



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1981	1
HK REPRESENTED IN AIR TALKS	2
SECOND OIL RESERVE TANKER ARRIVES TOMORROW	2
SNT OPENS SAIL TRAINING CENTRE AT LITTLE PALM BEACH	3
EDUCATION NEEDED FOR FISHING SUCCESS	4
FRESH APPROACH TO POETRY TEACHING	5
NEW PLAYGROUND FOR TAI KOK TSUI	5
BOY SCOUTS CLEAN UP SAI KUNG BEACH	6
FIRING PRACTICE REMINDER	6
WATER CUT IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI	6

ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1981

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY OF ECONOMIC PROSPECTS CONDUCTED IN JANUARY TO OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF MANAGEMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS ON BUSINESS OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR 1981.

THE SURVEY COVERED A SAMPLE OF ABOUT 540 LARGE MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, WITH FULL ENUMERATION ON THOSE ENGAGING 500 OR MORE PERSONS, AS WELL AS 64 LEADING CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES. THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION FROM WHICH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DERIVED HIS RECENT FORECAST ON THE ECONOMY IN 1981.

ACCORDING TO THE MANUFACTURERS, THE AGGREGATE VOLUME OF OVERSEAS ORDERS WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ABOUT THREE PER CENT IN 1981 OVER THAT OF 1980. LOCAL ORDERS WERE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY ONE PER CENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN OBSERVED THAT THE SURVEY FINDING IN RESPECT OF THE GROWTH RATE OF EXPORT ORDERS WAS LOWER THAN THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN REAL TERMS, AT SEVEN PER CENT, GIVEN IN THE BUDGET SPEECH.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MANUFACTURERS' SENTIMENT TENDED TO BE AFFECTED BY MARKET CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY AND TO BE CONSERVATIVE, SO THAT THE ACTUAL OUTCOME COULD BE BETTER THAN PREDICTED. HE STRESSED THAT THIS HAD BEEN THE FINDING WHEN COMPARING THE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS SURVEYS WITH THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE ACTUALLY ATTAINED SUBSEQUENTLY.

MANUFACTURERS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT EXPORT PROSPECTS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR WOULD BE BETTER THAN THOSE FOR THE FIRST HALF. THEY EXPECTED THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WOULD HAVE A FASTER GROWTH OF DEMAND FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS THAN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. THESE VIEWS WERE BROADLY CONSISTENT WITH THE ANALYSIS CONTAINED IN THE BUDGET SPEECH.

FACTORIES PRODUCING WATCHES AND CLOCKS, FOOD, ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS WERE LIKELY TO HAVE A FASTER GROWTH IN BUSINESS THAN TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND PLASTICS FACTORIES DURING 1981.

THE PRICES OF PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT WERE EXPECTED TO RISE BY AROUND SIX PER CENT OVER THE 1980 LEVEL, SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE ANTICIPATED INCREASES OF EIGHT PER CENT IN THE PRICES OF MATERIAL INPUTS AND 10 PER CENT IN WAGE RATES FOR OPERATIVES.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FACTORIES SURVEYED WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY TWO PER CENT IN 1981. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE MANUFACTURERS CONTACTED SAW LESS DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING LABOUR DURING THE YEAR, WHILE NEARLY HALF OF THEM ENVISAGED THE SITUATION TO BE MUCH THE SAME AS IN 1980.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

- 2 -

IN LINE WITH THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR FORTHCOMING ORDERS, THE MANUFACTURERS INTENDED TO EXPAND THEIR PRODUCTION CAPACITY FURTHER BY FIVE PER CENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND FOUR PER CENT IN FACTORY SPACE IN 1981. SUCH CAPACITY WOULD BE UTILIZED SLIGHTLY MORE INTENSIVELY, AT 88 PER CENT OF ITS CAPACITY, IN THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR.

WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE CONTRACTORS SURVEYED EXPECTED THE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS TO INCREASE BY 11 PER CENT, WAGE RATES BY 13 PER CENT, AND THE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED BY 10 PER CENT BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981. THEIR MACHINERY CAPACITY WOULD EXPAND BY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT DURING THE YEAR.

A REPORT OF THE SURVEY IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE. ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 5-286680).

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HK REPRESENTED IN AIR TALKS * * * *

MR NORMAN LATHAM, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, LEFT HONG KONG TODAY (SATURDAY) TO REPRESENT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT AIR SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD IN LONDON BETWEEN UK AND SRI LANKA AERONAUTICAL AUTHORITIES.

THE DELEGATIONS WILL DISCUSS AMONG OTHER THINGS THE OPERATION OF SERVICES ON THE REGIONAL ROUTE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND COLOMBO, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED SERVICES BY AIR LANKA TO AND BEYOND HONG KONG.

FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSIONS, MR LATHAM WILL ATTEND FURTHER AIR SERVICES TALKS IN THE HAGUE BETWEEN UK AND THE NETHERLANDS. THIS ROUND OF TALKS WILL BE THE THIRD IN A SERIES REQUESTED BY THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT ABOUT A POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF KLM'S SERVICES BETWEEN AMSTERDAM AND HONG KONG AND OTHER MATTERS.

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SECOND OIL RESERVE TANKER ARRIVES TOMORROW * * * *

HONG KONG'S FUEL OIL RESERVE WILL BE INCREASED WITH THE ARRIVAL TOMORROW (SUNDAY) OF THE TANKER +SEA BREEZE+ WITH A CARGO OF OVER 123 000 TONNES OF FUEL OIL.

THE +SEA BREEZE+ WILL BE MOORED SOUTHWEST OF THE NINEPINS GROUP OF ISLANDS, ADJACENT TO THE +STRAITS DAHLIA+. THE AREA WITHIN 180 METRES AROUND THE TANKER WILL BE A DECLARED CLOSED AREA UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WITH THE 74 000 TONNES OF FUEL OIL ON BOARD THE +STRAITS DAHLIA+, THIS WILL BRING HONG KONG'S FLOATING RESERVE OF FUEL OIL TO ABOUT 200 000 TONNES.

/THE OIL

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

- 3 -

THE OIL ON BOARD THE +STRAITS DAHLIA+ HAD BEEN PURCHASED ON THE SINGAPORE SPOT MARKET ON DECEMBER 11, 1980 AT THE PRICE OF US\$241 PER TONNE. THE OIL ON BOARD THE +SEA BREEZE+ WAS PURCHASED FROM A TRADING COMPANY ON DECEMBER 30, 1980 AT US\$224.75 PER TONNE. THE PRICES WERE IN LINE WITH MARKET RATES PREVAILING AT THAT TIME.

THE PURCHASES WERE MADE BY OWENSBORD ENTERPRISES LTD., THE COMPANY SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE TWO POWER COMPANIES AND ESSO AND SHELL TO MANAGE A TEMPORARY FLOATING RESERVE OF FUEL OIL FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION.

THIS OIL WILL BE SOLD TO THE POWER COMPANIES AND DISCHARGED LATER THIS YEAR INTO LAND TANKS WHICH ARE NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT THE NEW POWER STATIONS ON LAMMA ISLAND AND AT CASTLE PEAK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS HAD ALWAYS BEEN PLANNED, THE COST OF THE TANKER STORAGE SCHEME WOULD BE MET THROUGH THE FUEL VARIATION CLAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THE OIL WOULD NOT AFFECT CONSUMERS UNTIL IT WAS BURNT IN THE POWER STATIONS, WHICH MIGHT NOT TAKE PLACE FOR SOME TIME.

HE SAID THE IMPACT OF THE SCHEME ON CONSUMERS' BILLS WOULD BE AN INCREASE EQUIVALENT TO AROUND ONE HALF OF ONE PER CENT.

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SNT OPENS SAIL TRAINING CENTRE AT LITTLE PALM BEACH
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THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CAREFULLY EXAMINING THE POTENTIAL OF THE WATERS AND COASTLINE OF SAI KUNG PENINSULA TO ENSURE THAT +THIS VALUABLE ASSET+ IS PUT TO THE BEST USE, SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

MR AKERS-JONES WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION CENTRE AT LITTLE PALM BEACH, PORT SHELTER.

THE ASSOCIATION OPENED A TEMPORARY CENTRE AT TAI KOO SHING IN APRIL, 1979. IT OBTAINED ITS PRESENT SITE, COVERING 1 501 SQUARE METRES, FROM THE GOVERNMENT EARLY LAST YEAR.

THE NEW CENTRE CONSISTS OF FIVE CONVERTED SHIPPING CONTAINERS WHICH SERVE AS OFFICE, CHANGING ROOMS, WORKSHOP, STOREROOM AND TOILETS.

A CLUBHOUSE AND OTHER FACILITIES ARE PLANNED.

THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST IS \$1.5 MILLION WHICH IS BEING MET THROUGH DONATIONS.

THERE ARE 40 SAILING DINGHIES AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING AND CRUISING, WHICH CAN ALSO BE HIRED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND SCHOOLS.

THE CENTRE RUNS INTENSIVE FIVE-DAY COURSES AT ELEMENTARY, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED AND INSTRUCTOR LEVELS. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, MORE THAN 2 000 PEOPLE HAVE ATTENDED THESE COURSES.

/ANYONE AGED

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

- 4 -

ANYONE AGED OVER 14 YEARS CAN APPLY TO ENROL THROUGH THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WERE BEGINNING TO EXPLOIT THE GREAT POTENTIAL OF THE SEA FOR RECREATION, ADVENTURE AND EXCITEMENT, AND TO EXPERIENCE THE DISCIPLINE THE SEA IMPOSES ON ALL THOSE WHO SAIL UPON IT.

+HONG KONG ALSO NOW HAS ITS OWN DEEP-SEA TRAINING SHIP, THE OUTWARD BOUND SHIP 'JI FUNG', WHICH WILL ADD ANOTHER DIMENSION TO THE TRAINING OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE- AND I HOPE THAT MANY OF YOU HERE, WHO LEARN YOUR BASIC SKILLS ON DINGHIES, WILL SOON HAVE A CHANCE TO CLIMB THE 100-FOOT HIGH MASTS OF THE 'JI FUNG', + HE SAID.

AFTER HIS SPEECH, MR AKERS-JONES FIRED A GUN TO START A REGATTA IN WHICH OTHER YOUTH SAILING ASSOCIATIONS TOOK PART.

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE PRESIDENT OF HONG KONG YACHTING ASSOCIATION, DR JOHN PARK, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION LIMITED, MR GORDON ROBINSON.

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EDUCATION NEEDED FOR FISHING SUCCESS

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THE FUTURE OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY DEPENDS LARGELY ON A SOUND EDUCATION FOR ITS FUTURE MEMBERS, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, MR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN SAID THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL LUNCH OF THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION SCHOOLS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN ADDED THAT A HEAVY BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY RESTED ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOLS.

BOTH STAFF MEMBERS AND PUPILS CONTINUED TO INCREASE AND LAST YEAR THE INCREASE WAS SOME 12 PER CENT FOR BOTH.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID TWO NEW CLASSROOMS WOULD BE BUILT AT THE SAI KUNG AND TSING YI SCHOOLS AND WOULD BE READY FOR THE START OF THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR NEXT SEPTEMBER.

STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOLS CONTINUED TO BRING CREDIT TO THE ORGANISATION DURING THE YEAR IN BOTH SPORTS AND ARTS, MR RIDDELL-SWAN SAID. PUPILS OF THE SAM MUN TSAI NEW VILLAGE SCHOOL HAD WON A GOLD MEDAL AT THE 22ND WORLD SCHOOL CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION IN KOREA LAST YEAR, HE RECALLED.

MR RIDDELL-SWAN CONGRATULATED THE HEADMASTER OF THE SAI KUNG SCHOOL, MR MA HUNG-BUN, WHO WAS AWARDED A BADGE OF HONOUR BY THE QUEEN LAST NEW YEAR IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

- 5 -

FRESH APPROACH TO POETRY TEACHING

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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A TALK ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH LITERATURE TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH AT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE.

DR J. DENNEY OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH WILL BE SPEAKING ON +TEACHING ENGLISH POETRY: AN AUDIO-VISUAL APPROACH+.

THIS IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH LITERATURE ORGANISED BY THE TEACHING CENTRE.

IT WILL BE HELD FROM 9.30 AM TO 11 AM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11.

TEACHERS WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD APPLY THROUGH THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SENIOR INSPECTOR, ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING CENTRE, 9A BONHAM ROAD, HONG KONG. FOR ENQUIRIES, THEY CAN CONTACT THE CENTRE ON 5-482537.

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NEW PLAYGROUND FOR TAI KOK TSUI

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL BUILD A NEW PLAYGROUND IN TAI KOK TSUI TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

THE NEW PLAYGROUND, AT THE JUNCTION OF TAI KOK TSUI ROAD AND SYCAMORE STREET, WILL HAVE A BASKETBALL COURT AND A REST GARDEN.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY PWD'S ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL BEGIN IN MAY AND BE COMPLETED IN SEPTEMBER.

ON COMPLETION, THE PLAYGROUND WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1981

- 6 -

BOY SCOUTS CLEAN UP SAI KUNG BEACH

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A GROUP OF 30 BOY SCOUTS TODAY (SATURDAY) WORKED IN COMMUNITY SPIRIT ON THE SILVER STRAND BEACH AT SAI KUNG AND GAVE A FACELIFT TO THE CROWDED BEACH.

MOUNTING AN EXTENSIVE CLEAN-UP OPERATION, THE MEMBERS OF THE EAST KOWLOON BOY SCOUT ASSOCIATION PICKED UP A LARGE QUANTITY OF LITTER AND EMPTY TIN CANS FROM THE BEACH.

THE URBAN SERVICES OFFICE OF SAI KUNG PROVIDED BACK-UP SERVICES BY DEPLOYING A TEAM OF WORKERS.

THE EXERCISE WAS AIMED AT MAKING THE BATHERS AWARE OF THE NEED TO KEEP THE BEACH CLEAN, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT LITTERING ON THE BEACH IS AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OF \$1 000 ON FIRST AND \$2 000 ON SUBSEQUENT CONVICTIONS.

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FIRING PRACTICE REMINDER

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THERE WILL BE FIRING PRACTICE IN THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY NEXT WEEK (MARCH 16-20).

PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 8 AM AND 4 PM ON MONDAY- BETWEEN 9 AM AND 3 PM ON TUESDAY- AND BETWEEN 9 AM AND 2 PM FROM WEDNESDAY TO FRIDAY.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

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WATER CUT IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI WILL BE CUT OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 16) TO 6 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 17) FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL TO QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL FROM JACKSON ROAD TO ICE HOUSE STREET, AND QUEENSWAY TO WATERFRONT FROM ARSENAL STREET TO MURRAY ROAD.

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