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SHIPPING COMPANIES RESUME SERVICES
FOLLOWING LIFTING OF NATIONALIST BLOCKADE

SHANGHAI-NORTH CHINA SERVICE RESUMES -- Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao, 26 May 50

Shanghai -- With the liberation of the Chou-shan Islands, the biggest obstacle to Shanghai's shipping industry was removed, and a way has been opened for the resumption of shipping service to North China. There is a constant flow of goods between North, East, and Northeast China, which comprises the most important trade in China. To revive and stimulate shipping service in North China, Shanghai shipping and industrial circles have already requested the Central People's government to transfer Chinese ships in Hong Kong to North China waters, and private and public shipping companies are working out plans to participate in the restoration of this service.

The state-owned shipping company is to resume service in North China within a few days, and is now preparing schedules and shipping rates. The privately owned Min-sheng Shipping Company is also making preparations for resumption of service. After the Nationalist blockade began, this company changed to inland waterway transportation, but it is now planning to return some of its ships to coastal service.

The Shanghai Municipal Steamship Corporation is also planning to resume service along the coast of Chekiang Province, and the Shanghai branch of the Tientsin Navigation Corporation is to begin service between Shanghai and Tientsin soon.

The North China shipping district includes the ports of Tientsin, Port Arthur, Dairen, Ying-k'ou, Ch'in-huang-tao, Tsingtao, Yen-t'ai, and Lien-yun. In this district, there are now 35 vessels of 200 tons or larger, and 84 vessels of less than 200 tons, a total of 184,223 tons. There are more than enough ships now, since most cargo for the Northeast is sent by railroad; however, with the opening of shipping lanes in this district, the volume of freight is expected to increase considerably.

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HONG KONG-SHANGHAI SERVICE OPENS -- Hong Kong Wen-hui Pao, 26 May 50

Shipping service has already been resumed between Hong Kong and Shanghai. In addition to ships of Jardine Matheson and Company and Butterfield and Swire which have made the Hong Kong-Shanghai run, it is reported that some Isbrandtsen Lines ships will be routed to Shanghai soon.

With the resumption of shipping service to Shanghai, the commodity market in Hong Kong became very active, and prices of most industrial raw materials are already rising.

Shipping service from Hong Kong to Amoy and Swatow is also gradually being restored. Butterfield and Swire, which had discontinued service for the past 6 months, resumed service to these ports on 15 May.

FREIGHT RATES DROP BETWEEN CANTON AND HONG KONG -- Hong Kong Hsing-tao Jih-pao, 26 May 50

According to a report from transportation circles, shipping service between Hong Kong and Canton has been partially resumed, and it has not only increased the volume of trade between the two cities, but also has brought down freight charges on both rail and water transportation.

Another source reported that before the liberation of Canton, about 80 motor-sail boats were engaged in the shipping service between Hong Kong and Canton; immediately after the liberation, their number suddenly increased to 145, but since the beginning of the Nationalist blockade, they had dwindled to almost none. There were a few which continued operations by evading the Nationalists, or by way of Macao, but their freight charges were extremely high.

SWATOW CLOSED TO FOREIGN SHIPS -- New York Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 5 Jun 50

Hong Kong, 3 May -- The Hong Kong Ta Kung Pao reported today that the Shipping Control Bureau of the Kwangtung Provincial government has officially announced the closing of the port of Swatow to foreign ships. It was believed here that the reason for this restriction is to prevent leakage of secrets regarding military preparations being carried on there for the invasion of Taiwan.

BRITISH SHIP SUNK OFF SWATOW -- Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, 26 May 50

A news item which originated in Hong Kong reported that the British ship, Ebonol, belonging to Ta-nan Shipping Company, struck a mine on 25 May and sank off the coast of Swatow. She was an oil tanker, weighed 1,175 tons, had passenger accommodations for seven, and carried an undisclosed number of crew. An unconfirmed report stated that all passengers and crew were saved.

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