

**DRAFT OF CONVENTION  
AND REGULATIONS,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.,  
DECEMBER, 1920**

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Draft of Convention and Regulations, Washington, D.C., December, 1920 by Universal  
Electrical Communications Union

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**UNIVERSAL ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS UNION**

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AND REGULATIONS,  
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**UNIVERSAL  
ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS  
UNION**

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**WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER, 1920**



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1921**

## P R E F A C E .

The following resolution was adopted at Paris by the five Principal Allied and Associated Powers:

"The Principal Allied and Associated Powers shall, as soon as possible, arrange for the convoking of an International Congress to consider all international aspects of communication by land telegraphs, cables, or wireless telegraphy, and to make recommendations to the Principal Allied and Associated Powers with a view to providing the entire world with adequate facilities of this nature on a fair and equitable basis."

A Conference, preliminary to such an International Conference, and composed of representatives of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers, convened at Washington on the 8th of October, 1920. Among the subjects which it considered in connection with the foregoing Resolution was a proposal for the amalgamation of the Telegraph and Radiotelegraph Conventions and Regulations. This proposal was put forward with the object of simplifying communications by bringing all methods of electrical transmission as far as practicable under the same rules.

The Preliminary Conference considered it desirable that a Universal Electrical Communications Union should be formed,\* and they decided that the following draft of a Convention and Regulations, covering both telegraph and radiotelegraph communications, should be submitted for the consideration of the forthcoming World Conference on Electrical Communications. The draft Convention has been fully considered by the Preliminary Conference, but the Regulations have only been considered so far as they relate to the following points:

Address and Routing Instructions (Reg. IV (9) and (12) and XXIII (2)).  
Transmission of Filing Time (Reg. VIII (2)).  
Grouped and Cipher Language (Reg. IX (3, 4, 5, 6, and 7)).  
Collection of Charges (Reg. XI (3) and (4)).  
Order of Transmission (Reg. XV).  
Deferred Telegrams (Reg. XXX).  
Urgent Telegrams (Reg. XXXI).  
Multiple Telegrams (Reg. XXXIX).  
Press Telegrams (Reg. XLIII, XLIV, XLV, and XLVI).  
Refunds (Reg. XLIX (1) (c) and (h)).  
Accounts (Reg. LII, LIV, and CXI).  
Central Bureau (Reg. LVIII and LIX, (1) and (4)).  
International Technical Committee (Reg. LXI).  
Adhesions (Reg. LXIV and LXV).  
Tariffs (Reg. LXX, LXXI, and CII).  
Classification of Radiotelegraph Services (Reg. LXXXIX).  
Classification of Radio Transmitting Stations (Reg. LXXXII).  
Spacing Waves (Reg. LXXXII).  
Distribution and Use of Wave Lengths (Reg. LXXXIII and Appendices 1 and 2).  
Operators' Certificates (Reg. LXXXIV).  
Radio Interference (Reg. LXXXIX).  
Reporting of Infractions of Regulations (Reg. XC).  
Publication of Information (Reg. XCI and XCIII).  
Call Signs (Reg. XCII).  
Conditions to be Fulfilled by Mobile Stations (Reg. XCVI).  
Use of 600 Meter Wave Length (Reg. XCVII).  
Alarm Signal (Reg. XCI and Appendix 6).  
Hours of Service (Reg. C).  
Safety of Life Messages (Reg. CII).  
Service of Mobile Stations (Reg. CV).  
Special Operations (Reg. CX).  
Direction Finding and Radio Beacon Stations (Reg. CX).

The Powers which took part in the Preliminary Conference reserve the right to propose further modifications. In particular they wish attention to be called to the fact that the Draft Regulations relating to procedure and the working of apparatus were only considered in a general way by a subcommittee, and that all the Delegations at the Preliminary Conference especially reserve the right to propose modifications relating to these subjects.

Abbreviations in marginal notes:

T.—International Telegraph Regulations, 1906.  
R.—International Radiotelegraph Regulations, 1912.  
rev.—revised.

\* See next page for Reservations.

At the second plenary meeting of the Conference when the report of the subcommittee on Universal Communications Union and Telegraph and Radio Conventions was adopted, the following reservation was made on behalf of the Canadian representatives:

"I should like to add that the Canadian representatives wish to make a somewhat similar reservation [i. e., a, similar to the American reservation], and especially they felt unable at present to bind themselves to accept a convention relating to ordinary telegraphy, although they undertook that the question should be fully and sympathetically considered by their Government."

At the same meeting the following reservation was made on behalf of the American Delegation:

"The American Delegation takes this occasion to again call attention to the fact that telegraphs, cables, and radio stations in the United States are largely owned and operated by private companies; that the United States is not a signatory party to the International Telegraph Convention, but is a signatory to the International Radio-telegraph Convention; that the American Delegation has participated only conditionally in the discussion relating to these conventions; and that should a convention such as the proposed Universal Electrical Communications Union be submitted to the powers for ratification, the United States probably could only adhere, if at all, through a separate protocol. It is the understanding of the American Delegation that such conditional adherence made necessary by private ownership of communication facilities would be agreeable to other governments provided the terms of the protocol are satisfactory. The American private companies have not as yet been able to examine the draft and submit their observations thereon."

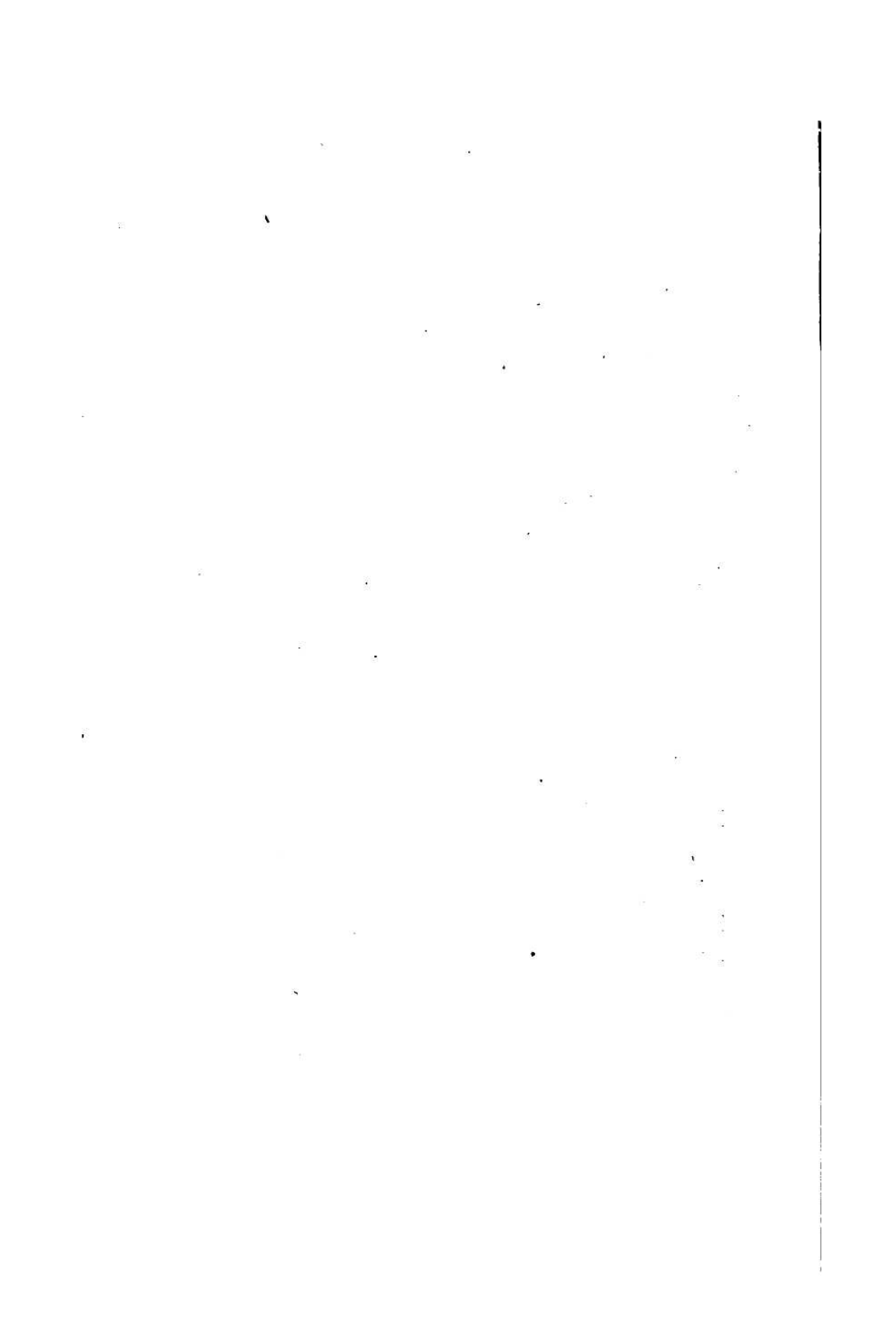
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## UNIVERSAL ELECTRICAL COMMUNICATIONS UNION DRAFT CONVENTION.

ARTICLE 1. The High Contracting Parties signatory to the present Convention, as well as those hereafter adhering thereto, hereby constitute a Universal Electrical Communications Union, having for its object the reciprocal exchange of telegraphic and telephonic communication by land line, cable, radio or other electrical devices, and all other forms of signaling, as well as the further extension and improvement of such means of communication.

They undertake to apply the provisions of the present Convention to the International Telegraph and Telephone services which they provide by wire, and to all radiotelegraph and radiotelephone stations which they establish or work and which are open for the service of public correspondence, or for the special services covered by the regulations referred to in Article 16; and they also undertake to adopt, or to propose to their respective legislatures, the measures necessary for this purpose.

They also agree that the present Convention and Regulations referred to in Article 16 shall be applied to international signaling, so far as practicable.

Except where the context directly excludes such reference, the terms "telegraph" and "radiotelegraph" shall be held to include "telephone" and "radiotelephone," and the term "telegram" shall be held to include "radiotelegram."

ARTICLE 2. Each of the High Contracting Parties reserves the right to authorize private enterprises to conduct, in whole or in part, its communication services. The High Contracting Parties so arranging for the conduct of their international services, reserve, in each case, the right to provide by mutual agreement for the joint regulation of the international services and rates of such private enterprises. In default of such agreement, the private enterprises have the right to fix their own terminal and transit rates subject to the provisions of Articles 7, 14, 15, and 16.

When private enterprises so authorized adhere to this Convention and the Regulations annexed thereto, each of the High Contracting Parties agrees to exchange traffic with such enterprises on the same basis as contemplated therein for the exchange of traffic between Government Administrations. Each of the High Contracting Parties, however, reserves the right to limit or to prohibit traffic with private telegraph, telephone, cable, or radio enterprises which do not render service to the public generally or which engage in the sale of news.

The High Contracting Parties undertake, as soon as existing agreements admit, to adopt or to propose to their respective legislatures any measures necessary to insure the observance of the provisions of the present Convention and the Regulations annexed thereto by private enterprises authorized to conduct international communication services or to establish and operate radiotelegraph stations, whether open to public correspondence or not.

Private enterprises authorized to conduct international communication services are authorized to deal directly with the Central Bureau and with the High Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 3. The High Contracting Parties recognize the right of all persons to correspond by means of the international telegraph and radiotelegraph services.

ARTICLE 4. They undertake to make all possible arrangements compatible with the system of communications adopted by them to insure the secrecy of communications and their proper transmission.

ARTICLE 5. They, however, declare that they accept no responsibility on account of the international telegraph or radiotelegraph service, or on account of the contents of international telegrams or radiotelegrams.

ARTICLE 6. Each of the High Contracting Parties, operating its communication facilities, undertakes to devote for international communication service telegraph or radiotelegraph facilities sufficient to insure permanence of the 24-hour service and to insure rapidity of transmission.

Each of the High Contracting Parties, not so operating its communication facilities, undertakes to require of private enterprises the same permanence and rapidity of service.

These communications shall be established and worked in the most efficient manner indicated by experience of the service, and shall be in keeping with scientific and technical progress. They shall be organized as far as possible in such a manner as not to disturb the services of other Administrations or other recognized services.

ARTICLE 7. Telegrams are classed in four categories, and in transmission take the following order of precedence:

*First.*—Telegrams relating to the safety of human life, priority Government telegrams, and urgent service telegrams.

*Second.*—Urgent private telegrams.

*Third.*—Service telegrams.

*Fourth.*—Ordinary Government and private telegrams.

Government telegrams are those which emanate from the Chief of the State, Ministers, Commanders-in-Chief of land, sea, and air forces, and Diplomatic or Consular Agents of the Contracting Governments, as well as the replies to such telegrams. Service telegrams are those which emanate from the Telegraph and Radiotelegraph Administrations of the Contracting States, and which relate either to the international telegraph or radiotelegraph service or to objects of public interest agreed upon between the said Administrations.

Telegrams from the Council of the League of Nations shall have the same status as Government telegrams for the purpose of this Article.

Except as provided in this Article, service and rates shall, under like circumstances, be the same to all users without preference, concessions, priorities, rebates, or discriminations.

ARTICLE 8. Government and service telegrams may be sent between all telegraphic points in secret language.

Private telegrams may be exchanged in secret language in cases where the terminal States concerned admit that class of correspondence.

States which do not admit private telegrams in secret language originating in, or destined for, their territory, must allow them to pass in transit, whether by wire or radiotelegraphy, unless the service be suspended as defined in Article 10.

ARTICLE 9. The High Contracting Parties reserve to themselves the right of stopping the transmission of any private telegram which may appear dangerous to the security of the State, or which may be contrary to the laws of the country, to public order, or decency.

ARTICLE 10. Each Government also reserves to itself the right in case of emergency of suspending or modifying the international telegraph service for an indefinite period, if it deem necessary, either generally or only upon certain lines and for certain kinds of correspondence, upon condition that it immediately advises each of the other Contracting Governments.

ARTICLE 11. The High Contracting Parties reserve their entire liberty with regard to military radio services, except that such services shall as far as possible observe the annexed Regulations in regard to assisting distress and avoiding interference, and in particular that they shall observe the Regulations relating to wave lengths and other technical matters which concern them.