



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1977

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HK-SWEDEN TO RESUME TEXTILE TALKS IN JANUARY
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THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR. JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY THAT HONG KONG WILL LIMIT ITS EXPORTS TO SWEDEN OF A WIDE RANGE OF TEXTILE AND CLOTHING PRODUCTS DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO MARCH 31, 1978.

MR. CHAN RECALLED THAT TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO HONG KONG TEAMS AND DELEGATIONS FROM NORWAY AND SWEDEN WERE SUSPENDED EARLIER THIS MONTH BECAUSE HONG KONG COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LARGE REDUCTIONS DEMANDED BY THE TWO SCANDINAVIAN DELEGATIONS ON CURRENT RESTRAINT AND TRADE LEVELS.

HOWEVER, MR. CHAN SAID, HONG KONG HAD PROPOSED TO BOTH NORWAY AND SWEDEN TEMPORARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THREE MONTHS IN AN EFFORT TO MINIMISE DISRUPTION TO THE TRADE AND TO GIVE THE TWO NORDIC COUNTRIES A PERIOD FOR FURTHER REFLECTION.

+WE HAVE TODAY RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH HONG KONG IN JANUARY AND THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, THEY HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE TEMPORARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED BY HONG KONG,+ MR. CHAN SAID.

DETAILS OF THE TEMPORARY RESTRAINT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS.

MR. CHAN SAID THAT NO RESPONSE HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO HONG KONG'S PROPOSALS FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINT ARRANGMENTS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS. +I HOPE TO HEAR FROM THEM VERY SOON,+ MR. CHAN ADDED.

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GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE RETURNING TOMORROW
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AFTER SIX WEEKS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

SIR MURRAY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LADY MACLEHOSE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY MACLEHOSE ARE DUE TO RETURN BY BA888 TOMORROW (FRIDAY), E.T.A. 1755 HOURS. THERE WILL BE NO PRESS INTERVIEW ON THE GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL BUT A PHOTOGRAPHIC FACILITY WILL BE PROVIDED. TELEVISION AND PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THIS FACILITY ARE REQUESTED TO ASSEMBLE IN THE PRESS ROOM ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING HALF AN HOUR BEFORE THE ARRIVAL TIME. G.I.S. OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER

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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (NOVEMBER) WAS \$3,055 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$4,325 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$869 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER, THE FIGURES REPRESENTED INCREASES OF \$155 MILLION OR 5.3 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$48 MILLION OR 1.1 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND A DECREASE OF \$28 MILLION OR 3.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

AS AGAINST THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE FIGURES SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$264 MILLION OR 9.5 PER CENT FOR EXPORTS, \$623 MILLION OR 16.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$51 MILLION OR 6.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS (SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER) AS AGAINST THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR ALSO SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 1.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 8.2 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 6.7 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1976 TO NOVEMBER 1977, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASES BY 8.5 PER CENT, 12.2 PER CENT AND 10.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS 12-MONTH PERIOD.

THE FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:

LATEST 3 MONTHS	SEPTEMBER- NOVEMBER 1977	SEPTEMBER- NOVEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,939	8,776	+ 163	+ 1.9
IMPORTS	12,348	11,407	+ 941	+ 8.2
RE-EXPORTS	2,589	2,426	+ 163	+ 6.7
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	NOVEMBER 1977	NOVEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,055 (77.9%)	2,791 (77.3%)	+ 264	+ 9.5
IMPORTS	4,325	3,702	+ 623	+ 16.8
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	869 (22.1%)	817 (22.7%)	+ 51	+ 6.2

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	NOVEMBER 1977	OCTOBER 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,055 (77.9%)	2,900 (76.4%)	+ 155	+ 5.3
IMPORTS	4,325	4,277	+ 48	+ 1.1
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	869 (22.1%)	897 (23.6%)	- 28	- 3.2
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN.- NOVEMBER 1977	JAN.- NOVEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	31,427 (78.0%)	29,537 (78.4%)	+ 1,890	+ 6.4
IMPORTS	43,785	39,227	+ 4,558	+ 11.6
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	8,855 (22.0%)	8,116 (21.6%)	+ 739	+ 9.1
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	DECEMBER 1976 TO NOVEMBER 1977	DECEMBER 1975 TO NOVEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	34,519	31,829	+ 2,690	+ 8.5
IMPORTS	47,851	42,665	+ 5,186	+ 12.2
RE-EXPORTS	9,666	8,742	+ 924	+ 10.6

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BUILDING PLANS FOR NOVEMBER

A TOTAL OF 55 NEW BUILDING PLANS WERE APPROVED IN NOVEMBER BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, COMPARED WITH 60 IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THIS BROUGHT TO 724, THE NUMBER OF BUILDING PLANS APPROVED FOR THE FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

OF THE 55 NEW PLANS APPROVED, 29 WERE FOR BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN FOR KOWLOON AND 19 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THEY INCLUDED PLANS FOR A PIER AT DISCOVERY BAY, LANTAU ISLAND, A HOME FOR THE AGED AT TAI PO, AND TWO ELECTRICITY ~~SUB-STATIONS~~ AT YUEN LONG AND TAI LAM CHUNG.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS \$370.6 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$162.18 MILLION LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL USABLE FLOOR AREA OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING LAST MONTH AMOUNTED TO 307,412 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 235,281 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 72,131 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

DURING THE MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 43 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING A SCHOOL AT TAI CHEONG STREET, SHAU KEI WAN, AN ELECTRICITY ~~SUB-STATION~~ AND STAFF QUARTER AT ABERDEEN, A SOCIAL CENTRE AT YUEN LONG AND A MEMORIAL HALL AT TAI PO.

FIFTY-NINE NEWLY COMPLETED BUILDINGS WERE CERTIFIED FOR OCCUPATION DURING THE MONTH, INCLUDING A NEW SCHOOL AT KWAI CHUNG AND A CHURCH AT SHA TIN.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO CONSENTED TO THE DEMOLITION OF 33 BUILDINGS.

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SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR OPENS SHEK LEI NURSERY

REASONABLE CHILD CARE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO POORER FAMILIES AT SHEK LEI AND SHEK YAM ESTATES AND THE NEARBY YAU MA HOM TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA WHEN TWO SUBVENTED NURSERIES IN TSUEN WAN ARE COMPLETED.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, STATED THIS TODAY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL'S TUNG PAK YING CHILD CARE CENTRE AT SHEK LEI ESTATE.

+IN RECENT YEARS, TSUEN WAN HAS DEVELOPED INTO AN IMPORTANT NEW TOWN. WITH A DRASTIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FACTORY BUILDINGS AND HOUSING ESTATES, MANY HOUSEWIVES WITH CHILDREN ARE NOW COMING OUT TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT.

+TO MEET THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE SERVICE IN THE AREA, THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, APART FROM RUNNING THE TUNG PAK YING CHILD CARE CENTRE WHICH IS NOW OPENED, WILL SET UP ANOTHER NURSERY AT SHEK YAM ESTATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ MR. LEE SAID.

HE SAID THAT RESIDENTS WILL GREATLY BENEFIT FROM THE SETTING UP OF THE TWO CHILD CARE CENTRES, EACH WITH 100 PLACES AND EQUIPPED WITH MODERN FACILITIES.

MR. LEE ALSO PRAISED THE YAN CHAI HOSPITAL FOR THEIR EFFORT IN EXTENDING THIS FORM OF WELFARE SERVICE AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO MR. JOHN TUNG FOR HIS GENEROUS DONATION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION COST AND THE CURRENT YEAR'S EXPENDITURE OF THE SHEK LEI NURSERY.

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