



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH ASSOCIATED WITH STABILITY	1
POPULATION GROWTH SLOWS DOWN	4
OBE FOR DR S.F. LAM	4
FS: HK FACES PROBLEMS OF WEALTH	5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY	6
CONTRACT FOR KCR NEW STATION SIGNED	8
TIN LOK LANE SECTION PARTIALLY CLOSED	8
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WELCOMES KMB MOVE AGAINST OVERLOADING ..	9
SIX LOTS OF LAND SOLD	10
WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN AND MONG KOK	10
PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR NEW RESIDENTS IN TAI PO	11
GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS ON MORAL EDUCATION	12
TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON BOAT TOUR	12
FIRE PRACTICE IN SEPTEMBER	13

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 1 -

CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH ASSOCIATED WITH STABILITY

* * * * *

ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A FAIR DEGREE OF STABILITY.

THIS WAS SPELT OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1981, PUBLISHED TODAY, WHICH ASSESSES PRIMARILY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

IN ITS OVERALL VIEW OF THE ECONOMY, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT, IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981, THE RELATIVE SHIFT IN THE IMPETUS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO DOMESTIC DEMAND, WHICH STARTED IN 1980, CONTINUED. BUT THAT THIS SHIFT, THOUGH UNDESIRABLE, WAS NOT TOO ALARMING.

THIS IS BECAUSE FIRST, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT SECTOR WAS HOLDING UP REASONABLY WELL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS CONTINUED TO BE GENERALLY UNFAVOURABLE.

SECOND, THE GROWTH RATE OF RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS, ALTHOUGH STILL RAPID, WAS SLOWING DOWN SUGGESTING THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE WAS UNLIKELY TO BE EXCESSIVE.

THIRD, THE VISIBLE TRADE ACCOUNT CONTINUED TO SHOW A FAIR DEGREE OF STABILITY RELATIVE TO THE OVERALL LEVEL OF TRADE.

THE REPORT NOTES THAT WHILE ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTINUED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981, THERE WAS ALSO IMPROVEMENT IN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE SUPPLY OF THEM EVEN IN RESPECT OF PROPERTY, HENCE REDUCING THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURE INSOFAR AS IT WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO ANY INTERNAL IMBALANCE.

APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT EMPHASISES THAT DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981, WITH A GROWTH RATE OF ABOUT SIX PER CENT IN REAL TERMS COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1980, WAS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE SITUATION IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1980, WHEN THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SLOWED DOWN SHARPLY TO ONLY FOUR PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

A FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT THE US ECONOMY DID BETTER THAN EXPECTED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

ALSO CONTRIBUTING IS THE FACT THAT THE COST/PRICE STRUCTURE HAS BEEN ADJUSTING EFFICIENTLY.

/REDUCED PROFIT

REDUCED PROFIT MARGINS AND THE DEPRECIATION OF EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1980 HAVE ENABLED THE EXPORT SECTOR TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE.

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN HONG KONG DOLLAR TERMS HAVE INCREASED BY ONLY 3.2 PER CENT DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDING MAY 1981 ALTHOUGH THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS HAVE INCREASED MORE SHARPLY.

NEVERTHELESS THE REPORT CAUTIONS THAT THE ORDER BOOK POSITION AND THE SLOW GROWTH IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR DO NOT SUGGEST THAT A SPECTACULAR UPSURGE IN THE GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IS IMMINENT.

THE REPORT SHOWS THAT ENTREPOT TRADE CONTINUED TO EXPAND RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, WITH CHINA CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION BOTH AS A SOURCE AND AS A MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS.

THE GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN MONEY TERMS WAS ALSO RAPID AND WAS ACTUALLY SLIGHTLY FASTER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT OF SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THE GENERAL STABILITY OF THE VISIBLE TRADE ACCOUNT.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ (THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS) IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, WAS LARGER, THOUGH NOT SIGNIFICANTLY SO, THAN THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1980.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT INDICATES THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF MONEY SUPPLY REMAINED RAPID DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 AND THIS WAS ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO RAPID GROWTH IN LOANS AND ADVANCES. BUT THE HIGH REAL COST OF BORROWING HAS ALREADY SHOWN RESTRAINING EFFECT ON THE GROWTH OF DEMAND FOR CREDIT TO THE EXTENT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF LOANS AND ADVANCES DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 HAD EASED SLIGHTLY COMPARED WITH THAT IN 1980.

NOTWITHSTANDING MINOR FLUCTUATIONS, DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1981, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WAS STABLE AND FIRM IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING SERIES OF MONETARY STATISTICS, THE REPORT COVERS THE NEW SERIES OF MONETARY STATISTICS, WHICH PROVIDES FIGURES ON HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY, LENDING FOR USE IN HONG KONG AND OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WAS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE PAST.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT STATISTICS ON LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS AVAILABLE UP TO MARCH 1981 INDICATE THAT THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONTINUED TO INCREASE SLIGHTLY. BUT DESPITE RECENT INCREASES, THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS LOW BY COMPARISON WITH INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES ELSEWHERE.

CONTRIBUTING TO THIS INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT WAS THE FACT THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR, BECAUSE OF THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF IMMIGRATION, WAS TOO RAPID FOR THE ECONOMY TO ABSORB, DESPITE RAPID GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR LABOUR GENERALLY AND IN THE TERTIARY SERVICES SECTORS IN PARTICULAR.

THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT, IN CONSEQUENCE, THE INCREASE IN WAGE RATES IN REAL TERMS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING CIVIL ENGINEERING) SECTOR, WHERE A LARGE PROPORTION OF IMMIGRANTS TEND TO FIND EMPLOYMENT, CONTINUED TO BE INSIGNIFICANT. BUT IT ALSO EMPHASISES THAT MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LABOUR SECTOR SUGGEST THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND THAT LABOUR SHORTAGES WERE DEVELOPING IN SOME AREAS.

APART FROM THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE TEXTILES (EXCLUDING CLOTHING) INDUSTRY, ACTIVITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS A WHOLE CONTINUED TO GROW IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 AS SUGGESTED BY STATISTICS ON CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY AND ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS. THE CLOTHING AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES APPEAR TO HAVE DONE PARTICULARLY WELL.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN TERMS OF TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED, THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE ADDITIONAL SUPPLY OF ALL TYPES OF PROPERTY AND THE INCREASE WAS MOST MARKED IN THE CASE OF COMMERCIAL (OFFICES AND SHOPS) PROPERTY. PRICES AND RENTALS FOR PROPERTY IN GENERAL EITHER LEVELLED OFF OR INCREASED AT A MUCH SLOWER RATE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 THAN IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1980.

IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, THIS WAS PROBABLY THE RESULT OF DEMAND BEING DAMPENED BY HIGH PRICES AND HIGH MORTGAGE RATES. BUT THE SLOW DOWN WAS MOST MARKED IN RESPECT OF PRICES AND RENTALS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY WHERE PREVIOUS RAPID INCREASES APPEAR TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY STIMULATED A SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSE IN TERMS OF SUPPLY.

THE SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY WAS ABUNDANT AND THE RATES OF INCREASE IN THEIR PRICES AND RENTALS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RAPID FORMERLY, APPEAR TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN FURTHER.

ON ACTIVITY IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING CIVIL ENGINEERING) SECTOR, THE REPORT POINTS OUT THAT THE DEMAND FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT REMAINED STRONG IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981. HOWEVER, THE RATE OF INCREASE IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS REMAINED MODERATE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT EMPHASISES THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981, DOMESTIC INFLUENCES ON PRICES WERE MODERATING AS THERE WAS NO OBVIOUS IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPPLY OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES AND THE DEMAND FOR THEM. BUT PRICES IN HONG KONG IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 WERE AFFECTED UNFAVOURABLY BY WORLD PRICES WHICH INCREASED FAIRLY RAPIDLY AND THE DELAYED EFFECT OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DURING THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1980. REFLECTING THESE DEVELOPMENTS, CONSUMER PRICES IN HONG KONG INCREASED FAIRLY RAPIDLY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1981.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1981 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$14 A COPY.

- 4 -

POPULATION GROWTH SLOWS DOWN

* * * *

THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE 1981 WAS 5 154 100, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE 1981 POPULATION CENSUS, TOGETHER WITH DATA ON BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MIGRATION. COMPARED WITH THE REVISED END-1980 POPULATION ESTIMATE, THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF 34 304 OR 0.7 PER CENT. THE SLOWER RATE OF INCREASE WAS DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM CHINA, AS A RESULT OF THE ABOLITION OF THE REACHED-BASE POLICY.

NET IMMIGRATION, THAT IS THE BALANCE OF TOTAL ARRIVALS OVER TOTAL DEPARTURES, WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAJOR FACTOR IN POPULATION GROWTH OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 7 572 PERSONS OR 22.1 PER CENT OF THE GROWTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1981 WAS 39 222. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS WAS 12 490. NATURAL INCREASE, THAT IS THE BALANCE OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS, AMOUNTED TO A GAIN OF 26 732, OR 77.9 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION GROWTH IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1981, AND THUS BECAME THE DOMINANT FACTOR IN TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OBE FOR DR S.F. LAM

* * *

THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR LAM SIM-FOOK, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (OBE) BY THE QUEEN.

DR LAM FIRST JOINED THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AS A MEDICAL OFFICER IN 1957. HE WAS APPOINTED A SPECIALIST (ORTHOPAEDICS) IN 1964, A CONSULTANT IN 1973 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1977.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND RESPECTED IN HIS OWN FIELD OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY, HE HAS ALSO PROVED HIMSELF CAPABLE AS AN ADMINISTRATOR IN THE DEPARTMENT AND HIS CONTRIBUTION IN 1979, AT A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND UNREST ON THE PART OF NURSING AND OTHER STAFF, WAS INVALUABLE IN RESTORING A SENSE OF ORDER.

HE IS VERY ACTIVE PROFESSIONALLY ON A LARGE NUMBER OF STATUTORY AND OTHER MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL BOARDS BUT ALSO FINDS TIME FOR EXTRA-OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY WORK, INCLUDING THE BRITISH RED CROSS, THE SOCIETY FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THE HONG KONG ARCHERY ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG AMATEUR SPORTS FEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/5

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 5 -

FS: HK FACES PROBLEMS OF WEALTH

* * * *

HONG KONG IS A RICH COMMUNITY AND THE MANY PROBLEMS IT FACES IN PRACTICE ARE THE PROBLEMS OF WEALTH NOT POVERTY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR JOHN BREMRIDGE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE AWARD-GIVING CEREMONY OF THE DIPLOMA COURSE IN MANAGEMENT FOR EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID: +WHAT THE COMMUNITY REQUIRES CLEARLY IS A SUPPLY OF WELL-TRAINED, YOUNG AND ABLE CHINESE MANAGERS.+

THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO FACE THE PROBLEMS OF EXTRA MURAL EDUCATION AND THE SACRIFICES THAT ARE THUS INVOLVED ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY THE BEST BECAUSE THEY ARE THE MOST MOTIVATED PEOPLE WE CAN FIND, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ADDED.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THAT IN A MERCANTILE COMMUNITY SUCCESS TENDED TO BE BASED ON PERSONAL FINANCIAL CRITERIA AND PEOPLE WOULD RESPOND TO MONEY INCENTIVES AFTER HARSH EDUCATIONAL SACRIFICE.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE NOT THE ONLY CRITERIA. +ALLOW YOURSELF FROM TIME TO TIME TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU BUT WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COMMUNITY OF WHICH YOU FORM A PART,+ HE TOLD THE GRADUATES.

+HONG KONG WITH ALL ITS FAULTS HAS NOT BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN RECENT YEARS AS A RESULT OF RELIANCE ON MARKET FORCES. PLEASE DO NOT HOWEVER SUPPOSE THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER BASES ON WHICH THOSE WHO LEAD A COMMUNITY CAN BE JUDGED.

+IT IS A FAIR CRITICISM OF HONG KONG TODAY THAT THE RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO POSSESS THE IMAGINATION TO REALISE WHAT LIFE LOOKS LIKE FROM THE WRONG END OF A RESETTLEMENT ESTATE,+ HE SAID.

MR BREMRIDGE SAID THEY SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT HONG KONG CONSISTS OF OVER FIVE MILLION PEOPLE AND NOT MERELY 200 000 SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS.

+IT IS INTELLIGENT TO SUPPORT THE LOCOMOTIVE THAT PULLS THE TRAIN. BUT NEVER FORGET THAT IS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER NOT ONLY THE ENGINE BUT ALL THE CARRIAGES THAT FOLLOW IT AS WELL,+ MR BREMRIDGE SAID.

+HONG KONG IS A SMALL PLACE, AND WE ARE ALL IN IT TOGETHER. BE A LEADER OF WHOM THE COMMUNITY CAN BE PROUD -- AND NOT MERELY ENVIOUS,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/6

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY

* * * *

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR JULY 1981. THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR JULY 1981 WERE 119 AND 118 RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, THE NEW C.P.I.(A) INCREASED BY TWO POINTS OR 1.7 PER CENT AND THE NEW C.P.I.(B) BY ONE POINT OR 0.9 PER CENT.

AS THE NEW SERIES OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ONLY STARTS FROM OCTOBER 1980, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE (THE INCREASE WHEN THE INDEX FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH IS COMPARED WITH THAT FOR THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR) CAN ONLY BE COMPUTED ON THE BASIS OF THE OLD SERIES.

BASED ON THE OLD SERIES (JULY 73/JUNE 74 = 100), THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AND THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (B) FOR JULY 1981 WERE 188 AND 186 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH JULY 1980, C.P.I.(A) INCREASED BY 25 POINTS OR 15.3 PER CENT AND C.P.I.(B) BY 24 POINTS OR 14.8 PER CENT. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, C.P.I.(A) INCREASED BY FOUR POINTS OR 2.2 PER CENT AND C.P.I.(B) BY THREE POINTS OR 1.6 PER CENT.

THE NEW C.P.I.(A) AND NEW C.P.I.(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1979/80 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. AT THAT TIME, THE NEW C.P.I.(A) REFERRED TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$1 000 AND \$3 499 A MONTH AND THE NEW C.P.I.(B) TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$3 500 AND \$6 499 A MONTH.

THE INDEXES FOR JULY 1981 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMPONENTS OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE DISTINGUISHED IN THE TWO NEW CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ARE GIVEN BELOW, TOGETHER WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1981.

COMPONENT	(OCTOBER 1979 - SEPTEMBER 1980 = 100)			
	NEW C.P.I.(A)		NEW C.P.I.(B)	
	JULY 81	JUNE 81	JULY 81	JUNE 81
FOODSTUFFS	122	119	122	119
HOUSING	116	112	116	113
FUEL AND LIGHT	136	136	138	137
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	112	111	112	111
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	115	115	115	115
DURABLE GOODS	108	108	109	109
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	109	109	108	109
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	130	129	127	126
SERVICES	116	116	116	116
ALL ITEMS	119	117	118	117

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 7 -

THE INDEX FOR THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT IN BOTH NEW C.P.I.(A) AND NEW C.P.I.(B) INCREASED BY THREE POINTS. THE ADVERSE WEATHER ASSOCIATED WITH THE SEVERE TROPICAL STORM LYNN AND THE TORRENTIAL RAIN IN THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH CAUSED THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES AND SALT-WATER FISH TO INCREASE.

RISES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUITS, RICE, FRESH-WATER FISH AND MEALS BOUGHT IN RESTAURANTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF LIVE POULTRY DECREASED. THE EFFECTS OF MOVEMENTS IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF OTHER FOOD ITEMS ON THE INDEX FOR THE FOODSTUFFS COMPONENT WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

THE INDEX FOR THE HOUSING COMPONENT IN NEW C.P.I.(A) INCREASED BY FOUR POINTS AND THAT IN NEW C.P.I.(B) BY THREE POINTS AS HIGHER RENT WAS RECORDED IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS.

THE INDEX FOR THE FUEL AND LIGHT COMPONENT IN NEW C.P.I.(A) INCREASED BY ONE POINT BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR ELECTRICITY, WHILE THAT IN NEW C.P.I.(B) REMAINED UNCHANGED DUE TO ROUNDING.

THE ONE-POINT INCREASE IN THE INDEX FOR THE ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) COMPONENT IN BOTH NEW C.P.I.(A) AND NEW C.P.I.(B) WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIGHER PRICES FOR CHINESE WINES.

THE INDEX FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS GOODS COMPONENT IN NEW C.P.I.(B) DECREASED BY ONE POINT AS A RESULT OF LOWER PRICES FOR GENUINE JEWELLERY.

FOLLOWING INCREASES IN FERRY FARES, PUBLIC LIGHT BUS FARES, PARKING METER CHARGES, CAR INSURANCE PREMIUM AND CROSS-HARBOUR VEHICULAR FERRY FARES, THE INDEX FOR THE TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES COMPONENT IN BOTH NEW C.P.I.(A) AND NEW C.P.I.(B) INCREASED BY ONE POINT.

PRICE MOVEMENTS IN OTHER COMMODITY SECTIONS WERE INSIGNIFICANT.

DETAILS OF THESE PRICE MOVEMENTS ARE GIVEN IN THE +CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT+ FOR JULY 1981, WHICH IS NOW AVAILABLE ON SALE AT \$2 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

----- 0 -----

/8

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 8 -

CONTRACT FOR KCR NEW STATION SIGNED

* * * *

WORK ON YET ANOTHER STATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY WILL START NEXT WEEK AS PART OF THE KCR MODERNISATION AND ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) AWARDED A \$53.7 MILLION CONTRACT TO LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS PTY. LTD. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TAI PO MARKET STATION.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED THIS AFTERNOON BY MR D.M. HOWES, CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT, AND MR J.A. BRAZIER AND MR J.J. MCNAUGHT OF LEIGHTON.

THE NEW TAI PO MARKET STATION, TO BE BUILT ABOUT 250 METRES SOUTH OF THE EXISTING STATION, WILL BE A TWO-STOREY REINFORCED CONCRETE-FRAMED BUILDING SUPPORTED ON STEEL PILES.

IT WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE PLATFORMS BY TWO SUBWAYS PASSING UNDER THE RAIL TRACKS. ESCALATORS AND STAIRWAYS WILL GIVE ACCESS TO THE PLATFORMS FROM THE SUBWAYS.

COMMENTING ON THE CONTRACT, MR HOWES SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL STATIONS TO BE BUILT TO THE NORTH OF SHA TIN.

+WHEN COMPLETED AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR,+ MR HOWES SAID, +THE NEW STATION WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT INTERCHANGE FOR THE NEW MODERN ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICE AND THE VARIOUS FORMS OF ROAD TRANSPORT SERVING TAI PO NEW TOWN.+

WORK ON THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATION BUILDING, PLATFORM AND CANOPIES, THE EXTERNAL FORECOURTS AND OTHER FACILITIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TIN LOK LANE SECTION PARTIALLY CLOSED

* * * * *

THE SECTION OF SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TIN LOK LANE BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND WAN CHAI ROAD WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 30) FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS TO FACILITATE ROAD REPAIRS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/9

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 9 -

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WELCOMES KMB MOVE AGAINST OVERLOADING
* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS WELCOMED A KOWLOON MOTOR BUS CO. LTD. MOVE TO EXPERIMENT WITH A WARNING DEVICE AIMED AT DETERRING PASSENGERS FROM BOARDING FULLY-LOADED BUSES.

THE DEVICE, LOCATED AT THE ENTRANCE TO BUSES SERVING TWO OF KMB'S BUSIEST ROUTES, NO. 2 AND 3B, MAKES A BUZZING SOUND WHEN THE LEGAL CARRYING CAPACITY HAS BEEN REACHED.

SIGNS WARNING PASSENGERS NOT TO BOARD THE BUS AFTER THE BUZZER HAS SOUNDED ARE ALSO DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY AT THE ENTRANCE TO VEHICLES.

+KMB IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR LAUNCHING THIS EXPERIMENT, WHICH IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF STEPS BEING TAKEN IN ANTICIPATION OF REDUCED PRESSURE ON HONG KONG'S OVERSTRETCHED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM,+ THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER/PUBLIC TRANSPORT, MR RICHARD MEAKIN, SAID TODAY.

+BUS CAPACITY IS RAPIDLY CATCHING UP WITH DEMAND DUE TO EXPANSION OF THE KMB FLEET, AND CONDITIONS WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED BY THE OPENING OF THE TSUEN WAN EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY AND THE MODERNISATION OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY.

+ALL THESE FACTORS WILL COMBINE TO PRODUCE A MASSIVE INCREASE IN PASSENGER CAPACITY.+

MR MEAKIN SAID THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF BUS OVERLOADING WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY UNACCEPTABLE, BOTH IN TERMS OF SAFETY AND PASSENGER COMFORT, AND IN VIEW OF MUCH IMPROVED SERVICES.

+IT IS HOPED THAT COMMUTERS WILL CO-OPERATE TO HELP MAKE THE KMB EXPERIMENT A SUCCESS AND THAT BOTH COMPANIES WILL BE PROMPTED TO INSTALL FULLY-LOADED WARNING DEVICES ON ALL THEIR BUSES,+ HE SAID.

MR MEAKIN WARNED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO PROSECUTING PASSENGERS WHO BOARDED A FULLY-LOADED BUS.

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS MAKE IT AN OFFENCE FOR PASSENGERS TO TRAVEL ON THE UPPER DECK OF A BUS UNLESS OCCUPYING A SEAT, AND TO ENTER THE VEHICLE WHEN REQUESTED NOT TO DO SO BY THE DRIVER ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS CARRYING ITS FULL COMPLEMENT OF PASSENGERS.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/10

SIX LOTS OF LAND SOLD

* * *

SIX LOTS OF CROWN LAND WERE SOLD AT AN AUCTION HELD BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE IN THE CITY HALL TODAY.

ONE OF THE LOTS WAS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES INCLUDING A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND AND CAR PARK.

THIS LOT, OF 7 337 SQUARE METRES IN WONG NAI CHUNG GAP, WAS SOLD TO SENIOR DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD. FOR \$182 MILLION, OR \$24 805.78 PER SQUARE METRE.

ONE LOT OF 420.4 SQUARE METRES FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES WAS SOLD TO HINTLINE INVESTMENT LTD. FOR \$24 MILLION, OR \$57 088.49 PER SQUARE METRE. THE SITE IS SITUATED AT SHAU KEI WAN ROAD.

THE REMAINING FOUR LOTS, ALL ON THE KOWLOON BAY RECLAMATION, WERE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES.

ONE LOT, OF 1 696 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO HOO YEE INVESTMENT LTD. FOR \$30 MILLION, OR \$17688.68 PER SQUARE METRE- ONE OF 1 695 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD TO SUMITOMO INVESTMENT COMPANY (HK) LTD. FOR \$27 MILLION, OR \$15 929.20 PER SQUARE METRE- ONE OF 1 320 SQUARE METRES WAS SOLD TO BASSORA LTD. FOR \$18 MILLION, OR \$13 636.36 PER SQUARE METRE, AND THE FINAL LOT, OF 1 445 SQUARE METRES, WAS SOLD TO WANSLAND PROPERTIES LTD. FOR \$17 MILLION, OR \$11 764.70 PER SQUARE METRE.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

WATER CUT IN TSUEN WAN AND MONG KOK

* * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN AND MONG KOK WILL BE TEMPORARILY CUT OFF ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

IN TSUEN WAN, SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 11 HOURS FROM 9 PM ON TUESDAY TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WEST SIDE OF TAI HO ROAD, YUEN TUN CIRCUIT AND TAI CHUNG ROAD- CASTLE PEAK ROAD, WEST SIDE OF TAI CHUNG ROAD, CHAI WAN KOK STREET TO THE END OF 11-1/2 MILESTONE TING KAU AREA- INCLUDING TSUEN KING CIRCUIT, TSUEN WAN CENTRE, ON YUK ROAD AND HONG KONG ADVENTIST HOSPITAL.

IN MONG KOK, SUPPLY WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SIX HOURS FROM MIDNIGHT ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 1) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE BOUNDED BY ARGYLE STREET, YIM PO FONG STREET, SOY STREET AND FA YUEN STREET, INCLUDING NELSON STREET, SAI YEE STREET, SHAN TUNG STREET, HAK PO STREET, PAK PO STREET, AND QUEEN ELIZABETH YOUTH CENTRE.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 11 -

PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR NEW RESIDENTS IN TAI PO

* * * *

THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE WILL OPEN A TEMPORARY PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE AT TAI YUEN ESTATE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY (SEPTEMBER 1).

THREE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF WILL BE ON DUTY AT THE CENTRE TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT GOVERNMENT SERVICES, ADMINISTER STATUTORY DECLARATIONS, HANDLE COMPLAINTS AND DISTRIBUTE GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS AND FORMS.

THE CENTRE WILL OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM ON TUESDAYS, AND FROM 7 PM TO 9.30 PM ON THURSDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE SAID THE CENTRE WOULD SERVE MAINLY TAI YUEN ESTATE AND A NEARBY HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME DEVELOPMENT, TING NGA COURT.

HE SAID 60 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF TAI YUEN ESTATE AND 97 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION OF TING NGA COURT ARE NEW COMERS TO TAI PO.

+THEY ARE BOUND TO BE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAY NEED HELP ON OCCASIONS,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND THEIR NEEDS AND TO ASSIST THEM,+ HE SAID.

THE CENTRE IS AN INTERIM MEASURE AND A COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BRANCH OFFICE IS BEING PLANNED IN TAI YUEN ESTATE.

THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAS ALSO FORMED TWO MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES IN THE ESTATE AND A THIRD IS BEING SET UP.

+IT IS HOPED THAT THE OPINIONS AND PROBLEMS OF RESIDENTS CAN BE REFLECTED THROUGH THE CENTRE AND THE MACS,+ HE SAID.

TAI YUEN ESTATE, CONSISTING OF SEVEN BLOCKS, WILL HOUSE 30 000 PEOPLE WHEN FULL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 12 -

GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS ON MORAL EDUCATION
* * * *

CONCERN EXPRESSED BY COMMUNITY AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT AN APPARENT EROSION OF TRADITIONAL SOCIAL VALUES HAS RESULTED IN THE PUBLICATION OF GENERAL GUIDELINES ON MORAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.

THE GUIDELINES, COPIES OF WHICH WERE SENT TO ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TODAY, WERE DRAWN UP BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE ADVICE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

IN A COVERING LETTER TO HEADS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR COLVYN HAYE, SAID THAT HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE GUIDELINES, AND WENT ON TO SAY:

+YOU WILL SEE THAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH DESCRIBING WHY MORAL EDUCATION IS NECESSARY, WITH EXPLAINING WHAT WE THINK MORAL EDUCATION IS, WITH FACING DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM A CONFUSION OF VALUES AND POINTS OF VIEW, AND WITH TRANSLATING GENERAL CONCEPTS INTO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES OF ACTION.

+WE HAVE TRIED NOT TO BE DOGMATIC BECAUSE WE, LIKE YOU, DO NOT BELIEVE MORAL EDUCATION CAN BE TAUGHT AS A CLASSROOM SUBJECT- BUT WE HAVE SUGGESTED POSITIVE ACTION IN THE GUIDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN, IN THE INCULCATION OF SOCIAL AND MORAL VALUES, AND IN TAKING EVERY DIRECT AND INDIRECT OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY A DIVERSE CURRICULUM TO POINT TO THE GOOD, THE VIRTUOUS, THE WORTHY AND THE DESIRABLE IN PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS.+

TEACHERS, HE ADDED, WERE FREE TO ADAPT THESE GUIDELINES AS THEY SAW FIT BUT THEY WERE URGED TO KEEP IN MIND THE NEED TO ADOPT AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE APPROACH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON BOAT TOUR
* * * *

A BOAT TOUR ALONG THE COASTLINE OF TUEN MUN WAS ORGANISED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE FOR 30 MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS SIX SUB-COMMITTEES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BILLY LAM, THE MEMBERS WERE GIVEN A RUN-DOWN ON THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEW TOWN.

THESE INCLUDE PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS THE TAP SHEK KOK POWER GENERATING PLANT- THE NEW ROADWORK AT LUNG KWU TAN- A HOUSING ESTATE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT BUTTERFLY BAY- AND THE PROPOSED FERRY PIER IN CASTLE PEAK BAY WHICH, ON COMPLETION, WILL PROVIDE A ROUTE TO CENTRAL AND ANOTHER TO MEI FOO.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1981

- 13 -

FIRING PRACTICE IN SEPTEMBER
* * * *

FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR 19 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING DURING PRACTICE TIMES, WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE	TIME
----	----
SEPTEMBER 1 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 4.30 PM
4 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
7 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
8 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
9 (WEDNESDAY)	9 AM - 10 PM
10 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 4 PM
15 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
16 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
17 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
18 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
19 (SATURDAY)	9 AM - 4 PM
22 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
23 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
24 (THURSDAY)	8 AM - 6 PM
25 (FRIDAY)	8 AM - 7 PM
26 (SATURDAY)	8 AM - 5 PM
28 (MONDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
29 (TUESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM
30 (WEDNESDAY)	8 AM - 11 PM

- - - - 0 - - - -