TELEGRAPHS

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES

1959 No. 2100

The Telegraph (British Commonwealth and Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1959

Made - - - -	10*th December*, 1959
Laid before Parliament	17*th December*, 1959
Coming into Operation	1*st January*, 1960

I, The Right Honourable John Reginald Bevins, M.P., Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, with the consent of the Treasury, do, by virtue of the power vested in me by section 2 of the Telegraph Act, 1885(a), as amended by section 4 of the Post Office and Telegraph Act, 1940(b) and sections 1 and 2 of the Telegraph Act, 1954(c), and of every other power enabling me in this behalf, hereby make the following Regulations, that is to say:—

Interpretation

1.—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them:—

"authorised recipient" means a newspaper, news agency, broadcasting authority, or the press service of a diplomatic mission, which is for the time being authorised by the Postmaster-General, or by the Telegraph Administration of any country outside the British Islands to which press telegrams may be sent under these regulations, to receive press telegrams to which these regulations apply;

"broadcasting authority" means a person providing a broadcasting service by wireless telegraphy for general reception, and includes a programme contractor within the meaning of the Television Act, 1954(d);

"ordinary press telegram" means a press telegram which is not an urgent press telegram;

"press telegram" means a written telegram which is transmitted or intended for transmission to the offices of any authorised recipient and of which the text consists exclusively of information, comment, reports and narratives on subjects of public interest for the time being intended for publication in a newspaper or for broadcasting by wireless telegraphy, with or without instructions relating to such publication or broadcasting;

"urgent press telegram" means a press telegram accepted as such at an increased rate and entitled to some priority of treatment as regards transmission and delivery.

(2) These regulations shall be read as one with the Telegraph (British Commonwealth and Foreign Written Telegram) Regulations, 1959(e) (hereinafter called "the principal regulations"), and the provisions of those regulations, where not inconsistent with these regulations, shall apply to press telegrams to which these regulations apply.

(a) 48 & 49 Vict. c. 58. (b) 3 & 4 Geo. 6. c. 25. (c) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 28
(d) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 55. (e) S.I. 1959/2099 (Pt. II, p. 2580, of this vol.).

(3) Any reference in these regulations to the provisions of any other enactment or regulations shall be construed, unless the context otherwise requires, as a reference to those provisions as amended or replaced by any subsequent enactment or regulations.

(4) The Interpretation Act, 1889(a) applies for the interpretation of these regulations as it applies for the interpretation of any Act of Parliament, and as if these regulations and the regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

Application

2. These regulations apply only to press telegrams transmitted or intended for transmission in either direction between places within the British Islands and places (other than the Republic of Ireland) outside the British Islands, and to press telegrams which are radiotelegrams.

Address of press telegrams

3.—(1) A press telegram shall be addressed and delivered only to an authorised recipient, and shall not be addressed to any person by name, title or designation. The abbreviated or arbitrary address of the authorised recipient may be used.

(2) The paid service indication = PRESSE = shall be written before the address of every press telegram.

Countries to which press telegrams may be sent

4. Ordinary press telegrams and urgent press telegrams may be sent to any country served by a Telegraph Administration or private operating agency which is prepared to deliver ordinary press telegrams and urgent press telegrams respectively in accordance with the provisions of the International Telegraph Regulations and with any special arrangements sanctioned by the International Telecommunication Convention between any parties thereto and, so far as they are concerned, any private operating agency taking part in the transmission. The Postmaster-General shall from time to time publish in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in such other manner as he may determine the territories or places to which ordinary press telegrams and urgent press telegrams respectively may be sent.

Contents of press telegrams

5.—(1) A press telegram shall be written in plain language and in the usual orthography of the language used. The language may be one of the following:—

(*a*) English or Welsh;

(*b*) French;

(*c*) The language in which the newspaper receiving the press telegram is produced, or in which the broadcasting authority receiving it is to broadcast the matter contained in it, as the case may be;

(*d*) A language notified for the purpose by the Administration of the country of destination of the press telegram.

(2) Only one of the languages specified above may be used in a press telegram: Provided that quotations may be inserted in any other of the said languages.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(3) Stock Exchange and market quotations, results of sporting events and meteorological observations and forecasts in a press telegram may consist of figures or groups of figures. The Postmaster-General may require the sender to produce evidence that figures contained in a press telegram and purporting to be Stock Exchange or market quotations or results of sporting events or meteorological observations or forecasts are in fact such.

(4) A press telegram shall not contain any matter of a private nature, or any announcement or communication or advertisement for the insertion of which in a newspaper or for the broadcasting of which a payment is usually required from the person requesting such insertion or broadcasting, or any advertisement which is inserted in a newspaper or broadcast free of charge: Provided that a press telegram may contain instructions relative to its publication or broadcasting which shall be written as a parenthesis at the beginning or end of the text and shall consist of no more than 10 per cent. of the number of words in the entire text or 20 words whichever shall be the less. The brackets containing the parenthesis shall be charged for but shall not be deemed to form part of such instructions.

(5) The Postmaster-General may refuse to transmit at the rate applicable to press telegrams any matter the transmission of which at such rate would in his opinion involve an abuse of the system, or be attended with inconvenience to the public service.

Charges for transmission and publication of rates

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (4) of regulation 16 of the principal regulations (which relates to the charge for a multiple telegram to be delivered to a number of persons or addresses), the charges for the transmission of :—

(*a*) press telegrams originating in places within the British Islands, and

(*b*) press telegrams which are radiotelegrams originating in ships and aircraft registered in any part of the British Islands, being radiotelegrams transmitted or intended for transmission over the first part of their course to land stations within the British Islands,

shall be at such rates as may be fixed by the Postmaster-General.

(2) The Postmaster-General shall from time to time publish the rates so fixed in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in such other manner as he may determine.

(3) The rates for transmission which are in force at the commencement of these regulations shall continue in force until superseded by rates fixed under this regulation, and shall have effect as if they had been fixed and published under this regulation.

Telegrams not entitled to transmission at press rates

7. In the following cases, that is to say :—

(*a*) where a press telegram addressed to a newspaper or a broadcasting authority, before being published or broadcast, is communicated to any other person, except to another newspaper or broadcasting authority (being an authorised recipient) for the purpose of simultaneous publication or broadcasting;

(*b*) where a press telegram addressed to a news agency, before being published or broadcast, is communicated to any other person, except to a newspaper or broadcasting authority which is an authorised recipient;

or

(*c*) where, in the case of a telegram accepted as a press telegram, it is discovered, before or after transmission, that the telegram as accepted does not accord with the requirements of these regulations as to press telegrams or has been presented for transmission otherwise than in conformity therewith;

the telegram shall be liable to the full charge as if it were an ordinary or urgent telegram (as the case may be) transmitted under the principal regulations, and any difference between the amount paid for such telegram and the amount payable thereon shall be paid by the addressee on demand.

Services and facilities

8. Regulations 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24 of the principal regulations (which relate to certain telegraphic services and facilities) shall not apply to press telegrams.

Notice of long telegrams to be given to Postmaster-General

9. A press telegram originating in a place within the British Islands and exceeding two hundred words in length shall not be accepted for transmission unless either:

(*a*) at least twelve hours' previous notice of the intention to tender it, containing such particulars as may be prescribed by the Postmaster-General, has been given to such office and in such manner as may be so prescribed, or

(*b*) in the opinion of the Postmaster-General the telegram can be transmitted without seriously delaying the transmission of other telegrams.

Revocation

10. The Telegraph (British Commonwealth and Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1957(**a**) are hereby revoked.

Citation and commencement

11.—(1) These regulations may be cited as "The Telegraph (British Commonwealth and Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1959".

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the 1st day of January, 1960.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1959.

J. R. Bevins,
Her Majesty's Postmaster-General.

We consent to these Regulations.

Paul Bryan,
Graeme Bell Finlay,
Two of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

10th December, 1959.

(a) S.I. 1957/767 (1957 II, p. 2470).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations supersede the Telegraph (British Commonwealth and Foreign Written Press Telegram) Regulations, 1957. The main changes are:—

(1) Effect is given to certain modifications in the international telegraph service brought about by the revision of the international Telegraph Regulations annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, made at the 1958 Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference at Geneva.

(2) The minimum charges for overseas press telegrams are no longer specified in the Regulations, and are thus to be fixed and published in accordance with regulation 6 (1) and (2).

1959 No. 2099

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