

2. The said Office shall function in accordance with the regulations agreed upon by the International Bureau of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain and the Postal Administration of Panama.

3. Any proposal for the amendment of the aforesaid regulations shall be submitted by the Administrations concerned to the International Bureau of Montevideo, which, in turn, shall present it for consideration to the Postal Administration of Panama.

4. The organization and operation of the International Transshipment Office are subject to the supervision and control of the Post and Telegraph Department of Panama and the International Bureau of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, which shall act as mediator and arbitrator in any disagreements between the Postal Administration of Panama and the countries availing themselves of the services of the said Office.

5. The officials of the said Office shall be chosen by the Post and Telegraph Department of Panama and shall be ensured permanency, as provided in the official regulations.

6. The cost of maintaining the said Office shall be borne by the countries availing themselves of its services and shall be apportioned on the basis of the number of mail bags exchanged through its intermediary.

The Administration of Panama shall advance the funds required for the maintenance, on an efficient basis, of the services of the said Office.

These amounts shall be reimbursed quarterly by each Administration concerned; any reimbursements not made within a period of six months following the end of each quarter shall bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum; the sums collected in interest shall be added to the maintenance funds of the Transshipment Office.

## ARTICLE 22

### Arbitration

Any dispute or disagreement arising in the postal relations of the contracting countries shall be settled by arbitration in the manner prescribed by the Universal Postal Convention. The arbitrators shall be selected by the signatory countries and, should the need arise, through the intervention of the International Bureau of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain.

## ARTICLE 23

### International Bureau of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain

1. The central office, situated at Montevideo and known as the International Bureau of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain, shall function under the supervision of the Post Office Department of the Republic of Uruguay, as a medium of information and consultation for the countries of the Union.

2. The said Bureau is entrusted with the following duties:

- (a) to gather, collate, publish and distribute all data of particular interest to the postal services of the Americas and Spain;
- (b) to give, at the express request of the parties concerned, an opinion upon questions in dispute;
- (c) to give, on its own initiative, or at the request of any of the Administrations of the signatory countries, its opinion on all matters relating to the postal service and affecting or concerning the general interests of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain;
- (d) to report any proposals made for amendments to the Acts of the Congress and to notify any changes adopted;