



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
RECORD ARRESTS OF DRUG COURIERS AT KAI TAK AIRPORT	1
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS SENDS NEW YEAR GREETINGS	3
THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$86 MILLION	4
APPLICATIONS FOR EXPORT OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO EEC NOW ACCEPTED	4

RECORD ARRESTS OF DRUG COURIERS

* * * * *

BETWEEN JANUARY AND NOVEMBER THIS YEAR THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE FOILED A RECORD NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS BY COURIERS TO SMUGGLE NARCOTICS AND SOFT DRUGS INTO HONG KONG THROUGH THE BUSY KAI TAK AIRPORT.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, A TOTAL OF 65 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 14 WOMEN, WERE ARRESTED AT KAI TAK.

AMONG THEM WERE 24 HONG KONG CHINESE, 16 THAIS, SIX INDIANS, FIVE AUSTRALIANS, FOUR AMERICANS, FOUR SINGAPOREANS AND FOUR MALAYSIANS. TWO YOUNG DUTCH MEN WHO WERE ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE AFTER SPENDING THEIR HOLIDAYS HERE WERE ALSO ARRESTED WHEN FOUND IN POSSESSION OF DRUGS.

THE AMOUNT OF DRUGS SEIZED AT THE AIRPORT DURING THIS PERIOD AMOUNTED TO 177 KILOS, INCLUDING 64 KILOS OF MORPHINE AND 60 KILOS OF CANNABIS.

DURING THE WHOLE OF LAST YEAR THE AMOUNT OF DRUGS SEIZED AT KAI TAK REACHED 133 KILOS WHILE THE NUMBER OF COURIERS ARRESTED NUMBERED 37. THE NUMBER OF ARRESTS AT KAI TAK IN 1974 WAS NINE AND THE QUANTITY OF DRUGS SEIZED WAS ONLY THREE KILOGRAMMES.

ACCORDING TO MR. TONG KANG-SHING, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE (INVESTIGATION), THE METHODS USED BY COURIERS TO BRING DRUGS INTO HONG KONG THESE DAYS WERE GETTING MORE AND MORE SOPHISTICATED.

+THEY ARE CONCEALING THEM IN PLACES YOU WOULDN'T DREAM OF,+ HE POINTED OUT.

HE NOTED THAT MANY OF THOSE ARRESTED HID DRUGS IN COOKED OR PACKAGED FOOD AND IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

MR. TONG EXPLAINED THAT THE RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRESTED AT KAI TAK SO FAR THIS YEAR WAS DUE TO THE ANNIHILATION OF DRUG KINGPINS IN 1974 WHEN THE BULK OF THE DRUGS WERE BROUGHT IN BY FISHING TRAWLERS.

+MANY OF THE MAJOR SYNDICATES HAVE BEEN NEUTRALISED AND MORE SMUGGLING IS NOW DONE BY INDIVIDUAL OPERATORS,+ HE SAID.

+WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONTAIN THIS BY RAIDING OPIUM SMOKING DIVANS AND BY PICKING UP 'PUSHERS' IN THE STREET AND SUCH PLACES AS PUBLIC CONVENIENCES,+ HE STRESSED.

/MR. TONG

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976

- 2 -

MR. TONG EMPHASISED THAT THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE SERVICE HAD WIDENED THEIR SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS BY COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE IN LIAISON WITH OTHER REGIONAL CUSTOMS AGENCIES, FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION STEMMING FROM SEIZURES AND PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PEOPLE LEAVING HONG KONG BY AIR.

BECAUSE OF INCREASED VIGILANCE AT THE AIRPORT, HE CONTINUED, A TOTAL OF NINE PEOPLE WERE PICKED UP WITHIN THREE MONTHS (DECEMBER 1975 TO FEBRUARY 1976) WHEN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE DRUGS OUT FROM HONG KONG BY AIR.

+THESE ARRESTS INHIBITED DRUG TRAFFICKERS FROM MAKING FURTHER SUCH ATTEMPTS,+ MR. TONG SAID.

+ALTHOUGH THIS HAS SEEMINGLY STOPPED, PEOPLE IN THIS ILLEGAL NARCOTICS BUSINESS HAVE COME UP WITH ANOTHER PLAN,+ HE ADDED.

+THEY ARE NOW SENDING PEOPLE TO BANGKOK WHERE THEY PICK UP DRUGS AND TAKE THEM TO THEIR CONTACTS IN EUROPE.+

+BY WAY OF CO-OPERATION WITH CUSTOMS AND POLICE AGENCIES IN EUROPE, WE HAVE ACHIEVED A MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION,+ MR. TONG SAID.

+OUR WELL-TRAINED OFFICERS AT THE AIRPORT HAVE SPOTTED A NUMBER OF LOCAL PEOPLE WHO ARE SUSPECTED TO BE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS LEAVING KAI TAK.

+WHAT WE THEN DO IS MAKE A CHECK ON THEIR DESTINATIONS AND INFORM THE INTERPOL,+ HE POINTED OUT.

BECAUSE OF THIS LIAISON WITH INTERPOL, MR. TONG CONTINUED, FOUR LOCAL MEN AND A BRITON WERE ARRESTED IN BANGKOK, FIVE HONG KONG MEN IN PARIS AND TWO IN BRUSSELS.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, THE AMOUNT OF DRUGS SEIZED HAS INCREASED FROM 202 KILOS IN 1975 TO ABOUT 565 KILOS IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR -- REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF ABOUT 180 PER CENT.

AND IN VALUE, THE JUMP IS FROM \$7.1 MILLION (1975) TO OVER \$25 MILLION (JANUARY - NOVEMBER 1976) -- AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 250 PER CENT.

AMONG THE DRUGS SEIZED WERE MORPHINE, HEROIN, RAW OPIUM, PREPARED OPIUM, CANNABIS AND CANNABIS RESIN. THESE WERE FOUND ONBOARD SHIPS, AND IN PREMISES, DIVANS AS WELL AS THE AIRPORT.

/MR. TONG NOTED

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976

- 3 -

MR. TONG NOTED THAT DURING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRESTED ON LAND TOTALLED 1,410, A DROP OF 747 WHEN COMPARED WITH 1975'S TOTAL.

THIS, HE EXPLAINED, WAS DUE TO THE DECLINING NUMBER OF OPIUM SMOKING DIVANS.

IN 1974, WHEN OPIUM DIVANS COULD EASILY BE FOUND IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG, MORE THAN 4,000 ARRESTS WERE MADE ON LAND.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE
* * * * *

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, MR. ANTHONY CROSLAND, HAS SENT HIS NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO THE GOVERNOR AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HIS MESSAGE READS:

+ I SEND TO YOU AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR.

+ 1977 WILL BRING RENEWED CHALLENGES TO ALL WHOSE CONCERN IS THE WELLBEING AND FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL OF YOU VERY MUCH IN OUR MINDS. +

- - - - 0 - - - -

/4

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1976.

- 4 -

GOVT. ACCOUNTS FOR OCTOBER
* * *

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER SHOW A DEFICIT OF \$86 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$97 MILLION IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

THIS HAS RESULTED IN AN ACCUMULATED DEFICIT OF \$483 MILLION FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR, COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$603 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

GROSS EXPENDITURE AT \$560 MILLION WAS \$26 MILLION MORE THAN THAT IN OCTOBER 1975.

TOTAL REVENUE AND RECEIPTS AT \$474 MILLION WAS \$37 MILLION MORE THAN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, DUE MAINLY TO INCREASED RECEIPTS FROM DUTIES, GENERAL RATES, MOTOR VEHICLES TAXES AND LAND SALES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXPORT OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO EEC
APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED
* * * * *

THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT IT WAS ACCEPTING WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT APPLICATIONS FOR +FORMS A+ FOR CERTAIN TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO BE EXPORTED TO THE EEC UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S 1977 GENERALISED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES (GSP).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EEC-GSP IN 1971 THAT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT WAS BEING EXTENDED TO SOME TEXTILES ORIGINATING FROM HONG KONG.

HE EXPLAINED THAT A FULL LIST OF THE TEXTILE PRODUCTS ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH BENEFITS WAS STILL AWAITED FROM THE EEC COMMISSION.

+THE PRELIMINARY LIST WE HAVE GIVES DETAILS OF 66 ITEMS, MAINLY FABRICS. EXPORTERS MAY NOW APPLY FOR THE FORMS (FORMS A) FOR THESE,+ HE SAID.

A CIRCULAR (CERTIFICATE OF PREFERENCE CIRCULAR NO. 29/76) CONTAINING DETAILS OF THE 66 ITEMS WAS ISSUED TO THE TRADE RECENTLY.

- - - - 0 - - - -