

No. 6816

---

**FEDERATION OF MALAYA and UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
(ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF SINGAPORE)  
and  
AUSTRALIA**

**Agreement (with schedule) concerning the exchange of  
parcels by parcel post between Malaya and Christmas  
Island. Signed at Kuala Lumpur, on 16 October 1962**

*Official text: English.*

*Registered by the Federation of Malaya on 15 July 1963.*

---

**FÉDÉRATION DE MALAISIE et ROYAUME-UNI  
DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD  
(AU NOM DE L'ÉTAT DE SINGAPOUR)  
et  
AUSTRALIE**

**Accord (avec annexe) relatif à l'échange de colis postaux  
entre la Malaisie et l'île Christmas. Signé à Kuala-  
Lumpur, le 16 octobre 1962**

*Texte officiel anglais.*

*Enregistré par la Fédération de Malaisie le 15 juillet 1963.*

No. 6816. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FEDERATION OF MALAYA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF SINGAPORE) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE OF PARCELS BY PARCEL POST BETWEEN MALAYA AND CHRISTMAS ISLAND. SIGNED AT KUALA LUMPUR, ON 16 OCTOBER 1962

---

Whereas the Governments of the Federation of Malaya and of the State of Singapore and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia are desirous of concluding an Agreement concerning the exchange of parcels by parcel post between Malaya and Christmas Island :

And whereas the Government of the State of Singapore is a party to this Agreement with the assent of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom :

Now it is hereby agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

In this Agreement and in the Schedule to this Agreement—

“ Malaya ” means the Malayan Postal Union which comprises the Federation of Malaya (that is to say, the States of Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Penang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor and Trengganu) and the State of Singapore;

“ the two Administrations ” means the Postal Administration of Malaya and the Postal Administration of Christmas Island.

*Article 2*

1. The two Administrations agree to accept postal parcels in transit, through their respective territories, to or from any country with which they respectively have parcel post communication.

2. Postal parcels in transit shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement and, in so far as is applicable, to the Schedule to this Agreement.

---

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 October 1962, in accordance with article 26.

*Article 3*

1. A postal parcel shall not exceed twenty-two pounds in weight, three feet six inches in length or six feet in length and girth combined.

2. Save in the case of obvious error, the view of the despatching Post Office shall prevail as regards the assessment of the weight and dimensions of each postal parcel.

*Article 4*

1. The prepayment of the postage on a postal parcel shall be compulsory, except in the case of a redirected or returned postal parcel.

2. The postage shall be made up of the sums accruing to each Post Office taking part in the conveyance of postal parcels by land or sea.

*Article 5*

The territorial and transit credits to be afforded to each of the two Administrations shall be as agreed from time to time.

*Article 6*

Each of the two Administrations shall be entitled to fix the rate for any sea service which it provides.

*Article 7*

Each of the two Administrations may collect, in respect of delivery to Customs and clearance through Customs, such fee as it may from time to time fix for similar services in its parcel post relations with other countries generally.

*Article 8*

Customs charges and all other non-postal charges shall be paid by the addressees of postal parcels, except as otherwise provided in this Agreement.

*Article 9*

1. Postal parcels shall not contain any letter, note or other document having the character of personal correspondence, nor contain packets of any kind bearing an address other than that of the addressee of the postal parcel or of persons dwelling with him :

Provided that it shall be permissible to enclose in a postal parcel an invoice setting out particulars of the contents of such postal parcel.

2. It shall be forbidden to enclose in a postal parcel—

- (a) articles which from their nature or packing may be a source of danger to the officers of the Post Office or may soil or damage other parcels;
- (b) explosive, inflammable or dangerous substances (including loaded metal caps, live cartridges and matches);
- (c) live animals, except bees which shall be enclosed in boxes so constructed as to avoid all danger to postal officers and to allow the contents to be ascertained;
- (d) articles, the admission of which is forbidden by law or by Customs or other regulations; and
- (e) articles of an obscene or immoral nature.

3. It shall also be forbidden to send coin, platinum, gold or silver (whether any of such metals are in the form of ingots or made up into articles), precious stones, jewels or other precious articles in uninsured postal parcels addressed to countries with insurance facilities.

4. A parcel which has been wrongly admitted to the post shall be returned to the Post Office of origin, unless the post Office of the country of destination is authorised by its legislation to dispose of it otherwise.

5. The fact that a postal parcel contains a letter, note or other document having the character of personal correspondence shall not, *ipso facto*, entail its return to the Post Office of origin.

6. Explosive, inflammable or dangerous substances and articles of an obscene or immoral nature shall not be returned to the country of origin but shall be disposed of, in accordance with its own internal regulations, by the Post Office which has found them in the mails.

7. If a parcel wrongly admitted to the post, is neither returned to the Post Office of the country of origin nor delivered to the addressee, the Post Office of the country of origin shall be precisely informed as to the treatment accorded to the parcel in order that the Post Office of the country of origin may take such steps as are necessary.

#### Article 10

1. A postal parcel may be redirected in consequence of the addressee's change of address in the country of destination. The Post Office of the country of destination may collect the redirection charge prescribed by its internal regulations. Similarly, a postal parcel may be redirected from one of the two

Administrations to another country provided that the postal parcel complies with the conditions required for its further conveyance and provided also that as a rule the extra postage is prepaid at the time of redirection or documentary evidence is produced that the addressee will pay it.

2. Additional charges, levied in respect of redirection and not paid by the addressee or his representative, shall not be cancelled in case of further redirection or of return to the Post Office of origin, but shall be collected from the addressee or from the sender, as the case may be, without prejudice to the payment of any special charges which may have been incurred and which the country of destination does not agree to cancel.

#### *Article 11*

Parcels received out of course, or wrongly allowed to be despatched (hereinafter referred to as "missent postal parcels") shall be transmitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 8 (1) and 8 (2) of the Schedule to this Agreement.

#### *Article 12*

1. The sender may request at the time of posting that if the postal parcel cannot be delivered as addressed, it may either be treated as abandoned, or be tendered for delivery at a second address in the country of destination, and no other alternative shall be admissible. If the sender avails himself of this facility, his request shall appear on the cover of the postal parcel or on the Despatch Note if one is used, and shall be in conformity with, or analogous to, one of the following forms :

" If not deliverable as addressed, abandon. "

" If not deliverable as addressed, deliver to... "

2. In the absence of a request to the contrary by the sender of a postal parcel, a postal parcel which cannot be delivered shall be returned to the sender thereof without previous notification and at his expense, after retention for the period prescribed by the regulations of the Post Office of the country of destination :

Provided that a postal parcel which is definitely refused by the addressee shall be returned immediately.

3. The charges due on returned undelivered postal parcels shall be recovered in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of this Agreement.

*Article 13*

Both parties to this Agreement undertake to urge their respective Customs Departments to cancel Customs charges on postal parcels which are returned to the country of origin, abandoned by the senders, destroyed or redirected to a third country.

*Article 14*

Only articles of which the early deterioration or putrefaction may be expected may be sold immediately, even when in transit on the outward or return journey, without previous notice or other formality. If for any reason a sale is impossible, the spoilt or putrid articles shall be destroyed.

*Article 15*

Postal parcels which cannot be delivered to the addressees and which the senders have abandoned shall not be returned by the Post Office of the country of destination, but shall be treated in accordance with its legislation. No claim shall be made by the Post Office of the country of destination against the Post Office of the country of origin in respect of such postal parcels.

*Article 16*

1. A fee not exceeding sixteen cents may be charged for every enquiry concerning a postal parcel.

2. Enquiries shall be admitted only within the period of one year from the day following the date of posting.

3. When an enquiry is the outcome of an irregularity in the postal service, the enquiry fee shall be refunded.

*Article 17*

The service of insurance, express delivery, urgent parcels and advice of delivery shall not be available to postal parcels exchanged between the two Administrations. The introduction of any of these services may, however, be effected by the mutual consent of the two Administrations.

*Article 18*

The service of withdrawal of a postal parcel from the post or alteration of address shall not be rendered after the postal parcel has been despatched from the country of origin, but it shall be open to the two Administrations at a

later date mutually to arrange for the provision of either of these services under conditions satisfactory to the two Administrations.

#### *Article 19*

No compensation shall be payable in respect of the loss of an uninsured postal parcel nor for the abstraction of, or damage to, the contents of an uninsured postal parcel.

#### *Article 20*

1. For each postal parcel despatched from one of the two Administrations for delivery in the other, the despatching Post Office shall allow to the Post Office of destination the rates which accrue to it by virtue of the provisions of Articles 5 and 6 of this Agreement.

2. For each postal parcel despatched from one of the two Administrations in transit through the other, the despatching Post Office shall allow to the other Post Office the rates due for the conveyance of such postal parcel.

#### *Article 21*

In the case of the redirection or of the return of a postal parcel from one of the two Administrations to the other, the retransmitting Administration shall claim from the other the charges due to it and to any other postal service taking part in the redirection or return.

#### *Article 22*

In case of further redirection of a postal parcel or of its return to the country of origin, the redirection charge referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 10 of this Agreement shall accrue to the country which redirected the postal parcel within its own territory.

#### *Article 23*

1. The enquiry fee referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 16 of this Agreement shall be retained in full by the Post Office which has collected it.

2. The fee for delivery and for Customs clearance referred to in Article 7 of this Agreement shall be retained by the Post Office of the country of destination.

#### *Article 24*

1. Postal parcels shall not be subjected to any postal charge other than those contemplated in this Agreement except by the mutual consent of the two Administrations.

2. In exceptional circumstances, either of the two Administrations may temporarily suspend the parcel post service, either entirely or partially, provided that immediate notice, if necessary by telegraph, is given by the one Administration to the other.

#### *Article 25*

1. The two Administrations have agreed to the detailed provisions set out in the Schedule to this Agreement.

2. Further matters of detail, not inconsistent with the general provisions of this Agreement and not provided for in the Schedule to this Agreement, may be agreed upon from time to time by the two Administrations.

#### *Article 26*

The present Agreement and the Schedule to this Agreement shall come into force with effect from the 16th day of October, 1962, and shall then remain in operation until it shall be modified or determined by the mutual consent of the contracting parties, or until one year after the date on which one of the contracting parties shall have notified the other of its intention to terminate it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in triplicate at Kuala Lumpur this 16th day of October, 1962.

For the Governments  
of the Federation of Malaya  
and of the State of Singapore :

(Signed) Ibrahim BIN VARSHAY  
Postmaster General, Malaya

For the Government  
of the Commonwealth of Australia :

(Signed) J. K. CRITCHLEY  
High Commissioner for Australia  
in the Federation of Malaya.

#### THE SCHEDULE

1. (1) Each of the two Administrations shall forward by the routes and means which it uses for its own postal parcels, postal parcels delivered to it by the other Administration for conveyance in transit through its territory.

(2) Missent postal parcels shall be retransmitted to their proper destination by the most direct route at the disposal of the Post Office retransmitting them.



2. (1) The exchange of parcels between the two Administrations shall be effected by the post offices appointed by agreement between the two Administrations.

(2) Postal parcels shall be exchanged between the two Administrations in bags duly fastened and sealed.

(3) In the absence of any arrangement to the contrary, the transmission of postal parcels sent by one of the two Administrations in transit through the other shall be effected « à découvert ».

(4) A label showing the Office of Exchange of origin and the Office of Exchange of destination shall be attached to the neck of each bag, the number of parcels contained in the bag being indicated on the back of the label.

(5) The bag containing the Parcel Bill and other documents shall be distinctively labelled.

(6) The cash on delivery postal parcels forwarded in a mail shall be placed together, and, as far as possible, in the bag which contains the Parcel Bill and other documents. When they cannot all be placed in the bag which contains the Parcel Bill, the bag or bags in which they are forwarded shall be indicated by a distinctive label.

(7) The weight of any bag of postal parcels shall not exceed eighty pounds avoirdupois.

(8) The bags shall be supplied by the Post Office of Malaya and the Post Office of Christmas Island shall pay such share of the cost as shall be agreed upon from time to time.

(9) The Post Office of Christmas Island shall make good the value of any bags which it fails to return.

(10) The bags not required by the Post Office of Christmas Island for the despatch of parcels to the Post Office of Malaya shall be returned empty, made up in bundles of ten (nine bags being enclosed in one) and despatched as a separate mail addressed to Singapore. The number of bags so forwarded shall be advised on a Parcel Bill, which shall be separate from that used for advising the postal parcels themselves and shall be numbered in a separate annual series.

3. (1) Each of the two Administrations shall communicate to the other by means of a Table—

- (a) the names of the countries to which it can forward postal parcels handed over to it;
- (b) the routes available for the transmission of the said postal parcels from the point of entry into its territory or into its postal service;
- (c) the total amount to be credited to it by the other Post Office for each destination;
- (d) the number of Customs Declarations which shall accompany each postal parcel; and
- (e) any other necessary information.

(2) Each of the two Administrations shall communicate to the other the names of the other postal services to which it intends to send postal parcels in transit through the other Administration, unless in any particular case the number of postal parcels involved is insufficient to warrant such communication.

4. (1) Every postal parcel shall—
- (a) bear the exact address of the addressee in Roman characters; addresses in pencil shall not be allowed except that postal parcels bearing addresses written with copying ink pencil on a surface previously damped shall be accepted; the address shall be written on the postal parcel itself or on a label so firmly attached to it that the label cannot become detached; the sender of a postal parcel shall be advised to enclose in the parcel a copy of the address together with a note of his own address; and
  - (b) be packed in a manner adequate for the length of the journey and for the protection of the contents.

(2) Articles liable to injure officers of the Post Office or to damage other parcels shall be so packed as to prevent any such injury or damage.

5. (1) Liquids and substances which easily liquefy shall be packed in two receptacles. Between the first receptacle (bottle, flask, pot, box, etc.) and the second (box of metal or of stout wood) shall be left a space which shall be filled with sawdust, bran or some other absorbent material in sufficient quantity to absorb all the liquid contents in the case of breakage.

(2) Dry colouring powders, such as aniline, shall be admitted only if enclosed in stout metal boxes placed inside wooden boxes with sawdust between the two receptacles.

6. (1) Each postal parcel addressed to a country permitting the use of adhesive customs declarations shall be accompanied by such a declaration which shall be affixed to the postal parcel. Each postal parcel addressed to any other country shall be accompanied by a Despatch Note and the necessary number of non-adhesive Customs Declarations in so far as such documents are required in the service to the country of destination.

(2) The two Administrations shall not be responsible for the accuracy of Customs Declarations.

7. Each postal parcel shall bear a label indicating the serial number and the name of the post office where the parcel was posted, and such post office shall not use two or more series of labels at the same time, unless each series is provided with a distinctive mark.

8. (1) The Post Office retransmitting a mis-sent postal parcel shall not levy customs or other non-postal charges upon it.

(2) When a Post Office returns a postal parcel to the country from which it has been directly received, it shall refund the credits received and report the error by means of a Verification Note.

(3) In other cases, the retransmitting Post Office shall allow to the Post Office to which it forwards the postal parcel the credits due for onward conveyance, and if the amount credited to it is insufficient to cover the expenses of retransmission which it has to defray, it shall then recover the amount of the deficiency by claiming it from the Office of Exchange from which the mis-sent postal parcel was directly received. The reason for this claim shall be notified to the latter by means of a Verification Note.

(4) When a postal parcel has been wrongly allowed to be despatched in consequence of an error attributable to the postal service and has, for this reason, to be returned to the country of origin, the Post Office which sends the parcel back shall allow to the Post Office from which it was received the sums credited in respect of it.

(5) The charges on a postal parcel redirected, in consequence of the removal of the addressee or of an error on the part of the sender, to a country with which Christmas Island or Malaya has parcel post communication shall be claimed from the Post Office of the country to which the postal parcel is forwarded, unless the charge for conveyance is paid at the time of redirection, in which case the postal parcel shall be dealt with as if it had been addressed directly from the retransmitting country to the new country of destination.

(6) A postal parcel shall be retransmitted in its original packing and shall be accompanied by the original Despatch Note if one is used. If, for any reason whatsoever, the postal parcel has to be repacked, or if the original Despatch Note has to be replaced by a substitute Despatch Note, the name of the Post Office of origin of the parcel and the original serial number shall be entered both on the parcel and on the Despatch Note.

9. (1) If the sender of an undeliverable postal parcel has made a request not provided for by paragraph 2 of Article 12 of this Agreement<sup>1</sup>, the Post Office of destination need not comply with it but may return the postal parcel to the Post Office of origin, after retention for the period prescribed by the regulations of the country of destination.

(2) The Post Office which returns a postal parcel to the sender shall indicate clearly and concisely thereon the cause of non-delivery. Such information may be furnished in manuscript or by means of a stamped impression or a label.

(3) A postal parcel to be returned to the sender shall be entered on the Parcel Bill with the word " Rebut " or other analogous word or phrase in the " Observations " column, and such postal parcel shall be dealt with and charged in the like manner as a postal parcel redirected in consequence of the removal of the addressee.

10. (1) When a parcel has been sold or destroyed in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of this Agreement, a report of the sale or destruction shall be prepared.

(2) The proceeds of the sale shall be used in the first place to defray the charges upon the parcel. Any balance which there may be shall be forwarded to the Post Office of the country of origin for payment to the sender, on whom the cost of forwarding it shall fall.

11. For enquiries concerning postal parcels which have not been returned, a form shall be used similar to the specimen annexed to the Detailed Regulations of the Parcel Post Agreement<sup>2</sup> of the Universal Postal Union. Such forms shall be

<sup>1</sup> See p. 336 of this volume.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 365, p. 3; Vol. 391, p. 327; Vol. 404, p. 381, and Vol. 412, p. 352.

forwarded to the Post Offices appointed by the two Administrations to deal with them and shall be dealt with in the manner mutually agreed between the two Administrations.

12. (1) Cash-on-delivery, returned, and unpaid redirected postal parcels shall be entered individually by the despatching Office of Exchange on a Parcel Bill. The advice of other parcels, except transit postal parcels may, by mutual consent, consist of a statement of the number of parcels at the several steps of the weight scale. Transit postal parcels shall be entered individually provided that two or more transit postal parcels, addressed to the same country for which the same amount of credit has to be allowed, may be entered in bulk. The Customs Declarations, Despatch Notes, trade charge money order forms, etc. shall be forwarded with the Parcel Bill.

(2) Each despatching Office of Exchange shall number the Parcel Bills in the top left-hand corner in an annual series for each Office of Exchange of destination, and as far as possible shall enter below the number, the name of the ship conveying the mail. A note of the last number of the year shall be made on the first Parcel Bill of the following year.

13. (1) On the receipt of a mail, whether of postal parcels or of empty bags, the Office of Exchange shall check the postal parcels and the various documents which accompany them, or the empty bags as the case may be, against the particulars entered on the relative Parcel Bill, and, if necessary, shall report missing articles or other irregularities by means of a Verification Note.

(2) Any discrepancies in the credits and accounting shall be notified to the despatching Office of Exchange by Verification Note. The accepted Verification Notes shall be attached to the Parcel Bills to which they relate. Corrections made on Parcel Bills which are not supported by Verification Notes shall not be considered valid.

14. (1) An account in respect of all parcel mails exchanged between Christmas Island and Malaya shall be prepared quarterly by the latter.

(2) Such account, which shall contain details of the credits due to each of the two Administrations in respect of each parcel mail despatched from and received in Malaya during a quarter shall form a special Parcel Post Account between Christmas Island and Malaya, which shall be submitted to the Department of Territories, Canberra, Australia, with a copy to the Postmaster, Christmas Island, for examination as soon as possible after the expiration of the period to which it relates and of which the balance shall be settled by inclusion in the Money Order Account between Christmas Island and Malaya.

15. Each of the two Administrations shall furnish to the other all necessary information on points of detail in connexion with the working of the parcel post service.