

TEL/GEN/2#8

SECRETARIAT

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(Formerly)

W/T.

GOVERNMENT

RATES.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER

Extract from minute to H.C.S. from S.P.T. dated 24. 11. 61.
(Original filed in C167/B)

H.C.S.

2. I note that the G.P.O. has decided that the Government Rate will be applicable to this type of traffic from London, i.e. 11d. per word (5½d. for us and 5½d. for G.P.O.). This is not the case at present with D.S.I.R. traffic from here to London. I find on investigating the matter that over the years D.S.I.R. have been getting away with 5½d. per word (all of which is claimed by London) for their traffic from here. The same applies to F.I.D.S. and the Air Ministry. As a result a considerable amount of revenue has been lost. I therefore suggest that as from 1st December or 1st January, 1962, all D.S.I.R., F.I.D.S. and Air Ministry traffic be charged for here at the same telegraphic rates as they pay in London.

3. This also raises the point as to whether the Colony Government should not pay equivalent rates?

(Intld.) J. B.

24. 11. 61.

2

SPT.

As I see it we seem to have slipped up badly over this in the past.

Does the annexed draft sum up the further correctly?

If so it might go as to the three parties concerned.

As regards the Government I think that perhaps it would be more correct for Government to pay ^{11d} ~~that~~ of which ~~5½d~~ ^{5½d} I would suppose go to British Gov & ^{5½d} to Postal Revenue. We can take him up with H.C.T. on return.

The question of private rates or Government rates is gone into at 39 of 1128 which you might like to look at when you are at Government (It is a secret file)

gr

Draft
annexed
destroyed

X

H.C.S.

Facts in draft are correct. I have however suggested minor ~~amendments~~ amendments - the most important of which is the deletion of the two sentences shown in pencilled brackets. I do not favour soliciting objections because we are merely correcting something which has gone unnoticed over the years - and what happens if they do object!? The alternative would be to announce the increase with regret on the following lines?

"the obvious effect in righting this long standing oversight is much regretted and it is hoped will not cause too much inconvenience".

The Town Council are also profiting in a small way on the present rates and should be included in the circular?

14.12.61

To discuss further on Monday afternoon if I can in
16th Street on Tuesday
15/12/61

BW ~~Monday 18/12/61~~
Tuesday 19.12.61

4.

Spoken. Better I think to get an order from HE.
As HCT is now back I should be glad of his advice on the
whole question.

I can see no reason at all, since we have to have the British
Government 5 1/2 a word why Air Ministry & DSI should
not have us on half share with 5 1/2 d

The same applies to FIDS unless it is considered to
coming within the ~~convention~~ subvention.

As a matter of principle it should also I think
apply to the T.C though they send very few
telegrams.

as regards our own Government it would perhaps
be more correct if we were bound to be held to
normal revenue. This is only a matter of
accounting or perhaps it would be more convenient
if it waited till next financial year.

HCT may I have your views?

18/12/61

H. C. S.,

The history of the code as it affects
H.M.C. probably starts with the outbreak of
World War II when the Admiralty and later
the Army set up establishments here. Traffic
was passed by the (during the war) naval
W/T station and the (then) Telegraphs & Telephones
Dept and the accounting for them. Accounting
amounted to listing the signals and working
out the claim that the receiving station would
make. Revenue (i.e. the navy charging themselves
for the sending operation) did not arise. Govt.
(F.D.) telegrams were handled on the same basis -
only the claim from the receiving station being
charged to the sending administration.

This procedure continued after the war
and to the present day. There is clearly
a definite case for discontinuation and P.P.T.
has put his finger on a useful bit of revenue.
The question should, however, be considered in
three parts

1. Air Ministry, D.S.I.R. and any
other British Ministries, e.g. Ministry
of Transport and the Town Council.

2. F.I.D.S. and the Dependancies

3. F.I. Govt

Group 1, I consider should pay the full rate with immediate effect.

Group 2, probably require splitting still further - F.I.D.S. now B.A.T.S. to pay the full amount, the F.I. Dependancies to be considered in the light of the annual contribution.

Group 3, the charging of Govt for its telegrams would involve no more work than at present, except for local traffic (which is free) and would involve the preparation of statements). It takes no more clerical effort to charge x words at $5\frac{1}{2}$ than x words at 11d.

By charging Govt for the full amount for internal traffic a clear picture would emerge of the revenue earning capacity of the Dept. I suggest that this be done w. e. f. 1/7/62. Local traffic

I think could remain free - little revenue is involved ~~but~~ ^{and} extra clerical effort would be required

L.G.
12.1.62

X

0118/E

15

31st January, 62.

To: Secretary, British Antarctic Survey,
Chief Meteorological Officer,
Officer-in-Charge, D.S.I.R.,
Chairman, Stanley Town Council,

From: The Colonial Secretary,

STANLEY.

Telegraphic Rates

A recent examination of the telegraphic rates charged on telegrams destined for the United Kingdom and originating from your Department has revealed that the Government rate of 5¹/₂d per word (all of which is claimed by the G.P.O. London) has erroneously been applied for several years. The correct rate is 11d and this will be applied with effect from 1st February, 1962. Rates to other parts of the world will also be affected and these can be had on application to the Post Office.

2. The obvious effect in righting this long standing oversight is much regretted and it is hoped it will not cause too much inconvenience.

S. R. T. — 8
1.2.62. 14
Hen C.T.

(Sgd) RHD Mander.

COLONIAL SECRETARY

H.C.I.

15

To note file

3 BU 156.62 X on

Noted. Thank you
29. 1/2/62

31.1.62

H. C. S.

On his return from the South, Sec.B.A.S. raised the question of the Colony charging 5½d a word on B.A.S. telegrams to London, making a total charge of 11d a word. It has been recognized in the past that the contribution of £10,000, which the Colony received from the Dependencies, covered certain services, and indeed Sec.B.A.S. has a file, which I attach, dealing with these matters. The future of this £10,000 is uncertain, but I would hope that South Georgia will continue to pay it. As from next financial year the British Antarctic Territory will make no direct contribution to this Government.

2. As far as charging the increased rate goes, however, I am more impressed by another of Sec.B.A.S.'s arguments, which is that the B.A.S. radio at present provides facilities to Government for which no charge is levied. The most significant of these is the collection of weather data from the Argentine and Chile, which, Sec.B.A.S. informs me, occupies his operators for two hours every day. This data is necessary for the preparation of weather forecasts for the Falkland Islands. I think this service is most valuable to the Colony, and it would lead to unnecessary complications were the Survey to charge Government for this work. I think, therefore, that for the present we should continue to transmit B.A.S. telegrams, which include meteorological telegrams to London, without this Colony levying a charge of 5½d a word.

3. This will not apply to the D.S.I.R. which is a separate organization and not connected in any way with B.A.S.

March 8, 1962

c. c. Sec.B.A.S.

18 *RD*

§ P7 x HCT to note

9/3/62

JES

Noted thank you

19

J.B.T.

15 you pl.

20

H.C.S.

Noted, thank you.

21

L.G.

Auditor

22

Worke pl

27.3.62

23.3.62

23

HCS
Noted

Thank you
28/3/62

for