



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Friday, October 26, 1973

CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Higher postal rates for small packets to China	1
Increase of 30 per cent in exports value in September	2
Government accounts for July show \$9.7 million deficit	4
Mr. Donald Liao appointed Director of Housing	5
China will not accept used clothing sent to the country through the post	6
Advisory committee on stamp design established	7
Interest on tax reserve certificates raised to 5.7 per cent .	8
New juvenile identity cards to be introduced next month	10
More residential land in the N.T. through Small House Policy	13
U.N. drug team arriving in Hong Kong on Sunday	14

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 1 -

INCREASED POSTAL RATES FOR SMALL PACKETS TO CHINA

Concessionary postal rates for small packets to China, which have been in force since 1962, will no longer apply with effect from December 1.

Announcing this today, a spokesman for the Post Office said that the new rates would be the same as for all other destinations.

He explained that under revised international postal regulations, any postal administration receiving considerably more mail than it sends in return is entitled to compensation for internal conveyance, sorting and delivery of the imbalance.

Since the amount of mail sent to the People's Republic of China from Hong Kong greatly exceeds that received in return, payment is due to China for handling the excess. For the most part, this excess lies in small packet mail.

The rates to be introduced with effect from December 1 are as follows:

<u>Weight not over</u>	<u>Postage rate</u>	<u>Old rate</u>
4 oz.	50¢	50¢
8 oz.	\$1.00	50¢
1 lb.	\$1.60	80¢
2 lb.	\$2.90	\$1.60

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 2 -

SEPTEMBER EXPORTS UP BY 30 PER CENT

The value of Hong Kong's domestic exports for last month was \$1,920 million - an increase of \$434 million or 29.2 per cent over the same month last year.

Compared with September 1972, the value of imports - at \$2,705 million - was up by \$800 million or 42.0 per cent, while the value of re-exports increased by \$345 million or 87.7 per cent to \$738 million according to provisional figures released today by the Census and Statistics Department.

Commenting on the figures, Mr. M.D. Sargant, Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, said that during the three-month period, July to September 1973, figures show increases over the same period in 1972 of 30.6 per cent for domestic exports, 33.1 per cent for imports and 74.3 per cent for re-exports.

For the period January to September 1973, the figures show increases over the same period in 1972 of 22.1 per cent for domestic exports, 24.6 per cent for imports, and 52.4 per cent for re-exports.

A breakdown of the provisional figures for September is given below for easy reference:

<u>MERCHANDISE</u> :	Domestic Exports :	\$1,920 million
	Imports :	\$2,705 million
	Re-exports :	738 million

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 3 -

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	September <u>1973</u> \$ Mn.	September <u>1972</u> \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease	
			\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	1,920	1,486	+ 434	+ 29.2
Imports	2,705	1,905	+ 800	+ 42.0
Re-exports	738	393	+ 345	+ 87.7
	July-Sept. <u>1973</u> \$ Mn.	July-Sept. <u>1972</u> \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease	
			\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	5,503	4,214	+1,289	+ 30.6
Imports	7,533	5,660	+1,873	+ 33.1
Re-exports	1,976	1,134	+ 842	+ 74.3
	Jan.-Sept. <u>1973</u> \$ Mn.	Jan.-Sept. <u>1972</u> \$ Mn.	Increase or decrease	
			\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports	13,680	11,201	+2,479	+ 22.1
Imports	19,896	15,968	+3,928	+ 24.6
Re-exports	4,503	2,954	+1,549	+ 52.4

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/4

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 4 -

JULY ACCOUNTS SHOW \$9.7 MILLION DEFICIT

The government accounts for the month of July 1973 show a deficit of \$9.7 million, compared with a surplus of \$81.1 million in July last year.

This has resulted in a total surplus of \$0.6 million for the first four months of this financial year.

Total revenue for the month at \$372.2 million was \$19.1 million more than in July 1972. The total revenue for the first four months of the financial year at \$1,381.8 million was \$271.2 million more than the same period last year.

Total expenditure amounted \$381.8 million, an increase of \$109.9 million over the same month last year.

This brings the total expenditure for the first four months of the financial year to \$1,381.3 million - \$268.4 million more than the same period last year.

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/5

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 5 -

MR. LIAO APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

New senior appointments in the Housing Department are announced in today's (Friday) gazette.

Mr. Donald Liao becomes Director of Housing while Mr. J.C.C.Walden and Mr. F.J. Carroll become Deputy Directors.

These moves follow the recent re-organisation of the Colonial Secretariat as a result of which the Secretary for Housing now heads the Housing Branch of the Colonial Secretariat, but is no longer responsible for the day to day management of the department.

Mr. Liao has had a long association with public housing in Hong Kong. He joined the former Housing Authority as an architect in 1960 and became the first local officer to be appointed to the post of Commissioner.

He was largely responsible for the development of Hong Kong's biggest low-cost housing estate, Wah Fu near Aberdeen.

Mr. Liao, who is 43, is a member of the Town Planning Board and remains Vice Chairman of the Housing Authority.

Mr. Walden has served in a number of senior posts in the government, including Assistant Director of Commerce and Industry, Assistant Establishment Officer, Deputy Commissioner New Territories, Assistant Director of Urban Services, and Commissioner for Resettlement. He is 48.

Mr. Carroll, 47, worked in the Housing Division of the Urban Services Department for ten years. He took up the post of Housing Manager in 1962 and was promoted to Chief Housing Manager and later to Assistant Commissioner for Housing.

/Other

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 6 -

Other Housing Department appointments gazetted today are:

Mr. Cheung Sing-Hoi (Housing Architect); Mr. D.I. McIntosh and Mr. H.R. Husband (Assistant Directors of Housing).

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Note to Editors: Photographs of Mr. Liao, Mr. Walden and Mr. Carroll are boxed for collection.

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CHINA WILL NOT ACCEPT USED CLOTHING THROUGH MAIL

The Post Office has been informed that the People's Republic of China intends to prohibit the importation, by post, of articles of used clothing and bedding.

The official communication received through the Universal Postal Union states that this decision has been taken to protect the health of the people and to avoid the introduction of contagious diseases.

The Post Office can, therefore, no longer accept any postal item known to contain these articles, and the public are warned that any postal item received in the People's Republic of China containing used clothing or bedding will be returned to the sender.

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/7.....

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 7 -

STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SET UP

The Governor has approved the setting up of a non-statutory committee to provide advice and guidance on postage stamp design.

This results from a recommendation put forward by the Postmaster General on methods for improving the quality and design of Hong Kong's postage stamps and providing for a wider cross-section of public opinion to be obtained at the design stage. The Chairman of the Committee is the Postmaster General.

Appointed to serve on the Committee for an initial period of three years are:-

The Hon. Szeto Wai, O.B.E., J.P.,

Mr. Christopher D'Almada e Castro, President of the Hong Kong Philatelic Society;

Mr. J.C.Y. Watt, Curator, Art Gallery, Chinese University of Hong Kong;

Mr. Walter W.T. Yeung, J.P.,

Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs;

Mr. T.A. Birch,

Assistant Colonial Secretary, Home Affairs and Information Branch;

Mr. E.A. Hacker, Art Director,

Government Information Services.

The Committee will advise the Postmaster General on the designers to be invited to submit designs, the briefs according to which the designers will work, the designs to be submitted for government approval and other related issues as the Postmaster General may refer to the Committee.

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/8

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 8 -

HIGHER INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES

The rate of interest payable on tax reserve certificates will be increased from 4.2 per cent to 5.7 per cent, tax free, as from next Thursday (November 1).

Commenting on this today, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Mr. F.E. Rainbow, explained that interest on tax reserve certificates was calculated in monthly steps and the new rate will be 47½ cents per month for every \$100.

"Interest will be credited as before in respect of completed months between purchase and surrender in payment of tax," he said. "The new rate will be paid in respect of each month completed on or after November 1, 1973."

Citing an example, he said the interest on a \$1,000 certificate bought on April 26, 1973 and surrendered in payment of tax on January 3, 1974, would be calculated on the following basis:

April 26 to October 25, 1973

Six complete months at \$3.50 per month ... \$21

October 26 to December 26, 1973

two complete months at \$4.75 per month ... \$ 9.50

\$30.50

Mr. Rainbow explained that interest is only credited when certificates are used to pay tax, and no interest is due where the principal value of a certificate is repaid in cash. Interest also ceases to accrue after 36 completed months without surrender for payment of tax.

/A new

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 9 -

A new feature being introduced, he added, was the requirement to round up the total interest on all certificates used at any one time in payment of a tax demand to the nearest dollar.

"This is done to avoid any complication taxpayers may have in deciding the exact amount of interest for set-off where calculations involve cents and half a cent.

"It is to be noted that the adjustment is in respect of the total interest on certificates used and not in respect of the interest on each certificate used."

An example of this rounding up is given below:-

Example

The following certificates

(A) purchased 26th April 1973	\$1,000
(B) purchased 27th July 1973	\$1,500
(C) purchased 28th November 1973	<u>\$2,000</u>
	<u>\$4,500</u>

were submitted on account of a tax demand for \$5,162 due on 10th February 1974.

Interest on (A) 6 months @ \$3.50	\$21.00	
3 months @ \$4.75	<u>\$14.25</u>	\$35.25
on (B) 3 months @ \$5.25	\$15.75	
3 months @ \$7.125	<u>\$21.375</u>	\$37.125
on (C) 2 months @ \$9.50		<u>\$19.00</u>
	Interest	<u>\$91.375</u>
Demand note		\$5,162
Tax Reserve Certificates	\$4,500	
Interest thereon	<u>92</u>	<u>4,592</u>
Cash due		<u><u>\$ 570</u></u>

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/10

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 10 -

NEW LOOK IDENTITY CARDS FOR JUVENILES

A new type of juvenile identity cards will be introduced next Thursday (November 1) when the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Regulations 1973 come into effect.

The new cards will bear the holder's photograph, full personal name in English and Chinese, date and place of birth and nationality - thereby making it easier for holders to identify themselves when applying for jobs or for schooling purposes.

Under the new regulations, the age of registering for a juvenile identity card is raised from six to 11 years, while that for re-registration for an adult identity card is revised from 17 to 18 years.

A spokesman for the Registration of Persons Department explained today that children between six and 10 years of age need no longer register for juvenile cards.

However, all 11-year-old children and those between 12 and 17 years who have not yet been registered for an identity card must be registered for the new identity cards.

Children aged 17 need no longer apply for adult identity cards, the spokesman said, but he emphasised that they must register for adult cards within 30 days of reaching the age of 18.

The spokesman said that in view of the very high number of children between the ages of 11 and 17 years, the provision of new juvenile identity cards would take some time to complete.

/Some

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 11 -

Some 120,000 children born between November 2, 1961 and November 1, 1962 are required to register for the new type of juvenile identity card when the new scheme commences next Thursday.

"Children between the ages of 12 and 17 years who have not yet been registered for a card should do so immediately," the spokesman said.

Representatives from the Registration of Persons Department are visiting schools to explain the new scheme and to distribute application forms to 11-year-old children.

The application forms should be completed by the children's parents or guardians.

To facilitate registrations, parents or guardians are advised to attend with their children at a designated Registration of Persons Department's Branch Office or Sub-Office.

Beginning from next week, two mobile teams from the department will also call on schools already visited to take photographs and thumb-prints of the children and parents or guardians are requested to accompany their children to the registration centre to sign the application forms.

Parents or guardians will then be notified when and where to collect the new cards.

The new juvenile cards will be issued free of charge on first registration but \$2 will be charged for a replacement as a result of loss, damage or defacement while \$5 will be levied for amendments to prime registered particulars.

/ "In view

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 12 -

"In view of the special arrangements, parents and guardians are requested not to apply directly to the Registration of Persons Department office for the registration of their children," the spokesman said.

For those children who are not attending school, the parents or guardians should attend with their 11-year-old children at any of the department's branch office or sub-offices.

Parents or guardians may seek advice, if they are still in doubt, at any of the Registration of Persons Department offices or call at their nearest City District offices or New Territories District offices.

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Note to Editors: Photographs of the new juvenile identity cards are boxed for collection.

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/13

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 13 -

SMALL HOUSE POLICY IMPROVES HOUSING STANDARDS IN N.T.

The New Territories Administration's revised Small House Policy has made available 1.5 million square feet of private residential accommodation for New Territories people in less than a year.

This was stated today by the District Commissioner, New Territories, Mr. D.C. Bray, when he formally signed the 1,000th Building Licence to be issued under the scheme during a ceremony at the Yuen Long Town Hall.

At the same time, a gift of furniture valued at \$2,000 was presented to the licensee. The recipient, Mr. Cheung Cho-fat, is a villager of Sun Fung Wai in Tuen Mun.

He will now be able to build a modern airy house, up to two storeys high and with a built-over area of up to 700 square feet in which his four school-aged children will have decent study facilities and plenty of space for play.

Mr. Bray also paid tribute to the excellent co-operation the N.T.A. had received from the Heung Yee Kuk in thrashing out the rules for the scheme which is specifically designed to improve the housing standards of the people of the rural New Territories.

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Note to Editors: Copies of Mr. Bray's full speech and photographs of the handing-over ceremony will be boxed for collection this evening.

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/14

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 14 -

U.N. DRUG TEAM HERE SUNDAY

A United Nations team that is studying ways to improve international cooperation to fight drug trafficking in the Far East will arrive in Hong Kong on Sunday for a four-day visit.

The team, which consists of 10 members of the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East Region, is making the visit as part of a month-long tour that will take it to eight Asian capitals.

The committee has already visited Bangkok, Colombo, Kuala Lumpur, Saigon and Vientiane.

During its Hong Kong visit, the committee will hold talks with government officials, including the Secretary for Security, Mr. G.P. Lloyd; the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr. N.G. Rolph; the Commissioner of Police, Mr. C.P. Sutcliffe; and experts involved in the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

The committee is made up of representatives of six countries --- Australia, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and Britain -- and observers from the International Narcotics Control Board and Interpol. It is being led by Mr. J.T.O'Connor, the Assistant Comptroller of Customs and Excise in Canberra, Australia.

Other members of the committee include the British representative, the Assistant Secretary of State in the Home office, Mr. C.J. Train, and U.N. representative, Miss Betty Mountfield.

Miss Mountfield is the Bangkok outposted officer for the U.N. Division of Narcotic Drugs in Geneva.

/The committee

Friday, October 26, 1973

- 15 -

The committee will leave Hong Kong on Wednesday, October 31, for Manila and Singapore.

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Note to Editors: The Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr. N.G.

Rolph, will meet members of the U.N. Commission of Narcotic Drugs Ad Hoc Committee for the Far East when they arrive at Hong Kong International Airport on Royal Air Lao flight RY 410 at 1.45 p.m. on Sunday. Reporters and photographers will be given a chance to meet the chairman of the committee, Mr. T.G. O'Connor, and other representatives in the V.I.P. Room on the first Floor of the Airport Terminal at 2 p.m.

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Release time: 8.00 p.m.