

# Hong Kong Birth Rate Drops 10% In One Year

ANN ARBOR—The birth rate in Hong Kong dropped 10 per cent in one year when many young Chinese couples began adopting modern birth control methods, two University of Michigan population experts report.

The rate in the teeming city-state fell from 28.8 births per 1,000 population in 1965 to 25.8 in 1966.

The figures were computed and analyzed by U-M's Population Studies Center and the Hong Kong Family Planning Association. Dr. Ronald Freedman, professor of sociology and director of the center, said Arjun L. Adlaka, a graduate student from India and research assistant at the center, are reporting the findings in a coming issue of the Journal of Population Studies.

THEY ATTRIBUTE the decline at least in part to a major increase of activity by the Hong Kong Family Planning Association from 1964 onward. The organized family planning program at that time expanded its scale and reached many more women, particularly younger women.

By March 30, 1966, 10 per cent of all married women of childbearing years in Hong Kong and 15 per cent of those in their 20s had accepted a new method of contraception—the intrauterine device—at the association's clinics.

"Hong Kong women undoubtedly are becoming progressively more ready to adopt family planning as their educational level rises and as they are affected by other aspects of the city's rapid development," Dr. Freedman and Adlaka note.

\*That 15 to 20 per cent of

all married women of childbearing years sought family planning help at the clinics of a voluntary association in a single year is a remarkable new phenomenon."

IN CONTRAST to the 1955-65 decline, a 19 per cent drop recorded from 1961 to 1965 was almost entirely due to changes in the age distribution.

The birth rate in any given year depends both on the number of women in each childbearing age group—the age distribution—and also on the birth rate for women of each age—the age-specific birth rates.

Between 1961 and 1965, changes in the age distribution contributed to the decline apart from any changes in age-specific birth rates.

There are fewer married women in Hong Kong in the important childbearing years 20-29 now than in 1961, as a result of the very low birth rates and high infant and child mortality rates during World War II and the recent trend toward rising age at marriage.

Dr. Freedman and Adlaka estimate that changes in age and marital status distribution accounted for 63 per cent of the birth-rate decline in 1961-65, 89 per cent in 1961-65, and only 10 per cent in 1965-66.

There are important implications for the future in the extreme distortions in Hong Kong's age distribution and the virtual certainty that the number of women in the childbearing years will rise rapidly as the girls born since World War II grow up.

The present distorted age structure will lead to substantially higher birth rates by 1976 unless there is about a 15 per cent decline in age-specific birth rates.

INCREASES in the educational level of younger girls, the recent changes in the marriage pattern, and a possible decline in the number of children desired by Hong Kong couples may contribute toward a continuing decline in age-specific birth rates.

However, the Michigan report stresses, the expected changes in the age distribution will at least partly negate the effect of these trends on Hong Kong's fertility.

These general conclusions are based on official census sources for 1961 and 1965. The estimated age-specific birth rates for 1965 and 1966 are calculated from a probability sample of about 10,000 birth records from the files of the hospitals and nursing homes in which more than 90 per cent of Hong Kong's babies are born.

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## Burrughs Gets \$10.2 Million U.S. Contract

Burrughs Corporation has received a \$10.2 million contract to supply computer systems for the U.S. Army's Pershing 1-A Missile System.

Under the terms of the contract, Burrughs Defense, Space and Special Systems Group will provide the Martin-Marietta Corporation's Orlando Division with D84 integrated circuit computers.

The D84 computer, a compact, rugged, high-speed electronic data processing system, performs pre-countdown, countdown, missile readiness and guidance calculations which are essential for the quick reaction capability of the missile system.

The Pershing 1-A, a 400-mile range ballistic missile, provides the Army with a super-sonic nuclear deterrent against aggression in the field. Mounted on wheeled vehicles, the Pershing 1-A system includes an erector-launcher carrying the missile and its warhead, a firing battery control center, a radio and teletype-equipped communications center, and a programmer test station in which the Burrughs' D84 computer system is housed.

The new production contract follows a two-and-one-half year development program under which Burrughs also provided the engineering and prototype computer systems.

Burrughs was selected by Martin-Marietta after a series of comprehensive performance tests to assure the Army that the missile would be capable of instant readiness while under the extremes of temperature, humidity and transport over rough terrain.

## MSU's Dr. Brinker Heads Vet Surgeons

EAST LANSING—A Michigan State University professor of veterinary surgery and clinics, Dr. Wado O. Brinker, has been elected president of the newly organized American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The new group, now made up of 35 charter members, is for veterinary surgeons who have demonstrated outstanding ability.

## U.S. Sets Oil Output Record

The United States set a new oil-producing record of 3.2 billion barrels in 1967, retaining its title as the world's leading oil producer.

Daily oil output in the U.S. averaged nearly 8.8 million barrels during 1967. The nation's nearest rivals are the Soviet Union with an estimated 5.7 million barrels a day and Venezuela with 3.5 million barrels daily.

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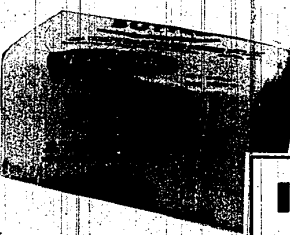
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