

The Bulletin

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Fragrant Harbour
— Ideal or Memory

香的香港？

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Editorial Board
J D McGregor, OBE, ISO

Harry Garlick
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Michael Parker
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Li York Ling

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電話：五—二—三七—七七

主席：高登

副主席：雷勵祖

執行董事：麥理覺

編輯部：麥理覺
葛立科
鄭美蓮
白克強
張偉傑

美術製作：李若棧

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Director's Viewpoint

Textiles! Textiles! Textiles!

SINCE 1958 when the first rumblings burst into accusation against the Hong Kong textile industry for daring to penetrate the British market with good quality, low price yarns and fabrics, we have heard little else but textiles.

We listened during the early 1960s to the pleas from importing countries to give them a breathing space during which their textile industries would be reorganised and in part retrenched, since it was clear that no amount of protection could make the 'lower end' producers again competitive. We tended to believe these early claims and gradually entered into bilateral "voluntary" restrictions. Once applied they were never removed except in the case of the Federal Republic of Germany (that liberal in EEC clothing!) which surprised us all by conceding several times that there was no further need for certain restraints. Not so the others, particularly when it was seen how easy it could be to threaten the suppliers with such delightful abuses of world trade as global quotas or unilateral import quotas.

Hong Kong, of course, has never had any bargaining muscle in these negotiations, nor any political or economic clout with which to influence the many big brothers that have used their bullying powers against us. We relied on our rights (within the GATT), on that sense of fair play and goodwill essential to international trade and diplomacy and to the fear of those that did the threatening that others bigger than themselves might do the same to them.

Much of this fear however dissipated when the importing countries established the international instrument which has provided the legal cover for highway robbery. The MFA (Most Foul Arrangement) has been improperly used almost since its inception. The TSB (The Sleeping Bobby) set up to ensure fair play has been shown to be useless for the purpose. And now the EEC with cynical disregard for any rules at all, appears determined, at the time of writing this article, to become the arbitrary Robin Hood of textiles – only they are stealing from the poor to give to the poorer and in the process protecting the rich.

I may be wrong of course (it has been known) but I would give good odds that Hong Kong will eventually sign an agreement with Tran Van Think's Marauders representing a clear case of rape. The simple truth is that we cannot afford to do otherwise and the EEC (what a basis for negotiation) know that very well.

We move thus closer to the abyss of international trade war, a breakdown of international trading rules and regulations where national protectionism is the name of the game and the game itself is a brutal one which nobody wins. The EEC Commission can prattle on about the need for orderly trade in textiles. Their present textile negotiating mandate and policy can only lead to further abuse and (but not from Hong Kong) trade retaliation.

The preoccupation for the past 20 years with textiles has seriously reduced the time available in the higher echelons of Government to consideration of the promotion (and protection) of other industries in Hong Kong. This issue has been for me and for others a matter of great regret since so much waits to be done.

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that the pioneering voices note the establishment by the Governor of the Special Committee for the Diversification of the Economy and its wide and prestigious membership. I hope we are about to see an active programme of assessment that will result in the formation of the permanent means to promote and activate meaningful diversification of our industry. "As one door closes another opens".

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Ask the Australian Trade Commissioner

Fragrant Harbour — Ideal or Memory

Comprehensive proposals for the protection of Hong Kong's environment were recently presented to the government by Environmental Resources Ltd., a UK-based company which specialises in environmental control and protection. This article examines the background to the report and outlines the ERL proposals for environmental control in Hong Kong.

FOR a territory of only 400 square miles and a population of over four and a half million, Hong Kong is remarkably unpolluted. But this is largely fortuitous, the result of favourable climatic conditions and our industrial structure. Strong tidal flows scour most of Hong Kong's coastline, with the exception of a few areas like Tolo Harbour and Junk Bay; prevailing winds and air currents help to prevent the build up of smog and smoke that is so common in many other large industrial cities; and the lack of natural resources coupled with a shortage of land for industrial development has led to the predominance of light industries and inhibited the establishment of 'dirty' industries where the risk of pollution is greater.

But if in overall terms pollution is not serious, and Hong Kong certainly compares favourably with many cities of a similar size, there is no reason for complacency. People generate pollution and with such overcrowding as exists in Hong Kong a certain amount of pollution is inevitable. Perhaps the most serious type of pollution in Hong Kong, in that it affects almost everybody, is noise — the constant cacophony of traffic, construction, aircraft, air-conditioners, transistor radios, mahjong games — and millions of voices. Research has shown that there is a definite connection between noise pollution and mental disorder, although of course some people are more susceptible than others.

Social problem

People also mean refuse and several hundred tons of *lap sap* are collected and disposed of in Hong Kong every day, much of it from streets and public places, despite the Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign which has been going for several years now.

Pollution is as much a social problem as crime or corruption and one where prevention is infinitely better than cure. Hong Kong does not as yet have an Independent Commission Against Pollution, but we do have the Environment Branch of the Secretariat, with its newly established Environmental Production Unit and the government is advised on environmental problems and policies by the Advisory Committee on Environmental Pollution (EPCOM), which is chaired by a prominent businessman and member of the Chamber's General Committee, John Marden.

EPCOM was established towards the end of 1973 by reconstituting the previous committees which advised the Governor on pollution — one for land and water and one for air pollution. EPCOM's terms of reference were, broadly, to keep under constant surveillance the state of the environment and to work out appropriate measures to combat pollution. It comprises 28 members, of whom 16 are from outside government.

EPCOM is divided into three sub-committees, for land and water, air and noise pollution, chaired by Gerry Forsgate, Walter Sulke and Henry Litton respectively. The membership of EPCOM and the sub-committees represents a fair balance between government and non-government interests and reflects the need to ensure that while the environment is adequately protected, the economy is also safe-guarded.

Water and land pollution includes refuse and sewage, oil pollution and industrial and agricultural waste. The Urban Services Department is responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse. Two methods of disposal are used in Hong Kong — incineration and controlled tipping. The two government incinerators at Kennedy Town and Laichikok

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The USD is responsible for the collection and disposal of refuse



'Lap Sap Chung' on the beaches

dispose of more than 1,500 tons of refuse a day, while another 1,000 tons or so is dumped at a number of sites throughout Hong Kong. The reclamation of Gin Drinkers Bay (otherwise known as *Lap Sap Wan*) was an example of how something as unpleasant as refuse can be put to good use – or as they say in China, a bad thing is turned into a good thing. The whole bay was filled in with solid waste to a height of almost 100 feet above sea level and this will eventually be grassed over and used for recreational purposes.

Incineration is generally preferable to tipping, although incinerators create their own pollution problem, particularly when they are right next to crowded housing estates as they are in Hong Kong. Fortunately, however, the smoke from incineration is relatively harmless.

Pig waste

A major source of pollution in the New Territories is poultry and pig waste. NT farmers keep their pigs in sties with concrete floors which are cleaned by hosing. Apart from requiring about 10 gallons of precious water per pig per day, this operation also results in gross pollution to stream courses. (It has been estimated that the north-west New Territories could yield up to 90 million cubic metres of water per day if the streams were less polluted.) It is technically possible to treat the pig wastes to produce highly effective manure, and this is done on a very large scale in China, but since other forms of fertiliser are readily available in Hong Kong, and since there is insufficient land in the New Territories – or if you like, too many pigs – to

take all the manure that would thus be produced, such an operation is not really viable.

The Agricultural and Fisheries Department has, however, had a little more success with poultry manure and estimates that in 1976 nearly 50 per cent of this manure was re-used either as fertiliser or as a source of nutrients in fish ponds. Makes one think a little however about these succulent fresh water fish so popular in Hong Kong!!

Psychological disorders

As any swimmer can tell you, about 90 per cent of Hong Kong's effluent is discharged directly into the sea. To a large extent this is dispersed by strong currents without causing any serious environmental effects although the aforesaid swimmers do suffer sometimes from psychological disorders caused by near contact. However, specific types of pollution may present a hazard; in particular, toxic metals may accumulate and sea food may be contaminated. At present few controls are exercised over the discharge of effluents.

It is the job of the Marine Department to keep our harbour clean and fragrant. The department operates a daily harbour cleansing service and anybody found guilty of dumping rubbish in the harbour is liable to a fine of up to \$20,000 and imprisonment for six months. Nevertheless, last year a daily average of 11½ tons of refuse was recovered from the harbour and typhoon shelters. Penalties are to be substantially increased in the near future. Sadly also, it must be conceded that the word fragrant is not entirely appropriate to describe harbour waters.



The former tanneries near Sheung Shui



One of the Marine Department's Pollution Control launches



Oil pollution on Lamma Island

To combat oil spills the Marine Department keeps stocks of oil booms and dispersants, and up to 20 government craft can be mobilised and equipped with pumps and spraying equipment at short notice. An oil pollution contingency plan enables all government departments, commercial interests and auxiliary and defence forces to be aware of the procedures for dealing with a major oil spill and the equipment available.

Air pollution

The major sources of air pollution in Hong Kong are the power stations, the incinerators, the desalter and of course the nearly 200,000 motor vehicles on the roads. The whole of the territory is now covered by smoke control legislation, under which emissions of smoke are strictly controlled. The government has from time to time conducted campaigns against dirty exhaust emissions but this remains a perennial problem and legislation is difficult to enforce.

Air pollution is monitored by the Labour Department's air pollution control unit. Records last year showed a continued reduction in the level of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. The Labour Department takes the view that offering constructive advice is preferable to stringent enforcement of the law, but persistent offenders are prosecuted and last year there were more than 71 prosecution cases with fines ranging from \$75 to \$2,000.

Noise pollution is a major problem in Hong Kong, but it is difficult to define, let alone legislate against. Obviously a certain level of noise is inevitable in a crowded, bustling metropolis like Hong Kong. Nevertheless, measures can be taken to reduce the level substantially, both through legislation and its enforcement and, undoubtedly more effective in the long run, through education of the public. There are currently controls on construction noise between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. and there is a virtual ban in Hong Kong on night flying. Legislation has also been passed to permit prosecution of the owners of noisy air conditioners and ventilators. There is no legislation however against factory owners whose workers are subjected to excessive noise, but the Commissioner for Labour may, if he thinks fit, order 'special precautions' to be adopted by the employer.

Borrowing legislation

The Environment Branch was established in 1973 with a view to eventually formulating a comprehensive policy towards the control and protection of the environment,

including wide ranging legislation. However, before such a comprehensive policy could be established a thorough study had to be carried out and the feasibility of various proposed measures had to be closely examined. It is unwise simply to borrow legislation from other countries, however well this may have worked. At the end of 1974 the government appointed Environmental Resources Ltd. to carry out such a study. ERL was chosen because of its experience, expertise and knowledge of measures adopted in other countries.

ERL's brief was to 'advise on the principles to be incorporated into a general Environmental Protection Ordinance for Hong Kong covering all aspects of pollution on land and sea, in the air and from excessive noise, having regard, (firstly) to the different approaches being applied in the UK, USA, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Europe and elsewhere in the world where pollution control legislation and practice has been established; (secondly) to the present state of the environment, the existing pollution problems, the controls already provided and exercised under existing legislation and organisations and the possible future sources of pollution in Hong Kong; and (thirdly), the present stage of social, economic, agricultural and industrial development and the future trends in Hong Kong'.

ERL were required to advise on a programme of legislation and the organisation required to enforce such legislation and to monitor and control pollution. They were also asked to draw up a detailed strategy for the introduction of such legislation, its phased application and enforcement and the detailed procedure for the inspection and control of discharges and emissions as appropriate.

ERL's study was unique. Although many countries have examined pollution problems and produced legislation, this has tended to be done on a piece-meal basis and nowhere else has such a comprehensive study been carried out. Indeed, it is doubtful whether such a study would be feasible in major industrial countries like the USA, the UK and Japan.



Restaurant chimney in the midst of public housing.

The ERL report, published at the end of September, recommends five new Ordinances covering the control of air, noise and water pollution, the disposal of solid wastes and the preparation of environmental impact statements. It is hoped that after a trial period these will be consolidated into a comprehensive Environmental Protection Ordinance.

The proposed legislation, if adopted, will be introduced on a phased basis, probably starting in 1978. The general strategy is to contain the present situation in the short term and aim for a gradual improvement in the longer term, say, during the next five to ten years. To achieve this a system of flexible environmental controls is proposed, backed up by a strengthened technical organisation to make the controls effective.

Little effect

What will the proposed legislation mean to local industrialists? In the short term it is envisaged that the controls will have little effect on existing industry except in a small number of special cases. It is proposed that certain processes should be registerable where the emissions are potentially hazardous. These processes may include chemicals and petro-chemicals, the manufacture of bricks and cement, metal smelting and refining, the manufacture of batteries and the incineration of toxic substances. But the controls will mainly affect new developments.



Construction noise - a constant hazard

The government is well aware of the need to distinguish between pollution which, although unpleasant, is an unavoidable by-product of urban and industrial development and what is actually or potentially harmful to health and the environment, or unacceptable in social terms. Obviously priority is given to preventing the latter form of pollution — which is not, however, to say that efforts must not be made to improve the environment in aesthetic terms. Considerable

care must be taken to maintain a reasonable balance between improving the quality of the environment on the one hand and allowing for the continued expansion of industry and commerce on the other.

On the recommendation of ERL the government last year established an Environmental Protection Unit within the Environment Branch. The responsibilities of the EPU, as recommended by ERL include: the preparation of the environmental protection programme; the development of environmental quality and emission guidelines; securing the implementation of the controls and ensuring the environmental objectives are achieved; ensuring the necessary information is collected and analysed; ensuring the effective use of resources; advising on training, research and monitoring, enforcement, pollution control and coordinating waste management; and the implementation of environmental impact statement procedures.

The Director of the EPU, Dr. Stuart Reed told *The Bulletin* that the main function of the unit was to act as a central coordinating body for the overall anti-pollution strategy. 'Several different government departments are involved in control of the environment — the Agricultural and Fisheries Department deals with farmers, the Labour Department with air pollution and so on. It is important that the relevant departments continue to exercise the controls, but there must be centralised coordination.'

Expertise

The EPU is in the process of recruiting experts to be responsible for work in each of the categories of pollution — water, land, air and noise.

The ERL report is an impressive document containing more than 300 pages and although expensive it makes interesting reading for those concerned with the future of our environment — and that should include most people. *

The report concludes with three points:

'Firstly, an effective environmental protection programme would be of considerable benefit to the health and amenity of the community.'

'Secondly, a cleaner environment is likely to prove more attractive to tourists, service industries and even manufacturers, upon whom Hong Kong depends.'

'Thirdly, within the confines of our work, it has not been possible nor was it the intention that we should provide solutions to all of Hong Kong's environmental problems. It has, however, been our aim to provide the *structure* that will enable the Hong Kong Government to take the necessary action and respond to changes in environmental priorities and economic constraints.'

We would like to add a further point: the fight against pollution can only really be successful in the long run when the government, the business sector and the community as a whole are working in concert and where appropriate legislation is backed up by education and publicity. It is imperative to avoid a situation where industry, or any other sector of the community, feels that the government is 'getting at them'. But of the importance of protecting our environment there should never be any doubt. **MP**

* The final report by ERL is available from the government at a cost of \$200.

\$1.2 million well spent

THE President of the Hong Kong Conservancy Association, Dr. L.K. Ding, told *The Bulletin* that in his opinion the \$1.2 million spend by the government in commissioning the ERL study was money well spent.

'It is a good start. It is always difficult to strike a balance between economics and the environment, but I think the ERL report does this very well.

'My main concern is that once the legislation is introduced people will find loopholes in the law. People who feel that the law obstructs their ability to make profits will try various ways and means to get around it. The greatest opposition to new legislation always comes from those whose profits will be affected. Who opposed the recent legislation to give more benefits to workers? It was the industrialists, the management. Similarly there is bound to be opposition to the new anti-pollution laws from businessmen and industrialists.'

Dr. Ding believed that the biggest pollution problem in Hong Kong is that of noise. 'I don't think Hong Kong can afford to worry too much about "sight pollution", the aesthetic angle. That would be too much of a luxury. But noise pollution is a serious problem and I think there is much that can be done to minimise it. For example, the biggest noise polluter is the airport, so if Hong Kong builds a second airport noise pollution will be eased for the hundreds of thousands of people who now live near Kai Tak.

'Then there's construction noise, and traffic noise, and the sheer noise created by so many people living in a small area. The MTR should help to cut down the amount of traffic noise. But I don't think the problem of noise has been sufficiently discussed.

'Looking towards the future, I think the biggest problem is likely to be air pollution caused by industry, traffic and so on. Here I think Government and commerce and industry should get together to consider the possibility of staggered working hours, instead of everybody going to work and leaving work at the same time which causes congestion as well as pollution. And why should everybody take their day off on a Sunday? I think it's only a matter of time before such a system comes about. I'm sure it can be arranged so that work is not disrupted. Mankind has solved more difficult problems!

The biggest problem

'It is wrong to be complacent about pollution and say "Hong Kong is not too bad compared with some other cities". A few years ago people used to say "corruption is not too bad in Hong Kong compared with some other Asian cities", but the eventual recognition that corruption was a serious problem led to the establishment of the ICAC and an all-out war against corruption. I think in a way environmental pollution is even more serious than corruption, because it affects everybody.'

EPCOM, of which Dr. Ding is a member, was designed to act as a watchdog to ensure that the fight against pollution does not fizzle out. But if EPCOM does not fulfill that role, says Dr. Ding, then the Hong Kong Conservancy Association will.

'Now that we have the legislation, or soon will have, we must ensure that it is observed. We will not allow the government to go to sleep.'

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Africa/Hong Kong Trade

Big Problems, Big Potential



Optimists say that Africa is a continent with enormous potential for economic development, while realists point out that the political, economic and social problems facing Africa are equally enormous. And they may both be correct.

IT is probably fair to say that the outside world knows and understands less about Africa than about any other developing continent, including Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. The international media tends to concentrate on the sensational and immediate aspects – the eccentricities of pompous dictators, the famines, the internecine wars, the civil unrest of southern Africa, the national and ethnic contradictions, and so on. This is perhaps understandable, but it is also a great pity, since the efforts being made by African countries, both individually and collectively, to develop their economies and intergrate their populations are likely to be of far greater and more lasting significance than the behaviour of a dictator.

Decolonisation of Africa is now virtually complete. Some countries have made substantial progress and can boast of many concrete achievements since they emerged from under the colonial yoke. Others have done less well. It is of course a vast continent with a huge diversity of climate, geography, culture, languages and traditions. The total population of Africa is more than 400 million – even if one

excludes the predominantly Arab countries north of the Sahara it is still more than 300 million.

There are 51 African countries (how many can you name?) ranging from the ridiculously small to the very large (Nigeria, Zaire, South Africa, etc.). Many are rich in natural resources, and this together with their strategic importance tends to make them targets for superpower control and interference, particularly if they are politically unstable (Angola being a prime example).

Potential

Although Africa's potential is indeed enormous, there is also a long list of imbalances, inequalities and historical injustices waiting to be put right. This is a process which is likely to take some time.

Many of these imbalances resulted from decades, sometimes even centuries, of political and economic exploitation by colonising powers. Colonial rule brought to Africa some benefits, such as improved communications. But at the same time it planted the seeds of many of the problems with

which Africa is now faced, problems which are often attributed to factors like African 'tribalism' or even 'immaturity'. There of course 'tribal' problems in many areas of Africa, but there are many other factors and forces at work too.

One of the greatest problems results from the fact that some national boundaries were drawn up arbitrarily, with little regard for ethnic or economic logic. Almost every country in Africa, with only two or three exceptions, now has boundaries which enclose a bewildering multiplicity of different peoples, each with their own culture, language and traditions. Some countries would appear to be quite unviable as separate economic entities, but national differences make the formation of large inter-state groupings far more difficult in practice than it would appear to be on paper.

The typical one or two product economy of African countries is also an inherited problem. The industrialised countries fuelled their development in part by purchasing cheap raw materials and agricultural commodities from their colonies. There seemed little reason to build up diversified and



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balanced economies in countries in Africa or Asia. Unfortunately, dependence on commodities like cocoa, coffee, copper or phosphate, whose prices are prone to large fluctuations from one year to the next, makes long term economic planning extremely difficult and this inhibits the development of a more diversified economic structure.

Restructuring

Although the colonial era has almost come to an end in Africa one feels that the restructuring of the continent's political and economic structure, its transformation into something uniquely and viably African, has only just begun.

Even now most African countries retain strong economic links with their former colonial masters, but many are making efforts to move away from this dependence, to diversify markets and sources of supply and to seek foreign participation in their industrial development. And this is where Hong Kong comes into the picture. Africa provides opportunities to local traders looking for new markets, as well as for manufacturers who want to establish plants overseas.

Africa is already quite a substantial market for Hong Kong. Last year it accounted for four per cent of our overall domestic exports, which put it on a roughly equal footing with countries like Canada and Australia. By comparison, the Middle East (including North Africa) took 3.6 per cent of our exports and Latin America

only 1.6 per cent. It is less important as a supplier, however, accounting for only 1.6 per cent of our imports last year.

Two countries — Nigeria and South Africa — take nearly half of Hong Kong's exports to Africa, while the remaining 40 or so countries south of the Sahara account for the other half. Our top 10 African markets are shown on this page. It is a revealing fact that all but of these are ex-British colonies where English is the lingua franca. By contrast, we sell very little to the French speaking countries of Africa (of which there are quite a few) even though some, like the Ivory Coast, have prosperous economies and considerable consumer purchasing power. Perhaps this might persuade some local entrepreneurs of the value of taking French lessons!

Our largest African market by far is Nigeria. Sales to Nigeria in 1976 were worth \$311 million and in the first eight months of this year they increased by 47 per cent. Nigeria is currently Hong Kong's 12th largest market and prospects for the next few years appear to be good.

The reasons for this success are well understood — in a word, oil, Nigeria has been floating on an oil boom, particularly since the massive oil price increases of 1973/74. It is also the most populous country in Africa, with a population of 72 million. Since 1973 our exports to Nigeria have increased by over 400 per cent. They would have increased by considerably more

but for the fact that Nigerian ports have suffered from chronic congestion (perhaps that should be indigestion). However, the congestion has eased somewhat this year.

Hong Kong's exports to Nigeria consist largely of clothing (38 per cent), watches and clocks (six per cent), telecommunications apparatus (five per cent), household equipment (five per cent) and machinery and appliances (five per cent).

After oil

To its credit, Nigeria is not content to forever remain a one-product economy. The oil wells will eventually run dry, and when they do Nigeria wants to have a strong agricultural and industrial base. A large part of the profits from oil are therefore being invested in these areas and under the 1975-80 five year plan the government is planning to spend more than US\$48 billion on development.

The Bulletin asked the Nigerian Commissioner in Hong Kong, Mr. M. Abubakar, whether he was concerned by the huge imbalance in trade between Hong Kong and Nigeria. He replied, pragmatically, that while he was not happy about it, the fact is that Hong Kong is able to export many things which the Nigerian people are keen to buy, whereas there is little at the present time that Nigeria can offer Hong Kong that is not available from sources nearby. Commodities which Hong Kong does require, such as cotton, are currently in short supply in Nigeria. Although a traditional exporter

AFRICA AT A GLANCE

(Selected countries)

Country	Population (m)	Capital (or principal city)	Value of Trade (US\$ m)	Country	Population (m)	Capital (or principal city)	Value of Trade (US\$ m)
Nigeria	72	Lagos (pop. 2.7 m)	Imports: \$2,722 Exports: \$9,560 (1974)	Uganda	11	Kampala (332,000)	Imports: \$ 213 Exports: \$ 327 (1974)
South Africa	25	Johannesburg (1.5 m)	Imports: \$7,630 Exports: \$5,411 (1975)	Ghana	9	Accra (700,000)	Imports: \$ 819 Exports: \$ 752 (1975)
Zaire	25	Kinshasa (2 m)	Imports: \$ 783 Exports: \$1,240 (1974)	Ivory Coast	5.6	Abidjan (600,000)	Imports: \$ 969 Exports: \$1,210 (1975)
Tanzania	15	Dar Es Salaam (430,000)	Imports: \$ 760 Exports: \$ 388 (1974)	Zambia	5	Lusaka (415,000)	Imports: \$ 783 Exports: \$1,407 (1974)
Kenya	13.5	Nairobi (650,000)	Imports: \$ 692 Exports: \$ 353 (1975 Jan.-Sept.)	Liberia	1.6	Monrovia (180,000)	Imports: \$ 232 Exports: \$ 297 (1975 Jan.-Sept.)

of cotton, Nigeria had to import cotton this year as a result of bad harvests, pests and increased demand at home.

However, Mr. Abubakar warned that as Nigeria builds up its own industries it will be able to manufacture substitutes for many of the products currently imported and the government may even be forced to introduce some import restrictions to protect newly developing industries.

In contrast to many African countries where trade is handled by state agencies, the bulk of Nigeria's foreign trade remains in the hands of private businessmen. Unfortunately like all trading territories, they appear to include some rather untrustworthy characters and local businessmen who do not have established trading links in Nigeria would be well advised to ascertain the standing of Nigerian companies before doing business. The Nigerian Commission in Hong Kong is able to help in this regard.

A number of Hong Kong companies have established manufacturing facilities in Nigeria. According to estimates by the Nigerian Commission, Hong Kong investment in Nigeria is valued in the region of \$500 million and is mainly in textiles, plastics, enamelware and steel rolling mills. One of the largest textile factories in Nigeria is owned by local entrepreneur, Mr. Cha Chi-ming. The attractions offered by Nigeria to the prospective investor include low labour costs, low-cost leases on industrial estates and special tax and low duty incentives. With such benefits as these local manufacturers should be queuing up to invest in Nigeria!

A very significant development in

West Africa was the establishment in 1975 of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This has created a market of 16 countries and 140 million people in West Africa. ECOWAS is modelled on the EEC and goods can move freely between countries without any duty being paid. In addition, the Lome Convention signed with the EEC provides access for the agricultural products of Africa.

Hong Kong's second largest market in Africa is the Republic of South Africa. For a long time it was our largest African market but since 1974 sales have declined as a result of continued economic recession and depressed prices of gold — one of South Africa's main export commodities. The hostility of other countries both inside and outside Africa to the policies pursued by the South African government have probably contributed to the country's economic problems.

During the first eight months of this year Hong Kong's exports to South Africa fell by 45 per cent. Leading items were clothing, toys, watches and clocks and footwear.

On the other hand, South Africa has continued to be an important supplier to Hong Kong, particularly of diamonds for our jewellery industry. Imports from South Africa are running at about twice the level of our sales there and during the first eight months of this year increased by 55 per cent.

Apart from diamonds and other precious and semi-precious stones, other items we buy from South Africa include vegetable oils, paper and paperboard and cotton.

In addition to Nigeria and South Africa, other leading markets for Hong Kong in Africa include Ghana, Tan-

zania, Liberia and Kenya. Tanzania and Uganda are also important suppliers of raw cotton for our textile industry.

The Chamber's Africa Area Committee, currently chaired by Mr. J.F. Holmes of Gilman's, has been actively promoting Hong Kong's trade with Africa since its establishment in 1972. Mr. Holmes is an 'old Africa hand'. He lived a total of 23 years in East Africa — Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and his knowledge of Africa has been of great assistance to the Committee in its work.

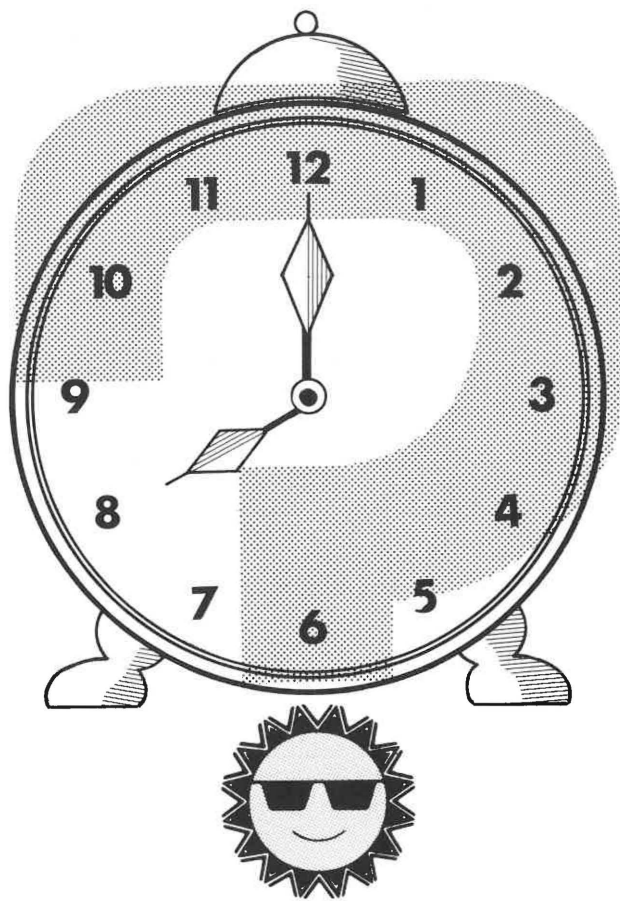
The Chamber has organised several business groups to Africa and another two are planned for 1978 — to Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya in April and then to South Africa in June.

These promotions help in developing Hong Kong's trade with Africa. To illustrate, the business group to Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia earlier this year netted orders to the tune of about \$26 million. However, *The Bulletin* believes that Hong Kong could sell more to Africa if it had a permanent office on the continent and the best location for such an office would probably be Lagos. The Trade Development Council used to maintain a small representative office in Nairobi (Kenya), but it did not prove worthwhile. Perhaps the time has come for the TDC to consider looking at Africa again. The Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) has no less than five offices south of the Sahara (Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya).

Hong Kong should at least be able to manage one!

HK'S LEADING TRADING PARTNERS IN AFRICA (HK\$M)

	Imports			Domestic Exports			Re-exports		
	JAN.-AUG. 1977	JAN.-AUG. 1976	% Change	JAN.-AUG. 1977	JAN.-AUG. 1976	% Change	JAN.-AUG. 1977	JAN.-AUG. 1976	% Change
Nigeria	6.91	4.31	+ 60	254.92	173.82	+47	93.09	89.41	+ 4
South Africa	261.12	167.96	+ 55	104.93	189.44	-45	25.43	26.28	- 3
Kenya	19.60	23.85	- 18	32.98	23.89	+38	3.73	1.83	+104
Ghana	4.63	5.87	- 21	30.72	22.43	+37	60.78	27.00	+125
Tanzania	90.35	54.46	+ 66	25.60	18.37	+39	6.07	4.82	+ 26
Zaire	2.66	11.12	- 76	21.00	20.21	+ 4	7.43	3.46	+115
Liberia	-	-	-	19.66	12.04	+63	3.99	3.34	+ 19
Zambia	0.57	1.69	- 66	14.48	14.46	+ 0.1	5.25	5.98	- 12



Chamber Bosses Prefer Alternating Summer/Winter Time for Hong Kong

— but some
employees say
Stay with GMT+8

How did you enjoy your summer? Replies to the question might vary from 'What summer? As soon as I leave the office and get home it's dark' to 'Great! I've been able to get up bright and early and beat the rush hour traffic into town.'

ALL Chamber Members will be well aware of the amount of space in correspondence columns of newspapers devoted to the great Time Systems Debate. Should the experiment with a Standard Time of GMT+8 be retained? Or should we revert to the previous system of an alternating Summer and Winter time, allowing us to have an extra hour of daylight during summer evenings? Or should we even attempt to get this extra hour of evening light all year round?

Before the experiment to stay on standard time for 1977, the Chamber was approached for a view on the commercial implications of this move. And indeed even prior to 1976, the Government had from time to time asked for the implications for business of adopting different time systems.

It has always been difficult to give a sound and reasoned answer to this question. There are certain types of business — banking, stock broking and airlines are three examples — that do have a definite preference for one or other system, in that it allows them to

communicate more easily with overseas contacts. Others however find that they can operate just as easily no matter what the clock says. But the choice has often become a matter of personal preferences, and to some extent, what people are used to.

With the experience of one summer at a standard GMT+8 behind us, Government called for public statements of preferences, and the Chamber thought once again that a sounding of membership opinion might be helpful, to see if the experience of the past few months had highlighted any particular advantages or disadvantages.

Preferences into Account

In view of the previous failures to reach a firm consensus, we thought however that it might be advisable to avoid asking specifically for a *business* point of view, although we did not wish considerations of business efficiency to be excluded from our poll. Equally, we felt that there would be

difficulties in taking a complete poll of Chamber members — how for example could one weight the findings of, say, the Hongkong Bank against those of a small flatted factory? We therefore decided that the best approach was to ask those active on Chamber committees to give their views, and we left it to them to decide whether to take personal or staff preferences into account or simply to consider questions of business efficiency.

The result was an overall victory for the alternating system.

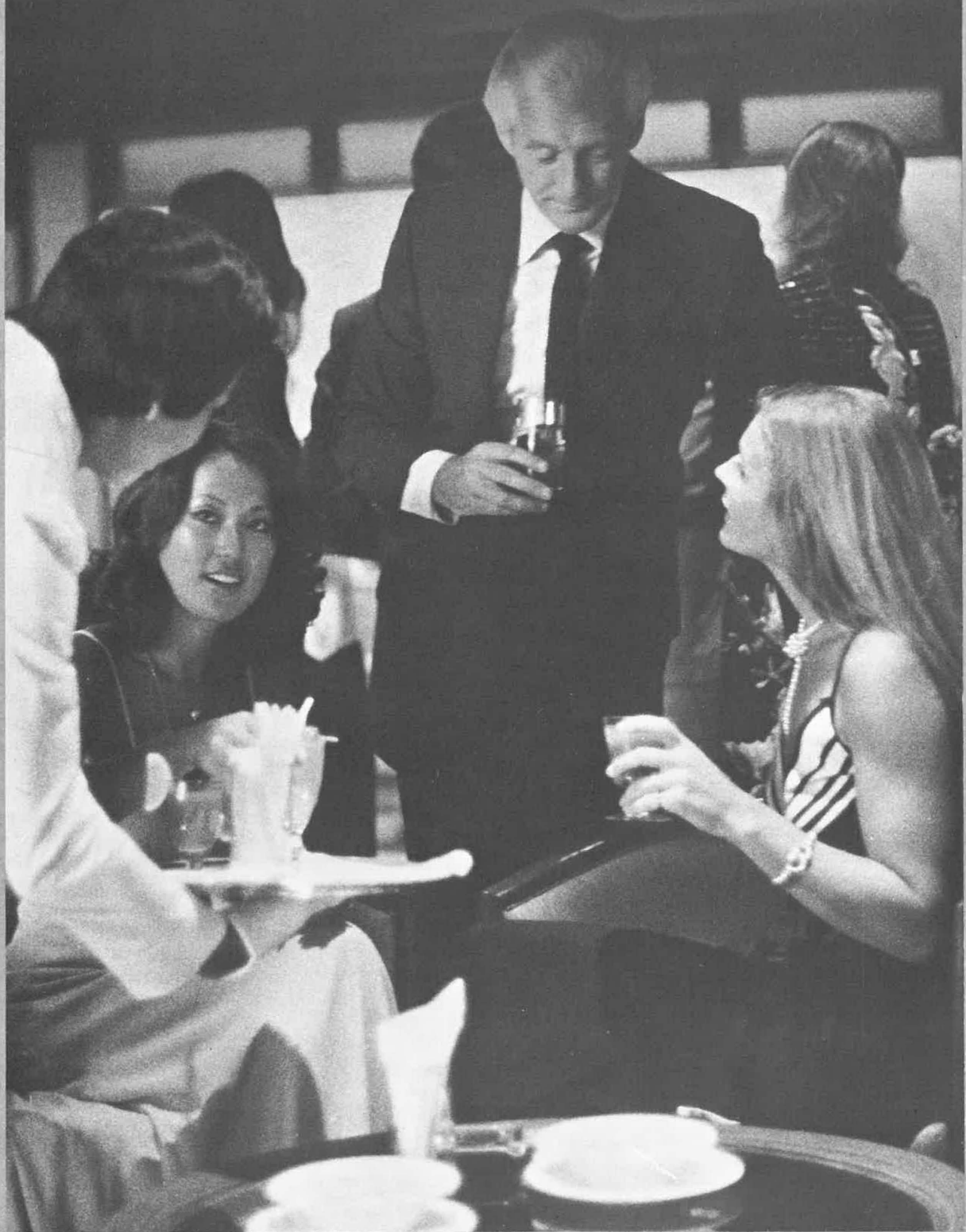
— an overall majority of 59 per cent of those participating favoured an alternating system of GMT+8 during winter months, and GMT+9 during summer months.

— 30 per cent favoured a standard system based on GMT+8.

— 11 per cent favoured a standard system based on GMT+9. (No other alternatives were given in the questionnaire, although an insignificant minority added comments regarding the desirability of GMT+8½).

We must stress that these findings

Scene in the Social Pages



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are subject to limitations, and in particular, it would be difficult to claim these results are "representative" in statistical terms, since as explained no attempt was made to weight companies replying, in terms of number of staff, size of investment, or importance of operation, etc.

Secondly, we do not wish to claim that the views put forward are necessarily a reflection of "commercial" opinion. We did not ask companies to state a corporate viewpoint, although some have clearly done so. It is equally clear that in other cases staff views were taken into account, either through consultation with a staff committee, or by a sounding from key executives or by some other means.

Evidence

Where it was evident that companies have spoken with their corporate voice, rather than simply recording personal or staff preferences, the usual vote was in favour of the alternating system, and on this, admittedly somewhat thin, evidence, this appears to be the system most favoured by business *per se*.

On the other hand, a leading employer in the commercial field with a total staff of 3181 employees polled all staff members, with the results:—
— an overall majority of 64 per cent favoured the retention of GMT+8
— 19 per cent favoured a standard system based on GMT+9
— 17 per cent favoured the alternating winter/summer system.

The company concerned added that from a commercial point of view, the alternating system was of advantage. There would seem, therefore, to be some difference of preference here between bosses and employees.

One of the major undertakings in public transport replied from a corporate point of view with the following comment:— 'comparisons of occurrences (i.e. unscheduled events like accidents, lamp failures during peak periods, etc.) monitored during the present and the alternating systems have indicated that the latter is better'. (It was assumed 'present system' in this context permanent GMT+8).

Although the numbers involved are too small to indicate anything other than coincidence, it was noticeable

that many of those voting for the GMT+9 standard time were of continental European origin, and several claimed that their experience of this system (which is probably the least directly familiar of the alternatives as far as the average HK resident is concerned) left no doubt as to its advantages.

Differing systems

Apart from these points, it is impossible to draw any common pattern to the trend of replies in respect of size or type of company or whether it was a local or an international company. In each case, the differing systems had supporters among both larger and smaller business, among industrial and commercial concerns, and among Chinese and expatriate businessmen. There was for example no evidence that expatriates tended to favour one system whilst local people preferred another.

The Chamber has passed the findings of this sample survey to Government, in the hope that it will assist in these deliberations. *HG*

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Our other interests include retail trading, manufacturing, general trading, insurance, computers and the Cross-Harbour Tunnel.



Look into what the Wheelock Marden Group is doing today and thinking about for tomorrow.

The Chamber Worldwide

The Americas

In conjunction with the Chamber's Industrial Affairs and Industrial Development Fund Management Committees, the North America and the Central & South America Area Committees played host to a Trade and Investment Delegation from the City of San Jose, California on October 7th.

The North America Committee invited Mr. Robert Stern from the Commercial Unit of the US Consulate to address its members on the forthcoming 'American Fortnight' at a meeting held on October 18th.

The Chairman of the Committee, Geoffrey Archer, and the Vice-Chairman, Robert Choa, also received trade and investment mission from South Carolina on October 24th.

The Central & South America Area Committee has decided to arrange a Business Group to Panama and Venezuela next Spring, probably April. The Chamber organised a moderately successful mission to these countries last November and learned something in the process about organising further missions to this area.

Herb Minich, the Chamber's Representative in the U.S. continued to report back on his many discussions with U.S. industrial companies encouraging them to consider Hong Kong as an attractive site for an industrial operation. He was also active in setting up arrangements for a short speaking tour in Pittsburgh for the Hon. James M.H. Wu, Legislative Councillor, Member of the Chamber's General Committee and Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries. The talks were delivered in early November.

Sri Lanka

On October 18th the South Asia/Pacific Area Committee, chaired by

Mr. A. Gopi, met the visiting Minister of Trade and Industry for Sri Lanka, Mr. Lalith Althulathmudali who was in Hong Kong in order to promote the newly established free trade zone near



Colombo. Mr. Athulathmudali (left) is pictured with Mr. Gopi (right) and a former President of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, Mr. P.C.S. Fernando.

South Africa

Jonathan Chang of the Chamber's Administration Division was recently in Africa to make arrangements for the Chamber business group scheduled for next June. Mr. Chang was a guest on an SAA inaugural flight from Hong Kong to Johannesburg.

Japan

The seventh industrial investment promotion mission to be organised by the Chamber will begin work in Japan in November. Detailed arrangements are now being made. The mission will be led by the Director, Jimmy McGregor.

UK

Arrangements are proceeding for the Retail Stores Buying Mission to Britain next February. A meeting of

the Ad-Hoc Retailers Committee chaired by Daniel Koo was held on October 24th. Members interested in joining the Buying Mission are invited to contact Mrs. Veronica Hui (5-237177 Ext.30).

South Korea

The Chamber business group which visited Korea in October placed initial orders worth \$4.7 million, with further orders of more than \$7 million under negotiation. Items purchased by the group included knitted nylon fabric, PVC for footwear, stainless steel, holloware, diaries and lighters. Members of the group attended the Seoul Trade Fair and also held discussions with Government and business



organisations. The group leader, Mr. A.W. Howe, is pictured with the Director-General of the Bureau for International Trade Promotion, Mr. Noh Chin Shik.

EEC

The Chamber maintained correspondence with the German-based Foreign Trade Association which is in continual dialogue with the EEC authorities over their textile negotiating policies. The F.T.A. has argued very strongly for a more liberal approach.



Chamber News

November Additions

This month's new members are:

AMF Overseas Corporation – Far East
Alcorn Investment & Trading Co. Ltd.
Astec International Ltd.
Au Mei Lamps Co.
Aurora's International Trading Corporation
Bryanko Textile Industries Ltd.
CLW Electronics Ltd.
Charles & Company
Chubb (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Deutsche Bank AG
Eternal Trading Company
Fabri-Technic Engineering & Trading Co. Ltd.
Felton Chemicals (Asia) Ltd.
HLK Services Ltd.
Highford Company Limited
Hong Wo Co. Ltd.
Maersk Line (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Michael & Simon Co. Ltd.
Racoon Company Limited
Residents Import & Export Co.
Rockson Industries Ltd.
J. Roger Preston & Partners
Sun Wah Industrial Co.
Tyco (Hong Kong) Ltd.
S.C. Wong Jewellery Products (Far East) Ltd.

New Arrivals Course

A further 'HK For New Arrivals Course' will be held on November 29, 30 and December 1 at the Furama Hotel.

The course was introduced by the Chamber in 1973 in order to introduce newly-arrived business expatriates to aspects of Hong Kong outside their immediate jobs. Courses have been held regularly for the past five years and have proved highly popular.

*News, Events, Information
From Within and Around
The Chamber*

The emphasis of the course is on the life of the local community. An attempt is made to introduce the newcomer to the life of the local resident at work, at home, in the school etc.

The number of places on the course is strictly limited and enrolments are on a first-come-first-served basis.

The cost of the course is \$600, inclusive of meals and transport. If you're interested, please call 5-237177 Ext. 37.

Chamber Appointments

The following appointments have recently been approved by the General Committee:

G.C.H. Shakerley as Chamber representative to the Port Executive Committee

John Lau as Chamber representative to the Hong Kong Shippers' Council

The Hon. S.L. Chen to the Industrial Affairs Committee to succeed Mr. J.L. Peacock.

Come & Meet A Futurologist

Herman Kahn, Founder and Director of the Hudson Institute, USA, will be speaking to Amcham and Chamber Members at a luncheon at the Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom on Wednesday, December 7, 1977.

The Hudson Institute has an impressive record of original research covering a broad variety of economic and public policy areas, and its research has attracted world-wide interest. Mr. Kahn is a pioneer in 'futurology' and devotes much of his attention to considering the outcome of long term cultural, economic, political and technological changes. His talk will be on the theme of some special limitations to future growth.

For further details please call the Chamber.

Publications

Comprehensive Exporters Data Book Now Available In Chamber

The Dun and Bradstreet Publication Exporters Encyclopaedia is a basic source book for all exporters and gives comprehensive information concerning official regulations and economic background, for virtually all world markets on a country by country basis. This information is regularly updated by the issue of supplementary papers.

A copy of this useful publication is available for reference in the Chamber's library.

Bits & Pieces

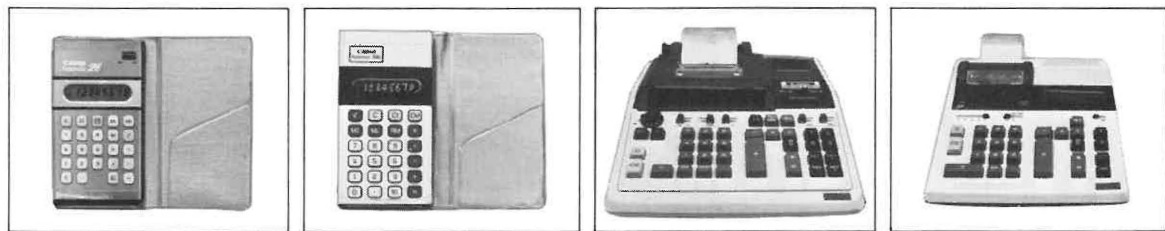
International Chamber of Commerce Starts Its HK Programme

As members may already know the International Chamber of Commerce recently established a Hong Kong office. One of its first local activities will be a series of seminars to be held in the Furama Hotel.

Scheduled for November 17 is a seminar on Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits led by Bernard S. Wheble, CBE. Mr. Wheble will also be speaking the following day, November 18, on International Payment Problems. Both seminars are whole-day sessions with fees being \$500 for each.

For more details, please call ICC Services Asia Pacific Ltd. at 5-251189-0.

錦囊四十週年 幸運抽獎機不可失



錦囊為慶祝成立四十週年，特別舉行幸運抽獎，送出多項豐富巨獎：
 頭獎一名：雙人參加日本七天豪華旅行團，價值\$5,300元，二獎兩名：每名可得錦囊AE-1相機一架，並附送閃光燈，各值\$1,760元，三獎三名：每名可免費參加菲律賓七天豪華旅行團，各值\$1,350元，

特別獎一百名，每名可得價值\$100元的錦囊禮券一張，獎品總值二萬餘元。參加辦法非常簡單：由現在起至七八年一月十五日，



購買時請認明機背上附貼有號碼之紅色抽獎券，方為有效。

閣下只須購買任何一款錦囊計算機，即可獲得機背後附貼有號碼的抽獎券一張，抽獎日期定於一九七八年一月十六日舉行，中獎名單將於一九七八年一月十九日在南華早報，英文虎報，明報及星島晚報公佈。
 選購任何一款錦囊計算機，均可大有機會中巨獎，機不可失，萬勿錯過！

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紡織！紡織！紡織！



執行董事 麥理覺專欄

自從一九五八年，由不滿演變為指責香港紡織工業胆敢利用價廉質高的線紗及布匹去滲透英國市場以來，我們不時聽到「紡織」二字。我當時是任職於工商處的。一九七五年我離開工商處時我們仍忙於在世界各地為繼續維護我們的主要工業而奔命。最近幾年裏我們給予差不多每一個主要的入口國家一定限額來限制我們的紡織品出口。

六十年代初期入口國家託辭說要得到喘息的機會，藉此作部份節省及重組他們的紡織工業，並且說沒有一種保護政策能令「產品低劣的生產者」能再度有競爭力的。早期我們頗相信這些解釋而逐漸進入雙邊的自我限制。一經實施，這種限制永不會取消，只有西德政府（歐洲共市的唯一自由貿易國！）已令人驚奇地數次讓步，某種程度的限制已不再需要了。其他國家則不然，特別是當最容易濫用世界貿易如全球配額或單方面入口限額等方法去恐嚇供應國的時候。

固然香港不會有過任何討價還價的本錢，或任何足以影響素來恃強凌弱的大哥們的政治性或經濟性利器。我們依賴我們的權利（是「關稅及貿易總協定」所賦予範圍權利），其含義為平等交易及信用。這兩個含義活像國際貿易與外交之基石，並為「恐嚇者」所懼畏的事，因為他們也害怕比他們更強者會以其人之道還治其人之身。

可惜這種害怕隨着入口國家製造了國際性工具去作合法搶掠之後已消失過半了。多種纖維協定（多餘纖維協定）差不多一開始已運用不當；紡織品監察委員會（紡織品睡覺委員會）為追求平等而設，但表現得毫無用處。現在的歐洲共同市場（歐洲共同保護市場），蔑視律法者，在本文脫稿時很像已決定扮演一個專橫的紡織羅賓漢，但却偷取窮者的東西給予更窮者來維護富人的財產。當然我可能是錯的，但我頗認為香港最終也會在無可奈何之下與陳文聰簽下不平等之協定。很明顯地我們實在別無他方，而共市對比是瞭如指掌的。

這樣我們便步向國際貿易戰之深淵，一個沒有國際貿易法例、充滿保護主義的世界。而這個無情的爭戰是永無真正的勝利者的。共市大可空談維持紡織貿易秩序之重要性，但現在他們的紡織談判訓令與方針只會產生進一步的濫用和並非出自香港的貿易報復行動。

二十年來只重紡織業的政策已大大減少了政府決策者考慮促進及維護香港其他工業的時間。長期來的期待使我及其他人深深抱歉。我們曾多年私下地，公開地表示工業多元化及更強更有組織之工業促進工作是需要的。港督所委出的工業多元化特別委員會及其眾多素負聲望的成員對促進工作的先驅者是莫大的鼓舞。我希望不久就可以見到一連串的審評活動，隨之而來的是確定永久性的方法去促進及實踐有意義的工業多元化工作。

通往羅馬的路甚多，說不定「紡織」會帶領我們走上新開端和新工業的大路呢！



香的香港？



最近一間英國環境問題專業公司「環境資源有限公司」替政府完成了一份保護香港環境的建議書。本文是根據該建議書之主要內容而加以討論的。

在小小四百方哩上有四百五十萬人口的香港竟然不受環境污染的威脅，是因為良好的氣候及工業結構的原故吧！除了一小部份地區如吐露港及將軍澳外香港的海岸線受着强有力的潮水所沖洗；季候風和氣流趕散意欲聚集的廢氣（很多大工業城市均存在）；缺乏天然資源與工業用地逼使我們發展輕工業而避開污染程度較高的厭惡性工業。

香港人口密度這樣高，有一定的污染在所難免。或者可以說香港最嚴重的一種環境污染就是噪音，來自交通工具、建築工程、飛機、冷氣系統、收音機、麻雀戰及其他數不清的地方。噪音已被證實與神經失調是有些關係的。

經常的城市清潔運動並未能完全抑制街道上及公共場所的垃圾的產生，每日均有數百噸廢物被收集起來和處置。

正如罪惡一樣，環境污染是一個社會問題，預防永遠是勝於治療的。香港還未有一個港督特派環境專員，但我們有防止環境污染委員會，主席是傑出商人馬登先生，他也是總商會理事會的成員之一。

防止環境污染委員會成立於一九七

三年末，是由兩個曾指導政府有關土地、水和空氣污染問題的委員會重組而成。其主要責任是經常監督環境的情況和設法應付污染。成員共二十八人，包括十六個非政府委員在內。

防止環境污染委員會屬下有三個小組委員會，負責土地和水、空氣和噪音污染，主席為霍士傑先生、蘇偉澤先生、烈顯倫先生等。政府與非政府委員頗平均地分配於每個委員會之中，充份表現在保護環境之同時，經濟發展也不會被忽略。

水和土地污染包括廢物和溝渠、油類污染和工農業廢物等。市政事務署負責收集和處理廢物。處理方法有焚燒和控制的丟棄兩種。政府在堅尼地城和荔枝角建有兩個焚化爐，每日焚燒一千五



市政局負責清理廢物

百噸廢物，同時將另一千噸垃圾傾倒於香港一些特定的垃圾場之中。垃圾灣之建成證明了如何有效地運用了討厭的垃圾，由固體垃圾堆成的平地高出水平線一百呎之上，養了草後又可作其他的用途了。

雖然焚化爐仍有其污染問題，尤其是像香港這個人口密度甚高的地方。幸而那些焚化爐的煙是沒有大礙的。

新界的豬廢物

在新界最大的污染來源是家禽和豬廢物。通常豬隻飼養於三合土建成的場地而用水喉來清潔。因此除了每天每隻豬耗用了大約十加侖寶貴食水之外，沖洗後的水使溪澗污染了。（據估計如果減低溪澗之污染程度的話，新界西北部每天可得近九千萬立方公尺之食水）。理論上是可以將豬廢物再造成有用的肥田料的，不過因為很容易有其他肥田料供應並且地少的關係，「再造」的方法在香港是不化算的。相反地，漁農處則成功地在去年利用了一半家禽廢物來做魚飼料。

海水污染

隨便一位泳客都可以告訴你在香港大約百分之九十的溝渠是直接流入海裏，雖然泳客會偶感不安，但大部份污物卻因被強力的水流沖散而未造成嚴重的



海事處防止污染用之船隻之一

污染。可是有幾種污染物尤其是有毒的金屬都會使海產受到感染。直至今日為止政府仍沒有實施任何管制條例去處理渠道流入海中的污染問題。

清潔香港內港的工作由海事處負責，每天清潔一次。拋棄垃圾於海中的最高罰款為二萬元並監禁六個月。可是海事處仍在港內及各處避風塘檢拾起每天平均十一噸半的廢物。因此刑罰將會進一步提高。



南丫島之燃油污染

為撲救輪船漏油染污的海水，海事處經常準備足夠之滅油工具及化學物及隨時能夠調動約二十艘裝備有泵和噴射器的船隻，並通過緊急油污措施使所有政府部門、商界及後備防衛部門能在嚴重漏油事件發生時知道處理程序及可利用之工具。

空氣污染

在香港，空氣污染的主要來源是發電廠、焚化爐、海水化淡廠及在路上行走將近二十萬輛的汽車。現在香港均在煙及廢氣條例所管制之下。雖然政府曾不時發起抵抗廢氣的運動，但這始終是一個經常性的問題而難以澈底推行。

空氣污染是由勞工處防止空氣污染單位所監管的。去年紀錄顯示大氣中的二氧化硫有逐漸減低的趨勢。勞工處認為有建設性的輔助總比厲行法例好些，但去年仍有七十一宗檢控，罰款由七十五元至二千元不等。



位於公共房屋的酒家之煙囱

噪音

噪音是香港的一個頭痛的難題，當然在一個繁榮的大都市有一定的噪音是在所難免的事，但是我們可採取步驟如立法、執法及市民教育等去減輕這類噪音。現行的法例包括晚間八時至晨早六



建築業之噪音

時禁止建築聲響、禁止夜間飛行、處罰冷氣機抽氣扇噪音過大者等。雖然現時並未有任何法例去保護常受過量聲音困擾的工人，但勞工處長可在適當的情況下要求僱主採取特別設施的。

政府之努力

為了製定一套適合香港的完善的方針與法例，政府在一九七三年成立了環境科。但是在政策未決定之前詳細的調查報告是急需的。在七四年末政府委任環境資源有限公司去做一份研究報告，該公司被選中的原因是經驗豐富、專業化和熟知其他國家的政策等。它負責參考外國的步驟，注視現有的保護條例及現在和將來可能產生污染的來源，並根

據現在社會、經濟、農業和工業的發展及未來趨勢去確立一套適合我們的環境保護條例。同時編定條例施行的步驟及策略、檢查和控制污染情形等。該公司的研究報告是獨特的和未必適合其他先進工業國的。該報告在去年九月完成，提議設立五條新法例去管制空氣、聲浪和水的污染、固體廢物之棄置及準備環境影響之聲明等。希望經過一段試驗期後這些條款會被統一起來而成正式的環境保護條例。政府希望藉着一個特殊部門大約由一九七八年開始有效地逐漸分期推行那些頗有彈性的條例。



以前上水附近之皮革廠

建議對我們的影響

建議中的法例對本港工業有何影響呢？除了有些帶有討厭性廢物的工序需要登記外，暫時影響可以說不大。這些工序包括化學過程和石油化工、製磚和三合土、五金熔煉、電池製造和有毒物品之焚燒等。不過這些管制都是針對新發展而設的。

城市與工業越擴展，污染便隨之增加，但政府同時注視一切其他真正或含有傷害健康或危害自然環境的事物。阻止後者的發生並非說不需努力保持環境質素及美觀。我們應該向這兩方面平均發展。

政府接受了環境資源有限公司的建議，於去年在環境科之內設立了環境保護小組，依照建議籌備保護環境之程序；發展環境質素和排除廢物指示；確保環境管制和目的之實現；肯定所需的資料被收集和分析；有效利用資源；指導有關訓練、研究、監管、推行、污染控制和綜合性廢料控制和實現環境影響聲明過程等。

環境保護小組負責人聶德博士告訴工商月刊該小組的主要工作是統籌一切防止污染的戰略，並由漁農處負責農場，勞工處視察空氣污染等等。各部門繼續管制固然重要，但必須要統一的協調力量才能成功。

該小組現在聘請專家來港個別負責水、陸地、空氣和噪音的污染問題。

環境資源有限公司之報告書長達三百頁。雖然並不便宜（政府以二百元的價格發售），但對眾多關心我們將來的環境的人來說是值得一讀的。

建議書以三點來作總結：

（一）良好的環境保護計劃實為健康及舒暢之社會所不可或缺者。

（二）清潔的環境必然更受旅遊、服務及製造商所歡迎，而他們是香港的支柱。

（三）在我們的工作範圍內，我們從未意圖及能夠提供解決香港所有的環境問題。我們的目標只是令到政府能在我們的基礎結構上採取必要的行動，並能與改變中的環境問題及經濟束縛等取得協調。

我們希望再奉獻一點就是：

如果政府、商界及市民通力合作並且將法例教育及廣泛傳播給市民，將來才能夠成功地戰勝污染。我們應極力避免任何部份市民或工業界覺得政府只是對付他們，相反地應該使他們堅信保護我們環境的重要性。

善用了 一百二十萬

香港保護自然景物協會會長陳立僑醫生對工商月刊表示他個人認為政府運用了一百二十萬元去委託環境資源有限公司去作調查報告是值得的。他說：「這是一個好的開端。通常要達到經濟與環境兩者平衡並非易事，而該公司卻做到了。」又說：「我所最關心的就是法例一經施行，人們就會發現漏洞。如果他們認為法例阻礙他們謀利便會在法例方面尋求其他變通的辦法。極力反對新法例者通常是利潤受影響者。是誰反對最近給予工人較多利益的新法例呢？是工業家和管理階層。同樣地工商界將會反對新的防止污染條例。」

他相信香港最嚴重之污染是噪音。他繼續說：「我不認為香港能化費金錢去大事處理視覺污染。那是太奢侈了。但噪音（聲音污染）是一個嚴重的難題而我認為我們有很多方法去降低它的。例如，最大的聲音污染者是機場，所以如果香港興建第二個機場的話，住在啓德

附近成千上萬的居民便可獲得噪音的降低。」

「還有那些建築工程的聲響、交通噪音和居住太稠密的人聲等。地底鐵路應該有助於減輕噪音。但我認為噪音的問題並未真正澈底地加以討論過。」

空氣污染

「展望將來，我想最大的污染會轉移為工業與交通所造成的空氣污染。在此我希望政府與工商界携手研究有沒有辦法將工作時間分級開始和完結，使市民不在同一時間返工放工，此不獨減輕污染而且可以減少擠塞。同時為什麼大多數人都選擇星期日休息呢？我想實現這種系統只是時間問題而矣。我肯定我們可以安排到不致妨礙工作。比這更難的難題人類也能克服的！」

陳醫生是防止環境污染委員會的委員之一。該會設立的目的是監視着務使防止污染的工作順利進行。陳醫生說：「如果防止環境污染委員會不能完成任務，香港保護自然景物協會便會繼續工作。」

「現在我們有了法例，或將會有法例。我們應該確保政府澈底推行才是！」

空運貨物

為方便與空運貨物收發有關者起見，宣誓權度員(香港)有限公司已在啟德機場設立分辦事處，獨立及迅速檢驗損壞貨物，此外更提供審核空運包裹內容及封箱服務。

機場聯絡地址：

啟德機場新貨運行政大廈442室

電話：3-8297444



宣誓權度員(香港)有限公司

新界葵涌第五號貨箱碼頭 電話：12-245521

非洲市場之難題與潛力

樂觀派常說非洲是一個具備無比潛力可供經濟發展的大洲，但現實主義者會指出非洲的政治、經濟和社會問題是同等嚴重的。兩個說法都不錯。

我們或可以說外界對非洲的認識比其他地方如亞洲、中東和拉丁美洲等為淺。國際新聞界通常全神貫注於聳人聽聞的緊急事件諸如自大獨裁者的怪癖、大饑荒、毀滅性戰爭、非洲南部內部動蕩不安、國家或種族間的矛盾等等。這是可以理解但甚為可惜的。因為除了獨裁總統的怪癖外，非洲國家所付出改善經濟與團結人民的努力實有更具大而深遠的意義的。

現在幾乎所有非洲國家均獨立了。有些國家已達成了實質的進展，其他則稍遜。當然，那是一個很大的洲，各國有不同的氣候、地理環境、文化、語言和習俗。全非洲的總人口超過四億，如果除去了撒哈拉北部的亞拉伯國家亦有三億多人口。

非洲共有五十一個國家（你可以念出幾個呢？）由小得出奇的到很大的（如尼日利亞、薩伊、南非等等）。其中有不少是富於天然資源而戰略地位又很重要，特別是政治不安定者，常成為強國控制和干預的目標。因此雖然非洲的潛力很大，等待矯正的不平衡、不平等和歷史性不公正等實在多着呢！這個過程是需要長時間去完成的。

在非洲有大部份的不平衡是由於數十年甚至數世紀殖民控制而形成的。對現在所面對的困難一般都歸咎於例如非

洲「部落主義」甚至「未成熟」——這並非否認非洲是有「部落」困難存在，而是還有很多其他的因素及力量在起作用。

其中一個最大的困難為國界的劃分是隨意的，並未運用種族及經濟的邏輯。幾乎每個非洲國家近邊界的地方均有多到令人昏亂的種族，擁有着各自的文化、語言和習俗。有些國家看來是很難經濟獨立的。

另一難題是單一產品性經濟的國家。先進工業國以廉價購買原料和農產品去大事發展而從未設法使非洲及亞洲經濟平衡及多元化。同時可惜的是對有極大波動性的商品如可可、咖啡、銅和磷酸等有所依賴的國家而論，長期經濟計劃十分之困難，經濟結構多元化更不用說了。

大部份非洲國家在五十年代獨立，但很多時「獨立」只不過表示一支新的國旗或新的國歌。同樣的政治派系仍繼續維持統治及經濟，只顧私人利益而忽略了把人們從貧困落伍的深淵挽救出來的使命。結果是貪污迅速滋長和典型的軍事統治。因此雖然殖民時代在非洲已近尾聲，我們可以感覺到重建非洲的政治經濟結構，向真正獨立興旺新非洲的轉變過程只是剛剛開始吧了。

現在，大多數非洲國家盡力分散海外的市場和供應來源，並尋求外商在工業建設上投資。這就是香港大展所長之處了。

非洲現已成為香港的一個頗有份量

的市場。去年佔全港總出口百分之四（中東加上北非佔百分之三點六而拉丁美洲佔百分之一點六）。相反地去年香港從非洲入口的貨物只佔我們總入口的百分之一點六。

單單尼日利亞和南非兩個國家已佔本港銷非總出口額的一半，而另一半則分配於撒哈拉以南的大約四十個國家。本港十大非洲市場（見附表）多是說英語國家。我們很少賣貨給許多會說法文的非洲國家（儘管如象牙海岸般有優良的經濟和購買力）。這樣或許可以說服本港企業家去學習法文吧！

我們最大的非洲市場是尼日利亞。去年總銷量達三億一千一百萬，而本年首八個月增加了百分之四十七。現時尼日利亞是我們的第十二大出口市場。未來數年的去銷展望是良好的。

自從七三、七四年油價暴漲以來尼日利亞一直受着石油生產的恩惠，因此促成其經濟的成功。尼日利亞同時是非洲人口最多的國家，有七百二十萬人。自從一九七三年以來我們對尼日利亞的出口增加了四倍。要不是港口擠塞的話，出口量會增加得更多。幸而今年這情形已稍為好轉了些。香港出口到尼日利亞的貨物大多數是成衣（百分之三十八），鐘錶（百分之六），通訊設備（百分之五），家庭用品（百分之五），和機械與用具等（百分之五）。

尼日利亞自知不能永遠依靠總有一天乾涸的油井，因此動用大部份出售石油的收入去投資於鞏固農業與工業的基

香港在非洲之主要貿易夥伴

（單位：百萬港元）

	入口			出口			轉口		
	一月至八月 1977	一月至八月 1976	變動 %	一月至八月 1977	一月至八月 1976	變動 %	一月至八月 1977	一月至八月 1976	變動 %
尼日利亞	6.91	4.31	+ 60	254.92	173.82	+47	93.09	89.41	+ 4
南非	261.12	167.96	+ 55	104.93	189.44	-45	25.43	26.28	- 3
肯尼亞	19.60	23.85	- 18	32.98	23.89	+38	3.73	1.83	+104
加納	4.63	5.87	- 21	30.72	22.43	+37	60.78	27.00	+125
坦桑尼亞	90.35	54.46	+ 66	25.60	18.37	+39	6.07	4.82	+ 26
薩伊爾	2.66	11.12	- 76	21.00	20.21	+ 4	7.43	3.46	+115
利比里亞	-	-	-	19.66	12.04	+63	3.99	3.34	+ 19
贊比亞	0.57	1.69	- 66	14.48	14.46	+ 0.1	5.25	5.98	- 12

礎，並準備花費以億計之美元去配合它的五年發展計劃（一九七五至八〇）。

工商月刊曾訪問尼日利亞駐港專員阿布柏卡先生有關港尼兩地巨大貿易差額的問題。他說香港供應不少尼日利亞人民所急需的物品，而現在尼日利亞可供應香港者則不多，因為香港從鄰近地區也能買到同樣的商品。香港所需要的商品如棉花目前在該國供不應求，尼日利亞雖然一向是棉花的出口地，今年卻因失收、蝗蟲傷害及國內需求而要入口棉花了。

另一方面阿布柏卡警告說一旦尼日利亞建立了自己的工業而可以生產能代替目前入口的貨品時，尼日利亞政府或會被逼施行一些入口限制去保護那些新發展的工業。

與大多數非洲國家另一個不同之處是尼日利亞的對外貿易仍然由商業界去私自經營。香港公司中亦有小部份在尼日利亞設廠，據估計香港在當地投資於紡織、塑膠、搪瓷及鑄鐵廠等方面有大約五億元之巨。全尼日利亞最大紡織工廠之一也是本港企業家查濟民先生所擁有。尼日利亞吸引投資的有利條件是低工資、低廠租和特別稅項優待等，有了這些好處，本地商家不輪候去尼日利亞投資才怪！

西非最大的發展是在一九七五年成立了一個類似歐洲共同市場的西非共同市場。製造了一個有十六個國家和一億四千萬人的市場。貨物可以在會員國內免稅流通。再者，與共市簽署之「勞梅條約」使那些非洲國家的農作物得以擴展。

香港在非洲的第二大市場是南非。南非曾經長期是我們的最大非洲市場，但自從一九七四年經濟衰退和黃金價格下跌以來，購入港貨已減少了。

在本年過去八月中出口到南非下跌百份之四十五，主要為成衣、玩具、鐘錶和鞋類。另一方面南非仍為我們重要的供應地之一，尤其是首飾工業所需的鑽石。從南非入口的貨品差不多雙倍於我們的出口；在過去八月以來增加了百份之五十五。除了鑽石及寶石及半寶石之外，我們也從南非購買植物油、紙、紙板和棉花。

除了尼日利亞和南非之外，非洲十大市場包括加納、坦桑尼亞、利比里亞和肯尼亞等。坦桑尼亞和烏干達都是我們主要的原棉供應地。

總商會之非洲分區委員會現由賀明思先生為主席，自從一九七二年以來均盡力促進香港與非洲之貿易，賀明思先

生是一個「非洲通」。他曾在東非——肯尼亞、烏干達、坦噶尼喀（現為坦桑尼亞）居住了二十三年，他對非洲的認識對委員會的工作幫助很大。

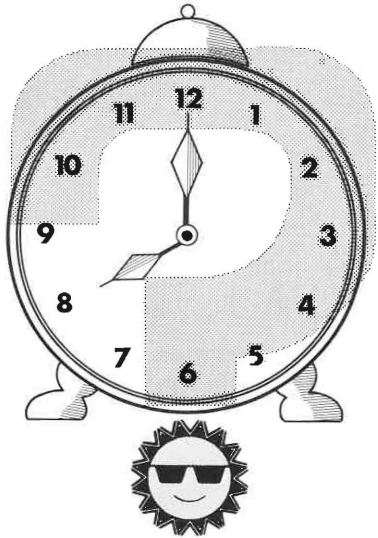
直至今日為止總商會曾組織了幾個貿易團訪問非洲。一九七八年將組團於四月到尼日利亞、加納以及肯尼亞而在六月組團到南非。

這些促進工作很明顯地對香港與非洲間的貿易是有利的。例如在今年較早時的貿易團在肯尼亞、加納、尼日利亞

和利比里亞取得了二千六百萬的定單。但是如果香港能在非洲設立永久辦事處的話香港去銷還會大量增加的。辦事處最佳的地點可能是拉哥斯。貿易發展局慣於在肯尼亞的奈洛比維持一個小小的代辦處，但似乎不甚理想。或許現在就是貿易發展局重新估計非洲的時候了。大韓貿易振興公社在撒哈拉以南有五個辦事處（分別設在象牙海岸、埃塞俄比亞、南非、尼日利亞和肯尼亞）。香港起碼應該有一個吧！

非洲簡介 (特選國家介紹)

國家名稱	人口 (單位：百萬)	首都或主要城市	雙邊貿易額 (單位：百萬美元)
尼日利亞	72	拉哥斯 (人口2.7)	入口 \$2,722 出口 \$9,560 (一九七四)
南非	25	約翰尼斯堡 (1.5)	入口 \$7,630 出口 \$5,411 (一九七五)
薩伊	25	堅薩沙 (2)	入口 \$ 783 出口 \$1,240 (一九七四)
坦桑尼亞	15	達累斯薩拉姆 (430,000)	入口 \$760 出口 \$380 (一九七四)
肯尼亞	13.5	乃洛比 (650,000)	入口 \$692 出口 \$352 (一九七五年一月至九月)
烏干達	11	康帕拉 (332,000)	入口 \$213 出口 \$327 (一九七四)
加納	9	阿拉克 (7000,000)	入口 \$819 出口 \$752 (一九七五)
象牙海岸	5.6	阿比章 (600,000)	入口 \$ 969 出口 \$1,210 (一九七五)
贊比亞	5	盧薩卡 (415,000)	入口 \$ 783 出口 \$1,407 (一九七四)
利比里亞	1.6	門羅維亞 (180,000)	入口 \$232 出口 \$297 (一九七五年一月至九月)



總商會「標準時間」

抽樣調查結果

「你是怎樣享用夏天的呢」？這個問題的答案有多種。例如「甚麼夏天！我踏出公司門口回到家裏已天黑了。」以至「真好！早上起床已日上三竿，很容易便避開擁擠時刻來到中區。」

相信大多數會員們也會留意到報紙不時提到時間制度爭辯的文字。我們應該繼續以格林威治時間加八小時為標準時間的實驗呢？還是回復過往冬夏令時間交替去爭取多一小時的夏季陽光呢？更或企圖全年黃昏也有多一小時的陽光呢？在本年之標準時間實驗之前，總商會曾被問及此舉對商業界之影響。其實一九七六年以前政府已不時向市民探討不同時間制度對商業之含義了。的確，一下子要提供一個完善的答案是頗佳的。有等行業例如銀行、股票經紀、航空公司等，他們只能用兩種制度之一去方便海外聯絡，而其他行業則無論時鐘說甚麼也不礙工作的。有時，兩者之間的決擇是隨着個人的偏愛而有所不同，人們的習慣也有些關係。

有了一個「加八小時」的夏天的經驗之後，政府廣徵民意，總商會再度考慮綜合會員們的意見、或有助於找出可否從幾個月的實際行動得見其間的利與弊。

正因為前此並未能達成一致的意見，我們雖然希望保留「商業效率」的問題之同時，已盡力避免問及商業之觀點。再者，我們覺得很難以全部會員的意見作為根據，例如應該怎樣衡量香港滙豐銀行的意見與小型工廠的意見呢？因此我們決定最佳的辦法是邀請活躍於總商會委員會的人提供他們的意見，讓他

們決定提出個人或職員的見解，甚或只着重於商業效率之討論。

結果冬夏交替制度獲得了壓倒性的贊同。

(一) 百份之五十九答覆者贊成冬季是格林威治時間加八小時和夏季是格林威治時間加九小時的輪流辦法。

(二) 百份之三十贊成以格林威治時間加八小時為標準時間。

(三) 百份之十一贊成格林威治時間加九小時作為標準時間。(雖然問題表中並沒有第四個答案供選擇，有少部份人建議「加八小時半」的辦法)。

我們必須強調的是這些資料是有所規限的。特別是從統計學上我們很難稱之為有代表性；正如以上所解釋清楚的一樣，我們並沒有把答覆公司的職員人數、投資額及經營之重要性等方面計算在內。

其次，我們並未企圖說這些意見是商業見解之反映。雖然我們並未請求答覆者提供團體意見，有等公司卻已做到了。亦有答覆者通過職員會議或由高級行政人員發表言論或透過其他方法清楚地把職員的意見也包括在內。

那些不單只記錄了個人或職員的選擇，而以團體意見發表了的公司，很明顯地他們通常也投「冬夏交替」之一票的。此亦隱約證明「交替制度」就商業本身而言是最受歡迎的。

但反過來說，一個在商界擁有一千一百八十一位職員的僱主統計過全部職員的意見後發現：

(一) 百份之六十四職員贊成保留格林威治時間加八小時；

(二) 百份之十九贊成以格林威治時間加九小時為基礎的標準時間；

(三) 百份之十七贊成冬夏令交替制度。

但該公司卻指出由商業角度來看交替制度是有利的。由此觀之，僱主與僱員之間的決擇是有所區別的。

一個主要的公共運輸機構從團體觀點給我們如下的答覆：假如把現行制度與「交替」制度所產生的事故(例如偶然發生的意外及在擠迫時間之電燈熄滅等)互相比較下會指示我們交替制度是較為好的。

我們注意到很多投「加九小時」一票者乃歐洲大陸的公司(雖然為數不足以表示甚麼而可能是巧合)，有幾間更認為根據他們的經驗此種制度是毫無疑問地有利的。但對本港一般的居民來說「加九小時」的方法實較其他兩種為陌生得多了。

除了以上各點之外，我們未能夠從公司之規模、種類、是否國際企業等方面找到任何傾向於某答覆之共通地方。在每種情況之下，不同的制度的支持者有來自大小機構、工業或商業、中國人與外籍商人等。亦沒有證據去證明旅港外籍人偏愛其一，而本地人卻擁護另一種制度的假設。

總商會已把這次的抽樣調查的結果送呈政府，希望能有助於對時間制度之評議。

(註：我們假定此處之「現行制度」所指的是格林威治時間加八小時的意思。)

本會海外動態集錦

美洲

本會北美及中南美貿易委員會聯同本會之工業事務及工業發展基金管理委員會在十月七日款待了加利福尼亞州聖約瑟市的貿易投資代表團。

北美貿易委員會邀請到美國領事館商務部之史登恩先生在十月十八日在聚會中向會員講解有關即將來臨之「美國雙週」。

該委員會之主席歐策良及副主席蔡永興亦於十月二十四日會晤了由南卡羅里納州而來的貿易投資代表團。

中南美貿易委員會決定在明春約四月間組織一個貿易團往巴拿馬及委內瑞拉。去年十一月本會曾頗成功地完成一次相同的訪問而獲得了一些籌辦貿易團往該等地區的經驗。

本會之駐美國代表米尼克先生繼續向本會報告有關他遊說美國工業家考慮在本港設廠之結果。他同時積極籌備胡文翰先生在匹茲堡的巡迴演講。胡先生

為立法局非官守議員，並為本會理事會之成員及香港工業總會主席。

斯里蘭卡

在十月十八日，主席為高底先生之本會南亞太貿易委員會款待了訪港的斯里蘭卡之工商部長阿富納馬德里先生（譯音），阿氏此行目的為促進新成立於科倫坡附近之自由貿易區事宜。

南韓

本會十月份往韓國之貿易團簽了四百七十萬元之購貨合約，洽談中之合約亦超過七百萬元。團員所購之物品包括尼龍針織品、製鞋用之原料、不銹鋼容器、日記和打火機等。團員並參觀了漢城貿易展覽會及與政府和商業機構負責人會談。

南非

本會行政部長張偉傑先生最近赴非洲着手替本會明年六月之貿易團作籌備工

作。張先生是南非航空公司由香港至約翰尼斯堡紀念飛行之搭客。

英國

明年二月之百貨公司及零售商購買團現正在籌備中。由古勝祥先生當主席之特別委員會在十月廿四日開會。會員如果有興趣參加該團往英國者請與本會副執行董事戈銳非斯接洽。

日本

本會將於十一月赴日本做第七次工業投資促進工作。現正籌劃詳細之行程。該團將由本會執行董事麥理覺先生率領。

共市

本會與總部設在德國的對外貿易協會保持聯絡。該會繼續和共市當局為紡織談判政策問題作對話。該會正為求一個比較自由的處理方案而作出最大的努力。

簡報滙編

本會消息

歡迎新會員

本刊歡迎二十五間公司於十一月份開始成為本會會員（名單請閱本期英文版）。

「新來港外籍人士瞭解香港」課程

今年之第二次「新來港外籍人士瞭解香港」課程將在十一月二十九日至十二月一日假座富麗華酒店舉行。

本會從一九七三年開始藉着該課程向新來港外籍商人介紹他們即將執行之工作以外的香港動態，舉辦五年以來大受歡迎。

該課程之主題為本地居民的日常生活，使參加者明瞭本地居民在工作上、家庭及學校的生活等等，從而加深領略到至少未來數年間他們的家庭是建立在一個甚麼樣子的地方。

該課程名額有限，取錄方法為先到先得。全課程連午餐及交通每位只化費港幣六百元。如閣下有興趣請撥電話五一二三七一一七內線三十七訂位。

新委任

本會理事會最近批准以下之委任：

石其利先生代表本會出席港口事務執行委員會。

劉石佑先生代表本會出席香港付貨人委員會。

陳壽霖先生繼費旭先生出席本會工業事務委員會。

工商消息

國際總商會之香港活動已開始

會員們或許已知道國際總商會已在香港設立了辦事處。初步活動包括一連串在富麗華酒店舉行的研討會。

該會之韋勃爾先生將於十一月十七日講解「信用文件的統一規則及實施」而在次日講解「國際交付難題」。兩研討會均為全日課程，每講費用均為港幣五百元。

詳細情形請電五一二五一八九一〇與該會辦事處聯絡。

出口資料巨著供會員參閱

由DUN & BRADSTREET 出版之出口商百科全書是一本內容豐富、出口商必備之參考書。該書以國家名次分類提供世界上每個市場的政府條例與經濟背景的詳細資料。這些資料是由定期派

發的補充活頁來修正的。

本會現已購備了該書，請會員到本會之圖書館參閱。

其他消息

廉署商業回佣信範本草稿

為方便商行向職員或顧客表示公司商業回佣的政策，廉署起草了兩封範本信使他們有所依據。本會備有這些範本信的中英文副本，希望會員們能在適當情形下運用之。

介紹一位未來動向大師

美國哈得孫學會創始人及會長簡浩文先生（譯音）將於十二月七日星期三假座希爾頓酒店大禮堂午餐會向香港美商會及本會會員演講。

該會對一個很廣泛的經濟及民衆政策範圍之研究頗為深入並且歷史悠久，獲得世界各地一致好評。簡氏為「未來學」之先驅，曾付出很大精力去研究長期文化、經濟、政治與技術演變。他將會以一些未來增長之特別限制為題發表演講。

詳情請與本會接洽。

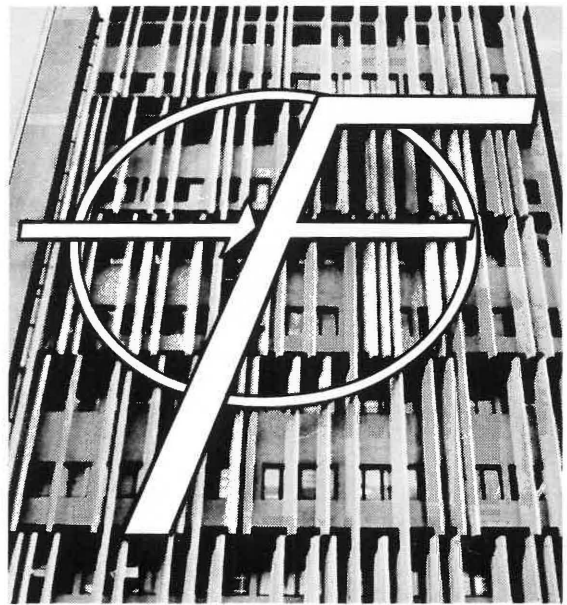
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