

*for info, ad.*

# TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

*Swypon*

TELECOM HEADQUARTERS,  
Telephone House,  
15/33, Hill Street,  
Singapore 6.



Telephone 328071  
Telex: RS 21246  
Telegraphic Address: Telecom Singapore

## PRESS RELEASE

REF No: GR P2/01/02

DATE: 26 July 1977

EMBARGO 29 July 1977

### TELEPHONE DIGIT CONVERSION TO ACCOMMODATE MORE TELEPHONES

A telephone number change exercise will take place at the City Telephone Exchange on Saturday, 30 July 1977 at 9.00 pm. Some 6,000 telephone subscribers, with 5-digit telephone numbers beginning with "7xxxx", will have their numbers changed to 6-digit beginning with "43xxxx", the last 4 digits remaining unchanged.

The move to convert 5-digit telephone numbers to those with 6-digit is necessary due to Telecoms' current expansion programme of the telephone network which has grown at an average of 20% per annum to cope with the burgeoning demand. Consequently, more telephone numbers are required to accommodate the increasing number of telephones to be installed in Singapore.

Currently, out of the 7-digit series, only the levels with telephone numbers beginning with "2xxxxxx" and "4xxxxxx" are in use and these are becoming saturated. New 7-digit levels have to be up-graded. Level '7' (telephone numbers beginning with the digit '7') has been chosen for the purpose since it will involve the least number of existing telephone subscribers in the mass telephone number change. Level '7' will be "frozen" for a period of 7 to 8 months, before Telecoms re-allocate new 7-digit level '7' numbers to new subscribers.

.../2...

National Archives and  
Records Centre, Singapore

15 DEC 1977

Acc. No. 1000  
77 0053 128

# TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

## PRESS RELEASE

REF No: GR P2/01/02

DATE: 26 July 1977

(Cont'd from page 1 )

EMBARGO 29 July 1977

Telecoms plans to phase-out the 5-digit numbering schemes and to replace it with 6 and 7-digit numbering schemes over the next five years. Ultimately in 10 years, Singapore's telephone network will have a uniform 7-digit numbering scheme, with the exception of special service numbers eg. for Directory Assistance, which will retain their 3-digit numbering schemes.

A mass telephone number change exercise such as this would cause a measure of inconvenience on the part of the subscribers affected. Telecoms has taken positive steps to minimise this. These include:-

- (1) advising all subscribers affected six months prior to the number change and making known to them their new telephone number and the month when their telephone numbers will be changed. In the case of the subscribers in the City Telephone Exchange, the exact date of the exercise is provided.
- (2) advising again all subscribers affected three weeks before the number change and re-confirming their new numbers and the date of number change.
- (3) forwarding residential telephone subscribers each with 10 number-change postcards for their distribution to friends and relatives who can then be informed of the change.

.../3...

# TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

## PRESS RELEASE

REF No: GR P2/01/02

DATE: 26 July 1977

(Cont'd from page 2 )

EMBARGO 29 July 1977

- (4) supplying business telephone subscribers with 50 stickers each for them to type in their new telephone numbers. These stickers can be pasted onto their office stationery to inform their contacts of the change in telephone numbers. This is intended as a temporary measure to allow time for business subscribers to print new stationery.
- (5) explaining to all the telephone subscribers affected, the rationale for changing telephone numbers en masse in a pamphlet posted.
- (6) announcing the number changes in the mass media.

Callers to the old telephone numbers will hear a pre-recorded announcement in four languages ie. English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil consecutively requesting them to dial the new telephone numbers. This is the first time Telecoms is introducing Automatic Interception Service for mass telephone number changes. It is also supplemented by the manual Changed Number Interception (CNI) Service. Telecoms' operators will inform callers to the old numbers that the number they dialled has been changed and they should now dial the new telephone numbers.

END