



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Wednesday, January 24, 1973

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CALL TO JAPAN TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST H.K. GOODS

Governor Speaks On H.K. - Japan Trade in Sasebo

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today called for a more favourable balance of trade between Hong Kong and Japan and appealed to the Japanese Government to end its "discrimination" against certain Hong Kong products.

"The trading and economic links between Japan and Hong Kong," he warned, "may become strained if they are too one-sided."

The Governor was speaking in the Japanese port, Sasebo, on the occasion of the christening of the World Maritime Bahamas Ltd's latest tanker "World Victoria" by Lady MacLehose.

The 220,852-ton super tanker was built by the Sasebo Heavy Industries Co. Ltd.

In his address, Sir Murray referred to the United Nations Generalised Preferences for developing countries and to the so-called Hong Kong Exceptions List which excludes 96 items of Hong Kong products from preference in the Japanese market.

This exclusion does not apply to Hong Kong's major trading rivals in Asia.

Sir Murray said he was not asking for special favours for Hong Kong "but only that we should not be discriminated against as compared with our close competitors."

He pointed out that Japanese goods made up one-quarter of Hong Kong's exports while only 1/33 of our products went to Japan.

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"In such circumstances discrimination could provoke resentment," he said.

Referring to the growing demand in Hong Kong for Japanese goods such as refrigerators, television sets and motorcars, the Governor noted that last year Japanese exports to Hong Kong amounted to some US \$880 million.

However, he added that trade in the reverse direction had not been so dramatic and amounted to US \$84 million during the same period.

"Through our Trade Development Council office in Tokyo and the rigour of our exporters we are trying to correct this," he said.

Sir Murray stressed that there were many Hong Kong products which could sell well in Japan to the satisfaction of consumers and without damage to Japanese manufacturers.

Much goodwill, he said, could be generated if Hong Kong products were allowed to improve their performance in Japan.

The Governor also pointed out that Japanese business had been taking an increasingly large stake in the economy of Hong Kong, and Japan was now second only to the United States as a source of overseas industrial investment.

In addition, Japanese firms had recently obtained several of the major government contracts including the Kaitak airport runway extension and the new desalting plant to increase water supplies. These two contracts alone were worth US \$78 million.

The Governor said he was also aware of considerable Japanese interest in the possibility of constructing an underground railway the cost of which was expected to be over US \$1,000 million.

/Sir Murray

Sir Murray said it was difficult to realise how great an influence Hong Kong had on trade because of its small size.

But in fact its visible foreign trade was $2/3$ that of Australia and $1-1/3$ times bigger than that of India as well as being the twenty-first largest trading unit in the world, he said.

Apart from visible trade, he went on, Hong Kong also generated an extraordinary amount of business activity which did not show in its trade figures.

Citing one example, the Governor said that in the last decade Hong Kong residents ordered more than 20 million tons of shipping from Japan "and by 1982 they may place orders for another 30 million tons."

The Governor spoke optimistically about the future in view of the normalisation of international relationships and the relaxation of tension in the region coupled with the increase in world trade, and invited Japanese enterprise to share in the expected growth of Hong Kong's trade.

"But we hope also," he added, "that Hong Kong exporters will be able to feel more confident about their possibilities in the Japanese market, so that the friendly commerce between Hong Kong and Japan may develop in mutual profit and harmony in the years ahead."

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Note to Editors: Copies of the full text of the Governor's speech will be available for collection in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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LORD CARRINGTON DUE TOMORROW FOR 3-DAY VISIT

To Hold Talks And Visit Army Units

The Secretary of State for Defence, Lord Carrington, will arrive in Hong Kong at 7.30 p.m. tomorrow night (Thursday) by R.A.F. Flight No. Ascot 1100.

Lord Carrington is at present touring British units in the Far East and Australiasia.

During his three-day visit to Hong Kong, he will be staying at Government House.

The Minister is accompanied by Lady Carrington and senior military and civilian officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

On Friday, Lord Carrington will meet the Commander British Forces and visit army units in the New Territories.

The following morning, he will hold talks with the Governor, the Commander British Forces and other Government officials.

Later, at 10.45 a.m. (Saturday) he will hold a Press Conference at Beaconsfield House before paying a visit to H.M.S. Tamar.

The Minister and Lady Carrington will leave for Wellington from R.A.F. Kai Tak at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Note to Editors: Lord Carrington and his party will be met on arrival by Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Ward, Commander British Forces, at R.A.F. Kai Tak.

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There will be no press conference at the airport. However, members of the press who wish to take pictures of his arrival should be at the main guard room, R.A.F. Kai Tak not later than 7.10 p.m. tomorrow (Thursday). A G.I.S. and a J.S.P.R.S. officer will be there to assist the press.

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EXHIBITION OF CHINESE PAPER CUTS

About 300 exquisite Chinese paper-cuttings will be on show at the City Museum and Art Gallery in a special exhibition opening on Friday, January 26.

This group of paper-cuttings are selected from the Museum Collection. They form a good representation of a popular folk art which, made with simple tools and material, are full of life and simplicity and reflect the industrious life and sentiments of the peasantry.

The paper-cuts are from various districts of China and show distinct regional features and styles. These vary from the simple and rustic examples from the Northern provinces to the elegant and complex ones from the South.

The exhibition is a special contribution by the City Museum in celebration of the Lunar New Year, and will be on display until February 18.

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RAPID ADVANCES IN CONTAINERISATION IN HONG KONG
New Berth At Kwai Chung To Be Opened By Governor

Hong Kong has been forging ahead with containerisation during the past three years. The first large-scale container complex at Kwai Chung is developing rapidly.

Last September the 59,889-ton containership, the Tokyo Bay, arrived in harbour and unloaded the first container at the Kwai Chung Container Terminal. This marked a new chapter in containerisation in Hong Kong.

Since then, the tonnage of goods arriving in containers has risen considerably and the number of containers handled at the Kwai Chung terminal has increased by four times. It now handles 860 a day.

The terminal complex will have three berths when fully developed. All of them will be able to accommodate vessels drawing 40 feet upwards and 950 feet in length.

Berth No. 1, which is operated by the Modern Terminals Limited, will be officially opened by the Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose on Saturday (January 27).

Berth No. 2 and No. 3 are being built by a Japanese and an American consortium respectively.

Container handling in Hong Kong has been developing very quickly in the last few years.

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Early in 1969, the number of containers handled each month was about 1,000. The number tripled in the following year and in 1971, it rose to as high as nearly 7,000. Last year, the average monthly figure went up to a peak of 11,700.

In 1970, when container handling facilities was first taking shape, the number of containers that arrived in Hong Kong was 63,000 and the number that departed was 58,750. The number of containers discharged in Hong Kong was 23,300 and the number loaded 16,900.

These figures were almost doubled in the following year and last year's figures were three or four times those of 1970.

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CRIME PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Note to Editors: A feature article issued in connection with a two-week Crime Prevention Campaign over the Lunar New Year is being distributed separately in the G.I.S. press boxes this evening.

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LAND FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Auction Next Month

Three lots of Crown land for private residential development will be offered for sale at a public auction in the City Hall next month.

All three lots, located in Kowloon's "Broadcast City," have a total upset price of over \$21 million.

The biggest lot, situated at the junction of Broadcast Drive and Fessenden Road, occupies an area of about 19,000 sq. ft. and has an upset price of \$12 million.

The second lot is adjacent to the first. It measures about 12,330 sq. ft. and the upset price is \$3.7 million.

The last lot is located at the junction of Marconi Road and Broadcast Drive with an area of 14,730 sq. ft. The upset price is \$6 million.

The auction will take place on February 23 at 2.30 p.m. in the City Hall Lecture Room, 8th Floor.

Full particulars and conditions of sale may be obtained from and sales plans inspected at the Public Enquiry Sub-office, Central Government Offices (West Wing), Ground Floor, Hong Kong, and at the Crown Lands and Survey Office, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, 10th floor, Kowloon.

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PAYMENT OF FIRST DIVIDEND TO MING TAK CREDITORS

Initial Response Very Disappointing

The Official Receiver, Mr. W. Hume, said today that the initial response of creditors to the 25 per cent dividend payment was very disappointing.

He said that "out of about 600 creditors who were eligible to receive payment during the first two days of the payment programme, only 90 came forward.

"This is very much below expectation even allowing for the possibility that many creditors may have emigrated since 1965."

Mr. Hume reminded creditors that full details of the payment programme were published in English and Chinese newspapers last Friday (January 19).

Copies can still be obtained from the Official Receiver's Office at either Central Government Offices, West Wing, 6th floor, Ice House Street, or Sutherland House, 10th floor, No. 3 Chater Road.

He urged all creditors to ascertain the date and place of payment appropriate to their accounts and to come along and collect the money that is due to them.

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TWO SUPPLIES SUPERVISORS GOING ON RETIREMENT

Two Supplies Supervisors of the Government Supplies Department will be retiring shortly after 25 years in government service.

They are Mr. Andrew Tsang, Supplies Supervisor, I and Mr. Li Wing-hoi, Supplies Supervisor, II.

To mark their retirement, the Director of Government Supplies, Mr. F.J. Young, will present farewell gifts to them on behalf of their friends and colleagues at a brief ceremony to be held at the departmental headquarters on Friday (January 26).

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Note to Editors: You are invited to have the event covered. The presentation will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday in the main building of the Government Supplies Department in Oil Street, North Point.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of premises in Tai Po will be interrupted for eight hours from 10 p.m. on Friday (January 26).

The temporary stoppage is to enable the Waterworks Office to repair a valve near Tai Po Tau Pumping Station at 16½ mile stone, Tai Po Road, New Territories.

Affected will be premises between 14½ mile stone, Tai Po Road, Tsung Tsai Yuen and Tai Po Tau Pumping Station.

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MORE TREES AND PLANTS FOR RESETTLEMENT ESTATES

\$2 Million To Be Spent Over Next Two Years

The Resettlement Department is to continue its programme to beautify the estates so as to improve the living environment of the residents.

Outlining details of the programme, the department's Senior Maintenance Surveyor, Mr. Douglas Stewart, said today that some \$2 million would be spent on landscaping and tree planting in the estates over the next two years.

He was speaking at the opening of a new rest garden in Tai Hang Tung Estate.

In the past 12 months, he said, more than \$600,000 had been spent on tree planting and landscaping in the older estates and there had been little need to replant as a result of damage.

He felt that one of the basic necessities of mankind was "communication with nature," and it was wrong that children should grow up in concrete jungles devoid of trees.

"I have found that when children get used to trees and plants they will not damage them," he added.

After large public areas in resettlement estates were cleared of hawkers and other obstructions, he said, the land would be used for the benefit of the tenants.

Mr. Henry Wong, an Urban Councillor, and Mr. Cheung Chung-ming, chairman of the Tai Hang Tung Kaifong Association, both cut the ribbon to mark the official opening of the rest garden.

They also called on tenants of the estates to give their support to protecting the growth of the plants, especially during the early stages of planting.

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TESTS FOR TAXI DRIVING LICENCES

New System To Be Introduced Next Month

A new system would be introduced on February 8 for testing applicants for driving licences for taxis and public cars, the Commissioner for Transport announced today.

Under the new system, 30 to 40 applicants at a time will be given examination papers with questions relating to the Highway Code, regulations on taxis and public cars, and locations and routes in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

They will be asked to place a mark beside multiple-choice answers in the paper.

Explaining the new system, the Commissioner said: "The objects of the change are to increase the rate of testing applicants for these licences so as to meet the demand arising from the issue of new taxi licences by tender, and also to improve the standard of these drivers."

The present test is a purely oral one and consists of ten questions about routes and locations in Hong Kong and Kowloon.

It requires one examining officer to test each applicant and is too slow. Neither does it provide a comprehensive range of questions covering matters directly related to the operation of taxis and public cars.

Candidates with appointments for tests before February 7 will not be affected by the new system. Those who have appointments after that date have already been informed of their new examination dates.

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MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY OVER MR. JOHNSON'S DEATH

The Governor's Deputy, Sir Hugh Norman-Walker, today sent a message of condolence to the American Consul-General, Mr. David L. Osborn, on the death of Mr. Lyndon Johnson.

Sir Hugh said: "I wish to express my sincere sympathy to you and the people of the United States of America on the death of Mr. Lyndon Johnson.

"Mr. Johnson bore heavy responsibility with distinction at a very difficult period in history."

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LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLED

The Labour Department has helped settle a dispute involving 140 employees of a Kwun Tong knitting factory over severance pay.

The factory, the Spartan Knitters Ltd., terminated the service of all its monthly, daily and piece-rated workers on January 16.

Subsequently the Labour Relations Service of the department arranged a series of conciliation meetings for the parties concerned at its Kwun Tong Branch Office.

Two agreements were ultimately drawn up last Sunday and Monday.

Under these agreements, the monthly-paid employees will receive an annual bonus and an ex-gratia severance pay proportional to their length of service.

The daily and piece-rated workers will each receive a month's wage in lieu of notice and flat-rate ex-gratia severance pay.

Payment to the workers, totalling about \$80,000, will be made at the factory on January 30.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN SUPPLEMENT

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GOVERNOR ON HONG KONG-JAPAN TRADE

On Occasion Of Launching Of Tanker In Sasebo

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, today spoke on trade between Hong Kong and Japan on the occasion of the launching of the tanker, "World Victoria," in Sasebo, Japan.

The following is the full text of the Governor's speech:

"I would first like to thank Mr. Pao and President Nakamura for the honour they have done my wife in inviting her to name 'The World Victoria'. It is a great pleasure that Mayor Oshima of Osaka and Mayor Tsuji of Sasebo are able to be present. This occasion is made the more delightful for my wife and myself because of the presence of so many distinguished friends from Hong Kong, several of whom play a major part in Hong Kong's commercial relations with Japan.

"The ship is a tribute on the one hand to the enterprise of World Maritime Bahamas and its constituent bodies - mainly the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and World-Wide Shipping, and on the other to the skill of the Sasebo Heavy Industries Company. It is yet a further example of what can be achieved when the businessmen of Hong Kong and Japan collaborate. I would like to solicit your attention for a few minutes for this theme of commercial collaboration between Japan and Hong Kong, even if it takes us temporarily away from the ship.

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"Because Hong Kong is so small it is hard to realise how great an influence it has on trade. Its visible foreign trade for instance, is $2/3$ that of Australia and $1\ 1/3$ times bigger than that of India and it is the 21st largest trading unit in the world.

"Quite apart from visible trade it generates an extraordinary amount of business activity which does not show in its trade figures. To take an example; in the last ten years Hong Kong residents have placed in Japan orders for over 20 million tons of shipping, and by 1982 they may place orders for another 30 million tons. Excluding shipping, last year the trade between Japan and Hong Kong approached US\$ 1,000 million.

Increasing Demand

"The industry of Hong Kong has developed rapidly and the quality of its products has steadily improved. This has produced an increasing demand for more sophisticated capital equipment and for semi-processed industrial materials. This demand Japan has been able to meet to our mutual benefit. In addition, the steady growth of the economy and the rising standard of living of the people of Hong Kong have produced a rising demand for such Japanese products as cameras, refrigerators, television sets and motor cars. In 1972 Japanese exports to Hong Kong amounted to about US\$ 880 million.

"Trade in the reverse direction from Hong Kong to Japan has not been so dramatic, and amounted last year to US\$ 84 million. Through our Trade Development Council office in Tokyo and the rigour of our exporters we are trying to correct this. There are many Hong Kong products which could sell well in Japan to the satisfaction of consumers and without damage to Japanese manufacturers.

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"In this connection I was very glad to know that the Government of Japan has recently introduced a number of measures designed to promote imports, including reductions in certain tariffs and the removal of quantitative imports restrictions on other products. We in Hong Kong welcome these moves, which, if I might say so, are typical of the wisdom of Japanese economic administration. If they allow Hong Kong exports to improve their performance in Japan they will also improve that highly fragile commodity good-will.

Special Plea

"This brings me to the question of United Nations Generalised Preferences for Developing Countries. Here I must make a special plea to the Japanese Government to end the discrimination against Hong Kong involved in the so-called Hong Kong Exceptions List. This is a special list of 96 items in respect of which Hong Kong alone among developing countries is excluded from preference in the Japanese market. I am not asking for special favours for Hong Kong but only that we should not be discriminated against as compared with our close competitors. The trading and economic links between Japan and Hong Kong may become strained if they are too one-sided. One-quarter of Hong Kong's imports come from Japan, one-thirty-third of our exports go to Japan - in such circumstances discrimination could provoke resentment.

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"Many Japanese tourists visit Hong Kong. About 400,000 came last year, and I hope they enjoyed themselves. They were extremely welcome. Over one million tourists visited Hong Kong last year, and I greatly enjoyed receiving the millionth. By some strange co-incidence she was a remarkably pretty girl. We are expecting many Japanese to come to the International Arts Festival in Hong Kong in February and March at which some of the most famous artists in the world of music and ballet and drama will be performing, including your own New Japanese Philharmonic Orchestra. The Hong Kong Tourist Office in Tokyo has all the details about this and anything else in Hong Kong.

Large Stake

"Apart from these developments in trade and tourism Japanese business has been taking an increasingly large stake in the economy of Hong Kong. Japan is now second only to the United States as a source of overseas industrial investment. In addition Japanese firms have recently obtained several of the major government contracts. These have included the extension of the runway to the airport, and a new desalting plant to increase water supplies - the latter far the biggest plant of its kind in the world. These two contracts alone were worth US\$78 million, and I am aware of considerable Japanese interest in the possibility of constructing an underground railway, for which the figure, at 1971 prices, is expected to be over US\$1,100 million.

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"We from Hong Kong would respectfully bring to the attention of Japanese businessmen our hopes for an increase in Hong Kong's exports to Japan.

"Wise decisions by wise men have brought about a normalisation of international relationships and a relaxation of tension in this area. World trade is on the up-turn. In Hong Kong these are taken to be solid bases for optimism, and our businessmen expect steady growth in the years ahead. We hope that Japanese enterprise will share in this growth and have profit from it. But we hope also that Hong Kong exporters will be able to feel more confident about their possibilities in the Japanese market, so that the friendly commerce between Japan and Hong Kong may develop in mutual profit and harmony in the years ahead.

"This brings me back to his first example of profitable and harmonious collaboration between Japan and Hong Kong - 'The World Victoria'. We are here to do honour to her birth, the birth of a great ship, built in a famous Japanese yard to the order of a famous Hong Kong owner. We wish her a long and successful life that will bring credit to her builders and profit to her owners and happiness to all who sail in her."

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Release time: 6.30 p.m.