



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1979

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MARKET TOWN DEVELOPMENT AREAS OFFICIALLY BECOME
+NEW TOWNS+
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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IN FUTURE THE DEVELOPING MARKET TOWN AREAS OF TAI PO, YUEN LONG AND FAN LING/SHEUNG SHUI/SHEK WU HUI WOULD BE OFFICIALLY CALLED +NEW TOWNS+.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN TODD, SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THE SCOPE AND SIZE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS, IT WAS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE TO REFER TO THE AREAS AS +MARKET TOWNS+.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TAI PO WOULD HAVE A PLANNED ULTIMATE POPULATION OF 220,000, FAN LING/SHEUNG SHUI/SHEK WU HUI 170,000 AND YUEN LONG ABOUT 100,000.

+WHEN THEY ARE FULLY DEVELOPED, THE THREE AREAS WILL BE THE SIZE OF MANY LARGE TOWNS OR CITIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD,+ HE SAID.

+TAI PO WOULD BE COMPARABLE WITH TELFORD AND YUEN LONG LARGER THAN WASHINGTON, TWO OF BRITAIN'S MAJOR NEW TOWNS.+

+OUR THREE SMALLER NEW TOWNS WILL, IN FACT, BE MODERN URBAN CENTRES WITH ALL MANNER OF FACILITIES - PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HOUSING, INDUSTRY, SHOPPING AND COMMERCIAL AREAS, TOWN PARKS, CULTURAL, SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AS WELL AS A WHOLE RANGE OF COMMUNITY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

+THEY TRULY WILL BE NEW TOWNS, ONLY ON A SMALLER SCALE TO THE MAJOR NEW TOWNS OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN.+

MR. TODD ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE SMALLER NEW TOWNS WOULD ALSO BE SERVED BY IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS, SUCH AS THE BUILDING OF THE SHA TIN TO TAI PO COASTAL ROAD, THE DOUBLE TRACKING AND ELECTRIFICATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY INTO A RAPID SURFACE SYSTEM AND THE UPGRADING OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

+THESE SMALLER NEW TOWNS WILL PLAY A VERY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNED AS THE SPEARHEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING PROGRAMME,+ HE SAID.

MR. TODD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO SEEKING A SINGLE, SUITABLE NAME FOR THE FAN LING/SHEUNG SHUI/SHEK WU HUI PROJECT, BECAUSE THE AREA WAS BEING DEVELOPED AS A SELF-CONTAINED URBAN ENTITY.

+WE HAVE REFERRED THE QUESTION TO THE TAI PO DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE MEMBERS, WITH THEIR WIDE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, WILL BE ABLE TO SUGGEST AN APPROPRIATE NAME FOR THE NEW TOWN,+ HE ADDED.

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BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR 1978
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MORE BIRTHS AND FEWER DEATHS WERE REGISTERED LAST YEAR THAN IN 1977, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR. P. JACOBS.

THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN 1978 WAS 79,173, WHICH WAS 366 MORE THAN THE 1977 FIGURE OF 78,807, AND THE NUMBER OF DEATHS REGISTERED DECREASED BY 616 TO 22,843.

THE GREATEST NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN ANY ONE YEAR WAS IN 1963, WHEN 115,263 WERE REGISTERED. THEREAFTER THE NUMBER DECLINED EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE DOWNWARD TREND WAS REVERSED IN 1972.

AFTER SLIGHT INCREASES IN THREE SUCCESSIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER FELL IN 1975 AND 1976 BUT ROSE AGAIN IN 1977 AND 1978.

OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS REGISTERED LAST YEAR, 77,063 WERE CHINESE (39,630 MALES AND 37,433 FEMALES) AND 2,110 NON-CHINESE (1,044 MALES AND 1,066 FEMALES).

A TOTAL OF 20,716 WERE REGISTERED ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 49,601 IN KOWLOON AND 8,856 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES. THESE REPRESENTED INCREASES OF 1.94 PER CENT AND 1.56 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY FOR HONG KONG AND THE NEW TERRITORIES AND A DECREASE OF 0.33 PER CENT FOR KOWLOON AS COMPARED WITH THE 1977 FIGURES.

IN ISSUING THESE FIGURES, MR. JACOBS EMPHASISED THAT THEY WERE IN RESPECT OF REGISTERED BIRTHS ONLY. +THERE ARE ALWAYS A NUMBER OF BIRTHS EVERY YEAR WHICH ARE NOT REGISTERED BY THE PARENTS AT THE TIME, WITH THE RESULT THAT WHILE THE FIGURES FOR THE REGISTERED BIRTHS SHOW TRENDS, THEY DO NOT GIVE A COMPLETELY ACCURATE PICTURE,+ HE SAID.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS COMPRISED 22,548 CHINESE (12,221 MALES AND 10,318 FEMALES) AND 295 NON-CHINESE (199 MALES AND 96 FEMALES).

THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE WAS 934 AS AGAINST 1,093 IN 1977, WHILE THAT OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OLD WAS 539 COMPARED WITH 565 THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, REGISTERED MARRIAGES SHOWED A SLIGHT DECREASE DURING THE YEAR WITH A TOTAL OF 7,471 MARRIAGES CELEBRATED, DOWN BY 400 OR 5.08 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH 7,871 IN 1977.

THERE ARE NOW FOUR FULL-TIME REGISTRIES AND FOUR PART-TIME MARRIAGE REGISTRIES OPERATING IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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THE TWO PRINCIPAL MARRIAGE REGISTRIES AT THE CITY HALL AND THE KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES REMAIN MOST POPULAR WITH 36.06 PER CENT OF ALL REGISTRY MARRIAGES CELEBRATED THERE.

ANOTHER POPULAR REGISTRY WAS THE SAN PO KONG REGISTRY, WHERE 6,727 MARRIAGES TOOK PLACE DURING THE YEAR.

THE CITY HALL MARRIAGE REGISTRY CONTINUED TO OPERATE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS DURING THE YEAR AND A TOTAL OF 525 SUNDAY MORNING MARRIAGES WERE PERFORMED.

IN MANY CASES, SUNDAY WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE IT HAPPENED TO BE A LUCKY DAY ACCORDING TO THE CHINESE CALENDAR= IN OTHERS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF CONVENIENCE FOR WORK OR OTHER REASONS.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR DECEMBER

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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR DECEMBER, 1978 WAS \$4,305 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$6,809 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$1,218 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SUNDAY).

THE TRADE DEFICIT FOR THE MONTH WAS \$1,286 MILLION.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1978 (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977 OF 24.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 39.3 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 40.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER ROSE BY 28.3 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1977, INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$728 MILLION OR 20.4 PER CENT IN EXPORTS, \$1,893 MILLION OR 38.5 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$244 MILLION OR 25.0 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT-TERM CHANGES, DECEMBER 1978 COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1978, SHOWED INCREASES OF \$508 MILLION OR 13.4 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$390 MILLION OR 6.1 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS, AND A DECREASE OF \$165 MILLION OR 11.9 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1977 SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 16.3 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 29.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 34.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

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FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES :-

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	OCT.-DEC. 1978	OCT.-DEC. 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	11,908	9,532	+ 2,376	+ 24.9
IMPORTS	18,834	13,519	+ 5,315	+ 39.3
RE-EXPORTS	3,840	2,740	+ 1,100	+ 40.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 3,086	- 1,247	- 1,839	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	DECEMBER 1978	DECEMBER 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,305 (77.9%)	3,577 (78.6%)	+ 728	+ 20.4
IMPORTS	6,809	4,916	+ 1,893	+ 38.5
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,218 (22.1%)	975 (21.4%)	+ 244	+ 25.0
TRADE BALANCE	- 1,286	- 364	- 922	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	DECEMBER 1978	NOVEMBER 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,305 (77.9%)	3,797 (73.3%)	+ 508	+ 13.4
IMPORTS	6,809	6,420	+ 390	+ 6.1
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,218 (22.1%)	1,383 (26.7%)	- 165	- 11.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 1,286	- 1,240	- 46	
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	JAN.-DEC. 1978	JAN.-DEC. 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	40,703 (75.5%)	35,004 (78.1%)	+ 5,699	+ 16.3
IMPORTS	63,024	48,701	+14,323	+ 29.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	13,189 (24.5%)	9,829 (21.9%)	+ 3,360	+ 34.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 9,132	- 3,868	- 5,264	

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BALLOT FOR A TAXI LICENCE
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A PUBLIC BALLOT WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY (JANUARY 23) TO DETERMINE THE ACCEPTANCE OF ONE OF THE TWO TENDERS OFFERING AN IDENTICAL UNIT PREMIUM OF \$248,888 FOR A URBAN TAXI LICENCE.

THE BALLOT WILL TAKE PLACE AT 2.30 P.M. AT ROOM 27 ON THE MEZZANINE FLOOR OF 2, MURRAY ROAD, TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S LICENSING OFFICE.

THE TWO TENDERERS CONCERNED HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE BALLOT.

THE LICENCE IN QUESTION IS ONE OF THE 300 URBAN TAXI LICENCES TENDERED LAST DECEMBER. OF THESE, 299 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO TENDERERS OFFERING A UNIT PREMIUM IN EXCESS OF \$248,888.

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EARLY PAYMENT DATES FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS
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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND WELFARE ALLOWANCES TO CASH THEIR COUPONS BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THOSE WITH COUPONS TO BE CASHED ON JANUARY 28, 29, 30 AND 31 COULD DO SO ON OR AFTER JANUARY 23, 24, 25 AND 26 RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH POST OFFICES, TREASURY OFFICES AND NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT OFFICES WHERE THE COUPONS ARE CASHED.

HE ADVISED THOSE INVOLVED TO TAKE NOTE OF THEIR OWN CASHING DATES SO THAT THEY COULD GET THEIR ALLOWANCES BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

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SITE VISITS BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT

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MR. DAVID STEAD, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, WILL INSPECT A NUMBER OF WORK SITES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE VISIT WILL ENABLE THE DIRECTOR TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE PROGRESS OF VARIOUS P.W.D. PROJECTS IN THE AREA.

MR. STEAD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF ENGINEERS OF VARIOUS OFFICES CONCERNED.

AMONG THE SITES TO BE VISITED WILL BE THE TUEN MUN ROAD STAGE II.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE VISIT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT OF THE P.W.D. TO THE WORK SITES TOMORROW (MONDAY).

OFFICIAL TRANSPORT WILL BE PROVIDED. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, COVERING THE VISIT, ARE REQUESTED TO USE THIS FACILITY AS NO STOPPING OR PARKING WILL BE ALLOWED ON THAT ROAD. TWO NINE-SEATER VANS WILL LEAVE THE OPEN CAR PARK OUTSIDE THE RECEPTION OFFICE, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AT 1.30 P.M. SHARP.

OFFICERS OF THE P.W.D.'S PUBLICITY UNIT WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST THE PRESS.

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