

THE

D **DECLARATION**

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV 62)

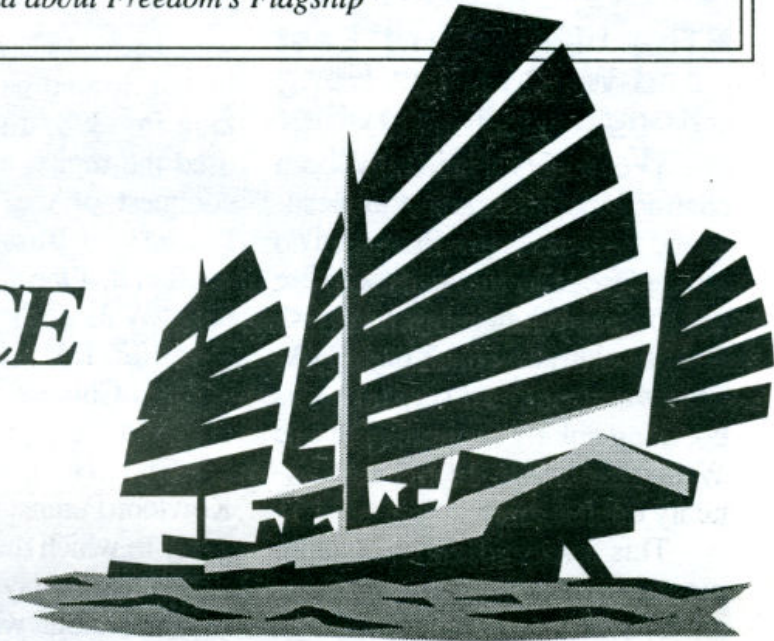
"News for and about Freedom's Flagship"



An

INDEPENDENCE

port visit to...



*HONG
KONG*

*March 7-12,
1994*

*presented by
INDEPENDENCE
Public Affairs Office*

Where East meets West

■ The blending of East and West makes Hong Kong a city like no other

Westerners have always been charmed and captivated by the beauty and mystery of the Orient. In no other place is this infatuation more pronounced than in the British Crown colony of Hong Kong. Packaged with all sorts of surprises, this booming colony is where East and West meet, trade, and live in uncertainty of the future.

This colony, which contains most of the inhabitants of what remains of Britain's colonial empire, was formed in three stages:

(1) Hong Kong Island, with an area of 35 square miles, was ceded by China under the Nanking Peace Treaty of 1842 which confirmed the occupation that had taken place during the first Opium War (1839-41).

(2) Kowloon Peninsula and Stonecutters Island were added by the first Convention of Peking, signed in 1860, after they had been occupied in the course of the second Opium (or "Arrow") War of 1856-58. The additional area totalled 3.75 sq. miles.

(3) The New Territories (355 sq. miles, consisting of a mainland area adjoining Kowloon and 235 adjacent islands)

were leased to Britain for 99 years by the Second Convention of Peking in 1898, after America had used the region as a base for the conquest of the Philippines and France and Russia had also cast eyes on it. One article, leaving the tiny "Walled City," now a slum near Kai Tak Airport, under the residual Chinese sovereignty, was annulled shortly afterwards.

Thus Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Peninsula are British Territory to which the original treaties allow China to lay no claim (whether or not China will forever accept the validity of these treaties is another matter).

The New Territories, on the other hand, which possesses the bulk of the colony's thriving modern industry, are due to revert to China in 1997.

English is the official language of Hong Kong, though Cantonese is the mother tongue of most of the population and is widely used in cinemas, over the radio, etc. Mandarin and a number of other Chinese dialects are also understood by many people.

No visitor should have any difficulty getting around with English alone, except in the country districts or outer areas of the city, where English is seldom spoken or understood.

Liberty reminders ...

Touts are rip-off artists. They are always in front of the Asian House soliciting various tailoring and merchandise. They have a reputation of not delivering the merchandise on time before the ship leaves or delivering faulty merchandise. Stay away from Hong Kong Custom Tailor (Brothers Co.), Holiday Custom Tailor (David Co.), Wai Kee and the Hong Kong European Tailor Factory.

All tattoo parlors, gambling establishments and rooftops are off limits.

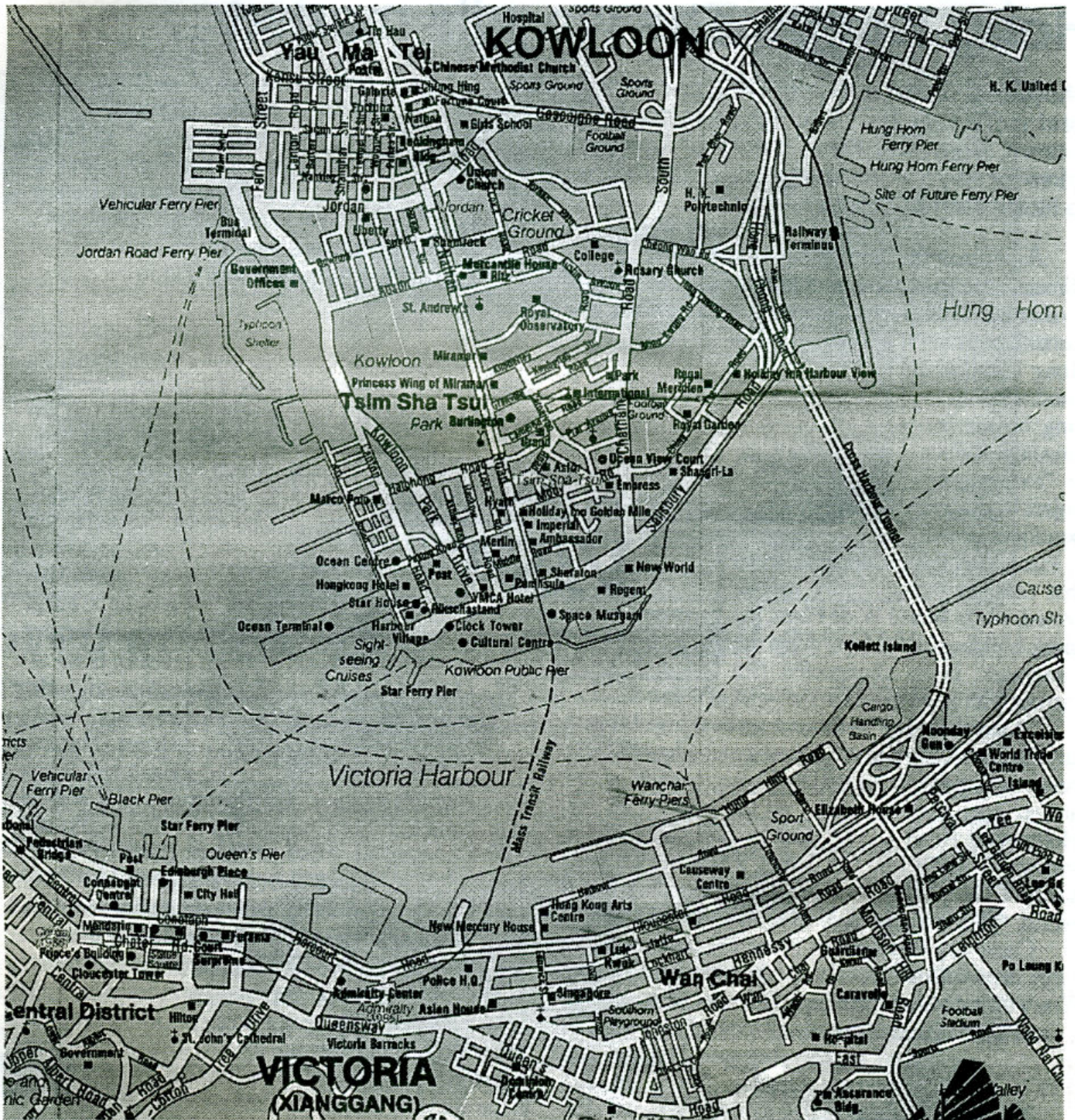
Taxis work on the meter system. Sailors should not negotiate with the drivers. Only use a taxi if his "for hire" flag is up. If a taxi travels through a tunnel or across a harbor the fee is doubled. This is a regulation, not a custom.

The Royal Hong Kong Police are the local police force. Officers with a red shoulder badge speak passable English. Do not get into a conflict with the RHKP. The Royal Military police are your police liaison. They are there to assist you. For RMP assistance dial 588-3666.



Hong Kong Map

3



The Declaration presents Hong Kong



Hong Kong: The world's market

Shopping 'deals' in Hong Kong can be the best you'll ever find. Besides saving a lot of money, you may find designer brands, fakes or even something original, unique to Hong Kong.

Americans are accustomed to shopping in the climate-controlled comfort of huge malls, and there is no shortage of this type of shopping in Hong Kong. In

Central, on Hong Kong Island, the Landmark shopping center features high-fashion in "money's-no-object" designer boutiques; Pacific

Place Mall has fashionable shops that cater to the upwardly mobile crowd, while World Wide Plaza, the black building catty-corner from the Landmark, is an unexpected flea market with good prices in the heart of Central.

"Alley shopping" is fun and can be enjoyed almost anywhere in Hong Kong. The numerous alleys running between Queen's Road and Des Voeux Road in Central are an easy place to start. At the western end of Hollywood Road just off Ladder Street (actually a stairway), you'll find Cat Street, a flea market with some of the most expensive antique shopping in the world. This is a great area to browse and bargain.

Causeway Bay (east of Wanchai) contains many large department stores, both Japanese and Chinese. You will find Mitsukoshi, Sogo, Daimaru, Matsuzakaya and China Products all located very close to one another between Percival and Paterson Streets. There are also many outlets to be found by wander-

ing the small streets behind the Excelsior Hotel, not to mention the flea market on Jardine's Bazaar.

The biggest shopping "extravaganza" in Hong Kong is the City Plaza-Uny complex, at Tai Koo Shing, five Mass Transit Railway (MTR) stops past Causeway Bay. There are hundreds of shops, restaurants, fast-food outlets, entertainment places (including an ice-skating rink) and the huge Uny and Jusco department stores.

Across the harbor, the Kowloon and Tsimshatsui shopping malls are so numerous that the mind boggles. Straight ahead from Star Ferry are Ocean Terminal, Harbor City, Ocean Center and Silvercord (on the

corner of Canton and Haiphong Roads), which together make up one of the largest shopping complexes in the world. Added to this

"city-within-a-city" are the New World Center (near the Regent Hotel), hotel arcades and the various malls along Nathan Road and in the

Tsimshatsui East area. The Peninsula Hotel, a short walk along Salisbury Road from the Star Ferry, has many top-name shops such as Chanel, Cartier, Dunhill, Hermes, Louis Vuitton and Ralph Lauren.

Clothing is the most popular purchase for tourists. What might cost \$50-60 back home, can be found in Hong Kong for under \$10. Clothing prices and quality vary from the outrageously expensive in designer shops to rock bottom in the factory outlets. Manufacturers dump seconds and overruns locally, so the bargains are sometimes phenomenal. You can find designer labels in the alleys or heaped on carts on street corners.



VISA

MasterCard



The Declaration presents **Hong Kong**

Tips for wheeling and dealing

Just as they have elsewhere over the past few years, prices have skyrocketed here, but don't let that put you off. Hong Kong is still a great place to shop—the variety is endless. The selections of clothing, jewelry, pearls, cameras, watches and video equipment are unimaginable, and the prices may be the cheapest you'll find anywhere. So grab this opportunity and enjoy shopping or just window shopping. You'll take away many enjoyable memories, as well as mementos.



exhausting.

-- Be prepared to buy things when you see them. Despite the amazing range of goods, it's not always easy to find particular items again when you want them.

-- Have enough cash on hand. Merchants work on very narrow profit margins here and will not give the best prices when dealing with credit cards. Traveler's checks may be considered cash, but you will need your passport to cash them and some shops may not accept them.

Here are some tips to make your shopping adventures in Hong Kong enjoyable:

-- Put on your most comfortable shoes before heading out. You'll probably find the walking

-- Do your homework. If you are contemplating a major purchase, know what the prices are back home or in the military exchanges, so you won't pay too much here.

Loved ones are just a phone call away

Phoning home is easier than you think. AT&T's USADirect and Credit Card Calling Systems (CCCS) can put you in touch with your stateside family and friends almost instantly.

AT&T cardholders can use USADirect from almost any telephone in Hong Kong. There are dedicated USADirect phones at the Fleet Arcade, the Mariners' Club and Kai Tak Airport. From any public or local private telephone, simply dial 008-1111 to be connected to an operator in the U.S. The call will be charged to your AT&T account.

If you hold an American Express, Visa, MasterCard or Diners Club/Carte Blanche card, you have access to CCCS. This service allows you

to dial a local toll-free number (008-2928 or 008-6060) to get through to an American operator.

Another option is Hong Kong Telephone's IDD Coin phones and Cardphones, which are located at various public access areas such as MTR stations, ferry piers and the airport. Coinphones accept 1\$, \$2 and \$5 coins; Cardphones take stored-value phonecards available in \$50, \$100 and \$250 denominations.

You can purchase a phonecard at Hong Kong Telecom Shops & Service Centers and most 7-Eleven and Circle K convenience stores. IDD Creditcard phones will accept most credit cards for IDD calls.

The Declaration presents **Hong Kong**



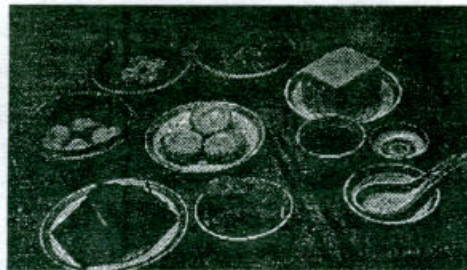
A food lover's Garden of Eden

You won't go hungry in Hong Kong. At last count the number of restaurants in the territory was more than 20,000 and climbing. You may be bewildered by all the choices out there, so unless you want to take the easy way out and head for the nearest McDonald's (there are more than 100 here), read on.

Dining out used to be very cheap in Hong Kong. Nowadays, prices can no longer be considered low, though you can find fairly cheap places, usually in the older districts of town. However, there you're limited to a corn-flour soup and black pepper steak or chicken. These restaurants are for the older generation Chinese palates. The younger ones are into fast food franchises, both international and local (Spaghetti House, for American-style Italian food). If you want the real thing, you're going to pay stateside prices (or more if you eat in most hotels). This is especially true of the continental restaurants—Italian,

French, German, Swiss, etc. — of which there are many.

All this isn't to say, however, that you can't get a great meal without putting a hole in your pocket. You can. Just walk into an



Chinese d'oeuvres are one example of the fine cuisine you can find while in Hong Kong.

“ethnic” restaurant— one of the many Indian (better than in India, many say), Korean, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian or Singaporean eateries here. There's probably nowhere else in the world with such a rich variety of Asian cuisines represented by so many establishments. The food is authentic at lower prices compared to similar establishments back home.

You shouldn't leave Hong Kong without tasting Chinese food at least once, right? Try to stay away from the one-room dives with blue-white fluorescent lighting that display naked chickens and other unusual things in the windows. This is the local equivalent of the greasy spoon—the “greasy chopstick”— and there are thousands of them. If you're feeling particularly daring, and do manage to get a seat (a considerable accomplishment in itself), you'll find few English menus and no English spoken. Although nobody in Hong Kong will stare at you (as they do in China), the waiters may avoid you, or bring you what they think you want, and then overcharge you.

Since most “greasy chopsticks” are on the ground floor, you would do better to look for a place off the street level that has ample floor space and no window dressing. Generally, in the case of Chinese restaurants, bigger is better.

Things to watch out for in Hong Kong

Don't hire a rickshaw, or even sit in one. They are one of the biggest rip-offs in Hong Kong.

Don't forget that Hong Kong traffic moves on the left side of the road and has the uncanny knack of appearing when you least expect it.

Don't jay-walk or cross on a red light. Though it is the general practice here (despite a HK \$1,000

fine), be sure you don't “go with the flow” and end up fined.

Finally, don't litter. The stiff fines regularly handed out to Hong Kong litterbugs may seem draconian, but when you consider that six million people have to live harmoniously in a small place, it's easier to understand. Look for the orange garbage cans before dumping litter.



The Declaration presents **Hong Kong**

After the sun goes down

Hong Kong has a lot of night spots to entice the visitor. Although you may find the entertainment value doesn't compare to stateside watering holes, not to mention the action found in Asian hot spots like Bangkok and Manila, it is still worth going out. Hong Kong is an exciting, vibrant city. You'll find everything from staid pubs and jazz clubs to cavernous discos.

The once raunchy Wanchai district is today tame by most standards. However, it remains one of the Orient's better bar crawls and has special meaning for anyone in the U.S. services who recalls its heyday as R&R capital of Asia during the Vietnam War. Wanchai is also on the doorstep of Fleet Arcade, making it the most accessible night district for visiting service members.

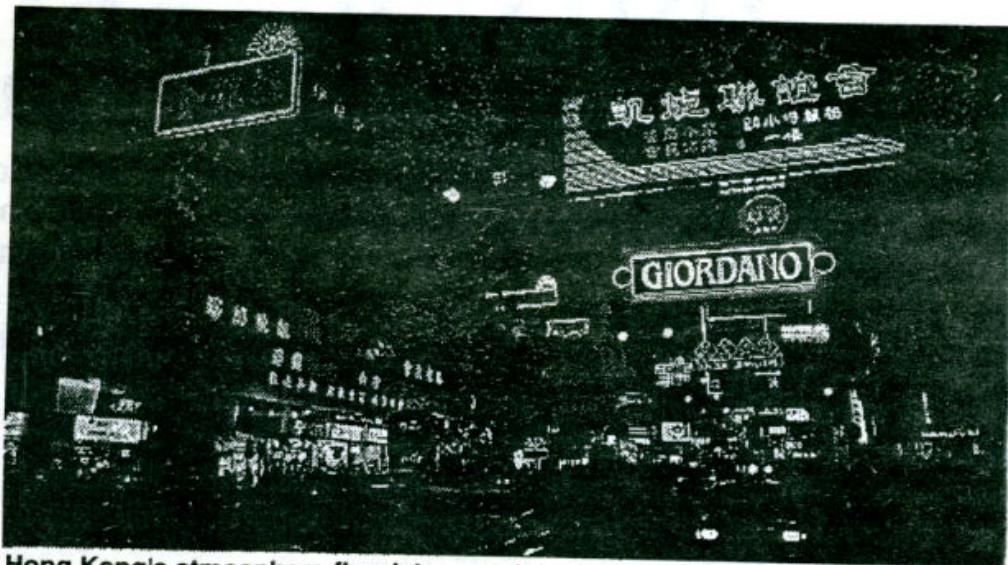
Regardless of your definition of a good time, you can find out what's happening in any given week from the TV and Entertainment Times or the South China Morning Post.

Hong Kong's four principal nighttime hot spots are Kowloon, Central, Causeway Bay and Wanchai.

Kowloon

One of the biggest discos in town is *Canton* (Harbour City, Canton Road, Tsimshatsui). Staging periodic live shows, the two-story club holds 1,000 people and is open from 2100 until 0300 Sunday-Thursday, and until 0400 Friday-Saturday. For daytime dancers it has the Noon Disco Saturday-Sunday from 1430-1800.

If it's live music you want to hear, head for *Ned Kelly's Last Stand* (11A Ashley Rd., Tsimshatsui). You can hear the best Dixieland sounds in this part of the world seven nights a week, and it gives you a chance to mingle, since the tables are arranged in long rows.



Hong Kong's atmosphere flourishes at night.

In the way of pubs, visit *Mad Dogs* at its new location on 32 Nathan Rd. It's named after Noel Coward's famous song about Hong Kong in which only "mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun." The original branch of the pub is in Central.

Central

The steep streets of Central are home to quite a number of bars and discos. These establishments run the gamut from Los Angeles flash to laid-back pubs to high-tech discos, and attract a crowd of resident and refugee Yuppies. Visit the original *Mad Dogs Pub* at 33 Wyndham Street. The upstairs is Victorian in style and the downstairs harkens back to the 1940s. The *Bull and Bear* is generally considered Hong Kong's first pub and is located in Hutchison House, not far from the upscale *Jockey Club* in Swire House on Connaught Rd., where the after-work crowd could as well be quaffing in central London.

Jazz fans will find the *Jazz Club* a welcome haven. The club features both local and international artists and is located at 34-36 D'Aguiar Street, open every day except Sunday. There are an abundance of bars and discos in Central's hotels.

Please see **CLUBS**, page 8

The Declaration presents **Hong Kong**



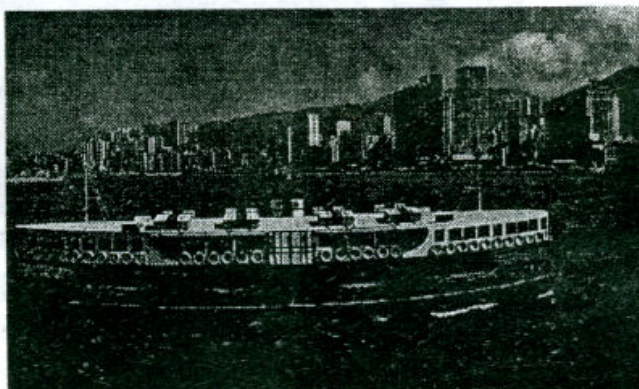
Quick and Easy

Getting around in Hong Kong

Americans who come to Hong Kong are amazed at how good the public transportation is and how little it costs.

There are three main hubs from which you can set out to get just about anywhere in the territory: The Star Ferry/Central bus terminal on Hong Kong Island, Admiralty MTR station and the Star Ferry terminal near Ocean terminal in Kowloon.

If you're unfamiliar with Hong Kong and on a tight schedule, taxis are probably the best way to make short trips around town. The Cantonese word for taxi is *Kiksi*, and you can usually attract a cabbie's attention by hailing him with this word. Taxis are inexpensive but it is customary to give a small tip. While most drivers speak some English, it makes things easier to have someone write down your destination in Chinese.



Travelers can cross Hong Kong bay on the Star Ferry.

Hong Kong Island is one of the few places left in the world where you can ride a tram. For HK\$1, it's a great bargain. Go to the top deck and watch scenes of

Hong Kong's street life passing by below. It's the best way to see the urban part of Hong Kong Island at a leisurely pace.

The ubiquitous double-decker buses are another means of getting around. Bus routes are marked in English and Chinese characters. Blue and cream colored buses serve Hong Kong Island; Kowloon buses are red and cream.

Cross-harbor buses are numbered in the 100s. Exact change is required.

The efficient and convenient Mass Transit Railway (MTR) is one of the newest and best subway systems in the world. Free MTR handbooks with maps showing the areas around major stations are available at any MTR ticket office.

CLUBS

cont. from page 7

Wanchai

A good place to start your exploration is on Lockhart Rd. *The Old China Hand Tavern*, 104 Lockhart Road, sits cheek-to-cheek with some famous bars and offers pub food, darts and a selection of beers.

This is one of a row of pubs in-

cluding *Bell Inn* and *Hunter's Castle*. Across the street is *Horse and Carriage*. A newcomer to the Wanchai pub scene is the *Kangaroo Pub*, located at 68 Jaffe Rd., next to the Wanchai Ramada Inn.

Causeway Bay

Traveling east from Wanchai, you'll enter Causeway Bay, one

of Hong Kong's busiest shopping and restaurant areas. From early morning to late at night, the streets bustle with crowds. A good place to relax after an afternoon of shopping is at *Dickens Bar*, in the basement of the Excelsior Hotel. This popular pub features a daily lunch curry buffet and nightly entertainment, as well as live jazz every Sunday afternoon.

