



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MONDAY, JULY 25, 1977

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SIGNING OF HK-US TEXTILE AGREEMENT
HELD UP BY MINOR DRAFTING PROBLEMS
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FORMAL SIGNING OF THE NEW HK-US TEXTILE AGREEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS ON WHICH WERE CONCLUDED IN GENEVA TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE, HAS BEEN HELD UP BY +MINOR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF DRAFTING+, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. BILL DORWARD, SAID TODAY.

BUT AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS HAD BEEN COMPLETED WHEREBY THE CURRENT AGREEMENT, DUE TO EXPIRE ON SEPTEMBER 30, WAS EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, HE SAID.

THIS EXTENSION WILL, IN EFFECT, TURN THE LAST YEAR OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENT INTO A CONTINUOUS 15-MONTH RESTRAINT PERIOD. THE QUOTA LEVELS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR WILL BE PROPORTIONATELY INCREASED TO COVER THE EXTRA THREE MONTHS.

MR. DORWARD ADDED: +THE TRADE IS RELIEVED BY THE THREE-MONTH EXTENSION WHICH WILL EASE SOME OF THE PRESSURE ON QUOTAS. DESPITE GENERALLY SLACK MARKET CONDITIONS, DEMAND REMAINS STRONG FOR SOME CATEGORIES.+

COMMENTING ON THE DELAY IN SIGNING THE NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL ENTER INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1978, MR. DORWARD SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED WERE MINOR TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF DRAFTING WHICH DID NOT AFFECT THE BASIC TERMS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

+BUT THE EXTENSION SHOULD ENABLE THE TRADE TO GO ON IN THE MEANTIME, AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT.+

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS EXPLAINING TO THE TRADE THE MECHANICS OF THE THREE-MONTH EXTENSION. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO OFFERED ADDITIONAL QUOTAS TO EXISTING QUOTA-HOLDERS COVERING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

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HK REVIEW OF TRADE IN 1976 ON SALE
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THE TOTAL VALUE OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS TRADE INCREASED TREMENDOUSLY IN 1976, AS A RESULT OF THE GENERAL UPTURN IN WORLD TRADE. WITH TOTAL EXPORTS INCLUDING RE-EXPORTS RISING FASTER THAN IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE FURTHER IMPROVED.

THESE DETAILS AND MANY OTHERS ARE FEATURED IN THE +HONG KONG REVIEW OF OVERSEAS TRADE IN 1976+ WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT \$10 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE 48-PAGE REVIEW, PREPARED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, CLEARLY OUTLINES HONG KONG'S TRADE PERFORMANCE WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES ACCOMPANIED BY SIMPLE GRAPHS.

IT STARTS WITH A GENERAL REVIEW OF TRADE IN 1976 COMPARED WITH TWO PREVIOUS YEARS. IT ALSO SEPARATELY FOCUSES ON HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WITH DETAIL STATISTICS OF TRADE WITH MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS.

ONE USEFUL FEATURE OF THE REVIEW IS THAT IT GIVES THE COMPARATIVE TRADE GROWTH OF HONG KONG BY VALUE FROM 1950.

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PROJECT COMPETITION ON OCEAN PARK
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO ORGANISE A PROJECT COMPETITION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOLS ON OCEAN PARK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +THE LAUNCHING OF THE COMPETITION COMES AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME WHEN OCEAN PARK HAS OPENED FOR MORE THAN HALF A YEAR AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS HAVE MADE VISITS TO THE PLACE.+

THE COMPETITION IS AIMED AT AROUSING STUDENTS' INTEREST IN STUDYING BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY, PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE, STIMULATE THEIR IMAGINATION AND ENABLE THEM TO CULTIVATE AN APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND A CARE FOR LIVING THINGS.

MOBIL OIL (H.K.) LIMITED IS THE SPONSOR OF THE COMPETITION AND WILL PROVIDE 13 PRIZES COMPRISING A WINNER, TWO RUNNERS-UP AND 10 MERIT PRIZES.

EACH PROJECT WILL OCCUPY AN AREA OF NOT MORE THAN 100 SQ. FT. (ABOUT 9.20 METRES) AND ALL WINNING PROJECTS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CITY HALL NEXT JANUARY. SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE DETAILS OF THE COMPETITION BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

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GOVERNOR VISITS ELECTRONICS FACTORY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON SAW THE OPERATION OF ONE OF HONG KONG'S LEADING ELECTRONICS FACTORIES IN CHEUNG SHA WAN IN ONE OF HIS PERIODICAL FACTORY VISITS TO KEEP HIMSELF INFORMED ON THE LATEST PROGRESS OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MR. BILL DORWARD, SIR MURRAY SAW THE VARIOUS STAGES OF DESIGNING, ASSEMBLING AND TESTING OF COMPUTER COMPONENTS AT AMPEX FERROTEC LIMITED, A SUBSIDIARY OF AMPEX CORPORATION OF USA.

THE COMPANY SPECIALISES IN THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPUTER SUB-ASSEMBLIES AND COMPUTER PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING MAGNETIC CORE MEMORY PLANES, MAGNETIC CORE MEMORY SYSTEMS AND NUMEROUS OTHER SUB-SYSTEMS AND HAD WON A NUMBER OF DESIGN AWARDS.

IT EMPLOYS OVER 2,000 TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS AND EXPORTS ALL ITS PRODUCTS TO THE USA, THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S ELECTRONIC GOODS.

THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IS THE SECOND MOST PRODUCTIVE LOCAL INDUSTRY AFTER CLOTHING. VALUED AT NEARLY \$4,000 MILLION LAST YEAR, IT CONTRIBUTED TO SOME 12 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS. EXPORTS ROSE BY OVER 20 PER CENT IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS THIS YEAR.

IN MARCH, MORE THAN 68,000 WORKERS OR ABOUT NINE PER CENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE WERE EMPLOYED IN THIS INDUSTRY IN OVER 650 FACTORIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

LADY MACLEHOSE TO VISIT CAMP FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
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LADY MACLEHOSE WILL VISIT A CAMP FOR PHYSICALLY-HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AT SHEK PIK, LANTAU ISLAND ON FRIDAY MORNING (JULY 29).

DURING THE VISIT, LADY MACLEHOSE WILL SEE SOME 35 HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TAKING PART IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING WHEEL-CHAIR FOLK DANCE, MODIFIED SPORTS AND SINGING.

THE CAMP IS ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG RED CROSS.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE PRESS TO COVER THIS EVENT ARE BEING ARRANGED.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO WISH TO USE THESE FACILITIES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM G.I.S. DUTY OFFICERS AT TEL: 5-233191 EXT. 249 BEFORE 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 27). DETAILS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF PEDDER STREET
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PEDDER STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 9 P.M. TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AND 6 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 27) TO FACILITATE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION WORKS. CHATER ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO ALL TRAFFIC.

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED :

- * CMB ROUTE NO.13 ON INWARD JOURNEYS TO CENTRAL (STAR FERRY) WILL BE DIVERTED VIA CHATER ROAD, CLUB STREET AND THEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL=
- * MAXICAB ROUTE NOS. 1, 2, 6 AND 7 ON JOURNEYS TO CENTRAL WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEIGHTON ROAD

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THE SECTION OF LEIGHTON ROAD BETWEEN MATHESON STREET AND CANAL ROAD EAST WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 6 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 27) AND 3 A.M. ON FRIDAY (JULY 29) TO FACILITATE CABLE-LAYING WORKS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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POST OFFICE HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE ONE DELIVERY OF MAIL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

THIRTY-TWO POST OFFICES, INCLUDING THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, THE KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE, WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON.

ALL OTHER POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED.

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