

## CHAPTER IV

## International Bureau

## ARTICLE 23

*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.

## ARTICLE 24

*Expenses of the International Bureau*

1. Each Congress fixes the maximum figure for the ordinary annual expenditure of the International Bureau.

These expenses, as well as the special expenditure occasioned by the meetings of a Congress, Conference, or Committee, and the costs which may arise out of special work entrusted to the International Bureau, are borne in common by all the countries of the Union.

2. To this end, the latter are divided into seven classes, each contributing to the payment of the expenses in the following proportion:—

1st class	25 units	5th class	5 units
2nd	“ 20 “	6th	“ 3 “
3rd	“ 15 “	7th	“ 1 unit
4th	“ 10 “		

3. In the case of a new adhesion, the Government of the Swiss Confederation settles, by agreement with the Government of the country concerned, the class in which the country is to be placed for the apportionment of the expenses of the International Bureau.

## PART II

## General Regulations

## CHAPTER I

## ARTICLE 25

*Freedom of Transit*

1. Freedom of transit is guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.

2. Freedom of transit for postal parcels is limited to the territory of the countries taking part in this service.

Insured articles may be forwarded in closed mails through the territory of countries which do not undertake the insured letter and box service or by the sea services in respect of which responsibility for insured articles is not accepted by