



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1980

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BOAT PEOPLE A STRAIN ON PUBLIC SERVICES

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER, TOLD AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF SOCIAL WORKERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE STRAIN IMPOSED BY THE 'BOAT PEOPLE' FROM VIETNAM ON THE PUBLIC SERVICES IN HONG KONG WAS IMMENSE AND TOGETHER WITH THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA COULD UNDERMINE OUR SOCIAL SERVICE ACHIEVEMENTS AND AIMS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE AT THE CITY HALL, SIR JACK SAID THAT IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1979 SOME 70 000 BOAT REFUGEES REACHED HONG KONG.

+TO OUR EVER-LASTING CREDIT, WE -- OVERCROWDED HONG KONG -- TURNED NONE AWAY: THEY WERE LANDED AS TRANSIENTS AND HOUSED IN SPECIALLY ERECTED OR CONVERTED CAMPS,+ HE SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE SUCCESS OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CAME AS AN ENORMOUS RELIEF, AFTER IT ENDED, +IT IS ALL TOO EASY FOR SOME COUNTRIES NOT FACED WITH THE REALITIES OF COPING WITH THESE VAST NUMBERS, CONVENIENTLY TO FORGET THE URGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO BE MADE TO RESETTLE THE REFUGEES.

+SOME HOST COUNTRIES HAVE RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEM; BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE RICH, WHO HAVE RESOURCES, WHO VIRTUALLY PREFER TO TURN A BLIND EYE,+ SIR JACK SAID.

AN EVEN MORE INTRACTABLE PROBLEM FROM HONG KONG'S POINT OF VIEW, SIR JACK CONTINUED, IS THE GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING HERE FROM CHINA WHICH IN 1979 ALONE WAS 180 000.

+THESE ADDITIONAL NUMBERS HAVE STRETCHED OUR SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE LIMIT AND HAVE THREATENED TO ERODE THE IMPROVEMENTS WE HAVE MADE, SO HARD-WON, OVER THE PAST THREE DECADES.

+NOW WE HAVE TO LOOK AGAIN AT OUR PLANS FOR EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS, AND REVISE THEM TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIS MUCH-SWOLLEN AND SWELLING POPULATION,+ HE SAID.

HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT HONG KONG WOULD OVERCOME THE PROBLEM AS IT HAD OVERCOME SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE PAST.

+BUT IT WILL NOT BE EASY. MEANTIME, AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SHALL HAVE A STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN, LET ALONE TO IMPROVE, THE 'QUALITY OF LIFE' WHICH FOR US HAS BEEN SO HARD-WON,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER IN HIS SPEECH, SIR JACK OUTLINED SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES ACHIEVED BY HONG KONG.

THESE INCLUDED NINE YEARS OF FREE, COMPULSORY, PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE MASSIVE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME WHICH HAS ALREADY PROVIDED HOMES FOR OVER TWO MILLION PEOPLE, AND IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WELFARE, A NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES ON A NON-MEANS TESTED BASIS FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY.

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REVIEW OF THE TEXTILES EXPORT CONTROL SYSTEM

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DETAILS OF A MODIFIED TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR PETER TSAO.

THE MODIFICATIONS RELATE TO THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS, THE QUOTA TRANSFER SYSTEM AND THE FREE QUOTA SCHEMES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEW SCHEME TO GIVE SOME RECOGNITION TO THOSE COMPANIES WHICH RELY ON TRANSFERRING IN QUOTA TO SUSTAIN THEIR BUSINESS.

THE MODIFICATIONS REPRESENT THE CULMINATION OF A FIVE-MONTH REVIEW OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM UNDERTAKEN EARLIER THIS YEAR BY A REVIEW COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD.

THE NEW SYSTEM, WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS ON THE ADVICE OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, WERE ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

+THIS IS THE SECOND MAJOR REVIEW OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM,+ SAID MR TSAO.

THE LAST WAS CONDUCTED IN 1976.

+THESE PERIODIC REVIEWS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE QUOTA SYSTEM CONTINUES TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO DISCHARGE FULLY ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO ENSURE OPTIMUM UTILISATION OF THE RESTRAINT LIMITS.

+ALTHOUGH THE REVIEW WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE REVIEW COMMITTEE, THE MAJOR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES TRADE AND INDUSTRY ALSO CONTRIBUTED BY MAKING COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS AT THE START OF THE REVIEW. THEIR SUGGESTIONS WERE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND A NUMBER OF THEM HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE MODIFIED SYSTEM.

+WE INTEND TO CONDUCT ANOTHER REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM IN ABOUT THREE YEARS,+ HE SAID.

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TOUGH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN UK

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THE TEXTILE LOBBY HAS +BAMBOOZLED+ THE UNITED KINGDOM INTO IMPOSING TOUGH RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES THAT CAN MAKE GOOD CHEAP CLOTHING, THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER, MR DENIS BRAY, SAID AT THE DIPLOMATIC AND COMMONWEALTH WRITERS' ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON IN LONDON YESTERDAY (TUESDAY).

+THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE DRIVING UP THE PRICES OF THE CLOTHES WE ALL WEAR AND THEY ARE PREVENTING THE CREATION OF JOBS IN EXPORT INDUSTRIES THAT HAVE PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY ALSO CHALLENGED THE JUSTIFICATION OF PROTECTIONISM, SHORT-TERM OR OTHERWISE.

+OUR EXPORTS TO THE UK HAVE BEEN UNDER RESTRAINT FOR OVER 20 YEARS WHICH I WOULD CALL A LONG TIME. EACH TIME A SHORT-TERM AGREEMENT EXPIRES A NEW AND TOUGHER ONE IS IMPOSED. IT JUST GETS WORSE AND WORSE AND IT DOESN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS ANYWAY,+ HE SAID.

MR BRAY SAID THE WHOLE BUSINESS OF TEXTILE PROTECTIONISM NEEDED A NEW LOOK.

TALKING ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA, HE SAID HONG KONG HAD A CRUCIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FOUR GREAT MODERNISATIONS AND CHINA HAD EXPLICITLY ACCEPTED THAT ROLE.

+CHINA'S MODERNISATION HAS OPENED UP A WHOLE NEW ERA FOR HONG KONG'S ENTREPOT TRADE ON WHICH WE LIVED UNTIL AN EMBARGO WAS IMPOSED AS A RESULT OF THE KOREAN WAR.

+IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE MOST OUTSIDERS ASK WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN 1997 WHEN THE NEW TERRITORIES LEASE EXPIRES. WELL, NOBODY KNOWS, DENG XIAOPENG HAS SAID FIRMLY THAT INVESTORS SHOULD PUT THEIR HEARTS AT EASE. THE CHINESE CLEARLY DO NOT REGARD THIS AS AN URGENT ISSUE, NEITHER DO WE,+ SAID MR BRAY.

HE ADDED THAT LAST YEAR THERE WERE ALMOST 200 000 IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND THE RATE OF FLOW WAS AS HIGH THIS YEAR.

A SIX PER CENT ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH, HE SAID, WOULD IMPOSE QUITE STAGGERING PRESSURE ON ALL SOCIAL SERVICES, PARTICULARLY HOUSING.

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EMPLOYMENT CHANGE IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1980

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ACCORDING TO THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1980 BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, NEARLY ALL INDUSTRIES REGISTERED AN INCREASE COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1979.

A TOTAL OF 883 827 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AS AT MARCH 14, 1980. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 12 900 PERSONS OR 1.5 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 870 898 PERSONS ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1979. WHEN COMPARED WITH 812 446 PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1979, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 71 400 PERSONS OR 8.8 PER CENT.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 43 457 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN MARCH 1980. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 1 175 ESTABLISHMENTS WHEN COMPARED WITH 42 282 ESTABLISHMENTS IN DECEMBER 1979 AND AN INCREASE OF 2 826 ESTABLISHMENTS WHEN COMPARED WITH 40 631 IN MARCH 1979.

IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THE FIVE LARGEST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES WERE: WEARING APPAREL- ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES- TEXTILES- PLASTIC PRODUCTS- AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS. A COMPARISON OF EMPLOYMENT IN THESE INDUSTRIES BETWEEN MARCH 1980 AND DECEMBER 1979 IS GIVEN BELOW :

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1980	CHANGE OF MARCH 1980 OVER DEC. 1979	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WEARING APPAREL	271 819	277 270	282 558	+5 288	+1.9
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	92 567	117 713	120 350	+2 637	+2.2
TEXTILES	99 244	100 825	101 068	+ 243	+0.2
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	84 540	87 853	88 450	+ 597	+0.7
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	78 693	84 805	85 632	+ 827	+1.0

/THE MORE

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT AT THE INDUSTRY SECTOR LEVEL BETWEEN MARCH 1980 AND DECEMBER 1979 ARE AS FOLLOWS :

INDUSTRY SECTOR	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1980	CHANGE OF MARCH 1980 OVER DEC. 1979	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
KNITWEAR FROM YARN	25 350	25 926	30 016	+4 090	+15.8
ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	69 299	90 567	92 478	+1 911	+ 2.1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS OTHER THAN PLASTIC TOYS AND PLASTIC FLOWERS	33 818	35 915	37 147	+1 232	+ 3.4
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	23 430	31 931	32 788	+ 857	+ 2.7

IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, A TOTAL OF 296 599 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED AS AT MARCH 14, 1980. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 7 400 PERSONS OR 2.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 289 207 IN DECEMBER 1979. WHEN COMPARED WITH 280 314 PERSONS ENGAGED IN MARCH 1979, THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 16 300 PERSONS OR 5.8 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT IN RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS AMOUNTED TO 109 045 PERSONS BEING 1.3 PER CENT BELOW THE DECEMBER 1979 FIGURE AND FOUR PER CENT ABOVE THAT OF MARCH 1979.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS SHOWN THAT THERE WERE 18 621 PERSONS ENGAGED IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES. THIS REPRESENTS A DECREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT AND 0.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1979 AND MARCH 1979 RESPECTIVELY.

/DETAILS OF

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DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN MARCH 1979, DECEMBER 1979 AND MARCH 1980 ARE AS FOLLOWS :

NATURE OF BUSINESS	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN DEC. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN MAR. 1980	CHANGE OF MARCH 1980 OVER DEC. 1979	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
WHOLESALE TRADE	42 131	44 401	45 844	+1 443	+3.2
RETAIL TRADE	140 607	140 215	141 212	+ 997	+0.7
IMPORT/EXPORT BUSINESS	97 576	104 591	109 543	+4 952	+4.7
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS	104 853	110 536	109 045	-1 491	-1.3
HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES	18 776	18 906	18 621	- 285	-1.5
TOTAL	403 943	418 649	424 265	+5 616	+1.3

IN FINANCE, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, A TOTAL OF 116 000 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED AS AT FEBRUARY 14, 1980. OF THESE, 38 954 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS (I.E. BANKS AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF FOREIGN BANKS), 17 126 PERSONS IN REAL ESTATE COMPANIES/AGENCIES AND 17 060 PERSONS IN OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

/WHEN COMPARED

WHEN COMPARED WITH 113 389 PERSONS ENGAGED IN NOVEMBER 1979, THE INCREASE WAS ABOUT 2 600 PERSONS OR 2.3 PER CENT. WHEN COMPARED WITH 100 389 PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEBRUARY 1979, THE INCREASE WAS ABOUT 15 600 PERSONS OR 15.6 PER CENT. THE MAIN INCREASES FROM NOVEMBER 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980 OCCURRED IN MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS, OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES. DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT OF THESE INDUSTRY GROUPS ARE SHOWN AS FOLLOWS :

INDUSTRY GROUP	PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEB. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN NOV. 1979	PERSONS ENGAGED IN FEB. 1980	CHANGE OF FEB. 1980 OVER NOV. 1979	
				PERSONS ENGAGED	% CHANGE
MONETARY INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING BANKS	34 614	38 204	38 954	+750	+2.0
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	13 443	16 609	17 060	+451	+2.7
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	6 480	7 485	7 786	+301	+4.0

FINALLY, THE NUMBER OF MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS 81 555 IN MARCH 1980. THIS REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF ABOUT 300 WORKERS OR 0.4 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1979. EMPLOYMENT ROSE BY ABOUT 10 000 WORKERS OR 13.9 PER CENT OVER MARCH 1979.

OF THE 1 241 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN OPERATION IN MARCH 1980, 311 WERE SITES CONTRACTED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. THESE 311 SITES ACCOUNTED FOR 30 984 WORKERS WHICH REPRESENTED A DECLINE OF ABOUT 3 600 WORKERS OR 10.5 PER CENT OVER DECEMBER 1979. THERE WERE 4 897 WORKERS ENGAGED IN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES IN MARCH 1980, WHICH REPRESENTED A DECLINE OF 9.0 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1979. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR ROSE BY 9.1 PER CENT TO 45 674.

DETAILED STATISTICS ARE AS FOLLOWS :

CONTRACTING PARTY	MARCH 1979		DECEMBER 1979		MARCH 1980	
	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED	SITES IN OPERATION	MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	285	17 062	232	16 412	235	14 969
HOUSING DEPARTMENT	58	11 600	78	18 210	76	16 015
MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY*	35	7 361	26	5 380	19	4 897
PRIVATE SECTOR	865	35 558	861	41 877	911	45 674
TOTAL	1 243	71 581	1 197	81 879	1 241	81 555

* CONSTRUCTION SITES UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION REFER TO M.T.R. CONTRACTS FOR WHICH WORK WAS IN PROGRESS DURING MARCH 1980.

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES FIGURES ARE OBTAINABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT, STARTING FROM THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1980, THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY WOULD BE AMENDED SO THAT FORM-FILLING WOULD BE MORE EASY AND MORE ACCURATE. MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REFERENCE DATE WOULD BE STANDARDIZED FOR ALL ECONOMIC SECTORS AND FIXED ON THE LAST FULL WORKING DAY IN THE MONTHS OF MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER.

/STARTING FROM

STARTING FROM THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1980, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONDUCT, AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS, A PAYROLL SURVEY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BETTER PICTURE OF THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET. SOME 10 000 ESTABLISHMENTS, ALL SELECTED ON A RANDOM BASIS OUT OF THE SAMPLE OF THE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY, WOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ALL CASH PAYMENTS (INCLUDING WAGES AND SALARIES) PAID DIRECTLY TO EMPLOYEES FOR EACH MONTH WITHIN A QUARTER. BY COMBINING THE PAYROLL SURVEY WITH THE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY, EACH OF THESE 10 000 SELECTED ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL ON A SINGLE QUESTIONNAIRE.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS APPEALED TO ALL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE TWO SURVEYS. HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENT WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES.

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JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS
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STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 22 CAN NOW APPLY FOR TWO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED UNDER THE MONBUSHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME.

THE SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDE FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES AT A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY.

APPLICANTS NEED NOT HAVE ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE BUT THEY MUST BE WILLING TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN JAPANESE.

THEY SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS OF EITHER OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES IN HONG KONG- OR PASSED IN TWO RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ORDINARY LEVEL- OR PASSED IN THREE RELEVANT SUBJECTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL AND IN ONE RELEVANT SUBJECT AT ORDINARY LEVEL IN THE GCE.

THE AWARDS ARE TENABLE FOR FIVE YEARS FROM APRIL, 1981 TO MARCH, 1986 AND WILL COVER TUITION, ACCOMMODATION, LIVING EXPENSES AND RETURN PASSAGE.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE ENROLLED AT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL ATTACHED TO THE TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES AND WILL BE GIVEN A ONE-YEAR COURSE ON THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND OTHER NECESSARY SUBJECTS TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE FOUR-YEAR DEGREE COURSE.

APPLICATION FORMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, ROOM 1522 LEIGHTON CENTRE, 77 LEIGHTON ROAD, HONG KONG.

COMPLETED FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30.

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TSUEN WAN VILLAGES TO GET DOOR-TO-DOOR POSTAL SERVICE

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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE IS ARRANGING THE RE-NUMBERING OF HOUSES IN FIVE OLD VILLAGES FOR A DOOR-TO-DOOR POSTAL DELIVERY SERVICE.

A TEAM, FROM THE OFFICE, HAS BEEN COMPILING A LIST OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES IN THE VILLAGES, YUEN TUN, TSING LUNG TAU, TING KAU, TSUEN LUNG AND WO YI HOP, WHICH HAVE COMMUNAL POST BOXES.

WHEN THE SURVEY IS COMPLETED, TALKS ABOUT ALLOCATING NUMBERS WILL BE HELD WITH VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES. VILLAGERS WILL BE ASKED TO ERASE THE OLD NUMBERS AND PUT THE NEW NUMBERS CLEARLY ON THEIR FRONT DOORS.

THE POST OFFICE WILL BE NOTIFIED WHEN THIS HAS BEEN DONE SO THAT DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE CAN START.

A SPOKESMAN FOR TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE POSTAL SERVICES.

HE SAID THE DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD INFORM UTILITY COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE NEW NUMBERS ON BEHALF OF VILLAGERS.

AT PRESENT, MORE THAN 200 VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES HAVE DOOR-TO-DOOR POSTAL DELIVERY SERVICE AND THIS WILL BE INCREASED TO 322.

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POST OFFICE EXPANDS

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THE POST OFFICE PLANS TO OPEN EIGHT BRANCH OFFICES THIS YEAR IN HOUSING COMPLEXES TO PROVIDE A MORE CONVENIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE POST OFFICES WILL BE LOCATED IN HOUSING ESTATES AT KWAI SHING WEST, SHUN LEE, CHOI WAN, SHA KOK, AP LEI CHAU AND TAI HING, AND IN LARGE PRIVATE HOUSING COMPLEXES AT POKFULAM AND KOWLOON BAY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE POSTMASTER GENERAL SAID THE BRANCH OFFICES WOULD BE SPACIOUS AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ALSO PLANS TO REPROVISION AND EXPAND TWO EXISTING BRANCH OFFICES AT WAN CHAI AND SHAU KEI WAN.

ONE OF THESE - THE WAN CHAI POST OFFICE IN QUEEN'S ROAD EAST - IS THE OLDEST EXISTING POST OFFICE IN HONG KONG. IT WAS OPENED IN 1915.

/SINCE THEN

SINCE THEN, THE NUMBER OF POST OFFICES STEADILY INCREASED TO 76 WITH THE OPENING THE OI MAN POST OFFICE IN APRIL.

THE POST OFFICE HANDLED A TOTAL OF 371 MILLION POSTAL ITEMS LAST YEAR, AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR - A FAR CRY FROM THE 1840'S WHEN IT HANDLED ONLY 250 LETTERS A DAY.

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STUDENTS SURVEY DOMESTIC FACTORIES

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THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES HAS ENGAGED 30 UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG STUDENTS TO CARRY OUT A SURVEY TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED AND UNREGISTERED DOMESTIC FACTORIES OPERATING IN NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

THE SURVEY WHICH STARTED ON JULY 14 WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AUGUST 12.

+ALL STUDENTS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY ARE CARRYING A LETTER OF AUTHORISATION ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO GIVE THE STUDENTS EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE,+ A FIRE SERVICES SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

+THE STUDENTS ARE NOW SURVEYING BUILDINGS IN CAUSEWAY BAY, WAN CHAI, HUNG HOM, KOWLOON CITY, SAN PO KONG, TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND LEI MUK SHUE,+ HE SAID.

THE PROJECT WAS PROMPTED BY A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU IN YUEN LONG WHICH REVEALED THAT SOME 400 UNREGISTERED AND ABOUT 100 REGISTERED DOMESTIC FACTORIES WERE OPERATING IN NON-INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

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OMNIBUSES PROHIBITION AT SHING MUN ROAD

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ALL OMNIBUSES - EXCEPT FRANCHISE BUSES - WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE SECTION OF SHING MUN ROAD EAST OF LO WAI ROAD FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 19) UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE PROHIBITION.

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DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN - SUPPLEMENT

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

Wednesday, July 16, 1980

FOLLOWING IS A SPEECH BY MR DENIS BRAY, HONG KONG COMMISSIONER,
AT THE DIPLOMATIC AND COMMONWEALTH WRITERS ASSOCIATION LUNCH,
LONDON, ON TUESDAY, JULY 15.

Hong Kong is an odd place. It has an odd sort of economy but it works. It has an odd mixture of people: they work too. And the government has an almost impossible job: perhaps that is why we do so little.

Most governments seem to have quite enough of a job keeping their own people happy but the Hong Kong Government not only has to do that but keep London and Peking happy at the same time.

Hong Kong rests on a tripod of consents -- the consent of its own people, of London and of Peking.

Fascinating as it is, the subject of retaining an internal consensus -- the first leg of the tripod of consents -- is probably not as interesting to you as our relationships with our masters in Britain or the giant along-side which we live.

Of course, we gain enormous benefit from the relationship with Britain. We could not exist without political support from Britain.

/But all

But all is not always sweetness and light. The Government here has great problems of its own and in solving them we often think we get the rough end. So we fight like mad -- decorously on the surface like Mr Callaghan's swan -- but hammer and tongs out of sight.

Why do we quarrel? On nationality law, and the sharing of costs for defence forces, we are currently having discussions; that is to say first class arguments. Other issues on which we have had discussions recently were the London-Hong Kong air route and the matter of university students fees.

But it is on trade that we have our toughest arguments centred round the textile and clothing industry. We can make good clothes which you want to buy but the textile lobby says that is dreadful for the UK. Protectionism is justified by the most respectable people in two cases.

One is the case of unfair trade which we in Hong Kong are not accused of. The other is that where floods of imports make rapid industrial adjustment necessary, short-term protection for adjustment is then justified.

I would challenge this. First there is nothing short-term about textile restrictions. Our exports to the UK have been under restraint for over 20 years which I would call a long time. Each time a short-term agreement expires a new and tougher one is imposed. It just gets worse and worse and it doesn't solve the problems anyway.

Second, we are told that in prosperous times calls for protectionism would be muted. The last time Britain was prosperous, so I am told, was in 1973 before the first oil crisis. Yet it was in that very year that restrictions reached a new level of intensity in negotiations for the first MFA.

/Again many.....

Again many argue that if unemployment was less it would be easier to face job loss in declining industries. But objective studies have shown that job losses in textiles have been caused very much more by productivity increases than cheap imports.

Jobs would therefore be shed from declining industries much faster in prosperous times than in dull. In addition, these studies show that jobs created in industries exporting to the countries that make textiles pretty well offset job loss caused by imports. In any case, in 1958 when restrictions were first imposed unemployment in Britain was 1.9 per cent.

None of the economic arguments bear scrutiny. I think it is much easier to explain protectionism in simple rough political terms. Whenever textiles are debated in the House of Commons there is no debate. Few, but the members from textile constituencies from either party, catch the Speaker's eye. There is a real debate but it seldom surfaces in Parliament.

The real debate is not between Conservative and Labour but between the industry and the consumers.

The whole business of textile protectionism needs a new look. Are textile job losses really caused by the one-third of imports that come from countries whose exports are under restraint?

Since the last MFA in 1978 imports from rich countries have grown faster than those from poor. Even in depressed times and times of high unemployment, do not these countries create more jobs than they destroy by buying more than they sell?

If they do, would it not make sense to let them sell more of what British consumers want so that the other countries have more money to buy things that Britain can make well?

/If the

If the economic myths need exploding so do the political ones. There is a group of marginal constituencies that once were, in the day of King Cotton, textile constituencies. Their industry is now highly diversified.

In the run up to the 1979 election neither party mentioned the subject in these constituencies. No candidate bothered to include textiles in his own publicity. There was no mention of textiles in the local press. Only the visiting great men from the front benches managed to include a few words.

To put it in a nutshell, the textile lobby has bamboozled this country into imposing tough restrictions on imports from countries that can make good cheap clothing. These restrictions are driving up the prices of the clothes we all wear, or they would be a failure, and they are preventing the creation of jobs in export industries that have prospects for growth.

But let us get back to Hong Kong and the last leg of the tripod on which Hong Kong stands -- that is our relations with China.

Hong Kong has a crucial role to play in the Four Great Modernisations and China has explicitly accepted that role. Everywhere in Hong Kong today you can see evidence of it in terms of Chinese investment in Hong Kong.

We have a direct train service from Kowloon to Canton, ferries up the river and regular air services between Hong Kong, Canton and Shanghai.

The industrial zone across the border at Shenzhen is taking shape and joint ventures between China and Hong Kong and overseas companies are springing up at a steady rate. Only a few years ago, as recently as 1977 when I came to London, this would have been unthinkable.

/China's modernisation

China's modernisation has opened up a whole new era for Hong Kong's entrepot trade on which we lived until an embargo was imposed as a result of the Korean war.

In looking to the future, most outsiders ask what will happen in 1997 when the New Territories lease expires. Well, nobody knows, Deng Xiaopeng has said firmly that investors should put their hearts at ease. The Chinese clearly do not regard this as an urgent issue, neither do we.

The short-term is much more worrying. Last year, nearly 200 000 immigrants came in from China. The rate of flow is as high as this year. A six per cent annual population growth will impose quite staggering pressure on all social services, particularly on housing. The building industry is going to need more than just money to increase its output.

On the other hand our industry is healthy. In spite of protectionist policies domestic exports continue to grow rapidly. In addition, banking and financial services are increasingly being used for offshore transactions as well as internal financing.

The service sector is growing at the expense of manufacturing. The entrepot trade is now reappearing with every sign of long-term sustained growth. Looking further ahead still, it seems probable that Hong Kong will be involved in China's exploitation of offshore oil.

So one way or another it looks as if we are in for a busy time.



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN – SUPPLEMENT

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Wednesday, July 16, 1980

ADDRESS BY SIR JACK CATER,
H.E. THE ACTING GOVERNOR AT THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE
ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1980, AT THE CITY HALL

On behalf of the people and the Government of Hong Kong, I have much pleasure in welcoming the Council's officials, other distinguished visitors and all participants to this, the 20th International Conference on Social Welfare. Hong Kong is glad to have the opportunity of hosting this important international conference, and I hope that you will not find it wanting in the arrangements that have been made for your stay here.

Last Sunday, my wife and I had the considerable pleasure of attending the opening of, as it were, one of your sister conferences: that of the International Federation of Social Workers Symposium. That was a hot afternoon, marked by rainstorms and thunder: the atmosphere outside of the conference hall may have been torrid, but within that gathering it was one of enthusiasm, the enthusiasm of concerned people. I was much impressed, as I always am, when meeting with those deeply concerned with social welfare.

/“Social Development

"Social Development in Times of Economic Uncertainty", the theme of your conference, is clearly most apt. It is particularly so against the backdrop of Hong Kong where the economy is so largely influenced by external forces quite beyond its control. Of course, we are all living in a period of great uncertainty, characterised by the spectre of escalating oil prices, the threat of economic recession, political unrest in many parts of the world and -- in spite of fine words to the contrary -- increasingly restrictive trade attitudes and practices adopted by many major industrialised countries.

These uncertainties make forward-planning, whether economic or social, a hazardous exercise at best, and more so in the case of territories like this one: for in Hong Kong we must rely on the export of goods to earn our living.

Hong Kong has no "natural resources", apart from a well-situated harbour and, importantly, an industrious and versatile workforce. However, very good use has been made of these resources, and we have enjoyed rapid economic growth over the last few years. It was not always thus. We have had more than our fair share of pressures

/and disasters

and disasters these past 30 years: there can, for example, be very few communities in the world who could have withstood, overcome and then flourished again after the harrowing period of the Pacific War, the post-war period and the early 1950s when our population increased dramatically from 460 000 to some 2½ million: in one sixth month period over 500 000 people streamed across the border into Hong Kong from China. Following that, and with the outbreak of the Korean War our entrepot function virtually ceased. But Hong Kong did not sit back and bemoan its fate: this is not our style. Our energies were diverted into developing our own industries, into developing our own trade. Aid from outside was minimal, our task mind-bogglingly enormous. We have to haul ourselves up by our bootstraps but first we had to make those bootstraps!

Those were real years of difficulty and trial, but they led to a certain economic success which we are determined to maintain. Hong Kong is now the world's leading exporter of toys, complete watches, metal watch-bands, radios, artificial flowers, torches and candles in value or in quantity terms; and, after Italy, we are the second largest exporter of clothing in the world. We have virtually full employment and, in Asia, our wages are second only to Japan.

/Of course

Of course no one pretends that Hong Kong is anything like perfect - none of us is. There is an enormous amount to do and a great deal of room for improvement, but the prosperity we have achieved of recent years has enabled the Government to move beyond its task of satisfying basic human needs, which had guided much of our endeavours in the '50s and '60s, and to seek wider improvements to our social services, our leisure and cultural amenities, and our living and working environments.

The '70s saw significant advances in our education, health, housing and social welfare programme. We now have nine years of free, compulsory, primary and junior secondary education; also we have an expanding, heavily subsidised, senior secondary and tertiary education system. Our general standard of health has steadily improved too. It now compares very favourably with that in the advanced industrialised countries.

Then we have our massive Government housing programme, which already houses over two million people, or 40 per cent of the population; and this is planned to continue in growth at the rate of 35 000 new flats each year. Whole new towns are being built in the New Territories so as to provide much-needed relief for the very congested older urban areas. I am sure you will be visiting a number of these areas. The Government has taken particular care in the planning of social services for these new towns in order to ensure their integrated and balanced development. You can well imagine the challenge that such unique opportunities present.

/In the

In the field of social welfare we have a non-contributory social security system which ensures that everyone can afford the basic necessities of life. This income maintenance-scheme is supplemented by additional allowances on a non-means tested basis for the disabled and the elderly. In other areas, we have comprehensive plans to expand and improve services for the disabled, the elderly, for young people and for the pre-school and primary-school age-groups. I shall not now elaborate on these plans because I know that you will learn more about them during the conference. But in spite of all these achievements, there is, as I have said, still a very great deal more to be done, as you will see. We are very conscious that Hong Kong must not rest on its laurels. Hong Kong, in my experience, never does! It has never had the chance to! And at this time, especially, we are aware that our achievements and our aims in the field of social services are in danger of being undermined, due to the massive recent influx of immigrants from China as well as the refugees -- the "boat people" -- from Vietnam.

The tragedy of Vietnam has, of course, been highlighted in international forums. The arrival of the boat refugees was the most dramatic and tragic event of 1979: in the first nine months some 70 000 reached Hong Kong. And how many more of these brave souls perished on the journey it is impossible to say. To our ever lasting credit -- we overcrowded Hong Kong -- we turned none away. They were landed as transients and housed in specially erected or converted camps.

/No one

No one who saw the teeming sheds where arrivals were processed, or the packed boats awaiting their turn to land, will ever forget the sight. The strain on the public services was immense, and the success of the Geneva Conference came as an enormous relief.

But when the conferences end and the delegates depart, it is all too easy for some countries not faced with the realities of coping with these vast numbers, conveniently to forget the urgency for international efforts to be made to resettle the refugees. Some host countries have responded magnificently and we are grateful to them, but there are others who are rich, who have resources, who virtually prefer to turn a blind eye. We must do everything we can to keep this matter, this matter of very great urgency, in the forefront of the international conscience.

An even more intractable problem, from Hong Kong's point of view, is the greatly increased numbers of people coming here from China, both legally and illegally.

In 1979 alone, 180 000 people came across our border and into this territory -- which is already one of the most densely populated places on earth. As you can imagine, these additional

/numbers have

numbers have stretched our social services to the limit and have threatened to erode the improvements we have made, so hard-won, over the past three decades. Now we have to look again at our plans for education, housing, health and welfare provisions, and revise them to take into account this much-swollen and swelling population.

And so yet once more, Hong Kong is having to face up to an extraordinary, a seemingly impossible, problem. Hong Kong has overcome this kind of problem before it is true and I have no doubt will do so again for I have the greatest possible respect and admiration for the ability of Hong Kong to overcome adversity: but it will not be easy. Meantime, and in these circumstances, we shall have a struggle to maintain, let alone to improve, the "quality of life" - which, as I have told you, for us has been so hard-won.

I hope that during your stay here you will take the opportunity to see a good deal of Hong Kong, its territory and its people and examine its development. Your conference programme is very full, I know, and there will be much to discuss. I do urge you, though, to make a little time to explore this city, the countryside (which is quite beautiful) and our lovely islands. We are, unashamedly, proud of our

/Hong Kong and

Hong Kong and are delighted to welcome all our visitors to this dynamic and exciting place.

As you get to know us, and remember the quite extraordinary numbers of people who have come here to make it their home over the years, how we have assimilated this enormous number of pretty disparate people of different backgrounds, languages and dialects, I think you will be surprised. And when you visit China, as I understand a lot of you intend to do, you may well, I think, understand even more about Hong Kong.

I conclude by wishing the conference great success; I trust you will renew old associations and make many new friends and especially, though, that from now on you will all be "friends of Hong Kong".

I now have great pleasure in declaring the 20th International Conference on Social Welfare open.