

No. 17210

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND (HONG KONG)**

**Memorandum of understanding relating to express mail
service. Signed at Washington on 7 December 1973
and at Hong Kong on 24 December 1973**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 24 November 1978.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD (HONG-KONG)**

**Mémorandum d'accord relatif au service du courrier par
exprès. Signé à Washington le 7 décembre 1973 et à
Hong-Kong le 24 décembre 1973**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 24 novembre 1978.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹

The Postal Administrations of the United States of America and Hong Kong have agreed to initiate an Express Mail/Speedpost Service between the United States and Hong Kong on an experimental basis in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

1. The Express Mail/Speedpost Service shall be available between all points in Hong Kong receiving Speedpost Service and all points in the United States receiving Express Mail Service.

2. The service shall be of an experimental nature for a period not less than one year.

3. Target date for implementation of this reciprocal Express Mail/Speedpost Service shall be January 2, 1974.

4. The service shall be reciprocal. Each administration to set down its own tariffs and retain the revenues generated from outgoing traffic. Each administration shall provide, at no additional charge to sender or addressee, expeditious handling and delivery to incoming articles equal to that provided domestic articles of like character.

5. The service shall be offered only to customers under contract agreement, shipping on a fixed frequency to previously identified recipients.

6. At least 10 days' notice shall be given the receiving administration before a service is initiated. This notice shall include details of addressee, frequency of shipment and flight to be used for dispatch.

7. Administrations shall exchange information on expected delivery times and areas to be serviced based on flight arrival times.

8. Items sent shall be limited to letter post material of no intrinsic value such as general business papers, communications data (computer cards, magnetic tapes), commercial papers in general, check clearances between financial institutions, etc. Money remittances, negotiable articles and other items of value shall be excluded with the exception of business sample pieces which shall be properly identified and subject to Customs inspection and duty. In such case normal delivery service may be delayed. No provisions of this agreement shall be construed to negate or supersede existing restrictions on articles that may be exchanged by mail between the two administrations.

9. Any contract shall be subject to cancellation if the pouches shall be found to contain any articles, in violation of this agreement.

10. The prohibitions of the Universal Postal Convention² shall apply in all circumstances.

11. The weight limit of each piece shall not exceed 22 pounds (10 kg).

12. All items shall have postage paid in accordance with methods approved by each postal administration.

13. The receiving administrations shall make every effort to expedite clearance through customs and effect delivery via the fastest means available.

¹ Came into force on 24 December 1973 by signature.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 810, p. 53.

14. Individual pieces shall be sacked in standard blue international air mail sacks separately from other mails, and bear a special tag for ready identification. Such sacks will be listed on a separate C-12 and AV-7 apart from other mails.

M. ADDI
Hong Kong Postal Service

[Signed]
U.S. Postal Service:
H. EDGAR S. STOCK
Director, Office of International
Postal Affairs
