



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1977

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## EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MAKING AVAILABLE EACH DAY FROM TODAY ONWARDS DAILY MOVEMENTS IN THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX FOR THE HONG KONG DOLLAR.

IN ADDITION, AS FROM THE JANUARY ISSUE, FIGURES FOR THE INDEX WILL ALSO BE PUBLISHED IN THE MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THE INDEX MEASURES THE MOVEMENT OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST AN AVERAGE OF THE CURRENCIES OF 15 OTHER COUNTRIES WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO THE VALUE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE WITH HONG KONG IN 1972. IT IS BASED ON THE CENTRAL RATES AGREED UPON AT THE SMITHSONIAN AGREEMENT ON DECEMBER 18, 1971.

THE INDEX WAS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL IN THE SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE IN THE MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1976 AND HAS BEEN USED IN GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC REPORTS BUT HAS NOT HITHERTO BEEN MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ELSEWHERE.

+IT IS USEFUL BECAUSE CHANGES IN THE US DOLLAR VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DO NOT ALWAYS REFLECT CHANGES IN THE OVERALL EXTERNAL PURCHASING POWER OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR,+ A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH SAID.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE ADDED, THE STRENGTH OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE US DOLLAR MIGHT BE OFFSET TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT BY A WEAKENING OF US DOLLAR IN TERMS OF OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES.

+THE INDEX, THEREFORE, MEASURES MORE ADEQUATELY THE TRUE FOREIGN EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEXES FOR THE HONG KONG DOLLAR SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR AND THOSE OF THE PAST FEW YEARS :

EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX FOR  
THE HONG KONG DOLLAR

(DEC. 18, 1971=100)

1973		103.7
1974		105.9
1975		107.4
1976	JAN.	107.6
	FEB.	108.3
	MAR.	109.4
	APR.	110.1
	MAY	111.5
	JUNE	109.8
	JULY	109.6
	AUG.	109.7
	SEPT.	110.0
	OCT.	111.4
	NOV.	113.7
	DEC.	114.4

^ABOVE .....

(ABOVE INDEXES REFER TO THE LAST WORKING DAY OF THE PERIOD)

JANUARY, 1977		FEBRUARY, 1977	
1	-	1	115.4
2	-	2	115.4
3	114.5	3	115.4
4	115.3	4	115.5
5	114.6	5	115.4
6	114.6	6	-
7	114.8	7	115.5
8	114.7	8	115.4
9	-	9	115.2
10	114.6	10	115.2
11	114.1	11	115.0
12	114.7	12	114.8
13	114.6	13	-
14	114.4	14	114.7
15	114.4	15	114.8
16	-	16	114.9
17	114.3	17	114.8
18	114.5	18	-
19	114.2	19	-
20	114.4	20	-
21	114.7	21	-
22	114.8	22	114.8
23	-		
24	115.0		
25	114.9		
26	115.0		
27	115.1		
28	115.3		
29	115.5		
30	-		
31	115.4		

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CANCELLATION OF 'BUS ONLY' LANE  
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THE TEMPORARY 'BUS ONLY' LANE IN THE SOUTHBOUND SECTION OF TIN CHIU STREET FROM KING'S ROAD TO TSAT TSE MUI ROAD WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO FACILITATE BUS ACCESS DURING THE RE-CONSTRUCTION OF KAM HONG STREET WILL BE CANCELLED FROM FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 25).

THE SECTION OF TIN CHIU STREET BETWEEN KING'S ROAD AND TSAT TSE MUI ROAD WILL BE RESTORED TO ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC.

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW PUBLICATIONS CENTRE

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, MR. DENIS BRAY, WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 25) AT 4 P.M.

HE WILL MAKE A SHORT SPEECH TO MARK THE OCCASION TO WHICH GUESTS HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM THE BOOK TRADE, HOTELS AND OTHER OUTLETS INVOLVED WITH THE SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

THE NEW CENTRE IS SITUATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, ONLY A FEW YARDS AWAY FROM THE FORMER PREMISES IN THE STAR FERRY CONCOURSE. IT PROVIDES MODERN BOOKSHOP FACILITIES AND IMPROVED DISPLAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EXTENSIVE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

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NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OFFICIAL OPENING AT 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY (FEBRUARY 25).

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DONOHUE DIES AT 66

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NEWS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN HONG KONG OF THE DEATH OF MR. PETER DONOHUE, A FORMER DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

HE WAS 66 WHEN HE PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON NOVEMBER 25, 1976, IN DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.

MR. DONOHUE RETIRED IN 1964 AFTER 15 YEARS SERVICE IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

HE CAME TO HONG KONG FROM TRINIDAD, WEST INDIES, IN MAY 1949 TO TAKE UP THE APPOINTMENT OF MASTER IN KING GEORGE V SCHOOL. HE ACTED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AS SENIOR INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER IN APRIL 1952. THREE AND A HALF YEARS LATER HE WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

MR. DONOHUE BECAME DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN DECEMBER 1959 AND DIRECTOR IN APRIL 1961. HE RETIRED ON GROUNDS OF ILL HEALTH IN DECEMBER, 1964.

MR. DONOHUE'S PASSING WILL BE REGRETTED BY HIS MANY FRIENDS IN EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES WHERE HE WAS KNOWN AS A HARD WORKING AND CONSCIENTIOUS ADMINISTRATOR, WHO DID MUCH TO ORGANISE AND DIRECT THE EXPANSION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION AND IN PARTICULAR TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME.

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**KOWLOON'S ALL-NIGHT BUS SERVICE CANCELLED**  
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KOWLOON'S ALL-NIGHT BUS SERVICE HAS BEEN CANCELLED BECAUSE OF LACK OF PASSENGERS.

THE LAST SUCH SERVICE WAS OPERATED EARLY THIS MORNING.

KMB ROUTE NO. 2B WAS INTRODUCED ON DECEMBER 17 ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR THREE MONTHS OPERATING BETWEEN JORDAN ROAD FERRY AND KOWLOON CITY FERRY VIA TSIM SHA TSUI, HUNG HOM AND TO KWA WAN EVERY 15 MINUTES BETWEEN 12.45 A.M. AND 5.15 A.M. AT A 50-CENT FARE.

ON AVERAGE, THE SERVICE CARRIED ONLY 100 PASSENGERS PER NIGHT OR SIX PER JOURNEY.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IT WAS HOPED THAT THE SERVICE WOULD CATER FOR NIGHT WORKERS IN THE BUSY RESTAURANT AREAS OF NATHAN ROAD AND MA TAU WAI ROAD.

+APPARENTLY THE SERVICE HAS NOT PROVED POPULAR SO WE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO CANCEL THE SERVICE,+ HE ADDED.

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**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WILL CONDUCT A LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF NEXT MONTH.

THE AIM OF THE SURVEY IS TO UPDATE INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION COLLECTED FROM A BY-CENSUS CONDUCTED IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

THE SURVEY WILL BE TAKEN ON A SAMPLE BASIS COVERING ABOUT 16,000 HOUSEHOLDS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG. PRIOR TO THE FIELD ENUMERATION, AN OFFICIAL LETTER, IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILL BE SENT TO THE SELECTED HOUSEHOLDS EXPLAINING THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY.

ENUMERATORS WILL VISIT THESE HOUSEHOLDS BETWEEN MARCH 1 AND 14. EACH ENUMERATOR WILL BEAR AN OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARD WITH HIS PHOTOGRAPH ON IT FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES.

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDE AGE AND SEX OF INDIVIDUALS, THEIR EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS, OCCUPATION AND EARNINGS, HOURS OF WORK AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT. ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS URGED TO DISCUSS TOPICAL PROBLEMS  
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TIME MUST BE FOUND BY SECONDARY SCHOOLS FOR AN INTELLIGENT DISCUSSION OF TOPICAL PROBLEMS SO THAT STUDENTS CAN BE MADE TO REALISE THEIR SIGNIFICANCE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY, SAID THIS AFTERNOON.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NINTH HONG KONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' SEMINAR AT MORRISON HOUSE.

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN DELEGATES FROM 28 SECONDARY SCHOOLS ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR, THE ORGANISERS OF WHICH ARE ALL STUDENTS.

MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULD TRY THEIR BEST TO WIDEN THEIR EDUCATIONAL HORIZON.

+FOR EXAMPLE,+ HE SAID,+IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS WHO SPECIALISE IN MATHEMATICS AND THE SCIENCES SHALL BE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING SCHOOL LEARNED IN THEIR OWN LITTLE COMPARTMENT BUT IGNORANT AND UNEDUCATED IN ALL MATTERS OF GENERAL INTEREST AND CULTURE WHICH ARE REGARDED AS ELEMENTS OF CITIZENSHIP.+

+MORE SERIOUS EVEN THAN AN ABSENCE OF KNOWLEDGE OF MATTERS CONCERNING CITIZENSHIP IS AN ALL TOO FREQUENT LACK OF INTEREST,+ HE EMPHASISED.

+ONE CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND HOW SOME STUDENTS, DEVELOPING QUICKLY MENTALLY, BECOME SO ENTHRALLED BY THEIR EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN, SAY, THE SCIENCES THAT THEY HAVE LITTLE TIME OR ENERGY LEFT FOR OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THEIR EDUCATION.+

MR. TOPLEY COMPLIMENTED THE SEMINAR ORGANISERS FOR HAVING GREAT FORETHOUGHT IN CHOOSING A VERY EXCITING THEME - +WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DO I WANT?+

THE DIRECTOR SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO INFLUENCE THE DELEGATES' THINKING ON THE THEME, WHICH INDEED OFFERED WIDE SCOPE FOR DISCUSSION.

+YOU SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO AIR YOUR VIEWS FREELY ON THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I SHALL BE INTERESTED IN THEM WHEN THEY ARE CRYSTALLIZED IN YOUR REPORT,+ HE SAID.

THE REPORT ON THE LAST SEMINAR HELD ABOUT A YEAR AGO WAS DESCRIBED BY THE DIRECTOR AS +ADMIRABLY BRIEF, THOUGHTFUL AND TO THE POINT.+

/BUT .....

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BUT MR. TOPLEY SAID THAT WHATEVER KIND OF EDUCATION +YOU WANT OR HAVE HAD, THE FULLY EDUCATED PERSON IS ONE WHO IS:

- \* ENLIGHTENED IN HIS INTERESTS
- \* OBJECTIVE IN HIS JUDGEMENTS
- \* READY IN HIS SYMPATHY FOR WHATEVER IS JUST AND RIGHT
- \* EFFECTIVE IN THE WORK HE SETS HIMSELF TO DO
- \* AND WILLING TO LEND A HAND TO ANYONE WHO IS IN NEED OF IT. +

THE DIRECTOR ALSO SPOKE ABOUT SOME OF THE BROAD AIMS OF EDUCATION AND HOW SUCH AIMS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

THESE INCLUDED A DEGREE OF EMPHASIS ON STUDENT-CENTRED EDUCATION, A BROAD-BASED CURRICULUM AND THE PROMOTION OF A GOOD VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT.

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#### 40 DISABLED PLACED TO WORK IN JANUARY

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FORTY DISABLED PEOPLE WERE PLACED TO WORK BY THE JOB PLACEMENT UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH.

AMONG THE DISABLED EMPLOYED, 19 WERE CRIPPLED, FIVE BLIND, SEVEN DEAF, FOUR MENTALLY RETARDED, FOUR EX-MENTAL PATIENTS AND ONE FORMER T.B. PATIENT.

THIRTEEN OF THEM WERE EMPLOYED AS ASSEMBLERS IN ELECTRONIC FACTORIES AND THE OTHERS WERE ENGAGED IN A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES SUCH AS MACHINE OPERATORS, MACHINE-SEWING WORKERS AND PACKERS.

WITH REGARD TO THEIR SALARY, 17 WERE EMPLOYED ON DAILY RATE RANGING FROM \$17 TO \$25, WHILE TWO WERE PAID ON PIECE-RATE BASIS. THE SALARY OF THE OTHERS AVERAGED \$550 A MONTH.

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