



AIR MINISTRY AND GENERAL POST OFFICE

EMPIRE AIR MAIL SCHEME

SINGAPORE—SYDNEY SECTION

Note by the Secretary of State for Air and the Postmaster-General
on the principal provisions proposed to be embodied in
an agreement with Imperial Airways, Ltd., relating
to the operation by them of air transport
services on the Singapore-Sydney section
of the Empire air route through
the medium of Qantas Empire
Airways, Ltd.

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Air to Parliament
by Command of His Majesty
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Singapore-Sydney Section

The principal provisions of the Empire Air Mail Scheme were outlined in Cmd. 5414 and Cmd. 5497, and particulars of the introductory arrangements have been set out in Cmd. 5501, Cmd. 5616, Cmd. 5676 and Cmd. 5769. In accordance with these arrangements the first stage of the Scheme, providing for the carriage of first class mail without surcharge on the Empire air route between the United Kingdom and East and South Africa, was introduced on the 29th June, 1937, and was followed on the 23rd February, 1938, by the second stage which extended the scope of the Scheme to India, Burma and Malaya.

It is intended that the Scheme shall be extended to Australia commencing with the service leaving Southampton on the 28th July, 1938, and the service leaving Sydney on the 9th August, 1938. It is also intended that the 28th July, 1938, shall be approved as the date of commencement of the Empire Agreement of the 9th June, 1937, subject to adjustment of the rate of payment for the conveyance of mails between the 28th July and the 9th August, 1938, and until such time as the full services required under the Empire Agreement are provided. Special arrangements have been made for the operation of services in substitution for the landplane services required under the Empire Agreement, pending delivery of the "Ensign" aircraft for use on these services.

As explained in paragraph (iv) of Part II of Cmd. 5414, the section of the route to Australia between Singapore and Sydney will be under the control of the Commonwealth Government, who have taken power to conclude an Agreement with Qantas Empire Airways, Ltd., for the operation of that section on terms and conditions which are not in all respects identical with those binding on Imperial Airways, Ltd., under the Empire Agreement.

It is now proposed to enter into a supplementary agreement with Imperial Airways which will suitably amend the Empire Agreement dated the 9th June, 1937, so that Imperial Airways may carry out their obligations thereunder in regard to the section of the route between Singapore and Sydney through the medium of Qantas Empire Airways acting on their behalf, so long as the latter Company, in carrying out these obligations, observe to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Government all the terms and conditions of their Agreement with the Commonwealth Government and, except so far as they are inconsistent therewith, the terms and conditions of the Empire Agreement.

The proposed agreement will also make provision ensuring that certain deductions which the Commonwealth Government are entitled to make, in accordance with the terms of their Agreement with Qantas Empire Airways, from sums payable thereunder, shall not operate in such a way as to increase the amount payable out of United Kingdom funds.

The proposed agreement will be laid before Parliament as soon as possible after execution in accordance with Section 1 (4) of the Air Navigation Act, 1936.