



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## NOVEMBER PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED

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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1984 ROSE BY 13 PER CENT OR \$1 309 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR TO REACH \$11 702 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1984 PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED, BY 39 PER CENT OR \$2 259 MILLION, TO \$8 008 MILLION. TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT \$19 710 MILLION, WAS 22 PER CENT OR \$3 568 MILLION HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS \$19 747 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1984, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 16 PER CENT OR \$2 711 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR NOVEMBER THIS YEAR WAS THUS \$37 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$894 MILLION IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1984 WAS \$200 549 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$126 063 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$74 486 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1983, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$56 987 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$32 579 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$24 408 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$45 920 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT, TO \$202 440 MILLION. AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS MUCH FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP NARROWED TO ONE PER CENT IN THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF 1984, FROM EIGHT PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE COMPARATIVE FIGURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GROWTH RATES OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS HAD ALL SLOWED DOWN IN RECENT MONTHS, LARGELY REFLECTING THE SUBSTANTIAL RECOVERY IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1983.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1984:

/TRADE FIGURES .....

TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1984

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS RELEASED THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER:-

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$11 702 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: \$ 8 008 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	: \$19 710 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: \$19 747 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: \$ 37 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	SEPT-NOV 1984	SEPT-NOV 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	36 588	30 505	+ 6 083	+ 19.9
RE-EXPORTS	23 047	16 530	+ 6 517	+ 39.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	59 635	47 035	+ 12 600	+ 26.8
IMPORTS	57 955	50 142	+ 7 813	+ 15.6
TRADE BALANCE	+ 1 680	- 3 107	+ 4 787	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	NOVEMBER 1984	NOVEMBER 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11 702 (59.4%)	10 393 (64.4%)	+ 1 309	+ 12.6
RE-EXPORTS	8 008	5 749	+ 2 259	+ 39.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 710	16 142	+ 3 568	+ 22.1
IMPORTS	19 747	17 036	+ 2 711	+ 15.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 37	- 894	+ 857	

/LAST MONTH .....

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LAST MONTH	NOVEMBER 1984	OCTOBER 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	11 702 (59.4%)	12 473 (61.2%)	- 771	- 6.2
RE-EXPORTS	8 008	7 896	+ 112	+ 1.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 710	20 369	- 659	- 3.2
IMPORTS	19 747	19 628	+ 119	+ 0.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 37	+ 741	- 778	
CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-NOV 1984	JAN-NOV 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	126 063 (62.9%)	93 484 (65.1%)	+ 32 579	+ 34.8
RE-EXPORTS	74 486	50 078	+ 24 408	+ 48.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	200 549	143 562	+ 56 987	+ 39.7
IMPORTS	202 440	156 520	+ 45 920	+ 29.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 891	-12 958	+ 11 067	
LAST 12 MONTHS	DEC 1983 TO NOV 1984	DEC 1982 TO NOV 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	136 985	101 875	+ 35 110	+ 34.5
RE-EXPORTS	80 702	54 574	+ 26 128	+ 47.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	217 687	156 449	+ 61 238	+ 39.1
IMPORTS	221 362	170 564	+ 50 798	+ 29.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 3 675	-14 115	+ 10 440	

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VEHICULAR BORDER LINK FOR LOK MA CHAU  
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THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT A BORDER LINK AT LOK MA CHAU TO CATER FOR THE INCREASING VOLUME OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC TO AND FROM CHINA.

THE PROPOSED ROUTE IS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PROJECT, AND WILL SUPPLEMENT THE EXISTING VEHICULAR CROSSING AT MAN KAM TO.

THE TOTAL LENGTH OF THE ROUTE, POSITIONED NEAR LOK MA CHAU ROAD, IS ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES AND RUNS FROM CASTLE PEAK ROAD TO THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHENZHEN RIVER, BEYOND WHICH POINT THE WORKS WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES.

AT THE SOUTHERN END, THE PROPOSED ROAD WILL JOIN THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AT AN INTERCHANGE NEAR THE SAN TIN POST OFFICE.

THE ROAD WILL BE CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE DUAL TWO-LANE TRAFFIC INITIALLY, WITH ALLOWANCE IN THE DESIGN FOR WIDENING TO DUAL THREE-LANE IF AND WHEN NEEDED.

NEAR THE FRONTIER CLOSED AREA BOUNDARY - ABOUT HALF WAY ALONG THE ROUTE - WILL BE A BORDER CONTROL COMPLEX FOR CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATIONS.

TO ENSURE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE BORDER CONTROL AND THE SMOOTH FLOW OF HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, TWO VEHICLE HOLDING AREAS WILL BE BUILT, ONE ON EITHER SIDE OF THE COMPLEX.

PHASE 1 OF THE VEHICULAR BORDER LINK PROJECT, WHICH COMPRISES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHENZHEN RIVER AND A SHORT LENGTH OF APPROACH ROAD, WAS GAZETTED IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE PRESENT PROPOSAL FORMS THE SECOND AND FINAL PHASE OF THE PROJECT FOR THE REMAINING SECTION - FROM THE END OF PHASE 1 TO THE INTERCHANGE NEAR THE SAN TIN POST OFFICE.

INCLUDED IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PROJECT WILL BE SITE FORMATION FOR THE BORDER CONTROL COMPLEX AND THE EASTERN BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER. CONSTRUCTION OF THE VEHICLE HOLDING AREAS, THE FURTHER FORMATION FOR THE BORDER CONTROL COMPLEX AND THE WESTERN BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER WILL FOLLOW AT A LATER STAGE WHEN THE NEED ARISES.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING LOBBY, HONG KONG; AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES; AND AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE, 269 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

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KCRC REAPPOINTMENTS

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MR H.M.G. FORSGATE HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED CHAIRMAN, AND MR CHAN KAM-CHUEN AND MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG HAVE BEEN REAPPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION.

THE RE-APPOINTMENTS, ANNOUNCED IN TODAY'S GAZETTE, ARE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS FROM DECEMBER 24.

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION ARE, MR J.A. RICHARDSON, MR DAVID LI, MR ALFRED TSO SHIU-WAI, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORATION.

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GROUPS PAY TRIBUTE TO DENIS BRAY

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THIRTY-THREE ORGANISATIONS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY PAID TRIBUTE TODAY TO THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DENIS BRAY, WHO WILL BE RETIRING AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

THIS EVENING, A DINNER WAS HELD IN HIS HONOUR BY KAI FONG ASSOCIATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, CLANSMAN ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

SPEAKING AT THE RECEPTION, MR BRAY PRAISED THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN DEVELOPING HONG KONG INTO A LEADING TRADING, MANUFACTURING AND FINANCIAL CENTRE.

+THE PROUD RECORDS OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TERRITORY ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DYNAMIC DRIVE OF ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR DETERMINATION. I AM DELIGHTED THAT MANY OF THEM ARE PRESENT HERE TONIGHT. I DEEM IT AS AN HONOUR TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH YOU.

+I AM SURE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO DISPLAY THE SAME SPIRIT TO MAKE GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG, SO THAT THE +PEARL OF THE ORIENT+ WILL BE SHINING FOREVER. TO WHICH I AM WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE WHATEVER I CAN WITH YOU,+ MR BRAY SAID.

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RECORD NUMBER OF UC CAPITAL WORKS CONTRACTS SIGNED  
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A RECORD HIGH NUMBER OF URBAN COUNCIL CAPITAL WORKS CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD, 26 CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$170 MILLION WERE AWARDED TO CONTRACTORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT WORK IN RESPECT OF MOST OF THESE CONTRACTS HAS ALREADY STARTED.

THESE INCLUDE THE KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND, THE CHOI HUNG ROAD PLAYGROUND, THE QUARRY BAY MARKET COMPLEX PHASE II, THE KOWLOON CITY MARKET COMPLEX, THE MULTI-STOREY COLUMBARIUM AT DIAMOND HILL CREMATORIUM, THE HONG KONG SQUASH CENTRE AT VICTORIA BARRACKS AND THE OPEN SPACE AT HARBOUR ROAD.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CONTRACTS FOR ANOTHER SEVEN MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE SIGNED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR.

AMONG THESE WILL BE THE HAMMER HILL ROAD SPORTS GROUND, THE CHEUNG SHA WAN SPORTS GROUND STAGE II AND THE TO KWA WAN RECREATION GROUND.

HE RECALLED THAT 1984/85 WAS AN ACTIVE YEAR IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE COUNCIL ACHIEVING MANY OF THE COMMUNITY'S EXPECTATIONS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF FACILITIES, RANGING AT THE LOWER END FROM SUCH PUBLIC AMENITIES AS MARKETS AND REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS TO SPORTS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AT THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE.

HE SAID TOTAL CAPITAL WORKS EXPENDITURE FOR THIS FINANCIAL YEAR REMAINS AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR - THAT IS, ABOUT \$220 MILLION.

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS WHICH WILL COME ON STREAM, THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR 1985/86 IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO \$300 MILLION.

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TAI PO PLAZA READY SOON  
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SAMPLE FLATS AT TAI PO PLAZA WILL AGAIN BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC VIEWING TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AND ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 30) FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM.

+FLAT OWNERS WILL SOON BE ABLE TO MOVE INTO THEIR NEW HOMES AS THE ESTATE IN THE TAI PO NEW TOWN WILL BE COMPLETED FOR OCCUPATION WITHIN A WEEK,+ SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY TODAY.

HE SAID ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE 1 408 FLATS THERE HAD ALREADY BEEN SNAPPED UP BY ASPIRING HOME-OWNERS WITH THE REMAINING FLATS STILL AVAILABLE FOR OPEN SALE DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE HOME OWNERSHIP CENTRE IN HO MAN TIN.

+FLAT BUYERS SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, COPIES OF FAMILY MEMBERS' IDENTITY CARDS, HOUSEHOLD INCOME PROOF AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WHEN MAKING THEIR SELECTION AT THE CENTRE.

+THEY WILL ALSO HAVE TO PAY A NOMINATION FEE OF 10 PER CENT OF THE PURCHASE PRICE, WHILE THE BALANCE WILL ONLY BE PAID UP AFTER THE FLATS ARE COMPLETED.

+MORTGAGE FACILITIES FOR UP TO 90 PER CENT OF THE FLAT PRICE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM A NUMBER OF APPROVED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, WITH REPAYMENT UP TO 15 YEARS,+ HE ADDED.

BEING DEVELOPED AS THE FIRST PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME PROJECT IN THE BURGEONING TAI PO NEW TOWN, TAI PO PLAZA WILL HAVE A FULL RANGE OF MODERN COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN ITS COMMERCIAL CENTRE - THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE AREA.

WITH GROSS AREAS BETWEEN 41.3 AND 53.4 SQUARE METRES, THE TWO-BEDROOM FLATS AT TAI PO PLAZA ARE ONLY PRICED FROM \$159 900 EACH.

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RATES INCREASES TO BE RECOVERED FROM TENANTS  
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL IN FUTURE RECOVER INCREASES IN RATES FROM ITS DOMESTIC TENANTS AFTER IT HAS INITIALLY PAID THE INCREASES ON THEIR BEHALF.

+RATES ARE A CHARGE AGAINST THE OCCUPIER AND THE AUTHORITY SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF ABSORBING RATES INCREASES,+ SAID AN AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN TODAY.

/AT PRESENT, .....

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AT PRESENT, HE SAID, RATES INCREASES WERE INITIALLY ABSORBED BY THE AUTHORITY AND NOT RECOVERED FROM TENANTS.

+THE EFFECT OF THE INCREASES IS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AS A FACTOR ONLY AT THE NEXT RENT REVIEW, VERY OFTEN UP TO 18 TO 20 MONTHS AFTER THE RATES INCREASES HAVE TAKEN EFFECT.

+IF THIS IS TO CONTINUE, THE FINANCIAL LOSS TO THE AUTHORITY WILL BE VERY SUBSTANTIAL.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REVISED POLICY TO RECOVER RATES INCREASES WAS DECIDED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

+TENANTS WILL IN FUTURE BE INFORMED WHENEVER THERE ARE INCREASES IN RATES, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO PAY THE INCREASES IMMEDIATELY.

+WHEN RENTS ARE REVIEWED, THE NEW RATES PAYABLE, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF RATES ALREADY PAID BY THE AUTHORITY ON BEHALF OF TENANTS FOR THE INTERVENING PERIOD BETWEEN RATES INCREASES AND THE RENT INCREASE, WILL BE PASSED ONTO THE TENANTS.

+THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CLEARLY SET OUT IN THE RENT INCREASE NOTICE TO TENANTS.+

WHILE IT WAS OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE TO INDICATE ACCURATELY THE EFFECT OF FUTURE RATES INCREASE TO THE TENANTS, THE SPOKESMAN CITED AS AN ILLUSTRATION A 33-SQUARE-METRE PUBLIC HOUSING FLAT IN URBAN KOWLOON WHERE RENTS WERE REVISED LAST SEPTEMBER.

+ON BEHALF OF THE TENANT, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ABSORBED \$235 IN RATES FOR THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE RECENT RENT REVISION.

+IF THIS RATES INCREASE WAS TO BE RECOVERED OVER A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS, THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO BE CHARGED TO THE TENANT PER MONTH WOULD BE \$9.8 OR 2.1 PER CENT OF THE OLD MONTHLY RENT.+

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## OCTOBER RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1984, ESTIMATED AT \$5 527 MILLION, WAS EIGHT PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN OCTOBER 1983, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS FIVE PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RETAIL SALES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984, WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND FOUR PER CENT IN VOLUME.

+COMPARING OCTOBER 1984 WITH SEPTEMBER 1984, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY ONE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID.

IN OCTOBER 1984, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1983. MEANWHILE, CONSUMER DURABLES RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 13 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE LESS RAPIDLY, BY SEVEN PER CENT IN VALUE AND EIGHT PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY ONLY THREE PER CENT IN VALUE AND ONE PER CENT IN VOLUME. ON THE OTHER HAND, FUELS RECORDED A DROP OF FOUR PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

A COMPARISON OF THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, SHOWED RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, AT 27 PER CENT AND 13 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES ALSO INCREASED, BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND NINE PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME. OTHER CONSUMER GOODS REGISTERED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SALES VALUE, AT FIVE PER CENT, BUT REMAINED UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME. HOWEVER, FUELS WHICH SHOWED NO CHANGE IN SALES VALUE, RECORDED A DECREASE OF ONE PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SEPTEMBER 1984 FIGURES, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS IN OCTOBER 1984 INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND NINE PER CENT IN VOLUME. THOSE OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY FIVE PER CENT IN VALUE AND SIX PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FUELS ALSO INCREASED, BY ONE PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES DROPPED BY TWO PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME, WHILST THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DECREASED BY NINE PER CENT IN VALUE AND SEVEN PER CENT IN VOLUME.

AN ANALYSIS OF SELECTED TRADES SHOWED RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1983.

SUPERMARKETS, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

A COMPARISON OF THE PERIOD AUGUST - OCTOBER 1984 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1983, SHOWED RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS, MOTOR VEHICLES, CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND DEPARTMENT STORES ALL SHOWED LARGE INCREASES IN VALUE BUT SMALLER INCREASES IN VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1984 FIGURES, RETAIL SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS, ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY, THOSE OF MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE MODERATELY, BUT THOSE OF SUPERMARKETS AND CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE OCTOBER 1984 SURVEY RESULTS WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, CENTRAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1.00 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 3-7216024).

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NEW I.D. CARDS FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1949 AND 1950  
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WOMEN BORN IN 1949 AND 1950 MUST APPLY FOR THEIR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BETWEEN JANUARY 7 AND FEBRUARY 2, 1985.

+THERE ARE OVER 82 000 WOMEN BELONGING TO THESE TWO AGE GROUPS, AND A DAILY AVERAGE OF 3 000 APPLICATIONS IN THE EIGHT ISSUING OFFICES IS EXPECTED IN THE FOUR-WEEK PERIOD,+ AN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

THE EIGHT ISSUING OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM, MONDAY TO SATURDAY, EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

MEANWHILE, WOMEN BORN IN 1951 AND 1952 WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR THE NEW IDENTITY CARD HAVE TO DO SO NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 1985.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT NO AMNESTY WOULD BE GRANTED TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, WHO WOULD BE REPATRIATED IMMEDIATELY ONCE DETECTED.

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U.S. CONVERTS TEN +CALLED+ TEXTILE CATEGORIES  
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD EXERCISED ITS RIGHT UNDER THE HK-US TEXTILE AGREEMENT TO CONVERT 10 CATEGORIES OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS +CALLED+ DURING 1984 INTO SPECIFIC LIMIT CATEGORIES IN 1985.

THEY ARE:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
337	COTTON PLAYSUITS, SUNSUITS, WASHSUITS, CREEPERS, ROMPERS, ETC.
359 (PART)	COTTON COVERALLS, OVERALLS, JUMPSUITS, HUNTING SUITS, ETC.
359 (PART)	COTTON OUTER VESTS
359 (PART)	COTTON INFANTS' SETS
369 (PART)	COTTON WIPING CLOTH
605 (PART)	MMF SEWING THREAD
649	MMF BRASSIERES
652	MMF UNDERWEAR
659 (PART)	MMF SWIMSUITS
659 (PART)	MMF COVERALLS, OVERALLS, JUMPSUITS, ETC.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: +AS FROM JANUARY 1, 1985, THE EXPORT AUTHORISATION SYSTEM FOR THESE CATEGORIES IS REPLACED BY A QUOTA RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENT, UNDER WHICH 1985 QUOTAS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO ELIGIBLE COMPANIES.+

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ACCEPTING 1985 EXPORT AUTHORISATION APPLICATIONS IN THE TEN CONVERTED CATEGORIES SINCE DECEMBER 20. IN VIEW OF THE CONVERSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE CATEGORIES WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1985, ALL THE 1985 EA APPLICATIONS IN THESE TEN CATEGORIES WILL BE REJECTED.

COMPANIES CONCERNED SHOULD THEREFORE COLLECT THEIR REJECTED APPLICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COPIES OF A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TOMORROW FROM THE USA SECTION OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, 15/F, OCEAN CENTRE, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON.

ENQUIRIES INTO SHARE PRICE MOVEMENTS  
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THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES TRADING IS CONTINUING ITS ENQUIRIES INTO THE RECENT MOVEMENTS OF THE SHARE PRICE IN INDUSTRIAL EQUITY (PACIFIC) LIMITED.

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CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR TWO MARKET COMPLEXES  
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TWO CONTRACTS WERE AWARDED TODAY BY THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT — ONE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPER-STRUCTURE OF THE LOCKHART ROAD MARKET COMPLEX, AND THE OTHER FOR PILING WORK FOR THE SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX IN KWUN TONG.

THE \$28.3 MILLION LOCKHART ROAD MARKET COMPLEX CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT, MR JOSE LEI AND DIRECTOR OF JOHN LOK AND PARTNERS LIMITED, MR HARDY LOK. THE \$1.5 MILLION PILING CONTRACT FOR THE SHUI WO STREET MARKET COMPLEX WAS SIGNED BETWEEN MR LEI AND CONTRACTS MANAGER OF GAMMON (HONG KONG) LIMITED, MR JAMES LAW.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING WERE THE CONSULTANT ARCHITECT, MR W.N. CHUNG; THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR MICHAEL SUEN; AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CAPITAL WORKS SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR AUGUSTINE CHUNG.

THE LOCKHART ROAD MARKET COMPLEX WILL BE 12 STOREYS HIGH AND WILL REPLACE THE OLD LOCKHART ROAD MARKET.

THE FIRST FOUR FLOORS WILL HOUSE A 300-STALL MARKET AND A COOKED FOOD CENTRE OF 20 STALLS. EACH FLOOR WILL BE INTERCONNECTED BY ESCALATORS AND LIFTS FOR CONVEYANCE OF PEDESTRIANS AND GOODS.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN, A COMPUTER CENTRE FOR THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES, A MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR GAMES HALL, TWO ROOMS FOR TABLE-TENNIS, DANCING AND GYMNASTICS, AND TWO SQUASH COURTS.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A REFUSE COLLECTION POINT ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

WORK WILL START NEXT MONTH AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1986.

PILING WORK FOR THE NEW MARKET COMPLEX AT SHUI WO STREET, KWUN TONG WILL ALSO START NEXT MONTH.

THE COMPLEX WILL RISE NINE STOREYS ABOVE A 1 660 SQUARE METRE SITE, AND WILL PROVIDE 11 600 SQUARE METRES OF FLOOR SPACE ON COMPLETION IN LATE 1987.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE A COOKED FOOD CENTRE OF 20 STALLS, A LIBRARY AND A STUDY ROOM, OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, A MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS HALL, THREE SQUASH COURTS AND A GAMES ROOM.

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BUILDINGS CHECKED FOR FIRE SAFETY

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FIRE SERVICES AND NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF TODAY CONDUCTED A JOINT INSPECTION OF FIVE BUILDINGS IN TUEN MUN, AS PART OF A +KEEP YOUR BUILDING SAFE AND CLEAN CAMPAIGN+.

IN DOING SO, THEY ADVISED THE RESIDENTS TO CLEAR OBSTRUCTIONS IN PASSAGeways AND EXITS, AND TO USE PLASTIC BAGS FOR REFUSE.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS AND BUILDING SAFETY FOR RESIDENTS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

IT IS A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND IS CO-ORDINATED BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

REGULAR FOLLOW-UP INSPECTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE FSD AND THE NTSD.

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A MATTER OF DIFFERENT SIZE

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THE UNITED STATES WOULD ALSO BE AMONG THE COUNTRIES ACCEPTING AN INCREASED MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT OF 20 KG FOR AIR AND SURFACE PARCELS WITH EFFECT FROM WEDNESDAY, (JANUARY 2), A POST OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF SIZE, THE U.S. WOULD ONLY ACCEPT PARCELS NOT EXCEEDING 1.50 METRES FOR ANY ONE DIMENSION, AND 2.75 METRES FOR THE LENGTH AND GIRTH COMBINED.

AS ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY (THURSDAY), A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD BE ACCEPTING, ALSO FROM JANUARY 2, PARCELS UP TO A MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF 20 KG, WITH A MAXIMUM SIZE OF 1.50 METRES IN LENGTH AND THREE METRES FOR THE LENGTH AND GIRTH COMBINED.

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FIRING PRACTICE WARNING

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN-CASTLE PEAK RANGE FOR 26 DAYS IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE PUBLIC ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FIRING WILL BE FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

JANUARY 2 TO JANUARY 5; JANUARY 7 TO JANUARY 12;  
JANUARY 14 TO JANUARY 19; JANUARY 21 TO JANUARY 26, AND  
JANUARY 28 TO JANUARY 31.

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