



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1983

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1983

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COUNTRY AND COMMODITY BREAKDOWN FIGURES
FOR HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1983
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THE TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1983, VALUED AT \$40 865 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 5 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1982, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 9.8 PER CENT TO \$12 009 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 2 PER CENT TO \$21 703 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 3 PER CENT TO \$7 153 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 7 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

	<u>JAN-FEB 1983 (\$ MN)</u>	<u>JAN-FEB 1982 (\$ MN)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE (\$ MN)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
USA	4 627	3 824	+803	+21
F R OF GERMANY	1 035	938	+ 97	+10
UK	922	964	- 42	- 4
CHINA	635	578	+ 58	+10
JAPAN	425	406	+ 19	+ 5
CANADA	412	305	+107	+35
AUSTRALIA	357	445	- 88	-20
SINGAPORE	279	269	+ 10	+ 4
NETHERLANDS	273	253	+ 20	+ 8
SWITZERLAND	221	190	+ 31	+16

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE US ROSE BY 21 PER CENT. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$427 MILLION OR 31%), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$186 MILLION OR 77%) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$110 MILLION OR 48%). DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$100 MILLION OR 29%) AS WELL AS FOOTWEAR (BY \$18 MILLION OR 30%).

/MOST COMMODITIES

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MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN VALUE, INCLUDING CLOTHING (BY \$83 MILLION OR 15%) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$7 MILLION OR 10%). BUT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT DECREASED BY \$3 MILLION OR 4 PER CENT.

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UK WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$81 MILLION OR 17%) AS WELL AS PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$24 MILLION OR 37%).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA OF TEXTILES (BY \$63 MILLION OR 59%), AS WELL AS FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY \$31 MILLION OR 1 037%) AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$12 MILLION OR 36%).

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION ARE PRESENTED BELOW:-

	<u>JAN-FEB 1983 (\$ MN)</u>	<u>JAN-FEB 1982 (\$ MN)</u>	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE (\$ MN)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4 195	3 733	+462	+12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	1 751	1 834	- 83	- 5
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1 184	1 065	+119	+11
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	956	870	+ 86	+10
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	830	728	+102	+14
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	806	798	+ 8	+ 1

/THE CHANGES

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED AS FOLLOWS:-

	JAN-FEB 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN-FEB 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
CHINA	5 130	4 793	+337	+ 7
JAPAN	4 689	4 402	+287	+ 7
USA	2 300	2 280	+ 20	+ 1
SINGAPORE	1 557	1 754	-197	-11
TAIWAN	1 469	1 621	-152	- 9
UK	998	928	+ 70	+ 7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	598	764	-166	-22
F R OF GERMANY	577	486	+ 91	+19
SWITZERLAND	406	395	+ 11	+ 3
FRANCE	326	307	+ 19	+ 6

LOCAL DEMAND FOR IMPORTED GOODS FROM CHINA REMAINED STRONG. INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN CLOTHING (BY \$143 MILLION OR 26%), OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY \$66 MILLION OR 141%), MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$30 MILLION OR 14%), AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD (BY \$28 MILLION OR 9%).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$141 MILLION OR 34%) AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$65 MILLION OR 19%). DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$48 MILLION OR 23%), AND ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY \$39 MILLION OR 8%).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE US WERE MOSTLY OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$91 MILLION OR 47%) AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$60 MILLION OR 25%). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS OF PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES UNWORKED OR WORKED (BY \$78 MILLION OR 47%), GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$23 MILLION OR 23%), AND VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$8 MILLION OR 5%).

/DECREASES WERE

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$285 MILLION OR 23%), AND IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF TEXTILES (BY \$184 MILLION OR 28%). BUT, IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE INCREASED (BY \$16 MILLION OR 7% AND BY \$16 MILLION OR 17% RESPECTIVELY).

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTION:-

	JAN-FEB 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN-FEB 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	5 424	6 072	-648	-11
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	4 799	4 627	+172	+ 4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	3 820	3 351	+469	+14
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	2 659	2 378	+282	+12
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	1 908	1 986	- 78	- 4
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1 518	1 379	+139	+10

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY \$180 MILLION OR 27%), THE US (BY \$132 MILLION OR 16%), SINGAPORE (BY \$68 MILLION OR 12%), SAUDI ARABIA (BY \$57 MILLION OR 57%), NIGERIA (BY \$50 MILLION OR 32%), VIETNAM (BY \$49 MILLION OR 111%), REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) (BY \$35 MILLION OR 14%), AND MALAYSIA, WEST (BY \$29 MILLION OR 32%). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$261 MILLION OR 19%) AND JAPAN (BY \$106 MILLION OR 23%).

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING CLOTHING (BY \$175 MILLION OR 44%), MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ACCESSORIES AND BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS) (BY \$75 MILLION OR 22%), OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY \$56 MILLION OR 137%) AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$55 MILLION OR 77%).

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DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE RE-EXPORTS OF TEXTILES (BY \$344 MILLION OR 28%), NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$104 MILLION OR 25%) AND MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$53 MILLION OR 29%).

THE FEBRUARY 1983 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$5 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY, 1983 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY MAY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-214375).

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HONG KONG BECOMES MAJOR PUBLISHING CENTRE

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OVER RECENT YEARS HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED INTO AN INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING CENTRE.

LAST YEAR, 2.5 MILLION COPIES OF BOOKS COMPRISING 4 071 TITLES IN 22 LANGUAGES WERE PRINTED HERE, ACCORDING TO THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF NEW BOOKS PRODUCED IN HONG KONG.

THE NUMBER OF BOOKS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN HONG KONG HAS INCREASED FROM 692 TITLES IN 1970 TO MORE THAN 4 000 TITLES A YEAR TODAY.

THESE BOOKS ARE DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY AND TO MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD.

+THE GROWTH RATE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE BECAUSE OF HONG KONG'S ADVANCED PRINTING TECHNOLOGY, COMPETITIVE PRODUCTION COSTS, AND HIGHLY EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTION SERVICES,+ THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN IN CHARGE OF THE BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE, MR ALEX NG, SAID.

FOR THESE REASONS, MORE AND MORE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS HAVE SET UP OFFICES IN HONG KONG, MR NG POINTED OUT.

BOOKS IN SWEDISH, DUTCH, GERMAN, MEXICAN, MALAY AND FRENCH ARE PRINTED HERE ANNUALLY IN LARGE QUANTITIES, WHILE THOSE IN JAPANESE, NORWEGIAN AND SPANISH ARE NOT UNCOMMON.

/+RECENTLY, WE

+RECENTLY, WE EVEN REGISTERED A LINGUISTIC TEXTBOOK IN NIGERIAN AND A BOOK IN ARABIC ON QATAR NATIONAL MUSEUM,+ MR NG SAID.

BUT THE MAJORITY IS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE. ENGLISH BOOKS TOPPED THE LIST IN 1982 WITH 2 367 TITLES, FOLLOWED BY CHINESE BOOKS WITH 978 TITLES.

+IT IS A TRIBUTE TO THE HIGH PRINTING QUALITY AND COLOUR REPRODUCTION OF OUR PRINTING INDUSTRY THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKS PRODUCED HERE ARE RICHLY ILLUSTRATED WITH FULL-COLOUR PLATES,+ HE ADDED.

+THE BOOKS PRODUCED HERE COVER A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS -- LITERATURE, POLITICS, RELIGION, LAW, ARTS, ECONOMICS, PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, SPORTS, AND MARTIAL ART, JUST TO MENTION A SAMPLING,+ MR NG POINTED OUT.

UNDER THE BOOKS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, EACH NEW BOOK PRINTED OR PUBLISHED IN HONG KONG MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER PUBLICATION. THE PUBLISHER OR PRINTER MAY THEN APPLY FOR A CODE NUMBER UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD BOOK NUMBERING SYSTEM WHICH FACILITATES ORDER PROCESSING BY COMPUTER FOR CUSTOMERS ALL OVER THE WORLD, MR NG EXPLAINED.

FIVE COPIES OF EACH TITLE REGISTERED MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE. THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD IN LONDON, THE CITY HALL LIBRARY, THE NEW TERRITORIES PUBLIC LIBRARIES, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+THIS DISTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENT HELPS TO ENRICH THE PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION,+ HE SAID.

IN ORDER TO RECOGNISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LOCAL PUBLICATION INDUSTRY AND TO ENCOURAGE THE CONTINUAL UPGRADING OF PRINTING STANDARDS, THE URBAN COUNCIL HAS ORGANISED COMPETITIONS FOR THE BEST BOOKS PRODUCED IN HONG KONG SINCE 1978. RECENTLY, THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO MAKE THE COMPETITION AN ANNUAL EVENT TO BE ORGANISED BY THE BOOKS REGISTRATION OFFICE.

BOOKS REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY AS ENTRIES. THIS YEAR, THE URBAN COUNCIL WILL GIVE 14 AWARDS TO THE BOOKS COMPETITION.

MEANWHILE, TO MEET THE GROWING DEMAND FOR HIGHLY SKILLED PRINTING TECHNICIANS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP A PRINTING INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE IN KOWLOON BAY IN SEPTEMBER 1984, WITH A CAPACITY OF 300 TRAINEES EACH YEAR.

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HAILSTONE RECORD SET IN MARCH
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HAIL OCCURRED ON FIVE DAYS LAST MONTH, THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY REPORTS. THIS IS THE HIGHEST FREQUENCY OF HAIL EVER RECORDED IN HONG KONG.

ON ONE OCCASION, WHEN A COLD FRONT FROM CHINA CROSSED HONG KONG ON MARCH 1 AND BROUGHT FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS, HAILSTONES MEASURING 25 MM IN DIAMETER WERE OBSERVED BY RESIDENTS ON LANTAU ISLAND.

THEN, THE NEXT DAY (MARCH 2) HAILSTONES +THE SIZE OF BEANS+ WERE REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN IN MONG KOK EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND IN KOWLOON TONG AT ABOUT NOON. HAILSTONES ALSO FELL ON MARCH 12, 25 AND 26.

IN ADDITION TO THE HAILSTONE PHENOMENON, LAST MONTH WAS THE WETTEST MARCH SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1884, WITH RAINFALL OF 428 MM, NEARLY EIGHT TIMES THE NORMAL OF ABOUT 55 MM.

AND ITS TEN DAYS OF THUNDERSTORMS RECORDED WERE A RECORD SINCE 1947.

THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL OF 745.3 MM FROM JANUARY 1 TO THE END OF MARCH CAME TO 34 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL OF 2 224.7 MM.

THE DURATION OF SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH WAS 33.3 HOURS, WHICH WAS 68.1 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL AND THE SEVENTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH. AND, THE TOTAL SUNSHINE DURATION FROM JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31 AMOUNTED ONLY TO 144.8 HOURS, THE LOWEST ON RECORD.

THE MONTH BEGAN WITH AN ACTIVE COLD FRONT ACROSS SOUTH CHINA CAUSING WIDESPREAD THUNDERSTORMS OVER THE COASTAL REGION.

AROUND 3 AM ON MARCH 1, A CHINESE RIVER FERRY, THE +RED STAR 312+, CAPSIZED IN SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS NEAR SANSHUI, ABOUT 86 NAUTICAL MILES NORTHWEST OF HONG KONG. ABOUT 150 PASSENGERS ON BOARD WERE DROWNED.

THE COLD FRONT CROSSED HONG KONG DURING THE MORNING AND BROUGHT FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS, AS WELL AS HAIL ON THAT DAY AND THE NEXT. SOME LANDSLIPS OCCURRED IN NGAU TAU KOK AND ON TSING YI ISLAND, AND FLOODING WAS REPORTED IN TUEN MUN.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED ON MARCH 3 BUT SOME MIST DEVELOPED IN THE AFTERNOON.

A SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON ARRIVED EARLY ON MARCH 4, BRINGING NORTHERLY WINDS, SOME SHOWERS AND COOLER WEATHER.

NORTHERLY WINDS STRENGTHENED IN THE NIGHT AND GUSTS OF 64 KNOTS WERE RECORDED AT TATE'S CAIRN.

NORTHERLY WINDS MODERATED THE NEXT DAY AND THERE WERE SUNNY PERIODS ON MARCH 5 AND 6.

/EARLY ON

EARLY ON MARCH 6, THE TEMPERATURE FELL TO 9.6 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE LOWEST OF THE MONTH.

WINDS TURNED EASTERLY AND THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY ON MARCH 7. IT REMAINED CLOUDY WITH RAIN EVERY DAY UNTIL MARCH 11. SOME COASTAL FOG DEVELOPED ON MARCH 9 AND 10.

THE WEATHER DETERIORATED ON MARCH 12 AND HAIL WAS REPORTED AT TSUEN WAN IN THE MORNING. JUST AFTER 2 PM, TWO BARGES, BOTH CARRYING OIL, COLLIDED IN FOG NEAR TSING YI BRIDGE. DAMAGE TO THE BARGES WAS ONLY MINOR, AND NO OIL POLLUTION WAS REPORTED.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED BUT REMAINED CLOUDY ON MARCH 13.

EASTERLY WINDS STRENGTHENED EARLY ON MARCH 14 AND GUSTS REACHED 60 KNOTS AT TAI O.

MIST RETURNED IN THE MORNINGS OF MARCH 14 AND 15 AND ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED IN THE AFTERNOONS.

THUNDERSTORMS WERE WIDESPREAD IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 16. WINDS TURNED NORTHERLY IN THE AFTERNOON AND THE VISIBILITY IMPROVED.

THE WEATHER BECAME COOLER ON MARCH 17 WITH SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS.

WINDS TURNED EASTERLY AGAIN ON MARCH 18 AND THERE WERE TRACES OF RAIN AT NIGHT.

THUNDERSTORMS RECURRED IN THE EVENING OF MARCH 19 AND CONTINUED INTO THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

THE WEATHER REMAINED WARM WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN FROM MARCH 20 TO 24.

ON MARCH 23, THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO 25.9 DEGREES CELSIUS, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

WIDESPREAD COASTAL FOG PERSISTED DURING THE PERIOD, CAUSING A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS AT SEA AND SERIOUSLY DISRUPTING AIR AND SEA TRAFFIC.

A HOVERFERRY WITH 47 PASSENGERS ON BOARD WAS STRANDED IN DENSE FOG AT SHAN BAN ZHOU IN THE ZHU JIANG ESTUARY IN THE AFTERNOON ON MARCH 20 ON THE WAY FROM GUANGZHOU TO HONG KONG. IT EVENTUALLY ARRIVED 14 HOURS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

A FISHING JUNK AND A FIRE SERVICES BOAT RAN AGROUND NEAR MA WAN AND KAP SHUI MUN RESPECTIVELY AROUND 7 PM. NOBODY WAS HURT IN THESE INCIDENTS.

A CARGO VESSEL RAN AGROUND AT KAU LING CHUNG NEAR SHEK PIK AND A POLICE LAUNCH RAN ONTO ROCKS EAST OF CHEUNG CHAU AROUND MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 21.

ON MARCH 24 A TRAWLER RAN AGROUND NEAR HEI LING CHAU. TWO FREIGHTERS COLLIDED TO THE SOUTHEAST OF PO TOI ISLAND, BUT THEY WERE ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. ALTOGETHER THREE PERSONS WERE INJURED IN THESE INCIDENTS.

A COLD FRONT PASSED THROUGH HONG KONG LATE ON MARCH 24, BRINGING FRESH EASTERLY WINDS AND COOLER WEATHER.

THERE WERE FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS AND HEAVY SHOWERS ON MARCH 25 AND HAIL WAS REPORTED BY PILOTS OVERFLYING SEK KONG AND CHEK LAP KOK AROUND NOON.

MORE THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED ON MARCH 26 AND HAIL LASTING FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES WAS REPORTED AT KWAI CHUNG AROUND 3.25 PM. THE HAILSTONES WERE DESCRIBED AS OF THE SIZE OF PEANUTS.

FREQUENT THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED ON MARCH 27 AND THE DAILY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 98.6 MM WAS THE HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR MARCH SINCE 1884. SEVERE FLOODING OCCURRED IN SHA TIN, KWAI CHUNG, SAU MAU PING AND THE LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES.

MINOR LANDSLIPS OCCURRED IN SAU MAU PING, KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, YAU TONG, WESTERN DISTRICT, SO KON PO, CAUSEWAY BAY, SHAU KEI WAN AND LEI YUE MUN.

SOME MIST DEVELOPED ON MARCH 28 BUT WINDS TURNED NORTHERLY DURING THE DAY AND THE VISIBILITY IMPROVED. THERE WERE SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON.

FROM MARCH 26 TO 28, THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 17 LANDSLIP REPORTS AND THERE WAS FLOODING AT 47 PLACES, BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED.

THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH TRACES OF RAIN ON MARCH 29, BUT THERE WERE SUNNY INTERVALS ON MARCH 30 AND 31.

DURING THE MONTH SIX AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MARCH 1, 2, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 AND 28.

HEAVY RAIN WARNINGS WERE ALSO ISSUED ON MARCH 26, 27 AND 28.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 7-8 AND 13 WHILE THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 5-6.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>WEATHER SYSTEM</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>	<u>DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING</u>		<u>DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING</u>	
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MARCH 4	8.05 PM	MARCH 5	8.00 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MARCH 14	3.45 AM	MARCH 15	6.15 AM

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THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	33.3 HOURS :	68.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	428.0 MM :	373.2 MM ABOVE NORMAL
CLOUDINESS	92 PER CENT :	16 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	84 PER CENT :	2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.2 DEGREES C :	2.1 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	17.1 DEGREES C :	1.4 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	15.3 DEGREES C :	1.0 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	14.1 DEGREES C :	0.9 DEGREES C BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	59.5 MM :	43.5 MM BELOW NORMAL

THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 25.9 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MARCH 23 WHILE THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 9.6 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED ON MARCH 6.

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METRICATION COMMITTEE APPOINTS NEW MEMBER * * * * *

THE METRICATION COMMITTEE HAS FURTHER STRENGTHENED ITS MEMBERSHIP TO PROMOTE METRICATION IN HONG KONG.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR JAMES WU ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT MR IP YEUK-LAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR IP IS A LEADING IMPORTER OF CHINESE SUBSIDIARY FOOD PRODUCE. HE HOLDS RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN VARIOUS TRADE ORGANISATIONS, NOTABLY THE HONG KONG FOOD COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON FRUIT AND VEGETABLES EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS GUILD.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW APPOINTMENT, MR WU SAID: +MR IP ALSO HAS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE CHAINS OF CHINA PRODUCTS EMPORIUM WHICH IS OUR MAJOR SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR CONSUMER GOODS, PARTICULARLY FOODSTUFFS.+

/+WITH MR

+WITH MR IP ON THE COMMITTEE, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO FULL SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION FROM IMPORTERS OF CHINESE PRODUCTS (WHICH ARE IN METRIC UNITS ALREADY AT THE IMPORT LEVEL) IN WORKING TOWARDS A METRICATED PROGRAMME FOR THE LOCAL RETAIL TRADE, PARTICULARLY IN PACKAGING,+ HE ADDED.

THE APPOINTMENT COINCIDES WITH THE COMMITTEE'S NEW APPROACH TO PROMOTING METRICATION, WHICH IS TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON CONSUMER EDUCATION SO AS TO ENCOURAGE WIDER ACCEPTANCE AND USAGE OF THE METRIC SYSTEM IN DAILY LIFE.

+CONSUMERS WILL ONLY BE PREPARED TO CHANGE OVER IF AND WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED OF THE CONVENIENCE AND ACTUAL BENEFITS OF GOING METRIC,+ HE SAID.

LED BY MR WU, WHO IS HIMSELF AN INDUSTRIALIST, AND ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM VARIOUS TRADES, THE METRICATION COMMITTEE IS WELL EQUIPPED TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS NEW ENDEAVOUR.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE MISS OPHELIA CHEUNG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL; MISS CECILIA FUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; MR CECIL CHAN, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HONG KONG STANDARD AND TESTING CENTRE, FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES; MISS RITA TSUI, SECRETARY OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION; MISS ELIZABETH SHING, THE JOINT DIRECTOR, HONG KONG MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION; DR D.F. TAYLOR, THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY CENTRE; AND MR J.F. HENDERSON, A MEMBER OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE DRAWN FROM THE ECONOMIC SERVICES BRANCH, INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AND CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN 1978 TO ADVISE ON AND CO-ORDINATE ALL MATTERS RELATING TO METRICATION. UNDER THE MAIN COMMITTEE, THERE ARE FIVE SECTOR COMMITTEES, EACH DEALING WITH A SPECIFIC AREA OF THE METRICATION PROGRAMME.

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NEW ROAD IN STANLEY

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A NEW ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS HOI FUNG PATH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE NORTHERN END OF STANLEY LINK ROAD TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS MAY BE SEEN AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, CENTRAL ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING MAIN ENTRANCE- THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH, 6/F., NEW WORLD TOWER, NOS. 16-18 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, NOS. 7-11 NAM NING STREET, 2/F., ABERDEEN CENTRE, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS WITHIN 60 DAYS.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1983

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HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN IN YAU MA TEI
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A WEEK-LONG HOME SAFETY CAMPAIGN, FEATURING AN EXHIBITION, A VARIETY SHOW, A SEMINAR AND FILM SHOW WILL BE HELD IN YAU MA TEI STARTING SUNDAY, MAY 1.

ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE NEW WORLD CENTRE, THE AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN IS TO MAKE PUBLIC AWARE OF THE DANGER IN THE MISUSE OF HOME APPLIANCES, THE MOST COMMON ACCIDENTS LIKELY TO OCCUR AT HOME AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM.

A CENTRAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPRISING BOARD MEMBERS, SCHOOL MASTERS AND BUSINESSMEN HAS BEEN FORMED TO PLAN THE CAMPAIGN.

AN OPENING CEREMONY, TOGETHER WITH AN EDUCATIONAL AND ENTERTAINING EXHIBITION ON HOME SAFETY, WILL BE HELD AT 3.30 PM ON SUNDAY AT THE NEW WORLD CENTRE MAIN ENTRANCE.

AT THE EXHIBITION THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS, ANTI-BURGLARY EQUIPMENT AND GAS HEATERS, A FIRST-AID DEMONSTRATION AND A LASER SHOW.

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE A HOME SAFETY SEMINAR AND A FILM '+IT TAKES TWO+' TO BE HELD AT THE OCEAN THEATRE ON MAY 7 AND A HOME SAFETY COMPETITION FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN YAU MA TEI.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL END WITH A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING SINGING AND DANCE PERFORMANCES BY WELL KNOWN ARTISTS AND STUDENTS FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS TO BE HELD AT THE HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MAY 7.

A BOOKLET '+SAFETY STARTS AT HOME+' HAS BEEN PRINTED.

BOTH THE BOOKLET AND TICKETS TO ALL THE EVENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FREE OF CHARGE FROM THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICE IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

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TEMPORARY TRAINING COURSE ON IRONING BOILERS
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THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS INTRODUCING A TEMPORARY FREE TRAINING SCHEME TO ASSIST FACTORY OWNERS IN OBTAINING COMPETENT PERSONNEL FOR THE OPERATION OF THEIR SMALL ELECTRIC IRONING BOILERS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (SUNDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY URGED FACTORY OWNERS WHO DO NOT HAVE COMPETENT PERSONNEL ATTENDING TO THEIR BOILERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHEME.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME WOULD ALSO ENABLE A FACTORY OWNER TO USE THE BOILERS WITHOUT BREACHING THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT.

/ACCORDING TO

ACCORDING TO THE LAW, A BOILER HAS TO BE ATTENDED TO BY A PERSON HOLDING A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE, AND BREACH OF THIS REQUIREMENT CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30 000.

THE SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED, IS OPEN TO PEOPLE WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO MONTHS' EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING IRONING BOILERS WHO WISH TO QUALIFY AS A COMPETENT OPERATOR, AND FACTORY OWNERS MIGHT ARRANGE FOR SUCH PERSONNEL IN THEIR EMPLOY TO RECEIVE TRAINING UNDER THE SCHEME.

THE CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO ATTEND A TWO-HOUR LECTURE ON THE SAFE OPERATION OF IRONING BOILERS TO BE GIVEN IN CANTONESE BY INSPECTORS OF THE UNIT.

UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE LECTURE, THE CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN A MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST, AND THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL WILL BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND TO THE BOILERS FOR A PERIOD OF 14 MONTHS UNDER AN EXEMPTION ORDER TO BE ISSUED BY THE PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR.

DURING THIS PERIOD A CANDIDATE SHOULD OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY BY PASSING THE APPROPRIATE EXAMINATION, OTHERWISE HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE BOILER AFTER THE EXEMPTION ORDER EXPIRES.

CANDIDATES WISHING TO JOIN THE SCHEME SHOULD CALL ON THE EXAMINATION CLERK OF THE UNIT ON THE 4TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI (TEL. NO. 3-688111 EXT. 352), AND BRING ALONG THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:-

- (A) HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD;
- (B) A LETTER FROM THE FACTORY OWNER CONFIRMING HIS PERIOD OF SERVICE IN THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC IRONING BOILERS; AND
- (C) A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF FITNESS OF THE REGISTERED BOILER.

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MORE SPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR ISLANDERS * * * *

MORE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE BEING ORGANISED FOR THE ISLANDS' RESIDENTS BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS, THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID THIS (SUNDAY) MORNING.

SPEAKING AT A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE ANNUAL LANTAO LONG RUN, MR YAP SAID THE EVENT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED WERE TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP AND A SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS AMONG THE LOCAL PEOPLE.

+I HOPE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY AND PARTICIPATE IN THESE MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES TO BUILD UP A HEALTHY MIND AND BODY,+ HE SAID.

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MORE THAN 400 YOUNG ATHLETES TOOK PART IN TODAY'S LONG RUN WHICH STARTED AT 10 AM.

THE SIX-KILOMETRE RUN BEGAN FROM THE MUI WO POLICE STATION, PASSED SOUTH LANTAO ROAD, THE NAM SHAN COUNTRY PARK, PUI O, AND FINISHED AT THE YWCA YOUTH CAMP AT SAN SHEK WAN.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, TODAY'S EVENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE RECREATION AND SPORT SERVICE, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION, POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE/ISLANDS DIVISION AND MUI WO YOUTH SOCIAL SERVICE GROUP.

+THIS IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, AND I SINCERELY HOPE THIS SPIRIT WILL CONTINUE,+ MR YAP SAID.

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TENDERS FOR LAYING OF WATER MAINS
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF ABOUT 1 800 METRES OF FRESH AND SALT WATER MAINS ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN PUI TO ROAD AND TAI HING BRIDGE.

THE MAINS LAYING WORK WILL INVOLVE PIPES RANGING FROM 400 MM TO 800 MM IN DIAMETERS.

PART OF THESE WORKS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NECESSARY DIVERSION REQUIRED IN THE CURRENT ROAD-WIDENING WORKS.

THE REMAINDER OF THE CONTRACT WILL FORM PART OF THE SCHEME TO IMPROVE THE SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE EASTERN EXTENSION OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN EARLY JULY AND TO TAKE 14 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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PUBLIC URGED TO PROTECT PLANTS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE URGED TO PROTECT PLANT LIFE AS PART OF A BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME TO GIVE HONG KONG MORE GREENERY.

SINCE THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED 13 MONTHS AGO BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS, MORE THAN THREE MILLION PLANTS, INCLUDING TREES AND SHRUBS, HAVE BEEN PLANTED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF HONG KONG.

THOUGH THESE PLANTS HAD BEEN GROWING WELL, THOUSANDS OF THEM HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY VANDALISM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NTSD SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

THOSE WHO ARE CAUGHT DAMAGING PLANT LIFE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION UNDER THE SUMMARIES OFFENCE ORDINANCE, THE SPOKESMAN WARNED.

TO KEEP UP THE BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME, THE NTSD WILL BE LAUNCHING MORE TREE-PLANTING PROGRAMMES OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, INVOLVING SCHOOL CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES.

MEANWHILE, MORE RAILINGS AND BARRIERS WILL BE ERECTED AT VARIOUS OPEN SPACES AND ON THE ROADSIDE TO PROTECT YOUNG TREES.

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PAINTING ON HOARDINGS

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MORE THAN 60 STUDENTS FROM THREE SCHOOLS IN YUEN LONG WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENT AND SKILL IN PAINTING IN A BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 1.

THEIR TALENTS WILL BE USED TO BRIGHTEN UP A SERIES OF HOARDINGS AT THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD AND HONG LOK ROAD.

THE THEME OF THEIR PAINTINGS WILL BE THE TIN HAU FESTIVAL WHICH FALLS ON MAY 5 THIS YEAR.

THE PROJECT, ORGANISED BY THE LOCAL DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID SKINNER; THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR TANG CHI-LEUNG; AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR TERRY TANG, WILL PRESENT SOUVENIRS TO THE PARTICIPANTS BEFORE THE PAINTING SESSION.

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