



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1980

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SIR Y K KAN TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE HON SIR Y K KAN, GBE, JP, WILL RETIRE SHORTLY, AFTER HAVING SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR 14 YEARS.

HE WILL ALSO RETIRE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE. FOLLOWING SIR Y K'S RETIREMENT ON MARCH 31, SIR S Y CHUNG, CBE WILL BECOME THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING COMMISSION.

PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MAY 1966, SIR Y K SERVED ON THE URBAN COUNCIL FROM 1957 TO 1962 AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM 1961 TO 1972. HE WAS APPOINTED A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN 1949.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE TODAY (MONDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO SIR Y K'S PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE SAID THAT SIR Y K HAD MADE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION THROUGH HIS PERSONALITY, HARD WORK, IMMENSE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, AND HIS TOTAL COMMITMENT TO THE WELFARE OF HONG KONG.

SIR MURRAY SAID: +SIR Y K HAS ACHIEVED SO MUCH IN SO MANY FIELDS BECAUSE HE IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AND TRUSTED BY ALL. HIS WISE COUNSEL BASED ON HIS VAST EXPERIENCE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS HAS BEEN OF INESTIMABLE VALUE AND GREAT AUTHORITY. HE WILL BE MISSED ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND THE SALARIES COMMISSION, BUT IT IS REASSURING THAT HIS ADVICE WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

ALTHOUGH SIR Y K WILL RETIRE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND SALARIES COMMISSION, HE WILL CONTINUE ACTIVE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR HIS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WHOSE WORK IS SO VITAL TO THE PROMOTION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT INDUSTRY.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1980

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BUDGET DAY ON WEDNESDAY
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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1980-81 WILL BE PRESENTED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 27).

THE PROCEEDINGS WILL START AT 2.30 PM WHEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE MOVES THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1980 AND OUTLINES HONG KONG'S ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1980-81.

THE ESTIMATED HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WILL BE SET OUT IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE BILL TO BE PUBLISHED IN AN EXTRAORDINARY GAZETTE AT 2.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WILL BE ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 26 AND 27 WHEN UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL REPLY TO POINTS RAISED BY THEIR UNOFFICIAL COLLEAGUES ON APRIL 16. IF NECESSARY, THE DEBATE WILL CONTINUE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING OF THE BILL ON APRIL 30.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE COMPREHENSIVELY COVERED BY THE MASS MEDIA.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY'S SITTING WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE OVER RTHK'S RADIO 2 (CHINESE) AND RADIO 3 (ENGLISH).

RTHK WILL ALSO BROADCAST LIVE THE OTHER BUDGET SITTINGS ON MARCH 26 AND 27, APRIL 16, 17 (IF NECESSARY) AND 30 ON RADIO 2 (CHINESE) AND RADIO 4 (ENGLISH).

THE BUDGET SITTINGS WILL ALSO BE COVERED, IN NORMAL NEWS CASTS AND BULLETINS OF RTHK, COMMERCIAL RADIO, HK-TV8 AND RTV.

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CHIEF JUSTICE OPENS CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS' CONFERENCE

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR DENYS ROBERTS, TODAY (MONDAY) OFFICIALLY OPENED THE FIRST ASIAN AND PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AT A CEREMONY HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

DELEGATES FROM 14 TERRITORIES ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE FROM AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, MACAU, MALAYSIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, HONG KONG AND CANADA.

THE FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE IS ORGANISED BY THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY WHICH IS ALSO REPRESENTED IN THE CONFERENCE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS AMONG CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. IT IS ALSO AIMED AT PREPARING FOR THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA LATER THIS YEAR.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, SIR DENYS SAID THE WORK OF A PRISON OFFICER WAS WIDE AND VARIED.

HE SAID, +I DO NOT KNOW IF OUR EXPERIENCE IN HONG KONG IS TYPICAL OR NOT, BUT WE HAVE FOUND, IN RECENT YEARS, EMPLOYMENT OF NOVEL KINDS FOR OUR PRISON ADMINISTRATORS.+

SIR DENYS SAID DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING CAMPS IN WHICH THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES HAD BEEN GIVEN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION, BETWEEN THEIR ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG AND THEIR DEPARTURE FOR NEW HOMES ELSEWHERE.

+THE DISCIPLINED FIRMNESS, AND SENSE OF ORDER AND FAIRNESS, OF PRISON OFFICERS HAS PROVED INVALUABLE IN THE CARRYING OUT OF THIS UNUSUAL TASK,+ HE SAID.

SOME TIME AGO, SIR DENYS WENT ON, PRISON OFFICERS WERE HANDED THE TASK OF DEALING WITH THE TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS.

HE SAID, +INSTEAD OF SENDING ADDICTS TO ORDINARY PENAL INSTITUTIONS, AS HAD BEEN THE PREVIOUS PRACTICE, THE COURTS WERE GIVEN POWER TO SEND THEM TO SPECIAL TREATMENT CENTRES, RUN BY PRISON OFFICERS, WHERE THEY REMAIN FOR LONG ENOUGH TO GIVE THEIR BODIES A REASONABLE CHANCE TO OVERCOME THE ADDICTIVE GRIP OF THE DRUG.+

+THE SUCCESS OF THIS EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN BEYOND THE MOST OPTIMISTIC PREDICTIONS MADE WHEN IT WAS LAUNCHED,+ HE ADDED.

SIR DENYS NOTED THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS CRIME AND ITS TREATMENT IN THE EAST, AS COMPARED WITH THE WEST.

/+IN THIS

+IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, THE ORDINARY MAN AND WOMAN BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN KINDS OF CRIME ARE WICKED AND INEXCUSABLE, AND THAT WICKEDNESS MUST BE TREATED WITH HARSHNESS. HE REGARDS CONSIDERATION FOR THE OFFENDER AS WEAKNESS AND AS AN AFFRONT TO THE VICTIM,+ HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS THAT THE PRISON OFFICER IN THE EAST WILL OFTEN FIND HIMSELF PURSUING POLICIES WHICH ARE AT ODDS WITH PUBLIC OPINION. HE WILL BE ACCUSED OF PAMPERING THE EVIL AND OF PROVIDING STANDARDS OF FOOD, CLOTHING, ACCOMMODATION AND HEALTH WHICH MANY HONEST MEN CANNOT ATTAIN BY LAWFUL MEANS. AND THIS IS A DANGER, OF WHICH PRISON ADMINISTRATIONS ARE WELL AWARE AND WHICH THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE,+ HE ADDED.

THE COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, MR T.G. GARNER, IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS AT THE CEREMONY, EXTENDED A VERY WARM AND HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL THE DELEGATES.

HE SAID, +TO HAVE THE MOST SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS IN CHARGE OF PRISONS AND OTHER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS FROM 14 COUNTRIES COME TOGETHER TO DISCUSS VARIOUS MATTERS RELATING TO PRISON ADMINISTRATION AND THE MANY OTHER AREAS OF OUR WORK IS INDEED A VERY HEALTHY SIGN.+

HE ADDED THAT THEIR SUPPORT ENSURED A GOOD FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE - THE VERY FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD- AND HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS EMBRACING SUBJECTS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST IN THE FUTURE.

MR GARNER ALSO EXPRESSED HIS WARMEST THANKS TO MR WILLIAM CLIFFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY, AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF FOR THE SUPERB WAY IN WHICH THEY HAD PUT THIS CONFERENCE TOGETHER.

HE RECALLED THAT IT WAS SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME SINCE MR CLIFFORD AND HE GOT TOGETHER AND TALKED ABOUT THE NEED FOR IDEAS AND OPINIONS FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD IN THE FIELD OF CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION- AND THEY BOTH AGREED THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO HAVE SOME SORT OF GET-TOGETHER ALONG THE SAME LINES WHICH PREVAILED IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD.

+WE ALSO AGREED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY IDEAS AND OPINIONS WERE NOT READILY IDENTIFIABLE FROM THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION WAS BECAUSE EXCEPT AT UNITED NATIONS LEVEL WE DID NOT HAVE REGULAR MEETINGS, MOST CERTAINLY NOT AT A WORKING LEVEL DURING WHICH WE COULD EXCHANGE IDEAS, EXPERIENCES AND DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, PARTICULARLY PROBLEMS WHICH ARE COMMON TO MOST OF US IF NOT ALL,+ MR GARNER SAID.

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MR DAVY TO SUCCEED
MR ALEXANDER AS DIRECTOR OF MARINE
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR M J ALEXANDER, JP, WILL LEAVE THE SERVICE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN MAY 1980 ON LEAVE PRIOR TO RETIREMENT.

HE WILL BE SUCCEEDED BY MR P E J DAVY, JP, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, WHOSE PROMOTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS.

MR ALEXANDER WILL BE 55 YEARS OF AGE IN MAY 1980. HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN NOVEMBER 1954 AS A MARINE OFFICER AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR MARINE OFFICER IN JANUARY 1965, PRINCIPAL MARINE OFFICER IN MAY 1971, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN MARCH 1972 AND TO DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN APRIL 1977.

MR ALEXANDER IS CONCURRENTLY REGISTRAR OF BRITISH SHIPS, THE PILOTAGE AUTHORITY AND THE SEAMEN'S RECRUITING AUTHORITY. HE IS ALSO EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN OF THE PORT COMMITTEE, SEAMEN'S RECRUITING ADVISORY BOARD, MERCHANT NAVY TRAINING BOARD, SEAMEN'S BOARD OF REFERENCE AND MERCANTILE MARINE ASSISTANCE FUND.

MR DAVY IS AGED 52 AND WAS FIRST APPOINTED AS AN ENGINEER AND SHIP SURVEYOR IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OF THE HOME CIVIL SERVICE.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN JULY 1961 AS A SURVEYOR OF SHIPS (ENGINEER AND SHIP). HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN FEBRUARY 1966, PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR OF SHIPS IN JUNE 1968, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN OCTOBER 1973, AND TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN APRIL 1977. MR DAVY HAS ACTED AS DIRECTOR OF MARINE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.

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24-HOUR BROADCASTING FOR RTHK
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RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG WILL BECOME THE FIRST REGULAR 24-HOUR RADIO STATION IN HONG KONG FROM SUNDAY, MARCH 30 WHEN BROADCASTING ON BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH CHANNELS WILL BE EXTENDED AROUND THE CLOCK.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING (RADIO), MR KEN WARBURTON SAID TODAY THE FULL 24-HOUR SERVICE WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE START OF THE NEW PROGRAMME YEAR. AT PRESENT ALL FOUR RTHK CHANNELS CLOSE AT 1 AM AND BROADCASTING BEGINS AGAIN AT SIX O'CLOCK EACH MORNING.

MR WARBURTON SAID HONG KONG WAS A '24-HOUR COMMUNITY' AND DESERVED A 24-HOUR RADIO STATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE COST OF EXTENDING THE SERVICE WILL BE VERY SMALL. +ALREADY OUR NEWSROOM OPERATES AROUND THE CLOCK, AND TECHNICAL STAFF ARE ALSO ROSTERED ON A 24-HOUR BASIS. THE ONLY THING LACKING UP TILL NOW HAS BEEN PROGRAMME INPUT, + HE SAID.

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HEAD OF THE ENGLISH PROGRAMME SERVICE, MR WARREN ROOKE, SAID THE MAIN ADVANTAGE OF 24-HOUR BROADCASTING WILL BE THE STATION'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS NEWS SERVICE.

+FOR SOME TIME NOW WE HAVE HAD THE CAPABILITY TO DO SO, AND APRIL SEEMS A GOOD TIME TO START THE NEW SERVICE.

+IN THE PAST RTHK HAS ONLY STAYED OPEN ALL NIGHT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY OR DURING TYPHOONS WHEN IT HAS BEEN OUR DUTY TO KEEP THE POPULATION FULLY INFORMED.+

MR ROOKE SAID THE GOVERNMENT STATION LOOKED ON THE EXTENSION OF HOURS AS A PUBLIC SERVICE. THE DECISION WAS BASED ON A COMBINATION OF DEMAND AND ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE RATHER THAN EXPENSIVE OR TIME CONSUMING SURVEYS. PREVIOUSLY BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH CHANNELS BROADCAST TILL 3 AM AND THE SERVICE WAS WELCOMED. THE STATION RECEIVED A FLOOD OF LETTERS WHEN IT CUT HOURS BACK TO A 1 AM CLOSE BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL CLIMATE AT THAT TIME.

BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH SERVICE WILL RECRUIT ONE ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCER TO COVER THE OVERNIGHT SHIFT. THE REMAINDER OF THE EFFORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY STAFF ALREADY WITH THE STATION. INITIALLY THE OVERNIGHT SERVICE WILL STAY WITH NEWS AND LIGHT MUSIC FORMAT TOGETHER WITH WEATHER REPORTS. THERE IS HOWEVER THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING LATE NIGHT DISCUSSION PROGRAMMES AND EVEN JOINING UP WITH THE BBC WORLD SERVICE FOR UP TO THE MINUTE REPORTS AND SPORTS COVERAGE.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1980

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR WAS \$7 044 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$4 997 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2 047 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR THE MONTH RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

WITH IMPORTS AT \$8 132 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JANUARY WAS \$1 088 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1979, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$1 180 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS= \$736 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS= \$1 916 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT IN TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$2 775 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT IN IMPORTS.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT TRADE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF A YEAR ARE ALWAYS AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, AND SO HE WAS AT PAINS TO STRESS THAT THEY HAD TO BE INTERPRETED WITH CARE.

HE ADDED THAT THE RAPID GROWTH RATE OF IMPORTS IN JANUARY WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY SEASONAL, REFLECTING IMPORTS IN ANTICIPATION OF INCREASED RETAIL SALES AROUND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN FEBRUARY. THERE HAD BEEN A SIMILAR RAPID GROWTH RATE IN IMPORTS IN DECEMBER 1978 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR IN JANUARY 1979.

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IN SUPPORT OF THIS CONTENTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIGURES FOR THE LATEST THREE MONTHS, THAT IS, NOVEMBER 1979 TO JANUARY 1980 SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1978 TO JANUARY 1979, OF 33 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 50 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, 37 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND 32 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

IN ADDITION, THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1979 TO JANUARY 1980 COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 36 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 52 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, 40 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND 38 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS. SO THE RECENT TRENDS IN THE TRADE STATISTICS, NAMELY THAT TOTAL EXPORTS ARE GROWING FASTER THAN IMPORTS AND THAT THE RE-EXPORT TRADE IS EXPANDING RAPIDLY ARE STILL APPARENT.

THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT WAS RELATIVELY LARGE IN JANUARY 1980, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD NOVEMBER 1979 TO JANUARY 1980 WAS 11 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 15 PER CENT FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD NOVEMBER 1978 TO JANUARY 1979.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:

LATEST THREE MONTHS	NOVEMBER 1979 TO JANUARY 1980	NOVEMBER 1978 TO JANUARY 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	15 914	11 968	+ 3 946	+ 33.0
RE-EXPORTS	5 937	3 953	+ 1 984	+ 50.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	21 851	15 921	+ 5 931	+ 37.3
IMPORTS	24 661	18 716	+ 5 945	+ 31.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 810	- 2 795	- 15	
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JANUARY 1980	JANUARY 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4 997 (70.9%)	3 817 (74.4%)	+ 1 180	+ 30.9
RE-EXPORTS	2 047	1 311	+ 736	+ 56.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 044	5 128	+ 1 916	+ 37.4
IMPORTS	8 132	5 358	+ 2 775	+ 51.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 088	- 230	- 858	

/LAST MONTH

LAST MONTH	JANUARY 1980	DECEMBER 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4 997 (70.9%)	5 602 (74.8%)	- 605	- 10.8
RE-EXPORTS	2 047	1 891	+ 156	+ 8.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	7 044	7 493	- 449	- 6.0
IMPORTS	8 132	8 328	- 195	- 2.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 088	- 835	- 253	
LAST 12 MONTHS	FEBRUARY 1979 TO JANUARY 1980	FEBRUARY 1978 TO JANUARY 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	57 070	41 829	+15 241	+ 36.4
RE-EXPORTS	20 741	13 643	+ 7 097	+ 52.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	77 811	55 472	+22 339	+ 40.3
IMPORTS	88 569	64 168	+24 401	+ 38.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 10 758	- 8 696	- 2 062	

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79 BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN JANUARY *****

A TOTAL OF 79 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED LAST MONTH (JANUARY) BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 70 IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

OF THESE, 29 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 12 FOR KOWLOON, AND 38 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION AT HAMMER HILL, A MEMORIAL HALL IN FANLING AND A NUMBER OF HIGH-RISE APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$427.65 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$198.02 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED LAST MONTH AMOUNTED TO 279 398.7 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 128 097.9 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 151 300.8 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

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DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 74 NEW PROJECTS, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION TO A MEDICAL CENTRE AND LIBRARY BLOCK AT SASSOON ROAD, A PETROL FILLING STATION AT SING WOO ROAD, A HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, A YOUTH CENTRE IN YUEN LONG AND A SCHOOL AT TAI PAK TIN STREET, KWAI CHUNG.

A TOTAL OF 54 NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING A SCHOOL BUILDING IN TAI PO, AN ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION IN TUEN MUN AND A TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING IN SHAM TSENG.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO ASSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 118 BUILDINGS.

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SURVEY TO GAUGE NEED OF STUDY ROOMS

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A SURVEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON THE NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WISHING TO USE STUDY ROOMS AND ON AREAS WHERE SUCH SERVICES ARE MOST NEEDED.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY IS TO ENSURE THAT STUDY ROOMS PROVIDED IN A SCHOOL WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS LIVING IN THE VICINITY INSTEAD OF BEING RESTRICTED FOR USE BY STUDENTS OF THAT PARTICULAR SCHOOL.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL BE CO-ORDINATING THE PROVISION OF STUDY ROOM FACILITIES WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO COVER THE OPERATING COST.

IT IS PROPOSED TO OPEN STUDY ROOMS AGAIN THIS YEAR IN A NUMBER OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30 FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS. THESE STUDY ROOMS WILL OPEN FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY EXCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

IT IS EMPHASISED THAT PRIORITY FOR OPENING STUDY ROOMS WILL BE GIVEN TO HIGH-DENSITY AREAS, SUBJECT TO DEMAND, AND THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COVER ALL AREAS.

TO ENSURE THAT THE ROOMS ARE USED PROPERLY, SUPERVISORS OF STUDY ROOMS WILL BE APPOINTED AND EVERY STUDENT WILL BE ISSUED WITH AN ADMISSION CARD.

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SALT WATER CUT

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF AREAS IN KOWLOON WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 15 HOURS FROM 9 AM ON THURSDAY (FEBRUARY 28) UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO FACILITATE PUMP INSTALLATION WORKS.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED ARE KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING, NGAU TAU KOK, JORDAN VALLEY, NGAU CHI WAN AND SAN PO KONG.

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