

N° 2212.

**FINLANDE ET
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOVIÉTISTES SOCIALISTES**

Protocole relatif à certaines modifications de la Convention du 18 juin 1924, concernant l'échange postal entre les deux pays, et protocole supplémentaire. Signés à Helsinki, le 7 octobre 1929.

**FINLAND
AND UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

Protocol regarding certain Modifications of the Convention of June 18, 1924, concerning Postal Exchange between the two Countries, and Additional Protocol. Signed at Helsinki, October 7, 1929.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 2212. — PROTOCOL BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, REGARDING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTION OF JUNE 18, 1924, CONCERNING POSTAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SIGNED AT HELSINKI, OCTOBER 7, 1929.

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics have to-day agreed on the following modifications in the Convention concerning postal exchange between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed on June 18, 1924.

Article 1.

Articles 29-41 of the Convention signed on June 18, 1924, shall be abrogated.

Nevertheless, Articles 38-41 shall continue to have effect after the coming into force of the present Protocol during the period provided for in the said Articles for the carrying out of the operations referred to therein.

Article 2.

Articles 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 of the Convention shall read as follows :

“ *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) and letters 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 and letters 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.

“ *Article 4.*

The exchange of ordinary and registered correspondence and of letters of declared value between the Contracting Parties, or the despatch of such mails in transit through their territories shall, except

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

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.

“ *Article 5.*

1. The accounts of both Parties for payment of transit rates for articles sent by letter post 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 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 letters of declared value ;
- (c) Any special import prohibitions or restrictions in force in their countries ; and
- (d) Any changes subsequently introduced in the above provisions. If possible, such changes shall be notified one month before their coming into force. ”

Article 3.

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

The diplomatic declarations shall be exchanged and the Final Protocol relating thereto shall be signed at Moscow not later than October 31, 1929.

The provisions of the present Protocol shall be put into force within fifteen days from the date of exchange of diplomatic declarations.

Article 4.

The present Protocol is drawn up in duplicate in Finnish, Swedish, Russian and French.

HELSINKI, *October 7, 1929.*

A. AHONEN.

J. MAYSKY.

ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

TO THE PROTOCOL SIGNED OCTOBER 7, 1929, REGARDING CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTION CONCERNING POSTAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, SIGNED JUNE 18, 1924.

As a result of the modification of the Convention concerning postal exchange, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties have agreed on the following provisions :

Article I.

Articles III, XIII, XIV and XV of the Additional Protocol to the Convention concerning postal exchange between the Republic of Finland and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics shall be abrogated.

Article II.

Articles VI, VII, IX and XI of the Additional Protocol shall read as follows :

“ 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 and the number of bags and mails sent *à découvert*.

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 firmly 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 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 are notified after the mails have been received, responsibility is not thereby transferred from the receiving to the delivering party.

“ Article IX.

Official notices accompanying documents relating to telegraph and wireless telegraph accounts 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 XI.*

Letters of declared value 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 shall be made in cash. ”

Article III.

The present supplementary Protocol is drawn up in duplicate in Finnish, Swedish, Russian and French.

HELSINKI, *October 7, 1929.*

A. AHONEN.

J. MAYSKY.