



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY	1
CONSORTIUM CHOSEN TO CARRY OUT EXHIBITION CENTRE STUDY	2
TEACHER LIBRARIANS TO BE APPOINTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS	3
PASSING-OUT PARADE	4
SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE TO PLEASURE GARDEN	5
PLB PROHIBITED ZONES	6
PRISONS DEPARTMENT PASSING-OUT PARADE	6
WATER CUT	6

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

- 1 -

QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A REPORT ON A QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY HELD IN JULY.

ABOUT 750 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1979, AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE SURVEY SUGGESTS THAT FOR THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL ADVANCES WERE ACHIEVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER. THE REPORTED PERFORMANCE WAS BETTER THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPECTED.

+LOOKING INTO THE THIRD QUARTER, MODERATE IMPROVEMENTS ARE EXPECTED. THE CURRENT DEGREE OF OPTIMISM IS LOWER THAN THAT HELD IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING DIVISION, BOTH THE +WATCHES AND CLOCKS+ AND +FOOD, BEVERAGE, TOBACCO+ SECTORS (THE LATTER BEING IN ITS SEASONAL PEAK) WHICH HAD A HIGH SECOND QUARTER IN WHICH BUSINESS IMPROVED SUBSTANTIALLY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE FOR THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE +PLASTICS+ AND +FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS+ SECTORS ALSO EXPERIENCED A HIGH SECOND QUARTER. THEY ARE CONSERVATIVE WHEN PREDICTING PROSPECTS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE +ELECTRONICS+ AND +ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES+ SECTORS ARE OPTIMISTIC OF THE THIRD QUARTER AFTER HAVING ACHIEVED MODERATE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PAST QUARTER.

THE +PRINTING,+ +WEARING APPAREL+ AND +MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES+ SECTORS EXPECTED THEIR MODERATE PACES OF ADVANCES IN THE SECOND QUARTER TO CARRY FORWARD INTO THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE +CONSTRUCTION+ INDUSTRY, ITS PERFORMANCE IN THE SECOND QUARTER OUTRAN PREVIOUS EXPECTATIONS.

+EARLIER IT HAD PREDICTED A MARGINAL DETERIORATION, BUT NOW IT REPORTED A MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT. REGARDING EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, THE BALANCE OF OPINIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE IS ON THE PESSIMISTIC SIDE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

FOR THE SERVICES SECTORS, THE +RESTAURANTS+ SECTOR EXPECTS CONSIDERABLE UPTURN TO COME AFTER PASSING THROUGH A SEASONALLY LOW SECOND QUARTER.

IN CONTRAST, THE +HOTELS+ AND +TRANSPORTATION+ SECTORS, WHICH DID WELL IN THE SECOND QUARTER, ARE EXPECTING A LOW THIRD QUARTER.

THE +BANKS+ AND +WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE+ SECTORS EXPERIENCED STABLE ADVANCES IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND EXPECT MODERATE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

- 2 -

THE +MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES+ SECTOR REPORTED SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND IS OPTIMISTIC OF FURTHER ADVANCES TO COME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DATA, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, WERE BASICALLY INTENDED TO FACILITATE A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

APART FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRING ANSWERS IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS, FIRMS WERE ASKED TO COMPARE THE QUARTER JUST PAST WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND SIMILARLY FOR THE FORTHCOMING ONE, AND ONLY HAD TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, A CERTAIN VARIABLE WAS +UP,+ +SAME+ OR +DOWN.+

THE SPOKESMAN CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS, AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENTS' PRECEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS, AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE PROBABLY AFFECTED CONSIDERABLY BY SEASONALITY.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF AND STATISTICAL TABLES ON VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

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CONSORTIUM CHOSEN TO CARRY OUT EXHIBITION CENTRE STUDY * * * * *

A BRITISH CONSORTIUM -- EXHIBITION CONSULTANTS LTD. AND EARLS COURT AND OLYMPIA LTD. -- HAS BEEN SELECTED TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY ON THE DEMAND FOR AND THE VIABILITY OF AN EXHIBITION CENTRE IN HONG KONG.

THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSULTANCY WAS SIGNED IN LONDON YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) WITH MR. S.A. WEBB-JOHNSON, ACTING HONG KONG COMMISSIONER, LONDON, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THE STUDY WILL START SHORTLY, AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

ANNOUNCING THE APPOINTMENT, MR. ROY PORTER, COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRY, SAID THAT THE CONSORTIUM WILL PROVIDE DATA AND ADVICE ON WHICH A DECISION CAN BE TAKEN ON THE ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION FOR PROVIDING TRADE FAIR AND EXHIBITION FACILITIES IN HONG KONG.

+THE GOVERNMENT HAS TENTATIVELY RESERVED A SITE OF 58,000 SQUARE FEET CLOSE TO THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS, BUT I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE CONSULTANTS TO VIEW ALTERNATIVE SITES BEFORE MAKING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS,+ SAID MR. PORTER.

THE CONSULTANTS WILL ASSESS THE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL DEMAND FOR EXHIBITIONS, TRADE FAIRS AND OTHER SIMILAR FUNCTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN HONG KONG IF SUITABLE FACILITIES EXISTED.

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THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF MULTI-STOREY DEVELOPMENT ON PART OR ALL OF ANY CHOSEN SITE. THIS COULD ACCOMMODATE ANCILLARY FACILITIES AND MAXIMISE THE SITE'S POTENTIAL, WITHOUT INHIBITING ITS PRINCIPAL USE.

ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF PROVIDING THE FACILITIES, AND THE FINANCIAL RETURN WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THEM.

THE CONSORTIUM WAS SELECTED FROM AMONG FIVE CONSULTANCY FIRMS, SHORTLISTED FROM AN ORIGINAL 10 APPLICANTS. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA WAS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE.

EXHIBITION CONSULTANTS LTD. HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN CONSULTANCY WORK ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXHIBITIONS, WHILE EARLS COURT AND OLYMPIA LTD. ARE A LEADING COMPANY ENGAGED IN OPERATING EXHIBITION HALLS, CATERING, SECURITY, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR ASSESSMENT, THE CONSULTANTS WILL CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, AND OTHER MAJOR POTENTIAL USERS OF THE EXHIBITION FACILITIES.

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TEACHER LIBRARIANS TO BE APPOINTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
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AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH 18 CLASSES OR MORE WILL BE ABLE TO APPOINT A NON-GRADUATE TEACHER TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ON A FULL-TIME BASIS IN THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION. THIS APPLIES ALSO TO GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH 18 OR MORE CLASSES.

+MORE THAN 100 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS SCHEME AND THE NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO ABOUT 200 SCHOOLS EVENTUALLY,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

A CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING THE SCHEME HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL SCHOOLS CONCERNED.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IS PART OF THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE WHITE PAPER +THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION+ PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, HE ADDED.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN WILL BE A NON-GRADUATE TEACHER WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO YEARS' TEACHING EXPERIENCE.

THE DUTIES OF A TEACHER LIBRARIAN WILL BE:

- * GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY=
- * ACQUIRING, PROCESSING, MAINTAINING AND CIRCULATING LIBRARY BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIALS=
- * CO-ORDINATING THE EFFORTS OF TEACHING STAFF IN PLANNING AND ORGANISING LIBRARY PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT AND ENRICH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM=

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

- 4 -

- * PLANNING AND DEVELOPING READING PROGRAMMES IN CONSULTATION WITH SUBJECT TEACHERS-
- * IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SUBJECT TEACHERS CONCERNED, CONDUCTING LIBRARY PERIODS AND HELPING PUPILS TO USE LIBRARY FACILITIES-
- * ADVISING THE PRINCIPAL AND OTHER TEACHERS ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AND SERVING ON COMMITTEES RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION AND USE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES- AND
- * ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE DUTIES AS REQUIRED BY THE PRINCIPAL.

SERVICE AS A TEACHER LIBRARIAN WOULD COUNT AS TEACHING EXPERIENCE FOR PROMOTION PURPOSES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE TRAINING OF TEACHER LIBRARIANS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN DUE COURSE, HE SAID.

TRAINING IS LIKELY TO BE ON A PART-TIME BASIS AND SCHOOLS WILL BE EXPECTED TO RELEASE THE TEACHERS CONCERNED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

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PASSING-OUT PARADE

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TWELVE PROBATIONARY INSPECTORS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING COURSE WILL TAKE PART IN A PASSING-OUT PARADE ON SATURDAY.

TAKING THE SALUTE WILL BE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (OPERATIONS), MR. J.C. PRISK.

THE PARADE WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE ABOUT 100 GUESTS AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL IN TAI LAM CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WILL BE THE FOURTH PASSING-OUT PARADE HELD BY THE SERVICE THIS YEAR. THE PREVIOUS PARADE WAS HELD IN JUNE WHEN 38 CUSTOMS OFFICERS COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING COURSES ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE RECRUITS A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW IN RELATION TO SMUGGLING, NARCOTICS AND REVENUE PROTECTION.

/THE TRAINING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

- 5 -

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES JUDO, THE USE OF FIREARMS, AND METHODS OF SEARCHING ON LAND AND SEA AND AT THE AIRPORT.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 12 PROBATIONARY INSPECTORS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOL IN TAI LAM CHUNG AT 11.15 A.M. ON SATURDAY. TAKING THE SALUTE WILL BE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SERVICE, MR. J.C. PRISK.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

A GOVERNMENT COACH AM 5606 WILL BE AT HUNG HOM FERRY PIER BETWEEN 9.15 A.M. AND 9.30 A.M. ON SATURDAY TO TAKE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AND GUESTS TO THE TRAINING SCHOOL. TRANSPORTATION WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR THE RETURN JOURNEY.

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SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE TO PLEASURE GARDEN

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THE SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE TO THE PLEASURE GARDEN IN SHA TIN RACE COURSE WILL CONTINUE THIS SUNDAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM AT 10.29 A.M. AND ARRIVE AT MONG KOK STATION AT 10.34 A.M. TO PICK UP PASSENGERS. IT WILL THEN DEPART FROM MONG KOK STATION AT 10.36 A.M. AND ARRIVE AT THE RACE COURSE STATION AT 10.50 A.M.

ON THE RETURN JOURNEY, THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE RACE COURSE STATION AT 4.10 P.M. IN ADDITION, ONE ORDINARY PASSENGER TRAIN DEPARTING FROM TAI PO MARKET STATION WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA THE RACE COURSE STATION AT 1.21 P.M. TO PICK UP PASSENGERS WISHING TO LEAVE THE PLEASURE GARDEN EARLIER.

ONLY ORDINARY CLASS RETURN TICKETS VALID FOR THE DATE OF ISSUE WILL BE SOLD AT THE KOWLOON AND MONG KOK STATIONS. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE RACE COURSE STATION FOR DOWN-TRAINS TO KOWLOON NOR AT NEW TERRITORIES STATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL TRAINS.

THE FARE FOR ADULTS WILL BE \$4 EACH AND FOR CHILDREN \$2 EACH.

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/6

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1979

- 6 -

PLB PROHIBITED ZONES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FROM 6 A.M. TOMORROW, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING CERTAIN AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND UNLESS AUTHORISED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORT.

THEY ARE:

- * TAI TAM ROAD BETWEEN SHEK O ROAD AND TAI TAM TUK ROAD, AND
- * THE WESTERN-MOST DEPARTURE BAY OF THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CHAI WAN (CENTRAL) TERMINUS ADJOINING KUT SHING STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO INDICATE THE PROHIBITIONS.

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PRISONS DEPARTMENT PASSING-OUT PARADE

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THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD A PASSING-OUT PARADE ON SATURDAY AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE PARADE GROUND IN STANLEY.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR. HENRY HU, WILL TAKE THE SALUTE AND PRESENT GOLDEN WHISTLES TO TWO BEST RECRUITS.

THERE WILL BE 17 OFFICERS AND 78 ASSISTANT OFFICERS TAKING PART IN THE PARADE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PASSING-OUT PARADE OF 17 PRISON OFFICERS AND 78 ASSISTANT OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE PARADE GROUND IN STANLEY AT 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT. PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE GUARDIAN HOUSE, 32 OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT 9 A.M.

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WATER CUT

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. ON SATURDAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREA AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY HONG NING ROAD, MUT WAH STREET, HIP WO STREET AND WAN HON STREET, INCLUDING SHUI NING STREET, SHUNG YAN STREET, FU YAN STREET, SHUI WO STREET AND KA LOK STREET.

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