



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1976

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

FOURTEEN MILLION DOLLARS GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION FOR CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE'S EXTENSION	1
PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER	2
STORAGE OF EXCESSIVE QUANTITY OF FUEL DANGEROUS	4
NEW YEAR DAY -- A STATUTORY HOLIDAY	5
IMMIGRATION SERVICE FOR VISITORS TO BE STREAMLINED	5
NOVEMBER BANKING STATISTICS	6
WATER CUT	7

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1976

\$14 M. GOVT. SUBVENTION FOR CARITAS MEDICAL
CENTRE'S EXTENSION
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THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO GRANT A CAPITAL SUBVENTION OF \$14.1 MILLION TO THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE FOR BUILDING AN EXTENSION WITH 600 BEDS.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. G.H. CHOA, THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE LAID THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE EXTENSION.

DR. CHOA INDICATED THAT RECURRENT SUBVENTION FOR THE 600 BEDS, TO BE USED FOR TREATING THE OLD AND INFIRMED AND THE SEVERE MENTALLY RETARDED, WOULD BE GIVEN WHEN THE EXTENSION BECAME OPERATIONAL, HOPEFULLY BY EARLY 1978.

THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT, IS ESTIMATED AT \$29 MILLION.

IN HIS LAST PUBLIC FUNCTION IN HIS CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. CHOA SAID THE TWO CATEGORIES OF PATIENTS TO BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE EXTENSION WERE NOT EASY TO DEAL WITH.

+THEY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL MORE TACT, PATIENCE, COMPASSION, SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING THAN OTHER PATIENTS.+

THE DEMAND FOR SUCH BEDS, WHICH WAS DISCUSSED IN THE MEDICAL WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE PRESENT DECADE, WOULD BE MET TO A LARGE EXTENT WHEN THE 600 BEDS WERE PUT TO USE, HE SAID.

+SPEAKING BOTH PERSONALLY AND OFFICIALLY, I AM MOST GRATIFIED THAT AS USUAL THE CHURCH, UNDETERRED BY THE UNPOPULAR AND DIFFICULT NATURE OF THE WORK, HAS BEEN MOVED BY LOVE AND CHARITY TO ACCEPT OUR PROPOSAL,+ SAID DR. CHOA.

+CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, WHICH RECEIVES A RECURRENT SUBVENTION OF \$11.7 MILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR, HAS SERVED THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WELL, IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN THE WEST KOWLOON REGION, SINCE 1964,+ HE ADDED.

DR. CHOA SAID THE CENTRE WOULD FORM AN ESSENTIAL LINK IN THE CHAIN OF ORGANISATION OF THE FORTHCOMING REGIONALISATION SCHEME WHICH WOULD RESULT IN MUCH IMPROVED HOSPITAL AND CLINIC SERVICES FOR ALL.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARITAS MEDICAL CENTRE, DR. CHOA SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR THE CENTRE'S NURSING SCHOOL TO INCREASE ITS INTAKE SO AS TO PROVIDE MORE NURSES TO STAFF THE ADDITIONAL BEDS.

HE SAID A BUILDING TO HOUSE THE EXISTING NURSING SCHOOL, IF IT WAS TO BE ENLARGED, WOULD BE REQUIRED, AND HE HOPED THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

THE DIRECTOR PAID TRIBUTE TO THE THREE MEN WHO BROUGHT THE PROJECT INTO BEING, -- MR. RUN RUN SHAW, WHO DONATED \$3 MILLION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION COST, THE LATE MGR. VATH AND THE LATE BISHOP FRANCIS HSU.

PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1976
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL MERCHANDISE TRADE DURING NOVEMBER 1976. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR NOVEMBER WAS \$2,791 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$3,702 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$817 MILLION.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1976 (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1975 OF 32.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 20.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 28.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1975, INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$536 MILLION OR 23.8 PER CENT IN EXPORTS, \$602 MILLION OR 19.4 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$162 MILLION OR 24.6 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, NOVEMBER 1976 COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1976, SHOWED DECREASES OF \$132 MILLION OR 4.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND \$245 MILLION OR 6.2 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY \$10 MILLION OR 1.2 PER CENT.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1975 TO NOVEMBER 1976 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 42.7 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 31 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 27.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TRADE TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES :-

LATEST 3 MONTHS	SEP. - NOV.	SEP. - NOV.	INCREASE OR	
	1976	1975	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,776	6,636	+2,140	+32.2
IMPORTS	11,407	9,476	+1,931	+20.4

/RE-EXPORTS

RE-EXPORTS	2,426	1,893	+ 533	+28.1
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	NOV. 1976	NOV. 1975	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
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	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,791 (77.3%)	2,255 (77.5%)	+ 536	+23.8
IMPORTS	3,702	3,100	+ 602	+19.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	817 (22.7%)	656 (22.5%)	+ 162	+24.6
LAST MONTH	NOV. 1976	OCT. 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
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	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,791 (77.3%)	2,924 (78.3%)	- 132	- 4.5
IMPORTS	3,702	3,947	- 245	- 6.2
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	817 (22.7%)	808 (21.7%)	+ 10	+ 1.2
CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN. - NOV. 1976	JAN. - NOV. 1975	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
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	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	29,537 (78.4%)	20,567 (76.4%)	+8,971	+43.6
IMPORTS	39,227	30,034	+9,193	+30.6
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	8,116 (21.6%)	6,347 (23.6%)	+1,769	+27.9
LAST 12 MONTHS	DEC. 1975 TO NOV. 1976	DEC. 1974 TO NOV. 1975	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
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	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	31,830	22,298	+9,531	+42.7
IMPORTS	42,665	32,575	+10,089	+31.3
RE-EXPORTS	8,742	6,874	+1,869	+27.2

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1976

- 4 -

STORAGE OF EXCESSIVE QUANTITY OF FUEL DANGEROUS

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED HOUSEHOLDERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES THAT STORING MORE THAN THE EXEMPTED QUANTITY OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) AND KEROSENE WITHOUT A LICENCE IS AN OFFENCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +BOTH LPG AND KEROSENE ARE WIDELY USED IN HONG KONG FOR HEATING AND COOKING. HOWEVER, TO STORE LARGE QUANTITIES IN PREMISES IS NOT ONLY AGAINST THE LAW BUT ALSO A DANGEROUS PRACTICE, PARTICULARLY IN THE DRY WINTER MONTHS.+

HE ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, THE QUANTITY OF THESE TWO TYPES OF DANGEROUS GOODS THAT COULD BE KEPT WITHOUT A LICENCE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES WAS FOUR GALLONS OF KEROSENE AND UP TO 100 POUNDS OF LPG.

+POSSESSION OF MORE THAN THESE QUANTITIES IS AN OFFENCE AND PUNISHABLE ON CONVICTION BY A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT,+ HE WARNED.

TURNING TO THE CONVEYANCE OF DANGEROUS GOODS ON THE ROADS, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN A COMMON PRACTICE FOR RETAILERS TO DELIVER KEROSENE ON BICYCLES.

+UNDER SECTION 100(1) OF THE REGULATIONS, NOT MORE THAN TWO FIVE-GALLON TINS OF KEROSENE ARE PERMITTED TO BE CARRIED AT ANY ONE TIME ON ANY BICYCLE,+ HE STRESSED, ADDING THAT THE PENALTY FOR CONTRAVENING THIS PROVISION COULD BE A FINE OF \$1,000.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT FIRE PREVENTION OFFICERS WOULD BE CARRYING OUT INSPECTIONS FROM TIME TO TIME ON PREMISES IN RESPECT OF FIRE SERVICE INSTALLATION OR STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS.

+ALL FIRE OFFICERS CALLING ON PREMISES ARE USUALLY DRESSED IN FULL UNIFORM,+ HE SAID. +THEY ARE ALSO ISSUED WITH A NUMBERED WARRANT CARD AND A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD BEARING THE HOLDER'S PHOTOGRAPH.

+IF THEY ARE NOT IN UNIFORM AND CANNOT PRODUCE A WARRANT CARD, INFORM THE FIRE SERVICES OR THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED.

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NEW YEAR DAY - A STATUTORY HOLIDAY
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THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. NEIL HENDERSON, TODAY REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT SATURDAY, (JANUARY 1, 1977), IS ONE OF THE 10 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

MR. HENDERSON EMPHASISED THAT THE PROVISION OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE APPLIED NOT ONLY TO INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES BUT ALSO TO EMPLOYEES IN THE ENTIRE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, INCLUDING THE SERVICES AND CATERING TRADES.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, ALL MANUAL EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISTINCTION AND INCLUDING DOMESTIC SERVANTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR EARNINGS AND ALL NON-MANUAL EMPLOYEES EARNING NOT MORE THAN \$2,000 A MONTH, ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY. THEY MUST ALSO BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF THE EMPLOYER REQUIRES AN EMPLOYEE TO WORK ON THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST GIVE HIM AT LEAST 48 HOURS' NOTICE, AND HE MUST GIVE HIS EMPLOYEE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF THE EMPLOYER INTENDS TO GIVE HIS EMPLOYEE AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST NOTIFY HIM 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE BEFORE GIVING HIM AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY. AND IF AN ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY IS TO BE GIVEN AFTER THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY, THE EMPLOYER MUST INFORM HIS EMPLOYEE OF THE ARRANGEMENT AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

IF THE EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE AGREE, ANY DAY WITHIN 30 DAYS OF A STATUTORY HOLIDAY OR ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY MAY BE TAKEN BY THE EMPLOYEE AS A SUBSTITUTED HOLIDAY.

COMPLAINTS OR ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE TO THE NEAREST BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICES. THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE: FOR KOWLOON EAST 3-205638= KOWLOON WEST 3-201652= KWUN TONG 3-898520= TSUEN WAN 12-422096= YUEN LONG 12-760261 EXT. 82= AND HONG KONG ISLAND 5-282523 EXT. 60.

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IMMIGRATION SERVICE TO BE IMPROVED
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IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY CENTRALISED THE PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR VARIOUS IMMIGRATION FACILITIES FROM VISITORS TO HONG KONG.

WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR, ALL VISITORS, IRRESPECTIVE OF NATIONALITY, APPLYING FOR VISAS, EXTENSIONS OF STAY AND OTHER IMMIGRATION FACILITIES WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE VISITORS SECTION ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF INTERNATIONAL BUILDING OR ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S BRANCH OFFICES.

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NOVEMBER BANKING STATISTICS
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BANKING DEPOSITS AS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER STOOD AT \$42,827 MILLION, COMPRISING \$11,344 MILLION IN DEMAND DEPOSITS, \$15,998 MILLION IN TIME DEPOSITS AND \$15,484 MILLION IN SAVINGS DEPOSITS.

THERE WERE 74 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG AS AT THE END OF LAST MONTH.

THE FOLLOWING TABLES RELEASED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TODAY GIVES A DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF BANK LIABILITIES AND ASSETS AND MONEY SUPPLY FOR THE MONTH :-

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>\$MILLION</u>
1. DEPOSITS	42,827
2. AMOUNT DUE TO BANKS ABROAD	27,468
3. OTHER LIABILITIES	<u>9,446</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 79,741</u>

ASSETS

1. CASH		819
2. AMOUNT DUE FROM BANKS ABROAD:		
(I) DEMAND AND SHORT TERM CLAIMS	22,148	
(II) TIME DEPOSITS	<u>3,726</u>	25,874
3. LOANS AND ADVANCES:		
(I) HONG KONG	28,567	
(II) ABROAD	<u>13,325</u>	41,892
4. INVESTMENTS:		
(I) HONG KONG	3,188	
(II) ABROAD	<u>75</u>	3,263

/5. OTHER

5. OTHER ASSETS:

(I) HONG KONG	4,751	
(II) ABROAD	3,142	7,893
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

TOTAL ASSETS \$79,741

AVERAGE LIQUIDITY DURING MONTH 46.18 PER CENT

MONEY SUPPLY \$MILLION

1. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN CIRCULATION (A)

(I) COMMERCIAL BANK ISSUES	4,560	
(II) GOVERNMENT ISSUES	420	4,980
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2. LICENSED BANKS' HOLDINGS OF LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES (B) 819

3. LEGAL TENDER COINS AND NOTES IN HANDS OF NON-BANK PUBLIC (A) - (B) = (C) 4,161

4. DEMAND DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (D) 11,344

5. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 1) (C) + (D) = (E) 15,505

6. TIME DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (F) 15,998

7. SAVINGS DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS (G) 15,484

8. MONEY SUPPLY (DEFINITION 2) (E) + (F) + (G) = (H) 46,987

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR FIVE HOURS FROM 1 A.M. ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 31) TO ENABLE THE WATERWORKS OFFICE TO CARRY OUT A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KING TAI STREET, KING FUK STREET, TSEUK LUK STREET, YIN HING STREET, KAM WING STREET, SHUNG LING STREET, HONG KEUNG STREET AND YI LUN STREET.

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