

ARTICLE 48

Prepayment of Postage on Board Ship

Correspondence posted on the high seas in the letter box on board a ship or handed to postal officials on board or to the commanders of ships may, in the absence of different arrangements between the Administrations concerned, be prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country to which the said ship belongs or by which it is maintained. If the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two terminal points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call, prepayment is valid only if it is effected by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the ship happens to be.

ARTICLE 49

Exemptions from Postage

1.—The following are exempt from all postal charges:

Correspondence on Postal Service exchanged between Postal Administrations, between these Administrations and the International Bureau, between post offices of Union countries, and between these offices and Administrations, as well as correspondence of which the free transmission is expressly provided for in the Convention, the Agreements, and their Detailed Regulations.

2.—With the exception of articles marked with a trade charge, correspondence intended for prisoners of war or despatched by them is also exempt from all postal charges, not only in the countries of origin and destination, but in intermediate countries.

The same privilege is accorded to correspondence concerning prisoners of war, despatched or received, either directly by, or through the agency of, Information Bureaux established on behalf of such persons in belligerent countries or in neutral countries which have received belligerents on their territories.

Belligerents received and interned in a neutral country are treated like prisoners of war, properly so-called, in so far as the application of the above-mentioned rules is concerned.

ARTICLE 50

Reply Coupons

Reply coupons are on sale in the countries of the Union.

The selling price of a reply coupon is fixed by the Administrations concerned, but may not be less than 35 centimes, or the equivalent in the money of the country of issue.

Each coupon is exchangeable in any country for a stamp or stamps representing the postage on a single-rate letter for abroad originating in that country.

Moreover, any country has the right to demand that reply coupons and the correspondence to be prepaid by means of the stamps received in exchange for these coupons shall be presented at the same time.