



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1977

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
JAN - JULY EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS .....	1
THREE NEW SWIMMING POOLS PLANNED FOR TSUEN WAN .....	6
SAFEST DELIVERY SERVICE IN HONG KONG .....	7
ILLEGAL OCCUPIERS TAKING HEED OF WARNING .....	9
COUNTRY PARK FACTS AVAILABLE .....	11
PRINCESS MARGARET RD FLYOVER NIGHT CLOSURE .....	11

HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE JANUARY-JULY  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED DETAILED TRADE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JULY THIS YEAR. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$19,172 MILLION IN THE SEVEN MONTHS, WHICH SHOWED AN INCREASE OF \$1,375 MILLION OR 7.7 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. IMPORTS WERE VALUED AT \$27,678 MILLION, INCREASING BY 13.9 PER CENT OR \$3,368 MILLION. ON THE OTHER HAND, RE-EXPORTS GAINED 8.4 PER CENT OR \$418 MILLION ON THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS:

	JAN-JULY 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JULY 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
U.S.A.	5,993	7,413	+1,421	+23.7%
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,237	1,986	- 250	-11.2%
UNITED KINGDOM	1,867	1,619	- 248	-13.3%
JAPAN	745	728	- 17	- 2.3%
AUSTRALIA	789	710	- 80	-10.1%
CANADA	776	661	- 116	-14.9%
SINGAPORE	426	481	+ 55	+13.0%
NETHERLANDS	409	422	+ 13	+ 3.2%
SWEDEN	370	378	+ 8	+ 2.2%
SWITZERLAND	404	334	- 70	-17.3%

MAJOR INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO U.S.A. WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (+ \$433 MILLION OR 39.3 PER CENT) WHICH WERE MAINLY COMPOSED OF PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (+ \$217 MILLION OR + 49.8 PER CENT). ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES INCREASED BY \$408 MILLION OR 37.7 PER CENT. THIS INCREASE WAS MAINLY ACCOUNTABLE BY A \$120 MILLION INCREASE IN ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND ANOTHER \$100 MILLION INCREASE IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS. DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING MAINTAINED A FAVOURABLE GROWTH RATE OF 15.4 PER CENT OR AN INCREASE OF \$401 MILLION. HOWEVER, TEXTILE PRODUCTS DECLINED AT 9.6 PER CENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO WEST GERMANY AND BRITAIN WERE DECREASING BECAUSE OF A DROP OF 22.2 PER CENT AND 24.7 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO THE TWO COUNTRIES RESPECTIVELY. ON THE CONTRARY, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES TO THESE TWO MARKETS RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER HAND, ACHIEVED VERY IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATES, WITH INCREASES OF EXPORTS TO EGYPT AT 320 PER CENT (+ \$47 MILLION) AND IRAN AT 165 PER CENT (+ \$61 MILLION).

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS IS PRESENTED BELOW:

	JAN-JULY 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JULY 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
CLOTHING	8,084	7,697	- 387	- 4.8%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	2,456	3,280	+ 824	+33.6%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS)	2,108	2,825	+ 718	+34.0%
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,769	1,469	- 301	-17.0%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	772	1,046	+ 274	+35.4%

MANUFACTURES OF METAL, N.E.S. (MAINLY FINISHED STRUCTURAL PARTS AND STRUCTURES AND TOOLS FOR USE IN THE HAND OR IN MACHINE)	452	542	+ 90	+19.8%
---	-----	-----	------	--------

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS FELL BY 4.8 PER CENT AND 17.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR COMMODITIES SUCH AS PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (+ \$440 MILLION OR +50.1 PER CENT), AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$207 MILLION OR +35.3 PER CENT). ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES GAINED A GROWTH RATE OF 34.0 PER CENT WHICH WAS COMPOSED MAINLY OF A 22.6 PER CENT INCREASE IN ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND A 49.7 PER CENT INCREASE IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS.

THE CHANGES OF IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

	JAN-JULY 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JULY 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	5,327	6,484	+1,157	+21.7%
CHINA	4,222	4,329	+ 107	+ 2.5%
U.S.A.	2,908	3,541	+ 633	+21.8%
TAIWAN	1,728	1,930	+ 202	+11.7%
SINGAPORE	1,369	1,692	+ 323	+23.6%
UNITED KINGDOM	1,060	1,216	+ 156	+14.7%
SOUTH KOREA	916	955	+ 39	+ 4.2%
F.R. OF GERMANY	746	806	+ 60	+ 8.0%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	652	728	+ 76	+11.7%
AUSTRALIA	476	560	+ 84	+17.5%

IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT FROM JAPAN INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF \$276 MILLION OR +155.1 PER CENT. OTHER REMARKABLE INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WERE RECORDED IN PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS= PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$226 MILLION OR +43.6 PER CENT), MACHINERY, OTHER THAN ELECTRIC (+ \$147 MILLION OR +28.1 PER CENT) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+ \$140 MILLION OR +19.3 PER CENT).

IMPORTS FROM CHINA, HONG KONG'S SECOND MAJOR SUPPLIER INCREASED ONLY BY 2.5 PER CENT. AN INCREASE OF 21.8 PER CENT OF IMPORTS FROM U.S.A. WAS LARGELY DUE TO A SUBSTANTIAL RISE IN THE IMPORTS OF TEXTILE FIBRES AND THEIR WASTE (\$386 MILLION OR +292.9 PER CENT). BESIDES, IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES WENT UP BY 20.5 PER CENT OR \$108 MILLION. A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS ALSO RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ 79 MILLION OR +387.1 PER CENT).

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS :

	JAN-JULY 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JULY 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, AND DIAMONDS)	7,777	8,261	+484	+ 6.2%
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4,240	5,345	+1,104	+26.0%
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	3,642	4,076	+ 434	+11.9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES)	2,710	3,494	+ 783	+29.0%
CHEMICALS	1,994	2,090	+ 96	+ 4.8%
CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUEL (MAINLY TEXTILE FIBRES AND THEIR WASTE)	1,926	2,069	+ 143	+ 7.4%

THE MORE NOTEWORTHY INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+ \$543 MILLION OR +23.7 PER CENT) AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ \$382 MILLION OR +89.7 PER CENT). OTHER INCREASES OCCURRED IN PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$372 MILLION OR +28.6%). IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD, TEXTILE FABRICS DECLINED BY \$125 MILLION (-9.2 PER CENT) AND \$145 MILLION (-6.1 PER CENT) RESPECTIVELY. DYEING, TANNING AND COLOURING MATERIAL ALSO RECORDED A DROP OF \$68 MILLION OR 15.6 PER CENT.

RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN AND U.S.A. DROPPED BY 6.4 PER CENT AND 3.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, RE-EXPORTS TO VARIOUS ASIAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS SINGAPORE (+14.8 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+6.2 PER CENT), INDONESIA (+20.5 PER CENT), AND SOUTH KOREA (+16.2 PER CENT) WERE INCREASING. MAJOR INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+\$91 MILLION), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+\$69 MILLION), TEXTILE FABRICS (+\$55 MILLION), AND MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS (+55 MILLION).

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE VARIOUS TRADE INDEX NUMBERS (1973 = 100) FOR JUNE AS FOLLOWS :

	<u>VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>UNIT VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>QUANTUM INDEX</u>
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	181	131	138
IMPORTS	165	134	123

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (I.E. EXPORT PRICES OVER IMPORT PRICES) FOR JUNE IS 98.

(NOTE: VALUE FIGURES HAVE BEEN ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST MILLION DOLLAR.)

SWIMMING POOL BOOM FOR TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN  
\*\*\*\*\*

TSUEN WAN WILL EXPERIENCE A SWIMMING POOL BUILDING BOOM OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY.

HE REVEALED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXPECTED TO START WORK NEXT YEAR ON A NEW PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX AT NORTH KWAI CHUNG, WHILE PRIVATE DEVELOPERS HAD PROPOSED ANOTHER TWO GOVERNMENT-STANDARD POOL PROJECTS AT NORTH TSUEN WAN.

MR. HAYES WAS SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY AT THE CONCLUSION OF A SWIMMING GALA FOR TSUEN WAN YOUNGSTERS AT GALLIPOLI LINES JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE 10TH PRINCESS MARY'S OWN GURKHA RIFLES AND THE RECREATION AND SPORTS SERVICE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ALREADY OPERATED A SEVEN-POOL PUBLIC COMPLEX AT KWAI CHUNG ADJOINING GIN DRINKER'S BAY.

+THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES TO KEEP PACE WITH THE RAPID POPULATION GROWTH OF TSUEN WAN - THE FASTEST -GROWING AREA IN THE NEW TERRITORIES,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

+A SECOND PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX, PROBABLY COVERED AND HEATED FOR YEAR-ROUND USE, IS TO BE BUILT AT WO YEE HOP ROAD AND WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.

+ADDITIONALLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH HOPEWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED AND SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES LIMITED WHICH ARE DEVELOPING LARGE RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN NORTH TSUEN WAN AND WISH TO PUT IN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL AREAS IN THE VICINITY.

+THE IDEA IS THAT THE COMPANIES WOULD CARRY OUT THE PROJECTS TO GOVERNMENT STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS ON LAND SUPPLIED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+ONCE COMPLETED, THE COMPANIES WOULD HAND OVER THE POOLS TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

+THESE POOLS WOULD SERVE NOT ONLY THE 40,000 PEOPLE WHO WILL LIVE IN THE PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT ALSO ANOTHER 100,000 PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN EASY WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE SITES AT CENTRAL AND NORTH TSUEN WAN.

+I AM CONFIDENT THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITH THE COMPANIES ON THEIR PROPOSALS,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1977

- 7 -

### DELIVERY SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR THE MOST PAINSTAKING AND RELIABLE DELIVERY SERVICE IN HONG KONG, THE MINES DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS NO EQUAL.

ITS SERVICE IS COMPARABLE TO THE MILKMAN'S - DELIVERIES, FRESH FOR CONSUMPTION EACH DAY, ARE MADE WITHOUT FAIL TO THE VERY DOOR STEPS OF CUSTOMERS.

BUT IN PLACE OF MILK BOTTLES THE MINES DIVISION'S DELIVERY TEAMS ARE ENTRUSTED WITH A FAR MORE DEMANDING COMMODITY - CARTONS OF EXPLOSIVES AND DETONATORS.

THE ROUND BEGINS EVERY MORNING SIX DAYS A WEEK AT THE GREEN ISLAND EXPLOSIVES DEPOT WHERE EXPLOSIVES ARE LOADED ONTO A SPECIAL DELIVERY LAUNCH.

THIS LAUNCH IS PURPOSE-BUILT FOR ITS IMPORTANT CARGO WITH A SPECIAL HOLD FOR DETONATORS WHICH ARE HANDLED AND STOWED QUITE SEPARATELY FROM THE BLASTING EXPLOSIVES FOR MAXIMUM SAFETY.

THE HOLDS ARE FITTED WITH AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS AND THE ENGINE-ROOM IS INSTALLED WITH A CARBON DIOXIDE FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM WHICH CAN BE QUICKLY ACTIVATED IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF FIRE.

ON AVERAGE SOME THREE TO TEN TONS OF EXPLOSIVES ALL TO BE CONSUMED ON THE DAY ARE LOADED EACH MORNING FOR DELIVERY. THEY ARE TAKEN TO WATERFRONT DISTRIBUTION POINTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND AS WELL AS ON THE MAINLAND AND LANTAU WHERE INDIVIDUAL CONSIGNMENTS DESTINED FOR PARTICULAR BLASTING SITES ARE OFF-LOADED ONTO DELIVERY TRUCKS.

THESE TRUCKS ARE ALSO PURPOSE-BUILT TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST ACCIDENTS DURING TRANSPORTATION. INDIVIDUAL SPARK-PROOF TIMBER-LINED COMPARTMENTS ARE PROVIDED FOR DETONATORS AND EXPLOSIVES WITH SUFFICIENT SPACE BETWEEN TO PREVENT EXPLOSION FROM SENSITIVE DETONATORS TRANSMITTING TO THE EXPLOSIVE CARGO.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY FEATURES ENSURE THAT THE HOT EXHAUST SYSTEM IS NOT POSITIONED NEAR TO THE BODY OF THE VEHICLE, WHICH IN ADDITION IS SEPARATED FROM THE CAB AND THE FUEL TANK BY A FIRE SCREEN. WHEEL ARCHES ARE ALSO LINED WITH ASBESTOS IN CASE OF A TYRE CATCHING FIRE.

+PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SAFEGUARD OF ALL IS THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE EXPLOSIVES INSPECTORS, EXPLOSIVES SUPERVISORS AND DRIVERS WHO STAFF THIS DELIVERY SYSTEM AND MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE+, THE CHIEF EXPLOSIVES OFFICER, MR. GEORGE RANSON SAID.

/WHENEVER .....

WHENEVER A TRUCK IS CARRYING EXPLOSIVE CARGO, AN EXPLOSIVES INSPECTOR SITS UP FRONT WITH THE DRIVER, WHILE FOLLOWING UP THE REAR ARE EXPLOSIVES SUPERVISORS IN A PERSONNEL TRUCK. AS THE EXPLOSIVES ARE DELIVERED TO EACH BLASTING SITE A NUMBER OF SUPERVISORS STAY AT THE SITE TO ENSURE THAT THE EXPLOSIVES ARE PROPERLY USED OR DESTROYED AND DO NOT GO ASTRAY.

THE LIST OF EXPLOSIVES CONSUMERS GETS LONGER WEEK BY WEEK AS HONG KONG GOES THROUGH AN ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD AND THE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES CONSUMED INCREASES. ON ONE DAY ALONE RECENTLY OVER 20 TONS OF EXPLOSIVES WERE DELIVERED AND CONSUMED BY SUNDOWN.

MAJOR CONSUMERS ARE THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR PROJECT, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SITES, NEW TOWN PROJECTS, THE TUEN MUN EXPRESSWAY AND THE LARGE STONE QUARRIES WORKING OVERTIME TO SATISFY A CONTINUING AND INCREASING DEMAND FOR STONE PRODUCTS.

THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL AND THE NEW BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL WILL ALSO BECOME MAJOR CONSUMERS OF EXPLOSIVES WHEN WORK UNDERGROUND GETS UNDERWAY.

A RECENT ADVANCE IN EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL PROVE SIGNIFICANT FOR HONG KONG IS THE ADVENT OF WATERGEL, A NEW EXPLOSIVE WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY LESS SENSITIVE THAN DYNAMITE AND CONSEQUENTLY MUCH SAFER.

IT IS SAFER TO STORE, TO TRANSPORT AND TO USE AND YET WHEN INITIATED IS AS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE AS DYNAMITE.

+THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WATERGEL, OR SLURRY EXPLOSIVE AS IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED, WILL EVENTUALLY REPLACE DYNAMITE ALTOGETHER,+ SAID MR. RANSON AND, HE ADDED, +IN THE INTERESTS OF IMPROVED SAFETY THE SOONER IT DOES SO THE BETTER+.

APART FROM THE IMPROVEMENT TO SAFETY IT PROVIDES, WATERGEL HAS OTHER ADVANTAGES TO OFFER. IT CAN BE HANDLED WITHOUT CAUSING THE NAUSEOUS HEADACHES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NITRO-GLYCERINE DYNAMITES AND GELIGNITES AND, FOR TUNNELLERS, IT HAS MUCH BETTER FUME CHARACTERISTICS ALLOWING WORKERS TO APPROACH THE WORK FACE SOONER AFTER BLASTING.

WATERGEL USED SO FAR IN HONG KONG HAS BEEN IMPORTED MAINLY FROM THE UNITED STATES BUT CONSIGNMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN.

ITS CONSUMPTION PRESENTLY ACCOUNTS FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 PER CENT OF ALL CARTRIDGED EXPLOSIVES USED IN HONG KONG AND WILL PROBABLY INCREASE AS ITS BENEFITS BECOME MORE WIDELY APPRECIATED.

WHATEVER KIND OF EXPLOSIVE IS USED, HOWEVER, THE PRESENT RIGID CONTROL OVER ITS TRANSPORTATION AND USE WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY.

HANDY FACTS ON COUNTRY PARKS  
CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL LAND OCCUPIERS

\* \* \* \* \*

A FACT SHEET ON HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT. ILLEGAL OCCUPIERS OF CROWN LAND IN TSUEN WAN HAVE BEGUN TO FEEL THE +BITE+ OF A FORCEFUL CAMPAIGN THAT AIMS AT CLEARING UNSIGHTLY AND OBSTRUCTIVE STRUCTURES FROM UNLEASED LAND IN THE DISTRICT.

THE DRIVE HAS MADE MANY OFFENDERS REALISE THAT THE DISTRICT'S CROWN LAND CONTROL UNIT IS NOT A +PAPER TIGER+ AS SOME OF THEM OBVIOUSLY THOUGHT IT WAS IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO A DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN.

THE UNIT WAS SET UP THREE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH WITHIN THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, CHARGED WITH LAUNCHING A DRIVE TO RID THE NEW TOWN OF STRUCTURES ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING CROWN LAND.

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE UNIT, MR. STEVE YUEN, WHO IS TSUEN WAN'S ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER (LAND CONTROL), SAID TODAY: +OUR CAMPAIGN HAS PRODUCED DEFINITE RESULTS.

+ONE RESULT IS THAT WE HAVE CURBED THE GROWTH OF STRUCTURES ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING CROWN LAND IN SIDE LANES, PAVEMENTS AND OTHER AREAS IN THE TOWN.

+WE HAVE MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE PROBLEM AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO GET RID OF THE EXISTING CASES THAT ARE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION,+ HE SAID.

MR. YUEN SAID ANOTHER RESULT WAS THAT MORE AND MORE ILLEGAL OCCUPIERS OF CROWN LAND HAD COME TO CEASE OPERATION VOLUNTARILY AFTER THEY HAD BEEN SERVED WITH A NOTICE TELLING THEM TO MOVE.

IN RECENT MONTHS, HE SAID, ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THEM VOLUNTARILY PULLED DOWN THEIR STRUCTURES AND MOVED BEFORE THE NOTICE EXPIRED.

PREVIOUSLY, ONLY ABOUT 30 PER CENT CHOSE TO COMPLY WITH THE NOTICE, HE ADDED.

+THE REASON IS THAT MORE AND MORE OFFENDERS HAVE COME TO REALISE THAT WE WILL TAKE FIRM ACTION IF THEY CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE NOTICE,+ HE SAID.

+THEY KNOW THAT THEY WILL FACE PROSECUTION UNDER THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE WHICH CARRIES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF A \$10,000 FINE AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

FOR SOUTH-BOUND TRAFFIC, MOTORISTS SHOULD DRIVE ALONG WATERLOO ROAD, CROSS ARGYLE STREET AND ENTER PRINCE /+THEY ARE ..... ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1977

- 10 -

+THEY ARE ALSO AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE IN TO DEMOLISH THEIR STRUCTURES AND CHARGE THEM THE COST OF DEMOLITION, AS WELL AS FORFEIT ANY STRUCTURES OR PROPERTY ON THE SITE,+ HE SAID.

SINCE THE CROWN LAND CONTROL UNIT WAS SET UP, IT HAS BROUGHT 428 CASES OF ILLEGAL CROWN LAND OCCUPATION TO THE COURTS.

+OF THESE CASES, 378 OFFENDERS WERE CONVICTED= THE MAJORITY WERE FINED SUMS RANGING FROM \$20 TO \$10,000,+ MR. YUEN SAID.

TWENTY-TWO OFFENDERS WERE JAILED FOR TERMS RANGING FROM ONE DAY TO SIX MONTHS= WHILE 46 OTHERS WERE GIVEN JAIL SENTENCES SUSPENDED FOR ONE AND A HALF YEARS TO TWO YEARS.

ONLY THIS WEEK IN TSUEN WAN COURT, A MAGISTRATE FINED A MAN FOR A SUM OF \$8,000 FOR ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING ABOUT 3,200 SQUARE FEET OF CROWN LAND FOR STORING TIMBER.

IN MAY THIS YEAR, ANOTHER MAN WAS SENT TO JAIL FOR TWO MONTHS AFTER HE WAS FOUND GUILTY OF ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING ABOUT 850 SQUARE FEET OF CROWN LAND BY SETTING UP A WORKSHOP.

IN ADDITION TO PROSECUTIONS, MR. YUEN SAID, THE UNIT HAS ALSO CARRIED OUT NUMEROUS ILLEGAL CROWN LAND OCCUPATION CLEARANCES.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

/11 .....

HANDY FACTS ON COUNTRY PARKS

\* \* \* \*

A FACT SHEET ON HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES GIVING A HANDY REFERENCE TO THEIR LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES.

THE AREAS COVERED BY THE FACT SHEET ARE SHING MUN, KAM SHAN, LION ROCK, TAI TAM AND ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARKS, AND A SPECIAL AREA IN TAI PO KAU RESERVED FOR NATURE STUDIES.

BESIDES DESCRIBING THEIR LOCATIONS, SCENIC SPOTS, TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND RECREATION FACILITIES, THE FACT SHEET ALSO LISTS SOME OF THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS FACED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN KEEPING THESE PARKS CLEAN AND PLEASANT FOR ALL.

THE MAIN PROBLEMS ARE FIRE AND LITTER. TWO MILLION VISITORS WERE RECORDED ENTERING THE PARKS LAST YEAR- REGRETTABLY THEY LEFT BEHIND SOME 500,000 KILOGRAMMES OF RUBBISH. AND, DURING THE DRY SEASON WHEN FIRE RISKS ARE HIGH, AS MANY AS THREE TO SIX HILL FIRES MAY OCCUR DAILY.

THE FACT SHEET, PUBLISHED IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, IS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE MARKETING OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AT 1A GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

A SPECIAL SERIES OF COLOUR LEAFLETS DESCRIBING THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY PARKS IS ALSO BEING PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, ESPECIALLY ON ESTABLISHED COUNTRY WALKS.

SOME OF THESE LEAFLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NIGHT CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET RD FLYOVER

\* \* \* \*

PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. DAILY FROM WEDNESDAY TO SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 14 TO 17) TO ENABLE MAINTENANCE WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT.

DURING THESE PERIODS NORTH-BOUND TRAFFIC FROM PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD TO WATERLOO ROAD MAY TURN LEFT INTO ARGYLE STREET, MAKE A U-TURN IN FRONT OF THE CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, AND ENTER WATERLOO ROAD.

FOR SOUTH-BOUND TRAFFIC, MOTORISTS SHOULD DRIVE ALONG WATERLOO ROAD, CROSS ARGYLE STREET AND ENTER PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -