

July 15, 1949

PARCEL POST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Note: The Agreement was approved, September 2, 1949 by the Philippine Secretary of Public Works and Communications and by the Postmaster General of the Commonwealth of Australia. It entered into force on the same date.

Reference: This Agreement is also published in II DFA TS No. 3, p. 96 and 46 UNITS, p. 215.

The undersigned, by virtue of authority vested in them and with the approval proper authorities, have mutually agreed upon the following articles for the exchange of parcels through the mail between the Philippines and the Commonwealth of Australia.

ARTICLE I

SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

The provisions of this Agreement relate only to parcel-post packages to be exchanged by the system herein provided for, and do not affect the arrangements now existing under the Universal Postal Union Convention, which will continue as heretofore, except as otherwise specified herein or in subsequent amendments hereto.

ARTICLE II

MANNER OF EXCHANGE

1. There shall be a regular exchange of ordinary parcels between the two countries which shall be effected by means of direct postal service or, when such service is not available or is interrupted by unavoidable causes, by such other means as will be agreed upon by the Postal Administrations of the two countries.
2. Each country shall designate its exchange offices through which it will dispatch and receive parcels, communicating to the other country the names of such exchange offices.

ARTICLE III

POSTAGE

1. Each country shall prescribe the rates of postage it shall charge on parcels and communicate to the other said rates and any changes therein.
2. The prepayment of the postage on every parcel shall be compulsory.

ARTICLE IV

TERMINAL CHARGES

The country of origin shall allow to the country of destination terminal charges of .50,1.00 and 1.50 gold francs for each parcel not exceeding 1, 3 and 5 kilograms respectively.

ARTICLE V

LIMITS OF WEIGHT AND SIZE

1. No parcel shall exceed 5 kilograms in weight, 3 feet 6 inches in length and 6 feet in length and girth combined, provided that the foregoing maxima may be increased by mutual consent of the two contracting countries without the execution of formal articles.
2. As regards the exact calculation of the weight and dimensions of a parcel, the view of the dispatching office shall be accepted except in case of obvious error.

ARTICLE VI

ADDRESSING AND PACKING

1. Every parcel shall bear the exact and complete addresses of the sender and the addressee in Roman characters. The name and full address or the addressee shall be written on the parcel itself. The sender shall be advised to close in the parcel a copy of his address and that of the addressee.
2. Every parcel shall be packed in a manner adequate for the length of the journey and for the protection of the contents, but such that it can be easily opened for examination. The sealing of parcels is prohibited. Articles liable to injure postal employees or to damage other mails shall be so packed as to prevent any risk.

ARTICLE VII

DECLARATION OF CONTENTS

Each parcel shall be accompanied with & Customs Declaration and Dispatch. Note either separately or in combined form. The forms used for this purpose shall be identical with those in general use by the dispatching Administration. All information called for in said forms shall be filled in. The description of each article contained in the parcel and the statement of its value must be accurate. However, the two countries accept no responsibility in respect of the accuracy of customs declarations with respect to portions filled in by the senders of parcels or their representatives.

ARTICLE VIII

PLACE AND DATE OF POSTING

Each parcel as well as the corresponding Customs Declaration shall bear the name of the office and the date of posting.

ARTICLE IX

PROHIBITIONS

1. The following articles are prohibited transmission by the parcel post service herein provided:
 - (a) Articles that are excluded from the domestic mails of each country.

(b) Letters or communications of the nature of personal correspondence, whether attached to, enclosed in, or written on a parcel.

(c) Packages enclosed in a parcel but addressed to a person other than the addressee of the parcel.

(d) Articles which, by their nature or picking, may expose postal employees to danger, or soil or damage other mails.

2. Each country shall communicate to the other all articles barred from its domestic mail or the transmission of which by parcel post is prohibited by its laws or regulations.

ARTICLE X

DISPATCH OF PARCELS

1. The country of origin shall be responsible for the conveyance of the parcel mails to the country of destination and shall bear the cost of such conveyance including transit charges of intermediary countries, if any.

2. For each parcel dispatch there shall be prepared a parcel bill on a form agreed upon between the contracting Administrations. The parcel shall be made out in duplicate, the original to be enclosed with the parcels and the duplicate to be retained by the dispatching office.

3. The parcel bills of each exchange office for another exchange office shall be numbered consecutively, commencing with No. 1 on the first of January of each year, and all particulars therein required shall be furnished and written clearly. The parcel bill of the first dispatch of each year shall bear, in addition to the serial number of that dispatch, the serial number of the last dispatch of the preceding year.

4. Parcels for dispatch shall be in closed in bags duly fastened and sealed. A label showing the exchange office of origin and the exchange office of destination shall be attached to the neck of each bag, the number of parcels contained therein being indicated on the label. The label of the bag containing the parcel bill and other documents shall be distinctively marked "F".

ARTICLE XI

RECEIPT OF DISPATCH

1. Upon receipt of a parcel dispatch, the receiving Office shall examine the parcels, and compare them with the entries on the parcel bill and/or the label of the bag. Any irregularity or discrepancy noted in the dispatch, including loss of or damage to parcels or their contents, errors in the entries on the parcel bill and other documents, and failure to seal the bags, shall be reported to the dispatching offices on a bulletin of verification, the form of which shall be mutually agreed upon between the contracting Administrations. Missing dispatches shall be reported in like manner.

2. If the parcel bill covering the parcel dispatch is missing, a substitute shall be prepared and a copy of it sent to the dispatching office for verification.

ARTICLE XII