MONEY ORDERS

Convention signed at Washington January 21, 1946, and at Beirut March 15, 1947;[1] *amendments signed at Washington October 8, 1946, and at Beirut March 15, 1947*
Entered into force July 1, 1947

61 Stat. 4251; Treaties and Other International Acts Series 1984

THE CONVENTION FOR EXCHANGE OF POSTAL MONEY ORDERS BETWEEN THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ONE HAND AND THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON ON THE OTHER HAND

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Lebanon desiring to facilitate the transmission of funds between the United States of America and the Republic of Lebanon by means of money orders, have decided to conclude an agreement to this effect.

The undersigned, duly authorized by their respective Governments, are in agreement on the following articles:

ARTICLE I

In this convention the expression "The United States of America" includes the Continental United States, Alaska, the Islands of Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Tutuila (Samoa). The expression "Republic of Lebanon" includes the territories under the jurisdiction of Lebanon.

The expression "The Central Administration" or "The Central Administrations" indicate, in regard to the United States of America, the Post Office Department, Division of Money Orders, Washington, D.C., and in regard to the Republic of Lebanon, the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs at Beyrouth, Lebanon.

ARTICLE II

A regular exchange of postal money orders is established between the United States of America on the one hand and the Republic of Lebanon on the other hand.

[1] For forms attached to convention, see 61 Stat. 4264 or p. 16 of TIAS 1984.

ARTICLE III

The service of postal money orders between said countries will be carried out exclusively through the intermediary of Exchange Offices. The Exchange Office for the United States of America is New York; that for the Republic of Lebanon is Beyrouth.

ARTICLE IV [2]

The amount of each remittance will be expressed for the money orders issued in the United States of America, in Lebanon pounds and piastres; for those issued in Lebanon, in American dollars and cents.

The conversion into the money of the country of destination will be done by the office (exchange office or issuing office, as the case may be) under the jurisdiction of the Central Administration of the country of origin. The latter will fix the rate of exchange used by its own offices.

In conversion, fractions of cents or of Lebanon piastres will be disregarded.

ARTICLE V

Each Central Administration has the right to establish, in agreement with the other, the maximum amount of issue for each order. This amount must not exceed two hundred (200) dollars for orders issued in the Republic of Lebanon or $100 for orders issued in the United States of America.

ARTICLE VI

Each Central Administration has the right to change according to circumstances, the fees paid by remitters of postal money orders issued by the offices under its jurisdiction, on condition that it will inform the other Central Administration of its changes. The fees collected shall belong to the Administration of origin. The latter will allow to the paying Administration a commission of one half of one per cent (½%) on the total amount of orders paid. No allowance will be made for money orders issued without charge.

The amounts of orders drawn in favor of prisoners of war, or sent by them, are exempt from all charges.

ARTICLE VII

The remitter of a postal money order shall be required to furnish, if possible, the surname and the first name or names, or at least the initials of the first name of the remitter and payee, or the name and address of the dispatching or receiving business firm or company. But if the aforesaid names or initials cannot be given, the money order may nevertheless be issued at the risk of the remitter.

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[2] For an amendment superseding art. IV, see p. 578.

ARTICLE VIII

If a money order is lost a duplicate will be issued on written request of the remitter or payee, containing all the necessary information, and addressed to the Central Administration of the country on which drawn. Unless there is reason to believe that the order was lost in transit through the mails, the Administration issuing the duplicate has the right to collect the same fee as that provided by its domestic regulations.

ARTICLE IX

A request for correction of name, or change of address of the payee, or for stoppage of payment of an order, or for refund of the money to the remitter, must be addressed by the remitter to the Central Administration of the country of issue of the money order.

ARTICLE X

In no event shall repayment of a money order be effected without a statement from the Central Administration of the country of destination to the effect that the money order has not been paid and that repayment is authorized.

ARTICLE XI

The period of validity of a money order is fixed at twelve months, not including the month of issue. After the expiration of said period the amount of orders not paid is returned to the Central Administration of origin, which will dispose of them according to its own regulations.

ARTICLE XII

The orders issued in one country on the other are subject to the regulations of the country of origin as concerns their issue and to the laws of the country of destination as concerns their payment.

ARTICLE XIII

The exchange office at Beyrouth will certify to the exchange office at New York the particulars of the money orders drawn for payment in the United States of America, and the New York Office will certify to the exchange office at Beyrouth the orders drawn for payment in the Republic of Lebanon.

The money order advice lists used for that purpose shall be similar to Forms A and B, attached hereto.[3]

In order to prevent the inconvenience resulting from the loss of one of these lists, each office will send with each list a duplicate of the preceding list.

[3] See footnote 1, p. 571.

ARTICLE XIV

The orders will be entered in consecutive order in the lists by each exchange office, beginning with No. 1 on July 1st of each year.

The numbers assigned to orders in the lists are considered "international numbers."

The lists will likewise be numbered serially each year beginning with No. 1 on July 1st.

ARTICLE XV

Each missing list of money orders must be immediately claimed by the exchange office of destination. The exchange office of origin will transmit without delay to the other exchange office a duly certified copy of each list.

ARTICLE XVI

Each advice list shall be carefully verified by the exchange office of destination and corrected in cases of simple errors. The details of correction will be communicated to the exchange office of origin.

If a list contains other irregularities, the exchange office of destination shall ask for information from the exchange office of origin, which shall furnish this information in the shortest possible time. In such cases the issue of inland orders drawn on the items subject to such inquiries will be suspended until correction.

ARTICLE XVII

On receipt of a list at the exchange office of destination, after verification, said office shall reissue new orders in favor of the payees for amounts specified in the lists, or their equivalents in the money of the country of destination, and shall transmit them to the payees or to the paying offices in accordance with the regulations in force in the country of destination.

ARTICLE XVIII

The Republic of Lebanon may exchange, through the intermediary of the Postal Administration of the United States, postal money orders with the countries which have money order service with the United States of America. This service will be subject to special arrangements as follows:

(a) The exchange office at Beyrouth will certify the amount of each "through" order to the exchange office at New York, which will in turn certify it to the country of payment.

(b) The maximum amount of each order must not exceed the maximum fixed in the agreement between the United States of America and the country of destination.

(c) The particulars of such orders shall be entered in red ink at the end of each advice list certified to New York, or on special lists, and the total amounts of such orders will be included in the total of the ordinary lists.

(d) The name and address of the payee of a "through" order, as well as the name of the city and country of destination must be as complete as possible.

(e) The Lebanon Postal Administration will allow to the Postal Administration of the United States on the "through" money orders, a commission equal to that allowed on orders payable in the United States of America. (See Article VI). The American Central Administration will credit the country of payment with a commission equal to that provided in agreements between that country and the United States of America, and will deduct from the amount of the order a fee fixed by the American Central Administration.

(f) In case of repayment to the remitter of the amount of a "through" money order, the intermediary country shall retain the fee collected.

The Postal Administration of the United States shall communicate to the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs at Beyrouth, the names of the countries with which it exchanges postal money orders, the maximum amount of the orders in each case, and the fees to be deducted from the amount of each remittance.

ARTICLE XIX

At the end of each quarter each Central Administration will prepare and transmit to the other a statement of money orders issued in the other country and which are not paid at the expiration of twelve months following the month of issue, and therefore became void during the preceding quarter (see appendix C); should there be no such orders, a statement marked "no void orders" shall be transmitted.

ARTICLE XX

The General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs at Beyrouth, will mail to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Division of Money Orders, Washington, D.C., as soon as possible after the end of each quarter an account, in duplicate, containing the following items:

a. To the credit of the United States:

1. The total amount of advice lists sent by the Beyrouth exchange office during the current quarter, less the amount of invalid orders and the orders which the Lebanon Republic has been authorized to repay during the same period.

2. The commission of ½% on the amount of money orders paid in the United States.

b. To the credit of the Lebanon Republic:

1. The total of advice lists sent by the New York Exchange Office in the course of the quarter, less the amount of invalid orders, and the orders which the United States has been authorized, during the same quarter, to repay.

2. The commission of ½% on the amount of money orders paid in the Lebanon Republic.

c. The balance of the accounts:[4]

For the establishment of the said balance, the lesser claim will be converted into the money of the larger claim, by using for the base of conversion the average official rate of exchange in the debtor country during the period to which the account relates. The difference finally established will be included in the first account of the following quarter.

This account prepared on a form similar to the one in Appendix E shall be accompanied by statements:

a. Of advice lists transmitted during the quarter in both directions (Appendix D).

b. Of invalid and repaid money orders (Appendix C.)

A copy of the account, duly accepted, will be returned to the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs at Beyrouth.

Article XXI

If during the quarter the total amount of the money orders issued by either Administration exceeds 12,000 gold francs (or the equivalent thereof), the orders issued by the other Central Administration, the creditor country shall have the right to ask the debtor Central Administration for payment of a provisional balance amounting to three-quarters of the sum due. This payment shall be effected within eight days following the receipt of the request from the creditor country, and verification of the amount due.

In case of nonpayment in the stipulated time, interest at the rate of 6% per annum shall be paid from the date the payment is due until the date of payment.

Article XXII

The balance of the general account must be paid by the debtor country not later than 15 days after the date on which the general account is accepted as correct.

The payment mentioned in this article and article XXI, will be effected by remittance on New York or Beyrouth, as the case may be, in the money of the creditor country, without any loss to the latter.[5]

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[4] For an amendment superseding art. XX, para. c, see p. 578.

[5] For an amendment superseding the second paragraph of art. XXII, see p. 579.

Any amount not paid by one of the Central Administrations to the other, after the expiration of six months following the period for which the bill was rendered, will bear interest at the rate of 6% per annum.

Article XXIII

Each of the Central Administrations is authorized to adopt any supplementary measures, not contrary to the provisions of this Convention, which it may deem advisable to guard more securely against fraud or to improve the working of the service provided due notice thereof be given to the other.

Article XXIV

The General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs of the Lebanon Republic shall have the right to fix the maximum amount of money which can be sent in any one day by one remitter to the same payee in the United States of America.

Article XXV

Each Central Administration reserves the right to increase the fees or to suspend temporarily money order service in case it finds that this service is used by firms or by any one else for remitting large amounts, or for speculation purposes.

The temporary suspension of money order service may be decided unilaterally by each Administration in case of extraordinary circumstances, of which each Administration is the sole judge.

In all cases notice of such suspension must be given immediately by telegraph to the correspondent Central Administration.

Article XXVI

The present Convention shall take effect on a date fixed by common agreement between the Postal Administration of the United States and Lebanon and promulgated according to the laws of the respective countries.

It shall remain in force from year to year, unless one of the contracting parties gives notice to the other one year in advance of its intention to terminate it.

The provisions of the present Convention will continue during the last year to be executed faithfully and entirely without prejudice to liquidation and payment of accounts after the expiration of this time.

In witness thereof the undersigned have signed this Convention and have affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on January 21, 1946 and Beyrouth on . . . .

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN [SEAL]
Postmaster General of the United States

[6] [SEAL]

Postmaster General of the Republic of Lebanon.

[For forms attached to convention, see 61 Stat. 4264 or p. 16 of TIAS 1984.]

AMENDMENTS TO MONEY ORDER CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

Pursuant to authority vested in them, the Postmaster General of the United States of America and the Director of Posts and Telecommunications of the Republic of Lebanon have agreed upon the following amendments to the Convention for the exchange of international money orders between the two countries.

These amendments will become effective when signed and will supersede ARTICLE IV, ARTICLE XX, (Par. c) and ARTICLE XXII, (Par. 2).

ARTICLE IV

The amount of money orders exchanged in both directions will be expressed in American currency. The exchange office at Beyrouth will convert the amount of the money orders issued in Lebanon into United States dollars and the amount of the money orders issued in the United States of America, into Lebanon currency.

The rate of conversion shall approximate as closely as possible the buying and selling rate of the United States dollar fixed by the Official Bank at Beyrouth.

The Postal Administration of Lebanon will duly notify the Postal Administration of the United States of the conversion rates used for orders going in both directions.

ARTICLE XX

Par. (c). For the establishment of this balance the credit of the Lebanese Republic, expressed in Lebanese pounds, will be converted into United States dollars by using for the basis of conversion the average official rate of exchange in the United States of America, during the period to which the account relates. The differences established will be carried over to the next quarterly account to follow.

[6] Signature illegible.

ARTICLE XXII

Par. (2). The payments provided in this Article and in Article XXI, will be effected by means of drafts drawn on New York in United States dollars.

In witness whereof the Undersigned have signed these Amendments to the Convention and have affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate and signed at Washington on October 8, 1946 and Beyrouth on 15 Mars 1947.

ROBERT E. HANNEGAN [SEAL]
Postmaster General

[6] [SEAL]
Director of Posts and Telecommunications

[6] Signature illegible.