

In the case provided for in § 5 of the preceding Article, the statements must bear the indication "*Aucune observation de l'Office débiteur n'est parvenue dans le délai réglementaire.*" (No comment has been received from the debtor Office within the prescribed period.)

If two Administrations agree between themselves to effect a special settlement, their statements C 23 bear the note "*Compte réglé à part—à titre d'information*" (Account settled separately—for purposes of information), and are not included in the general annual liquidation account.

3. 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 60, § 2, for annual payments.

This account shows:—

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

The International Bureau arranges to limit as far as practicable the number of payments made by the debtor Offices.

4. 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 72. (See PROTOCOL I)

##### *Settlement of Transit Charges*

1. Unless otherwise arranged, 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 60, § 2, is paid by the debtor Office to the creditor Office in gold, or by means of cheques or drafts payable at sight on the capital or on a commercial centre of the creditor country.

If payment is made by means of cheques or drafts, they are drawn in the currency of the creditor country for an amount equivalent, on the day of purchase, to the value of the balance expressed in francs. The costs of the payment are borne by the debtor Office.

These cheques or drafts may also be drawn on another country on condition that they represent the same equivalent and that the discount charges are paid by the debtor Office.

2. The payment above mentioned must be made with as little delay as possible, and, at the latest, before the end of a period of four months from the date of despatch of the liquidation account by the International Bureau, or of the request for payment, addressed by the creditor Office to the debtor Office, in the case of an account settled separately. This period may be extended to five months in relations with distant countries.

If these periods are exceeded, the sums due are chargeable with interest, at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, from the date of the expiration of the periods of grace mentioned.