

September 17, 1947

POSTAL CONVENTION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Note: The Convention entered into force, October 1, 1947.

Reference: This Convention is also published in I DFA TS No. 3, p. 146; 206 UNTS, p. 249 and TIAS 1913.

For the purpose of making postal arrangements between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, the undersigned Robert E. Hannegan, Postmaster General of the United States of America and R. Nepomuceno, Secretary of Public Works and Communications of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of authority vested in them by law, have agreed upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1

(a) The provisions of this Convention will apply to letters, single and reply-paid post cards, prints of all kinds including printed matter for the blind and second-class matter, commercial papers, samples without value, and small packets, ordinary and registered, and to parcel-post packages, ordinary only. These articles will be subject to such regulations in the country of destination as that country may deem necessary to protect its customs revenue.

(b) The two Administrations advise each other, by means of the List of Prohibited Articles published by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, of all prohibited articles. However, they do not on that account assume any responsibility towards the customs or police authorities or the sender.

If parcels wrongly admitted to the mails are neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the Administration of origin must be informed in a precise manner of the treatment accorded the parcel.

(c) The Administration of origin is entitled to collect from the sender of each parcel the postage and the fees for requests for information as to the disposal of a parcel made after it has been posted.

Except in the case of returned or redirected parcels, prepayment of the postage and such of the fees mentioned in the preceding paragraph as are applicable, is compulsory.

(d) The weight limit for parcel-post packages shall be 44 pounds for parcels addressed for delivery in the United States and the whole of its possessions; the cities of Manila, Baguio, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga and Davao, and the municipality of Tacloban in the province of Leyte, Philippines, and 11 pounds for parcels addressed for delivery in other points of the Philippines. Parcel post packages containing legal, educational, medical and scientific books up to 22 pounds (10 kilograms) in weight for provincial capitals and other cities in the Philippines may

also be accepted for mailing in the United States. The dimensions shall be: Greatest combined length and girth, 6 feet. Greatest length, 3-1/2 feet, except that parcels may measure up to 4 feet in length, on condition that parcels over 42 and not over 44 inches in length do not exceed 24 inches in girth, parcels over 44 and not over 46 inches in length do not exceed 20 inches in girth, and parcels over 46 inches and up to 4 feet in length do not exceed 16 inches in girth.

The weight limits and dimensions for the other articles mentioned above under (a) as well as the postage rates and registration fees for such articles will be the same as are generally applicable from the United States of America to the countries of the Americo-Spanish Postal Union. In no case may the rates, fees, weight limits and dimensions or other provisions be less favorable, for the public, than those provided for by the Universal Postal Convention then in force.

(e) Except as required by the regulations of the country of destination for the collection of its customs duties, all admissible matter mailed in one country for the other, or received in one country from the other, shall be free from any detention or inspection whatever and shall be forwarded by the most speedy means to its destination and be promptly delivered to the respective persons to whom it is addressed, being subject in its transmission to the laws and regulations of such country respectively

ARTICLE 2

(a) Each Administration shall retain to its own use the whole of the postage and registration, or special delivery fees it collects on postal articles exchanged with the other, including deficient postage, but it is agreed that on packages sent at parcel post rates, the country of origin shall allow to the country of destination on the total excess number of parcel post packages dispatched over the number of such packages received, 30 cents for each parcel not over 11 pounds in weight and 60 cents for each parcel over 11 pounds in weight, settlement to be made quarterly in a general postal account between the two countries on the basis of the parcel bills.

The charges specified above may be reduced or increased on three months previous notice given by one country to the other. These reductions or increases shall hold good for at least one year.

(b) The charges to be paid for the transit of parcel post and air mail of one country by the services of the other country shall be fixed by the country whose services are utilized.

(c) The charges to be paid for the transit to a third country of articles in the regular mails of one country by the services of the other country shall be the transit charges, based on transit statistics, provided by the Universal Postal Convention then in force.

(d) In case of the total loss of a registered article originating in either country and addressed to the other, the maximum indemnity shall be the amount provided by the Universal Postal Union Convention in force from

time to time.

(e) The special delivery fee to be levied and collected upon first class mail matter originating in either country and addressed to the other shall be twenty cents.

(f) Articles of every kind not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid, originating in either country and addressed to the other, shall be dealt with in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Universal Postal Union Convention in force for unpaid and insufficiently prepaid articles.

ARTICLE 3

In case a parcel post package is redirected from one address to another in the country of destination, it shall be subject to an additional charge for postage. The country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressee of a parcel post package for interior service and delivery, a charge, the amount of which is to be fixed according to its own regulations, but which shall in no case exceed five cents for each parcel regardless of weight. A customs clearance charge may also be collected on each parcel post package which may in no case exceed ten cents for each parcel.

ARTICLE 4

(a) Exchanges of mails under this Convention shall be effected through the post offices of both countries designated as exchange post offices under such regulations relative to the details of the exchanges as may be mutually determined to be essential to the security and expedition of the mails and the protection of the customs revenues.

(b) Each country shall provide for and bear the expense of the conveyance of its mails to the other.

ARTICLE 5

(a) Any packet of mailable correspondence, with the exception of parcels prepaid at parcel post rates, may be registered upon payment of the rate of postage and the registration fee applicable thereto in the country of origin.

(b) An acknowledgment of the delivery of a registered article shall be returned to the sender when requested; but either country may require of the sender prepayment of a fee therefor not exceeding ten cents.

ARTICLE 6

Ordinary and registered exchanges shall be effected in properly closed sacks, under such regulations relative to the details of the exchanges as may be mutually determined to be essential.

If a registered article advised shall not be found in the mails by the receiving office, its absence shall be immediately reported by the receiving to the sending office.