

ARTICLE 21.

Conditions of approval.

1. In order to become binding, the proposals must obtain :

(a) a unanimous vote if they involve the addition of new provisions to, or the modification of, the provisions of Parts I and II, or of Articles 33 to 37, 54 to 59, 61 to 63, 65 to 68, 70 to 82 of the Convention, of any of the articles of its Final Protocol and of Articles 101, 105, 116, 164, 175, and 196 of its Detailed Regulations ;

(b) a two-thirds vote if they involve a modification of the provisions other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph ;

(c) a simple majority if they affect the interpretation of the provisions of the Convention, of its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, except in the case of disagreement to be submitted to arbitration as provided for by Article 11.

2. The conditions to be fulfilled for the approval of proposals concerning the Agreements, are fixed by the Agreements themselves.

ARTICLE 22.

Notification of decisions.

Additions to and modifications of the Convention, the Agreements and the Final Protocols of these Acts are sanctioned by a diplomatic declaration, which the Government of the Swiss Confederation undertakes to prepare and forward at the request of the International Bureau to the Governments of the contracting countries.

Additions to and modifications of the Detailed Regulations and their Final Protocols are drawn up and notified to the Administrations by the International Bureau. The same applies to the interpretations referred to under Article 21, § 1, (c).

ARTICLE 23.

Execution of decisions.

No addition or modification adopted comes into force until at least three months after its notification.

CHAPTER IV.

International Bureau.

ARTICLE 24.

General Functions.

1. A central Office, situated at Berne, known as the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, and placed under the supervision of the Swiss Postal Administration, serves as a medium of liaison, information and consultation for the countries of the Union.

This Office is entrusted especially with the duty of collecting, collating, publishing and distributing information of every kind which concerns the international postal service ; of giving, at the request of the parties concerned, an opinion upon questions in dispute ; of making known proposals for modifying the Acts of the Congress ; of notifying alterations adopted, and, in general, of taking up such enquiries and work in connection with editing and arranging material as the Convention, the Agreements, and their Detailed Regulations shall assign to it, or as may be entrusted to it in the interest of the Union.

2. It acts as clearing-house for the settlement of accounts of every description relative to the international postal service between the Administrations which claim its assistance.