

8. At the end of each year, the International Bureau prepares, on the basis of the statements which it has received up to that time and which are regarded as fully accepted, a general annual liquidation account of transit charges. If necessary, it conforms to the rule laid down by Article 152, § 5, for annual payments.

9. This account shows:

- (a) The Debit and Credit of each Administration;
- (b) the debit balance or the credit balance of each Administration;
- (c) the sums to be paid by the debtor Administrations;
- (d) the sums to be received by the creditor Administrations.

10. The International Bureau arranges by setting-off balances to limit as far as practicable the number of payments to be made.

11. The general annual liquidation accounts must be forwarded by the International Bureau to the Administrations as early as possible, and, at the latest, before the end of the first quarter of the year following the year of their preparation.

ARTICLE 163.

Settlement of Transit Charges.

1. The balance resulting from the general annual liquidation account of the International Bureau or from the special settlements, including if necessary the adjustment prescribed by Article 152, § 5, is paid by the debtor Administration to the creditor Administration by one of the following methods:

(a) at the choice of the debtor Administration, in gold or by means of cheques or drafts fulfilling the conditions prescribed in § 2 below and payable at sight on the capital or on a commercial centre of the creditor country;

(b) following agreement between the two Administrations, through the intermediary of a bank utilizing the service of transfers through the Bank of International Settlements at Bâle, or by any other means;

(c) in conformity with the provisions of special monetary agreements which may exist between the countries of the Administrations concerned.

2. In the case of payment by means of cheques or drafts, in accordance with § 1 (a), these cheques or drafts are expressed in the money of a country where the central issuing bank or other official issuing office buys and sells gold or gold currency for the national money at fixed rates determined by law or in virtue of an agreement with the Government. If the currencies of several countries fulfil these conditions, the creditor country indicates the currency which is convenient to it. Any losses or gains due to an unexpected fall or rise in the gold parity of the currency in question, arising up to and including the date of the receipt of the cheque or draft, are shared equally between the two Administrations. However, in the case of delay in despatching the cheque or draft after issue, the debtor Administration is responsible for any loss caused by unjustifiable delay between issue by the bank and despatch; it is also allowed one-half of any actual gain. In all these cases, differences not exceeding 5 per cent. are ignored, the conditions of payment fixed by the present Article are observed in the settlement of differences and the periods for settlement run from the date of the receipt of the cheque or draft.