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REPORT OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

In accordance with article V of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union, the Secretary-General has received the attached annual report from the Universal Postal Union, for submission to the twenty-fourth session of the Economic and Social Council.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION  
REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE UNION  
1956

Berne

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

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REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE UNION

1956

Note: This report was approved by the Chairman of the Executive and Liaison Committee, subject to ratification by the Committee at its next session (April 1957).

A. ORGANIZATION

I. Status of the Union and its organs

There is nothing new to report concerning the legal status of the Union and its organs.

II. Staff

1. There have been some changes in the permanent staff of the International Bureau.

At its session in April/May 1956 the Executive and Liaison Committee accepted the proposal of the Swiss Supervisory Authority that Mr. Albert Guillaume, Counsellor, should be granted retirement with effect from 16 September 1955.

At the same session the Committee, on the proposal of the Swiss Federal Council, appointed Mr. Alain Marie Boënnec as Counsellor and promoted Mr. Ami Vuilleumier and Mr. Michel Rahi, first secretaries, to the rank of Counsellor. Lastly, after adopting a proposal submitted by the Supervisory Authority for the creation of a new unclassified post of Senior Counsellor, the Committee promoted Mr. Frédéric Deprez, Counsellor, to that post.

The above appointment and promotions took effect on 1 June 1956.

As a result of these changes, the permanent staff of the International Bureau numbered 34 at the end of the year, and consisted of: one director, one vice-director, one senior counsellor, five counsellors, two first secretaries, two second secretaries, one translator (female), three third secretaries, four assistant secretaries, five clerks, one porter, six assistant clerks (three first-class and three second-class), one assistant porter and one technical assistant.

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2. The number of extra staff was three, the same as at the end of 1955.
3. As a result of the retirement of Mr. Guillaume, Counsellor, the number of officials in receipt of pensions from the Union's Pensions Fund was increased to four.
4. Acting on a preliminary recommendation of the Executive and Liaison Committee, the Swiss Federal Council decided to raise from 5.5 to 7 per cent of salary the cost-of-living allowance paid in 1956 to the permanent staff of the International Bureau.

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## B. WORK OF THE HIGHER ORGANS OF THE UNION

### I. Universal Postal Congress, Ottawa, 1957

In Circular No. 4415 of 29 June 1956 the International Bureau informed Administrations that the Government of Canada, through the diplomatic channel, had invited the Governments of the countries members of the Union to attend the fourteenth Universal Postal Congress, which is to open at Ottawa on 14 August 1957.

The Bureau requested the Administrations to communicate to it the names and official titles of the persons to be designated by their Governments to attend the Congress and to transmit as soon as possible and whenever ready any proposals to amend the Acts that they intended to submit to the Congress.

The Director of the International Bureau visited Ottawa in September to discuss arrangements for the Congress with representatives of the Canadian Ministry of Posts.

The attention of Administrations was drawn to the above-mentioned Circular by letters Nos. 6545 and 8313 of 28 September and 6 December.

Up to the end of December 1956, 116 proposals to be submitted to the Ottawa Congress had been received by the International Bureau.

### II. Executive and Liaison Committee

#### 1. Plenary meetings

The Executive and Liaison Committee met at Berne from 30 April to 11 May under the chairmanship of Mr. J.B.L. Lemmens, its Chairman, assisted by Mr. F. Hess, the Secretary-General. Of the twenty countries which are members of the Committee, nineteen were represented.

The items on the agenda for the session included the following:

(a) Relations with the United Nations and certain specialized agencies.

These questions are discussed in detail in Chapter C.

(b) Problems referred to the Executive and Liaison Committee by the 1952 Brussels Congress. The "General report on the activities of the Executive and Liaison Committee of the Universal Postal Union, 1952-1957" which will be submitted to the Executive and Liaison Committee for approval at its session of April 1957, will list these problems and indicate what decisions have been reached on them.

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(c) General revision of the Convention (subject proposed by the United States of America) At its 1955 session, the Committee had requested its Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question, to transmit it to Administrations and to submit to the Committee for its 1956 session a report containing his recommendations and the comments of member-countries (see the summary record of the session of April/May 1955, page 25).

Pursuant to this decision, the Secretary-General prepared a report which he transmitted to all Administrations by a letter dated 25 January 1956, inviting them to reply to an enclosed questionnaire. This report was accompanied by the following draft texts between which Administrations in favour of revision were asked to state their preference:

1. Draft convention concerning the organic statute of the Universal Postal Union with organic statute annexed, final protocol and general regulations (alternative I).
2. Draft single Act entitled "Organic Statute" (alternative I augmented).
3. Draft constitution of the Universal Postal Union, with final protocol and general regulations (alternative II).

The results of the consultation of Administrations are described in detail in the summary record of the 1956 session, pages 21 and 22. After noting these results, the Committee embarked upon a thorough discussion of the question which revealed substantial differences of opinion regarding the practical advantages of dividing the Convention.

The Committee therefore felt that it would be difficult to reach a decision on the principle involved on the basis of the information obtained and, by ten votes to five, adopted a motion to defer consideration of the matter pending the collection of additional information. Under this motion the results of the consultation were to be communicated to Administrations together with the views expressed at the meeting by the members of the Committee. Administrations which had not yet expressed their views were to be invited to do so and those which had already replied but might have altered their opinions in the light of the Committee's discussions were to be given the opportunity to change the views they had expressed during the first consultation.

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The International Bureau gave effect to this decision by a letter of 29 June.

The Committee will reach a decision on the question at its 1957 session, in the light of the results of this further consultation, which were communicated to the Administrations of the Union by letter of 12 December.

(d) Air Mail. See sections 2 (h) and (i) below and Chapter C, II and III.

For information on the other items on the Committee's agenda, readers are requested to refer to the summary record of the 1956 session which was transmitted to all the Administrations of the Union.

## 2. Sub-Committees

### (a) Film Archive Sub-Committee

This Sub-Committee met at Berne on 28 April under the chairmanship of Mr. Arne Krog, a Head of Department in the Directorate-General of Posts of Denmark. In accordance with the programme of work, information was obtained from Administrations on the organization of their film services, methods of creating, producing and using films, and type of apparatus. This information will supplement the data in the UPU Catalogue. The preparation of written commentaries, in French and English, to accompany each film and designed to make it easier to understand, was continued. Lastly, an article describing the formation, operation and activities of the Film Archive was published in the April issue of the journal Union Postale.

The Sub-Committee considered the production of film strips and slides as visual counterparts of certain brochures in the Postal Studies series. The first stage of this programme covers the following studies:

- Travelling post offices in road vehicles;
- Means used for the transshipment of mail;
- Methods used in the vocational training and instruction of postal workers;
- Postal deliveries in towns;
- Automatic stamp-vending machines;
- Pneumatic post.

The Administrations which took part in the studies will be asked to consider the possibility of producing film strips and slides in accordance with this programme.

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(b) Universal Decimal Classification Sub-Committee (UDC)

This Sub-Committee met at Berne, at the headquarters of the International Bureau, from 14 to 18 May, and at Rome, at the Higher Institute of Posts and Telecommunications, from 24 to 27 October. At these two series of meetings it studied an extract from the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) concerning matters and activities related to the postal service, including staff, buildings, postal legislation and mechanization. Although this information indirectly concerns the individual activities of the postal Administrations, it is required by the libraries and documentation centres of the postal and telecommunications services for the classification of the relevant works, documents and index cards. As this information is at present scattered throughout other parts of the UDC it was considered useful to extract it and to annex it to the draft extension of the postal part proper (index 656.8) previously prepared by the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is continuing its work and intends in the future to compile a table for concordancing the UPU and UDC classifications and an alphabetical subject index.

(c) Sub-Committee on Technical Studies

The Secretary-General's report on postal mechanization and the establishment of a Special Committee on Technical Studies was thoroughly discussed by the Executive and Liaison Committee which unanimously agreed to make the most advanced techniques more generally known and to undertake a wide exchange of information on all problems related to the development and improvement of the postal service. (See the summary record of the session of April/May 1956, pages 20 and 21) The Committee accordingly requested a Sub-Committee to draft proposals on the establishment of a Special Committee on Technical Studies for submission to the Ottawa Congress, to prepare a programme of suitable studies for consideration by that Special Committee, and to study itself such individual problems as could be dealt with before the 1957 Congress.

This Sub-Committee is composed of the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Egypt, India, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and the USSR. It held three meetings at Berne on 3 and 4 May, at which it elected its officers (Chairman: Italy; Vice-Chairman: Switzerland; Secretariat: International Bureau) and drew up its programme of work. This programme was communicated to Administrations by Circular of 31 August.

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The Sub-Committee held a second meeting from 5 to 10 November at Rome. It recognized the need for setting up a body to consider technical problems connected with the postal service and formulated some ten proposals concerning an Advisory Committee on Postal Studies. The proposals were drafted for submission to the Ottawa Congress and presented in the name of the Netherlands (the sponsors of the proposal to establish a Special Committee on Technical Studies) with the support of the members of the Sub-Committee; these proposals will also be submitted, together with a report, to the Executive and Liaison Committee for its 1957 session, so that it too may present its views to the Congress. The Sub-Committee also took note of the work done in connexion with machines for use at post office windows, installations for the mechanization and automation of letter-sorting and procedures for determining the effectiveness of mechanized methods in the postal services. It decided to continue this line of research and to consider the results of its work at its next meeting. At that time it will also prepare the programme of possible studies to be carried out by the proposed Advisory Committee on Postal Studies.

(d) Sub-Committee on Costs of Postal Operations

The Sub-Committee met at Berne from 11 to 14 April to examine the material provided both by its members and by other countries in reply to the questionnaire in the Circular of 2 December 1955. After a broad exchange of views, it requested the French Administration, on the basis of the information collected, to prepare a general statement of methods of calculating the cost of postal operations.

At a second meeting held at Rapallo from 12 to 17 November, the Sub-Committee examined the statement prepared by France and, after amending it as necessary, decided to publish it as brochure No. 26 in the Postal Studies Series. The printed draft will be submitted to the Executive and Liaison Committee in 1957.

With respect to the future programme of work, the Sub-Committee feels that research should be continued so as to make it possible, with the help of data obtained from the calculation of costs:

1. to determine the operating costs of postal establishments; and
2. to achieve a rational organization of the postal service.

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(e) Sub-Committee on the Organization of the Rural Postal Service

In view of the importance of the inquiry on the organization of the rural postal services and in response to a suggestion by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Executive and Liaison Committee established a Sub-Committee consisting of Australia, France, Switzerland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, to examine the problem and to prepare a brochure for publication in the Postal Studies Series.

At its inaugural meeting on 5 May 1956, the Sub-Committee assigned the chairmanship to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the vice-chairmanship to Australia and decided to adopt the name "Sub-Committee on the Organization of the Rural Postal Service".

The information received by the International Bureau in reply to the Circular of 8 July 1955 was used as a basis for compiling a new questionnaire designed to obtain further data on certain aspects of the problem. This questionnaire, together with the Sub-Committee's programme of work, was distributed in a Circular dated 31 August 1956. The information collected will be co-ordinated with the information contained in the detailed studies that each member offered to undertake.

The Sub-Committee will meet in March 1957 to examine this information and to prepare the general draft of the brochure to be published, if possible before the Ottawa Congress, by the International Bureau.

(f) Sub-Committee on the Vocabulaire polyglotte de termes utilisés par la poste

Acting on a suggestion contained in the report prepared by the Secretary-General for the Executive and Liaison Committee (1956 session) this Committee requested a Sub-Committee to continue to prepare a multilingual vocabulary of postal terms. This Sub-Committee, consisting of Belgium, Chile, Egypt, France, Switzerland, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Venezuela, met at Berne on 9 May to elect its officers (Chairman: Belgium; Vice-Chairman: Union of South Africa; Secretariat: International Bureau), and draw up a programme of work. The programme provides, first, for the consultation of members of the Sub-Committee, by means of a questionnaire, to determine what principles should govern the selection of terms to be included in the vocabulary.

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On the basis of the replies received and the list of terms previously prepared by the International Bureau (after consulting the Administrations), the working group on the French language (Belgium, France, Switzerland) was empowered to select the terms to be published in the vocabulary and to communicate them to the other members of the Sub-Committee. Arrangements were also made to enable Spanish and United Kingdom experts to take part in the Sub-Committee's work.

In view of the relatively limited time at its disposal, the working group on the French language deemed it necessary to meet at Brussels from 18 to 22 September in order to complete its work, as described above, as rapidly as possible. As a result of its efforts, approximately 1,300 words and phrases were chosen and embodied in a list entitled "Vocabulaire polyglotte du service postal international". This is only a draft and was transmitted in October to the other members of the Sub-Committee for immediate translation.

The Sub-Committee intends to submit the first fascicule of this draft vocabulary to the Executive and Liaison Committee at its next session. The other fascicules will be published before the Ottawa Congress if possible.

(g) Sub-Committee on Containers

During its meeting at Berne on 5 May this Sub-Committee considered the draft brochure prepared by the International Bureau on "The use of containers and pallets for postal transport". The draft was amended slightly and recommended to the Executive and Liaison Committee for approval. This Committee endorsed the draft and noted that the Sub-Committee had completed the work for which it had been established.

This brochure, No. 24 of the Postal Studies Series, was transmitted to Administrations by the Circular of 3 July.

(h) Air-Mail Sub-Committee (expanded)

At its session of April 1956 the Sub-Committee carried out a preliminary study of various questions relating to air mail and submitted its report to the Executive Committee.

(i) It continued its study of ways and means of simplifying air mail accounting. Its suggestions on the subject were approved by the Executive Committee and have been embodied in proposals to be submitted to the Ottawa Congress. Of the methods suggested, the proposal to reduce the number of air transport rates applicable to à découvert air-mail correspondence is noteworthy.  
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(ii) It also embarked upon the laborious task of evolving, in agreement with IATA representatives, a new basis on which to prepare the Liste des distances aéropostales. This study was based inter alia on a proposal to establish, by means of a single compensation coefficient, a category of standard distances based on the great-circle lines between terminal points, disregarding intermediate stops. The solution finally adopted is indicated in the following text, which summarizes the new method of determining air-mail distances:

1. The list of distances is to be completely reviewed every five years;
2. Direct routes, i.e. with no intermediate stops, are to be calculated on the basis of the great-circle distances plus the present upward adjustment of 3 per cent;
3. Indirect routes, i.e. with intermediate stops, the air-mail distances of which do not exceed the great-circle distances between the terminal points by more than 10 per cent, are to constitute a separate category. Distances in this category are to be calculated on the basis of the great-circle distances increased, in addition to the present 3 per cent upward adjustment, by the application of a compensation coefficient representing the average difference between the total basic distances and the total great-circle distances;
4. Indirect routes which vary by more than 10 per cent from the great-circle distances are to continue to be governed by the Cheltenham Agreements (i.e. distance calculated from stop to stop plus the 3 per cent adjustment) and by the rule laid down at Lugano that no distance that differed by less than 10 per cent should be revised. They are to be included in the second category at the following five-yearly review and only if they vary by less than 10 per cent in relation to the great-circle distances;
5. The first five-yearly review will be based on the time tables in force in August 1956.

The Executive and Liaison Committee was in complete agreement with these conclusions.

(iii) The Sub-Committee had before it a proposal to introduce a new method of calculating remuneration for the conveyance of air mail based on units of distance. After a preliminary examination, the sponsor of this proposal was asked to continue to study the question in co-operation with other countries and to report results to the next session.

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(i) Sub-Committee on variations in basic rates for conveyance by air

The Brussels Congress instructed the Executive and Liaison Committee to study the problem of variations in basic rates for conveyance by air and for that purpose to approach all the appropriate authorities. The Sub-Committee set up in 1953 to study the question set about collecting all the necessary basic information and by April 1956 had voluminous documentation at its disposal, including a detailed study prepared by its Chairman, data supplied by the Administrations consulted and statistical data prepared by ICAO.

The problem as a whole fell into two distinct parts: firstly, it had to be determined whether the rates fixed for the conveyance of mail by air were in line with costs; and, secondly, a formula had to be found which would provide for variations in rates, if possible in relation to operating costs, by introducing a sliding scale which would establish a close connexion between these two factors. With respect to the latter question the Sub-Committee considered that the relative stability of operating costs over the past few years did not warrant the introduction of a sliding scale and that, furthermore, its adoption would raise considerable practical difficulties for postal Administrations.

With respect to the main purpose of the study, the Sub-Committee considered the problem objectively and laid down general principles and procedures for the establishment of fair rates for the conveyance of mail by air.

The Executive and Liaison Committee examined the Sub-Committee's study thoroughly and adopted a recommendation leaving it to Administrations to determine their position on the question of air mail rates, emphasizing that they should keep the problem constantly under review, due regard being had not only to existing costs, but also to the effects on those costs of the important changes that could be expected to occur in modern aviation techniques. This recommendation also called for efforts to be made to simplify methods of remuneration for conveyance, including, for example, the adoption of standard rates for each of the two IC categories and others.

The various documents which were used as working papers, together with the reports, the records of the meetings and the Executive and Liaison Committee's recommendation were collected in a separate fascicule and transmitted to member countries in the Circular of 13 September 1956.

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(j) Sub-Committee on Monetary Instruments

The new draft texts of the four Agreements and the four sets of regulations drawn up by the Sub-Committee responsible for revising the Acts relating to monetary instruments, were adopted by the Executive and Liaison Committee after a slight amendment had been made to article 104, paragraph 6 of the Detailed Regulations for implementing the Agreement concerning the Collection of Bills.

It was decided, firstly, to submit the approved revised texts to the forthcoming Congress in the form of proposals by the Executive and Liaison Committee and, secondly, to recommend to Administrations, as was done in the case of the Revised Provisions regarding Air-Mail correspondence, that any proposals they might wish to submit to the Ottawa Congress should be based on the new texts.

(k) Sub-Committee on Post-Office Savings Banks

The draft Agreement and Detailed Regulations prepared by this Sub-Committee relating to the international post-office savings bank system were considered by the Executive and Liaison Committee, which accepted them, with certain additions proposed by one member-country, and decided to submit them to the Ottawa Congress.

## C. RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### I. The United Nations

Relations between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union became increasingly active in 1956. Each of the two organizations endeavoured to be represented at meetings of the other of interest to it, and relations between them continued to be based on an excellent spirit of understanding.

As in the past, the United Nations appointed an observer to attend the session of the Executive and Liaison Committee; in 1956 its observer was Mr. A. David, Assistant Deputy Director of the European Office of the United Nations. The Universal Postal Union, for its part, received thirty-eight invitations from the United Nations, its organs or their committees and accepted eleven.

As in 1955, the reports of the specialized agencies were considered generally by the Economic and Social Council and in detail by its Administrative Committee on Co-ordination; representatives of the Universal Postal Union attended the meetings of these two bodies at which the reports were discussed.

We would mention that at these meetings representatives of several countries paid tribute to the work of the Union and emphasized the importance and diversity of its activities.

The Economic and Social Council took note of the reports of the specialized agencies in resolution 630 (XXII).

The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and its subordinate committees - the Preparatory Committee, the Advisory Committee on Administrative Questions and the Committee to review the United Nations salary, allowance and benefits system - continued their work; the Universal Postal Union took part in those aspects of their work which were of interest to it.

Like the other specialized agencies, for example, the UPU transmitted to the Review Committee, at its request, detailed information on the salaries, allowances and benefits of its staff, together with background information on salaries, at the same time pointing out that the salary system in force in the United Nations and certain specialized agencies was not applied in the Universal Postal Union.

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A UPU representative also attended the consultation held in August 1956, on the question of the privileges and immunities to be granted by Governments to representatives of Member States in respect of international conferences held outside the headquarters country. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was requested to prepare a questionnaire on the subject and transmit it to the specialized agencies in order to obtain the information at their disposal. There was also an exchange of correspondence between the United Nations Secretariat and the International Bureau on certain aspects of the mail transport problems raised by the formation of the United Nations Emergency Force.

Lastly, during his visit to Canada and the United States of America to make arrangements for the fourteenth Universal Postal Congress, the Director of the International Bureau re-established contact with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and some of his principal colleagues and attended the regular session of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in New York.

Some of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are of interest to our organization.

Development and co-ordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies as a whole

In section A I, paragraph 8, of resolution 630 (XXII), adopted at its twenty-second session, the Economic and Social Council recommends that the specialized agencies should "pay special attention to further concentration of their activities on major economic, social and human rights problems, as may be appropriate, and to the more efficient co-ordination of the said activities, and to include a special section thereon in their next reports to the Council".

Furthermore, the Co-ordination Committee of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 18 of its report, expressed the hope that the specialized agencies would undertake, at an early opportunity, a special review of "their publications and studies and the use made of them, in order to determine the extent to which they are of specific and continuing value" and "include in their next annual reports a section dealing with the matter".

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The International Bureau replied that, unlike certain other specialized agencies, the Universal Postal Union was unable, to modify the scope or extent of its activities in order to concentrate further on major economic and social problems. The very nature of its activities, which are not based on "programmes", precludes any changes in its policy and course of action in this respect: the UPU's activities are regulated in every detail by the Universal Postal Convention and its Agreements, which are international treaties signed by the plenipotentiary representatives of Governments, ratified by the competent bodies of member countries and supplemented by Detailed Regulations for their implementation. These instruments place a ceiling on the annual expenditure of the Union and stipulate what publications are necessary to carry on the international postal service; the International Bureau accordingly has no authority to change, at will, from one year to the next, either the budgetary ceiling fixed in this way or the list or nature of its publications without prior amendment of the relevant Acts of the Union.

In effect, therefore, the Economic and Social Council's recommendation and the hope expressed by its Co-ordination Committee do not concern the Universal Postal Union. It accordingly seems unnecessary to include a special section dealing with this matter in its report each year.

#### Human Rights

General Assembly resolution 926 (X) and Economic and Social Council resolution 605 (XXI) on advisory services in the field of human rights recommend that the specialized agencies should continue to develop their technical assistance activities with a view to aiding Member States to further the effective observance of human rights.

When it was asked to submit its comments on these resolutions, the International Bureau referred to the co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and the Technical Assistance Administration and pointed out that its contribution in this field could only be slight owing to the nature of its activities and to the fact that it did not participate directly in the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance.

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In resolution 624 (XXII) the Economic and Social Council invited the specialized agencies and the other non-governmental organizations concerned to collaborate in the preparation of plans for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The International Bureau pointed out that only the right to the inviolability of correspondence referred to in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerned the Union and that the Union accordingly had only a minor interest in the arrangements for this celebration.

#### Technical Assistance to Under-developed Countries

Although it does not participate directly in the United Nations Expanded Programme, the Universal Postal Union continued its contribution in the field of technical assistance by co-operating in the recruitment and training of postal experts and providing them with documentary material appropriate to their missions, according to the countries in which they were to serve.

Co-operation in this field between the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration and the Universal Postal Union continued in accordance with the procedure devised in 1954, which is described in detail on pages 20 and 21 of the report on the work of the Union for 1954.

A large number of experts' reports were communicated to the International Bureau by the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration.

#### International Control of Narcotic Drugs

Pursuant to recommendations by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, three proposals were prepared by the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs for presentation to the Ottawa Congress and were submitted to the Executive and Liaison Committee; this Committee endorsed only the proposal that the list of prohibited articles should include such narcotic drugs as fall under the multilateral treaties relating to narcotic drugs.

However, the United Nations observer at the last session of the Executive and Liaison Committee reserved his right to submit the other two proposals, prohibiting the consignment of narcotic drugs to post office boxes and to banks, directly to the Ottawa Congress.

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It should be noted that this matter had not yet been settled since the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or one of its Sub-Committees is to resume consideration of the draft single convention early in 1957. Only after this is done will the United Nations announce its decision.

#### Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Universal Postal Union was represented at the second session of the Committee of experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; it thus had the opportunity to present our Organization's view on the subject and to take part in the preparation and drafting of the text concerning the transport of dangerous goods by mail; this text is included in the recommendations which the Committee of experts decided to communicate to Governments and international organizations.

#### The Designation in UPU Publications of Southwest Africa

In 1954, at the request of the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa, the Universal Postal Union had replaced the designation "South-West Africa (under South African Mandate)" by the new designation "South West Africa (territory administered by the Government of the Union of South Africa)" in its publications.

This change was discussed in the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and was subsequently the subject of an exchange of notes between the United Nations Secretariat and the International Bureau.

A memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the Committee on South West Africa, was submitted to that Committee at the end of 1956.

#### Cartography

The Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "International Co-operation in Cartography" and of the report of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Far East held at Mussoorie (India). In resolution 600 (XXI) it requested the Secretary-General to draft, in co-operation with

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interested international organizations and experts, the general framework of a programme looking towards maximum international uniformity in the writing of geographical names.

This programme will be submitted to Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies for their comments. The Secretary-General of the United Nations will report on the question at a subsequent session.

This question is of interest to the Universal Postal Union since it publishes a World Map of Surface Postal Communications (by land and sea) together with an Annex giving the Exchange Offices and the countries for which they serve as intermediaries.

#### The Atomic Energy Problem

The International Bureau was kept informed of the work of the various committees dealing with atomic energy questions or the effects of radiation. It received an invitation from the United Nations to participate in the work of the General Assembly's Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The Government of the United States of America, acting on behalf of the sponsors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, invited the Universal Postal Union to appoint an observer to attend the Conference held at United Nations Headquarters in New York to prepare the final text of the Agency's Statute.

Although the problem of atomic energy is assuming considerable importance, it is of no direct interest to the Universal Postal Union, at least at the present time. The International Bureau therefore declined the above invitations.

#### II. International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

This Organization has continued to co-operate readily with the Universal Postal Union. It did much to facilitate the work of the Sub-Committee on variations in basic rates for conveyance by air, by providing it with important documentation and explanatory comments, including extensive data on the financial position of companies and operating costs in the financial years 1947-1954.

ICAO was represented at the meetings of this Sub-Committee and at the session of the Executive and Liaison Committee by Mr. E. Weld. His valuable

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statements made it possible to determine the exact scope of the data and information supplied and to interpret them correctly.

Pursuant to the Executive Committee's recommendation that the study should be kept under constant review, ICAO was requested to furnish information for the year 1955 similar to that contained in the documents mentioned above.

### III. International Air Transport Association (IATA)

IATA and UPU have co-operated in the solution of certain questions of common interest and in the continued study of outstanding problems.

1. Continuing its work, the Contact Committee met at Rome from 13 to 16 February 1956 and at Berne on 23 and 24 April 1956. As a result of the exchanges of views at these meetings agreement was reached on a new method of compiling a new edition of the Liste des distances aéropostales (see under this heading on page 29).
2. IATA requested its Clearing Office to examine all aspects of a proposal submitted by a member country that each Administration should reimburse the first carrier in respect of the entire route of the mail, from the point of origin to the point of destination, on condition that the first carrier would subsequently reimburse the other carriers in respect of subsequent stages of the route. Consideration of this proposal will be resumed when IATA announces the results of its study.
3. The attention of IATA was also drawn to the need for reducing the time required for the introduction of time-table changes. The introduction of successive changes over a given route by the companies responsible for the forwarding of mail requires several weeks, thus compelling the postal services to review these routings on each occasion. In this connexion IATA promised to try to persuade its members to comply with UPU's request as far as possible.
4. With respect to the transport of dangerous goods by air, the Executive and Liaison Committee considered the air cargo regulations prepared by IATA and the latter's request that the postal provisions should be brought into line with its own regulations. As a result of this examination, the Committee decided that article 59 of the Convention contained a general provision even more rigid than that of IATA, and that consequently, no amendment of the

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Convention was necessary. Nevertheless, the 100 copies of the regulations, of the dispatch of which the International Bureau had been notified, were distributed on 16 July 1956 to the Administrations of member-Countries for use at their discretion.

#### IV. World Health Organization (WHO)

In the light of the material in its possession and in particular of the replies received by the International Bureau to the inquiry concerning the conveyance of perishable biological materials by post, the World Health Organization formulated twelve proposals relating to the Acts in force. These proposals which are designed to remove certain difficulties experienced in the dispatch of such materials by post, were submitted to the Executive and Liaison Committee at its annual session which a WHO observer had been invited to attend. After some discussion, the Executive and Liaison Committee considered it desirable that the proposals should be forwarded to all Administrations for comment. The International Bureau accordingly communicated them, together with a general statement, to the member-Countries of the Universal Postal Union by Circular of 7 August 1956.

The replies of Administrations, expected by the end of the year, will be summarized in a report to the Executive and Liaison Committee (for the April 1957 meeting), and the proposals that are accepted will be included in the register of proposals to be prepared by the International Bureau in due course.

Furthermore, WHO, which is co-operating with the International Labour Office in the inquiry concerning the occupational diseases of postal workers, was kept informed of developments in the matter (see section V below).

#### V. International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The last replies received to the inquiry concerning the occupational diseases of postal workers and their prevention were transmitted to the International Labour Office (ILO). A meeting between the representatives of this Office, the World Health Organization and the International Bureau was held on 16 October to discuss the conclusions to be drawn from this inquiry.

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A report together with a synoptic table of the principal data collected was prepared and will be submitted to the Executive and Liaison Committee in April 1957. (See also page 33, under "Inquiries begun in 1953, Internal Service".)

#### VI. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

In order to facilitate the free circulation of information and particularly of printed matter, UNESCO prepared a series of proposals, as it had done prior to the 1952 Brussels Congress, to amend certain articles of the Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations.

These proposals were transmitted to the International Bureau at the end of 1955, and were examined by the Executive and Liaison Committee. This Committee merely took note of them as UNESCO wished to submit them to its own member States, with the suggestion that they should be presented on their behalf to the Ottawa Congress.

#### VII. Council of Europe

Although the Committee of Ministers in 1953 had rejected a proposal to establish a European Postal Union among the members of the Council of Europe, on 9 July 1955, Mr. E. Bonnefous, the Minister of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of France, submitted to the Consultative Assembly of the Council a memorandum containing proposals for the development of European co-operation in the postal and telecommunications field.

The Committee on Economic Affairs of the Council of Europe to which this memorandum was referred, recommended that it should be taken into consideration. Instructed to prepare a report on the subject for the Consultative Assembly, the Committee approached the International Bureau with a request for all pertinent information on the right of the countries members of the Universal Postal Union to establish restricted unions and to make special agreements concerning the postal service.

A recommendation was included in the Committee's report, suggesting that the Committee of Ministers should invite all member States:

- to set up a European Conference of Ministers of Postal and Telecommunications Services to promote and encourage European

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collaboration in this field, with a view to the creation of a European postal and telecommunication union,

- to issue, if they had not done so previously, the European stamp, issued this year by six member States.

This recommendation was adopted by the Assembly of the Council of Europe at its eighth session in October 1956.

## D. WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

### I. Communications to the Administrations

1. The International Bureau published 231 circulars - including some forty dealing with the execution, suspension, restoration or abolition of various services provided for by the Convention and Agreements of the Union - 85 bulletins and 55 printed letters.
2. Two thousand five hundred and ninety-one kinds of postage stamps and sample cancellations, comprising 2,124 ordinary stamps of all kinds, 36 blocks or miniature sheets, 428 entires and 3 sample cancellations were distributed in 11 different consignments. The total number of postage stamps, etc., distributed was 958,235.

### II. Accounts

#### 1. General clearing account for transit charges

The annual general clearing account for transit charges, which was drawn up in December, covers the year 1956. As in the case of previous accounts, however, it also includes outstanding balances from previous years.

The account was sent out in the Circular of 28 December.

Ninety-two Administrations settled their transit charge accounts to a greater or lesser extent through the general clearing account. The clearing indicated that 47 Administrations were debtors and 45 Administrations were creditors. The method of payment is indicated on page 2 of the Account, after the general observations.

#### 2. General account for international reply coupons

The annual general account for international reply coupons, 1955, transmitted by Circular of 28 December, covers not only the statements for 1955, but also statements for previous years in respect of outstanding balances.

The account involved a sum of 271,396 gold francs. Eighty Administrations participated in the clearing, 54 being debtors and 26 creditors.

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### 3. Clearing facilities for accounts of any kind

The remarks made in note 7 on pages 119 and 120 of the first volume of the annotated Acts of Brussels and the communications on pages 9-10 of the 1940 report show that these facilities which the International Bureau was asked to provide have not been used since 1916. The International Bureau is still prepared to resume this special service for the clearing of accounts if a sufficient number of Administrations express a wish for it. In 1956 no special request of this kind was made.

### III. Publications, documents, etc.

#### 1. Convention and Agreements

(a) The International Bureau transmitted the following publications to the Administrations:

- (1) Compendium of reduced fees and charges (Circular No. 1);
- (2) Report on the work of the Union for 1955 (Circulars Nos. 18 and 60);
- (3) Abridged Postal Statistics, 1954 (Circular No. 21);
- (4) List of Addresses of Postal Administrations (Circular No. 34);
- (5) List of the Heads and Senior Officials of Postal Administrations, (Circular No. 34);
- (6) World Map of Surface Postal Communications and Annex (Circulars Nos. 69 and 165);
- (7) Designation of Countries, Territories etc. of the World with their Geographical Position (Circular No. 70).

(b) International Reply Coupons (Conventions, Regulations, article 106).

The International Bureau supplied the Administrations with 3,924,000 international reply coupons.

The delivery charge has been maintained at 1.50 Swiss centimes<sup>1/</sup> per coupon since 1 January 1954 (Circular No. 290 of 1953).

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<sup>1/</sup> The amounts given in this report are expressed in Swiss francs. When gold francs are used, this is stated in the report. The conversion is made on the basis of the official rate of the two currencies, i.e. at present, one Swiss franc = 0.70 gold francs, or one gold franc = 1.4285714 Swiss francs.

(c) Postal Identity Cards (Convention, Regulations, article 106).

The International Bureau supplied 541,290 postal identity cards to Administrations at the prices indicated in Circular No. 63 of 1955.

(d) Postal Travellers' Cheques (Postal Money Orders, article 13, § 4).

The International Bureau filled a request for 6,000 booklet covers. It received no orders for postal travellers' cheques.

(e) Supplements and supplementary issues.

The International Bureau published and distributed to Administrations the following supplements and supplementary issues:

List of Kilometric Distances, 1953 edition: one supplement.

List of Shipping Lines, 1951 edition: four supplementary issues.

List of Prohibited Articles, 1954 edition: three supplementary issues.

Compendium of Internal Postal Charges, 1952 edition: two supplementary issues.

Compendium of information on the organization and internal services of Administrations, 1952 edition: two supplementary issues.

Genèse des Actes de l'UPU, 1956 edition: two supplementary issues.

## 2. Air Mail

(a) General List of Air Mail Services (Liste AV 1).

The publication of information relating to the various parts of this list was continued in 1956. So far it contains information furnished by 120 Administrations.

The additional information, together with a number of modifications, was disseminated by means of ten "supplementary issues".

(b) Liste des distances aéropostales.

The reissue of this list, which, under the Cheltenham Agreements, was to have been started on the basis of the time-tables in force on 15 August 1955 is being prepared on the basis of the time-tables in force on 15 August 1956 and in accordance with the agreements reached between the Executive and Liaison Committee and representatives of the IATA.

The list in force, reprinted and distributed at the beginning of 1956, was kept up to date during the year and additions and changes were published by means of seventeen bulletins.

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(c) Airline time-tables and maps

The collective subscription to the private publication ABC World Airways Guide and ABC Airways Guide Map, has been renewed; the number of subscriptions by Administrations has slightly increased.

(d) Liste des surtaxes aériennes (List of air surcharges)

The information communicated by Administrations to the International Bureau was disseminated by means of ten "supplementary issues". At the end of the year, this document contained the air surcharges or combined charges of 136 Administrations.

IV. Journal "Union postale"

Subscriptions to Union postale are of three kinds: free subscriptions granted to Administrations under article 108, § 6, of the Detailed Regulations of the Brussels Convention (1952); subscriptions taken out for payment by Administrations; and private subscriptions, some of which are paid and some of which are arranged on an exchange basis.

Type of subscriptions	Number of subscriptions on 31 December			
	1955		1956	
	Free <sup>1/</sup>	Paid	Free <sup>1/</sup>	Paid
Subscriptions taken out by Administrations	933	1,697	943	1,854
Private subscriptions	219	258	202	325
Totals	1,152	1,955	1,145	2,179

<sup>1/</sup> Or on an exchange basis.

The cost of subscriptions to the Union postale will remain unchanged in 1957.

V. Exchanges of information and technical studies

Activities in this field are briefly described in this section. In addition to the technical studies published in the Postal Studies Series (see sub-section 1 below), several studies proposed by the Executive and Liaison Committee are

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dealt with in the form of inquiries (see section VI, "Inquiries into questions of common interest", pages 33-40). It should also be noted that Circulars Nos. 109, 126 and 146 contained information on the first Exhibition of Postal Mechanization which was held at Rome from 29 October to 11 November.

For information concerning the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Technical Studies, see under (c), pages 10-11.

### 1. Postal Studies Series

The following brochures were distributed:

20. Postal deliveries in town;
21. Systems of postal statistics;
22. Automatic stamp vending machines of the Swiss Postal Telegraph, and Telephone Administration;
23. The pneumatic post in New York and Paris. The pneumatic tubes of the Swiss Postal Telegraph, and Telephone Administration;
24. The use of containers and pallets for postal transport;
25. The organization of social services.

### 2. UFU Catalogue

The information and documents obtained by the International Bureau which are suitable for inclusion in the UFU Catalogue are classified methodically as they are received. Supplementary issue 7 of 31 December which mentions all these documents will be distributed to Administrations early in 1957.

### 3. Genèse des Actes de l'UFU

Connected in certain respects with the UFU Catalogue (see above) by a common alphabetical index, a new documentary work on the origin, formation and evolution of world postal legislation was published on 1 September 1956. It was distributed to Administrations in Circular No. 140.

This important work is entitled Genèse des Actes de l'UFU. The compilation and printing of the first entries will extend over a number of years and the work of supplementing these entries will be carried on pari passu with the publication of the documents of the most recent Postal Congress. Presentation

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in the form of separate printed sheets will make it possible to ensure the continuity of the project through the publication of regular supplementary issues and will also enable any necessary improvements to be made.

At the present time information for each entry is given in three sections, as follows:

in the synopsis, which provides a conspectus or historical background, as the case may be;

in the summary proper of the proposals, discussions, decisions, directives and instructions which help to provide the basis for postal law, followed in each case by the text of the Acts as amended by each Congress;

in the reference section, which indicates references to the original texts.

The above Circular, together with the introductory pages (pink) of the Genèse des Actes de l'UPU, provide all other necessary information on the plan of the work and the method of consulting it.

#### 4. Loan service

A large number of works were added to the library of the International Bureau, some of them provided free of charge by the Administrations of the Union. The receipt of these works was announced regularly in the journal Union postale under the heading "Books Received". The library's loan service was used to the same extent as in previous years.

The expansion of the film archive continued with the receipt of ten film strips and twenty-eight slides produced by the following Administrations: Denmark, France, Switzerland, Union of South Africa and United States of America. The loan service dealt with 317 requests, of which 285 were fulfilled this year.

#### 5. Consultation of material on the premises

As in previous years, several postal officials and United Nations technical assistance experts and a number of private individuals, including some journalists, came to the headquarters of the International Bureau to obtain information about the Universal Postal Union.

6. Information and documents concerning the UPU requested by individuals

About a hundred requests for information and documents about the Universal Postal Union and postal services in general were received by the International Bureau from private persons and institutions (universities, schools, teachers, students and other persons). These requests were satisfied as far as was possible. (See 1953 report, pages 27 and 28, sub-section 5.)

VI. Inquiries into questions of common interest

Note: The documentary material relating to the inquiries is available to Administrations under the loan service of the International Bureau.

1. Inquiries begun in 1952

Internal Service:

World Health Organization (WHO). Despatch of perishable biological materials by post. Circular No. 121 gives an account of the action taken by WHO in response to this inquiry, on which the last information was furnished in 1955 (See also Chapter C, IV, page 24).

2. Inquiries begun in 1953

Internal Service:

Executive and Liaison Committee. Occupational diseases of postal workers and their prevention. Four further Administrations submitted information, which was transmitted to the International Labour Office and the World Health Organization. The results of the inquiry were examined jointly by these two Organizations and the International Bureau (See Chapter C, V, pages 24-25).

3. Inquiries begun in 1954

Internal Service:

1. Viet-Nam. Nature of the texts of propaganda tags permitted on postal items. The replies of two Administrations were published in Circular No. 132.
2. Viet-Nam. Payment of conveyance charges for mail carried by sea in the event of loss or destruction of the cargo. Three replies were brought to the attention of Administrations in Circular No. 131.

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4. Inquiries begun in 1955

(a) International service:

1. Sweden. Free postage for literature for the blind. In Circular No. 95, the International Bureau communicated to Administrations two further replies received in connexion with the above inquiry. Twenty-nine Administrations and seventeen Offices in the British Overseas Territories have now presented their views on this question.
2. Norway. Making up of mails. The replies of five Administrations were published in Circulars Nos. 86 and 210.
3. Indonesia. "First Day Covers". The information furnished by two Administrations was published in Circular No. 88.
4. Germany (Federal Republic). Exchange of postage stamps. Circulars Nos. 87 and 208 contain information submitted by eight Administrations.
5. Egypt. Use of the collection of postage stamps distributed by the International Bureau. Six Administrations have transmitted replies which were published in Circulars Nos. 89 and 209.
6. Australia. Items of mail reaching their destination unstamped. The replies of thirty-six Administrations were published in Circulars Nos. 90 and 218.
7. Italy. Bulk advice of registered items on the letter bills. Further replies from thirty-three Administrations were the subject of Circulars Nos. 39, 104 and 216.
8. Inquiry concerning the adoption of a uniform date for introducing the system of rounding off the weights of air mails. Replies received from Administrations in 1956 concerning the application of this system were published in Circulars Nos. 4, 7, 16, 25, 32, 36, 44, 49, 53, 76, 100, 134, 190 and 212 of 1956.
9. Inquiry concerning the establishment of a system of remuneration based on broad rating zones. The basic ideas expressed in the replies received by the International Bureau in response to the inquiry opened in Circular No. 122 of 1955 supported the following conclusions:

- (a) The decision of an intermediate country to reduce the number of tariffs applicable to à découvert air-mail correspondence should be binding on the country of origin;

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- (b) In the interest of the free routing of mail and in order to avoid adverse effects on rate levels, a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty tariffs should be established;
- (c) In fixing a tariff, the intermediate country should take into account the weight of the mail despatched to the various destinations to which that tariff applies;
- (d) As a general rule, in fixing its tariffs, the intermediate country should respect the principle that receipts and expenditure should balance.

On the basis of these conclusions and in order to give them legal effect, the Executive and Liaison Committee decided to submit a proposal to the Ottawa Congress for the addition to article 11 of the Convention (Air-Mail Correspondence) (revised text) of a paragraph 3 bis to read as follows:

"The intermediate Administration, however, has the right to calculate remuneration for conveyance on the basis of mean tariffs, varying in number between five and twenty, each of which, applicable to a group of countries of destination, shall be fixed taking into account the weight of the mail off loaded at the various destinations in that group. The total amount of such remuneration may not exceed the remuneration due in respect of conveyance."

(b) Internal Service:

1. India. Filing of receipts given by the addressees of registered and insured items. The information received from twenty-one Administrations was published in Circulars Nos. 37, 119 and 170.
2. Italy. Acceptance of printed publicity material during holiday periods. The replies of four Administrations were given in Circular No. 223.
3. Italy. Letter boxes installed on the outside of urban public transport vehicles. Three replies were published in Circular No. 220.
4. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. "Silent" post offices. The replies of four Administrations were referred to in Circular No. 224.
5. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Automatically-operated underground post office railways. Circular No. 225 contains four replies.

6. Germany (Federal Republic). Conditions and requirements for the dispatch of radioactive substances. The information submitted by eight Administrations and twenty-three Offices was published in Circulars Nos. 107 and 226.

7. Italy. Relations of the Administration with motor-transport personnel. Twenty-four Administrations and four Offices have submitted information.<sup>1/</sup>

8. Switzerland. Relations between the Postal Administrations and other transport undertakings. Twenty-six Administrations and nine Offices have replied to the various questionnaires circulated in connexion with this inquiry.<sup>1/</sup>

9. Portugal. The use of cancelled postage-stamps. This inquiry, opened at the request of Portugal, which wished to know what penalties were imposed by member Countries of the Universal Postal Union for the use of cancelled postage-stamps, was the subject of Circulars Nos. 186 and 256 of 1955. The replies of seventeen Administrations and twelve Offices have been received in addition to the seventeen already published in the latter Circular. A Circular will bring them to the attention of Administrations early in 1957.

Inquiries begun at the request of the Executive and Liaison Committee

10. Control of stocks of mail bags in the internal services of the Administrations. Forty-three replies.<sup>1/</sup>

11. Organization of the rural postal service. The information received (twenty-six replies) was transmitted to the Sub-Committee set up to study this problem (see page 12 (e)).

12. Machines and installations for the mechanization and automation of letter-sorting. The eighteen replies to this inquiry were referred to the Sub-Committee on Technical Studies (see page 10 (c)) which decided to examine this problem carefully.

13. Luminous signs. Sixteen replies.<sup>1/</sup>

14. Unpacking tables with vacuum cleaning device. Seventeen replies.<sup>1/</sup>

15. Letter boxes. Eighteen replies.<sup>1/</sup>

16. Autocycles. Seventeen replies.<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> The replies to this inquiry will be published early in 1957.

17. Sorting racks of all types. Eleven replies.<sup>1/</sup>
18. Machines for stacking and sorting mail collected from letter boxes.<sup>1/</sup>
19. Machines for tying correspondence into bundles. Ten replies.<sup>1/</sup>
20. Mechanical equipment for tying letter bags. Eleven replies.<sup>1/</sup>
21. Conveyor belts for mail bags, postal parcels, bundles of letters and loose items of correspondence, including conveyor belts directly feeding other equipment (such as sorting machines, cancelling machines, etc.). Eleven replies.<sup>1/</sup>
22. Vehicles for the conveyance of mail inside and outside buildings (including vehicles to be used on platforms). Twelve replies.<sup>1/</sup>
23. Classification of post offices for the purpose of the grading and promotion of postal workers. Twenty-two replies.<sup>1/</sup>
24. Organization and operation of the C.O.D. service. Twenty-two replies.<sup>1/</sup>
25. Organization of letter collections in urban and rural areas. Nineteen replies.<sup>1/</sup>
26. Travelling post offices on motor boats. Twenty-five replies.<sup>1/</sup>
27. Organization of urban postal services. Five replies.<sup>1/</sup> (This inquiry was proposed in 1955, but was opened only in 1956 by Circular No. 81).
28. Method of working out standards for the equipment of the necessary surfaces for handling postal traffic and for auxiliary services. Nine replies.<sup>1/</sup> (This inquiry was proposed in 1955, but was opened only in 1956 by Circular No. 71).

#### 5. Inquiries begun in 1956

##### (a) International service

1. Sweden. Philatelic service. In Circular No. 55, the Swedish Administration described the operation of its philatelic service, which was set up in 1927 to sell postage stamps to collectors. Sweden wished to know the extent to which other Administrations had organized and were operating philatelic services, and asked for information on the following questions:

1. Is there a philatelic postal service; if so, what is its name and address?
2. If there is a philatelic service, what is the scope of its activities?

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<sup>1/</sup> The replies to this inquiry will be published early in 1957.

3. Can private persons subscribe to new issues of stamps, "first-day covers" and new cancellations? If so, under what conditions?
4. In what way and how long in advance are interested collectors informed of issues of new stamps and the introduction of new date stamps?
5. Is a charge made for the services furnished by philatelic postal services? If so, what is the amount and how is it calculated? Are any postage stamps that may be ordered mailed free of charge to purchasers whether they live in the country or abroad, or in one of these cases only?

Thirty replies were published in Circulars Nos. 91 and 203.

2. Ceylon. Transit charges: Diversion of mails from their normal routes. The Administration of Ceylon has noted that an increasing volume of mail diverted from its normal route is passing through its services. The reasons may be as follows: breakdowns in transport, closure of ports owing to disease, dockers' strikes, damage to ports during storms or changes in the routing of ships. Details of such mail handled by the Administration in 1955 were published in Circular No. 96. The Ceylonese Administration asked the Administrations of the Union:

- (a) whether they are faced by the same problem;
- (b) if so, on what basis any transit charges involved are claimed from the Administrations of origin for the transport of such mails.

Information received from seventeen Administrations was published in Circular No. 215.

3. France. Acceptance of butane cigarette lighters on importation. At the request of the French Administration, an inquiry was undertaken to ascertain whether Administrations admit butane cigarette lighters and refills in their domestic services and on importation and, if so, what requirements are laid down for their transmission by letter post (Circular No. 111).

To date, twenty-seven Administrations have transmitted information on this subject. The information was brought to the attention of Administrations of the Union by Circulars Nos. 159 and 204.

4. Switzerland. Transparent panel envelopes: make-up. Certain Administrations admit envelopes with transparent panels of cellulose acetate or cellophane, the transparent panels being crystalline. Under article 123 of the Detailed Regulations, of the Convention, such envelopes should be excluded from the international service.

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By Circular No. 148, the Swiss Administration asked for information on the experience of Administrations admitting such envelope, particularly with regard to:

- (a) the legibility of addresses;
- (b) the strain on the eyes of staff engaged in sorting by artificial light;
- (c) the impossibility of striking out addresses, wholly or in part, with copying-ink pencils, coloured pencils or lead pencils.

The replies of twelve Administrations were published in Circular No. 198.

5. Egypt. Air surcharges applicable to A0 items. At the request of the Egyptian Administration, the International Bureau, by Circular No. 80, opened an inquiry to determine how the Administrations of the Union established the aerial surcharges applicable to A0 items and especially to printed matter. The purpose is to find out whether Administrations fix these surcharges in exact proportion to the cost of air transport or whether they grant special deductions to stimulate the rapid dispatch of this category of mail.

The replies received, most of which show that air surcharges are fixed in accordance with the actual cost of transport and that no special reduction is made for A0 items, were summarized and published in Circular No. 230.

(b) Internal service

1. Austria. Equipment for sticking labels on mail. Having observed that gummed labels do not stick to certain wrappings, the Administration asked for an inquiry to determine whether there is any equipment capable of sticking such labels firmly to packages. Circular No. 11 on this subject elicited twenty-one replies, which were published in Circular No. 227.

2. United Kingdom. Fully automatic cancellation machines. The purpose of this inquiry, which was undertaken at the request of the United Kingdom (Circular No. 14) is to collect documentation which might facilitate the production of a cancellation machine into which letters would be fed automatically, and would then be automatically piled after cancellation. The replies of sixteen Administrations were given in Circular No. 221.

3. Italy. International Exhibition on Postal Mechanization, Rome, 29 October to 11 November 1946. With a view to preparing a comparative table for this Exhibition, a questionnaire containing six requests for statistical data (number of inhabitants, post offices, postmen etc.) was sent to Administrations at the

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request of Italy (Circular No. 109). Forty-five replies were received. In due course, the Italian Administration will send the International Bureau the synoptic table which it drew up on the basis of the data received. (See also Circulars Nos. 126 and 146 relating to the Exhibition.)

4. America (United States). Health and safety measures. The Administration of the United States of America, which has grouped all health and safety measures in a section of its Post Office Manual, asked for information concerning similar documents drawn up by other countries (Circular No. 135).

The replies will be published in circulars.

5. China (Taipei). Combined mails. In Circular No. 207, Administrations were asked, at the request of China (Taipei), whether they had followed the example of the United States of America in introducing a "combined" mail service, i.e. items containing articles of different classes. The replies will be published in circulars.

6. Inquiries conducted by means of circulars: digests, summaries etc. of information collected. In accordance with the wish expressed by the Executive and Liaison Committee, the International Bureau informed the countries of the UPU of its intention to make digests of the results of inquiries where possible (Circular No. 17). It accordingly suggested a time-limit within which replies to inquiries should be sent and after which the digests could be begun. Digests will be made of the following four inquiries, begun in 1954, at the beginning of 1957;

1. Film Archives Sub-Committee: Production of films and film-strips by Administrations; loan of lavender prints. Written commentaries accompanying films (Circular No. 101, 1954).

2. Viet-Nam: Nature of the texts of propaganda tags permitted on postal items (Circular No. 172, 1954).

3. Viet-Nam: Payment of conveyance charges for mail carried by sea in the event of loss or destruction of cargo (Circular No. 173, 1954).

4. India: Registered mail addressed to post-office boxes (Circular No. 207, 1954).

## VII. Disputes

### 1. Arbitral Awards

In 1956, an arbitral award was given under article 31 of the Convention, to settle a dispute between two Administrations of the Union regarding the payment of arrears in connexion with transit charges and international reply coupons (see 1955 report, page 38).

The award reads as follows:

#### "Arbitral Award

in a dispute between the Postal Administrations of Portugal and Yugoslavia, given by the Postal Administrations of the Netherlands and Denmark, as arbitrators, the former appointed by the Portuguese Administration and the latter appointed ex officio by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, in accordance with the provisions of article 31 § 3, of the Universal Postal Convention of Brussels.

#### A. Subject of the dispute

The dispute relates to the question whether the Yugoslav Administration is or is not liable to the Portuguese Administration (1) for a sum of thirty gold francs on the basis of Portuguese statement C27 of 1943, for reply coupons issued in the independent State of Croatia and exchanged in Portugal, the statement having been accepted by the Croatian Administration, and (2) for a sum of 266 gold francs in respect of transit charges for Yugoslav mails in transit through Portugal between 19 April and 31 December 1941.

Payment having been refused by the Yugoslav Administration, the Portuguese Administration proceeded to offset the sums payable to it by debiting them to the Yugoslav Administration on statement C21 relating to transit charges for 1951, 1952, 1953. The Yugoslav Administration contested the offsetting of these sums.

In view of the failure to settle the matters in dispute amicably, the Portuguese Administration resorted to arbitration under the provisions of the Convention, while the Yugoslav Administration challenged the validity of arbitration in the matter.

#### B. Statement of the facts

In its letter of 22 March 1944, the Portuguese Administration sent the Director-General of Postal and Telegraphic Services at Zagreb, Croatia,

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statement C27 of reply coupons for 1943, accompanied by 109 reply coupons and showing a balance of thirty gold francs to the credit of the Portuguese Administration.

The Croatian Administration returned the statement with its acceptance by a letter of 15 April 1944 to the Portuguese Administration.

The Portuguese Administration sent the statement to the International Bureau for inclusion in the general liquidation account for 1944.

The International Bureau was unable to take further action, owing to the opposition of the Yugoslav Administration.

In subsequent years, the Portuguese Administration made several approaches to the same end.

The results were the same in all cases.

With regard to the grounds put forward by the two Administrations in support of their respective positions, the following facts emerge from the long discussion conducted between them through the International Bureau:

The Portuguese Administration stated in its letter of 15 March 1949 to the International Bureau that Portugal's claim against Yugoslavia was not open to question and that the fact that the debtor had, at the time when the account was drawn up, been under the control of entities other than those now controlling it was not a relevant consideration.

Subsequently, in its letter of 18 March 1954 to the International Bureau, the Portuguese Administration pointed out that, although Yugoslavia considered that the former Croatian State was an artificial creation of the country which had occupied Yugoslavia during the war, Yugoslavia had never denied that Croatia was an integral part of Yugoslav territory.

In various letters, the Yugoslav Administration gave reasons for its refusal to pay.

In its letter of 27 November 1948 to the International Bureau, it pointed out that no individual account for 1943 had so far been submitted to it by the Portuguese Administration.

In its letter of 7 February 1949 to the International Bureau, the Yugoslav Administration stated that the existence of the former Croatian State, set up by the occupying authorities when Yugoslavia had been invaded, was not recognized by the present Yugoslavia and that accordingly action taken by that State under the auspices of the enemy could not render the Yugoslav Administration liable. The acceptance of the statement by the Croatian State on 15 April 1944 in no way involved the present Yugoslavia, which in 1944 had still been under enemy occupation and consequently had been incapable of taking any valid action in relation to foreign authorities.

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By its letter of 28 March 1949, the Yugoslav Administration informed the International Bureau that, after consideration, the Yugoslav Government had categorically refused to recognize the existence of the independent Croatian State and that in consequence Yugoslavia had no interest in the assets and debts of that State.

Finally, the Portuguese Administration declared in its letter of 15 June 1949 to the International Bureau that it had decided to submit the dispute concerning the debt in respect of reply coupons to arbitration and that it proposed to appoint the International Bureau as the sole arbitrator. At the same time, it wished to submit to the same arbitration a further dispute, also with Yugoslavia, similar to that concerning the reply coupons.

The second dispute concerns Portugal's claim for a sum of 266 gold francs in respect of transit charges for the period between 19 April and 31 December 1941, at a time when Yugoslavia was occupied by Germany. The Yugoslav Administration refused to pay this sum and gave the following reasons for its refusal in its letter of 26 January 1949 to the Portuguese Administration:

'As my country was occupied by invaders in April 1941, it was unable from the day after 18 April, the date of its capitulation, to perform any valid act with regard to foreign countries either in its own name or for its own account. In support of my statement, I must also inform you that the same procedure has already been applied to all other Administrations in respect of similar accounts and no exceptions have so far been made.

It is understood that the Portuguese Administration is fully entitled to submit a claim to the occupying countries responsible for charges subsequent to those included in our accounts up to 18 April 1941.'

The International Bureau stated in its letter of 30 June 1949 to the Portuguese Administration that it could not serve as arbitrator, as the Bureau was itself discussing with the Yugoslav Administration a case involving the same circumstances as those of the Portuguese-Yugoslav dispute.

In its statement C21, relating to transit charges for 1951-1953 and drawn up on 9 October 1953, the Portuguese Administration deducted the two sums above-mentioned, totalling 296 gold francs, from the Yugoslav credit balance.

The Yugoslav Administration was unable to accept the offsetting of these sums, arguing in its letter of 27 October 1953 to the Portuguese Administration that its country had been occupied by the enemy from the beginning of April 1941 to the end of 1944, that international services had been suspended during that time and that accordingly the Administration had no knowledge of the debts in question.

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By letters of 10 December 1953, the International Bureau informed the two Administrations in disagreement that in its opinion the only means of settling the dispute was by recourse to arbitration as provided for in article 31 of the Brussels Universal Postal Convention.

The Portuguese Administration agreed with the International Bureau's opinion and stated in its letter of 28 January 1954 to the International Bureau that it had appointed the Postal Administration of the Netherlands as arbitrator and that the latter had accepted.

The Yugoslav Administration, for its part, expressed the view that recourse should not be had to arbitration. It developed this point of view in two letters, one sent on 27 January 1950 to the Portuguese Administration and the other sent on 30 December 1953 to the International Bureau.

In the first of these letters, the Yugoslav Administration stated as follows:

'My point of view is not due to any lack of confidence on the part of my Administration in the arbitration you have proposed or to any desire to leave this case open and unsolved. On the contrary, my Administration does not wish to leave pending any issue in which it is legally concerned, but this is not so in this case.

In the first place, article 12 of the Universal Postal Convention 1/ provides for arbitration only in the event of disagreement as to the interpretation or application of the Universal Postal Convention and Agreements, which is not applicable in this case. This is a question of principle under international public law and cannot be settled on the basis of the Universal Postal Convention or through a joint arbitrator. From the beginning of the occupation, my Administration was unable to maintain any international service, and accordingly no commitment could have arisen with respect to my Administration during that period.

My Administration has explained its attitude of principle with regard to occupation period, not only in bilateral discussions between Administrations, but also at international meetings, the most recent being the Geneva session of the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union, at which your Administration was also represented. My Administration therefore regrets that it cannot, with the best will in the world, agree to the decision you have proposed, as it is not in conformity with our attitude of principle on this question concerning the war period.'

In its letter of 30 December 1953, the Yugoslav Administration stated inter alia:

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1/ Paris, 1947 (Note by the arbitrators).

'In the case with which we are concerned and with regard to transit charges between my Administration and Portugal, there is absolutely no reason to resort to arbitration. The amounts due for the corresponding transit periods have been determined and confirmed reciprocally by the acceptance of the relevant statements C20 and C21. The provisions of the Universal Postal Convention in force when the most recent transit statistics were drawn up were strictly applied in this case and, in fact, no disagreement, initially or now, can be said to arise in regard to the interpretation of any provision whatsoever of the Convention or its Detailed Regulations.

Under article 31 of the Convention concluded at Brussels in 1952, a copy of which was sent to me in support of the proposal for arbitration, there must be a "disagreement between two or more member-countries as to the interpretation of the Convention and the Agreements or their Detailed Regulations ...". However, the case with which we are concerned is quite different in character and your proposal contains no provision which relates to international obligations and the interpretation and application of which might be disputed.

The obligation to pay transit charges for each year in accordance with the explicit provisions laid down represents a specific right which is exercised through the General Annual Liquidation Account. However, this right and its exercise can be contested only for reasons stated in the provisions relating to the statistics for the period concerned.

Portugal's credits relating to the war period cannot be liquidated on the basis of the provisions of the existing Universal Postal Convention. Obligations of this kind must be liquidated in accordance with special arrangements concluded between the Governments concerned, when all their relations and obligations arising from the state of war are regulated. In actual fact, the obligation towards Portugal was created by the so-called "independent Croatian State", which was artificially established by the invaders and the existence of which the Government of the FPR of Yugoslavia has never recognized and cannot recognize. Accordingly, what was in the interest of the occupiers was not in the interest of the occupied people, and, while the Postal Administration of Portugal might bring a specific action to make good its claim, this cannot be settled on the basis of the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, since the question relates to the war and its consequences, and we regard the war as force majeure. The war, as force majeure, caused direct or indirect injury to those attacked, and my Administration, which sustained a heavy share of such injury, is unwilling to increase it by paying debts incurred by the occupiers and their collaborators. The debts concerned were not incurred in the interests of Yugoslavia, a country whose people was at that time fighting tenaciously for its national liberation.'

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In its letter of 9 February 1954, the International Bureau informed the Yugoslav Administration that it was unable to modify its view that the only means of settling the dispute was arbitration. At the same time, the Bureau drew the attention of the Yugoslav Administration to the fact that, if it did not appoint an arbitrator within the period fixed by the Convention, the Bureau itself would appoint an arbitrator ex officio. The time-limit would expire on 2 August 1954, namely six months from the date of the receipt by the International Bureau of the request for arbitration from the Portuguese Administration.

The Yugoslav Administration having failed to appoint an arbitrator within the period mentioned, the International Bureau appointed the Postal Administration of Denmark ex officio by a letter of 7 August 1954, and that Administration accepted.

### C. Material considerations

#### I. The questions at issue

The questions on which the disputing parties disagree may be reduced to the following two main points:

1. Is the Administration of Portugal entitled to secure payment by offsetting the debts contested by Yugoslavia?
2. Is Yugoslavia responsible for the debts contracted by the Administration of Croatia or by the authorities which occupied the territory of Yugoslavia during the Second World War?

#### II. Competence of the arbitrators

The debts at issue arose from international postal relations governed by the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, signed and ratified by both parties. In order to settle the first of the two questions in dispute mentioned above it is necessary only to apply and interpret the Universal Postal Convention. Under article 31, in the event of disagreement between two or more member-countries as to the responsibility imposed on a postal Administration by the application of the Convention, the question at issue is settled by arbitration.

The provisions of the Convention concerning the request for arbitration and the appointment of arbitrators have been strictly observed.

Accordingly, the recourse to arbitration has been made in due form and the arbiters are competent to deal with the question mentioned in I, 1 above.

However, the question referred to under I, 2 above does not fall within the competence of the postal arbitrators, as it must be settled on the basis of special international arrangements to settle problems arising out of the war or on the basis of general rules of international public law by the organs competent to judge such disputes (e.g. special arbitral tribunals, the International Court of Justice, or a Reparations Commission set up under a treaty of peace).

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### III. Interpretation of the provisions of the Convention

The two debts due to the Portuguese Administration are incontestable, as that Administration issued postage stamps in exchange for reply-coupons and performed to the transit service concerned. However, the debts resulting from these postal operations were contracted by the Administration of Croatia, the German occupation authorities, or their dependent services; they cannot therefore be described as postal operations effected by the Administration of Yugoslavia, to which the Portuguese Administration applied for the settlement of the accounts.

The Portuguese Administration regarded as an adequate reason for applying to Yugoslavia the sole fact that the territory in which the Administration of Croatia, and the German occupation authorities operated is an integral part of the present Yugoslavia; it considered that that country should therefore be regarded as the legal successor of the authorities which exercised power on the same territory during the Second World War.

The settlement of debts by offsetting is subject to certain conditions. In particular, the creditor is not entitled to replace the original debtor by another whom he considers to be the legal successor, if this succession is recognized neither by the new debtor nor by a special international arrangement or an unchallenged rule of international public law.

In view of the fact that in this case the legal succession is contested by Yugoslavia and that the succession is not recognized by any special international arrangement or unchallenged rule of international public law, as the bodies competent to settle questions of this kind have not yet given a decision in the matter, offsetting cannot be effected.

#### D. Award

The arbitrators,

in the light of the foregoing considerations

declare that they are competent to settle disputes which relate to the application and interpretation of the Universal Postal Convention;

consider, however, that they are not competent to deal with questions of international public law concerning the responsibility of Yugoslavia for debts contracted during the war in its territory by the authorities of Croatia and the German occupation authorities;

decide that, as the question of responsibility for debts contracted during the war by Croatia and by the German occupation authorities in the territory of Yugoslavia has not been settled by the competent bodies, the Administration of Portugal is not entitled to secure payment of the contested debts (to the amount of 296 gold francs) by means of offsetting.

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This decision is communicated to the Administrations of Portugal and Yugoslavia and to the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union at Berne.

Done at Copenhagen, 17 March 1956

On behalf of the Administration  
of Denmark

(Signed) K.J. JENSEN  
Director-General

Done at The Hague on 1 March 1956

On behalf of the Administration  
of the Netherlands

(Signed) J.H. van der TOORN  
Director-General"

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## 2. Other disputes

- (a) The International Bureau received no requests for opinions on disputes from the Administrations of the Union.
- (b) On the other hand, as in previous years, the International Bureau received a number of communications from individuals. When these were requests for information of a quite general nature concerning the international postal service, the Bureau satisfied them in accordance with a current practice which does not exceed its competence under the Convention. Private persons who submit requests for information or complaints concerning the operation of internal or international postal services in their countries are asked to communicate with their Administrations directly, as the International Bureau is not competent to interfere in the relations between the Administrations and users.

## VIII. Non-litigious questions

The International Bureau was asked by Administrations for its opinion on a number of non-litigious questions.

A summary of some of these questions is given below, followed by the reply given in each case.

1. An Administration informed the Bureau of its intention to reduce to 4 x 3 centimetres the size of the photograph to be attached to page 2 of the postal identity card. As the size of the photograph to be submitted by the applicant is not specified in article 45 of the Convention or in article 116 of its Detailed Regulations, the Administration asked whether this action might give rise to objections.

The International Bureau replied as follows:

"It is true that article 45 of the Brussels Convention of 1952 and article 116 of its Detailed Regulations, which govern the issue of postal identity cards, do not prescribe the dimensions of the photograph to be submitted by the applicant. Moreover, examination of the documents of the congresses, from the Congress at Madrid, when the present model of the identity card was introduced, to the Brussels Congress of 1952 shows that no dimensions were ever specified for such photographs. Nevertheless, the

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corresponding articles of the Detailed Regulations adopted by these various congresses all contain the phrase: 'these (cards) are made out in the form annexed', or some similar expression. All these forms provide a space of approximately 5.6 x 5 centimetres for the photograph. The question therefore arises whether these forms, which have been approved by congresses, can be altered without giving rise to objections from the Administrations of the Union.

In view of the fact that postal legislation and precedents do not establish the dimensions of photographs for postal identity cards, it is difficult for me to take a position on the subject of the reduction of the size of the photograph which is contemplated by your Administration.

Accordingly, and having regard to the fact that the Universal Postal Congress will meet next year, I think that it might be preferable for your Administration to postpone the proposed reduction and to submit to the Congress a request for an opinion or interpretation in this connexion."

2. An Administration announced that it had informed shipping companies of its willingness to receive mails for its country at the quay, in accordance with article 78, § 4, of the Convention, according to which sea transit begins when the mails are put under the hoist and ends when they have been unloaded on to the quay.

Having regard to the fact that in the ports of this country ships are sometimes obliged to anchor some distance from the quay and that the mails must be brought to the quay by boat, which entails additional cost, and that it had received questions from various quarters in this connexion, the Administration asked the International Bureau if it was aware of any precedents relating to similar circumstances. If not, it asked the Bureau to consult Administrations with a view to ascertaining the arrangements in force in their countries in this matter.

The International Bureau replied as follows:

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication and to inform you that no case of the kind you mention has hitherto been brought to the knowledge of the International Bureau. Before submitting this question to the Administrations of the Union, in the form of an inquiry, and in view of the fact that the result could not constitute an authentic interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Convention, I feel obliged to inform you of the following:

In order to be able to give a correct interpretation of the provisions of article 78, § 4, of the Convention, it is appropriate to refer to the

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reasons which led the Brussels Congress of 1952 to adopt them in their present form.

The Technical Transit Commission, wishing to define the beginning and the end of sea transit, submitted two variants for the consideration of the Brussels Congress. The first was contained in proposal 167, to the effect that sea transit begins when the mails are put under the hoist and ends when they have been unloaded on to the quay. The second variant was contained in proposal 168, to the effect that sea transit begins when the mails are unloaded for embarkation and ends when they have been delivered to the services responsible for their land transport (Brussels Documents, Volume I, page 446).

These proposals were discussed in detail in the First Committee to which they were referred.

At first, a trend in favour of proposal 167, which seemed to be simpler to apply than proposal 168, was apparent in the discussion.

Nevertheless, the Cuban delegation wishing, inter alia, to draw attention to the fact that vessels were sometimes obliged to anchor some miles out of port, which means that lighters must take over the mails and makes it very difficult to transport them to the quay, submitted an amendment to proposal 167, for the replacement of the word 'quay' by 'any part of the port of destination'.

This amendment did not meet with the Committee's approval. During the discussions, it was pointed out in particular that it might be misinterpreted and that it would revive the difficulties which the original proposal had been designed to eliminate.

Finally, the Cuban amendment was put to the vote and rejected by a large majority.

Proposal 167 was adopted by a large majority, which led to the consequential rejection of proposal 168 (Volume II, pages 562 and 563).

In accepting proposal 167, the First Committee of the Brussels Congress clearly demonstrated its intention to define the beginning and end of sea transit simply but unequivocally.

It seems to me that the fact that it is specified that sea transit begins when the mails are put under the hoist and ends when they have been unloaded on to the quay can only mean that sea transit charges cover the transport of mail from the moment when the mails are deposited on the quay to be taken in charge by the vessel until the moment when they are again deposited on the quay of the country of destination or handed over to the services responsible for their subsequent land transport.

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Accordingly, the International Bureau will willingly undertake the inquiry you have suggested, if you will confirm your wish that it should consult Administrations on the relevant arrangements in force in their countries.

In that event, I suggest that your request of 6 April 1956 and the present reply should be reproduced in a circular."

The Administration concerned has not so far asked the International Bureau to carry out the proposed consultation.

3. An Administration wanted to know in what language the name of the country of destination of a postal item should be written.

The International Bureau replied as follows:

"Article 121 of the Regulations of the Convention simply provides that Administrations should, inter alia, recommend the public to write the address in Roman characters and to show the names of the place and Country of destination in capital letters, but it does not specify the language in which the address in general and the name of the Country of destination in particular should be written.

Accordingly, in the absence of any provisions governing the matter, the question lies within the legislative competence of each State member of the Universal Postal Union, in accordance with article 24 of the Convention, which provides that the stipulations of the Convention and the Agreements of the Union do not override the legislation of any Country as regards anything for which they do not expressly provide.

The opinion given below is therefore quite unofficial and in no way impairs the validity of any provisions which may have been enacted by a country to settle this matter.

Provided that there are no contrary provisions in domestic legislation, I agree with you that the name of the country of destination of a postal item should be written in the language of the country where it is posted, and not in that of the country of destination or in any other language spoken in the latter country.

It is in fact unlikely, except in the case of an immigrant, a tourist or a polyglot, that many senders of communications will learn the language of the country of destination; accordingly, it would frequently be difficult, if not impossible, for them to write the name of that country in its language.

Moreover, if the name is written in the language of the country of posting the work of the exchange office officials of the country of origin will be substantially facilitated as it will be unnecessary for them to

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consult the directory of post offices published by the International Bureau in order to determine the country of destination, which is often an irksome operation.

This procedure would also expedite the despatch and routeing of mail.

Briefly, in the absence of any express provision of domestic legislation to the contrary, the foregoing reasons seem to me to be sufficiently sound to justify a recommendation that the public should write the name of the country of destination in the language of the country of posting."

4. The International Bureau gave the following answers to an Administration's inquiry concerning the interpretation of the provisions of article 133, § 1 (c) and 2 (c), of the Regulations of the Convention, concerning the addressing of book trade circulars:

"It should be noted first that although article 133, § 1 (c) and 2 (c) of the Regulations of the Convention contain lists of different operations and annotations that are permitted in the case of printed papers, they are not contradictory; the latter to some extent complement the former.

§ 1 (c) provides that: 'It is permissible, on the outside or inside of any printed papers:

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) to strike out, to underline or to ring round certain words or certain parts of the printed text, unless this is done with the aim of constituting a correspondence.'

On the other hand, § 2 (c) provides that: 'It is also permissible to show or add:

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) on order forms, subscription forms or offers in respect of published works, books, newspapers, engravings, pieces of music: the works and the number of copies asked for or offered, the price of the works and notes giving essential elements of the price, the method of payment, the edition, the names of the authors and of the publishers, the catalogue number and the words "paper covered", "stiff covered" or "bound";'

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Accordingly, the items of information mentioned in § 2 (c) may be shown on book trade circulars, independently of the authorization given in § 1 (c) to strike out, to underline or to ring round certain parts of the printed text.

The circulars issued by many publishers and booksellers in various countries of the Universal Postal Union have undoubtedly been drawn up in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions of the regulations.

They in fact contain annotations of all kinds which in some cases even constitute whole sentences relating to the published work asked for or offered.

§ 1 (c) authorizes the publisher or booksellers to strike out the parts of the printed text which do not interest his correspondent and to underline or ring round those to which he wishes to draw the addressee's attention.

In addition to these operations, in accordance with article 133, § 3, all the annotations provided for in § 2 (c) may be made on the circulars in question by hand or by any mechanical process.

The various authorized operations and annotations must, of course, be limited to the published work or works asked for or offered and may not under any circumstances constitute a conventional code or a personal correspondence within the meaning of article 133, § 1 (c).

In the light of the foregoing information, it may be concluded that note No. 9 reproduced after article 133 of the regulations of the Convention in the annotated edition of the Acts of Brussels 1952, Volume I, applies to both § 1 (c) and § 2 (c)."

5. An Administration inquired whether members of IATA took special measures during periods of very low temperature to protect mails and freight against freezing and whether there were any specific international regulations on the subject. IATA was consulted on the matter and gave the following information:

"2. With regard to freight, the various regulations of the carriers lay down as a general principle that air freight should be suitably wrapped for transport by air. Moreover, carriers are always prepared to take any precautionary measures the consignor may require for specific consignments. When consignments are sent by a service involving several carriers, the latter are of course warned in advance.

3. With regard to mails, the carriers have no means of knowing the contents of sealed mail-bags. After careful consideration, it is difficult to see how carriers could take specific precautionary measures."

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6. An Administration reported that, according to the spirit of article 16, § 2 (e), of the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels, the repacking charge can be collected only by the intermediary Administration or the Administration of destination, and not therefore by the Administration of origin of the postal parcel. As an example, it cited the case of a parcel sent from Lausanne (Switzerland) to its country and damaged before arrival at the Geneva office of exchange. The Swiss Administration repacked the parcel before sending it to the country of destination. The Administration concerned asked whether the Swiss Administration was entitled under the provisions of article 16, § 2 (e), to claim the repacking charge from the Administration of destination.

The International Bureau replied as follows:

"Article 16, § 2 (e) of the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels provides that the charge for repacking may be collected by the Administration of any country in whose territory a parcel has had to be repacked in order to protect its contents.

There can be no doubt concerning the meaning to be attributed to the words 'collected by the Administration of any country'; this refers to the Administration of origin, as well as to the Administrations of transit and destination.

This interpretation is further justified by the fact that, until the Congress of Paris of 1947, repacking charges were applicable only to parcels redirected or sent back to the country of origin, and could be levied only once during the whole course of conveyance (cf. article 13 of the Buenos Aires Agreement concerning Postal Parcels).

At the Paris Congress in 1947, the French Administration submitted a proposal to abolish the reservation that repacking charges applied only to parcels redirected or sent back to their country of origin. Among the arguments in support of the proposal, the French Administration stated the following: 'The inadequacy or bad quality of the packing of many parcels makes it necessary for the carriers to repack most of them. It is unfair to require the carriers to meet the heavy costs involved and it would seem appropriate to authorize the collection of the charges which now apply only to parcels redirected or sent back to the country of origin, in the case of all parcels which have to be repacked during conveyance.' (Documents, Paris, Vol. I, page 313, paragraph 655.)

This proposal was adopted unanimously by the Second Committee (Documents, Paris, Vol. II, page 668).

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In accepting this proposal, the Paris Congress sought to enable carriers to apply the repacking charges during the whole course of conveyance.

The innovation introduced by the Paris Congress in 1947 was not altered by the Brussels Congress of 1952.

Accordingly, in the case cited above, the Swiss Administration would be entitled to claim **repacking** charges from your Administration."

7. An Administration wished to know whether air transport charges in respect of an air parcel which was returned by surface mail to the country of origin as a result of non-delivery to the addressee and for which compensation had to be paid owing to the deterioration of the contents should also be reimbursed to the sender.

The International Bureau replied as follows:

"Your question relates to and combines two cases - return to the country of origin owing to non-delivery and compensation for damage - each of which requires different treatment.

The first part of the question, concerning the return to the country of origin of a parcel by surface mail, owing to non-delivery to the addressee, is covered by the provisions of article 21, paragraph 5, of the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels, Brussels, 1952, to the effect that any parcel returned to origin pursuant to article 21 is subject to the redirection charges laid down in article 20, § 6 (b), and fees that have not been cancelled.

The second question relates to the payment of compensation for damage to **parcels**; this is covered by the provisions of article 34, § 4, to the effect that when an indemnity is due for the loss, total theft or total destruction of a parcel, the sender is also entitled to repayment of the charges and fees, with the exception of the insurance fees.

Accordingly, it would seem that the question that has been brought to my attention should be considered solely from the point of view of the payment of indemnity for damage to parcels, and as such is subject to the provisions of the aforementioned article 34, § 4.

The air quota paid by the sender should therefore also be reimbursed to him."

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E. PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE ACTS

In 1956, no proposal to amend the Acts in force was submitted to the International Bureau as provided in article 25 of the Convention.

F. ADMISSIONS, CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF CERTAIN  
MEMBER COUNTRIES, ACCESSIONS AND RATIFICATIONS

I. Admissions

The International Bureau informed the Administrations of the Union that the Government of the Swiss Confederation had notified the Governments of the member countries of the Union, in accordance with article 3, § 5 of the Universal Postal Convention of Brussels, 1952, of the admission to membership in the Universal Postal Union of the following countries:

1. Sudan. This admission carries with it accession by that country, as from 27 July 1956, to the Universal Postal Convention, its Final Protocol and Annex, its Detailed Regulations and Annexes, the Provisions relating to Air-Mail Correspondence and their Final Protocol and Annexes, and to the Agreement concerning Postal Parcels, its Final Protocol, Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
2. Nepal. This admission carries with it accession by that country, as from 11 October 1956, to the Universal Postal Convention, its Final Protocol and Annex, its Detailed Regulations and Annexes, and to the Provisions relating to Air-Mail Correspondence and their Final Protocol and Annexes.

II. Changes in the Political Structure of certain Member Countries

1. Participation of unified Morocco, a sovereign and  
independent State, in the Universal Postal Union

On the basis of a Note transmitted by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of the member countries of the Union, the International Bureau informed the Administrations of the Union of the participation in the Union, with effect from 11 October 1956, of unified Morocco, an independent and sovereign State, as successor to the countries designated "Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone)" and "Morocco (Spanish Zone)". In a declaration attached to the above-mentioned Note, Morocco announced that it considered itself bound, as a separate entity, by the Convention and the seven Agreements signed at Brussels.

It also requested that it should be placed in the 4th class for the apportionment of the expenditure of the Union and that it should be designated "Morocco" in the Acts of the Union.

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## 2. Participation of Tunisia in the Union as an independent State

The International Bureau informed the Administrations that, according to a Note addressed by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of member countries of the Union, Tunisia, an independent State, had requested the Government of the Swiss Confederation to institute on its behalf the procedure for admission laid down in article 3 of the Convention. As Tunisia is already included in the list of member countries of the Union, the Note states that it was not considered necessary to institute the procedure for admission in respect of the independent State of Tunisia which, as such and with effect from 1 November 1956, is a party to the Convention and to the seven Agreements signed at Brussels in 1952. As an independent State, Tunisia continues to be placed in the 5th class for the apportionment of the expenditure of the Union.

## III. Accessions

On the basis of the official information received by it, the International Bureau informed Administrations that the principality of Monaco had notified the Government of the Swiss Confederation of its accession, with effect from 23 March 1956, to the seven Agreements signed at Brussels in 1952.

## IV. Ratifications

During 1956, nine member countries ratified the Act which they had signed at Brussels.

Thus up to 31 December 1956, sixty-nine countries, including Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone) and Morocco (Spanish Zone), whose representatives had signed the Acts of Brussels, had ratified the Convention and the various Agreements (see table of ratifications below). In addition those countries had been admitted as new members, the Principality of Monaco in 1955, Sudan and Nepal in 1956 (see page 58) and four countries - Germany (Federal Republic), Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Libya - had acceded to the Convention and various Agreements.

On 31 December 1956, the Union had ninety-six member countries, including the independent and sovereign State of unified Morocco, which succeeded Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone) and Morocco (Spanish Zone).

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V. Table of admissions, accessions and ratifications since  
the Congress of Brussels

In view of the forthcoming Ottawa Congress, it is considered useful to recapitulate in tabular form, the admissions, accessions and ratifications of the Brussels Acts of 1952 up to December 1956.

The Acts are designated in these tables, at the head of the columns, by the following abbreviations:

- C: Universal Postal Convention: Final Protocol and Annex; Detailed Regulations and Annexes; Air-Mail Correspondence, Final Protocol and Annexes.
- ILB: Agreement concerning Insured Letters and Boxes, and Final Protocol; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- PP: Agreement concerning Postal Parcel and Final Protocol; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- PMO: Agreement concerning Postal Money Orders and Postal Travellers' Cheques; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- T: Agreement concerning Transfers to and from Postal Cheque Accounts, and Supplement dealing with the Negotiation through Postal Cheque Accounts of Securities made payable at Postal Cheque Offices; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- COD: Agreement concerning Cash on Delivery Items; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- CB: Agreement concerning the Collection of Bills; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.
- SNP: Agreement concerning Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals; Detailed Regulations and Annexes.

The following abbreviations are used in the columns:

- A: Act of Brussels to which a country has acceded.
- R: Act ratified.
- S: Act signed at Brussels, but not ratified.

-Dashes (-) indicate the Acts which have been neither signed nor a fortiori ratified, and also Acts to which the country concerned has not acceded.

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1. Table of Admissions

(Countries in alphabetical order)

Member Countries	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Reference to the Inter-national Bureau Circular	Date on which admission was effective
1. Monaco <sup>1/</sup>	A	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	196/1955	12 Oct. 1955
2. Nepal	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167/1956	11 Oct. 1956
3. Sudan	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	124/1956	27 July 1956

<sup>1/</sup> See also item 6 in the table of accessions below.

2. Table of Accessions

(In the order followed in the Preamble to the Convention)

Member Countries	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Reference to the Inter-national Bureau Circular	Date on which accession was effective
1. Germany (Federal Republic) <sup>1/</sup>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	154/1955	28 March 1955
2. Saudi Arabia <sup>2/</sup>	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	127/1953	29 May 1953
3. Jordan <sup>2/</sup>	A	-	A	A	-	-	-	-	107/1953	11 May 1953
4. Libya <sup>2/</sup>	A	A	A	A	-	A	-	-	162/1953	13 June 1953
5. Mexico	<u>3/</u>	-	<u>3/</u>	A <sup>4/</sup>	-	<u>3/</u>	-	-	150/1954	6 May 1954
6. Monaco	<u>5/</u>	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	45/1956	23 March 1956

<sup>1/</sup> In application of article XIX of the Final Protocol of the Convention.

<sup>2/</sup> In application of article XVII of the Final Protocol of the Convention.

<sup>3/</sup> See item 44 in table of ratifications.

<sup>4/</sup> In application of article XVI of the Final Protocol of the Convention.

<sup>5/</sup> See item 1 in table of admissions.

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3. Table of ratifications  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
1. Union of South Africa	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 March 1954	76/1954
2. People's Republic of Albania	R	S	R	S	S	S	S	S	12 February 1955	61/1955
3. America (United States of)	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 March 1953	73/1953
4. All Territories of the United States of America, including the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 March 1953	65/1956
5. Argentina	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	16 March 1955	76/1955
6. Australia <sup>1/</sup>	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 May 1954	103/1954
7. Austria	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	9 March 1954	69/1954
8. Belgium	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 March/ 3 August 1953	60, 206/1953

<sup>1/</sup> The Act ratified by Australia applies also to Norfolk Island, the Territories of Papua and New Guinea and the Trust Territory of Nauru (Circular No. 103/54).

3. Table of ratifications (continued)  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
9. Belgian Congo	R	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	12 March/ 3 August 1953	60, 206/1953
10. Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 October 1953	288/1953
11. Burma	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 August 1955	201/1955
12. People's Republic of Bulgaria	R	R	R	R	-	-	-	R	2 October 1954	223/1954
13. Cambodia	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	28 July 1953	211/1953
14. Canada	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18 March 1953	64/1953
15. Ceylon	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	20 December 1953	10/1954
16. Chile	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	13 December 1955	28/1956
17. China (Taipei)	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	25 September 1953	243/1953
18. Korea	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	-	10 March 1955	65/1955
19. Cuba	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	14 April 1954	93/1954
20. Denmark	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	20 February 1953	45/1953
21. Egypt	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	24 March 1955	74/1955
22. Spain	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 May 1955	107/1955



3. Table of ratifications (continued)  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
23. All the Spanish colonies	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 May 1955	107, 129/1955
24. Finland	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	4 November 1953	282/1953
25. France	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	25 June 1954	51/1955
26. Algeria	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	25 June 1954	51/1955
27. Overseas Territories of the French Republic and the Territories administered as such	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	25 June 1954	51/1955
28. Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>2/</sup>	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 March 1954	60/1954
29. All British Overseas Territories	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 March 1954	77/1954
30. Greece	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	S	5 April 1954	90/1954
31. Hungarian People's Republic	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	3 September 1954	199/1954
32. India	R	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	18 December 1953	10/1954

<sup>2/</sup> The Acts ratified by Great Britain and Northern Ireland also apply to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (Circular No. 60/154).

3. Table of ratifications (continued)  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
33. Indonesia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	16 June 1956	106/1956
34. Ireland	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	26 May 1954	122/1954
35. Iceland	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	-	6 May 1953	108/1953
36. Israel	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27 January 1956	33/1956
37. Italy	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	6 July 1953	163/1953
38. Japan	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	-	15 October 1953	262/1953
39. Laos	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	17 April 1953	88/1953
40. Lebanon	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	-	11 May 1953	108/1953
41. Luxembourg	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	15 July 1953	167/1953
42. Morocco (excluding the Spanish Zone) <sup>3/</sup>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	25 June 1954	51/1955
43. Morocco (Spanish Zone) <sup>2/</sup>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 May 1955	107, 129/1955
44. Mexico <sup>4/</sup>	R	-	R	-	-	R	-	-	4 October 1954	223/1954
45. Norway	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 March 1953	60/1953
46. New Zealand	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	19 February 1955	56/1955

<sup>3/</sup> Member Country which has been succeeded by a unified Morocco (Circular No. 172/56).

<sup>4/</sup> Mexico has also acceded to the Agreement concerning Postal Money Orders and Postal Travellers' Cheques (Circular No. 150/1954). See also item 4 in table of accessions above.

3. Table of ratifications (continued)  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
47. Pakistan	R	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	24 December 1953	20/1954
48. Netherlands <sup>5/</sup>	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	29 April 1954	103/1954
49. Netherlands Antilles and Surinam	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	-	29 April 1954	103/1954
50. Philippines	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 August 1956	143/1956
51. Poland	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	R	3 June 1955	117/1955
52. Portugal	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	27 June 1956	152/1956
53. Portuguese Territories in West Africa	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	27 June 1956	152/1956
54. Portuguese Territories in East Africa, Asia and Oceania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	27 June 1956	152/1956
55. Romanian People's Republic	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	27 September 1954	210/1954
56. San Marino	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	14 September 1953	243/1953
57. Sweden	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	29 November 1952	300/1952

<sup>5/</sup> The Acts ratified by the Netherlands also apply to Netherlands New Guinea (Circular No. 103/54).

3. Table of ratifications (continued)  
(in the order followed in the preamble of the Convention)

Member Country	C	ILB	PP	PMO	T	COD	CB	SNP	Date of Deposit of instruments of ratification	Number of I.B. Circular containing notice of ratification
58. Switzerland	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	16 May 1953	108/1953
59. Syria	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	4 May 1956	85/1956
60. Czechoslovakia	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	15 July 1953	211/1953
61. Thailand	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R	24 July 1953	211/1953
62. Tunisia	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	25 June 1954	51/1955
63. Turkey	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	12 November 1955	226/1955
64. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	22 October 1953	288/1953
65. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	R	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	24 July 1953	211/1953
66. Vatican	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	23 September 1953	23/1955
67. Venezuela	R	S	R	S	S	S	S	S	12 January 1955	23/1955
68. Viet-Nam	R	R	R	R	-	-	-	-	12 September 1953	228/1953
69. Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	21 June 1955	133/1955

Up to 31 December 1956, the following member Countries had not ratified any of the Acts which they signed at Brussels on 11 July 1952: Afghanistan, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Ratification of the Acts by the signatory countries is required under article 23, § 1, of the Convention. The Brussels Congress stressed the importance of ratification by adopting the voeu reproduced below:

"In view of the importance of ratifying the Acts, the Congress requests all member Countries of the Union to ratify the Convention and the various Agreements as soon as possible, in any case, not later than three years from the entry into force of the Acts." (Documents, volume II, p. 142).

At the request of the Executive and Liaison Committee, the International Bureau brought that voeu to the attention of Countries which had not yet ratified the Acts of Brussels (Summary record of the 1954 session, p. 7, and Circular of 1 June 1954).

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## G. FINANCE

### I. Accounts of the Union

#### 1. Introduction

The Union's total expenditure was successfully maintained, as had been hoped at almost the same level as in the four preceding years; consequently the contributions payable by the Administrations for 1956 are the same as were assigned to them in each of the years 1952 to 1955.

The table below gives, for each of the years 1952 to 1955, the established ceiling for the Union's ordinary expenditure, the distribution of the total net actual expenditure between the ordinary and extraordinary accounts, and the amount of the contribution unit.

Year	Established ceiling for net ordinary expenditure	Net actual expenditure		Total	Amount of contribution unit
	francs	Ordinary accounts francs	Extraordinary accounts francs		
1952	857,143.00	798,288.44	949,938.72	1,748,227.16	1,911.00
1953	1,357,143.00	1,278,529.02	470,035.98	1,748,565.00	1,911.00
1954	1,857,143.00	1,647,961.69	104,425.31	1,752,387.00	1,911.00
1955	1,857,143.00	1,695,409.74	58,888.26	1,754,298.00	1,911.00
1956	1,857,143.00	1,640,529.52	121,412.48	1,761,942.00	1,911.00

After a payment of 226,355.83 francs to the Pensions Fund (this will be dealt with below - see page 73), net ordinary expenditure in 1956 fell short of the established ceiling of 1,857,143 francs by about 216,600 francs. A provisional payment of 32,536.08 francs was made under "extraordinary expenditure" for a reserve fund to be set up subject to approval by the Ottawa Congress. Proposals to this effect will be submitted to the Congress in due course. The total of 32,536.08 francs paid provisionally into the reserve fund was fixed with a view to ensuring that the total net expenditure of the Union for 1956 would allow of maintaining the contribution unit at 1,911 francs.

The detailed statement of the accounts, presented in the form used for the accounts for the first time in 1953, will be found in Annex I to this report.

2. Summary of accounts

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Accounts</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Ordinary</u>	<u>Extraordinary</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
	francs	francs	francs	francs
1. Staff	1,054,486.38	15,400.00	1,069,886.38	1,104,942.59
2. Premises and furniture	102,519.05	-	102,519.05	94,802.55
3. Supplies	376,885.10	37,738.35	414,623.45	355,111.37
4. General expenditure	225,107.33	76,017.63	301,124.96	282,668.17
Total expenditure	1,758,997.86	129,155.98	1,888,153.84	1,837,524.68
<u>Receipts</u>				
1. Publications	41,329.40	7,743.50	49,072.90	34,022.49
2. Refunds	55,025.80	-	55,025.80	39,054.30
3. Premises	6,887.40	-	6,887.40	6,734.30
4. Miscellaneous	15,225.74	-	15,225.74	3,415.59
Total receipts	118,468.34	7,743.50	126,211.84	83,226.68
Total expenditure	1,758,997.86	129,155.98	1,888,153.84	1,837,524.68
Total receipts	118,468.34	7,743.50	126,211.84	83,226.68
Total net expenditure	1,640,529.52	121,412.48	1,761,942.00	1,754,298.00

This table shows that the total expenditure for 1956 was about 50,600 francs higher than the 1955 figure (1,888,153.84 francs as against 1,837,524.68 francs). Expenditure under the item "Staff" showed the following changes as compared with 1955. There was a decrease of 61,858.51 francs in the payment into the pensions fund (226,355.83 francs in 1956 as against 288,214.34 francs in 1955), and an increase in expenditure of 26,802.30 francs occasioned by the regular salary increments granted in 1956 to staff members who had not reached the maximum in their grade and the increase from 5.5 to 7 per cent in the cost of living allowance granted to the Bureau's permanent staff by the Federal Council acting on the preliminary recommendation of the Executive and Liaison Committee. The real decrease in the expenditure under the item "Staff" is thus 35,056.21 francs as compared with 1955 (1,069,886.38 francs instead of 1,104,942.59 francs).

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It may be mentioned for information that the extraordinary expenditure consists chiefly of expenditure in connexion with: 1. the publication of three issues of La Genèse des Actes de l'UPU; 2. the translation of the Vocabulaire des termes postaux; 3. the printing of proposals for submission to the Ottawa Congress; 4. the expenses in connexion with the preparatory work for that Congress.

Under article 18, paragraph 1 of the Brussels Convention, the amount of 1,761,542 francs representing the Union's total expenditures for 1956, is borne in common by all the Countries of the Union on the basis of the units of apportionment distributed to each, in accordance with paragraph 2 of that article, by article lll of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention.

The following table shows how the expenditure for 1956 is apportioned among the countries of the Union.

3. Table showing apportionment of expenditure

Class	No. of Adminis- trations	No. of Units	Sum of the Units	Amount of Unit	Total for each class		GRAND	TOTAL
					gold francs	Swiss francs	gold francs	Swiss francs
1	17	25	425	1,337.70	33,442.50	47,775.00	568,522.50	812,175.00
2	-	20	-	gold francs	26,754.00	38,220.00	-	-
3	17	15	255	corre- sponding	20,065.50	28,665.00	341,113.50	487,305.00
4	10	10	100	to	13,377.00	19,110.00	133,770.00	191,100.00
5	10	5	50	1,911.00 Swiss	6,688.50	9,555.00	66,885.00	95,550.00
6	25	3	75	francs	4,013.10	5,733.00	100,327.50	143,325.00
7	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>17</u>		1,337.70	1,911.00	<u>22,740.90</u>	<u>32,487.00</u>
	96		922				1,233,359.40	1,761,942.00



## II. Pensions Fund

### 1. Transactions during the financial year

At the beginning of 1956 the International Bureau's Staff Pensions Fund, set up on 1 January 1880 in pursuance of the decision of the Paris Congress of 1878, stood at.....	<u>Francs</u> 2,706,714.07
Interest up to 31 December yielded.....	<u>110,713.50</u>
Total	2,817,427.57
Pensions paid in 1956 accounted for.....	<u>65,904.40</u>
Leaving	2,751,523.17

In accordance with the authorization conveyed by the decision of the Brussels Congress ( <u>Documents</u> , volume II, page 144) a sum of.....	<u>226,355.83</u>
was paid into the Fund, giving a total of.....	<u>2,977,879.00</u>

### 2. Actuarial Audit

In accordance with the usual practice, an actuarial audit of the Pensions Fund as at 1 January 1957 has been prepared. It has been drawn up on the same technical basis and in accordance with the same assumptions as to the age of retirement as its predecessors.

#### Actuarial audit of the Pensions Fund as at 1 January 1957

	<u>As at 1 January</u> <u>1957</u>	<u>As at 1 January</u> <u>1956</u> ( <u>pro memoria</u> )
	<u>francs</u>	<u>francs</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Present value of the pensions now being paid to 4 retired employees.....	425,730	538,851
Present value of future payments in respect of 34 employees in service on 1 January 1957.....	<u>2,552,149</u>	<u>2,213,630</u>
Total present value of the Fund's liabilities at the date of the audit....	<u>2,977,879</u>	<u>2,752,481</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Capital assets as given under 1 above...	2,977,879	2,706,714
Deficit.....	<u>                    </u>	<u>45,767</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>2,977,879</u>	<u>2,752,481</u>

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By comparison with the previous audit, the audit for 1 January 1957 shows an increase of 225,398 francs in the present value of the Fund's liabilities (2,977,879 francs as against 2,752,481 francs). This increase is affected by two factors: on the one hand, the present value of the pensions now being paid has decreased by 113,121 francs (425,730 francs as against 538,851 francs), and on the other the present value of payments in respect of employees in service has increased by 338,519 francs (2,552,149 francs as against 2,213,630 francs). The net increase is accordingly  $338,519 - 113,121 = 225,398$  francs. The decrease of 113,121 francs is due to the aging of the retired employees, while the increase of 338,519 francs is attributable partly to the aging of the employees in service as at 1 January 1957, but chiefly to the increase in pensionable earnings of employees who had not yet reached the maximum in their grade, and to the appointment and promotion to unclassified posts made by the Executive and Liaison Committee on 1 May.

If no payment had been made at the end of 1956, the Fund's assets would have been 2,751,523.17 francs, whereas the present value of its liabilities as at 1 January 1957 was 2,977,879 francs. There would thus have been a deficit of 226,355.83 francs.

In accordance with the authorization by the Brussels Congress permitting the payment to the Fund, to the extent required, of sums available after payment of the expenditure of the Union, (Documents, volume II, page 1400), a sum of 442,969.31 francs could have been paid to the Fund, representing the difference between the ceiling of 1,300,000 gold francs = 1,857,143 Swiss francs and the total ordinary net expenditure (excluding the payment to the Pension Fund) of 1,414,173.69 francs.

As the Fund's deficit at 1 January 1957 was 226,355.83 francs, the latter sum was paid into the Fund by agreement with the Swiss Supervisory. The deficit shown in the actuarial audit is therefore fully covered.

The position of the Fund is now such that there will be no need to make any payments into it in 1957 or 1958, which will relieve the budgetary strain in those years when expenditures will be increased in connexion with the Ottawa Congress.

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3. Securities held as at 31 December 1956

	<u>francs</u>	<u>francs</u>
(a) Premises: investments in the new property . 1,604,000.00		
from which should be		
deducted grants to the amount of . . . . .	444,000.00	1,160,000.00
(b) <u>Securities:</u>		
3 % Federal Railways 1938 . . . . .	16,000.00	
3 1/2 % Federal Loan 1942, July . . . . .	5,000.00	
3 1/2 % Federal Loan 1943, April . . . . .	50,000.00	
3 1/2 % Federal Loan, 1945, June . . . . .	120,000.00	
3 1/4 % Federal Loan, 1946, April . . . . .	50,000.00	
3 1/2 % Canton de Vaud 1946 . . . . .	8,000.00	
3 1/4 % Federal Loan 1946, December . . . . .	50,000.00	279,500.00
(c) Current account with the <u>Services fédéraux</u>		
<u>de caisse et de comptabilité</u> . . . . .		1,538,379.00
Total as on page 72		<u>2,977,879.00</u>

III. Final Observations

The balance sheet reproduced at the end of Annex I shows that on 31 December 1956, contributions still due by Administrations for the years 1955 and previous years stood at 270,444.97 francs and that on the same date the sum of 97,261.80 francs was due in respect of outstanding accounts for supplies or services (reply coupons, identity cards, publications, simultaneous interpretation, etc.), making a total of 367,706.77 francs in arrears, i.e., 173,216.69 francs more than on 31 December 1955, when the arrears amounted to 194,490.08 francs.

Since that date, a number of Administrations have discharged their financial obligations towards the Union, so that on 31 January 1957, the above-mentioned arrears were reduced to 159,825.72 francs for contributions and 86,628.75 francs for supplies and services, making a total of 246,454.47 francs.

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As all the expenses of the Union have been covered by means of non-interest-bearing advances made by the Swiss Postal Administration, Administrations are urged to pay as soon as possible any sums they may owe the Union, whether in respect of 1956 contributions, contributions for previous years or payments for supplies or services.

In accordance with article 110, paragraph 3 of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention, contributions for 1956 which are not paid before the end of 1957 will be chargeable with interest in favour of the Swiss Administration at the rate of 5 per cent per annum reckoned from 1 January 1958.

The same will apply to sums due for supplies and services which are not or have not been paid at the latest within six months from the first day of the month following that in which the account was dispatched by the International Bureau (article 112, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention).

The detailed statements of accounts were transmitted on 22 January to the Administrations of the Union.

Berne, 31 January 1957

HESS  
Director

Brussels, 2 February 1957

Seen and approved subject to  
ratification by the Committee:

LEMMENS  
Chairman, Executive and Liaison  
Committee

/...

...

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1956

ANNEX I

## ANNEX I

ACCOUNTS FOR 1956							
Item	Ordinary			Extraordinary		TOTAL	
	10 Inter-national Bureau fr.	11 Executive and Liaison Committee fr.	Total fr.	20 Inter-national Bureau fr.	22 Con-gresses and Conferences fr.		Total fr.
Expenditure							
Staff							
10 Salaries.....	628,931.45	-	628,931.45	-	-	-	628,931.45
11 Insurance contributions	115,354.50	-	115,354.50	-	-	-	115,354.50
12 Special allowances.....	67,954.20	-	67,954.20	-	-	-	67,954.20
13 Temporary staff.....	11,040.00	4,850.40	15,890.40	15,400.00	-	15,400.00	31,290.40
14 Payments to Pensions Fund.....	226,355.83	-	226,355.83	-	-	-	226,355.83
Premises and furniture							
20 Rent.....	58,000.00	45.00	58,045.00	-	-	-	58,045.00
21 Land tax and insurance of property.....	2,206.40	-	2,206.40	-	-	-	2,206.40
22 Maintenance and care of property.....	7,532.10	-	7,532.10	-	-	-	7,532.10
23 Heating, water, electricity and cleaning	19,173.05	-	19,173.05	-	-	-	19,173.05
24 Purchase of furniture and technical equipment	13,894.00	-	13,894.00	-	-	-	13,894.00
25 Maintenance and insurance of furniture and technical equipment	1,668.50	-	1,668.50	-	-	-	1,668.50
Supplies							
30 Office equipment.....	16,227.60	1,498.20	17,725.80	-	-	-	17,725.80
32 Printing and binding...	322,534.75	35,842.40	358,377.15	27,889.10	9,849.25	37,738.35	396,115.50
39 Miscellaneous.....	782.15	-	782.15	-	-	-	782.15
General expenditure							
40 Fees.....	24,145.50	-	24,145.50	8,992.60	-	8,992.60	33,138.10
41 Travelling expenses....	5,598.50	85,049.25	90,647.75	-	16,787.55	16,787.55	107,435.30
42 Staff disbursements....	11,682.60	-	11,682.60	-	-	-	11,682.60
43 Representation allowances	2,526.45	9,287.20	11,813.65	-	-	-	11,813.65
44 Library and subscriptions to periodicals.....	3,418.09	-	3,418.09	-	-	-	3,418.09
45 Film archives.....	2,664.15	-	2,664.15	-	-	-	2,664.15
46 Postage, telephones, telegrams, transport charges.....	21,549.35	10,751.35	32,300.70	535.90	2,561.50	3,097.40	35,398.10
47 Simultaneous interpretation.....	-	44,127.95	44,127.95	-	-	-	44,127.95
49 Miscellaneous and unforeseen.....	3,206.19	1,100.75	4,306.94	47,140.08	-	47,140.08	51,447.02
Total expenditure	1,566,445.36	192,552.50	1,758,997.86	99,957.68	29,198.30	129,155.98	1,888,153.84
Receipts							
Publications							
60 Sale of publications...	21,772.65	-	21,772.65	7,743.50	-	7,743.50	29,516.15
61 Subscriptions.....	15,852.75	-	15,852.75	-	-	-	15,852.75
62 Advertising.....	3,704.00	-	3,704.00	-	-	-	3,704.00
Refunds							
70 Simultaneous interpretation.....	-	39,808.85	39,808.85	-	-	-	39,808.85
71 Postage and air surcharges.....	667.90	-	667.90	-	-	-	667.90
72 Turnover tax.....	11,891.50	-	11,891.50	-	-	-	11,891.50
79 Miscellaneous.....	2,657.55	-	2,657.55	-	-	-	2,657.55
Premises							
80 Rent.....	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	-	-	-	6,000.00
81 Share in heating costs.	887.40	-	887.40	-	-	-	887.40
Miscellaneous							
99 Miscellaneous and unforeseen.....	15,225.74	-	15,225.74	-	-	-	15,225.74
Total receipts	78,659.49	39,808.85	118,468.34	7,743.50	-	7,743.50	126,211.84
Total expenditure	1,566,445.36	192,552.50	1,758,997.86	99,957.68	29,198.30	129,155.98	1,888,153.84
Total receipts	78,659.49	39,808.85	118,468.34	7,743.50	-	7,743.50	126,211.84
Total net expenditure	1,487,785.87	152,743.65	1,640,529.52	92,214.18	29,198.30	121,412.48	1,761,942.00

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1956

<u>Assets</u>	Fr.	<u>Liabilities</u>	Fr.
<u>Liquid Assets</u>			
Cash.....	5,599.46		
Postal cheques.....	147,790.94		
Bank.....	56,302.05		
<u>Debtors</u>		<u>Creditors</u>	
Member countries:		Member countries.....	34,176.47
1956 contributions..	1,761,942.00	Miscellaneous creditors....	3.30
contributions for		Federal Finance	
previous years....	270,444.97	Department:	
miscellaneous		advances.....	2,500,000.00
supplies.....	97,261.80		
Miscellaneous			
debtors.....	2,554.00		
<u>Internal accounts</u>		<u>Internal accounts</u>	
Provisional accounts:			
value of stocks of			
postal traveller's			
cheques, postal			
identity cards and			
international reply			
coupons.....	207,129.98	Temporary account.....	14,845.43
<u>Pensions Fund</u>		<u>Pensions Fund</u>	
Securities.....	279,500.00		
Premises.....	1,160,000.00		
Current account.....	1,538,379.00	Capital.....	2,977,879.00
	5,526,904.20		5,526,904.20

Berne, 11 February 1957.

Accounts audited and found correct:

(Signed) JEKER  
Director,  
Federal Inspection of  
Finances

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ANNEX II

LIST OF COUNTRIES OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION  
AT THE END OF 1956

Note: Information as to area and population has been taken from the Statistique complète des services postaux 1952 or, failing that, from the statistical documents published by the United Nations.

<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution <u>1/</u>	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Afghanistan	731,000	12,000,000	VI	(b) <u>1 April 1928</u>
South Africa <u>2/</u>	1,220,570	12,646,375 <u>3/</u>	I	((a) Natal and Zululand: 1 July 1892, Brit. Col. Cape of Good Hope: 1 January 1895, Brit. Col. (b) <u>Republic of South Africa:</u> 1 January 1893 (b) <u>Orange Free State:</u> 1 January 1898 (b) <u>British Colonies and Protect. in South Africa:</u> 1 January 1899 (b) <u>Union of South Africa:</u> 1 June 1910

1/ Article 111 of the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Convention, revised at Brussels, came into force 1 July 1953.

2/ Including Walfish Bay, as forming part of the Union of South Africa; and Basutoland and Swaziland, as being served by the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa.

3/ Including 2,335,460 Europeans.

/...



[illegible]

1/ Including Alaska (1,530,327 square kilometres and 65,062 inhabitants).

/...

<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, comprising the Marshall Islands (including Kwajalein, Eniwetok, and Majuro), the Caroline Islands (including Kusaie, Ponape, Truk, Ulithi, Yap and the Palau Islands) and the Mariano Islands (comprising Saipan and Tinian, but without the United States possession of Guam	)			((a) 1 January 1922 (a) 2 April 1947, (United States Trust Territory (Carolines: (a) 1 May 1877, with (Spanish colonies (a) 1 January 1899, (German Protectorate (a) 1 January 1922, (under Japanese Mandate (a) 2 April 1947, (United States Trust Territory (Marianas: (a) 1 May 1877, with (Spanish colonies (a) 1 January 1899, (German Protectorate (a) 1 January 1922, (under Japanese Mandate (a) 2 April 1947, (United States Trust Territory (a) 1 July 1881, with (Colombia (a) 1 August 1904, with (United States (a) 1 July 1940, with (all United States possessions (a) 1 July 1953, with (all the Territories of (United States
Panama Canal Zone	)			
Argentina	2,778,412	18,248,192	I	(b) 1 April 1878

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Australia including the Cocos Island, Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island Territory of Papua	8,179,439 <sup>1/</sup>	10,906,220 <sup>1/</sup>	I	((a) 1 October 1891 (with the <u>British Colonies of Australasia</u> ) (b) <u>1 October 1907</u> (a) 1 October 1891 (with <u>Australasia</u> ) (a) From 1906, with (Australia)
Territory of New Guinea (under Australian Trusteeship)				((a) 1 January 1888 (German Protectorate) (a) From 1920 with (Australia)
Territory of Nauru (Trust Territory administered by Australia on behalf of all the Administering Powers, viz: the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom)				((a) 1 October 1888 (German Protectorate) (a) From 1920 with (Australia)
Austria	83,850	6,933,900	V	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Belgium	30,507	8,757,691	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including the Cocos Island, Lord Howe Island, Nauru, Norfolk Island and Papua, with 234,691 square kilometres and 447,693 inhabitants, the Territories of New Guinea and Nauru under the trusteeship of the Commonwealth of Australia, with 240,881 square kilometres and 1,257,836 inhabitants.

<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contri- bution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Belgian Congo <sup>1/</sup>	2,398,630	15,967,186	VI	((b) <u>1 January 1886</u> (independent State) (b) <u>From 1908,</u> <u>(Belgian Colony)</u>
Bolivia	1,089,882	3,990,000	VI	(b) <u>1 April 1886</u>
Brazil	8,511,189	52,645,000	I	(b) <u>1 July 1877</u>
Bulgaria	110,841	7,022,206	V	((a) 1 July 1875, (with Turkey (b) <u>1 July 1879</u>
Burma	677,570	18,304,000	VI	((a) 1 July 1876 (with British India (a) From 1 April 1937 (to 1948, British Colony (b) <u>4 October 1949</u>
Byelorussia	207,600	See USSR	V	((a) 1 July 1875, (with Russia (a) 24 June 1924, (with USSR (b) <u>13 May 1947</u>
Cambodia	173,000	4,000,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1876, (with the French Colonies (a) 1 January 1899 (with Indochina (b) <u>21 December 1951</u> <u>(present designation)</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi with 55,700 square kilometres and 3,753,969 inhabitants, linked administratively to the Belgian Congo.

<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Canada <sup>1/</sup>	10,061,204 <sup>1/</sup>	14,009,429 <sup>1/</sup>	I	(b) <u>1 July 1878</u>
Ceylon	64,000	8,098,637	V	((a) from 1 April 1877 (to 1948 (British Colony (b) <u>13 July 1949</u>
Chile	741,766	5,024,000	V	(b) <u>1 April 1881</u>
China <sup>2/</sup>	11,644,834	465,237,773	I	(b) <u>1 March 1914</u>
Colombia	1,162,240	8,701,816	V	(b) <u>1 July 1881</u>
Costa Rica	54,000	794,000	VI	(b) 1 January 1883
Cuba	114,524	5,348,000	VI	((a) 15 June 1877 (Spanish Colony, afterwards from (1899, United States possession (b) <u>4 October 1902</u>
Czechoslovakia	127,765	12,164,000	III	((a) 1 July 1875 (with Austria-Hungary (b) <u>18 May 1920</u>
Denmark <sup>3/</sup>	44,424 <sup>4/</sup>	4,369,525 <sup>4/</sup>	IV	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including Newfoundland with 398,860 square kilometres and 290,000 inhabitants.

<sup>2/</sup> Including Mongolia, Sinkiang and Tibet.

<sup>3/</sup> The Faroes are treated as belonging to the Union as forming part of Denmark and Greenland as being served by the Postal Administration of Denmark as a Danish Colony.

<sup>4/</sup> Including the Faroes (1,399 square kilometres and 29,000 inhabitants), but without Greenland, whose ice-free territory is about 341,700 square kilometres and which has 15,600 inhabitants.

<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Dominican Republic	50,070	2,121,000	VI	(b) <u>1 October 1880</u>
Egypt	1,000,000	22,500,000	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Ecuador	307,243	3,077,000	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1880</u>
El Salvador	34,126	1,858,000	VI	(b) <u>1 April 1879</u>
Ethiopia	1,250,000	15,000,000)	VI	((b) 1 November 1908 ( <u>Empire</u> ) (a) from 1937 to (1944, with Italian (East Africa (b) 1 January 1945 ( <u>Empire</u> )
		)		((a) 1 July 1904, (with Italy (a) 1 October 1907 (with the Italian (colonies (a) From 1 July 1940 (to 1942 under the (designation: Italian (East Africa (a) From 1942 to (15 September 1952, (British occupation (regime (a) Since 16 September (1952, self-governing (State federated with (Ethiopia
Eritrea	120,000	1,067,700)		

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<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Finland	337,009	4,121,564	IV	((a) 1 July 1875 (with Russia (b) <u>12 February 1918</u>
France <sup>1/</sup>	644,522	43,567,900	I	(b) <u>1 January 1876</u>
Algeria	2,191,463	8,681,785	III	((a) 1 January 1876 (with France (b) <u>1 October 1907</u>
All the overseas Territories of the French Republic and the Territories administered as such:			III	)
French West Africa (including the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, French Guinea, Upper Volta, Mauritania, Niger Territory, Senegal, French Sudan)	4,742,516	17,186,726		) (b) <u>1 July 1876</u> (all the French Colonies)
French Equatorial Africa (including Gaboon, Middle Congo, Ubangi Shari, Chad)	2,510,000	4,400,000		)
East Coast of Africa:				)
French Somaliland	23,000	47,000		)
Madagascar and Dep.	594,533	4,463,800		)
Territories in Oceania:				)
New Caledonia and Dep.	19,000	62,000		)
Oceania (French Oceania)	4,000	62,828		)

<sup>1/</sup> Including: French Overseas Departments (Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Reunion); Andorra (452 square kilometres and 6,000 inhabitants), served by the French and Spanish Postal Administrations, is also considered as belonging to the Union.

<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
All the overseas Territories of the French Republic and the Territories administered as such: (continued)				((b) <u>1 July 1876</u> (all the French Colonies)
Territory in America:				
St. Pierre and Miquelon	241	4,606		
New Hebrides Archipelago (Anglo-French Condominium)	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>		
Territories under French Trusteeship:				((a) 1 June 1887, (German Protectorate
The Cameroons	425,000	3,072,000		((a) From 1919, with (the other French Colonies
Togoland	53,000	1,014,670		((a) 1 June 1888, (German Protectorate ((a) from 1919, with (the other French Colonies
The Saar <sup>2/</sup>	2,567	959,650		((a) <u>1 July 1875</u> (with Germany (b) <u>1 September 1920 -</u> <u>(28 February 1935</u>

<sup>1/</sup> The relevant figures are included in those given for the Western Pacific High Commission (see page 94).

<sup>2/</sup> Autonomous Administration, dependent, so far as postal services are concerned, on the French Administration.



<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Germany (Federal Republic) German Democratic Republic <u>1/</u>	353,436	69,000,000	I	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	246,000	50,722,000	I	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
All the British Overseas Territories (including the Colonies, Protectorates, and Trust Territories under the administration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):			III	((a) in part, 1 April 1877, with Great Britain (b) <u>1 July 1940</u>
Aden (Colony and Protectorate)	290,287	800,000	III	((a) 1 July 1876 (with British India (a) 1 April 1937, (British Colony
Bahamas	11,406	85,000		(a) 1 July 1880
Barbados	430	221,000		(a) 1 September 1881
Bechuanaland (Protectorate)	712,250	296,310		(a) 1 March 1901
Bermudas	54	39,500		(a) 1 April 1877
North Borneo	76,112	355,000		(a) 1 February 1891

1/ Postal Administration with which the International Bureau maintains de facto relations in accordance with the agreements concluded. See circulars Nos. 53 of 1946 and 212 of 1949.

<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Brunei (Protected State)	5,765	53,000		(a) 1 January 1916
Cyprus	9,251	506,000		((a) 1 July 1875, with Turkey (a) 1 July 1878, with Great Britain
Falkland Islands (Colony with dependencies, of which the principal are: South Georgia, the South Orkney Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, the South Shetland Islands and Grahamland)	11,960	2,200		(a) 1 January 1879
Fiji Islands (including Pitcairn Island)	18,239	307,125		((a) Fiji: 1 October 1891 (a) Pitcairn Is.: 23 May 1939
Gambia (Colony and Protectorate)	10,368	278,000		(a) 1 January 1879
Gibraltar	6	24,000		((a) 1 January 1876, with Great Britain
Gold Coast (Colony, Ashanti, Northern Territories /Protectorate/ and Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship)	237,873	4,478,000		((a) 1 January 1879, except Togoland (a) Togoland: 1 June 1888, German Protectorate 10 July 1919, under British Mandate
British Guiana	214,970	459,000		(a) 1 April 1877
British Honduras	22,963	72,000		(a) 1 January 1879
Hong Kong	1,013	2,250,000		(a) 1 April 1877
Jamaica (Colony with dependencies - Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands)	12,113	1,504,200		((a) Jamaica: 1 April 1877 (a) Cayman Islands: 1 April 1877 (a) Turks and Caicos Islands 1 February 1881

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Kenya (Colony and Protectorate)	582,646	5,851,000		(a) 1 April 1901
Leeward Islands (Federation comprising the four Presidencies of Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and Anguilla, and the British Virgin Islands and their dependencies)	1,096	121,800		(a) Leeward: 1 July 1879
Federation of Malaya (Federation of nine Protected States [Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor, Trengganu] and two Settlements: Malacca and Penang)	131,287	5,706,000		((a) Johore and Trengganu: 1 July 1928 (a) Kedah, Kelantan and Perlis: 1 January 1916 (a) Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor: 1 April 1915 (Federated Malay States (a) Malacca and Penang: 1 April 1877, Straits Settlements
Malta	316	317,000		((a) 1 July 1875, with Great Britain
Mauritius	2,095	523,000		(a) 1 April 1877
Federation of Nigeria (Colony, Protectorate and the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship)	966,717	31,500,000		((a) Lagos: 1 January 1879: British Colony (a) Southern Nigeria 1 October 1903: British Protectorate (a) The Cameroons: 1 June 1887: German Protectorate 10 July 1919: under British Mandate (a) 1 January 1929 present designation

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<u>Member Countries</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	in square kilometres		of contribution	(a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Federation of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland)	1,262,987	6,581,200		((a) Southern Rhodesia: (1 March 1901 (a) Northern Rhodesia: (1 July 1930 (a) Nyasaland: (9 April 1925
St. Helena (Colony with dependencies, of which the principal are: Ascension (Island) and Tristan da Cunha)	308	5,345		((a) St. Helena and Ascension: 1 October 1879 (a) Tristan da Cunha: (1 January 1952
Sarawak	121,914	592,000		(a) 1 July 1897
Seychelles	404	38,000		(a) 1 April 1877
Sierra Leone, Colony and Protectorate	72,326	2,000,000		(a) 1 January 1879
Singapore	741	1,122,800		((a) 1 April 1877, Straits Settlements
Somaliland Protectorate	176,120	640,000		((a) Somali Coast: (1 December 1895 - (British Colony (a) 1 June 1903, (present designation
Tanganyika Territory under United Kingdom Trusteeship	939,362	8,069,000		((a) 1 April 1891, German Protectorate (23 October 1922, under (British Mandate
Tonga (Protected State)	697	50,000		(a) 1 July 1930
Trinidad and Tobago	5,128	678,300		((a) Trinidad: 1 April 1877 (a) Tobago: 1 February 1881
Uganda (Protectorate)	243,411	5,343,000		(a) 1 April 1901

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Western Pacific High Commission, including the British Protectorate of the Solomon Islands, the Colony of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Central and Southern Line Islands and the Condominium of the New Hebrides	45,504	190,000		((a) Solomon Islands: 1 October 1911 (a) Gilbert and Ellice Islands: 1 October 1911 (a) New Hebrides: 1 March 1911
Windward Islands (group of four separate Colonies: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and their dependencies)	2,139	290,000		((a) Dominica: 1 July 1879 (a) Grenada and St. Lucia: 1 February 1881 (a) St. Vincent: 1 September 1881
Zanzibar (Protectorate)	2,642	272,000		(a) 1 December 1895
Greece	132,562	7,632,000	V	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Guatemala	109,724	2,787,000	VI	(b) <u>1 August 1881</u>
Haiti	28,250	3,112,000	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1881</u>
Republic of Honduras	154,305	1,534,000	VI	(b) <u>1 April 1879</u>
Hungary	93,073	9,356,607	IV	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Iceland	102,846	148,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with Denmark (b) <u>15 November 1919, Sovereign State</u>
India	3,241,144	357,215,000	I	(b) <u>1 July 1876</u>
Indonesia	1,491,564	80,000,000	III	((a) 1 May 1877, with the Netherlands colonies generally (b) <u>1 January 1922, Netherlands Indies, known as Indonesia after 20 September 1948</u> (Sovereign State since 27 December 1949

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Iran	1,645,000	20,000,000	V	((b) <u>1 September 1877</u> , (Persia known as Iran after 29 January 1935
Iraq	449,200	4,800,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with (Turkey (a) 13 November 1924, (under British Mandate (b) <u>22 April 1929</u>
Ireland	70,284	2,958,878	IV	((a) 1 July 1875, (with Great Britain (b) <u>6 September 1923</u> , (Irish Free State (known as Ireland after (29 December 1937
Israel	20,874	1,700,000	VI	((a) 1 July 1875 ( <u>Palestine</u> ) with Turkey (a) From 5 October 1923 (to 15 May 1948 ( <u>Palestine</u> under (British Mandate) (b) <u>24 December 1949</u>
Italy	301,226	47,140,052	I	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Somaliland (Territory under Italian Trusteeship)	500,000	900,000		((a) 1 July 1904, (with Italy (a) 1 October 1907, (with the Italian (Colonies (a) From 1 July 1940 (to 1942 under the (designation: Italian East (Africa (a) From 1942 to (1 April 1950, British (Occupation regime (a) From 1 April 1950, (Italian administration (regime
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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Japan	368,303	85,799,000	I	(b) <u>1 June 1877</u>
Jordan	96,500	500,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875 with Turkey (a) 11 July 1927, with British Colonies (b) 16 May 1947 under Transjordan (b) <u>7 June 1951</u>
Korea	220,814	29,291,000	IV	((b) 1 January 1900 Korean Empire (b) <u>1 January 1922</u> under the designation of Chosen (b) <u>17 December 1949</u> : <u>Republic of Korea</u>
Laos	236,800	1,185,900	VII	((a) 1 July 1876, with the French Colonies (a) 1 January 1899, with Indo-China (b) <u>20 May 1952</u> , present designation
Lebanon	10,500	1,325,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with Turkey (a) 30 October 1923, Territory under French Mandate (a) 12 May 1931, the States of the Levant (b) <u>15 May 1946</u> , <u>present designation</u>
Liberia	95,400	1,500,000	VII	(b) <u>1 April 1879</u>

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Libya	1,750,000	1,112,391	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with Turkey (a) 1 October 1907, with Italian Colonies generally (a) From 1 July 1940 to 1943 under the (designation: all the Italian Colonies and possessions other than Italian East Africa (a) From 1943 to 3 June 1952, British administration regime (b) <u>4 June 1952</u>
Luxembourg	2,586	300,254	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Mexico	1,969,367	25,781,173	III	(b) <u>1 April 1879</u>
Monaco	2	23,418	VII	((a) 1 April 1879, with France (b) <u>12 October 1955</u>
Morocco	438,380	9,621,817	IV	(b) <u>1 October 1920</u> Morocco ((excluding the Spanish Zone and Morocco (Spanish Zone) (b) From October 1956, unified Morocco, sovereign and independent State
Nepal	-	-	VI	(b) 11 October 1956
Netherlands	32,395	10,436,000	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Netherlands Antilles and Surinam	174,970	293,324	VI	((a) 1 May 1877, with the (Netherlands Colonies generally (b) <u>1 January 1922, Curacao and Surinam</u> (known as Netherlands Antilles and Surinam after 3 September 1948

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<u>Member Countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
New Zealand <sup>1/</sup>	269,917	1,873,000	I	((a) 1 October 1891, with <u>Australasia</u> (b) <u>1 October 1907</u>
Nicaragua	150,657	1,053,000	VI	(b) <u>1 May 1882</u>
Norway	308,833	3,156,950	IV	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Pakistan	947,951	75,842,000	I	((a) 1 July 1876, with <u>India</u> (b) <u>10 November 1947</u>
Republic of Panama	88,500	801,000	VI	((a) 1 July 1881, with <u>Colombia</u> (b) <u>11 June 1904</u>
Paraguay	445,000	1,406,000	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1881</u>
Peru	1,378,360	7,023,111	V	(b) 1 April 1879
Philippines	299,407	19,234,182	VII	((a) 1 June 1877, with the <u>Spanish Colonies</u> (a) 11 April 1899, with the island possessions of the United States of America (b) <u>1 January 1922</u>
Poland	311,700	24,977,000	III	((a) 1 July 1875, with <u>Germany, Austria and Russia</u> (b) <u>1 May 1919</u>
Portugal <sup>2/</sup>	91,721	8,441,000	IV	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including the Cook Islands and other Pacific Ocean Islands, and also Western Samoa (Territory under New Zealand Trusteeship).

<sup>2/</sup> Including Madeira and the Azores.

<u>Member countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Portugal (continued)				
Portuguese Provinces ) in West Africa: ) Angola, Cape Verde, ) Portuguese Guinea, ) São Tomé and ) Príncipe )	1,287,774	4,864,533	IV	((a) 1 July 1877, with (the <u>Portuguese Colonies generally</u> (b) <u>1 January 1922</u>
Portuguese Provinces ) in East Africa, Asia ) and Oceania: ) Mozambique, Portu- ) guese India, Macao, ) Portuguese Timor )	794,114	7,166,000	IV	((a) 1 July 1877, with (the <u>Portuguese Colonies generally</u> (b) <u>1 January 1922</u>
Romania (People's Republic of)	237,384	16,470,176	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
San Marino	61	13,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, (with Italy (b) <u>1 July 1915</u>
Saudi Arabia	2,590,000	7,000,000	VII	((a) Hejaz: 1 July 1875, (with Turkey (b) <u>1 January 1927</u> (Kingdom of Hejaz and (Nejd and Dependencies (known as Saudi Arabia (from 1 June 1934
Spain <sup>1/</sup>	504,379	28,117,873	I	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including the Balearic Islands, the Canaries, and the Spanish Possessions on the North Coast of Africa. Andorra (452 square kilometres and 6,000 inhabitants), served by the French and Spanish Postal Administrations, is also considered as belonging to the Union.

<u>Member countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contri- bution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU</u> <u>as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
All the Spanish Colonies [Spanish Territories of the Gulf of Guinea and Spanish West Africa (including the Territories of Ifni and the Spanish Sahara)]	312,000	140,000	VII	(b) <u>1 May 1877</u>
Sudan	2,476,800	10,066,676	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, (with Egypt (a) 19 January 1899, (Anglo-Egyptian Condominium (b) 27 July 1956
Sweden	440,128	7,150,606	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Switzerland <sup>1/</sup>	41,288	4,970,000	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>
Syria	185,000	3,228,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with (Turkey (a) 30 October 1923, (Territory under (French Mandate (a) 12 May 1931, with the (States of the Levant (b) <u>15 May 1946</u> , (present designation
Thailand	556,073	17,317,000	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1885</u>
Tunisia	125,280	3,782,480	V	((a) 1 June 1878, with (France (b) <u>1 July 1888</u> (Regency of Tunis (b) 1 November 1956 (Independent State
Turkey	767,119	20,935,000	III	(b) <u>1 July 1875</u>

<sup>1/</sup> Including the Principality of Liechtenstein (157 square kilometres and 13,571 inhabitants) as coming under the Swiss Postal Administration.

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<u>Member countries</u> Showing (where appropriate) their composition and dependent territories	<u>Area</u> in square kilometres	<u>Population</u>	<u>Class</u> of contribution	<u>Date</u> (a) of coming under the UPU regime as a territory dependent on a member country; (b) <u>of entry into UPU as a member country</u>
1	2	3	4	5
Ukraine	576,600	See: USSR	III	((a) 1 July 1875 (with Russia (a) 24 June 1924 (with USSR (b) <u>13 May 1947</u>
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	21,486,400	193,000,000 <sup>1/</sup>	I	((b) <u>1 July 1875,</u> <u>Russia</u> (b) <u>USSR 24 June 1924</u>
Uruguay	186,926	2,365,000	VI	(b) <u>1 July 1880</u>
Vatican City	1	1,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with Italy (b) <u>1 June 1929</u>
Venezuela	912,050	4,985,716	VI	(b) <u>1 January 1880</u>
Viet-Nam	328,000	22,610,000	VI	((a) 1 July 1876, with the French Colonies (a) 1 January 1899, with Indo-China (b) <u>20 October 1951,</u> <u>present designation</u>
Yemen	62,000	9,000,000	VII	((a) 1 July 1875, with Turkey (b) <u>1 January 1930</u>
Yugoslavia	256,880	16,545,000	III	((a) 1 July 1875, with Montenegro and Serbia (b) <u>24 December 1921,</u> <u>Kingdom of the Serbs,</u> <u>Croats and Slovenes,</u> known as Yugoslavia (from 3 October 1929
Totals	133,917,020	2,421,043,376		

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<sup>1/</sup> Including the population of Byelorussia and the Ukraine.