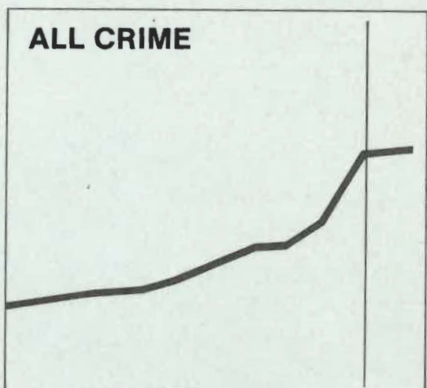
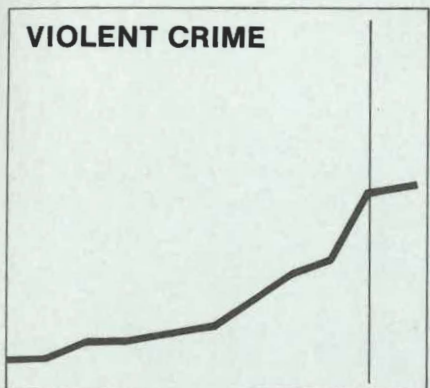
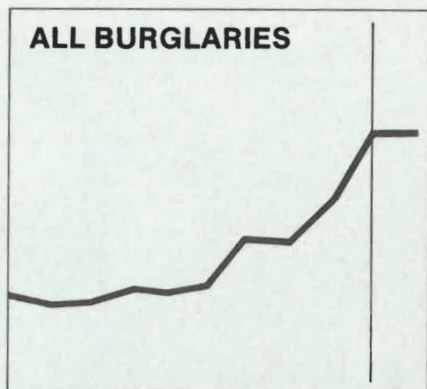
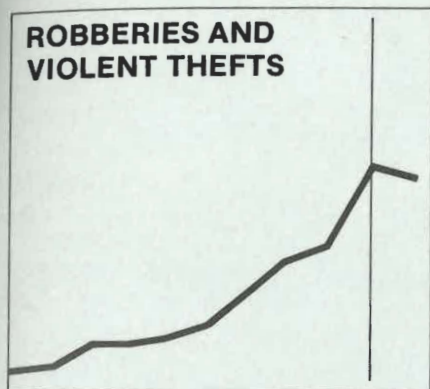




The Bulletin



1965

1975

1965

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**A major offensive against crime
- says Mr. Slevin**

see page 11

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麥理覺專欄

辛勤工作的豐碩成果

本會工業投資促進團四月間在澳洲墨爾本及雪梨完成兩週的緊張工作後已凱旋返港。此行工作量極大，本團會晤了五十間澳洲公司的高級代表。我們每天一早（好多次是清晨七時）就開始工作，大都要到晚上十時後才收工，有好幾次將近半夜十二時才結束討論。此種緊張程度足以說明澳洲廠商對本團的興趣。此外，本團舉行了三次研討會，其中兩次規模頗大，因而亦增加了接觸範圍及查詢工作。本團還順道在坎培拉拜會澳洲聯邦政府若干部門的官員，並在這三個城市中促進了友好關係。

澳洲政府部門、澳洲各商會及製造商聯合會、在香港設有分行的澳洲三大銀行及許多對澳港貿易有興趣的公司，均給予本團大量協助。本人對於此種良好的反應及結果甚表滿意，可以斷言有關聯絡工作，將使本會及工商署在今後數月倍加忙碌。

本人認為，已會晤的五十間廠商中，至少有二十間表示對投資有強烈興趣，另有二十間表示在將來有可能來港投資。由於此行集中於澳洲機械工業，所以目前處理的投資建議涉及各種金屬工藝，包括黑色及有色金屬鑄造、機床加工、裝配組合、鍛造、熱處理等等。到本刊出版發行之時，本會已向許多本港商行諮詢其對澳洲投資的反應。

若干澳洲公司已派遣代表來港，與本會及工商署洽談合資生產的具體建議。本人願藉此機會感謝工商署貿易主任李友石對本會促進澳洲工業來港投資活動的大力協助。此行實是本會與工商署為工商業利益携手合作的良好範例。

警察與盜賊

四月廿九日，香港警務處處長施禮榮應

本會民政委員會主席馬登東邀光臨本會，論述治安問題。出席者有本會民政委員會、董事會、理事會及工業事務委員會的成員。此次會議採用非正式的問答形式，極有效用。話題廣泛，涉及維持香港治安的問題，尤其是警方的責任及成績。施禮榮先生回答諸多問題的坦率態度，令人印象深刻。施禮榮先生再次重申警方與政府各部門及本港社會密切合作，以促進效率，提高士氣，擴大接觸，從而盡力保護本港社會。本人認為施禮榮先生對香港總商會的談話一定會被廣大市民所接受。施禮榮先生不常接受電視、電台訪問實是憾事，未知君意為何？

日本再次成爲目標

四月期間，本會有幸接待日本經濟新聞社經濟專題高級作家旭恭右先生來港深入考察香港經濟，特別是香港工業。本會為旭恭右安排大量訪問活動。旭恭右會晤了許多政府部門的高級首長與工商界及教育界的著名要人，他們足以代表對香港的廣泛經驗及認識。旭恭右將在日本經濟新聞社屬下各報發表一系列介紹香港的專文，預期日本工業公司將因此對香港興趣大增。本會計劃以此類公司為目標，在今年九月派遣本會工業投資促進團，前往日本訪問。

本會最近協助日本貿易振興會舉辦「香港未來工業化」研討會，大獲成功。傳播界著名人士勞倫斯擔任研討會主席，非常出色；主持七位爭相發言的主講人，並非易事。出席者達一百五十人，有有趣的提問，有精彩的回答，有切實的結論。此次有關本港利益的研討會組織完善，值得向日本貿易振興會所長菊池光男先生及其公關部門祝賀。本會有幸協助，與有榮焉。

本人希望本會會員商行及其他讀者，若有興趣與外國工業公司合資經營，請與本會

聯絡，本會已有包括許多不同工業部門的大量名單，並希望盡量予以擴充，務請不吝賜教。

貿易團分赴各國

在撰寫本文時，本會一貿易團正在訪問澳洲及南非，此團由本會八間會員商行組成，推銷各種各樣的香港產品，本會貿易部高級行政人員曾錫權隨此團前往。另一貿易團將於五月底離港赴韓訪問，由吾友聯僑企業

警務處長暢論本港治安問題

本會民政委員會最近召開季會，特邀香港警務處處長施禮榮先生光臨，論述本港治安、罪行、及工商界如何協助警方撲滅罪行等問題。

本刊今期封面是香港十年來罪案增加的示意圖，顯示各種罪案的驚人增幅近來已告緩和。今年首季罪案數目從去年同期的一萬五千二百四十四宗增至一萬五千四百四十五宗。看來總趨勢似已漸對罪犯不利。當然這下定論為時尚早。

本會民政委員會主席馬登先生，最近邀請警務處處長施禮榮先生光臨本會，論述香港罪行問題及警方撲滅罪行的努力。警務處長的講話涉及面極廣，包括三合會活動、警方與廉政公署及港府其他部門的關係，警察招募工作及教育程度的關係，以及本會及工商界如何協助警方的問題。

搶劫案已是全亞第一

香港既在亞洲，觀察本港罪行等問題亦應以亞洲為標準，方屬確當。

本會民政委員會請施禮榮先生列舉資料，將本港與亞洲其他主要城市的罪行作一比較。

「由於各國的人口，法律、社會、經濟等情況互有區別，比較各國的罪行數字其實並無意義。

有限公司黃保欣率領，本會蔡昭明組織。本會還在考慮組織貿易促進團訪問美國南部達拉斯、荷斯頓等新興城市。此外，本會正在與其他機構進一步考慮，興建不牟利工商機構聯合辦公大廈的可行性。本會還在盡力澄清商業回佣問題，但此一問題應該詳加討論，本人將在下期「會刊」中對此一敏感性問題發表若干意見。

本會一直十分忙碌，今後工作更多，將會更忙！

「本港按人口計算犯罪總數較亞洲其他城市為低。本港暴力罪行與其他城市大致相同，但本港搶劫罪行已在亞洲首屈一指。

「但與倫敦相比，本港犯罪率仍屬較低。香港每十萬人中全部犯罪率比倫敦少三分之一。本港持械搶劫案也比倫敦少得多。

施禮榮表示警方近年來撲滅罪行的行動因為人手不足受影響。施禮榮於一九七四年接任警務處處長時，警察部門尚有百分之廿二空缺。此後加緊招募，今年四月空缺降至百分之三。警方目前共有一萬六千人，加上三千文職人員，及五千輔助警察。上述均為一九七二年數字，較今年的需求尚有出入。

施禮榮指出，警方過去往往是罪案發生後才去應付，如今擴大招募後已能主動反擊，制止罪行。結果卓有成效，尤以反毒行動及制止三合會為然。一九七五年本港破獲走私販毒案的拘捕人數比一九七四年多達百分之二十四，而且重點破獲「販毒大王」。

「這些措施有助於維持治安，但仍有許多工作要做。本處的宗旨不僅是控制罪行，而且要大量減少罪行。」

着重暴力罪行及搶劫

一般市民對暴力罪行及搶劫最為擔心。本處亦特別重視，首先對付。最近搶劫案已告減少，當然仍感嚴重。為了戰勝械劫匪及一切罪犯，必須獲得廣大市民的積極支持及合作。

在這一方面，已取得很大的成效。施禮榮先生尤其稱讚香港總商會設立「好市民獎」，對於鼓勵市民積極參與撲滅罪惡，確實大有功效，值得讚揚。

撲滅三合會

警務處長表示另一重點是三合會之類的黑社會組織。「據估計香港有八萬三合會份子，但活動分子僅佔百分之五至十。在所有犯罪活動中均有勢力，尤其是黃毒賭及收取各種保護費。在這一方面，本處正在盡力贏得人心，設法說服市民不要恐懼三合會虛張聲勢的報復，協助警方，合力鋤惡。」

據說三合會從十幾歲青少年中廣招成員，此說有無根據？

「報章上有很多此類評論。坦白講，在某些地區很難不接觸三合會份子，本處實行分區政策後已開始熟悉各區情況，各區街坊會及互助委員會對此亦大有助益。

「本處正在撲滅三合會。

「三合會確是香港整個社會的嚴重威脅。一般市民尤其對三合會暴徒深感恐懼。

「本港在一九五六年三合會暴亂後，採用遞解出境辦法，幾已粉碎了三合會，但後來此法却不能採用了。本處正在設法修改有關法律。」

「教父」深居幕後

犯罪顯然與吸毒有關。警方與緝私處破獲販毒集團的成績，已使每安士海洛英行情從二千元漲至五千元。但也迫使癮君子設法增加毒品或錢財，反過來亦會影響犯罪率。警方正在繼續集中人馬破獲吳錫豪之類的販

毒大王。當然因為此類「教父」深居幕後，破案極非易事。

本會去年九月關於罪行問題的聲明提到還有大量沒有舉報的罪案。此一問題是否屬於香港的特殊情況？

「本人所訪問過的各大城市均有此一問題，包括倫敦亦是如此。香港情況並不特別嚴重。雖然難以統計數目，但種種迹象表明罪行舉報率正在逐步提高，包括小劫案在內。」

與廉署關係很好

與會者詢及警務處長，廉政公署的工作對警方的士氣及效率有無不利影響？

「本人不想否認，最初在警察部門，確曾有所不滿。但沒有影響效率。本處繼續行施職責，本處的撲滅罪行運動日益受到公眾的支持。但任何有思想的人均會承認，廉政公署必須成立，警察部門及其他機構的貪污也必須剷除，均與本港利益休戚相關。

「本處與廉署關係很好。本人亦是廉署最高層決策機構的成員。雙方間或仍會發生小問題，就冷靜對待，合理解決。本人確信廉署對香港有良好的長期功效。」

努力改善警民關係

警方與政府其他部門及廣大市民的關係如何？警方採取什麼措施改善警民關係？

「警方與政府其他部門密切合作。我剛任警務處處長時，化了很多時間訪問各個部門，甚至包括了天文台。

「本處已一致努力改善警民關係。本處十二個警民關係處負責與市民聯絡，與各區民政處密切合作。

「還有少年警訊也十分成功，最近慶祝招募第十五萬名警訊少年。參加手續須由父母支持，所以表明有三十萬父母提供支援。我們最初是學習倫敦，但倫敦現在只有一個輕視節目，而我們還有一個協會。」

工商界協助警方

本會選由好市民獎計劃協助警方。自從一九七三年中創立該計劃以來，向協助警方撲滅罪行有功的市民頒贈獎金已近五十萬元。警務處長指出好市民獎計劃極為成功，對於市民協助警方極有貢獻。此種協助已開始增加，一九七二年市民協助破案佔拘捕總數僅百分之三，去年已增至百分之九。

除好市民獎以外，本會及其會員商行還

能如何協助警方撲滅罪行？施禮榮回答協助的方法當然很多，並在會後寄來一份資料，現附在本文之後。（參見本文後附錄「工商界如何聯繫與協助警方」）

香港全體市民，不論男女、老少、貧富，均關心社會治安，所以每個市民亦均應積極參與撲滅罪行運動。警方如能獲得充份人力及資源，社會條件如能進一步提高，警民關係如能繼續加強，則香港治安可望改善。應該繼續努力！

附錄·工商界如何聯繫與協助警方

（警務處長施禮榮向本會提供）

警方刑事偵緝總部防止罪案科隨時樂意提供任何有關防止罪案及安全護衛方面之意見。歡迎光臨該科諮詢保安設備及索取保安制度資料。亦可通知該科安排登門造訪。警方與工商界之聯繫在近年來已大為改進，本處旨在建立更密切之聯繫。例如目前有下列聯絡方式：

與銀行——有良好有效之聯繫，包括個別銀行及經由外匯銀行公會分發該科保安意見；

與護衛公司——經常保持聯絡並交換資料意見；

與保險公司——最近由警務處長及三個保險商負責成員非正式會談，改進聯絡，並希望對於風險較大之保險，進一步交換意見。

與香港旅遊協會——有密切聯絡，並已採取行動制止對日本遊客之罪行。最近並為該協會提供零售商保安措施宣傳資料。

與鑽石入口商會及珠石玉器金銀首飾商會——由於該科提供意見，兩個商會之保安設施已有顯著改進。但此一方面之保安情況仍不能令人滿意。

香港總商會可用各種方式協助防止罪案科。例如，散發該處之保安意見資料，提倡

會員商行採取保安措施，贊助及宣傳防止罪行運動及展覽會。

警方刑事偵緝總部商業罪案調查科隨時受理控告本港公司或個人在本港或海外之商業犯罪及詐騙案件。該科負責調查商業詐騙，製造偽幣，偽造銀行提款單等商業罪案。調查商業罪案之最大問題是發現與舉報罪行之時間相隔太久，或者受害者恐受牽連而遲遲不想報案，以致疑犯有時間逃離本港及毀滅罪證。

該科與工商機構之關係良好，且仍在不斷改善。例如：銀行——該科常與外匯銀行公會交換有關偽幣，失竊之信用狀、錢行提款單及旅行支票等可兌現票證消息；香港旅遊協會——該會提供有關遊客投訴商業罪嫌之情況；政府各部門——均有密切關係，如工商署、註冊署及證券監理專員辦事處；海外——與國際刑警組織及各海外司法組織保持密切聯絡，偵查詐騙、偽幣等罪案。

香港總商會可協助該科向會員商號說明迅速報案之必要；提倡對可兌現票券設有例外檢查等高度保潔措施；提倡流綫作業式財務制度以消除罪案發生與發現之時間間隔；提倡對新顧客之支票及信用狀採取特別預防措施。



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Director's Viewpoint Hard Work Pays Dividends

WELL, the Chamber's Industrial Investment Promotion group completed a two-week stint in Melbourne and Sydney during April. It was really heavy going for most of the time and we had interviews with senior representatives of about 50 Australian companies.

We began work early in the morning (and I really mean early, like 7 a.m. on several occasions!) and finished on most evenings after 10 p.m. In several cases, we completed discussions nearer 12 p.m. Now that sort of schedule indicates a pretty real interest in what we had to say. Added to that, we addressed three seminars, two of which were quite large in scope and these added to the range of contacts requiring follow-up work. We also took the opportunity whilst in Australia to meet officials of several departments of the Federal Government in Canberra and to renew old friendships in all three cities.

We were given considerable assistance by Australian government agencies, (thank you, Peter Clare), by Chambers of Commerce and Manufacturers Associations, by the three major Australian banks which have offices in Hong Kong and by many individual companies which are interested in one way or another in Australian/HK trade. I was personally very pleased with both the interest and the results, which I think we can fairly claim represent the kind of follow-up work which will keep the Chamber and the Commerce and Industry Department very busy for

months ahead.

Out of the 50 industrial companies interviewed, I should think we have at least 20 strong enquiries and up to another 20 longer term possibilities. Since we concentrated our efforts on the Australian engineering industry, we are now dealing with proposals which involve a wide range of metal working techniques, including ferrous and non-ferrous casting, machining, fabrication, forging, heat treating and so on. By the time this *Bulletin* is published, we shall have been in contact with many Hong Kong companies which might find interest in the Australian connection.

Australian industry is going through a difficult time at present and although the Government is concerned to establish stability in its industrial policies, the substantial increase in Australian industrial wages during the last two years has made it difficult for many Australian companies to continue to produce certain items, particularly labour intensive items, competitively with imports. In addition, many Australian companies previously exporting good quality engineered products to overseas markets have either lost or are losing these markets to cheaper items produced in Asian countries. It makes some sense to these companies to consider manufacturing in HK as this can substantially reduce production costs. I would expect to see a continuing and substantial interest by Australian industry in our capabilities for the future.

Several companies have sent representatives into Hong Kong already



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following our mission and we are dealing with specific proposals for joint venture production, together with the Commerce and Industry Department. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Michael Lee, Trade Officer of the DC & I, for his very considerable assistance prior to and during the industrial promotion in Australia. This was a good example of the way in which the Chamber and DC & I work together for the benefit of commerce and industry.

We had the pleasure in the Chamber of welcoming Brian Slevin, Commissioner of Police, to a discussion on law and order held in the Chamber Boardroom on April 29. John Marden, Chairman of our Home Affairs Committee, was the host and we had representatives from his committee, our General Committee and Council and our Industrial Affairs Committee attend the meeting. This was an informal and most useful question/answer session covering a wide range of subjects relative to the maintenance of law and order in Hong Kong and particularly to the Police responsibilities and achievements.

We were all very impressed by the frank and forthright way in which Mr. Slevin answered the many questions put to him. We were also reassured that the Police are working closely with other departments of the Government and within the community to raise efficiency, improve morale, widen contact and beyond all else, protect the community to the greatest degree possible.

It is a pity that Mr. Slevin does not

appear more often on television and on radio since what he had to say to the Hong Kong General Chamber would I think be very well received by the public at large. How about it Brian?

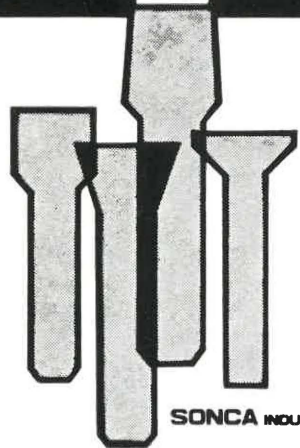
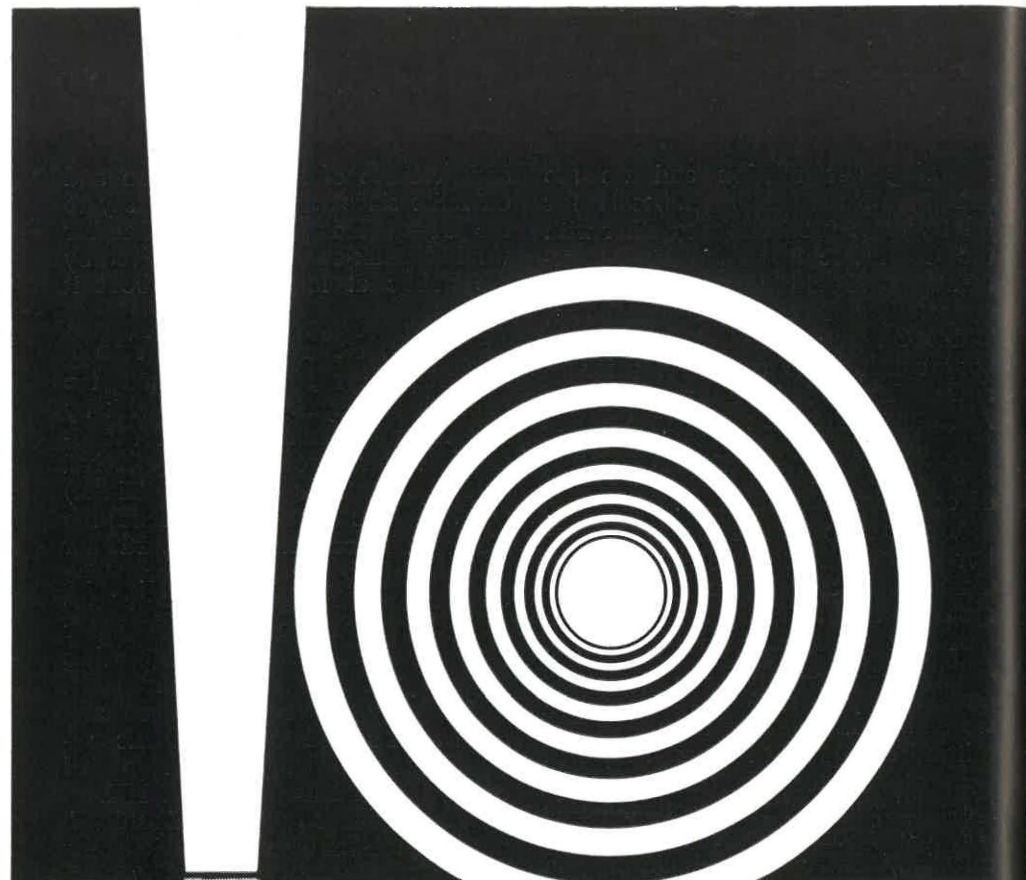
Japan Is In Our Sights Too

During April, we also had the pleasure of playing host to a visit by Mr. Kyosuke Asahi, a senior economics writer from Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Japan's Financial Times) who was here to examine in depth the Hong Kong economy with particular interest in the industrial sector. The Chamber was happy to arrange a substantial programme of contacts for Mr. Asahi. He saw senior officials in many Government departments, and equally senior businessmen and industrialists and educationalists representing a wide spectrum of experience and knowledge of HK.

It is understood that Mr. Asahi will produce material on Hong Kong for his newspaper and we naturally hope that this will suggest that Hong Kong might have some interest for Japanese industrial companies. We shall be aiming at many of these in September of this year when we propose to send a Chamber team to Japan on industrial promotion work.

We also helped Jetro host a seminar on Hong Kong's future industrialisation and this was pretty successful. Anthony Lawrence was a very professional Chairman with the unenviable job of controlling seven panelists, none of whom was slow to express a point of view.

cont'd. Pg. 31.



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We Are On the Offensive Says Slevin

THE graphs on our front cover this month relate to the increase in crime over the past decade. They show that the alarming upward trend in various categories of crime has been arrested (no pun intended!). During the first quarter of this year the number of crimes reported increased only slightly—up from 15,214 cases in the previous quarter to 15,445 cases. It may be too soon to state it with any certainty, but it would appear that the tide is gradually turning against the criminals.

The Chamber's Home Affairs Committee, chaired by John Marden recently invited the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Brian Slevin, to speak on crime in Hong Kong and the efforts of the police in fighting crime. The Commissioner's talk covered a wide range, including the role of triads, police relations with the ICAC and with other Government departments, relations with the public, recruitment and educational requirements for Police Constables and ways in which the commercial community and the Chamber in particular might assist the police.

Asian problems

Since Hong Kong is an Asian community it is pertinent to view our problems—including crime—in their Asian context. The Committee therefore asked the Commissioner if he had any information comparing HK's crime rate with that of other major Asian cities.

'Because of the differences in population density and composition, legislation, law enforcement priorities,

and social and economic factors in general, international comparison of crime figures is not always meaningful.

'However, in answer to your question I can say that our overall crime rate per 100,000 of the population compares favourably with other major cities in the region. Of course, if one looks at specific crimes there can be marked variations. For example, while crimes of violence are generally on a par with counterparts, our rate for robbery is, regrettably, very unfavourable.

'Asia apart, it may be of interest to members to know that our overall crime figure per 100,000 of the population is some two-thirds less than London.'

Short of men

Mr. Slevin told the committee that in recent years the Force had, to some extent, been hampered in its fight against crime by a shortage of manpower. When he took over in the beginning of 1974, the Force was 22 per cent below establishment. Since then, however, recruiting had been stepped up and the shortfall reduced to the point where, in April this year, it stood at 513 all ranks, or three per cent. The Force establishment currently stands at 16,000, plus 3,000 civilians and 5,000 auxiliaries.

However, it must be understood that these establishment figures are largely based on 1972 requirements and do not reflect actual requirements in 1976, though members would have noted Government's decision to give the Force a Training Reserve of 1,000 which would help greatly in offsetting deficiencies in the field.

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With the increase in recruitment, continued Mr. Slevin, the Force had been able to take the offensive against crime. Whereas in the past they had tended to respond to crime after it happened, now they were able to assume a more positive role. This was producing some excellent results, particularly in the area of preventive crime, which included the offence of being a member of a Triad Society. Last year, the number of preventive crime arrests was some 24 per cent higher than during the preceding year. In the same period, action against drug trafficking was stepped up, with particular emphasis on the "Mr. Bigs" rather than the petty offenders.

'These measures are helping us to hold the line, although there is still a long way to go. Our aim, of course, is not merely to contain crime, but to drastically reduce it.'

Top priority

Of the greatest concern to the average citizen is violent crime, especially robbery, said the Commissioner. Top priority is being given to the fight against it. The rate of robberies has been reduced recently, although he was still very far from satisfied. In order to win the battle against robbers, and indeed against all types of criminals, it is essential, he said, to enlist the support and cooperation of the public. Much had been achieved in this direction and the Chamber could take much credit for encouraging the public to play an increasingly active role in fighting crime. Mr. Slevin was referring to the Chamber's "Good Citizen Award" scheme.

The Commissioner said another top priority are the triads and triad-type gangs. There are an estimated 80,000 triad members in Hong Kong of whom 5 to 10 per cent are really active. They are active throughout the criminal spectrum, but are particularly involved in vice and various forms of "protection".

'As far as triads are concerned, we are really battling to win the hearts and minds of the people. We want to convince people that fear of triad retribution is largely illusory — although not entirely so; we want to convince them that protection rackets and the like can go on indefinitely if victims do not come forward and assist the Police in bringing these dangerous criminals before the Courts.

'I believe we are making headway, though we have a way to go before one can say that triads and their ilk have been eliminated.'

It has been suggested that triads recruit extensively from among teenage children, particularly in playgrounds. Was there any evidence in support of these views?

'Well, a lot of sweeping remarks are made about this. Generally recruiting takes place after children have left school. They are often teenagers when they join such gangs. Quite frankly, in some areas it's sometimes very difficult not to come into contact with triad elements. With our localisation policy we are beginning to get the real flavour of Districts and the kai fongs, area committees and mutual aid committees are a big help in enabling us to get matters into perspective, so that more meaningful

action can be taken to eliminate dissident elements.

I would like to reiterate that triads are a really serious threat to the whole way of life in Hong Kong. Triad members are bully boys and people feel threatened by them.

Triad activity tends to come in waves, he continued. We practically smashed them after the riots in 1956 but gradually they crept back and recently we have been looking into possible ways of changing the law. For example, in Australia they have a law known as "consorting" whereby it is illegal to "consort" with a known criminal. Such a law might be very effective here if used against triad members.'

Crime and drugs

There is a clearly established link between crime and the need to buy drugs, said the Commissioner. The efforts of the police and the Preventive Service against drug traffickers have forced the wholesale market price of heroin up to nearly \$5,000 an ounce from just over \$2,000 an ounce a few months ago. One result has been that addicts are forced to either ration their supply or obtain more money, or both, and naturally this has a bearing on the crime rate. Efforts will continue to be concentrated on the 'Mr. Bigs' of the narcotics trade. However, catching these 'Godfather'-type figures is no easy task, since they remain largely in the background.

The Chamber's statement on crime last September made reference to the large amount of crime that allegedly goes unreported. Was this a problem

unique to Hong Kong?

This is a problem in all the major cities I have visited, including London. I don't think the problem is any greater here. Although difficult to quantify our indicators are that more and more crime, including the petty, is being brought to our attention.'

Next we turned to the question of the ICAC. The Commissioner was asked whether the work of the ICAC had had any adverse effect on police morale and efficiency.

I would not deny that there was initially some resentment in the Force, but this has not affected efficiency. The Force continues to perform its duties with purpose and energy and in its battle against crime is getting ever-increasing support from the public.

Any thinking person must realise that the ICAC, or something like it, had to come. There was a need for an independent body with continuity and expertise. Anything that can be done to root out corruption from the Force and other bodies is in the vital interests of Hong Kong.

Relations with the ICAC are excellent. I sit on the Target Committee, at the highest level. Now and again we still get the occasional hiccoughs, but when problems arise we talk sensibly about them and put them right. I am sure that the long-term effect of the ICAC must be good for Hong Kong.'

How about relations with other Government departments and, even more important, with the general public. What efforts are being made to improve relations with the public?

We work closely with other Government departments. In my first year as Commissioner I spent a lot of time visiting other departments.

Concerted efforts are being made to improve relations with the public. The task of the Police Community Relations Offices, of which there are now 12, is to liaise with the public. They work closely too with the City District Offices.

J.P.C.

There is also the highly successful Junior Police Call Club, which recently celebrated its 150,000th member. Children can only join JPC if they have their parents' backing — which means that some 300,000 parents are supporting it. We originally copied the JPC idea from London, but there they only have a TV programme, whereas we have the club as well.

The Chamber, of course, cooperates with the Royal Hong Kong Police Force through the Good Citizen Award scheme, as mentioned earlier. Since the scheme was established in mid-1973, awards to members of the public who have joined in the fight against crime are approaching half a million dollars. The Commissioner said the scheme had been an outstanding success and had definitely contributed to the increased trend of public cooperation with the police. Last year members of the public were involved in nine per cent of all arrests, as against only three per cent in 1972.'

Apart from the Good Citizen Award Fund, Mr. Slevin was asked

whether there were any other ways in which the Chamber and its members might help the police in battling against crime? He replied that there certainly were many ways in which we could help and after the meeting he sent us some material, which we have included as supplement to this article.

Everybody in Hong Kong, young and old, rich and poor, is concerned about law and order. Everybody therefore, should concern themselves with the battle against crime. Provided the police are given the manpower and resources they require to tackle the problem, that progress continues to be made in improving social conditions in Hong Kong and that the relationship between the police and the general public continues to improve, it may not be too much to hope that Hong Kong becomes a safer place for us all.

Keep up the good work, Mr. Slevin!
Following the meeting with the Home Affairs Committee, Mr. Slevin sent the Chamber some material on liaison between the RHKP and commercial organisations and specific ways in which the Chamber can assist the police. We have included this material as a supplement to our main article.

The Crime Prevention Office, a unit of CID Headquarters, is available at all times, and indeed welcomes the opportunity to give advice on all aspects of crime prevention and security. Visits can be made to the office to view items of security hardware and to obtain information on various security systems. Discreet

visits by Crime Prevention Officers to a caller's office may also be arranged at short notice.

Liaison with commercial organisations has improved considerably over the last few years and it is our aim to establish even closer links. Some examples of current liaison are with:

Banks — there is a good working relationship, both with individual banks and through the Exchange Banks Association who undertake the circulation of security advice emanating from the Crime Prevention Office;

Security Companies — there is frequent contact and exchange of information and advice;

Insurance Companies — a recent informal meeting between the Commissioner of Police and Committee members of the three Insurance Associations proved beneficial in enhancing liaison and it is anticipated that closer links will ensue in respect of advice on high security risks;

The Hong Kong Tourist Association — close liaison has resulted in selective action to combat crimes against Japanese tourists which had been jeopardising the tourist trade. A paper on retail security was recently provided for the Association;

The Diamond Importers Association, the Goldsmith and Jewellery Association — a marked improvement in the security of many establishments belonging to these associations has resulted from advice given by the Crime Prevention Office. However, security in this particular commercial

sphere is generally not as satisfactory as it might be.

There are various specific ways in which the Chamber can assist the Crime Prevention Office. For example, by disseminating security advice and information issued by the office, by encouraging security consciousness on the part of members and by sponsoring crime prevention campaigns and exhibitions through the media with appropriate advertising for sponsors.

The Commercial Crimes Office, also a unit of CID Headquarters, is available at all times to receive reports regarding commercial crimes and frauds against local companies and individuals, whether they have occurred within or outside Hong Kong. The office has the task of investigating cases of commercial or business fraud which are complicated and protracted in nature. It deals with cases of forgery and counterfeiting of currency, bank drafts, and other negotiable instruments.

One of the main problems incurred in investigating fraud cases is the time lapse between the discovery of a crime and its being reported. All too often the victim attempts to negotiate with the perpetrator and reports the matter only when negotiations have failed. Alternatively, fear of adverse publicity results in delay in making a report and this gives the suspect time to flee the Colony or destroy evidence.

Liaison between the Commercial Crimes Office and commercial organisations is good and is still improving. Some examples are:

Banks — the office regularly exchanges information on forged or stolen letters of credit, bank drafts, and travellers cheques with the Exchange Banks Association;

Hong Kong Tourist Association — the Association provides information in respect of tourists' complaints against commercial concerns;

Government Departments — the Commercial Crimes Office maintains close liaison with Government departments such as Commerce and Industry, the Registrar General's Department and Securities Commission;

Overseas — close liaison is maintained with Interpol and various other overseas law enforcement organisations on matters involving fraud, forgery and counterfeiting.

The Chamber can assist the Commercial Crimes Office by advising members on the importance of reporting crime promptly, by encouraging a high degree of security in respect of negotiable documents — including irregular spot checks, by encouraging the streamlining of accounting procedures to obviate lapses of time between the occurrence of a crime and its discovery, and by encouraging increased caution in connection with the acceptance of cheques and letters of credit from new customers.

Picture Briefing

- A. The Annual General Meeting of the Chamber's nine Area Sections was held at the Hong Kong Club on April 29. The meeting was chaired by Mr. S. H. Sung, who was standing in for the Chairman of the International Trade Committee, Mr. Nigel Rigg.
- B. A senior Japanese journalist from the Japanese business daily, Nihon Keizai Shimbun, was in Hong Kong recently at the invitation of the Chamber in preparation for the forthcoming industrial investment promotion mission to Japan. Mr. Kyosuke Asahi, accompanied by the Director and Miss Cecilia Fung of the Chamber's Industry Division, called on the Colonial Secretary, Sir Denys Roberts.
- C. A seminar on the Future Industrialisation of Hong Kong, organised by the Japan Trade Centre (JETRO) in conjunction with the Chamber, was held at the Mandarin on April 28. The Chamber's Director was among the panel members.
- D. The Manager of the Trade Division, S. L. Chung, retired at the end of April after being with the Chamber for 21 years. To mark his retirement he was presented with a silver salver by the Director, who paid tribute to Mr. Chung's long and devoted service to the Chamber and its members. (see also pages 25-27).
- E. Crime in Hong Kong and the work of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force is the subject of our leading article this month (pages 11-17). The Commissioner for Police, Mr. B. F. Slevin, CMG, OBE, QPM, CPM, was invited to attend a meeting of the Home Affairs Committee to discuss this theme and answer members' questions.



Don't Write Them Off Yet!

AS a further slide in the value of the pound sterling coincides with the coming to power of a new Prime Minister in the UK — two events that in themselves are *not* effect and cause — it is appropriate to reassess Hong Kong's economic prospects with what is still its fourth largest trading partner.

Last year HK exported to the UK products worth HK\$2,778 million, and imported from the UK goods to a total value of \$1,715 million. After having allowed for the effects of re-exports, HK finished up with a healthy balance of visible trade worth \$1,175 million. This balance was marginally greater than for 1974, but marginally less than for 1973.

To put this in perspective, it is worth stressing that among our top 10 trading partners, which collectively account for three quarters of HK's total trade, we run favourable balances with only four — the USA, West Germany, UK and Australia, in that order.

Whatever frustrations we may from time to time experience in our relations with the metropolitan power, the fact remains that the UK is a very important trading partner, and in particular a vital export market. As a result of recent progress, Germany today is no less important than the UK, but despite this, the HK economy would undergo considerable strain should the UK market for our products either dry up or diminish severely. HK can and does develop new markets, but these are usually longer term prospects, and could not

overnight make good the loss of one old established and *profitable* market.

HK therefore has a considerable vested interest in seeing an economically strong Britain playing a leading part in world trade. Yet much of the information emanating from the UK, be it by word of mouth, in the local press or in even the British press itself, seems predicated on a feeling of considerable gloom and thus has an inevitable effect on Hong Kong's confidence in British viability.

What then is the outlook as Britain adjusts to the leadership of James Callaghan and HK comes to terms with a nine-dollar-pound?

Over the last few months Britain has not been doing as badly as some of the pessimists are inclined to think. The facts just do not lend support to those who a short time ago prophesied increasing recession for the UK. In fact the recession, which hit the UK somewhat later than most industrialised countries, has perhaps caused less damage there than elsewhere. Whilst it would be incautious and incorrect to say that Britain is already moving out of recession, it certainly looks as though recession has at least been contained.

Firstly, unemployment, although still high by normal UK levels, is certainly not rising as rapidly as was the case in the latter part of 1975. Figures released at the end of April show that the three-monthly average rise in unemployment, which is an index devised to iron out the fluctuations apparent in individual monthly figures, was running at 8,000 in mid-

March as opposed to 40,000 in January, a considerable drop. And employers anticipating further cut-backs in labour are now reporting lower projections than at any time since mid-1974.

Whilst these figures are encouraging, it must be added that new demand for labour — ie. numbers of unfilled vacancies — has not played a great part in slowing the trend. Most commentators feel that considerable credit for the slow down must go to the Government's programme of job protection.

According to other reports however, demand for new labour is likely to grow in the coming months, and this trend will spread across all the primary industries, with particularly good prospects in car and transport-vehicle manufacture and clothing.

Encouraging

Secondly, Britain's trading performance in recent months has been encouraging. Britain does in truth appear to be on the verge of an export led business recovery, and the decline in the value of sterling should emphasise this trend. The volume of British exports increased and the volume of imports fell, both by three per cent in the first quarter of this year compared with the last three months of 1975.

The current account in the first quarter — ie. the balance between visible trade in goods and invisible transactions such as insurance and banking — showed a deficit of only £78 million compared with a deficit

of £306 million in the last quarter of last year. This was mostly due to the volume changes in visible trade but also to the fact that export prices rose by 4.5 per cent in the first quarter while import prices rose by 3.5 per cent. The £78 million deficit was the lowest for any quarter since the fourth quarter of 1972. Furthermore, an actual surplus of £518 million was realised on trade in non-oil goods. This non-oil surplus is the best for any quarter since 1970 when the visible trade figures were first broken down into oil and non-oil trade. It compared with a surplus of £181 million in the fourth quarter of last year.

An export-led boom is fine for the UK but is not of much immediate help to our own manufacturers and exporters. Whilst HK welcomes any move that helps British exports, it cannot be expected to be so keen on the concurrent tightening of the market for imports. And the very sterling devaluation that makes British exports more attractive also of course makes HK exports less attractive in the UK. In short, the terms of trade at present are moving strongly in the UK's favour and against HK.

However, one silver lining in this particular cloud is that the dampening in demand for imports may also, for the time being at least, silence those who advocate import controls. Pressure for such controls has of late come from some well-informed and unusual quarters — and not merely textile trade unionists and the like. So far the Government has resisted

this pressure, and it now looks as though their patience has been rewarded.

Thirdly, and perhaps crucially, inflation in Britain is down from the peaks of recent months. In fact, according to the UK's Price Commission, Britain has more than halved its rate of inflation in the last nine months. The Commission's report for the three months to the end of February showed that the rate of increase fell from 4.2 per cent in the three months to the end of November, to 3.5 per cent in the last quarter.

The overall rate of increase for the last twelve month period was 15.9 per cent, which was the lowest annual increase since August 1974. Most observers seem to believe, as with the containment of unemployment, that much of the credit for the slowing in inflation must be given to the Government policy, and particularly to the restriction of pay increases to £6 per week.

Further recent instances of improvement in British performance could be listed, which if looked at in chart form show a convincing upturn. 1976 could yet be a good year — relatively speaking — for the UK. Yet disturbing weak patches remain — for instance industrial output is not yet expanding and the absolute level of unemployment seems likely to increase, albeit at a slower rate, for most of the year. And these two are not unconnected, since some 70 per cent of British output is accounted for by consumer spending. If unemployment rises, and if the incomes policy con-

tinues to bite, it seems unlikely that industrial output will expand greatly before consumer spending picks up.

On the other hand, British industry can expect in coming months to reap the benefits of increased worker productivity, since the existing slack in British industry can expect to be taken up in meeting export orders, and undoubtedly sufficient slack exists to allow manufacturers to meet these orders without the need to expand their labour forces. The same effect will be evident during the initial stages of any growth in consumer spending.

Pay agreement

Will consumer spending pick-up? Britain's plans for the continuing fight against inflation depend on what in effect is the continuation of a pay policy. The agreement with the TUC reached as this *Bulletin* went to press limits increases to four and a half per cent over a one year period. Although this is tougher than the £6 limit, which is due to expire in July, many have questioned whether it is tough enough, and indeed whether the UK Government is right to pin its faith on pay policies.

Moreover, the UK's Secretary for Trade has pointed out that during the period of the £6 pay norm, earnings have risen by 13 per cent per annum, which is somewhat in excess of the Government's target of 10-11 per cent. Thus the effect of the £6 policy, although undoubtedly successful in restricting spending and slowing inflation, was not as successful as was hoped.

Britain is thus caught between the by-now classic Scylla and Charybdis of, on the one hand, the need to reflate industry through consumer demand and, on the other, the need to contain inflation. Mr. Callaghan's compromise answer — which does not lack merit — is to take away by means of a freeze on pay increases, and to give by means of income tax cuts.

Any upturn in 1976 however may do little to ease the longer term pressures on the UK economy. This is a fact that the new Prime Minister appears to recognise perfectly well. In his inaugural address to the nation he said:—

'Let me say to you quite bluntly that despite the measures of the last twelve months, we are still not earning the standard of life we are enjoying. We're only keeping up our standards by borrowing and this cannot go on indefinitely. There's no soft option. I don't promise you any real easement for some time to come. There can be no lasting improvement in your living standards until we can achieve it without going deeper and deeper into debt as a nation.'

Mr. Callaghan's remarks show that he clearly understands the basic nature of the 'British disease', a seeming determination to enjoy a high standard of living without taking the steps necessary to earn that standard of living. This outlook is perhaps confused with other political and social aims such as the re-distribution of wealth.

It is undoubtedly true — as leftwing statisticians from time to time point

out — that a considerable percentage of total wealth in the UK is still controlled and enjoyed by a small proportion of the population. *The Bulletin* is not however at present concerned with ownership of wealth but with the earning of wealth, and it is here that HK scores over the UK. At least a part of the economic difference between HK and the UK is HK's greater willingness to tighten its belt in periods of hardship, such as the recent recession.

Two surveys

Before however one adopts a tone of superior virtue over this comparison, it is perhaps worth reflecting on the findings of two recent surveys carried out in Western Europe.

The first of these took place in Norway, a country which incidentally has a better record of growth expressed in terms of GDP per capita than most Western Countries. Over 75 per cent of those surveyed maintained that their standard of living was too high, and that they would allegedly prefer 'a simple life with only the essentials; a limited income, and limited career prospects.'

The other survey was carried out by the UK's Conservation Society. In this, one of the biggest threats to a happy life was seen to be 'blind faith in economic growth.'

These are two examples — probably minor — of continued unease in developed societies concerning the pursuit of an ever higher income,

cont'd. Pg. 31.

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S. L. Chung-Twenty One This Year!

LAST month saw the retirement of one of the Chamber's longest serving and best known members of staff, Chung Sze-leung, Manager of the Trade Division. Mr. Chung, or 'S.L.', as he is known by all, joined the Chamber in 1955 as an Inspector in the Certification Department. He worked his way up to become Chief Inspector, Executive Assistant, Assistant Secretary in charge of membership, and then in 1965, Manager of the newly established Business Promotion Department which later developed into the International Trade Department and finally was incorporated into the Trade Division.

S.L. still remembers vividly his early days at the Chamber, 'Although it's 21 years, it seems like yesterday. After I joined, the other new Inspectors and myself were sent on a training course at DC&I to learn the inspection procedure. A three-week training programme was arranged for us by an Executive Officer in the department — Mr. Jimmy McGregor!

"At that time the Chamber's offices were situated in the HK Bank Building. From the Secretary, Mr. J. B. Kite and two Assistant Secretaries, down to the office boys, there were only 10 of us. Over the years I have seen the Chamber grow as Hong Kong has grown. Playing a small part in this growth and progress has been a great pleasure for me.

'In those days there still wasn't much industry in Hong Kong, apart from a few large textile factories. When the Chamber's inspectors started going out to the factories we weren't

in uniform and it always took at least five minutes to explain to the factory manager who we were and why we were there. Sometimes we even had to explain what The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce was.'

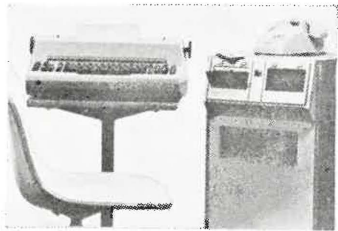
By 1958 Hong Kong's textile exports to the UK had reached a level where even the Lancashire textile industry was feeling threatened. A delegation from the Lancashire Cotton Board arrived in Hong Kong to negotiate a "voluntary" agreement to restrict our textile exports to the UK. The negotiations took place in the Chamber's boardroom and the HK group was led by the Chamber's Chairman, Col. (now Sir) Douglas Clague.

'I had the surprise of my life when on the first day Jock Kite came out of the meeting and told me they needed a Chinese interpreter, I wasn't even wearing a jacket, and I had to rush home at lunchtime to put my suit on!

'At the time textile people couldn't understand why Lancashire should want to restrict our textile exports. But later they came to see the agreement differently. For a start the negotiations and subsequent agreement were international news and free publicity for Hong Kong. Secondly it made people wake up to HK's potential.

'It was not long after that agreement I remember, that the Chamber received its first application for the export of gents' shirts to the USA. That was followed by an application for the export of plastic ferns. I think the Lancashire Agreement was a real turning point for Hong Kong,

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It thinks?

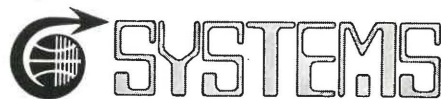
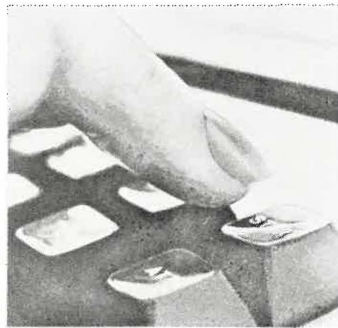
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the beginning of our diversification into new industries and new markets.'

One of the most satisfying things about working for the Chamber, says S.L., has been the opportunity to meet people, to learn and to travel.

'In 1965 I was seconded to the London Chamber of Commerce for three or four months. I made lots of friends there. I remember in particular Frank Gale, who was in charge of the Information Department and had been with the London Chamber for more than 30 years. We often went to the local pub together and he gave me the nickname "The three pint man".'

Nam Pak Hong

S.L. Chung was born in Hong Kong in 1916. He can trace his family's links with Hong Kong back to the days before the Chamber was founded, more than a hundred years ago. His grandfather was a merchant dealing in Chinese products and travelled regularly between HK and Canton. His father was also a trader, with an office in the Nam-Pak Hong area in Western District. In the early 1920s when S.L. was a small child he used to sit by silently while his father casually talked business or entertained friends over dinner and an opium pipe — for in those days opium was still legal.

He joined the family firm when he left school, but trading became increasingly difficult as the Japanese invasion made inroads into China. He joined the import section of the newly established China Emporium and from there he went to the China National Aviation Corporation in 1941. But

his career was interrupted by the outbreak of war and the occupation of Hong Kong.

'CNAC's nearest main office was in Kweilin. I tried to get there, taking with me some of the records of the Hong Kong office. I managed to smuggle them out of Hong Kong and make my way to Kweilin, where the manager arranged for me to be flown to Chungking.'

From Chungking he was transferred to Calcutta and later to Kunming, remaining there until the end of the war. CNAC was involved in the airlift of supplies to China over the famous Burmese 'hump'.

After the war he was transferred to Shanghai, but before long he was back in Hong Kong again, working for the Tien Yuen Industrial Corporation. This company was eventually wound up and he did a brief spell in the Philippines with the Asia Development Corporation, who were salvaging war-time shipwrecks. During one of his leave periods in HK he saw that the Chamber was advertising for Inspectors. He applied for the job and was successful.

What does S.L. plan to do after retirement? Not content to just put his feet up and do nothing he has joined the Industrial Committee of the HK/Macau Diocese under Bishop Baker. His rich experience will continue to be put to good use.

S.L. Chung has done more than enough to earn himself a long and happy retirement. We are sure members will join the Chamber staff in wishing him just that.



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FOR many years the Chamber has been known colloquially as the 'Western Merchants Association'. This may once have been an apt description, but for many years now the vast bulk of our membership has been among local Chinese companies. Yet at the same time, the Chamber is also an international organisation — companies of some 30 or more different nationalities are to be found within our ranks. Nonetheless, one particular clause in the Chamber's Memorandum of Association has provided coincidental evidence for those who refer to us as a western merchants association. This clause provides that members of the General Committee must be 'British members of British firms'.

Today, no one quite knows why the clause was originally written into the Memorandum, and the existence of the clause — even though it has been interpreted to mean British by nationality rather than British by race — has restricted the freedom to elect to the Committee men of ability and influence who do not happen to have been born under the British flag.

'British' clause

Unfortunately, while it is relatively easy to change a limited company's *Articles of Association*, it is not so easy to change a *Memorandum of Association*, and to change this particular 'British' clause requires the passing of a Private Member's Bill by the Legislative Council. Because this is a somewhat time consuming and

complex operation, the General Committee have hitherto avoided taking action, although the subject has been frequently discussed.

Now it has been agreed that a change can no longer be postponed, and accordingly an official approach has been made to the Attorney General for his approval of an appropriate bill. This has been given, and the bill will come before Legco shortly.

Close look

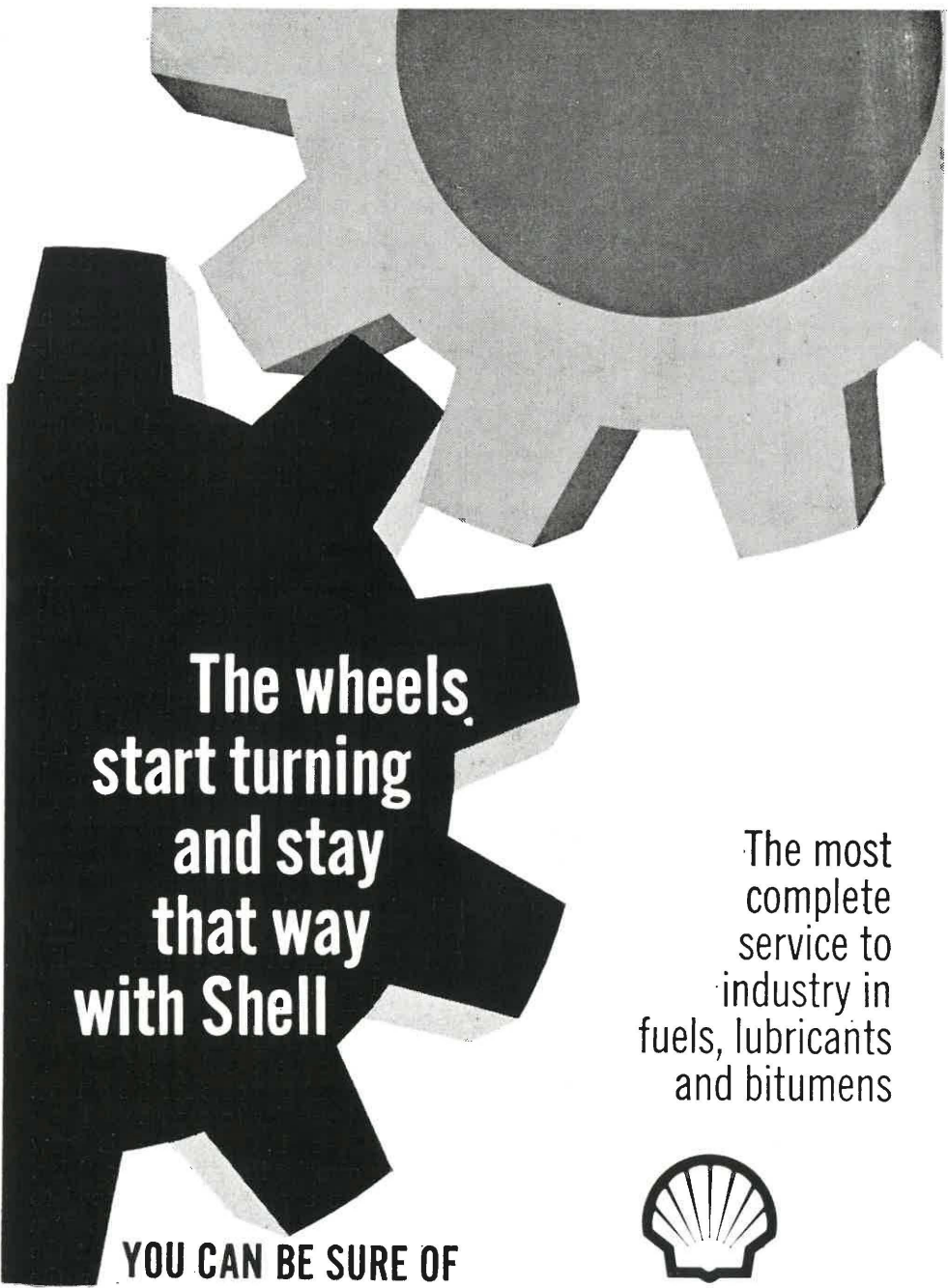
At the same time, the Chamber is taking a close look at the rest of the Memorandum, the Articles of Association and Chamber Bye-Laws.

A proposed alteration that will have some significance for Members is that the procedure for the setting of the annual subscription is to be reviewed.

The Chamber normally budgets so as to realise a small surplus consistent with its non-profit making status. However, it is always impossible to tell, with a small margin of this nature, whether a surplus or a deficit will in fact be realised until late in the financial year.

The suggested new procedure would allow the Chamber to set its subscription, usually about October, when the likely financial outcome for the current year will be easier to assess.

The General Committee is now studying a revised set of draft articles. If these are approved, it is hoped to present them to the Membership at a General Meeting in October. At the same time, the subscription for the year 1977 would also be set.



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DIRECTOR'S VIEWPOINT —continued

One hundred and fifty participants, good opening statements, interesting questions and some sensible conclusions. Mr. Mitsuo Kikuchi, Jetro's Director and his PR team are to be congratulated on a well organised effort of much local interest. We were glad to assist.

I hope that those of our members, and other readers, who have an interest in joint venture possibilities with foreign industrial companies will continue to make this interest known to us. We already have quite a substantial list covering many different industries and we want to expand this as far as possible. So do let me know.

It will not have escaped our members that we have, at the time of writing this page, a trade mission in Australia which will also visit South Africa.

Clement Tsang, a senior trade executive of the Chamber, is with this group which is composed of eight member companies selling a wide range of Hong Kong products.

Another trade group leaves for Korea at the end of May, led by Wong Po Yan of United Overseas Enterprises Ltd. and organised by Philip Choy from the Chamber.

We are also in the process of considering a trade promotion visit to Dallas, Houston and possibly other cities in the southern areas of the US.

So we have been busy and there's lots more to do!

Jimmy McGregor

DON'T WRITE THEM OFF —continued

more material goods and the status paraphernalia of the affluent society — together of course with the general strain of the rat-race necessary to secure these goals.

Britain, although a laggard in the West's economic race, has been a leader in the social race. The structure of British society today could be the norm for other developed societies tomorrow. Britain did, of course, lead the world in industrial growth during the 19th century, and even up to the beginning of the second world war, was still among the world's richest nations. The observable economic decline of recent years had less visible origins in the post-war years and it is doubtful if successive British Governments recognised the symptoms of the growing malaise. Could it be that British society has now reached the rather uneasy situation where it would accept the maintenance of its present standard of living without further advancement; but is finding it increasingly difficult to do so because other countries whose economies are linked to Britain's pursue economic and social growth? That would indeed be an ironic situation.

We have all from time to time experienced the unpleasant necessity of having to run in order to stand still. Britain appears to have begun to realise that a period of extra endeavour will be necessary if British people are going to be able to keep what they have. But what they have is worth keeping!

英三傑



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英國經濟困境的根源何在？

英鎊再次貶值及英國首相改選，兩者雖無因果關係，却已引起種種評論。現在確有必要重新估價港英貿易及英國經濟的前景。

去年，香港輸往英國的出口貿易總值達二十七億七千八百萬港元，自英國入口的貿易總值十七億一千五百萬港元。扣除轉口外，香港的貿易順差為十一億七千五百萬港元，略高於一九七四年，略低於一九七三年。

值得強調的是：香港十大貿易伙伴共佔本港貿易總額的四分之三，而香港僅在其中四國獲得貿易順差：依次為美國、西德、英國及澳洲。

港英貿易關係儘管時有波折，但英國確實仍舊是本港第四大貿易伙伴，更是主要的出口市場。雖然西德近年來已比英國更形重要，但英國市場若告枯竭或大幅衰退，本港經濟勢必深受影響。

因此，香港期望英國經濟富強並在世界貿易中扮演領導角色。然而，來自美國的消息，無論是本港報章或英國報刊，均是調子低沉，十分黯淡，勢必要影響香港對英國的信心。

衰退仍在 已受控制

英國目前狀況究竟如何？近數月來，英國並非如某些悲觀論者所想的那般糟。某些人早些時預言英國經濟衰退將會加劇，但事實上並非如此。英國的經濟衰退比其他工業國家來得較遲，損失也可能較小。現在認為英國已擺脫衰退，固然並不適當，但衰退顯然已受控制。

首先，失業人數雖然仍高於正常標準，但顯然已沒有去年下半年嚴重。四月底公佈的失業人口季度平均增加指數，已從一月中中的四萬銳減至三月中的八千。甚至是一九七四年中以來的最佳紀錄。但必須指出，此種

改善並非由於勞工需求增加，而是由於政府的職業保障計劃。然而，也有報導認為，勞工需求在今後數月將會增加，且廣及全部主要工業，尤其是汽車製造業及製衣業。

確保出口 促進復甦

其次，英國近數月來的貿易狀況令人鼓舞。英國確有出口帶動經濟復甦的趨勢，而英鎊貶值亦增強了此種趨勢。英國今年首季與去年末季相比，出口貿易略增，入口貿易略減，均為百分之三。今年首季實際貿易及財務交易的赤字僅為七千八百萬英鎊，與去年末季的三億零六百萬英鎊赤字相比，已大為好轉，而且是一九七二年末季以來的最低紀錄。除因首季出入口貿易額的變化外，出口價上升百分之四點五，入口價略增百分之三點五。而且，除石油外的貿易實際順差為五億一千八百萬英鎊，是一九七〇年作此種劃分以來的最佳紀錄，去年末季僅為一億八千一百萬英鎊。

出口帶動經濟增長對英國當然好，但對香港工業及出口貿易卻不會立即有幫助。英鎊貶值有利英國出口貿易，而不利港貨輸英。然而，入口需求減少至少暫時封住阻止入口鼓吹者的口。英國政府一直抵制要求阻止入口的壓力，看來已經收到實效。

高統賬率 已告回降

第三，更為關鍵的是，英國的通貨膨脹已從近數月的高峯回降。據英國物價部統計，過去九個月來統賬率已減少一半以上。去年九、十及十一月為百分之四點二，十二月至今年二月已降至百分之三點五。過去

十二個月為百分之十五點九，為一九七四年八月以來的最低紀錄。大多數觀察家認為，統脹率降低，應歸功於政府政策，尤其是限止加薪為每週六鎊。

還有其他種種經濟回升的跡象。一九七六年英國經濟會有所好轉。但仍然存在薄弱環節，例如工業產量仍未上升，失業人數仍會緩增，而且兩者相互影響。英國產品百分之七十用於消費，如失業人多，消費力弱，工業產量就難以增加。

但另一方面，英國工業在今後數月可望增加勞工生產率。工業既然蕭條，可以接受出口定單，而且不必增加勞工。如消費力回升，此種效果就相當明顯。

工資政策 見仁見智

消費力是否會回升？英國抑制統脹的計劃端賴其工資政策。本刊付印時，政府與工會已達成協議：一年內加薪限於百分之四點五。每週六鎊的舊規定今年七月取消。但許多人仍懷疑新法是否夠嚴，而且英國政府依賴工資政策是否明智。

英國貿易大臣指出，實行六鎊制度期間，工資每年上升百分之十三，超過了政府預定百分之十至十一的目標。因此，六鎊政策雖然無疑能限止消費及抑制統脹，但並非完全成功。

而且，六鎊政策雖使消費降低，却使存款增加。英國真是左右為難；既要刺激消費，又要抑制統脹。而卡拉漢的對策則是希望左右逢源：一方面凍結加薪，一方面削減所得稅。

一九七六年的好轉却不能解決英國經濟的未來壓力。新首相對全國的就職演說中，似乎對於此一事實直認不諱：

「請容本人直言相告，我國過去十二個月來，儘管採取種種措施，仍然不能將收入趕上我們正在享受的生活水準。我們只能靠借貸來維持生活水準。絕不能長此下去。我們別無抉擇。本人認為今後相當時期不會有

真正恢復。我國如果非得舉債累累才能改善生活，就無法繼續提高生活水準。」

多嘆世界 少做功夫

卡拉漢顯然明瞭「英國問題」的病根所在：只想多嘆世界，不想多做功夫。此種觀點與財富再分配之類的政治社會目標頗為混淆。左翼統計學家時時指出英國的大部份財富，只為小部份人所控制及享受，當然是事實。

但本刊並非在此討論財富所有制問題，而是財富的生產問題。香港在這一點上勝過英國，港英的經濟差別至少有一條是：香港人願意在經濟衰退等艱難時期束緊腰帶，節衣縮食。

也許值得在此一提西歐最近兩項調查的結果。一個是挪威，國民經濟總收入按人口平均計算，在西歐名列第二，調查對象中百分之七十五，表示他們的生活水準太高，寧願「過簡樸的生活，只有生活必需品，限定的收入及限定的事業」。另一個是英國保守黨的調查，結果認為對幸福生活的最大威脅是「對經濟增長的盲目信心」。已發展國家對生活水準日趨提高的不安心情，由此可見一斑。

物競天擇 不進則退

英國在西方各國的經濟競賽中雖然落後，在社會競賽中却一路領先，英國的今天也許是其他已發展國家的明天。

英國工業增長在十九世紀領先全球，直至二次大戰初期仍是全世界最富有的國家之一，近年來才逐步衰落。英國是否是滿足現狀，只求維持已有生活水準而不再提高，但却難以如願以償呢？其他國家在繼續前進，而英國却想方設法來維持現狀，此種局面實在可笑。如今，英國似乎也開始認識到，即使為求維持已有的成績，也必須付出新的努力。

* * *

鍾士良榮休側寫

四月底，本會服務最久且最著名的職員之一，貿易部經理鍾士良先生光榮退休。鍾士良於一九五五年加入本會簽證處任外勤督察。後來逐步晉升為督察主任、行政助理、會員事務助理秘書，一九六五年升任新成立的商務促進處經理。該處後來擴展為國際貿易部，最後改組為貿易部，鍾士良亦相繼出任該兩個部門的經理。

回憶往昔 歷歷如繪

雖然時隔二十一年，鍾士良仍對剛加入本會的情景記憶猶新，歷歷如在昨日。「我加入本會後，就與其他新任外勤督察一起，奉派往工商署參加一項訓練課程，學習檢查程序。工商署一位行政主任為我們安排三週的訓練課程——他就是麥理覺先生！

「當時，本會辦事處位於匯豐銀行大廈，本會職員上自秘書祈德及兩位助理秘書下至雜工，一共才十人。二十餘年來，我目睹香港總商會與香港一起成長。我能在這成長進展過程中畧盡棉薄，實在深感榮幸。

「當時，香港除了幾家大紡織廠外，還談不上有什麼工業。當本會外勤督察剛開始到工廠去執勤時，我們沒有制服，往往至少要化五分鐘向工廠經理解釋我們是誰，來幹什麼，有時甚至要解釋香港總商會是什麼機構。」

港英談判 舉世矚目

到一九五八年時，香港紡織品出口輸往英國已發展到連世界老牌紡織王國蘭開夏紡織業亦感到深受威脅。蘭開夏棉紡局代表團由洛志丹勳爵率領來港談判，要香港同意「自願」限制輸英紡織品出口貿易。談判在本會會議室舉行，香港代表團包括本港紡織界巨頭，由本會主席祈德尊率領。

「談判第一日，祈德走出會議室對我說

，談判需要一名中文傳譯，要我擔任。我聽了大吃一驚，我連西裝都沒穿呢！我只得在中午時趕回家中換上西裝。」

起初，紡織界人士不能理解為何蘭開夏要限制本港紡織品輸往英國。但後來他們明白箇中緣由後，又對談判另作評價。因為彈丸之地的香港，竟令老牌紡織王國來訂城下之盟，使談判及協定成為轟動一時的國際新聞，為香港大作義務宣傳。海外賣家從此對香港工業潛力刮目相看，訂單源源而來。香港開始向世界市場進軍。

「我記得談判之後不久，本會首次接到出口男裝恤衫往美國的申請。接着又是申請出口塑膠花草。我認為蘭開夏協定是香港的一個轉捩點，使香港工業開始向新的工業部門和新的海外市場拓展。」

廣交朋友 遍訪各國

鍾士良表示，在本會工作最令人滿意的是，有很多機會與人會晤、學習及旅行。

「一九六五年，我奉派往倫敦商會學習，為期三個多月。我在倫敦結識了好多朋友。尤其是格蘭，他負責新聞部，已在倫敦商會服務了三十多年。我們常常一起光顧小酒館，他給了我一個花名『三杯兄』。」

鍾士良於一九七一年訪問美國；去年應日本貿易振興會之邀訪問日本。他還參加許多貿易團前往世界各國。一九七二年起一直參加每年兩次的廣州交易會。

一生業績 頗堪告慰

鍾士良於一九一六年生於香港。鍾家世居香港已一百多年。祖父是商人，經營中國貨物，時常往返香港廣州兩地。父親亦經商，寫字樓在西環南北行區。二十年代早期，鍾士良還是小孩，常常坐在一旁靜靜看着父親閒談生意或者招待朋友吃飯抽鴉片——當

時抽鴉片仍屬合法。

鍾士良離校後加入其父商行，但因為日本節節入侵中國，生意變得越來越難做。他就加入新開設的中華百貨公司進口部工作。一九四一年轉往中國航空公司。但戰爭爆發，香港淪陷，他的工作亦告中輟。

「中航最近的辦事處遠在桂林。我設法攜帶香港辦事處的一些文件潛出香港，前往桂林。桂林的經理安排我乘飛機抵達重慶。」

他從重慶轉往加爾各答，又轉往昆明，直至戰爭結束。中航參加從加爾各答對中國的空運補給，飛越著名的「世界屋脊」。

本會章程將予修改

香港總商會歷來俗稱為「西商會」。此一名稱在開埠初期當屬適合，但本會多年來絕大多數會員已是本港華商公司。當然，本會仍是一國際性組織，會員國籍多達三十多國。然而，本會章程中有一項條款，規定本會董事會董事須是「英國商行之英國人」，確實也貽人口實。

時至今日，已無人清楚此項規定之起因。雖然「英國人」是指國籍，而非種族；但此項條款之存在，却阻礙會員自由選舉工商界深孚眾望之非英籍人士加入董事會。

可惜，修改本會章程並非如同更改有限公司章程般輕而易舉，必須經過港府立法局立案批准。因為此事頗為複雜，曠費時日；所以本會董事會雖然時常討論此一問題，但却迄今避免採取行動。

如今董事會決定此項修改已勢在必行，不能一拖再拖，並已正式向律政司提出有關立案之要求。估計此項提案不久將送呈立法局批准。

與此同時，本會正在詳細審查本會之全部章程、規定及附則，檢討是否另有其他條

戰後他轉往上海，稍後又回到香港，在天元實業公司工作。該公司結業後，他轉往菲律賓，在打撈戰時沉船的亞洲發展公司工作。一次回港渡假時，他讀悉香港總商會登廣告招聘外勤督察，就去應徵，結果獲選。

* * *

鍾士良退休後有何打算？他不想就此無所事事，現已加入白約翰會督領導的港澳教區工業委員會。他的豐富經驗將會繼續發揮效用。

鍾士良勞苦功高，光榮退休。相信會員商號定會與本會同寅一起，祝鍾士良先生萬事勝意。

文在制定當時確屬適宜，但時移境遷，如今已不復適用或已有局限性。

許多此類細則主要僅與本會內部組織有關，例如本會章程並未提及本會執行董事一職。

但另一項關於審定每年會員費程序之修改建議則與會員商號有關。此項審定工作迄今均採用週年大會議決方式。但在本年度週年大會上，本會卸任主席指出此項程序有缺點，使本會提前九個月預定會員費，無法估計當年度之財務結果。

本會之預算通常僅是略有結餘，以求符合不牟利機構之宗旨。但因餘額甚微，非到會計年度末季是無法預測究竟孰盈孰虧。現在建議之新程序則改在十月審定會員費，使本會較易預計本年度之財務結果。

本會董事會正在研審須修改條文之草案，如經同意，可望在十月份會員大會上提交全體會員批准，同時決定一九七七年度之會員費。

* * *

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