

N° 747.

FINLANDE ET RUSSIE

Convention concernant l'échange
postal entre les deux pays, signée
à Helsingfors le 18 juin 1924.

FINLAND AND RUSSIA

Convention concerning Postal Ex-
change between the two countries,
signed at Helsingfors, June 18,
1924.

TEXTE RUSSE. — RUSSIAN TEXT.

№. 747. — КОНВЕНЦИЯ¹ О ПОЧТОВЫХ СНОШЕНИЯХ МЕЖДУ СОЮЗОМ СОВЕТСКИХ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК И ФИНЛЯНДСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКОЙ, ПОДПИСАННАЯ В Г. ГЕЛЬСИНГФОРСЕ, 18-го ИЮНЯ 1924 ГОДА.

№. 747. — CONVENTION¹ CONCERNANT L'ÉCHANGE POSTAL ENTRE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE FINLANDE ET L'UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES, SIGNÉE A HELSINGFORS, LE 18 JUIN 1924.

Finnish, French, Russian and Swedish official texts communicated by the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration of this Convention took place October 4, 1924.

ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО СОЮЗА СОВЕТСКИХ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК, с одной стороны, и ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО ФИНЛЯНДСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ, с другой стороны, руководимые желанием содействовать укреплению и развитию между обоими странами дружеских отношений и экономических сношений, решили, в отмену временного Соглашения² об установлении почтовых сношений между Российской Социалистической Федеративной Советской Республикой и Финляндией от 22 июня 1922 года, заключить постоянную Конвенцию об условиях почтовых сношений, как взаимных между обоими странами, так и транзитных через их территории, и назначили для сего уполномоченными :

ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО СОЮЗА СОВЕТСКИХ СОЦИАЛИСТИЧЕСКИХ РЕСПУБЛИК :

АЛЕКСЕЯ СЕРГЕЕВИЧА ЧЕРНЫХ и
АКИМА МАКСИМОВИЧА НИКОЛАЕВА ;

ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО ФИНЛЯНДСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ :

А. АХОНЕН и
И. О. ВИРКБЕРГ.

LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE FINLANDE et LE GOUVERNEMENT DE L'UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES, désireux de contribuer à l'affermissement et au développement des rapports amicaux et des relations économiques entre leurs pays respectifs, ont décidé de conclure, avec abrogation de l'Arrangement² provisoire concernant l'échange postal entre la Finlande et la République Socialiste Fédérative des Soviets de Russie en date du 22 juin 1922, une Convention permanente concernant les conditions de l'échange postal entre les deux pays contractants, tant directement, qu'en transit par leurs territoires, et ont désigné à cet effet pour leurs Plénipotentiaires :

LE GOUVERNEMENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE FINLANDE :

M. A. AHONEN et
M. J. O. WIRKBERG ;

LE GOUVERNEMENT DE L'UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES :

M. Alexis TCHERNIKH et
M. Joachim NICOLAÏEV.

¹ Came into force September 15, 1924.

² Vol. XVI, page 362, and Vol. XXVII, page 421, of this Series.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 747. — CONVENTION CONCERNING POSTAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS, SIGNED AT HELSINGFORS, JUNE 18, 1924.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FINNISH REPUBLIC and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS, being desirous of promoting and developing friendly relations and economic intercourse between their respective countries, have decided to abrogate the Provisional Postal Arrangement between Finland and the Federal Socialist Republic of the Russian Soviets, dated June 22, 1922, and to conclude a permanent Convention laying down the conditions governing both the direct postal service between the two Contracting Countries and the postal traffic conveyed in transit through their territories, and have for this purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries :

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND :

M. A. AHONEN and
M. J. O. WIRKBERG ;

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS :

M. Alexis CHERNIKH,
M. Joachim NICOLAIEV,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Article 1.

There shall be established between the two Contracting Parties a regular and direct service for the conveyance of ordinary and registered correspondence (letters, postcards, printed papers, business papers and sample packets), letters of declared value, ordinary postal parcels and postal parcels of declared value.

Article 2.

(1) Each Contracting Party shall guarantee to the other Party freedom of transit through its territory for ordinary and registered correspondence, letters of declared value, ordinary parcels and parcels of declared value sent from or to any country with which the Party in question maintains a postal service.

(2) Postal packets may be accepted for conveyance in transit both *à découvert* and in closed mails. They must be addressed direct to the country of destination in accordance with the general international regulations in force.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

Article 3.

Each of the Contracting Parties reserves the right, if it considers it necessary, to suspend temporarily the whole or part of its postal exchanges. The Party taking such a measure shall be bound to inform the other Party immediately, if necessary by telegram.

Article 4.

The exchange of ordinary and registered correspondence, letters of declared value, ordinary parcels and parcels of declared value between the Contracting Parties, or the despatch of such mails in transit through their territories shall, except where otherwise provided by the present Convention, be subject to the regulations of the international conventions in force, namely :

- (a) The Universal Postal Convention, the Detailed Regulations for its Execution, and Final Protocol ;
- (b) The Agreement for the Exchange of Insured Letters and Boxes and Detailed Regulations for its Execution ;
- (c) The Universal Parcel Post Agreement, Detailed Regulations for its Execution, and Final Protocol.

Article 5.

(1) The accounts of both Parties for payment of transit rates for articles sent by letter post, the insurance fees for letters of declared value, and all accounts for the exchange of postal parcels shall be drawn up in gold francs.

For all these purposes the gold franc shall be considered as equal to 0.192957 United States dollar, or 1 dollar as equal to 5.1825 gold francs.

(2) The balance of the accounts of the two Parties shall be paid to the creditor administration in dollars, either through the banks in the capital of the creditor country or by drafts at sight on New York.

(3) The costs of payment shall be borne by the debtor administration.

Article 6.

- (1) In the present Convention the term " franc " shall be taken to mean the gold franc.
- (2) Each Contracting Party shall itself fix the value of the gold franc in its own currency.

Article 7.

1. Postal articles shall be despatched direct across the frontiers common to the two Contracting Parties at times and places to be appointed by joint agreement between the Postal Administrations of the two Parties.

(2) Each postal administration shall carry the mails at its own expense as far as the agreed point on its territorial frontier. The Postal Administration of either Party reserves the right, however, to exchange the mails, by joint agreement, at any specified place situated within the territory of the other Party ; in such cases, the Postal Administration of the country conveying the mails through the territory of the other shall receive payment at an agreed rate.

(3) When the mail-trains in both directions only run as far as a common frontier station situated on the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the Postal Administration whose trains cross the frontier shall bear the cost of conveying its mails as far as the common frontier station.

(4) Should an air service be established between Finland and the Union of the Socialist Soviet Republics, the mails shall not be conveyed by such service except by joint agreement between the Postal Administrations of the two Contracting Parties. The Governments of the Contracting Parties shall see that all necessary arrangements for the carriage of mails by air are included in its air service concessions.

Article 8.

Postal officials whose duties oblige them to cross the frontier shall be provided with certificates valid either for a fixed period or for one occasion only, and duly attested by the local authorities of the country which the official has to enter.

Post office officials employed in post office vans, who accompany the mails of one Contracting Party to a railway station situated on the territory of the other, need only have an identity certificate, with photograph, issued by the Postal Administration of their own country, namely, for Finland, the Postmaster-General (Helsingfors), and for the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the North-Western Postal District (Leningrad).

These certificates shall authorise the officials to remain during the stop of the train in the post office van and on the premises of the railway station.

Article 9.

(1) The mail-bags must be strong and in good repair, and must bear the stamp of the post office to which they belong.

(2) These bags must be returned empty by the next post to the office to which they belong, their numbers — or, if they are not numbered, the total number of bags — being indicated in the letter-bill.

(3) Mail-bags not returned within two months from the date of despatch shall be regarded as lost. In such cases the administration responsible shall be bound to pay the other administration the purchase price of the same number of new bags.

Article 10.

All correspondence relating to the postal service shall be in French and shall be carried on between the Postal Administrations and the officials respectively appointed for that purpose by those administrations.

Frontier post offices at which the mails are exchanged may, however, by joint agreement between the Postal Administrations of the two Contracting Parties, use the official languages of their countries in their relations with each other.

Article 11.

Correspondence relating to the postal services between the central Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties or between local post offices shall be carried free of charge.

Article 12.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other the following information :

- (a) The corresponding equivalents of their postage rates ;
- (b) A list of the countries for which they may act as intermediaries in the exchange of postal parcels and letters of declared value ;

- (c) The postage dues they charge in respect of parcels and letters of declared value conveyed in transit through their countries ;
- (d) Any special import prohibitions or restrictions in force in their countries; and
- (e) Any changes subsequently introduced in the above provisions. If possible, such changes shall be notified one month before their coming into force.

Article 13.

The service and other regulations necessary for the execution of the present Convention shall be embodied in the Supplementary Protocol signed by the plenipotentiaries authorised to sign the present Convention.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties may jointly agree to modify these service or other regulations to meet the requirements of the service.

LETTERS, POSTCARDS, PRINTED PAPERS, BUSINESS PAPERS AND SAMPLES OF GOODS.

Article 14.

Ordinary and registered letters, postcards, printed papers, business papers and samples of goods exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps or by other legal methods of franking provided for by the Universal Postal Convention at the rates fixed by that Convention and the corresponding equivalents established in the country of each Contracting Party.

Article 15.

Each Contracting Party shall retain the transit rates provided for by the Universal Postal Convention for mails conveyed in transit through its territory in conformity with Article 14 of the present Convention.

Article 16.

Should the postage rates in the country of one of the Contracting Parties be lower, calculated by the gold franc standard, than those in the other, the Postal Administration of the latter Party may refuse to accept unstamped or insufficiently stamped letters or postcards with prepaid replies sent to the former country.

The Postal Administration of the country in regard to which measures of this kind have been taken shall be authorised, for reasons of reciprocity, to take similar action in respect of correspondence addressed to the other country.

Article 17.

(1) The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall have the sole right, should the law of the country so require, to refuse to despatch or convey through their respective territories the following correspondence :

- (a) Correspondence addressed " poste restante ", and
- (b) Letters weighing more than 100 grammes. The maximum limit for letters addressed to or sent by State institutions, however, shall be fixed at two kilogrammes.

Postal correspondence of this kind, when irregularly accepted for despatch, shall be returned to the office of origin.

The Postal Administrations shall, as soon as circumstances permit, be entitled to cancel these restrictions by joint agreement.

(2) It is forbidden to enclose in either ordinary or registered letters sent from one of the contracting countries to the other any coin current in either country or in any other country.

Should such coin be found so enclosed, the letter containing it shall be returned to the country of origin.

(3) The restrictions mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present article shall not apply to postal correspondence sent in transit through the territory of the Contracting Parties or to re-directed correspondence.

(4) No limit of weight shall be fixed in respect of official correspondence (Article 11).

Article 18.

The provisions of the Universal Postal Convention allowing printers' errors to be corrected or words or passages in printed matter to be marked or underlined shall not apply to correspondence between the Contracting Parties.

Printed matter so corrected and irregularly accepted for despatch shall be returned to the country of origin.

Article 19.

(1) In the case of the loss of registered correspondence, the sender shall be entitled to compensation amounting to 50 francs. The equivalent of that sum shall be paid in the country of origin and in the currency of that country, at the rate fixed by the Postal Administration of that country for articles sent by international letter post.

(2) If the compensation is paid by the Postal Administration of one of the Contracting Parties on behalf of the Postal Administration of the other, the latter shall refund to it the sum in question in the same currency or in the manner provided in Article 5 of the present Convention not later than two months after the date of the despatch of the notice of payment.

(3) Pending the establishment of a post office money order service, such compensation shall be paid once a month in the manner laid down in Article 5 of the present Convention.

(4) The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for the loss of registered correspondence, if such loss is due to causes beyond their control.

LETTERS OF DECLARED VALUE.

Article 20.

(1) Letters of declared value exchanged between Finland and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics may contain paper currency or securities, as provided for by the Universal Postal Convention and by the laws of each Contracting Party.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall communicate to each other a detailed list of the paper currencies and securities which may be imported or exported.

(2) The maximum declarable value for letters sent from one contracting country to the other shall be fixed in accordance with the laws of those countries, but shall in any case not exceed :

- (a) 25,000 francs for letters sent by or addressed to State institutions or banks ;
- (b) 1,000 francs for all other letters.

(3) The maximum declarable values fixed in the preceding paragraph shall also apply to letters conveyed in transit through the territory of the Contracting Parties from or to a third country, unless lower maximum values are fixed for letters sent to or from such country.

(4) The value declared by the sender may not exceed the actual value of the contents of the letter and must be declared in the currency of the country of origin. The administration of the country of origin shall convert the sum declared into gold francs, at the rate fixed by the Postal Administration of the country of origin, for a period of not less than three months. The Postal Administrations shall communicate to each other any changes in the rate of conversion of their currencies into gold francs, if possible, one month before the introduction of the change.

(5) The maximum declarable values laid down in paragraph 2 of the present article may be changed by joint agreement between the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

Article 21.

(1) Letters of declared value must be handed in at the post office open, in order that their contents may be verified ; they must not contain anything under special cover.

(2) The sender must enclose in each letter of declared value a list of the articles which it contains, indicating the value of each separate article and the total amount of these values, either in gold francs or in the currency of the country of origin.

(3) The list must be drawn up by the sender in the language of the country of origin and in that of the country of destination, or in French alone, in duplicate. The two copies of the list must bear the stamp of the post office of origin. One of the duplicate copies must be enclosed in the letter and the other will be returned to the sender.

Article 22.

Letters of declared value must only contain brief communications referring to the articles sent in the letter.

Article 23.

If a letter of declared value is found to contain articles the importation of which is prohibited, the letter shall not be confiscated, but must be returned to the country of origin.

Article 24.

The conditions regarding the handing in for despatch and the delivery of letters of declared value shall be fixed by the laws or regulations of the country of origin or destination, except where otherwise provided by the present Convention.

Article 25.

(1) The sender of a letter of declared value shall, when handing in the letter for despatch, pay the following charges, which are applicable to letters exchanged between the Contracting Parties :

- (a) The postage and registration fee for international registered letters ;
- (b) An insurance fee of 15 centimes for the benefit of each of the Contracting Parties for every 300 francs or fraction thereof declared ;
- (c) Any other postal charge levied in the country of origin under the General Post Office rules in force in that country.

(2) The postage due to the Postal Administrations carrying letters of declared value in transit through the territory of the other Party shall be fixed in accordance with a statement drawn up by the Postal Administration concerned, under the terms of Article 12 (c) of the present Convention.

(3) The accounts for the exchange and conveyance in transit of letters of declared value shall be drawn up monthly, and the balance of these accounts shall be paid in the manner laid down in Article 5 of the present Convention.

Article 26.

At post offices for the exchange of correspondence, letters of declared value sent from or addressed to the contracting countries, or sent in transit, shall be despatched in accordance with the directions on the way-bill ; they shall be conveyed *à découvert* and separately.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties may, however, if circumstances require, jointly agree to carry letters of declared value in closed receptacles, which shall be exchanged between the central post offices.

Article 27.

(1) Should a letter of declared value be lost or its contents, as specified in the list (see Article 21, paragraph 2), be partly or wholly lost, damaged or stolen, the sender shall be entitled to compensation up to the actual amount of the loss, damage or theft, provided that such compensation does not exceed the sum declared.

Claims for damage caused indirectly or in respect of loss of expected profit shall not be entertained.

(2) The administration on whose territory the letter has been lost or the contents damaged or stolen shall be held responsible.

(3) The compensation shall be paid in the country of origin and in the currency of that country at the gold franc rate of conversion fixed in Article 20, paragraph 4, of the present Convention.

The payment of compensation and the reimbursement of sums paid for that purpose by the Postal Administration of one of the Contracting Parties to the account of the other shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of Article 19, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Convention.

(4) The Postal Administrations shall not be responsible for the loss or theft of, or damage to, the contents of letters of declared value if the loss, theft or damage is due to causes beyond their control.

Article 28.

Boxes (boîtes) of declared value shall not be accepted for exchange.

PARCEL POST.

Article 29.

(1) Postal parcels shall be accepted for exchange between the Contracting Parties, whether their value is declared or not, provided that their weight does not exceed 5 kilogrammes and that their value does not exceed the maximum, namely, 1,000 francs.

(2) Postal parcels shall be accepted for exchange provided that their dimensions do not exceed 60 centimetres in every direction. If the dimensions exceed this length in one direction, the two other directions, or the girth of the cross-section, shall be proportionately less, for example, if the length is between 60 and 100 cms., the girth must not exceed 200 cms., or if the length is between

100 and 120 cms., the girth must not exceed 140 cms. Postal parcels exceeding 120 cms. in length will in no case be accepted.

(3) The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties reserve the right to change by joint agreement the maximum declarable values, weight and dimensions fixed in paragraphs 1 and 2.

(4) As regards the presentation for despatch and the delivery of postal parcels, and the ultimate disposal of articles the importation of which is prohibited or restricted, the laws and regulations of each of the Contracting Parties shall be applied, except where otherwise provided in the present Convention.

(5) The following shall not be accepted for despatch from one of the contracting countries to the other :

- (a) Postal parcels which exceed the dimensions prescribed in paragraph 2 or which, owing to their form or fragility, are regarded as unduly difficult to handle ;
- (b) Express parcels ;
- (c) Parcels on which the sender may agree to pay the Customs duties.

Article 30.

(1) The Contracting Parties, which are bound under Article 2 of the present Convention to ensure freedom of transit through their territory to parcels sent from or addressed to any third country, shall only be bound to accept parcels for conveyance in transit if they fulfil the conditions required by Article 29 for parcels accepted for despatch from one contracting country to the other, and provided the third country does not apply more severe restrictions.

(2) When necessary, in view of the conditions of transport or the over-loading of mail-trains on the routes used for the conveyance of mails in transit, each of the Contracting Parties shall have the right to fix the maximum number of parcels to be conveyed in transit to the other Contracting Party.

Article 31.

(1) When handed in for despatch, postal parcels must be prepaid up to an amount sufficient to carry them to their destination.

(2) The postage on parcels exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be fixed as follows :

	Total amount in gold frs.	Portion received by Finland (gold frs.)	Portion received by the U.S.S.R. (gold frs.)
Parcels sent from Finland to the European parts of the U.S.S.R., and <i>vice versa</i> , weight not more than 1 kg.	2.75	1	1.05
Weight 1—5 kgs.	3.50	1.75	1.75
Parcels sent from the Asiatic parts of the U.S.S.R. to Finland or, <i>vice versa</i> , weight not more than 1 kg.	4.50	1	3.50
Weight 1—5 kgs.	5.25	1.75	3.50

(3) The insurance fee for parcels of declared value exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be 15 centimes for the benefit of each Contracting Party for every 300 francs or fraction thereof declared.

(4) The Postal Administration of the country of origin shall have the right to charge for despatching parcels of declared value a despatch fee not exceeding 50 centimes per parcel, irrespective of the amount of the value declared.

(5) The Postal Administration of the country of destination shall be entitled, within the limits laid down by the Universal Parcel Post Agreement and in accordance with the current regulations of the country in question, to collect from the addressee a charge for the completion of the Customs formalities and for portorage.

Article 32.

(1) The transit rates for parcels conveyed across the territory of the Contracting Parties, and the insurance fees, if any, for such parcels shall be fixed in accordance with the Universal Parcel Post Agreement.

(2) Should a parcel be damaged during conveyance in transit and should it be impossible to forward it without repacking, the intermediate post office shall be entitled to debit the next office or the office in the country of destination with the charge for repacking, which will be collected from the addressee. Such charge may not exceed 50 centimes. If the parcel is returned to the place of origin, this charge shall be collected from the sender.

Article 33.

(1) Parcels exchanged between the Contracting Parties shall be sent *à découvert*, unless a special agreement is concluded allowing the conveyance of these parcels in closed receptacles. The same procedure shall be adopted with regard to postal parcels in transit.

(2) The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall jointly determine the post offices and routes to be used for the parcel post.

Article 34.

Every parcel exchanged shall be accompanied by a despatch note and an identical Customs declaration in triplicate, made out by the sender in French or in the language of the country of origin, with a translation in the language of the country of destination.

Article 35.

Parcels containing articles the importation of which is forbidden may not be confiscated but must be returned by the post offices, unless the Postal Administration of the country of destination discovers that the sender has wilfully made a false Customs declaration.

Article 36.

The sender shall be entitled, when handing in the parcel for despatch, to indicate on the despatch note and packing of the parcel what is to be done with the parcel should it be sent to the returned letter office. He may require :

- (a) That the parcel should be at once returned to him ; or
- (b) That it should be delivered to another addressee ; or
- (c) That it should be treated by the post office of the country of destination as abandoned.

Article 37.

The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall be authorised to refuse to accept any communication written on a label which is detachable from the despatch note.

Article 38.

Any parcel which for any reason is sent back to the returned letter office shall, unless the sender at the time of handing it in for despatch asked for it to be returned to the place of origin (see Article 36), be kept for one month if in Finland, and for two months if in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, counting from the date of its receipt by the office of destination.

At the end of this period such parcels shall be returned to the country of origin, without previous notification of non-delivery.

Postage and insurance fees shall be again charged to the sender for parcels which are returned.

Article 39.

Customs duties and other non-postal charges levied upon postal parcels which are returned to their country of origin, or re-directed to a third country, shall be refunded whether in Finland or in the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

Article 40.

(1) If a parcel has been lost while in the charge of the post office, or if its contents have been wholly or partly lost, damaged or stolen, the sender shall be entitled to compensation up to the actual amount of the loss, damage or theft, unless the damage is due to the fault or negligence of the sender or to the nature of the articles sent.

(2) This compensation shall be paid for ordinary parcels up to the limits laid down by the Universal Parcel Post Agreement currently in force, and for parcels of declared value up to the amount of the value declared.

(3) Compensation shall be paid in the country of origin in the currency of that country at the gold franc rate referred to in Article 20, paragraph 4, of the present Convention. The payment of compensation and the reimbursement of sums paid in respect of loss or theft of, or damage to, parcels shall be effected in accordance with Article 19, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the present Convention.

(4) The Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties shall not be responsible for the loss or theft of, or damage to, parcels if due to causes beyond their control.

Article 41.

(1) The reciprocal settlement of accounts for parcels sent direct from one contracting country to the other and for parcels conveyed in transit shall be carried out monthly, in accordance with the Detailed Regulations of the Universal Parcel Post Agreement (see Article 4 of the present Convention).

(2) The accounts, with relevant documents, shall be sent to the corresponding administration within the month following that to which they refer, or in any case not later than one month and a half.

The accounts shall be audited and returned not later than one month from the date on which they were received.

(3) The monthly accounts, after having been audited and approved by both Parties, shall be incorporated in a general account drawn up quarterly by the creditor administration. This general account shall be paid not later than one month from the date on which it is received.

Any sums still due after that period shall bear interest at 7 % per annum, payable to the creditor administration as from the date fixed for payment.

Payment must, however, be made at latest within two months from that date.

FINAL PROVISIONS.

Article 42.

The present Convention shall be ratified by an exchange of diplomatic declarations, which shall be signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Republic of Finland and by the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The diplomatic declarations shall be exchanged and the Final Protocol relating thereto shall be signed at Moscow within two months at latest from the date on which the present Convention is signed.

The provisions of the present Convention shall come into force within thirty days from the date of the exchange of diplomatic declarations.

The above-mentioned Provisional Postal Arrangement, dated June 22, 1922, shall remain in force until the present Convention is brought into execution.

Article 43.

The present Convention shall remain in force for an indefinite period and may be denounced, should one of the Contracting Parties so desire, on three months' notice being given to the other Contracting Party.

Article 44.

The present Convention is done in duplicate in Finnish, Swedish, Russian and French. For purposes of interpretation, the French text of the Convention shall be authentic.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have signed the present Convention and thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Helsingfors, this eighteenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

(L. S.) A. TCHERNIKH.

(L. S.) A. AHONEN.

(L. S.) A. NICOLAIEV.

(L. S.) JOHN WIRKBERG.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL

TO THE POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLICS.

In execution of Article 13 of the Postal Convention signed at Helsingfors on June 18, 1924, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the two Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article I.

The following are appointed, until further notice, as places for the exchange of ordinary and registered mails: Finland — Post Office Van No. 1, Helsingfors-Rajajoki, and Post Office Van No. 2, Rajajoki-Helsingfors; the U.S.S.R. — Leningrad and Béloostrov.

Article II.

The following are appointed, until further notice, as places for the exchange of letters of declared value: Finland — Post Office Van No. 1, Helsingfors-Rajajoki, and Post Office Van No. 2, Rajajoki-Helsingfors; the U.S.S.R. — Leningrad and Béloostrov.

Article III.

The following are appointed as places for the exchange of postal parcels: Finland — Viborg, and the U.S.S.R. — Leningrad.

Article IV.

The following shall, until further notice, be the central post offices for the exchange of letters of declared value in closed receptacles (see Article 26 of the Convention): Finland — Helsingfors and Viborg; the U.S.S.R. — Moscow, Leningrad and Kharkov.

Article V.

The mails from Finland to the U.S.S.R. and *vice versa* shall, until further notice, be conveyed over the frontier by rail only *via* the section Rajajoki-Béloostrov.

The mails shall be delivered and received at the exchange offices at Rajajoki and Béloostrov.

The time-tables for travelling post offices shall be changed, by joint agreement, to correspond with changes in the railway time-tables.

Article VI.

At the exchange offices (see Article V), the mails shall be forwarded accompanied by duplicate way-bills, one copy of which will be retained by the official receiving the mails and the other, duly signed by him, will be handed to the official delivering the mails.

These way-bills shall contain the names of the places of origin and destination, the number of bags and of mails sent *à découvert* and the parcels sent by that post.

Should there be no postal articles to transfer, a blank way-bill, duly stamped and signed, shall be forwarded.

Article VII.

The bags containing ordinary and registered correspondence exchanged between the Contracting Parties or sent in transit through their territory shall be strongly fastened and sealed with lead or wax seals in such a way that the contents cannot be touched without breaking the lead or wax seal and the fastening.

If any of the mail-bags at the exchange office are found to have had the lead or wax seal removed or the fastening loosened, or to be torn or to have become unsewn, the officials may refuse to accept them.

In cases of refusal to accept the mails, a note to that effect must be made on the two copies of the way-bill and signed by the post office officials handing over and receiving the mails, together with the reason for the refusal.

Post office officials receiving the mails must take similar action if they find a letter of declared value or postal parcel bearing traces of damage, or if the condition of the packing is such as to leave the contents exposed.

If defects in mail-bags or letters of declared value or in the packing of parcels are notified after the mails have been received, responsibility is not thereby transferred from the receiving to the delivering party.

Article VIII.

All registered articles placed in the mail-bags must be entered separately in the letter-bill, with the number and place of origin of each article or, if there is no number, the place of origin, the destination and the name of the addressee. Letter-bills must be numbered consecutively in annual series.

When an exchange office simultaneously despatches several mail-bags containing registered articles, the letter-bill must be enclosed in one of the bags and the other bags must contain special lists of the registered articles which they contain. The letter-bill will then only contain particulars of the articles in the bag in which it is enclosed; the total number of articles in the other bags shall be entered separately in the letter-bill.

Article IX.

Official notices accompanying documents relating to telegraph and wireless telegraph accounts, way-bills for parcels and for letters of declared value must be forwarded in a special bag apart from any other correspondence.

The label of this bag must bear the name of the office to which the contents are to be sent.

Article X.

Lists accompanying letters of declared value must be legibly written or typed and signed by the sender. The values declared must be written both in figures and in words. The lists must not contain any erasures or corrections.

No articles may be entered in the list if the insurance fee for them has not been paid. The duplicate copies of the list must be identical and must be written on the two halves of a sheet or half-sheet of paper.

Article XI.

Letters of declared value and parcels shall as a rule be prepaid by means of postage stamps. Nevertheless, the Postal Administrations of both Contracting Parties reserve the right, if necessary, to decide that payments must be made in cash.

Article XII.

The transit rates through the territory of the U.S.S.R. for letters, post-cards, printed papers, commercial papers and samples of goods shall be calculated on a distance basis as follows:

For correspondence to

- (a) Esthonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland — less than 3,000 kms.
- (b) Turkey — more than 3,000 kms.
- (c) Persia — more than 3,000 but less than 6,000 kms.
- (d) China, Japan and countries beyond — more than 9,000 kms. if the correspondence is addressed *via* Vladivostock, or more than 6,000 and less than 9,000 kms. if *via* Kharbin and Kwang-Cheng-Tse.

Article XIII.

The postage for the transit of parcels by land is as follows :

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (1) Portion received by the Finnish Postal Administration : | |
| (a) Parcels weighing up to 1 kg. | Fr. 0.30 |
| (b) Parcels weighing more than 1 and up to 5 kilogrammes | » 0.50 |
| (2) Portion received by the Postal Administration of the U.S.S.R. : | |
| Parcels weighing up to 5 kgs., for carriage through the European part
of the U.S.S.R. | Fr. 1.25 |
| Carriage through the European and Asiatic parts of the U.S.S.R. | » 2.50 |

Article XIV.

The insurance fee for parcels and letters of declared value in transit by land shall be fixed, in addition to the insurance fee for carriage by sea, at five centimes for each of the Contracting Parties for every 300 francs or fraction thereof.

Article XV.

The compensation payable under the terms of Article 40, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention for the loss, damage or theft of the contents of an ordinary postal parcel shall not exceed 3 francs per kilogramme.

Article XVI.

Payments by the Postal Administration of one Contracting Party to that of the other by drafts on New York shall, until further notice, be effected by means of cheques on the National City Bank, which is the agent both for the Bank of Finland and the State Bank of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

Article XVII.

The amount to be paid to each of the Contracting Parties for the conveyance of correspondence in transit through their territories (see Article 15 of the Convention) shall be based for 1924 on the statistics for October and November 1924, as prescribed by the Madrid Universal Postal Congress of 1920.

Article XVIII.

All official correspondence regarding complaints, changes of address and the return or forwarding of correspondence shall be carried on direct between the offices appointed for that purpose by the Postal Administrations of the Contracting Parties.

In faith whereof, the Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have signed the present Supplementary Protocol.

Done at Helsingfors, June 18, 1924.

A. TCHERNIKH.
A. NICOLAIEV.

A. AHONEN.
JOHN WIRKBERG.