

N° 1218.

**POLOGNE ET
RÉPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE
FÉDÉRATIVE DES SOVIETS
DE RUSSIE ET
RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES
DES SOVIETS DE L'UKRAINE
ET DE LA RUSSIE BLANCHE**

Convention postale et télégraphique,
signée à Moscou, le 24 mai 1923.

**POLAND AND
SOCIALIST FEDERAL SOVIET
REPUBLIC OF RUSSIA
AND SOCIALIST SOVIET
REPUBLICS OF UKRAINE
AND OF WHITE RUSSIA**

Postal and Telegraphic Convention,
signed at Moscow, May 24, 1923.

TEXTE RUSSE. — RUSSIAN TEXT.

№ 1218. — ПОЧТОВО-ТЕЛЕГРАФНАЯ КОНВЕНЦИЯ¹ МЕЖДУ РОССИЙСКОЙ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАТИВНОЙ СОВЕТСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ, УКРАИНСКОЙ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЙ СОВЕТСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ И БЕЛОРУССКОЙ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЙ СОВЕТСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ С ОДНОЙ СТОРОНЫ, И ПОЛЬСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ С ДРУГОЙ СТОРОНЫ, ПОДПИСАННАЯ В МОСКВЕ 24-го МАЯ 1923 ГОДА.

Polish and Russian official texts communicated by the Chargé d'affaires a. i. of the Polish Delegation accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Convention took place July 8, 1926.

Российская Социалистическая Федеративная Советская Республика, Украинская Социалистическая Советская Республика и Белорусская Социалистическая Советская Республика с одной стороны и Польская Республика, с другой стороны, руководимые желанием содействовать развитию между обоими странами дружеских отношений и экономических сношений, решили согласно ст. XXI мирного договора, заключенного в Риге 18 марта 1921² года, определить в особой Конвенции условия почтовых, телеграфных, радиотелеграфных и телефонных сношений как взаимных между обоими сторонами так и транзитных через их территории и назначили для сего своими уполномоченными.

Правительства Российской Социалистической Федеративной Советской Республики, Украинской Социалистической Советской Республики и Белорусской Социалистической Советской Республики :

Члена Коллегии Народного Комиссариата Почт и Телеграфов Козьму Васильевича Трофимова и
Помощника Заведывающего Экономическо-Правового Отдела Народного Комиссариата Иностранных Дел — Евгения Владимировича Рубинина.

Президент Польской Республики :

Товарища Статс-Секретаря по делам Почт и Телеграфов — Владимира Добровольского.

Означенные уполномоченные по взаимном пред'явлении своих полномочий, найденных в полной и надлежащей форме, приняли, с общего согласия, под условием ратификации, нижеследующие постановления.

ОБЩИЕ ПОЛОЖЕНИЯ.

Статья 1.

1. Между договаривающимися Сторонами будет производиться правильный непосредственный через границы обмен простой и заказной корреспонденции (писем, почтовых карточек, печатных произведений, деловых бумаг и образчиков товаров), писем с объявленной ценностью, посылок и телеграмм.

¹ The exchange of ratifications took place at Warsaw, March 2, 1925.

² Vol. VI, page 51, of this Series.

¹ TRANSLATION.

No. 1218. — POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC CONVENTION BETWEEN THE POLISH REPUBLIC OF THE ONE PART AND THE RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERAL SOVIET REPUBLIC, THE SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS OF THE UKRAINE AND OF WHITE RUSSIA, OF THE OTHER PART, SIGNED AT MOSCOW, MAY 24, 1923.

THE POLISH REPUBLIC, of the one part, and THE RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS OF THE UKRAINE and THE SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLIC OF WHITE RUSSIA, of the other part, being desirous of promoting the establishment and development of friendly relations and economic intercourse between their respective countries, have decided, in accordance with Article XXI of the Treaty of Peace, signed at Riga on March 18, 1921, to conclude a convention concerning the settlement of their postal, telegraphic, radio-telegraphic, and telephonic relations, both direct and in transit, and have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC :

M. Włodzimierz DOBROWOLSKI, Civil Engineer, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs ;

THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FEDERAL SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE RUSSIAN SOVIETS, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE SOVIETS OF THE UKRAINE AND THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF THE SOVIETS OF WHITE RUSSIA :

Kozma V. TROFIMOV, Member of the Board established at the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs, and

Eugène V. ROUBININ, Assistant to the Head of the Economic and Legal Section of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed, subject to ratification, upon the following provisions :

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 1.

1. A regular and direct service for the conveyance of ordinary and registered correspondence (letters, postcards, printed papers, business papers and sample packets), letters of declared value, postal parcels and telegrams, shall be established between the two Contracting Parties.

2. Until otherwise agreed upon, the following shall not be accepted for conveyance : postal orders and correspondence of all kinds marked with trade charges or for express delivery ; postal

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

service for subscribers to newspapers, reply coupons, identity cards and telephone calls. The conditions governing the establishment of these forms of postal service and the dates of opening of such services may, if required, be settled by special agreements between the Postal and Telegraphic Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

Article 2.

1. Each Contracting Party shall guarantee to the other Party freedom of transit through its territory for ordinary and registered correspondence, letters of declared value, postal parcels and telegrams coming from or sent to any country with which the Party in question maintains a postal and telegraphic service.

2. Postal packets may be accepted for conveyance in transit both "à découvert" and in closed mails.

3. The postal and telegraph administrations of the Contracting Parties shall, so far as possible, grant each other the use of direct telegraph lines for the transmission of telegrams in transit, and shall settle, by agreement, the conditions under which such lines may be used.

Article 3.

Each of the Contracting Parties reserves the right to suspend, temporarily and in a specified direction, the exchange of any given category of mails. The Party taking such a measure shall be bound to inform the other Party of such suspension immediately, if necessary by telegram.

Article 4.

The exchange between the Contracting Parties and the despatch in transit through their territories of ordinary and registered correspondence, letters of declared value, parcels, telegrams and radio-telegrams, shall be subject to the regulations of the international agreements in force except in so far as such regulations are abrogated or modified by the Articles of the present Convention. The said agreements are :

(a) The Universal Postal Convention and the Detailed Regulations for its Execution ;

(b) The Agreement for the Exchange of Insured Letters and Boxes and Detailed Regulations for its Execution ;

(c) The Universal Parcel Post Agreement and the Detailed Regulations for its Execution ;

(d) The International Telegraphic Convention and the Detailed Regulations of the International Telegraphic Service ;

(e) The International Radio-Telegraphic Convention, and the Detailed Regulations for its Execution.

Article 5.

1. The accounts of both Parties for the payment of transit charges for letters and articles sent by letter post, for postal parcels, for telegrams and radio-telegrams and the insurance fees for letters of declared value shall be drawn up in gold francs.

For all these purposes the gold franc shall be considered as equal to 0.192957 United States dollar, or one dollar as equal to 5.1825 gold francs.

2. The balance of the accounts of the two Parties shall be paid to the creditor administration in dollars through banks in the capital of the creditor country.

3. The costs of payment shall be borne by the debtor administration.

Article 6.

1. The term franc when used in the various Articles of the present Convention (declared value, weighing and insurance fees, telegraph charges, etc.) shall be understood to mean the gold franc.
2. Each Contracting Party shall determine the value of the gold franc in terms of its own currency.

Article 7.

1. Each Postal and Telegraph Administration shall carry the mails as far as an agreed point on its frontier and, if necessary, up to a point fixed by agreement between the Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties.
 2. Mails passing between two places on opposite sides of the frontier shall be carried :
 - (a) In a single direction, by and at the expense of the despatching Postal and Telegraph Administration ; or
 - (b) In both directions by a single Administration, if there is an agreement to that effect between the Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties. In that case the cost of carrying the mails shall be divided between the two Administrations.
 3. When mail-trains arrive from both directions at a common frontier station situated in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the Administration to which the train crossing the frontier belongs shall bear the cost of carrying the mails as far as the common frontier station.
 4. When the mail trains coming from the territory of either Party arrive at a station situated within the territory of the other Party, the mails in both directions shall be carried alternately by each postal administration, for agreed periods, at the expense of the Administration in question.
 5. Should an air service be established between Poland and Russia, the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the Contracting Parties agree to make use of such service for the carriage of mails.
- The Governments of the Contracting Parties shall take steps to ensure that all the necessary conditions regarding the carriage of mails are stipulated in the concessions granted by them for the said air service.

Article 8.

Postal and telegraph officials whose duties oblige them to cross the frontier shall be provided with certificates, valid either for a fixed period or for one occasion only, and duly attested by the local authorities of the country which the official is to enter.

This regulation shall not, however, apply to officials employed in post-office vans who accompany the mails of one Contracting Party to a railway station situated in the territory of the other Party. Such an official need only have an identity certificate, with photograph, issued by the local postal and telegraph administration under which he is employed. This certificate shall authorise the official to remain, during the stop of the train, in the post office van and to have access to the parts of the station to which passengers are admitted.

Article 9.

1. The mail bags must be strong and must be marked with the stamp of the post office to which they belong.

These bags must be returned empty by the next post to the office to which they belong, their numbers being indicated in the letter-bill.

2. Mail bags not returned within two months from the date of despatch shall be regarded as lost. In such case the Administration responsible shall be bound to refund the purchase price of the same number of new bags.

Article 10.

1. All correspondence between the Administrations of the Contracting Parties or between the postal and telegraph administrations under them shall be in French.

Frontier post offices at which the mails are exchanged may, however, use the official languages of their respective countries in correspondence with each other.

2. The offices at which mails are exchanged shall reply directly to any enquiries addressed to them regarding mails and telegrams.

Article 11.

1. Official, ordinary or registered correspondence relating to the postal, telegraph, radio-telegraph and telephonic services, and passing between the Central Administrations of the Contracting Parties, or between the local post, telegraph, or combined post and telegraph offices, shall be carried free of charge.

2. No charge shall be made in respect of official telegrams concerning questions connected with the telegraph, radio-telegraph, telephone and postal services, passing between the Central Administrations of the Contracting Parties, persons authorised to send such messages or post and telegraph offices.

3. All other correspondence, of any origin or destination whatever, must be prepaid or charged for in the regular manner, in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention in force.

Article 12.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other the following information :

(a) The equivalent rates which they have adopted for their postage and telegraphic correspondence ;

(b) A list of the countries for which they may act as intermediaries in the exchange of postal parcels and letters of declared value ;

(c) The postage dues which they collect in respect of parcels and letters of declared value conveyed in transit through their respective countries ;

(d) Any special regulations regarding import prohibitions and restrictions in force in their own countries and in the countries for which they act as intermediaries in the exchange of mails ;

(e) Any changes subsequently introduced in the above provisions. If possible these changes shall be notified one month before they come into force.

Article 13.

The service and other regulations necessary for the execution of the present Convention shall be embodied in the supplementary Protocol to be signed by the Plenipotentiaries who are authorised to sign the present Convention.

The postal and telegraph administrations of the Contracting Parties may decide, by agreement, to modify the aforesaid regulations to meet the requirements of the service.

LETTERS, POSTCARDS, PRINTED PAPERS, BUSINESS PAPERS AND SAMPLES
OF GOODS.

Article 14.

Ordinary and registered letters, postcards, printed papers, business papers and samples of goods exchanged between the countries of the Contracting Parties shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps at the rates fixed by the Universal Postal Convention (Article 6) and according to the corresponding equivalents laid down in the country of each Contracting Party.

Article 15.

Each Contracting Party shall retain the transit charges laid down in the Universal Postal Convention for mails conveyed in transit through its territory under Article 14 of the present Convention.

Article 16.

Should the postage rates of one of the Contracting Parties calculated by the gold franc standard be lower than those of the other Party, the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the latter Party may refuse to accept unstamped or insufficiently stamped correspondence or postcards with prepaid replies sent to the former country.

The Postal and Telegraph Administration of the country in regard to which measures of this kind have been taken shall be entitled, for reasons of reciprocity, to take similar action in respect of correspondence addressed to the other country.

Article 17.

1. The Contracting Parties shall be entitled to refuse, should their laws so require, to despatch or convey through their respective territories the following correspondence, which shall be returned to the despatching office :

(a) Correspondence addressed "poste restante" ;

(b) Letters weighing more than one hundred grammes. Letters addressed to or sent by State institutions may, nevertheless, be accepted up to a maximum limit of two kilogrammes.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations shall be authorised to cancel these restrictions, by agreement, as soon as circumstances permit.

2. Ordinary or registered letters sent from one of the contracting countries to the other, may not contain any coin current in either country or in any other country.

Should such coin be found enclosed, the letter containing it shall be returned to the country of origin.

3. The restrictions imposed in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Article shall not apply to postal correspondence in transit through the territory of the Contracting Parties, or to re-addressed correspondence.

4. No limit of weight shall be fixed for official service correspondence (paragraph 1, Article 11).

Article 18.

The provisions of paragraphs (*d*) and (*f*) of Section 3 of Article 17 of the Detailed Regulations for the Execution of the Postal Convention of Madrid, which allow printers' errors to be corrected or words or passages in printed matter to be marked or underlined, shall not apply to correspondence between the Contracting Parties.

Printed matter so corrected and irregularly accepted for despatch shall be returned to the country of origin.

Article 19.

1. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for loss of registered correspondence if such loss is due to circumstances outside their control.

2. In the case of loss of registered correspondence the sender shall be entitled to compensation amounting to fifty francs. The equivalent of that sum shall be paid in the country of origin and in the currency of that country at the rate of exchange fixed by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of that country for articles sent by international letter post.

3. The compensation in question must be paid in the manner laid down in the preceding paragraph, whether the payment is effected on behalf of the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the place of origin, or on behalf of the Postal and Telegraph Administration responsible for the loss.

4. If the compensation is paid by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of one of the Contracting Parties on behalf of the Postal Administration of the other Party, the latter Party shall refund the sum in question to the former in the same currency not later than two months after the date of despatch of the notice of payment.

5. Pending the establishment of a post office money-order service such compensation shall be paid once a month through a bank or through the diplomatic representative of the responsible Party in the capital of the country of despatch.

LETTERS OF DECLARED VALUE.

Article 20.

1. The maximum declarable value for letters sent from one Contracting Party to the other shall be fixed in accordance with the laws of those countries but shall not in any case exceed :

(*a*) Twenty-five thousand francs for letters sent by or addressed to State institutions and banks,

(*b*) One thousand francs for all other letters.

2. The maximum declarable values laid down in the preceding paragraph shall also apply to letters conveyed in transit through the territories of the Contracting Parties on their way to or from a third country, unless lower maximum values are fixed by the regulations in force for letters sent to or from the latter country.

3. The value declared by the sender must not exceed the actual value of the contents of the letter and must be declared in gold francs, or in the currency of the country of origin. In the latter case the Administration of the country of origin must convert the declared value into gold francs at the rate fixed by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of each Party in order to determine the equivalents of the rates chargeable on international correspondence.

4. The maximum declarable values laid down in paragraph 1 of this Article may be changed by agreement between the Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

Article 21.

1. Letters of declared value must be handed in at the post office open in order that their contents may be verified ; they must not contain anything under special cover.

2. The sender must enclose in each letter of declared value a list of the articles which it contains, indicating the value of each separate article and the aggregate amount of these values, expressed either in gold francs or in the currency of the country of origin.

3. The list must be drawn up by the sender in the language of the country of origin and also in that of the country of destination, or else in French alone and in duplicate. Both copies of the list must bear the stamp of the post office of origin. One of the duplicate copies will be inserted in the letter and the other will be returned to the sender.

Article 22.

Letters of declared value must only contain brief communications referring to the articles sent in the letter.

Article 23.

If a letter of declared value is found in the country of destination to contain articles the importation of which is prohibited, the letter must not be confiscated but must be returned to the country of origin.

Article 24.

The conditions regarding the handing in for despatch and the delivery of letters of declared value shall be fixed by the internal laws and regulations of the country of origin or the country of destination, except as otherwise provided by the present Convention.

Article 25.

1. The sender of a letter of declared value shall, when handing in a letter for despatch, pay the following charges which are applicable to letters exchanged between the Contracting Parties :

(a) The postage and registration fee for international registered letters ;

(b) An insurance fee of fifteen centimes for the benefit of each of the Contracting Parties in respect of every three hundred francs or fraction thereof declared.

2. The accounts for the exchange and conveyance in transit of letters of declared value shall be drawn up and amounts due on balance shall be paid in the manner laid down in Article 5 of the present Convention.

The aforesaid accounts shall be prepared monthly.

Article 26.

At post offices for the exchange of correspondence, letters of declared value sent from or addressed to the Contracting Parties, or sent in transit, shall be despatched in accordance with the directions on the waybills ; they shall be conveyed *à découvert* and separately.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties may, however, if circumstances require, agree that letters of declared value shall be carried in closed containers, which shall be exchanged between the principal post offices.

Article 27.

1. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for the loss or theft of, or damage to, the contents as specified on the list (Paragraph 2 of Article 21), of letters of declared value, should the same be caused by circumstances outside their control.

2. Should a letter of declared value be lost or its contents be wholly or partly lost, damaged or stolen, the sender shall be entitled to compensation up to the actual amount of the loss, damage or theft, provided that such compensation does not exceed the sum declared.

The compensation in respect of documents or papers having no commercial value shall not exceed an amount corresponding to the direct damage caused by the loss or theft of, or the damage to, such documents or papers. Nevertheless, should it be impossible to determine in this manner the amount due to the sender, the compensation shall be equivalent to the declared value of the articles lost, stolen or damaged.

3. The Administration in whose territory the letter has been lost or its contents damaged or stolen, shall be held responsible.

4. The compensation shall be paid in the country of origin and in the currency of that country at the gold franc rate of conversion which is fixed by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of each Party for determining the rate applicable to international correspondence.

The payment of compensation, and the reimbursement of sums paid for that purpose by one Postal and Telegraph Administration on account of the other, shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of Article 19, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the present Convention.

Article 28.

Boxes of declared value shall not be accepted for exchange.

PARCEL POST.

Article 29.

1. Postal parcels, insured or otherwise, shall be accepted for conveyance between the Contracting Parties provided that their weight does not exceed 10 kilogrammes and that their value does not exceed the maximum allowed, namely, 1,000 francs.

2. Postal parcels shall be accepted for conveyance provided that their dimensions do not exceed 60 centimetres in every direction. If the dimensions exceed this limit in one direction, the two other directions or the girth of the cross-section must be proportionately less; for example, if the length is between 60 and 100 centimetres the girth must not exceed 200 centimetres, or if the length is between 100 and 120 centimetres, the girth must not exceed 140 centimetres. Postal parcels exceeding 120 centimetres in length will in no case be accepted.

3. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall be authorised to change, by agreement, the maximum declarable values, weights and dimensions fixed in paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. As regards the presentation for despatch and the delivery of postal parcels, and the ultimate disposal of articles the importation of which is prohibited or restricted, the municipal laws and regulations of each of the Contracting Parties shall be applied, except as otherwise provided in the present Convention.

5. The following shall not be accepted for despatch from one of the contracting countries to the other :

- (a) Postal parcels which exceed the dimensions laid down in paragraph 2, or which, owing to their form or fragility, are regarded as unduly difficult to handle ;
- (b) Express parcels ;
- (c) Parcels on which the sender would be required to pay the Customs duties.

Article 30.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2 of the present Convention whereby the Contracting Parties undertake to ensure freedom of transit through their respective territories to parcels sent from or addressed to any third country, the said Parties shall only be bound to accept parcels for conveyance in transit if their "get up" fulfils the conditions required by Article 29 for parcels accepted for despatch from one contracting country to the other, and provided that the third country does not apply more severe restrictions.

2. When necessary, in view of the conditions of transport or the over-loading of mail-vans on the routes used for the conveyance of mails in transit, each of the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to fix a maximum number of parcels to be conveyed in transit to the other Contracting Party.

Article 31.

1. When handed in for despatch postal parcels must be pre-paid up to the amount sufficient to carry them to their destination.

2. The postage on parcels exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be fixed as follows :

	Total Amount	Share accruing to	
		Poland	U. S. S. R.
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Parcels sent from Poland to the European parts of the U. S. S. R. and <i>vice versa</i> , weight not more than 1 kg.	2.30	0.55	1.75
Weight 1 - 5 kgs.	2.50	0.75	1.75
Weight 5 - 10 kgs.	3.70	1.15	2.55
Parcels sent from the Asiatic parts of the U. S. S. R. to Poland and <i>vice versa</i> , weight not more than 1 kg.	4.05	0.55	3.50
Weight 1 - 5 kgs.	4.25	0.75	3.50
Weight 5 - 10 kgs.	6.25	1.15	5.10

3. The insurance fee for parcels of declared value exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be fifteen centimes for the benefit of each Contracting Party on every three hundred francs or fraction thereof declared.

4. The Postal and Telegraph Administration of the country of origin shall be entitled to charge for its own benefit, for despatching parcels of declared value, a despatch fee not exceeding fifty centimes per parcel irrespective of the amount declared.

5. The Postal and Telegraph Administration of the country of destination shall be entitled to collect from the addressee a charge to recoup itself for the cost of the Customs formalities. Such charges shall not exceed fifty centimes per parcel.

Article 32.

1. The rates for parcels conveyed in transit through the territories of the Contracting Parties and any insurance fees for such parcels, shall be fixed in accordance with the Universal Parcel Post Convention.

2. Should a parcel be damaged during conveyance in transit and should it be impossible to forward it without re-packing, the intermediate post office shall be entitled to debit the next office with the charge for re-packing, which shall be collected from the addressee. Such charge may not exceed fifty centimes. If the parcel is returned to the place of origin, this charge shall be collected from the sender.

Article 33.

1. Parcels exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be sent *à découvert*. The same procedure shall be adopted in regard to parcels in transit, unless a special agreement is concluded for the conveyance of such parcels in closed containers.

2. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall jointly determine the exchange post offices and routes to be used for the parcel post.

Article 34.

Every parcel despatched shall be accompanied by a despatch note and by a Customs declaration, in two identical copies, made out by the sender in French or in the language of the country of origin, with a translation in the language of the country of destination.

Article 35.

Parcels containing articles, the importation of which is forbidden, may not be confiscated but must be returned by the post office, provided always that the Customs declaration made by the sender is correct.

Article 36.

The sender shall be entitled when handing in a parcel for despatch to indicate on the despatch-note and on the packing what is to be done with the parcel, should it be sent to the Returned Letter Office. He may require :

- (a) That the parcel shall be at once returned to him;
- (b) That it shall be delivered to another addressee;
- (c) That it should be treated by the country of destination as abandoned.

Article 37.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall be authorised to refuse to accept any communication written on the detachable coupons of the despatch notes.

Article 38.

A parcel which, for any reason, is sent back to the Returned Letter Office shall, unless the sender at the time of handing it in for despatch ask for it to be returned to the place of origin (Article 36), be kept for one month, if in Poland, and for two months, if in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

At the end of the above periods such parcel shall be returned to the country of origin without previous notification of non-delivery.

Article 39.

Customs duties and other non-postal charges levied upon parcels which are returned to their country of origin or re-directed to a third country shall be refunded, whether in Poland or in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Article 40.

1. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for the loss or theft of, or damage to, parcels should the same be due to circumstances outside their control.

2. If a postal parcel has been lost or if its contents have been wholly or partly lost, damaged or stolen, the sender shall be entitled to compensation up to the actual amount of such loss, damage or theft, unless the damage is due to the fault or negligence of the sender or to the nature of the articles sent.

3. Such compensation shall not exceed 1 franc per kilogramme in the case of ordinary parcels, and in the case of parcels of declared value the amount of the value declared.

4. Compensation shall be paid in the country of origin in the currency of that country at the gold franc rate laid down by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of each Party for calculating the charges on international mails. The payment of compensation and the reimbursement of sums paid in respect of the loss or theft of, or damage to, parcels shall be effected in accordance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Article 19 of the present Convention.

Article 41.

1. The reciprocal settlement of accounts for parcels sent direct from one contracting country to another and for parcels conveyed in transit shall be effected monthly in accordance with the detailed regulations of the Universal Parcel Post Agreement (Article 4).

2. The accounts, together with the relevant documents, shall be sent to the Administration concerned within the two months following that to which they relate.

The accounts must be audited and returned not later than one month from the date on which they were received.

3. The monthly accounts, after having been audited and approved by both Parties, shall be incorporated in a general account drawn up by the creditor Administration. This general account shall be settled not later than one month from the date on which it is received.

Any sums still due after that period shall bear interest at 7 % per annum payable to the creditor Administration.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Article 42.

1. Each of the Contracting Parties undertakes to place at the disposal of the other Party, in its own territory, as many telegraph lines as are required for the transmission of telegrams, whether direct or in transit.

2. The original number of such telegraph lines and of the exchange stations, as also the nature of the apparatus to be used, are given in the supplementary Protocol (Article 13).

3. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall be authorised to establish a direct radio-telegraph service as soon as possible with each other and with other countries, by means of their radio stations, and to determine by agreement the rates for radio-telegrams.

Article 43.

1. In the case of ordinary terminal telegrams between the telegraph offices of the Contracting Parties a charge shall be levied of 8 centimes per word on behalf of Poland and of 26 centimes per word on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

2. Transit rates shall be fixed as follows:

(a) European telegraph system: On all ordinary telegrams, a charge of 7 centimes per word shall be levied on behalf of Poland, and of 24 centimes per word on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

(b) Extra-European telegraph system: On all ordinary telegrams a charge of 12 centimes per word shall be levied on behalf of Poland and the charge laid down in Table B of the International Telegraph Service Regulations shall be levied on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

3. The charges laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present Article may be increased or diminished, by agreement, in pursuance of modifications introduced in regard to such matters by the International Telegraph Union.

In particular, the charges laid down in paragraph (a) of Section 2 may be modified by agreement between the Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties in such a way as to equalise the charges on telegrams sent over lines belonging to different States.

4. For press telegrams the above-mentioned rates shall be reduced by 50 % in the Polish-Russian and European systems, and by at least 50 % in the extra-European system.

5. The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties may, by agreement, establish a service of "deferred telegrams" at a rate reduced by 50 %.

6. Meteorological telegrams shall be transmitted free of charge.

Article 44.

1. Telegrams passing between the Contracting Parties must be written in Latin characters in one of the following languages: Russian, Polish, English, French, German and Italian.

Telegrams in languages other than those mentioned above or in cipher or conventional language shall not be accepted unless a special agreement on the subject has been concluded between the Postal and Telegraph Administrations concerned.

The restrictions in respect of the language to be used do not apply to government telegrams or to telegrams passing in transit.

2. Telegrams addressed to places which have no telegraph office shall as a general rule be delivered by post. They shall only be delivered by express service if the telegraph office receiving them has been requested by the addressee to deliver the telegram to him by express service.

No notice shall accordingly be taken of the conventional signs XPX, XPP and XPT.

Article 45.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties undertake to communicate to each other, before the telegraph service is opened, a list of the State institutions and officials entitled to despatch State telegrams in accordance with Article 5 of the International Telegraphic Convention at present in force.

Article 46.

1. There shall be a monthly settlement of accounts between the Contracting Parties in respect of terminal and transit telegraphic correspondence, as provided in the service regulations annexed to the International Telegraphic Convention.

2. The sums due on balancing the monthly telegraph accounts shall be paid to the creditor Administration within the two months following the month to which the accounts relate, and in the manner laid down in Article 5 of the present Convention.

3. Any mistakes detected when the accounts are audited shall be rectified in the next monthly settlement.

FINAL PROVISIONS.

Article 47.

The provisions of the present Convention concerning the exchange of mails and telegrams shall come into force fifteen days, at latest, and the provisions concerning letters of declared value and postal parcels two months, at latest, after the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Article 48.

The present Convention shall remain in force for an indefinite period, and may be abrogated if either Contracting Party so desires, provided that three months' notice of denunciation has been given to the other Contracting Party.

Article 49.

The present Convention is done in duplicate in the Polish and Russian languages.

For purposes of interpretation of the Convention both texts shall be equally authentic.

The present Convention shall be ratified and shall come into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The exchange of the instruments of ratification and the signature of the Protocol of ratification shall take place at Warsaw.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have signed the present Convention and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Moscow, the twenty-fourth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three.

(Signed) Włodzimierz DOBROWOLSKI.

(Signed) K. TROFIMOV.

(Signed) E. ROUBININ.

FINAL PROTOCOL

of the Postal and Telegraphic Convention concluded between the Polish Republic, of the one part, and the Federal Socialist Republic of the Russian Soviets, the Socialist Republic of the Soviets of the Ukraine and the Socialist Republic of the Soviets of White Russia, of the other part.

In view of the declaration made by the Plenipotentiaries of the Federal Socialist Republic of the Russian Soviets with regard to the conclusion on May 24, 1922, of an Agreement between the said Republic and the Union of the Republics of the Trans-Caucasian Soviets concerning unification of postal, telegraphic, telephonic and radio-telegraphic services under a joint administration of the People's Commissariat for Posts and Telegraphs at Moscow, it has been agreed that the provisions of the above-mentioned Convention shall also apply to the Union of Republics referred to above.

The present Protocol shall form an integral part of the Convention and shall come into force at the same time as the Convention.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the two Parties have signed the present Final Protocol. Moscow, the twenty-fourth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three.

(Signed) Włodzimierz DOBROWOLSKI.

(Signed) K. TROFIMOV.

(Signed) E. ROUBININ.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL.

to the Postal and Telegraphic Convention concluded between the Polish Republic, of the one part, and the Federal Socialist Republic of the Russian Soviets, the Socialist Republic of the Soviets of the Ukraine and the Socialist Republic of the White Russian Soviets, of the other part.

In execution of Article 13 of the Postal and Telegraphic Convention, signed at Moscow on May 24, 1923, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article I.

The following towns are appointed until further notice as places of exchange of ordinary and registered mails :

On the Polish side		On the U.S. S. R. side		
Warsaw	{	Moscow	{	Warsaw
		Petrograd		Vilna
		Kharkow		Brest N/B
		Kiew	{	Warsaw
		Odessa		Vilna
Minsk	Kharkow	Warsaw		
Baku	Kiew	{	Warsaw	
Vilna	{	Moscow	Lwow	
		Petrograd	Warsaw	
Lwow	{	Minsk	Warsaw	
		Kiew	Vilna	
Brest N/B	Moscow	Baku	Warsaw	

Article II.

The following are appointed until further notice as places for the exchange of letters of declared value : on the Polish side, Warsaw and Brest N/B ; and, on the Russian side, Moscow, Kiev and Minsk. No letters shall be sent through Warsaw and Moscow save those addressed to those two towns.

Article III.

The following are appointed as places for the exchange of postal parcels : on the Polish side, Brest N/B and Warsaw ; and, on the side of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Minsk and Kiev. No parcels shall be sent to Warsaw other than those addressed to that town.

Article IV.

The mails from Poland to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and *vice versa* shall, until further notice, be conveyed over the frontier by the Stolpce-Niegoriełoje and Zdołbunowo-Szepietówka sections of line.

On the Niegoriełoje-Stolpce section the delivery and receipt of mails shall be carried out for alternate periods of two months, by Russian mail vans at Stolpce station, and by Polish mail vans at Niegoriełoje station. The Polish mail vans shall perform this work for the first period after the opening of the postal service.

On the Zdołbunowo-Szepietówka section delivery and receipt of mails shall be carried out, in accordance with the railway time-table for the summer of 1923, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by Russian mail vans at Zdołbunowo station, and on Thursdays and Sundays by Polish mail vans at Szepietówka station. The time-table for travelling post offices may be changed by agreement so as to correspond with any changes made in the railway time-tables.

Article V.

At the exchange offices (Article IV) the mails shall be handed over accompanied by duplicate waybills, one copy of which will be retained by the official receiving the mails and the other duly signed by him will be handed to the official delivering the mails.

These waybills shall contain the following brief information :

- (1) Number of bags ;
- (2) Number of letters with declared value and the serial numbers of the lists accompanying them ;
- (3) Number of parcels and serial numbers of lists accompanying them.

In addition to the waybill the official receiving the mails shall also be given :

- (1) A list of bags drawn up by the travelling post office showing the number of bags, classified according to places of exchange and contents ;
- (2) The lists accompanying the letters with declared value drawn up by the exchange offices ;
- (3) The despatch notes, drawn up by the exchange offices.

If the postal official whose duty it is to receive the bags has no mails to hand over, he must deliver a waybill, marked " nil " and duly stamped and signed.

Article VI.

The bags containing ordinary and registered correspondence exchanged between the Contracting Parties or sent in transit through their territories shall be sealed and strongly fastened in such a way that they cannot be opened during the journey. If any of the mail bags at the exchange office are found to have had the seal removed or the fastening loosened, or to be torn or to have become unsewn, the officials may refuse to accept them.

In cases of refusal to accept the mails a note to that effect, stating the reasons for refusal, must be made on both copies of the waybill and signed by the post office officials handing over and receiving the mails.

Post office officials receiving the mails must take similar action if they find a letter of declared value or a postal parcel bearing traces of damage, or packed in such a way as to leave the contents exposed.

If defects in mail bags or in letters of declared value or in the packing of parcels are notified after the mails have been received, the Administration which has delivered the said articles cannot be held in any way responsible.

Article VII.

All registered articles placed in the mail bags must be entered separately on the letter-bill, with the number and place of origin of each article. Letter-bills must be numbered consecutively in series from January 1 to December 31.

When an exchange office simultaneously despatches several mail bags containing registered articles, the letter-bill must be enclosed in one of the bags and the other bags must contain supplementary lists of the registered articles enclosed in them. The letter-bill will in that case only contain particulars of the articles in the bag in which it is enclosed; the total number of articles in the other bags must be entered separately on the back of the letter-bill, with references to the supplementary lists.

Article VIII.

Service communications accompanying documents relating to telegraph and radio-telegraph accounts, waybills for parcels and for letters of declared value must be forwarded in a special bag apart from any other correspondence.

The label of this bag must bear the name of the office to which the contents are to be sent.

Article IX.

Lists accompanying letters of declared value must be legibly written or typed, and must be signed by the sender. The values declared must be written both in figures and in words. The lists must contain no erasures or corrections.

No articles may be entered in the list if the insurance fee for them has not been paid. The duplicate copies of the list must be identical and must be written on two halves of a sheet or half a sheet of paper.

Article X.

Letters of declared value and parcels shall as a rule be pre-paid by means of postage stamps. Nevertheless, the Postal Administrations of both Contracting Parties shall be entitled to decide, if they see fit, that payments must be made in cash.

Article XI.

The transit rates through the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for letters, postcards, printed papers, commercial papers and samples of goods shall be calculated on a distance basis as follows :

- (a) For correspondence intended for Turkey, Finland and Esthonia, less than 3,000 kilometres ;
- (b) For correspondence intended for China, Japan and countries beyond, more than 9,000 kilometres if the correspondence is addressed *via* Vladivostok, and more than 6,000 but less than 9,000 kilometres if it is addressed *via* Kharbin and Kwang-cheng-tse ;
- (c) For correspondence intended for Persia, more than 3,000 but less than 6,000 kilometres.

Article XII.

The postage for transit of parcels by land is as follows :

- (1) Share accruing to the Polish Postal Administration :
 - (a) Parcels weighing up to 1 kilogramme : 30 centimes ;
 - (b) Parcels weighing more than 1 and up to 5 kilogrammes : 50 centimes ;
 - (c) Parcels weighing more than 5 kilogrammes and up to 10 kilogrammes : 90 centimes.
- (2) Share accruing to the Postal Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics :
 - (a) Parcels weighing up to 5 kilogrammes for carriage through the European part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1 franc 25 centimes, and for carriage through the European and Asiatic parts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 2 francs 50 centimes ;
 - (b) Parcels weighing more than 5 and up to 10 kilogrammes, for carriage through the European part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1 franc 65 centimes, for carriage through the European and Asiatic parts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 3 francs 30 centimes.

Article XIII.

The insurance fee for parcels and letters of declared value in transit by land shall be fixed, in addition to the insurance fee for carriage by sea, at 5 centimes for the benefit of each of the Contracting Parties for every 300 francs or fraction thereof.

Article XIV.

The amounts to be paid to each of the Contracting Parties for conveyance of correspondence in transit through their territories (Article 15 of the Convention) shall be fixed as follows :

- (a) For the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, up to the date on which a direct postal service was established between the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the statistics for the period from July 1 to 28, 1922, showing the quantities of mails coming from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which were carried in German mail vans across the Polish Corridor. The statistics in question shall be furnished by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as soon as they have been compiled ;
- (b) For the period from the establishment of the direct postal service until December 31, 1923, on the basis of statistics compiled for a period terminating not later than November 1923, by the Postal and Telegraph Administration of the Polish Republic ;

(c) From January 1, 1924, to December 31, 1926, on the basis of the statistics for the months of October and November 1924, compiled as laid down by the Madrid Universal Postal Congress of 1920.

Article XV.

From the coming into force of the Convention, telegraphic correspondence shall, until further notice, be despatched by the following lines :

- (a) Warsaw-Minsk-Moscow ;
- (b) Warsaw-Kiew-Kharkow.

For this purpose the two telegraph offices established at Warsaw shall each be provided with a quadruple Baudot apparatus and the offices established at Moscow, Minsk, Kharkow and Kiew, each with a double Baudot apparatus.

Article XVI.

The Postal and Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall establish technical control stations in the neighbourhood of the frontier on all the lines referred to in the previous article for the technical supervision and maintenance of the telegraph wires.

Article XVII.

The charges for radio-telegrams exchanged between the two Contracting Parties and for telegrams sent by radio from one country to the other for re-despatch by radio or by wire shall be fixed in accordance with the provisions agreed upon at the Conference of the Baltic States held at Riga in September 1921.

Article XVIII.

In conformity with Article 5 of the Telegraphic Convention of St. Petersburg, the following State institutions and officials shall be entitled to despatch Government telegrams :

(a) In Poland : The President of the Republic, the Presidents of the Sejm and the Senate, the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, the Ministers and heads of independent central administrations or their deputies, the Chief of the General Staff, the Economic Committee, the Commander-in-Chief of the Land and Sea Forces, the Assistant Commander-in-Chief and the diplomatic and consular representatives of foreign countries.

(b) In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics : The Central Executive Committee of the Russian Soviets (VCIK), the Council of the People's Commissaries (SOVNARKOM), the Council of Labour and Defence (STO), the People's Commissaries (NARKOM) and their deputies (ZAMNARKOM), the Revolutionary Council of War (RVSR), the President of the Revolutionary Council of War of the Republic (PREDRVSR), the deputy President of the Revolutionary Council of War of the Republic (ZAMPREDRVSR), the Commander-in-Chief of the Land and Sea Forces of the Republic (GLAVKOM), the Assistant Commander-in-Chief of the Land and Sea Forces of the Republic, the Central Executive Committee of the Republic (CIKSSSR) and diplomatic and consular representatives.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have signed the present supplementary Protocol.

Moscow, May 24, 1923.

(Signed) Włodzimierz DOBROWOLSKI.

(Signed) K. TROFIMOV.

(Signed) E. ROUBININ.