

N° 3033.

**JAPON ET
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES**

*Arrangement concernant l'échange
des colis postaux et règlement
d'exécution y annexé. Signés à
Moscou, le 23 novembre 1931.*

**JAPAN
AND UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

*Agreement for the Exchange of
Postal Parcels, with Detailed Re-
gulations annexed thereto. Signed
at Moscow, November 23, 1931.*

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 3033. — AGREEMENT ² FOR THE EXCHANGE OF POSTAL PARCELS BETWEEN THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. SIGNED AT MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 23, 1931.

French official text communicated by the Director of the Japanese Office accredited to the League of Nations. The registration of this Agreement took place September 6, 1932.

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN and THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, being desirous of co-operating with a view to strengthening and developing the friendly economic relations between the two countries, have resolved to conclude a Parcel Post Agreement for parcels coming from these countries or passing through their territories, and have for that purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN :

Koki HIROTA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ;

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS :

Lev Mikhailovitch KARAKHAN, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Assistant People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs ;

Who, having communicated their respective full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article I.

1. A regular exchange of postal parcels shall be established between the Empire of Japan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The provisions of the present Agreement shall apply not only to postal parcels exchanged direct between the two countries but also, in general, to postal parcels sent, in accordance with Article 2 hereunder, in transit "à découvert," except in such cases as are specially agreed upon between the Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties.

2. The High Contracting Parties undertake, further, to effect the exclusively maritime conveyance, in their services, of postal parcels addressed to a third country and handed over to

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Tokio, July 23, 1932.

either of them by the other in closed mails. The limits of weight, rates, responsibility, etc. for these parcels shall be subject to the conditions agreed upon between the Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties.

Article 2.

Each of the High Contracting Parties shall guarantee to the other Party freedom of transit across its territory by land, sea and air for postal parcels, that is to say : the Empire of Japan for parcels addressed to or sent from countries with which it has instituted a reciprocal exchange of postal parcels ; the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for parcels addressed to or sent from countries with whose Governments it has concluded agreements for the mutual exchange of postal parcels.

Article 3.

1. Postal parcels exchanged between the two countries may not exceed 5 kilogrammes in weight, 1 metre 25 centimetres in length and 216 cubic decimetres in volume.

2. The postal parcels referred to in the preceding paragraph may be insured for an amount not exceeding 1,000 francs.

3. The Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties shall be authorised to modify, by joint agreement, the maximum dimensions and volume and also the maximum declarable value of postal parcels as laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

4. Postal parcels which have not been prepaid shall not be accepted unless there is a special agreement on the subject between the Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties.

5. The handing over of postal parcels and the disposal of articles the import of which is prohibited or subject to restrictions, in so far as these restrictions are not incompatible with the present Agreement, shall be governed by the internal regulations of the High Contracting Parties.

Article 4.

1. Each High Contracting Party is bound, where necessary, to accept for transit across its territory, in accordance with Article 2, only postal parcels which satisfy the conditions laid down in the preceding Article for postal parcels exchanged direct, provided that third countries do not apply severer restrictions to the postal parcels exchanged with the High Contracting Parties.

2. Each High Contracting Party shall be entitled to fix in accordance with the conditions of transport and the capacity of mail-vans or steamers the maximum number of postal parcels which the other High Contracting Party may hand over to it for transit.

Article 5.

The High Contracting Parties reserve the right of their Postal Administrations, if either of these should deem it necessary, to suspend temporarily and as a general or partial measure the exchange of postal parcels in either direction. The Postal Administration taking such a step shall be bound to give the other Postal Administration immediate notice thereof. Should the measure be adopted at short notice, the Postal Administration concerned shall be informed immediately by telegram.

Article 6.

1. The postage on postal parcels exchanged between the High Contracting Parties and carried by land shall be computed as follows :

| | Payable to the Empire of Japan | Payable to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| | Fr. | Fr. |
| Postal parcels addressed to or sent from the Empire of Japan conveyed through one part — European or Asiatic — of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, weighing : | | |
| Not more than 1 kg. | 0.55 | 2 |
| From 1 kg. up to 5 kg. | 0.75 | 2 |
| Postal parcels addressed to or sent from the Empire of Japan and conveyed through both parts — European and Asiatic — of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, weighing : | | |
| Not more than 1 kg. | 0.55 | 4 |
| From 1 kg. up to 5 kg. | 0.75 | 4 |

2. The postage for the land transit of postal parcels shall be computed as follows :

(a) In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, for conveyance through one part — European or Asiatic — of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 4 francs per postal parcel not exceeding 5 kilogrammes in weight and for conveyance through both the European and Asiatic parts, as well as for the conveyance, successively, by the Siberian and Turkestan Railways, 8 francs per postal parcel not exceeding 5 kilogrammes in weight.

(b) In the Empire of Japan, 0.55 franc per postal parcel not exceeding 1 kilogramme and 0.75 franc per postal parcel weighing from 1 to 5 kilogrammes.

3. For transport by sea between the two countries a maximum rate of 0.50 franc shall be charged for each postal parcel not exceeding 5 kilogrammes in weight.

4. For postal parcels sent from or addressed to a service of a Postal Administration in Japan proper, Chosen or the other Japanese Dependencies and conveyed through the intermediary of a service of one of these Administrations, each intermediate service may also collect, in respect of intermediate transport, an amount equal to the land transport rate laid down in paragraph 1 and, where necessary, a sea transport rate of 0.50 franc. As regards insurance, each intermediate service may also collect an insurance fee for land conveyance, and where necessary, a similar fee for sea conveyance.

Article 7.

The Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties may jointly agree on an air mail surcharge and on the other conditions for the conveyance of postal parcels by air.

Article 8.

If the damaged condition of a postal parcel sent in transit, redirected or returned makes it impossible to forward it further without repacking, the Postal Administration carrying out the repacking may collect a fixed fee not exceeding 0.50 franc from the addressee or the sender.

Article 9.

1. The exchange between the High Contracting Parties of postal parcels, whether ordinary or insured, and, where necessary, the transit of the said postal parcels through their territories

shall, if not otherwise provided for in the present Agreement, be effected in accordance with the provisions of the Parcel Post Agreement¹ of the Universal Post Union and of the Final Protocol to that Agreement.

2. Each High Contracting Party shall be entitled to adopt, in accordance with its internal regulations, restrictions regarding the contents of postal parcels, either exchanged direct or conveyed in transit. Each High Contracting Party shall notify the other Party in good time of the said restrictions. The High Contracting Parties shall further notify the restrictions regarding transit to the countries concerned through the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

3. The Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties may jointly agree on the service and detailed regulations necessary for the execution of the present Agreement. Where no such agreement exists, the provisions of the Detailed Regulations for the execution of the Parcel Post Agreement of the Universal Postal Union shall apply.

Article 10.

The franc taken as the monetary unit in the provisions of the present Agreement is the gold franc of 100 centimes of a weight of $10/31$ of a gramme and of a fineness of 0.900.

Article 11.

The present Agreement shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Tokio as soon as possible.

It shall come into force one month after the exchange of the ratifications and shall remain in force until terminated by common consent. It may, however, be cancelled at the desire of either High Contracting Party by giving three months' previous notice to the other Party.

In faith whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Agreement, done in duplicate in French, and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Moscow on the 23rd day of the 11th month of the 6th year of Showa, corresponding to November 23, 1931.

(L. S.). Koki HIROTA

(L.S.). L. KARAKHAN

¹ Vol. CIII, page 73; Vol. CVII, page 554; Vol. CXVII, page 312; Vol. CXXII, page 360; and Vol. CXXX, page 459, of this Series.

DETAILED REGULATIONS

FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PARCEL POST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN
AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

In pursuance of Article 9 of the Parcel Post Agreement concluded between the EMPIRE OF JAPAN and THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS on the 23rd day of the 11th month of the 6th year of Showa, corresponding to November 23, 1931, the undersigned have agreed as follows :

I.

For the time being the exchange offices for postal parcels shall be : in the case of the Empire of Japan — Tsuruga, Otaru, Hakodate, Toyohara, and in the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics — Vladivostok, Okha, Alexandrovsk-Sakhalinsky, Petropavlovsk-Kamtschatsky.

II.

For the time being postal parcels shall be conveyed "à découvert" (separate parcels, not in bags) both in direct exchange and in transit. Similarly, the various documents concerning postal parcels in transit shall be transmitted "à découvert".

III.

Postal parcels shall be accompanied by waybills made out in two identical copies, one of which, signed by the official who received the postal parcels, shall be retained by the official who handed them over and the other by the official who took delivery.

The said waybills shall contain particulars of all the postal parcels conveyed "à découvert", together with the numbers of the parcel bills relating thereto.

In addition to the waybill, the official receiving mails shall also be given the parcel bills made out by the exchange offices.

Officials whose duty it is to receive postal parcels but who have no postal parcels to hand over must deliver a "nil" waybill duly stamped and signed.

IV.

If a postal parcel cannot be accepted owing to the damaged condition of the wrapper protecting the contents, the official shall be bound to make the necessary note regarding refusal of the postal parcel on both copies of the waybill. This note must be signed by the receiving official and by the official handing over the postal parcels and must state the reasons for refusal.

V.

The charges on postal parcels shall, as a general rule, be prepaid in postage stamps affixed to the dispatch notes. Nevertheless, the Postal Administration of each High Contracting Party shall have the right to decide that payments must, if circumstances so require, be made in cash.

VI.

The Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties shall be entitled to refuse to accept communications written on the coupons of the dispatch notes.

VII.

1. The accounts for postal parcels, exchanged either direct or in transit, shall be made up monthly in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations for the Execution of the Parcel Post Agreement of the Universal Postal Union.

2. The accounts, together with the relevant documents, shall be sent to the Postal Administration of the other High Contracting Party, if possible in the course of the month and at the latest within six weeks following the expiry of the month to which they relate. The said accounts must be examined and returned within one month from the date on which they are received.

3. The monthly accounts made up and approved by the High Contracting Parties must be entered by the creditor Office in the general quarterly account, the balance of which is payable within one month from the date on which the general account is received.

If the balance is not paid within the above-mentioned period, the amounts due shall bear interest at seven per cent per annum from the day on which the said period expired.

4. The balance of these accounts shall be paid to the creditor Office through the banks in the capital of the creditor country in the currency of the latter or, if the creditor Office so requests, in the currency of another country agreed upon between the creditor and debtor Offices.

5. Expenses connected with the payments shall be borne by the debtor Office.

VIII.

The present Regulations shall come into operation on the date of the entry into force of the Parcel Post Agreement.

They shall remain in force for the same period as the Agreement unless they are renewed by the common consent of the Postal Administrations of the High Contracting Parties.

Done in duplicate and signed at Moscow, on the 23rd day of the 11th month of the 6th year of Showa, corresponding to November 23, 1931.

*For the Postal Administrations
of the Empire of Japan :*

Eiji AMAU,
Counsellor of Embassy.

*For the Postal Administration of the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics :*

E. HIRSCHFELD.