



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



A/1394

26 September 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifth session

ORGANIZATION OF A UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by resolution 342 (IV) adopted on 20 October 1949:
  - (i) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a United Nations postal administration,\* and of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;\*\*
  - (ii) Requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 232 (III) of 8 October 1948, to continue the preparation of necessary arrangements for the establishment of a United Nations postal administration;
  - (iii) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a new report on the matter to the General Assembly not later than the beginning of the fifth regular session.
2. In accordance with paragraph (ii) above, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Government of the United States of America, a draft agreement for the establishment of a United Nations postal administration. A copy of the draft agreement is attached hereto as Annex 1.
3. The proposed agreement is similar in its terms to an existing agreement between the Swiss Government and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Provision is made for the Post Office Department of the United States of America to perform all of the usual postal services on behalf of the United Nations postal administration, using United Nations' postage stamps, subject to terms

\* A/988 (see Official Records of the fourth session of the General Assembly, Annex to the Fifth Committee, page 140).

\*\* A/1002 (Ibid., page 144).

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of reimbursement for such services as stipulated in the agreement. The United Nations would operate a separate agency for the sale of United Nations postage stamps for philatelic purposes, retaining all revenue derived from such philatelic sales for its own use.

4. In the course of negotiations with the Government of the United States of America, the Secretary-General considered two alternate plans involving,

(a) Assumption by the United Nations of full responsibility for operating a United Nations postal administration to provide either the normal postal service or a limited postal service, based upon estimates contained in document A/988, or,

(b) An agreement similar to the Swiss-Liechtenstein contract.

Because of numerous administrative difficulties foreseeable in plan (a) and confirmed in subsequent negotiations with the Government of the United States of America, plan (b) is submitted as the more practical and workable arrangement for operating a United Nations postal administration in conformity with paragraph (11) of resolution 232 (III).

5. A United Nations postal administration operated in accordance with the terms of the proposed agreement would, in the conduct of its postal services, observe the provisions of the Universal Postal Union convention and regulations in the same manner as any branch post office operated by the Government of the United States of America. Its relationship with the Universal Postal Union from the postal point of view would be in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Executive and Liaison Commission of the Universal Postal Union meeting in Locarno in October 1948 (A/988).

6. In the course of discussions with representatives of the United States of America, it was specifically recognized that implementation of several provisions contained in the proposed agreement will require considerable administrative and detailed operational adjustment. Many of the problems can best be resolved on the basis of actual experience. For example, without some basis derived from results it is difficult to arrive at an exact formula for division of revenue as between postage stamps sold for philatelic purposes and for use on mail matter (section 3 of the draft Agreement). Under this provision stamps sold specifically for philatelic purposes might possibly be diverted for use on mail matter and, conversely, sold specifically for

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mailing purposes might be diverted to philatelic purposes. These two possibilities bear on the operational problem of ascertaining the intent of the purchasers as between the United Nations Post Office Station and the philatelic agency. Because of operational problems of this nature, section 8, sub-section (ii) of the draft Agreement provides that one or both of the parties concerned may request a revision of some parts of the Agreement after one year of experience in actual operation.

7. Estimated costs of the United Nations postal administration pursuant to the proposed agreement would be incurred mainly for the salaries of a small staff to direct the philatelic agency, initial designing and printing of postage stamps and conducting normal business relations with the Post Office Department of the United States of America. The Secretariat would, however, continue its present internal postal services concerned with the internal collection and distribution of mail and the packaging and preparation of mail to be posted at the United Nations post office (as operated by the Post Office Department of the United States of America). A detailed estimate of operating costs for the first year is given below. Excluding staff costs given in (a), expenditures may well be reduced in subsequent years of operation.

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| (a) Staff costs (salaries) for the philatelic agency.  |        |
| This estimate is based on gross salaries, appropriate grades and steps and includes provision for pertinent allowances . . . . .   | 40,000 |
| (b) Travel and miscellaneous expenditures incident to completion of preparatory arrangements in collaboration with the Post Office Department of the United States of America and to the establishment of administrative relationship with the Universal Postal Union . . . . .          | 3,000  |
| (c) Cost of printing postage stamps for official mail, private mail posted by delegations, Secretariat and visiting public in the Headquarters Building, including also \$5,000 for the expenses of an international competition for United Nations stamp designs, if required . . . . . | 15,000 |

/(a)

Dollars  
US

- (2) Cost of printing stamps for philatelic sales, and other incidental expenses relative to the operation of a philatelic sales agency, not including staff costs, after denominations and designs have been decided upon. It should be noted that some of these costs will be non-recurring, depending upon the popularity of the first issues with philatelists. If, however, there is justification for changes in stamp designs, such changes would require new engravings and added printing costs . . . . .

25,000

TOTAL . . . . . 83,000

8. It is estimated that the United Nations Postal Administration may expect revenue from sales of stamps by the philatelic agency amounting to approximately \$300,000 in the first year, leaving a net revenue of \$217,000. These estimates, however, are necessarily somewhat speculative.

9. The question of adopting suitable postage stamp designs for various denominations of United Nations stamps will doubtless be of concern to all Members, and perhaps non-members, of the United Nations. The rather wide field of possible designs appropriate to the United Nations is likely, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, to invite a corresponding variety of opinions as to the propriety or significance of designs which may be adopted unless an approved procedure is established prior to issuance. The Secretary-General therefore requests that he be authorized, on adoption of the proposed United States - United Nations Postal Agreement, to constitute or designate a representative body empowered by the General Assembly to give final approval to designs for United Nations postage stamps.

10. By virtue of the plan of operation envisaged in the proposed draft agreement whereby the Post Office Department of the United States of America will perform all normal postal services on behalf of the United Nations postal administration, it has not been necessary to expend any of the sum of \$10,000 provided in the 1950 budget for consultant services.

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11. It is estimated that a period of six months will be required to put into operation a United Nations postal administration after the approval and execution of the United States - United Nations Postal Agreement.
12. The following draft resolution is submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly, should it decide to proceed with the organization of a United Nations Postal Administration on the basis of the foregoing arrangements:

"ORGANIZATION OF A UNITED NATIONS POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

"The General Assembly,

"Referring to resolutions 232 (III) of 8 October 1948 and 342 (IV) of 20 October 1949, adopted at its third and fourth regular sessions respectively, and in particular to paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 342 (IV), and

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a United Nations Postal Administration and the observations thereon submitted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,\*

"1. Takes note of the draft agreement between the United States of America and the United Nations for the establishment of a United Nations Postal Administration in conformity with the Headquarters Agreement;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the conclusion of the aforesaid agreement and with the necessary arrangements for the establishment of a United Nations Postal Administration at the earliest possible date consistent with sound administrative arrangements;

"3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to appoint a committee which shall be empowered to give final approval to designs for United Nations postage stamps;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, not later than the beginning of its seventh regular session, a comprehensive report on the establishment and operations of the United Nations Postal Administration.

\* The observations of the Advisory Committee will be made available later.



ANNEX I

UNITED STATES - UNITED NATIONS POSTAL AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1950 between the United States of America and the United Nations.

WHEREAS, a certain Agreement between the United States of America and the United Nations, dated the 26th day of June 1947, regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations (said Agreement being hereinafter referred to as the "Headquarters Agreement") provides that in the event that the United Nations should propose to organize its own postal service, the conditions under which such service shall be set up shall be the subject of a supplemental agreement; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations desires to establish a postal service in conformity with the Headquarters Agreement,

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, there shall be established a United Nations Post Office Station in the Headquarters District of the United Nations, as defined in the Headquarters Agreement, which shall be operated by the United States Post Office Department.
- (ii) The United Nations Post Office Station shall provide at the prevailing rates all the services offered by any United States Post Office having comparable operations, except that the United Nations Post Office Station shall only use United Nations postage stamps.

2. SUPPLY OF UNITED NATIONS POSTAGE STAMPS AND STAMP PAPER

- (1) The United Nations shall at its own expense furnish all United Nations postage stamps required under the terms of this Agreement.
- (ii) In the event the United Nations shall produce or shall authorize the production of stamped envelopes and post cards, such envelopes or post cards shall conform to the specifications of the United States Post Office as to size and as to quality of paper used.
- (iii) No United Nations postage stamps shall be distributed except in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

3. SALE OF UNITED NATIONS POSTAGE STAMPS

- (1) The United Nations Post Office Station shall sell only United Nations postage stamps, which shall be provided by the United Nations free of charge in such quantities as may be necessary to fulfil all reasonable  
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needs of the United Nations Post Office Station. All revenue derived from such sales of United Nations postage stamps and from other services rendered by the United Nations Post Office Station shall be retained by the United States Post Office Department as full and complete compensation for performance of its obligations under terms of this Agreement, except, however, that the United States Post Office Department shall be reimbursed for performance of any postal services resulting from use of United Nations postage stamps sold for philatelic purposes under the provisions of sub-section (ii) of this section which are used as postage on mail matter posted at the United Nations Post Office Station by being paid an amount equal to the face value of any such stamps so used as postage.

- (ii) The United Nations may maintain a separate agency for the sale of United Nations postage stamps for philatelic purposes in response to orders received by mail. Subject to the provisions of sub-section (i) of this section all revenue derived from such philatelic sales of United Nations postage stamps shall be retained by the United Nations for its own use.

#### 4. UNITED NATIONS POSTMARKS

The United Nations shall furnish all postmarking stamps to be applied to mail posted for mailing in the Headquarters District and shall furnish all such postmarking stamps to the United Nations Post Office Station free of charge. All postmarks shall be designated as United Nations postmarks.

#### 5. UNITED NATIONS POST OFFICE STATION PREMISES

The United Nations shall provide the United States Post Office Department at the expense of the United Nations with the quarters, custodial services and utilities necessary to enable the United States Post Office Department to operate the United Nations Post Office Station in the Headquarters District.

#### 6. STAFF AND EQUIPMENT

Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the United States Post Office Department will provide at its own expense all staff, equipment and other services and facilities necessary to enable the United States Post Office Department to operate the United Nations Post Office Station under the terms of this Agreement.

#### 7. POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The postal address of the Headquarters District of the United Nations shall be "United Nations, New York".

#### /8. DURATION

8. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

- (i) This Agreement shall take effect on a date to be agreed upon between the United Nations and the United States Post Office Department.
- (ii) This Agreement shall be subject to revision, on the written proposal of either contracting party, after one year from the date of commencement of operations.
- (iii) This Agreement may be terminated by either party giving the other written notice of its intention to terminate such Agreement at least twelve (12) months in advance of the termination date fixed in such notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective representatives have signed this Agreement and have affixed their seals hereto.

DONE in duplicate this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

President (Seal)

FOR THE UNITED NATIONS:

Secretary-General (Seal)

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