate of six per cent per annum.

Article XVII.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.

(1) The Postal Administration of either of the two countries may adopt other regulations, not contrary to this Convention, for the purpose of protection against fraud or for the better operation of the system which it has established.

(2) Every additional regulation adopted must be communicated without loss of time to the Administration of the other country.

Article XVIII.

SUSPENSION OF EXCHANGE.

Should extraordinary circumstances justify it, each of the two Postal Administrations shall be authorised to suspend temporarily the exchange of money orders in whole or in part, provided that notice of the suspension is immediately given to the other country, by cable if necessary.

Article XIX.

IN EFFECT.

The Convention, after having been signed, shall take effect on the second day of the month of January 1923, and shall continue in force until twelve months after either Administration shall have notified the other of its desire to terminate it.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on the twenty-first day of October 1922, and at Riga on the fourteenth day of November 1922.

(Signed) E. KADIKIS,

Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

(Signed) HUBERT WORK,

Postmaster-General of the United States.

Pour copie conforme :
Par noraksta pareizību :

P. ALBAT,

*Secrétaire de la Section administrative
et Protocole.*