

ARTICLE 17

Postage Paid in Cash

The contracting countries have the privilege of adopting the "Postage Paid in Cash" method for the transmission of newspapers or periodicals wrapped or not, including those containing purely commercial publicity or advertisements, provided no reduced rates are applied to the latter.

ARTICLE 18

Official Forms Forwarded by Air Mail

Official forms as provided in the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Postal Convention, covering requests for the withdrawal of mail, notices of change of address and inquiries in regard to any mail article may be forwarded by air mail.

Such forms shall be accepted by the air service only if enclosed in envelopes duly prepaid as air mail correspondence, the Administrations being authorized to collect the postage and surcharges covering prepayment.

All forms thus forwarded shall bear a corresponding note in the upper part of the obverse side of same. They shall be considered as urgent matter and shall, in consequence, be given preferential treatment by the Administrations concerned.

ARTICLE 19

Official Language

Spanish is adopted as the official language for matters relative to the postal service. Any country whose language is not Spanish may, however, use its own.

ARTICLE 20

Protection and Exchange of Postal Employees

1. The Administrations of the contracting countries are obliged, upon request, to co-operate with the officials entrusted with the transportation of mail in transit through their respective countries, and also to extend all facilities to the officials which one Administration may agree to send to another for the purpose of studying the development and improvement of the postal service.

2. The Administrations, acting through the International Bureau of Montevideo, shall conclude agreements among themselves for the annual exchange of officials of equal grade for a period not exceeding two months.

3. Once the said exchange is agreed upon by two Administrations, the latter shall decide upon the apportionment of the expenditure involved and all measures for the settlement of same shall be taken by the intermediary of the International Bureau of Montevideo.

ARTICLE 21

International Transshipment Office

1. There shall continue to be maintained in the Republic of Panama an International Transshipment Office entrusted with the receipt and despatch of all mail which originates in those countries of the Union not operating their own services in the Isthmus, thus entailing transshipment operations in the course of their transmission through same.