



THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BULLETIN

15th June, 1968

The Three Faces of Confidence



Progress. Mr. Hari Harilela, Director, Harilela's, will build a modern hotel in the Tsimshatsui area.



Progress. Mr. M.A.R. Herries, Chairman of Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co. Ltd., signed a \$70m contract to build an 800-room economy style hotel for "Jumbo Jet" tourists.



Progress. Mr. Lawrence Kadoorie, Chairman of China Light & Power Co. Ltd., has announced a \$30m expansion scheme for the New Territories.

**HONG KONG
GENERAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

(Established 1861)

9th Floor, Union House,
Hong Kong
Tel: 237177 Cables: Chambercom

THE BULLETIN

June 15th.

Chairman:

M.A.R. HERRIES, O.B.E., M.C.

Vice-Chairman:

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Secretary:

J. B. KITE

Assistant Secretary:

R. T. GRIFFITHS

Business Promotion:

S. L. CHUNG

C. TSANG

Certification:

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Membership Executive:

P. M. LAM

Office Supervisor:

MISS C. W. LI

THIS ISSUE

3. Saudi Arabia — a D.C. & I. Country Report which is available to all members.
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Members are reminded that the contents of the Bulletin are confidential and not for publication.

SAUDI ARABIA

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia occupies most of the Arabian Peninsula. It is the largest producer of petroleum in the Middle East and the fourth largest in the world.

It is for its petroleum that Saudi Arabia — semi desert as it is by nature — is known to the world.

The three major commercial centres are:—

Riyadh is the capital and the major commercial centre of the country.

Jeddah, the major Red Sea Port. Improvements and developments costing over HK\$60 million are planned for the four years ending 1970. It is from this city that Mecca is reached. Muslims from all parts of the world visit Mecca each year to perform the pilgrimage.

Dammam, the oil port on the Persian Gulf. It has been considerably enlarged and modernized and is now the largest port on the Persian Gulf. It has direct rail and road connections to Riyadh.



A busy commercial centre

Economy

The dominant feature of the Saudi Arabian economy, and indeed the wealth and prosperity of the country, is built on oil production and oil revenues. This industry provides for over 85 per cent of the country's national income.

With a gross national product of HK\$9,550 million, Saudi Arabia has maintained its rate of growth of about 10 per cent over the years, one of the highest growth rates in the world. This increase is the cumulative result of the steady increase — 20 per cent a year — in oil incomes, the growth of government expenditures and the rapidly rising investments of the private sector.



King Faisal of Saudi Arabia

The *per capita* income of the country, which has risen from a mere subsistence level in the late 1940s, was estimated at about HK\$1,700 in 1966. Given existing policies and circumstances, it holds promise of being doubled every seven years.

Oil

Saudi Arabia is the largest producer of petroleum in the Middle East and the fourth largest in the world; together with Kuwait, it accounted for 90 per cent of the Arabian Peninsula's 1966 production of 290 million tons. This was nearly two-thirds of total Middle East production.

Oil was first found in Saudi Arabia in 1938, and production was practically all (over 95 per cent) in the hands of the Arabian American Company (Aramco) made up of Standard California, Standard New Jersey, Texaco, and Socony Mobil. The profits derived from oil revenues are divided on a 50-50 profit-sharing basis between Aramco and the government.

New oil concessions are now being offered to foreign oil companies on the basis that they are expected either to participate in any industrial or mining venture, or to share the refining and marketing of oil as a joint venture with the government.

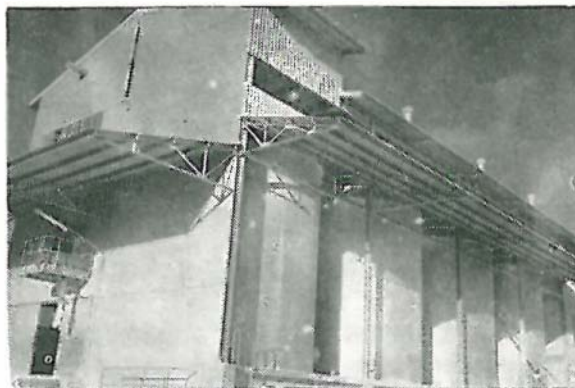
In the exploration of oil, another product, natural gas, which was once considered a waste product and merely burnt

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Saudi Arabia - contd



An industrial area in Saudi Arabia



Oil is the dominant feature

off, is now of growing importance in industrialised countries as a source of town gas and chemicals production. Saudi Arabia is at present building petrochemical plants in which to process this gas, either into products such as ammonia for the manufacture of fertilisers to be used in the agricultural sector, or chemicals for more sophisticated manufactures such as plastics and other materials. This trend away from total reliance on crude oil exports as a source of income is one of the most significant developments in the region.

Tourism

One of the most important sources of foreign currency earnings for Saudi Arabia is the tourist industry. The annual Islamic pilgrimage draws an average of 300,000 pilgrims from other countries to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Development

Ideas of economic planning and development had barely attracted the attention of the rulers before 1959. That was the year when the royal house, under King Saud, had so frivolously squandered oil revenues that the Saudis were tottering to bankruptcy. It was the present King Faisal who, on then becoming Prime Minister, brought in financial reforms that led to a remarkable recovery.

Foreign Investment

Foreign investment in Saudi Arabia is exclusively in the oil industry where American companies (e.g. Aramco) pre-

dominate. Saudi businessmen have directed their investment into housing, electric power generation, transportation and light industries.

A liberal foreign trade code was promulgated in 1964 which reduced the required proportion of Saudi capital from 51 per cent to 25 per cent in approved joint ventures; granted a five-year tax holiday once the project is in operation; and extended the same customs exemptions to foreigners as are enjoyed by Saudi investors. As there is no foreign exchange control, there is not inhibition to repatriation of returns on investments.

Trade Patterns

Saudi Arabia has consistently had a favourable balance of trade since the beginning of the decade. In the year ended 30th April, 1966, the balance amounted to HK\$6,081 million.

Imports into Saudi Arabia totalled HK\$2,614 million in 1965/66, 22 per cent above the previous financial year. Transport machinery accounted for the bulk of imports, followed by foodstuffs, building materials and textiles and clothing. A feature of the import trade has been the shift in favour of capital goods; imports of building materials have also risen rapidly. The import market is dominated by the U.S. which supplied 26 per cent in 1965/66, followed by Britain and Italy with 7 per cent each, and Japan (6 per cent).

Saudi Arabia's total exports were valued at HK\$8,695 million in 1965/66. Most trade statistics indicate that crude and

refined oil are the only items exported. It is believed that only about 1 per cent of total exports are products other than oil.

Saudi Arabia runs a sizable surplus in invisible trade items in spite of the fact that the magnitude of both receipts and payments increased significantly in 1966 compared with earlier years.

Trade with Hong Kong

The balance of trade has fluctuated, but in 1967 it was in favour of Saudi Arabia by HK\$24.4 million.

It should be noted that Hong Kong trade statistics in respect of Saudi Arabia also cover trade with Yemen; the latter, however, is believed to be small.

Hong Kong's imports from Saudi Arabia have fluctuated. They were valued at HK\$10.6 million in 1961, dropped to HK\$11.1 million in 1965, increased sharply to HK\$53.9 million in 1966, but decreased considerably to HK\$42.9 million in 1967. For the past few years petroleum products represented Hong Kong's only imports from Saudi Arabia; in 1966, Saudi Arabia was the second largest supplier (17 per cent) of petroleum products (Singapore being the first) to Hong Kong.

In 1967, Hong Kong's domestic exports to Saudi Arabia were valued at HK\$17.2 million, as against HK\$20.9 million in 1966. The performance of 1967 was a gradual improvement

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In September some 40 Hong Kong Businessmen will travel to West Berlin, where they will show their products at the Partners for Progress 1968, Import Fair. Although detailed trade information will be passed to members of this delegation we present in this article another aspect of the divided city.

BERLIN

Gently the aircraft nosed down to enter a phenomenon of West Berlin — an invisible 20-mile-wide corridor in the sky, one of only three air routes open to the major Western airlines serving the city.

Green fields, villages and towns of Eastern Germany slid below as the plane flew at the controlled height of 9,000 feet, a restriction completely impractical to jet aircraft but enforced at a time when West and East confronted each other in angry silence in one of Europe's greatest cities, Berlin.

Today Berlin has a permanent memory of that period in the wall, erected on August 13th., 1961, which heremetically sealed off West Berlin rigorously confining its two million residents to an area of little more than 180 square miles.

The Four Power City

"Good morning in Berlin, the four power city," droned the American accented voice, "here is the news from A.P. and U.P.I." The brief news broadcast was followed by non-stop pop music interspersed by commercial-like announcements which were in fact military statements on road safety and local prize-winning campaigns.

It seemed strange to hear an English language broadcast coming through on the clearest wave band in the heart of Europe. The young man driving the Volkswagon, however, didn't appear to think so as he swung the car through broad tree lined avenues designed in the days of the horse and cart yet possibly still the only streets in Europe capable of coping with today's traffic.

Like many of the people living in West Berlin he was not a native of the city. He had been born in Silesia and his name sounded Polish.

"You don't think about the American, British and French military here as occupying powers in the sense of the word. Possibly because we know that

without them anything could happen. I was in the Middle East recently and people asked me why we didn't tell the Allied armies to leave. You couldn't explain to them that we want the Allies to stay."

We drove by a notice saying 'French Sector,' it was the only one of its kind and in fact one of the few blatant reminders of a war that finished 20 years ago but whose evidence is a daily part of Berlin.

by Peter Wood

Now the car was entering the shopping district with its sparkling new Europa centre and pavement cafes. We had driven in from Spandau where the young man had his studio. In Spandau I had mentioned that Hess, the last of the original war criminals, was still imprisoned. The young man looked blank. He had been born after the dramatic flight of Hitler's aide to Scotland where he intended making a bid for peace.

"We have a few minutes, I'll show you Checkpoint Charlie," said the young man.

Checkpoint Charlie is another Berlin phenomenon. It is the main access point for non-West Berliners to enter East Berlin. Here, representatives of the three Allied armies sit in a small concrete hut in the middle of a non-descript road that leads through one of the few breaks in the wall. Their East Berlin counterparts watch from a road blockade and a high tower. On the West Berlin side a platform has been built for sight-seers to gaze over the wall

and into a barbed wire fence and blackened bleak buildings. There is a bizarre side-show atmosphere without the laughter.

The Wall

An enterprising businessman has opened the "Checkpoint Charlie Cafe" while another has strategically placed his camera shop nearest the wall.

We gazed over the wall surrounded by a barrage of clicking cameras while a policeman on the Eastern side watched us through binoculars. My host was becoming impatient and said, "Come on, I'll show you the Reichstag."

Slowly, purposefully slowly one is told, the Reichstag is being repaired but the area where the Russians placed their two tanks after capturing Berlin and erected a monument to the Russian soldiers, is cordoned off and admittance barred.

This in effect was where it had all began in 1933. It had started, soared to incredible heights and fallen all within the lifetime of most of us. New facts have re-written the actual part the Reichstag played in those days but the sense of modern history surrounding the building is as strong as ever.

The young man from Silesia looked bored and began to talk of the new BMW he planned to buy. It was pointless, he said, to buy a big fast expensive car for Berlin — there was nowhere to go, but he liked the idea of a BMW. We returned to the city centre for a typical German snack: cold meats, salad and a glass of ice cold Schultheiss.

Politics and Steiners

Berlin is a modern attractive city that unlike Frankfurt still carries its war-time scars. And unlike London or Paris where the war and its aftermath are almost forgotten subjects, here it is still a topic of conversation. The students are the main source of argument and they are followed by Berlin's own politics. Underlying these two is the war.

It was late at night and we were in an obvious tourist attraction: a Bavarian beer cellar, only this particular cellar was on the second floor and you had to pay two marks to get in. An oompah band of fat red-faced men dressed in lederhosen

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

*A digest of Chamber news
and visitors.*

O.B.E. for Chamber Past Chairman



The Hon. G.R. Ross, Chairman of the Chamber from 1965 to 1967, was awarded the O.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Mr. Ross, Managing Director of Deacon & Co. Ltd., is an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council and served on a number of occasions as provisional Unofficial Member of Executive Council. He has been the President of the Boy Scout Association since 1964. He was a member of the General Committee of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries from 1965 to 1966.

Jardines take over Fardel

Jardine, Matheson and Co. Ltd. has taken over the business of the L. Fardel company, sole agents in Hong Kong for Parfums Christian Dior.



A visit to the Hong Kong General Chamber's offices in Union House is hardly likely to appeal to most teenagers, but seven 6th form students from the Diocesan Girls' School, found otherwise.

In fact for them it became fun finding out how Hong Kong trades with the world. Their guide at the Chamber was the Secretary, Mr. J. B. Kite.

Afterwards one of the girls remarked, "The word 'commerce' used to chill me, and I didn't think it could be so interesting."

Picture shows Mr. A. C. C. Stewart, Assistant Secretary, sharing an amusing interlude with some of the girls.

Chinese Language Examinations

The next Colloquial Mandarin and Cantonese examinations will be held as follows:

Mandarin

Levels: Preliminary, Intermediate and Final.

Date: Friday, 13th September, 1968.

Cantonese

Levels: Preliminary, Intermediate and Final.

Date: Saturday, 14th September, 1968.

Examination Conditions

Details of the syllabus and conditions for these examinations are available on application to the Chamber.

Entries

Candidates must register with the Chamber not later than 12 noon, Saturday, 31st August, 1968 and should provide particulars of: (a) Level (b) Firm and address of candidate (c) Telephone number at which candidate can be contacted.

Examination Fee

Examination fee of \$30 per candidate must accompany each entry. The Committee regrets that entries not accompanied by the appropriate fee cannot be accepted.

Cheques should be made payable to the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and crossed.

Office to let

The Chamber has office accommodation available in Nathan Road, Mongkok, Kowloon. The premises, which cover 640 square feet are fully air conditioned and will be available from the beginning of July. Rent will be by negotiation. Members interested should contact the Secretary, Mr. J. B. Kite.

U.S. Trade Drive

Mr. Choi Cheung-kok, Chairman of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association, has announced the CMA will send a trade promotion team to Alabama in July.

Hong Kong manufacturers are planning to take part in the Alabama Fair.



In Hong Kong recently on one of her rare visits was the Inco-China Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. passenger/cargo vessel, Eastern Queen.

The vessel is normally engaged on the Japan/Australia run, and was here for annual docking and crew change.

The Eastern Queen was a familiar sight in Hong Kong some years ago, when she operated the Calcutta run from the Colony.

Photograph shows the Eastern Queen in Hong Kong harbour during her latest visit.

We plan to make this page of shipping news a regular Bulletin feature, but we need your help. Make a point of adding the Chamber's Bulletin to your information distribution list. Illustrations, photographs or impressions, are especially welcome.

Sailors warned

There is no sign of any substantial reduction in the number of desertions by Hong Kong seamen, the Seamen's Recruiting Office reports in its latest bulletin.

The S.R.O. warn, however, that "there is evidence that the present suspension system is an insufficient deterrent" and "steps are being taken to rectify this."

The journal says it has repeatedly drawn seamen's attention to the "harmful effects these desertions have on the seamen's community and such offenders deserve no sympathy and may expect the maximum suspension the law allows."

On the question of corruption, the bulletin points out again that no seaman need offer bribes or pay any intermediary to get a job.

Making Money

Sir Giles Guthrie, Chairman of BOAC, announced that BOAC made a group profit of more than £21 million (HK\$305,424,000) during 1967.

Suez—The effect on Hong Kong

According to a report by Reuter, closure of Suez Canal is estimated to have cost Hong Kong nearly £1m in tourist revenue, but exporters and trade officials discount any serious impact on the colony's valuable export trade to Europe. Shippers now pay a 10 per cent surcharge for the Cape route, but the Reuter report says the increased cost, which they estimate at approximately £45m, has been offset by sterling devaluation and faster ships on the longer Cape route.

THE PORT

French C.M.C.R. (Compagnie Maritime des Chargeurs Reunis) now have the third of the new Explorer Class of vessels arriving in Port. She is the m.v. SURCOUF who, (shown above) with her sister ships the BOUGAINVILLE, KERGUELEN and JOINVILLE will be the mainstay of the Europe/Far East/South and West Africa Line. All four are called after famous French explorers and the SURCOUF is the third to be put in service this year.

The ships are designed to maintain a 20 knot schedule and have a cargo capacity of 686,160 cubic feet which includes 10,736 cubic feet of cool and refrigerated space. She has a bulk liquid capacity of 31,500 cubic feet. Her 10 derricks, 5 cranes and 1 heavy boom, of 80 tons capacity, ensure cargo handling speeds which are among the fastest available today. She has six holds and the three biggest have starboard and port hatches flanking the main hatches and all are covered by McGregor Hatch Covers.



Saudi Arabia - contd

over that of 1961-63, and at par with that of 1964, but was reduced considerably compared with 1965 and 1966.

Hong Kong's domestic exports to Saudi Arabia in 1967 consisted primarily of clothing (HK\$4.0 million), household equipment of base metal (HK\$2.1 million) and electric fans (HK\$1.7 million).

Hong Kong's re-exports to Saudi Arabia have been insignificant and erratic. They were valued at HK\$0.6 million and HK\$1.2 million in 1966 and 1967 respectively. The bulk of them were clothing, woven textile fabrics and floor coverings.

Market Prospects

Generally Saudi Arabia is a politically stable Middle Eastern market. The favourable balance of payments situation; the liberal import regime; the continued reliance on imported goods to meet local demand; and a rising middle-class with an increasing income, are assets contributing to a good market. Set against these apparently favourable conditions, the market has its shortcomings such as a small population thinly scattered over a large area; a still very uneven distribution of income; and the existence of three separate and distant commercial centres. But overall it is an important and expanding market deserving the attention of Hong Kong manufacturers and exporters in many fields.

Hong Kong exporters should be aware that the consumer goods market has broadened considerably. Markets for kitchen and household products should continue to be good but there is need for both heavy and other light equipment of many varieties. Price is the main consideration for consumer goods and as a result consumer items from the Far East have gradually gained a strong foothold in this market.

Exports up

Trade figures for the month of April show that the total value of domestic exports is \$656 million, an increase of 37.4 per cent over April, 1967. Imports increased by 7.5 per cent to \$928 million and re-export increased by 1.7 per cent to \$175 million as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

Certification

With immediate effect, no Commercial Invoice will be certified by the Chamber unless the applicant obtains a Certificate of Origin. A Commercial Invoice will henceforth be considered to be a document tendered in support of an application for a Certificate of Origin thus bringing the Commercial Invoice within the provisions of Regulation 7(2)(b) of the Protection of Non-Government Certificates of Origin Ordinance.

In all cases where a Commercial Invoice is required to be certified by the Chamber the Exporter's total F.O.B. value of the consignment must be declared in words and figures on the Certificate of Origin.

BRAND NAMES & LABELS

Members are reminded that Brand names and labels must be declared on all applications for Certificates of Origin.

Restriction on Exports of Cotton Garments

The Hong Kong Government have decided, in the light of their obligations under Article 3 of the Cotton Textiles Arrangement, to limit exports of five categories of cotton garments to Sweden for one year with effect from June 1, the Director of Commerce and Industry, the Hon. T.D. Sorby announced.

The five categories involved cover knitted and woven shirts and under-garments, woven nightwear, men's and boys' coats of impregnated fabric, jackets and trousers.

Berlin - contd

honked their deafening way through familiar choruses and amply proportioned waitresses bustled among the crowds like fussy tugboats armed with great steiners of beer. A small knot of French off-duty soldiers sat in a corner; it was the only sign to indicate the abnormality of West Berlin. A young graduate of three months in our group was expounding the reasons behind the recent student demonstrations, demonstrations which have spread across Europe and could well change the political face of the country.

The significance in this is that had this scene taken place in London the conversation would have been on more mundane things, seriousness would have vanished with the first brassy roar of the band. Fortunately Berliners also have a sense of humour; indeed they pride themselves on this and as their final gesture of the evening they ordered tepid English beer.

Fashionable Stores

But Berlin is a serious and dedicated city. The giant Siemens plant encompasses a complete town district. The Mercedes star which slowly spirals on top of the largest building is a constant reminder of Germany's miraculous industrial progress. The people enjoy a high standard of living, possibly one of the highest in Germany due to Government controlled rents and lower prices on a few selected items.

The fashionable Ka Da We store which covers a complete block is as good, if not better, than any of its foreign counterparts; the big mail order houses have grown so fast they can afford to open large prestige offices. In the streets the people are well dressed (they can afford to be with a two-piece well cut suit costing not much more than good quality Hong Kong), the cars are new and everywhere there is the ubiquitous Volkswagen. Double-deck cream coloured buses provide the city with an efficient transport system and there is also the unexpected beauty of large parks, again in the heart of the city.

When the 40 Hong Kong businessmen arrive in Berlin later this year they will receive a pleasant surprise, for Berlin, not only by its political structure, is quite different from any other of the world's major cities.

NEWS FROM D. C. & I.

New Zealand

The Department has received information relating to New Zealand's 1968/69 Import Licensing Schedule. Details of licensing allocations in respect of items of interest to Hong Kong which covers the importation of goods from 1st July, 1968 to 30th June, 1969 into New Zealand are given below:—

<i>Brief Description</i>	<i>1968/69 Allocation</i>	<i>H.K.'s Domestic Exports to New Zealand in 1967 (HK\$ Million)</i>
Cotton yarns	Exempt from licensing	12.5
Cotton woven fabrics	Exempt from licensing	33.2
Textile fabrics, woven (other than cotton fabrics)	Various, but in most cases 85% of 1967/68 licences	13.7
Towels (other than dish towels) cotton, not embroidered	100% of 1967/68 licences	2.6
Electric torches (flashlight)	115% of 1967/68 licences	0.4
Clothing	Various, but in most cases 115% of 1967/68 licences	2.5
Toys (excluding dolls), plastic, not containing electric motors	115% of 1967/68 licences	1.5

Furthermore, in 1968/69 a total of 122 new items is to be exempted from import licensing when compared with the previous year. Of these items, the ones detailed below are of potential interest to Hong Kong businessmen:—

N.Z. Item Code	N.Z. Tariff Item	Brief Description
71.100	71.01.00	Pearls, unworked or worked, but not mounted, set or strung; precious and semi-precious stones, unworked, cut, or otherwise worked, but not mounted, set, or strung
	71.02.21	
	71.02.29	
	Ex 71.15.03	
73.095	73.03.00	Waste and scrap metal of iron or steel
	73.04.00	Shot and angular grit, of iron or steel, whether or not graded; wire pellets of iron or steel
73.424	73.38.23	Enamelled domestic hollowware of iron and steel, and parts thereof
	73.33.01	Needles for hand sewing of iron or steel
	Ex 73.33.02	Crochet hooks of iron, steel, and aluminium
	Ex 76.16.09	
	73.33.09	Hand carpet needles, bodkins, and the like, and embroidery stiletos, of iron or steel, including blanks
	73.34.01	Pins (excluding hatpins and other ornamental pins and drawing pins), hairpins, and curling grips, of iron and steel
	73.34.02	
	73.34.09	
	74.19.02	Safety pins and other pins of copper
	74.19.03	
83.09.03	83.09.04	Hooks, eyes, eyelets and the like, of base metal
91.100	91.01.00 to 91.11.09	Clocks and watches and parts

(Mr. M.P.C. Chan, Tel. No. H-453939)

Ceylon

The Department has received a copy of Ceylon Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 14,800/3 dated 5th May, 1968 which gives details of a new method, known as The Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate Scheme, of allocating foreign exchange to importers in Ceylon. This Gazette Notice is reproduced at Enclosure I.

Consequent upon this Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificate Scheme, new import procedures have been implemented. The new regime divides all imports involving the payments of foreign exchange into two categories:

Category 'A' Imports—Imports for which foreign exchange will be released against import licences which need not be supported by Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates. (Note. None of the items under this Category is of interest to Hong Kong.)

Category 'B' Imports—Imports for which foreign exchange will be released against import licences that are supported by Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates.

Under Category 'B' Imports, consignments are permitted entry either

(a) against Individual Import Licences

or (b) on Open General Licence.

Of the 72 items subject to Individual Import Licensing control i.e. licences of which are only issued to registered importers against quotas, the following are of interest to Hong Kong:—

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Hong Kong's Domestic Exports to Ceylon in 1967</i> HK\$ '000
102A	Dry cell batteries, wireless	68
102B	Dry cell batteries, other than wireless	268

Of a wide range of goods under Open General Licence, the following items are of interest to Hong Kong:—

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Hong Kong's Domestic Exports to Ceylon in 1967</i> HK\$ '000
651.3	Cotton yarn grey (unbleached) not mercerized nor put up for retail sale wherein the textile material weight, the cotton content predominates over that of any other single textile material except where the weight of silk noil and other waste silk is more than 10%	1,277 (cotton yarns, grey or not of all counts)
651.4		
651.6	Yarn of synthetic fibres wherein the textile material weight, the synthetic fibre content predominates over that of any other single textile material except where the weight of silk, noil and other waste silk is more than 10%, of a value not exceeding Rs. 12 per lb. c.i.f.	174
698.11	Locks, padlocks, and keys therefor of base metals	170
698.12.99	Base metal fittings and mountings of types largely used on furniture, doors, namely castors (excluding those used on machinery) other than ceramic coffin mountings, door closers	44
02	Torch bulbs	57
312.41.01	Lamps, glass, oil	102
812.42.10	Lamps and lanterns except electric, complete iron and steel pressure type incandescent	327
812.42.19		
812.42.30	Electric lighting accessories and fittings, n.e.s. of base metals excluding 3-pin plugs and bases of 9 amps. and below, C.G. lamp holders, fluorescent light fittings and ceiling roses	147
812.43.01	Electric torches and parts excluding dry cell batteries	543

(Mr. M. P. C. Chan, Tel. No. H-453939)

Australia

The Australian Government has, with effect from 4th April 1968, raised its customs tariff on the following items which are of interest to Hong Kong:—

Tariff Item	Commodities	Old Rate	New Rate	H.K.'s Domestic Exports in 1967 (HK\$'000)
44.24.100	Clothes pegs of wood	\$0.20 per gross	\$0.20 per gross	181
44.24.900	Other household utensils of wood:—			
	(i) Spoons and forks	27½ % primage 10%	45%	
	(ii) Other than spoons and forks	47½ %	45%	280
44.27.100	Standard lamps, table lamps and other lighting fittings of wood; statuary and other ornamental figures of wood; smoking requisites of wood; bags, boxes, cases, caskets, wallets and similar containers of wood, other than:	Various (from 7½ % to 53%)	30%	
	(a) cases and similar receptacles for violins and other musical instruments; and (b) pen or pencil cases.			
44.27.900	Other than those goods falling within sub-item 44.27.100	Various (from 30% plus primage 10%, to 45%)	45%	

(Mr. M.P.C. Chan, Tel. No. H-453939)

Nigeria

The Nigerian Government has announced some tariff changes. The following item is of interest to Hong Kong:—

Description	Rate of Duty (Ad Valorem)		H.K.'s Domestic Exports to Nigeria in 1967 HK\$
	Old	New	
Woven fabrics of cotton	HK\$0.28/ sq. yd.	HK\$0.397/ sq. yd.	3,727,000

(Mr. A. S. N. Cheung, Tel. No. H-431233)

Bolivia

The Bolivian Government has prohibited the importation of certain items into Bolivia. Of the items concerned the following are of interest to Hong Kong:—

Description	H.K.'s Domestic Exports to Bolivia in 1967 HK\$
Kitchen utensils	195,000
Knitted underwear of cotton or linen	63,000
Men's and boys' undergarments, including collars, shirt front and cuffs	134,000

(Mr. A. S. N. Cheung, Tel. No. H-431233)

United Kingdom

In Commercial Information Circular No. 25/68, the Department notified that, effective from 1st July, 1968, textile manufactures containing silk and/or man-made fibres imported into the United Kingdom will become dutiable according to the proportionate content by weight (instead of by value) of silk and/or man-made fibres.

The Department has received further information that an Import Duty Order has been made to cover the period from 1st July, 1968 to 31st December, 1968, during which importers will be allowed to opt either to pay duty on a weight basis or value basis.

(Mr. J.K.H. Yue, Tel. H-451919)

France

The quota for imports of "velvet other than of cotton" (quota No. 8, French tariff No. ex 58.04) should be HK\$98,000 (equivalent to 80,000 French Francs) and not HK\$62,000 (equivalent to FF.50,000).

(Mr. J.C.C. Chan, Tel. H-451919)

Barbados

An amendment made to the list of exceptions to the Barbados Open General Licence has the effect of placing the following items under specific licensing control:—

<i>Description</i>	<i>H.K.'s Domestic Exports to Barbados in 1967 (HK\$)</i>
Boxer shorts (underwear), men's and boys'; shorts (underwear), men's and boys', knitted; vests (underwear) knitted; tee shirts, knitted; polo shirts, knitted; shirts, men's and boys', knitted; shirts, women's and girls', knitted; blouses, knitted; half slips; whole slips; panties; brassieres; girdles; swim suits; pyjamas, men's and boys'; pyjamas, women's and girls'; night-gowns; housecoats; dresses; slacks, men's and boys'; slacks, women's and girls'; shorts (outwear), men's and boys'	999,293

(Mr. A.S.N. Cheung, Tel. No. H-431233)

India

The Department has received information that the Indian Government has, in its New Import Policy for the year 1968/69, removed 260 items from the list of permissible imports and has also extended the list of items to be allowed for import to Actual Users on restricted basis by a further 197 items. Of these items, the following two are of interest to Hong Kong:—

<i>Description</i>	<i>H.K. Domestic Exports in 1967 (HK\$)</i>
87,109,23 Menthol	261,813
22,116 (iii) Polyvinyl chloride	81,988

A copy of the Indian Import Trade Control Policy covering the period 1st April, 1968 to 31st March, 1969 is available for inspection at the Department's Economic Information Centre Library, Room No. 13, Fire Brigade Building, second floor, Hong Kong.

(Mr. M.P.C. Chan, Tel. No. H-453939)

Panama

Import restrictions imposed by the Government of Panama are usually confined to those goods where demand can be satisfied from local resources, e.g. foodstuffs, beverages, textile products, footwear, soaps and detergents. In a recent announcement the Panama authorities have removed the following items from the list of restricted imports:—

<i>Description</i>	<i>H.K.'s Domestic Exports to Panama in 1967 HK\$</i>
Sport shirts for men and boys whose f.o.b. value is more than HK\$254.50 per dozen	985,000 (sport shirts irrespective of value per dozen)
Vests (with or without sleeves)	266,000
Sweaters	313,000

(Mr. A. S. N. Cheung, Tel. No. H-431233)

TRADE FAIRS

FRANCE The Annual Fall and Winter 1968 Leathersgoods Week will be held from 23rd to 28th June 1968 in Paris. Interested members may obtain further information from the French Trade Commissioner, Hong Kong.

KOREA The First Korea Trade Fair will be held from 9th September to 20th October 1968 in Seoul. Further information may be obtained from Mr. Yong Ock Khang, Secretary-General of Korea Trade Fair, I.P.O. Box 1621, Seoul.

AUSTRIA The Vienna International Trade Fair will be held from 8th to 15th September 1968.

POLAND The Poznan International Fair will take in Poznan from 9th to 23rd June 1968.

TENDERS

Hong Kong

Tenders are invited for the following:—

PT/43/68	Replating of wet cell storage batteries.
PT/44/68	Supply of windproof jackets.
PT/45/68	Supply of white poplin.
PT/46/68	Supply of cotton thread.
PT/47/68	Supply of fine blue serge and barathe blue serge.
PT/48/68	Supply of yellow washing soap.

Tender forms and further details are available from the Stores Department, Oil Street, North Point and the Public Enquiry Centres.

New Books at the Library

Israel Export Directory 1968. Information for business.