



AIR MINISTRY AND GENERAL POST OFFICE

# EMPIRE AIR MAIL SCHEME

(INTRODUCTORY ARRANGEMENTS)

Note by the Secretary of State for Air and the Postmaster-General on the proposed extension of the South African (Empire) Agreement (outlined in Cmd. 5501 and concluded with Imperial Airways, Ltd., on 31st August, 1937) and of the Agreement for the operation of an auxiliary service between Kisumu and Lusaka (outlined in Cmd. 5523 and concluded with Imperial Airways, Ltd., by exchange of letters dated 9th and 11th August, 1937).

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Air to Parliament  
by Command of His Majesty  
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## INTRODUCTORY ARRANGEMENTS

The principal provisions of the South African (Empire) Agreement with Imperial Airways Ltd., for the operation of air services between the United Kingdom and South Africa constituting the first stage of the Empire Air Mail Scheme were set out in Cmd. 5501 and copies of this Agreement, which was concluded on the 31st August, 1937, have since been presented to Parliament. The period covered by the Agreement expires on the 31st December, 1937.

It is hoped to initiate the second stage of the scheme (England to India, Burma and Malaya) in February next, and the third stage (England to Australia) later in the year.

In order to provide for the continued operation of the existing services between the United Kingdom and East and South Africa, pending the initiation of these stages, it is now proposed to conclude an agreement with Imperial Airways providing for the extension of the South African (Empire) Agreement until the 30th June, 1938, or such earlier date as may be approved for the commencement of the full services under the Empire Agreement of 9th June, 1937.

The Agreement will provide for the extension of the list of participating countries to include Canada and Newfoundland as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Subsidy will be payable out of Air Votes in respect of operation after the 31st December, 1937, at the rate of £340,000 per annum. This is the same rate of subsidy, in respect of the actual operation of the services, as is provided for in the Agreement which it is now proposed to continue, excluding the other and non-recurrent services referred to under (a), (b) and (c) of Clause (6) of Cmd. 5501.

As remuneration for the carriage of mails in accordance with the terms of the existing Agreement, the Postmaster General will continue to make payment to the Company from the Post Office Vote at the rate of £210,000 per annum.

It is hoped that the Governments of the participating countries will continue their subsidy and postal contributions on the existing basis during the extended period.

Particulars were given in Cmd. 5523 of an agreement between the Secretary of State for Air and Imperial Airways Ltd. for the operation of a landplane service until 31st December, 1937, between Kisumu and Lusaka by Wilson Airways Ltd., an associated company, and copies of this agreement, which was concluded by exchange of letters dated 9th and 11th August, 1937, have since been presented to Parliament. It is now proposed to extend this agreement also, until the 30th June, 1938, on similar terms to the existing agreement.