

No. 724.

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**GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET CHINE.**

Arrangement concernant l'Échange des Colis-Postaux  
entre les Administrations postales de Chine et des  
"Straits Settlements," signé à Singapour le 29 Avril,  
à Pékin le 23 Mai 1924.

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**GREAT BRITAIN AND CHINA.**

Agreement for the Exchange of Postal Parcels between  
the Postal Administrations of China and of the  
Straits Settlements, signed at Singapore, April 29, at  
Peking, May 23, 1924.

**No. 724.—Agreement for the Exchange of Postal Parcels between the Postal Administration of China and the Postal Administration of the Straits Settlements, signed at Singapore, April 29, at Peking, May 23, 1924.**

*Texte officiel anglais communiqué par le Ministère des Affaires étrangères de Sa Majesté britannique. L'enregistrement de cet arrangement a eu lieu le 12 septembre 1924.*

In order to establish an exchange of parcel mails between the Postal Administration of China and the Postal Administration of the Straits Settlements, the undersigned, being duly authorised for that purpose, have agreed upon the following articles :—

*Article 1.*

Parcels may be exchanged between the Post Office of China and the Post Office of the Straits Settlements. This exchange shall be effected exclusively through such offices of exchange as may be mutually agreed upon.

*Article 2.*

The cost of conveying the parcel mails to the office of exchange of the country of destination shall be borne by the despatching Administration.

*Article 3.*

The Post Office of China may forward parcels for places within the Colony of the Straits Settlements, and the Post Office of the Straits Settlements may forward parcels for places in China.

Parcels shall be despatched in receptacles supplied by the Administration of the country of origin. The receptacles shall be returned empty by the Administration of the country of destination by the next mail.

*Article 4.*

The parcels to which the present Agreement applies shall not be subjected to any postal charges other than those contemplated by the different Articles of this Agreement.

Traduction.—Translation.<sup>(1)</sup>

**No. 724.—Arrangement entre l'Administration des Postes chinoises et l'Administration des Postes des "Straits Settlements" pour l'Échange des Colis postaux, signé à Singapour le 29 Avril, à Pékin le 23 Mai 1924.**

*English official Text communicated by His Britannic Majesty's Foreign Office. The registration of this Agreement took place September 12, 1924.*

EN vue d'établir un service d'échange de colis postaux entre l'Administration des Postes chinoises et l'Administration des Postes des Straits Settlements, les soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet, sont convenus des dispositions suivantes :

*Article 1<sup>er</sup>.*

L'échange des colis postaux entre l'Administration des Postes chinoises et l'Administration des Postes des Straits Settlements est autorisé. Cet échange s'effectuera exclusivement par l'intermédiaire des bureaux d'échange qui pourront être désignés par accord réciproque.

*Article 2.*

Les frais de transport des colis postaux jusqu'au bureau d'échange du pays de destination sont à la charge de l'administration expéditrice.

*Article 3.*

L'Administration des Postes chinoises est autorisée à envoyer des colis postaux à destination de localités situées à l'intérieur de la colonie des Straits Settlements et l'Administration des Postes des Straits Settlements est autorisée à envoyer des colis postaux à destination de localités situées à l'intérieur de la Chine.

Les colis postaux seront transportés dans des récipients fournis par l'administration du pays d'origine. L'administration du pays de destination renverra à vide les récipients par le courrier suivant.

*Article 4.*

Les colis postaux auxquels s'applique le présent accord ne seront assujettis à aucune taxe postale autre que celles qui sont prévues par les différents articles du présent accord.

<sup>(1)</sup> Traduit par le Secrétariat de la  
Ligée des Nations.

<sup>(1)</sup> Translated by the Secretariat of the  
League of Nations.

*Article 5.*

Prepayment of postage shall be compulsory at the following rates or the equivalent thereof :—

For a Parcel not exceeding—	Straits Postage.	Chinese Postage.
	Dol. c.	Dol. c.
3 lbs.     ...     ...     ...	0   80	0   80
7 lbs.     ...     ...     ...	1   10	1   20
11 lbs.    ...     ...     ...	1   40	1   50

The parcels shall be delivered to addresses at the post offices of address in the country of destination, free of charge. However, on parcels for or from non-steam-served places in China, an additional Chinese domestic parcel postage shall be levied and collected by the Chinese Service.

On parcels mailed in the Straits Settlements for delivery at places situated north of Mukden (including Harbin), or in the Province of Yunnan transmitted through Indo-China, a fixed tax of 50 cents Chinese currency per parcel—irrespective of weight—shall be collected by the Chinese Service.

*Article 6.*

No parcel which exceeds 500 dollars Chinese currency, or 1,250 francs or 430 dollars Straits or £50 sterling in value shall be accepted for transmission. Insured parcels may be exchanged when originating in, or destined to, places in China included in the "List of Chinese Offices open to the International Parcel Service." Parcels for other offices in China may be insured within the same limits of amount, but only as far as the insurance office nearest to destination.

The Postal Administration of China shall collect on insured parcels an insurance fee of 20 cents Chinese currency per 120 dollars or 300 francs, or fraction thereof, of the sum insured.

The Postal Administration of the Straits Settlements shall collect on insured parcels an insurance fee of 30 cents (Straits) when the value insured does not exceed 100 dollars (Straits) or 300 francs, and 20 cents (Straits) for every additional 100 dollars or 300 francs or fraction thereof of insured value.

To the Postal Administrations of the two countries is reserved the power of fixing subsequently, by common consent, if their respective laws and regulations permit, the rates and conditions

applicable to postal parcels insured for sums exceeding 500 dollars Chinese currency, or 1,250 francs or 480 dollars (Straits) or £50 sterling.

*Article 7.*

The maximum limit of weight for a parcel shall be eleven pounds.

Parcels exchanged between the Straits Settlements and places in China on the "List of Chinese Offices open to the International Parcel Service" must not exceed 3 feet and 6 inches English in length or 6 feet in length and girth combined, but parcels containing umbrellas, walking sticks, charts or similar articles may be accepted if they do not exceed 3 feet 6 inches in length and 8 inches in breadth or depth.

Parcels exchanged between the Straits Settlements and other places in China may not exceed 5 feet in length and girth combined and 1½ feet in length.

As regards the exact calculation of the volume, weight and dimensions of parcels, the view of the despatching office should be accepted, except in cases of obvious error.

*Article 8.*

No parcel infringing the rules as regards weight, size or value shall be accepted for transmission.

*Article 9.*

Every parcel shall have the name and address of the person for whom it is intended, given with such completeness as to enable delivery to be effected.

*Article 10.*

The sender of a parcel shall be responsible that it is securely packed in such a manner as to protect the contents from damage.

*Article 11.*

Every parcel shall be accompanied by a declaration of contents in the prescribed form, which shall bear the address of the parcel to which it relates and a declaration of its contents and value, as well as the signature and address of the sender. The contents must be fully stated, a separate description of each article and its value being given. Declarations on any but the prescribed form shall not be accepted.

*Article 12.*

Parcels may not contain substances of a dangerous, deleterious, corrosive, inflammable or explosive nature, nor grossly offensive or

filthy matter, nor substances which exhale a bad odour, nor anything likely to injure other parcels or any officer of the Post Office, nor opium, nor anything prohibited by the Convention of Madrid or any subsequent convention.

*Article 13.*

A parcel may not contain any enclosure for delivery at an address other than that borne by the parcel itself. It may not contain a letter or communication in the nature of a letter, even if addressed in the same way as the parcel; but it is permissible to enclose open invoices, business cards or printed circulars, advertisements, price lists, particulars or contents of or receipted account for such parcel.

*Article 14.*

Liquids and substances which easily liquify shall not be despatched unless securely packed in double receptacles provided with suitable absorbent material sufficient in quantity to absorb the whole of the contents.

*Article 15.*

The conditions of posting, transmission and delivery of parcels (including the levy of Customs duty) and redirection within the limit of the country of destination shall be governed by the regulations of the country concerned.

*Article 16.*

The parcel bills despatched by each office of exchange shall be numbered in a consecutive series, commencing with No. 1 for the first bill of each calendar year. The entries in each parcel bill shall also be numbered, commencing with No. 1 for each bill.

*Article 17.*

Every discrepancy between a parcel bill and the parcels to which it relates or other error observed by the receiving office of exchange shall be recorded in a verification note, which shall be forwarded by return mail to the despatching office of exchange.

*Article 18.*

Parcels containing coin, bullion, bank-notes, articles of gold or silver, jewellery or precious articles shall not be accepted for transmission unless insured.

*Article 19.*

The sender of a parcel may request at the time of posting that if the parcel cannot be delivered as addressed, it may be either (a) treated as abandoned, or (b) tendered for delivery at a second address in the country of destination. No other alternative is

admissible. If the sender avails himself of this facility, his request must be written on the parcel (and on the relative despatch note), and must be in one of the following forms:—

“ If not deliverable as addressed, abandon.

“ If not deliverable as addressed, deliver to .”

In the absence of a definite request for abandonment, a parcel which is undeliverable at the original address or at the alternative address, if one is furnished, will be returned to the sender without previous notification and at his expense.

Articles liable to deterioration or corruption may, however, be sold immediately and without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the party having a right thereto.

Undelivered parcels which have been abandoned by the senders shall not be returned to the country of origin; they shall be disposed of in accordance with the regulations of the country of destination.

#### Article 20.

Parcels redirected from one country to the other in consequence of the removal of the addressees, and parcels returned to the country of origin at the request of the senders are subject to fresh postage. If not prepaid, such postage shall be collected on delivery from the addressees of redirected parcels or from the senders of returned parcels.

#### Article 21.

In the case of an uninsured parcel, in the event of loss, abstraction or damage otherwise than by *force majeure*, the Post Office in whose custody the parcel shall be ascertained to have been at the time of loss, damage or abstraction shall be liable to pay an indemnity not exceeding 10 francs (gold) in the case of a parcel not exceeding 2 lbs. 2 ozs. in weight and for a parcel exceeding 2 lbs. 2 ozs. up to 11 lbs. in weight, 25 francs (gold), but no compensation will be paid where the loss arises from any fault or neglect on the part of the sender or from the nature of the contents, nor will any compensation be paid unless application be sent to the Post Office concerned immediately the loss is discovered and within one year of the date of posting at the latest.

#### Article 22.

China will credit the Straits Settlements—

On parcels from China :

0·50 franc (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 3 lbs.

0·90 franc (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 7 lbs.

1·30 francs (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 11 lbs.

The Straits Settlements will credit China—

On parcels from the Straits Settlements :

- 1·05 francs (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 3 lbs.
- 1·25 francs (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 7 lbs.
- 1·25 francs (gold) on each parcel not exceeding 11 lbs.

The Post Office of China shall pay to the Post Office of the Straits Settlements on each insured parcel addressed to the Straits Settlements 5 centimes (gold) for each 300 francs, or its equivalent, of insured value; and the Post Office of the Straits Settlements shall pay to the Post Office of China on each insured parcel addressed to China 5 centimes (gold) for each 300 francs, or its equivalent, of insured value.

*Article 23.*

The Post Office of China may forward parcels to the Post Office of the Straits Settlements for transmission to any country with which the Straits Settlements maintain parcel post relations, and shall pay to the Post Office of the Straits Settlements the full onward postage claimed on parcels despatched from the Colony for the same destinations.

*Article 24.*

The Post Office of the Straits Settlements may forward parcels addressed to China from any country with which the Post Office of the Straits Settlements maintain Parcel Post relations. For these parcels the Post Office of the Straits Settlements shall pay to the Post Office of China such sums as may be agreed upon from time to time.

*Article 25.*

Except where otherwise provided for under this Agreement all matters relating to the treatment, receipt or despatch of parcels shall be governed by the internal rules of the countries concerned.

*Article 26.*

All parcels exchanged between the Post Offices of the countries concerned shall be entered in parcel bills prepared by the despatching office of exchange. These bills must be forwarded with the parcels to which they relate to the office of exchange of the country of destination.

Each Administration shall cause each of its exchange offices to prepare quarterly for all parcel mails received from the exchanging office of the other Administration a statement in conformity with specimen K of the Parcel Convention of Madrid of the sums entered in each parcel bill, whether to its credit or to its debit.



The statements K shall be afterwards recapitulated by the same Administration in an account conforming to specimen L of the Parcel Convention of Madrid.

The account, accompanied by the quarterly statements, the parcel bills, and, if any, the verification notes relating thereto, shall be submitted to the examination of the corresponding Administration in the course of the quarter which follows that to which it relates.

The quarterly accounts, after having been verified and accepted on both sides, shall be summarised in an annual general account by the Administration to which the balance is due.

The payment resulting from the balance of these accounts between the two Administrations shall be made by the indebted office in gold francs by means of bills drawn on Paris, or in any other manner which may be mutually agreed upon, the expense attendant on the payment being at the charge of the indebted office.

The drawing up, transmission, and payment of the accounts must be effected as early as possible, at the latest before the expiration of the following year. After the expiration of this term, the sums due from one Administration to the other shall bear interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, to be reckoned from the date of expiration of the said term.

*Article 27.*

This Agreement shall come into force on the first day of June, 1924. It shall continue in force until modified or terminated by mutual consent of the Administrations concerned, or until six months after the date on which either of the Contracting Parties shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

Done in duplicate and signed at

Singapore, the 29th April, 1924.

In the name of the Post Office  
of the Straits Settlements:

(Signed) HERBERT C. SELLS,  
*Postmaster-General  
of the Straits  
Settlements.*

Peking, the 23rd May, 1924.

In the name of the Postal  
Administration of China:

(Signed) LIOU FOU TCHENG,  
*Director-General of  
Posts.*

(Signed) H. PICARD DESTELAN,  
*Co-Director-General  
of Posts.*