



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, May 2, 1973

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STRICTER STANDARDS OF CENSORSHIP FOR SCREEN VIOLENCE

The Commissioner for Television and Films, Mr. N.J.V. Watt, today presented to the public new standards to be applied in film censorship, with particular reference to violence on the screen.

These standards are contained in guidance notes, published in both English and Chinese. They have a threefold purpose -- to guide censors in fulfilling their statutory duties, to assist film producers and distributors in making and selecting films suitable for Hong Kong audiences, and to inform the general public of the principles on which censorship is based.

In presenting this publication, Mr. Watt said there had been a tightening up on the interpretation by the censors of standards relating to violence and incitement to crime. He expressed the hope that, by being provided with a definition of these standards, people in the film industry would have a clearer idea of what would, and would not, be considered acceptable in Hong Kong.

Copies of the publication, together with an explanatory letter, will be sent within the next few days to every film producer, distributor and theatre manager in Hong Kong.

Mr. Watt said he would welcome comments from them, and from members of the public, since it was his intention to keep censorship standards under regular review.

/He pointed

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He pointed out that "what may seem relatively harmless by western standards can be objectionable to Chinese audiences, and vice versa."

"Each film should be considered as a whole when judging the possible effects of individual scenes or items of commentary," Mr. Watt said.

On the question of screen violence, the guidance notes state that it is generally undesirable to release films showing an excessive amount of calculated and realistic violence or depravity, in ways likely to encourage impressionable youth to identify with, and imitate, tough or sadistic characters on the screen.

In this respect, films are likely to be cut or banned if they:
demonstrate techniques of crime so as to invite imitation;
offer incitement to crime, violence, or anti-social
behaviour;
deride or otherwise discredit the law and its enforcement,
or significant social institutions; or
display in unnecessary detail, or at unnecessary length,
any form of violence or brutality.

The Commissioner also introduced his panel of nine new film censors and television monitors, of whom seven are aged 30 or under. He expressed the hope that this young and academically well qualified team would bring a balanced interpretation and new ideas to bear on the problems of film censorship and television standards.

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Note to Editors: A more detailed statement on the censorship guidelines is distributed separately in the GIS Press Boxes tonight.

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"ENCOURAGING" RISE IN EXPORT EARNINGS

Hong Kong's trade figures for the first three months of this year were today described as "most encouraging" by a spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department.

During this period, he said, domestic exports increased by 13.9 per cent, while re-exports and imports rose by 34.6 per cent and 19.5 per cent respectively over the same period last year.

According to provisional figures released by the Census and Statistics Department for the month of March, the most significant increase was in re-exports which showed a record rise of 49.1 per cent over the same month last year.

In dollar terms, this represented an increase of \$150 million to \$456 million.

During the same month, domestic exports amounted to \$1,310 million -- a rise of \$253 million or 24.0 per cent over March 1972.

The total value of imports amounted to \$1,934 million, up \$258 million or 15.4 per cent over the same period last year.

Details of the figures are:

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	Domestic Exports :	\$1,310 million
	Imports :	\$1,934 million
	Re-exports :	\$ 456 million

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

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COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

	March <u>1973</u> \$ Mn.	March <u>1972</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Increase or decrease</u>	
			\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	1,310	1,057	+ 253	+ 24.0
Imports	1,934	1,675	+ 258	+ 15.4
Re-exports	456	306	+ 150	+ 49.1

	Jan.-Mar. <u>1973</u> \$ Mn.	Jan.-Mar. <u>1972</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Increase or decrease</u>	
			\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	3,770	3,311	+ 459	+ 13.9
Imports	5,708	4,774	+ 933	+ 19.5
Re-exports	1,177	875	+ 302	+ 34.6

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UNION MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

More than 251,700 workers were members of the 280 registered employees trade unions in Hong Kong at the end of last year, according to figures released today by the Registrar of Trade Unions.

This was 31,116 more than the 1971 figure.

The declared membership of the 46 employers unions stood at 5,130 -- up by 111 -- while that of the 12 mixed unions was down by 360 to 5,693.

The total number of registered trade unions at the end of 1972 was 338 with a total declared membership of 262,552.

During the first three months of this year, six employers unions were added to the register while three were struck off.

The six new trade unions registered were the Hospital & Clinic Nurses Association; the Hong Kong Commercial Aviation Association; the Union of Employees of Housing Division, U.S.D.; the Government School Non-Graduate Teachers' Union; the Housing Assistants Association and the Housing Management Staff Union.

The three removed from the register were the Hong Kong and Kowloon Shop-Fitting and Furnishing Workers General Union; the Civil & Public Services Association, C.S.O.S. Hong Kong Branch; and the Hong Kong & Kowloon "Tung-Shing" Caulking Trade Free Workers Union.

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WARNING TO HOLIDAY - MAKERS

Holiday-makers are being advised to keep away from streams and low-lying areas in the New Territories immediately after heavy downpours in the interests of safety.

An official spokesman reminded the public today that fatal accidents have occurred in the past as a result of sudden torrents and floods washing away people and property.

Many areas and picnic spots in the New Territories are exposed to these conditions and the ones most likely to be affected are normally associated with stream courses running down valleys and low-lying fields.

The situation is especially dangerous for tourists and visitors who often have no detailed knowledge of the geographical location of the areas they are visiting.

The holiday resorts in the valleys and water courses at Tseng Lan Shue, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Long and Sai Wan on the Sai Kung Peninsula are areas likely to be affected by sudden downpours, the official stressed.

"However, it is often difficult to predict exactly where this type of flooding may occur and for safety reasons, picnickers and villagers are strongly advised to keep away from areas associated with stream courses and valleys when it begins to rain," he said.

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If the weather outlook is not good, picnickers are advised to listen to weather forecast announcements as another precautionary measure before they set out.

The Royal Observatory issues thunderstorm and heavy rain warnings to the public whenever these conditions are likely to develop.

Sometimes these warnings may be issued as short as one hour or even less before thunderstorms and heavy rains affect Hong Kong.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.