

N° 4376.

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UNION SUD-AFRICAINE,  
Y COMPRIS LE SUD-OUEST AFRICAIN ;  
BASSOUTOLAND ;  
PROTECTORAT DU BETCHOUANALAND ;  
COLONIES PORTUGAISES D'ANGOLA  
ET DE MOZAMBIQUE ; CONGO BELGE,  
Y COMPRIS LE RUANDA-URUNDI ;  
KÉNIA, OUGANDA  
ET TERRITOIRE DU TANGANYIKA ;  
NYASSALAND ; RHODÉSIE DU NORD ;  
RHODÉSIE DU SUD ET SWAZILAND

(Union africaine des Postes.)

Accord constituant l'Union africaine des Postes. Signé à  
Prétoria, le 30 octobre 1935.

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA,  
INCLUDING SOUTH WEST AFRICA ;  
BASUTOLAND ;  
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE ;  
PORTUGUESE COLONIES,  
COMPRISING ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE ;  
BELGIAN CONGO,  
INCLUDING RUANDA AND URUNDI ;  
KENYA, UGANDA  
AND TANGANYIKA TERRITORY ;  
NYASALAND ; NORTHERN RHODESIA ;  
SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND SWAZILAND

(African Postal Union.)

African Postal Union Agreement. Signed at Pretoria,  
October 30th, 1935.

## AFRICAN POSTAL UNION

No. 4376. — AFRICAN POSTAL UNION AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING SOUTH WEST AFRICA ; BASUTOLAND ; BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE ; PORTUGUESE COLONIES, COMPRISING ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE ; BELGIAN CONGO, INCLUDING RUANDA AND URUNDI ; KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA TERRITORY ; NYASALAND ; NORTHERN RHODESIA ; SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND SWAZILAND. SIGNED AT PRETORIA, OCTOBER 30TH, 1935.

*English and French official texts communicated by the Accredited Representative of the Union of South Africa to the League of Nations. The registration of this Agreement took place June 22nd, 1938.*

## INTRODUCTORY.

1. It is the aim and object of the African Postal Union to secure by means of Agreements, Conferences and other methods the organisation and improvement of postal services between the Administrations party to this Agreement.

2. The Administrations Parties to the present Agreement form the African Postal Union which is governed by the following provisions.

3. The Parties to the present Agreement declare that as members of the Universal Postal Union they intend in their relations with one another to observe the obligatory provisions of the Convention and Regulations thereof. Taking advantage, however, of the privilege allowed them in Article 5 of the Convention<sup>2</sup> of Cairo they make the following special arrangements between themselves.

*Article I.*

## SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT.

The provisions of this Agreement apply to letters, post-cards, commercial papers, printed papers and sample packets, originating in one of the countries of the African Postal Union and destined for another of those countries.

<sup>1</sup> *Dates of approval of the Agreement by the interested Governments, registered on August 24th, 1938, at the request of the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.*

SOUTH WEST AFRICA . . . . .	December 4th, 1935.
SOUTHERN RHODESIA . . . . .	January 15th, 1936.
NYASALAND . . . . .	January 29th, 1936.
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA . . . . .	March 16th, 1936.
KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA TERRITORY. . . . .	April 7th, 1936.
NORTHERN RHODESIA . . . . .	May 1st, 1936.
BASUTOLAND AND BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE . . . . .	June 18th, 1936.
SWAZILAND . . . . .	June 18th, 1936.
BELGIAN CONGO, INCLUDING RUANDA AND URUNDI. . . . .	May 24th, 1937.

Came into force April 1st, 1936.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. CLXXIV, page 171; and Vol. CLXXXV, page 455, of this Series.

Other services, such as those relating to insured letters and boxes, postal parcels, newspapers, money orders, transfers to and from postal cheque accounts, collection of bills, drafts, etc., and subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals shall form the subject of separate Agreements between countries of the Union.

These Agreements are binding only upon the countries which have adhered to them.

*Article 2.*

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNION.

Each Administration, party to this Agreement, is free to withdraw from the African Postal Union by notice given twelve months in advance to the African Postal Union Bureau.

*Article 3.*

CONFERENCES.

§ 1. The provisions of the present Agreement and/or Regulations are subject to revision by Conferences of the Administrations.

§ 2. Each Conference fixes the place and date of the next meeting.

§ 3. (1) The date fixed for the meeting of a Conference may be put forward or postponed on request made by at least five of the Administrations to the Bureau of the African Postal Union provided that the proposal obtains the approval of a clear majority of the Administrations which have given their opinion within a period of four months from the date on which the matter was represented to them by the Bureau.

(2) The Conference then takes place in the country originally designated, if the Administration of that country agrees. If it does not, the Administrations are consulted by the Bureau.

*Article 4.*

LANGUAGE.

§ 1. The acts of Conferences shall be compiled in English and French and the text in each of these languages shall carry equal authority.

§ 2. (1) In the discussions at Conferences, the English, French and Portuguese languages are admitted.

(2) Speeches delivered in French are translated into English, and *vice versa*.

(3) Speeches delivered in Portuguese shall be translated into French by the Portuguese delegates.

(4) These delegates may, if they so desire, arrange for speeches delivered in French and English to be translated into Portuguese.

*Article 5.*

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF CONFERENCES.

§ 1. Before entering on its deliberations, each Conference adopts Rules of Procedure, which comprise the rules in accordance with which the discussions and work are organised and conducted.

§ 2. For this purpose, the Conference takes as a basis the Rules of Procedure of the previous Conference, which it modifies if it thinks fit.

*Article 6.*

REGULATIONS.

§ 1. Regulations may be made or amended between Conferences provided all Administrations agree.

§ 2. Representations in regard to proposed regulations or amendments shall be addressed to the African Postal Union Bureau which will circulate such representations.

§ 3. Administrations must notify assent or dissent within three months of receipt of proposals.

*Article 7.*

ACCESSION OF ADMINISTRATIONS TO THE AGREEMENT.

§ 1. The Administration of a country in the continent of Africa on whose behalf the present Agreement has not been signed, may accede thereto at any time.

§ 2. The act of accession of an Administration shall be notified to the Bureau of the African Postal Union, which in turn notifies the other Administrations.

§ 3. Accession carries with it, of full right, all the obligations and all the advantages provided by the present Agreement ; and any regulations made thereunder.

*Article 8.*

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT.

§ 1. Approval of the present Agreement shall be notified in as short a time as possible to the Bureau of the African Postal Union, which will in turn notify the approvals to the other signatory and acceding Administrations as and when they are received.

§ 2. If one or more of the signatory Administrations do not approve the Agreement, it shall not thereby be less valid for the Administrations which have approved it.

*Article 9.*

APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS.

§ 1. Administrations must make an announcement regarding their approval of any Regulations that may be framed under this Agreement. This approval is notified to the Bureau of the African Postal Union which informs the members of the Union.

§ 2. If one or more of the Administrations does not notify such an approval, the Regulations shall not thereby be less valid for the Administrations which have approved them.

*Article 10.*

RIGHT TO MAKE SPECIAL AGREEMENTS.

Notwithstanding anything contained in any other article of this Agreement, any two contiguous Administrations party to this Agreement and any Regulations made thereunder have the right in respect of the operation of services, rates of charge and methods of accounting to maintain their existing arrangements or to make in this regard as between themselves, special Agreements.

*Article 11.*

BUREAU OF THE AFRICAN POSTAL UNION.

§ 1. (1) The Administration of the Union of South Africa will function as the Bureau of the African Postal Union in regard to the tasks and operations contemplated in various other Articles of the Agreement and Regulations. It will also undertake the preparatory work of the Conferences.

(2) The secretariat of Conferences will be provided by the Administration of the country in which the Conference is held.

*Article 12.*

## TRANSIT CHARGES.

§ 1. No accounts shall be kept between the Administrations of the African Postal Union in respect of correspondence posted in the countries of the Union and exchanged between them by land conveyance.

§ 2. The transit charges as provided in the Universal Postal Union Convention from time to time are, however, applicable to correspondence emanating in any country of the African Postal Union and passing in transit through another country in the Union to a country outside the Union and *vice versa*.

§ 3. For the purpose of this Article the word "correspondence" shall mean letters, post-cards, commercial papers, printed papers, sample packets and small packets.

*Article 13.*

## RATES OF POSTAGE.

Administrations are at liberty to fix the rates they will adopt for exchange of correspondence within the African Postal Union. Administrations will endeavour in their relations with other Administrations of the African Postal Union to apply the lowest practicable rates.

*Article 14.*

## WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF POSTAL ARTICLES.

There shall be no restriction as regards the weight of a letter, but the dimensions of all articles of correspondence are such as are prescribed from time to time in the Universal Postal Union Convention.

*Article 15.*

## OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Official letters and documents emanating from Civil or Military Departments of any of the countries of the African Postal Union shall, when duly franked by an authorised officer of such Department as being on the Public Service, be transmitted to any place within the African Union free of charge, provided this shall not apply to the air mail service.

*Article 16.*

## EXCHANGE COPIES OF NEWSPAPERS.

It shall be competent for the Administrations of the Union to permit the transmission free of postage between the countries mutually agreeing to such an arrangement, of bona fide "exchange" copies of newspapers exchanged between Editors of such newspapers. This free exchange shall not apply to more than one copy of each issue.

*Article 17.*

## LIBERTY OF TRANSIT.

The acceptance of parcels, insured letters or boxes, C.O.D. parcels and "small packets" when in transit through any country of the African Union is obligatory.

## Article 18.

## ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT.

The present Agreement will come into force on 1st April, 1936.

In witness whereof the respective representatives have subject to the approval of their Governments signed this Agreement which shall remain in the archives of the Administration of the Union of South Africa, and of which a copy shall be delivered to each Administration.

Done at Pretoria, the 30th October, 1935.

For the Union of South Africa :

H. J. LENTON.

C. GRIFFITH.

F. G. W. TAYLOR.

H. F. SIMPSON.

A. R. McLACHLAN.

For South West Africa :

James A. VENNING.

For Angola :

Arnaldo DE PAIVA CARVALHO.

Mario MONTEIRO DE MACEDO.

For Basutoland :

J. H. SIMS.

For Bechuanaland Protectorate :

J. H. SIMS.

For Belgian Congo, including Ruanda Urundi :

L. WÉRY.

P. GEULETTE.

For Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika Territory:

T. FITZGERALD.

For Moçambique :

Domingos Anto. DA PIEDADE BARRETO.

Mario MONTEIRO DE MACEDO.

For Nyasaland :

S. POPE.

For Northern Rhodesia :

W. T. STORM.

R. STURMAN.

For Southern Rhodesia :

J. COLLYER.

T. R. JEPHCOTT.

A. H. MURRELL.

For Swaziland :

J. H. SIMS.

Certified a true copy :

P. R. Botha,

*Under-Secretary for External Affairs,*

Pretoria.