



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1980

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MARCH 1980 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

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THERE WERE SOME 73 000 UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG IN MARCH REPRESENTING 3.2 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SAMPLE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE FIGURES COMPARE WITH THE MARCH 1979 FIGURE OF 48 200 OR 2.3 PER CENT OF THE LABOUR FORCE, AND THE SEPTEMBER 1979 FIGURE OF 74 600 OR 3.4 PER CENT.

COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR C.C. GREENFIELD, SAID THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED EFFECTIVELY UNCHANGED OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS- THE DECREASE IN THE RATE OF 0.2 PER CENT BEING STATISTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE USUALLY SUBSTANTIALLY MORE FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS -- PEOPLE WHO JUST LEFT SCHOOL -- IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN MARCH.

THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS ESTIMATED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1979 SURVEY WAS 18 600 COMPARED WITH 6 600 IN THE MARCH 1980 SURVEY -- A DECREASE OF 12 000 PEOPLE.

IF THE SEPTEMBER 1979 RATE IS ADJUSTED FOR THE SEASONAL INFLUENCE TO PUT IT ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE MARCH 1980 RATE, IT BECOMES 2.8 PER CENT. THE CORRECTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FIGURE AND THE MARCH 1980 RATE OF AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF 0.4 PER CENT IS, THEREFORE, STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AN ACTUAL INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT (AN ABSOLUTE INCREASE IN THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS OF 10 400) OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THERE WAS ALSO AN INCREASE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES TAKEN UP BECAUSE THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE ROSE BY 85 300.

THE COMMISSIONER EXPLAINED THAT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 64 WHO WERE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, OR WHO HAD WORKED FOR LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE SURVEY DATE, BUT WERE LOOKING FOR WORK, WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNEMPLOYED.

THE COMMISSIONER FURTHER DREW ATTENTION TO THE VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF UNEMPLOYMENT USED BY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

IN HONG KONG, THE DEFINITION 'UNEMPLOYED' INCLUDED PEOPLE WHO HAD JUST LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO REALLY HAD NOT MUCH OF A CHANCE TO FIND A JOB- OR WHO HAD JUST, BUT ONLY JUST, TAKEN UP WORK- OR WHO HAD TEMPORARILY BEEN LAID OFF WORK (WORKING LESS THAN 15 HOURS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS)- OR WHO WERE AVAILABLE FOR WORK, BUT WERE NOT ACTUALLY LOOKING FOR WORK BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD OR BECAUSE THEY WERE TEMPORARILY SICK.

/MR GREENFIELD

MR GREENFIELD SAID THAT A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SURVEY, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, IS AVAILABLE AND COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

HE ADDED THAT SIMILAR INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IS SOUGHT AT REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY INTERVALS. THE NEXT LABOUR FORCE SURVEY WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR WORKERS IN ENCLOSED COMPARTMENTS

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NO PERSON SHOULD ENTER ANY BUOYANCY COMPARTMENT OR SIMILAR ENCLOSED SPACE OF A VESSEL UNLESS HE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY THE OWNER OF THE VESSEL.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE CORONER AT THE CONCLUSION OF AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF TWO CREWMEMBERS WHO WERE FOUND UNCONSCIOUS INSIDE A BUOYANCY COMPARTMENT OF A BARGE ON MARCH 30 THIS YEAR.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE THAT BUOYANCY TANKS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY VENTILATED AND THE AIR INSIDE TESTED FOR ANY DANGEROUS FUMES OR OXYGEN DEFICIENCY BEFORE WORKERS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER.

THIS SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO COFFERDAMS, VOID SPACES, BALLAST TANKS, PIPE DUCTS AND OTHER COMPARTMENTS WHICH ARE NORMALLY SECURED IN CLOSED CONDITION.

+VENTILATION SHOULD BE ADEQUATE AND STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT NO HARMFUL GASES ARE GENERATED WITHIN OR ALLOWED TO ENTER THE COMPARTMENT.

+WORKERS OPERATING IN COMPARTMENTS SHOULD WORK IN PAIRS AND SHOULD HAVE PROPER AND ADEQUATE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH A COLLEAGUE OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CORONER'S OFFICE .

IN THE EVENT THAT A COMPARTMENT HAS TO BE ENTERED BEFORE TESTS HAVE BEEN MADE OF THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE, EVERY PERSON WHO ENTERS MUST WEAR AN APPROVED BREATHING APPARATUS AND A SAFETY BELT OR HARNESS WITH A ROPE SECURELY ATTACHED TO IT. THE FREE END OF THE ROPE MUST BE HELD BY ANOTHER PERSON OUTSIDE THE ENTRANCE AND WITH SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL HELP AVAILABLE SO THAT THE PERSONS INSIDE MAY BE PULLED OUT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

+SUITABLE REVIVING APPARATUS SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND KEPT READILY AVAILABLE IN A SATISFACTORY CONDITION AND A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF PERSONS PRACTISED IN METHODS OF RESTORING RESPIRATION SHOULD BE EMPLOYED,+SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

THE CORONER FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT ALL LOCAL CRAFT WITH BUOYANCY OR SIMILAR COMPARTMENTS SHOULD HAVE A NOTICE WARNING OF THE EXTREME DANGER OF ENTERING SUCH COMPARTMENTS WITHOUT TAKING ALL PROPER PRECAUTIONS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON BOARD.

A BOOKLET — SAFETY GUIDE TO WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES — PRODUCED BY THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM BRANCH OFFICES AND THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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LABOUR PROSECUTIONS NET \$3.1 MILLION IN FINES

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TOOK OUT 4 411 PROSECUTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYERS FOR VIOLATING LABOUR LEGISLATION, RESULTING IN FINES OF MORE THAN \$3.1 MILLION, DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR.

THE MAJORITY OF THE CASES WERE RELATED TO BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

AMONG THEM, 2 049 CASES CONCERNED BREACHES OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY REGULATIONS AND THE FINES AMOUNTED TO \$1 974 145.

OF THESE CASES, 1 322 (WITH \$1 131 400 IN FINES) WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 429 (WITH \$590 470 IN FINES) WERE FOR BREACHES OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

OFFENCES RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACCOUNTED FOR 2 156 CASES WITH FINES TOTALLING \$988 590.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THE PROSECUTIONS WERE MAINLY THE RESULT OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE LABOUR INSPECTORATE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LABOUR LEGISLATION AIMED AT SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEES AT WORK AND PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG WORKERS.

HOWEVER, IT TOOK MORE THAN LEGISLATION TO STAMP OUT OFFENCES AND CO-OPERATION WAS NEEDED FROM ALL CONCERNED TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, HE ADDED.

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THE LAUNCHING OF KEYING II

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PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE JUNK 'KEYING II' AS IT SAILED THROUGH THE HARBOUR AFTER ITS LAUNCHING CEREMONY THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THE JUNK'S APPEARANCE ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION SINCE ITS OLD STYLE DESIGN IS NOW RARE. JUNKS OF THIS CLASS HAVE NOT BEEN BUILT IN HONG KONG FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

'KEYING II', A 18.3 METRE, THREE MASTED FISHING JUNK, SPECIALLY BUILT FOR THE HONG KONG IN LONDON FESTIVAL, WAS LAUNCHED BY MRS BESSIE WOO, DAUGHTER OF SIR Y.K. PAO WHO PAID FOR THE JUNK'S CONSTRUCTION, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE FESTIVAL.

THE ORIGINAL KEYING, IMMORTALISED BY CHARLES DICKENS WHEN HE WAS A CORRESPONDENT FOR +THE EXAMINER+, SAILED TO LONDON IN 1848 FOR HONG KONG'S FIRST OVERSEAS PROMOTION.

AMONG THE GUESTS ON BOARD THE NEW JUNK WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LOCAL SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING MR ALAN SCOTT, SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION= MR ROBERT SUN, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES= MR J.M. RIDDELL-SWAN, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND MR P.E.J. DAVY, DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

THE PRESENCE OF THE 'KEYING II' AT THE HONG KONG IN LONDON FESTIVAL, WILL ENHANCE ONE OF THE BIGGEST OVERSEAS PROMOTIONAL EVENTS THE GOVERNMENT HAS EVER STAGED.

THROUGH THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE OF THE SWIRE GROUP AND OCL (OVERSEAS CONTAINER LIMITED), THE JUNK WILL BE SENT ON A CONTAINER SHIP TO THE UK NEXT WEEK. IT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT SOUTHAMPTON BY THE END OF AUGUST AND WILL THEN SAIL UP THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AND AROUND THE KENTISH COAST TO THE RIVER THAMES.

'KEYING II' WILL EVENTUALLY FIND A PERMANENT HOME IN THE EXETER MARITIME MUSEUM, WHICH PUTS ITS VALUABLE COLLECTION OF SEA CRAFT TO WORK BY SENDING THEM UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY'S WATERWAYS TO BE SEEN BY ENTHUSIASTS THROUGHOUT BRITAIN.

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ACTING GOVERNOR TO ATTEND
HONG KONG JING YING PRE-TOUR CONCERT
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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER, WILL ATTEND THE HONG KONG JING YING PRE-TOUR CONCERT ON SATURDAY (JULY 26) AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL.

THE HONG KONG JING YING WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR ISRAEL AND CYPRUS NEXT WEEK TO ATTEND THE ISRAEL ARTS FESTIVAL IN TEL AVIV AND THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH FILM AND TELEVISION FESTIVAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL IN CYPRUS.

THE GROUP CONSISTS OF YOUNG STRING PLAYERS (WESTERN), A CHINESE MUSIC ENSEMBLE AND YOUNG DANCERS.

THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL ALSO PERFORM AT THE CONCERT AS GUEST PERFORMERS DIRECTED BY SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS, DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, LONDON.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE CONCERT +AN EVENING WITH THE HONG KONG JING YING+ ON SATURDAY (JULY 26) AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE. THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR JACK CATER, WILL BE ATTENDING THE CONCERT. HE WILL ARRIVE AT THE A.C. HALL AT 7.25 PM. ON ARRIVAL, SIR JACK WILL DOT THE EYES OF A LION WHICH WILL BE TAKEN TO ISRAEL AND CYPRUS.

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POST OFFICE OPENED IN KWAI SHING
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HONG KONG'S 77TH POST OFFICE WAS OPENED TODAY (THURSDAY) IN KWAI SHING ESTATE, TSUEN WAN, BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR A.C. HEATHCOTE, AND TOWN MANAGER AND DISTRICT OFFICER TSUEN WAN, DR JAMES HAYES.

THE POST OFFICE IS SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF BLOCK 7 OF THE ESTATE AND WILL SERVE ITS 56 000 RESIDENTS.

MR HEATHCOTE SAID HE RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO MATCH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH THE PROVISION OF POST OFFICES, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TOWNS.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, IN TSUEN WAN DISTRICT ALONE, THERE WERE NOW NINE POST OFFICES ALL SITUATED AT POPULATION CONCENTRATION POINTS TO CATER FOR THE DEMANDS ARISING FROM BOTH THE DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS OF LOCAL SOCIETY.

/+I EXPECT

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+I EXPECT THAT THIS PATTERN WILL BE ADOPTED IN THE OTHER NEW TOWNS NOW BEING ESTABLISHED, TO MATCH THE GROWTH IN POPULATION.

+CURRENTLY, WORKS ARE IN HAND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, WITHIN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL POST OFFICES MAINLY IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES,+ MR HEATHCOTE SAID.

THE POST OFFICE WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND 2.15 PM TO 5 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

IT HAS TWO STAMP VENDING MACHINES AND MAIL COLLECTION BOXES AT THE ENTRANCE. IT WILL PROVIDE THE NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER FACILITIES.

THE 110-SQUARE METRE OFFICE HAS FOUR COUNTERS, WHICH ARE MANNED BY A POSTMASTER AND A POSTMAN. FITTING OUT COSTS WERE MORE THAN \$190 000.

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REGISTRATION FOR EARLY WRITTEN TEST
FOR TAXI DRIVERS
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT CANDIDATES WISHING TO APPLY FOR EARLY TAXI DRIVER LICENCE WRITTEN TESTS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO REGISTER ON JULY 22 DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER, MAY NOW REGISTER ON AUGUST 11.

THEY ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT TO COUNTER NO. 35, WRITTEN TEST UNIT, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, PARK-IN COMMERCAIL CENTRE, 9TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONGKOK, KOWLOON.

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WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE MOVES TO OI KWAN COURT
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THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) MOVED INTO OI KWAN COURT AT OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE NEW OFFICE, WHICH OCCUPIES THE GROUND AND FIRST FLOORS OF THE BUILDING, IS OPPOSITE TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MORRISON HILL SWIMMING POOL AND CLOSE TO THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS IS 5-738964.

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RETIREMENT OF 28 OFFICERS OF
FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS
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THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED SOUVENIRS TO 28 OFFICERS OF THE FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS, WHO ARE RETIRING THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, MR RIDDELL-SWAN NOTED THAT THE 28 OFFICERS HAD SERVED A TOTAL OF 740 YEARS OR AN AVERAGE OF 26 YEARS EACH, IN THE TWO ORGANISATIONS.

+DURING THE YEARS THEY HAVE WORKED WITH US, THERE HAVE BEEN TREMENDOUS CHANGES BOTH IN THE ORGANISATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY WHICH WE HELP TO FEED,+ HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD, HIS DEPARTMENT HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO RELY ON THE LOYALTY AND STEADFAST SUPPORT OF THE STAFF IN THE ORGANISATIONS WHO HAD MANAGED TO MAINTAIN THE MARKETING SERVICES EVEN IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTIES.

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