



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983

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EXPORTS ON TAKE-OFF
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HONG KONG'S EXPORT TRADE IS NOW CLEARLY ON THE TAKE-OFF AND INDICATIONS ARE 1983 WILL BE A YEAR OF VIGOROUS GROWTH.

THIS COMMENT WAS MADE TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR E.P. HO, ON THE BASIS OF THE LATEST STATISTICS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$8 920 MILLION LAST MONTH WERE A HEFTY 28 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1982 AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$4 389 MILLION WERE 27 PER CENT UP OVER THE YEAR-EARLIER LEVEL, MAKING A COMBINED GROWTH OF 28 PER CENT.

+THIS IS BY FAR THE LARGEST MONTHLY INCREASE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1983 AFTER A RATHER MILD AND TENTATIVE RECOVERY AT THE TURN OF THE YEAR,+ MR HO POINTED OUT.

IN JANUARY, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS NOTCHED A MERE 3.2 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1982 AMID GLIMMERING SIGNS THAT THE U.S. ECONOMY WAS EMERGING FROM THE RECESSIONARY WOOD.

BUT AS THE U.S. RECOVERY BECAME MORE SUSTAINED, PULLING UP SOME OF THE OTHER MAJOR ECONOMIES, HONG KONG RESPONDED WITH A STEADY MONTH-TO-MONTH INCREASE IN ITS EXPORTS, MR HO SAID.

+UNLIKE THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE YEAR, THE EXPANSION OF OUR EXTERNAL TRADE HAS BECOME MORE WIDELY SPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, WHICH IN ITSELF IS HEALTHY.

H +THIS IS CLEARLY SHOWN BY OUR QUARTERLY DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OUR THREE LARGEST MARKETS -- THE U.S., WEST GERMANY AND THE UK -- WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PERFORMANCE IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR,+ MR HO SAID.

ON THIS COMPARATIVE BASIS, HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN THE FIRST QUARTER GREW BY 10.2 PER CENT AND TO WEST GERMANY BY 2.3 PER CENT. BUT EXPORTS TO THE UK WERE DOWN BY 4.9 PER CENT.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER, THE FIGURES SHOW AN INCREASE OF 14 PER CENT TO THE U.S., 5.7 PER CENT TO WEST GERMANY AND, IMPORTANTLY, 8.6 PER CENT TO BRITAIN.

THE TURN-AROUND IN THE CASE OF BRITAIN WAS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING, MR HO REMARKED.

LOOKING AHEAD, MR HO SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE UPSURGE WOULD BE MAINTAINED.

/+THE OUTLOOK

+THE OUTLOOK FOR THE U.S. MARKET, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR SOME 40 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS, IS PARTICULARLY FAVOURABLE,+ HE SAID.

FORECASTS POINT TO A STEADY EXPANSION OF THE U.S. CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE: AN EQUIVALENT OF HK\$5 308.7 MILLION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, \$5 370 MILLION FOR THE SECOND, \$5 432 MILLION FOR THE THIRD AND \$5 482 MILLION FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF THE YEAR.

+MUCH OF THIS CONSUMER DEMAND WOULD HAVE TO BE MET BY IMPORTS WHICH SHOULD GIVE US SUBSTANTIAL ROOM FOR OUR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. MARKET,+ MR HO SAID.

+CLEARLY, OUR ECONOMY IS AGAIN SHIFTING BACK TO AN EXPORT-LED GROWTH. AS THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IS STILL A MAJOR PILLAR OF OUR ECONOMY, THE AUSPICIOUS SIGNS ARE ALREADY WITH US,+ MR HO SAID.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1983

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IN JUNE 1983, DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY 28 PER CENT OR \$1 967 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, TO REACH \$8 920 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

RE-EXPORTS, AT \$4 389 MILLION, GREW BY 27 PER CENT OR \$938 MILLION.

TOTAL EXPORTS -- DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS -- REACHED \$13 309 MILLION IN JUNE, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 28 PER CENT OR \$2 905 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1982.

WITH IMPORTS AT \$14 481 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT OR \$2 767 MILLION OVER JUNE 1982, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JUNE THIS YEAR WAS \$1 172 MILLION.

THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP -- THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS -- NARROWED TO EIGHT PER CENT FROM 11 PER CENT IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS 13 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THIS OVERALL GROWTH COMPRISED A 14 PER CENT INCREASE FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND 12 PER CENT INCREASE FOR RE-EXPORTS.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS 11 PER CENT, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR STOOD AT 12 PER CENT, WHICH WAS NARROWER THAN THE 14 PER CENT RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1982.

COMMENTING ON THESE COMPARATIVE FIGURES, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, +DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAVE SHOWN A CLEAR SIGN OF RECOVERY, AS THE ECONOMIES OF SEVERAL OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. THE RAPID GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN JUNE WAS PROBABLY DUE, IN PART, TO A CONTINUED INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, INDICATING THAT DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN STRONG IN THE COMING MONTHS.+

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1983: -

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$ 8 920 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	: \$ 4 389 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	: \$13 309 MILLION
	IMPORTS	: \$14 481 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	: \$ 1 172 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>APRIL-JUNE 1983</u>	<u>APRIL-JUNE 1982</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	24 531	20 323	+ 4 208	+20.7
RE-EXPORTS	12 824	10 790	+ 2 034	+18.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	37 355	31 113	+ 6 242	+20.1
IMPORTS	41 937	35 306	+ 6 631	+18.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 4 582	- 4 193	- 389	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>JUNE 1983</u>	<u>JUNE 1982</u>	<u>INCREASE OR DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	8 920 (67.0%)	6 953 (66.8%)	+ 1 967	+28.3
RE-EXPORTS	4 389	3 451	+ 938	+27.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	13 309	10 404	+ 2 905	+27.9
IMPORTS	14 481	11 714	+ 2 767	+23.6
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 172	- 1 310	+ 138	

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	JUNE 1983	MAY 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	8 920 (67.0%)	8 003 (65.3%)	+ 917	+11.5
RE-EXPORTS	4 389	4 258	+ 131	+ 3.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	13 309	12 261	+ 1 048	+ 8.5
IMPORTS	14 481	13 933	+ 548	+ 3.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 172	- 1 672	+ 500	

<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	JAN-JUNE 1983	JAN-JUNE 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	43 160 (64.3%)	37 826 (63.8%)	+ 5 334	+14.1
RE-EXPORTS	23 976	21 417	+ 2 559	+11.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	67 136	59 243	+ 7 893	+13.3
IMPORTS	76 077	68 718	+ 7 359	+10.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 8 941	- 9 475	+ 534	

<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	JULY 1982 TO JUNE 1983	JULY 1981 TO JUNE 1982	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	88 365	82 646	+ 5 719	+ 6.9
RE-EXPORTS	46 912	43 620	+ 3 292	+ 7.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	135 277	126 266	+ 9 011	+ 7.1
IMPORTS	150 252	141 472	+ 8 780	+ 6.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 14 975	- 15 206	+ 231	

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\$1.2-BILLION WORTH OF BUILDINGS COMPLETED

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THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED IN JUNE AMOUNTED TO \$1 220.7 MILLION, ACCORDING TO FIGURES ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THIS COMPARES WITH \$880.4 MILLION IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE USABLE FLOOR AREA TOTALLED 436 276.9 SQUARE METRES, COMPRISING 166 122.6 SQUARE METRES OF NON-DOMESTIC AND 270 154.3 SQUARE METRES OF DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

BUILDING PLANS FOR A SCHOOL IN KOWLOON BAY AND AN ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION AT THE JUNCTION OF HUNG HING ROAD, WAN SHING STREET AND MARSH ROAD IN WAN CHAI AND THIRTY OTHER BUILDING PROJECTS WERE APPROVED IN JUNE BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE.

OF THESE NEW PLANS, 11 WERE FOR NEW BUILDINGS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SIX FOR KOWLOON AND 15 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE SAME MONTH, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE ALSO GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 32 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING A MARKET IN SAI WAN HO, A RECREATION HALL IN SHEK PIK ON LANTAU ISLAND AND THREE ELECTRICITY SUBSTATIONS IN TAI PO, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

ALTOGETHER, 45 OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ISSUED FOR NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDINGS BY THE OFFICE IN JUNE. THEY INCLUDE ONE SCHOOL IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND ANOTHER IN TUEN MUN, A CINEMA AT THE LAI CHI KOK AMUSEMENT PARK AND A HOTEL IN CHEUNG CHAU.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE THIS MONTH ALSO GAVE PERMISSION FOR 34 BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED.

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SIR PHILIP LOOKS OVER FISHERIES FACILITIES

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE, TODAY (THURSDAY) LOOKED OVER THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S COUNTRY PARKS AND FISHERIES FACILITIES IN ABERDEEN.

SIR PHILIP, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR JOHN RIDDELL-SWAN, SAW A DISPLAY OF INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AT ABERDEEN COUNTRY PARK BEFORE MEETING STAFF AT THE PARK'S MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

HE ALSO HAD A LOOK AT THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED IN THE COUNTRY PARK.

/HE THEN

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HE THEN WENT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S FISHERIES RESEARCH STATION AT ABERDEEN TO SEE THE FISH REFERENCE COLLECTION, HYDROGRAPHY LABORATORY, COMPUTER TERMINALS, FISHERIES RESEARCH LIBRARY AND THE CHEMISTRY/MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY.

IN THE CAPTURE FISHERIES DIVISION IN THE SAME BUILDING, SIR PHILIP SAW FISHING GEAR DEVELOPMENT WORK AND THE ENGINE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

BAD WEATHER HOWEVER, FORCED SIR PHILIP TO CANCEL A HELICOPTER VISIT TO A FOUR-DAY FIGHT YOUTH CRIME SEMINAR CAMP AT THE LADY MACLEHOSE VILLAGE IN SAI KUNG.

SIR PHILIP, CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY FORMED FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WAS TO HAVE FLOWN FROM HMS TAMAR ACCOMPANIED BY LADY HADDON-CAVE, ATTORNEY GENERAL MR MICHAEL THOMAS, ACTING SECRETARY FOR SECURITY MR PATRICK WILLIAMSON AND COMMISSIONER OF POLICE MR ROY HENRY.

SHORTLY BEFORE 8 AM, A THUNDERSTORM WARNING AND HEAVY RAIN AND MIST AT SAI KUNG, FORCED THE DUTY PILOT AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE TO CANCEL THE FLIGHT.

LATER IN THE MORNING, AN UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, DR HO KAM-FAI, READ THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM SIR PHILIP TO THE 300 CAMPERS FROM JUNIOR POLICE CALL AND OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS:-

"THE CAMP IS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF A MAJOR CAMPAIGN AIMED AT COMBATTING THE CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF CRIME, PARTICULARLY SERIOUS AND VIOLENT CRIME, AMONG YOUNG MALES IN THE 14 - 20 AGE GROUP. THE MANY YOUNG CAMPERS HERE TODAY ARE PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN HELPING GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE TO DISSUADE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN CRIME.

YOU WILL, OF COURSE, BE ENJOYING MANY RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BUT THERE IS ALSO A SERIOUS SIDE TO THE TIME YOU WILL SPEND HERE. YOU WILL BE TAKING PART IN LECTURES AND SEMINARS IN WHICH YOU WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT AND DISCUSS TOPICS AS DIVERSE AS YOUTH CRIME AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM; TRIAD INFLUENCE AND THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY DRUGS; THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH IN SOCIETY; HOW TO HELP THE POLICE PREVENT CRIME; AND HOW TO ORGANISE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN HEALTHY SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE CENTRAL THEME OF ALL THE LECTURES AND SEMINARS WILL BE : 'DON'T GET INVOLVED IN CRIME' AND 'THERE'S NO GLAMOUR IN CRIME'.

A YEAR AGO WE RAN SIMILAR CAMP AT THE YMCA VILLAGE AT WU KAI SHA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPAIGN TO CUT THE RISE IN JUVENILE CRIME. IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THIS CAMP WILL ACHIEVE SIMILAR RESULTS.

/BUT THE

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BUT THE REAL RESULTS WILL COME ONLY AFTER YOU LEAVE THE CAMP AND RETURN TO YOUR HOME DISTRICTS. I WOULD ASK ALL OF YOU TO PASS ON WHAT YOU LEARN HERE AND TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO ASSIST IN THE 1983/84 FIGHT YOUTH CRIME CAMPAIGN AND DISCOURAGE YOUNG MEN FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN CRIME.

I TRUST YOU ALL HAVE A HAPPY AND REWARDING TIME AND, I WANT TO THANK YOU, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, FOR VOLUNTEERING TO HELP US TO TACKLE A SERIOUS AND DISTURBING PROBLEM."

LATER IN THE DAY MR HO AND ANOTHER UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, MRS SOPHIA HO TOURED THE HOLIDAY VILLAGE, TALKED TO THE CAMPERS AND SAW THEM ATTENDING LECTURES AND TAKING PART IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES.

THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR CLIVE OXLEY- THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MR CHAN WA-SHEK AND THE CHIEF POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, MR STEWART LAI.

A FILM, SHOT BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, WILL BE SHOWN ON THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL TELEVISION PROGRAMME ON BOTH CHINESE CHANNELS ON SUNDAY.

THE CAMP WILL CLOSE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) WHEN MR RICHARD QUINE, ACTING DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES TO THE CAMPERS.

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SAI WAN HO ROAD WORK CONTINUES
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THE TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROAD REPAIRS IN SAI WAN HO WILL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR ANOTHER FOUR WEEKS, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

TAI NING STREET BETWEEN SAI WAN HO STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD HAS BEEN CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC.

SHAU KEI WAN ROAD WESTBOUND BETWEEN HOLY CROSS PATH AND TAI FOO STREET WILL REMAIN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT BUSES, TRAMS AND GOODS VEHICLES EXCEEDING FIVE TONS UNLADEN.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HOLY CROSS PATH, SAI WAN HO STREET AND TAI FOO STREET.

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'PORTABLE COMPUTERS COMMON IN NEXT DECADE'

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IT IS LIKELY THAT PORTABLE COMPUTERS WILL, WITHIN THE NEXT DECADE, BE AS COMMON AS HANDHELD CALCULATORS ARE RIGHT NOW, THE GOVERNMENT SCIENCE ADVISER, DR J.C. WRIGHT, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

DR WRIGHT WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE MICROCOMP '83 --- MICROCOMPUTER EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE 1983 --- AT THE CITY HALL.

DR WRIGHT SAID MICROCOMPUTERS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR BECAUSE THEY WERE +VERSATILE, HIGHLY EFFICIENT, RELATIVELY CHEAP AND ABOVE ALL 'TRANSPARENT' TO THE USER.+

+THIS TRANSPARENCY, OR EASY MENU APPROACH TO COMPUTERS IN ALMOST EVERYDAY LANGUAGE, HAS REINTERESTED THE VETERANS (LIKE ME :) AND INTRODUCED MILLIONS MORE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY SCHOOL CHILDREN, STUDENTS AND YOUNG GRADUATES TO COMPUTERS FOR THE FIRST TIME WITHOUT THEM EVER EXPERIENCING THE DIFFICULTIES OF MACHINE OR MEDIUM LEVEL LANGUAGES,+ HE SAID.

ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MICROCOMPUTER MARKET IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, DR WRIGHT POINTED OUT, HAD BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF MICROCOMPUTERS INTO SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

+BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS IS THE IMPRESSIONABLE AGE GROUP WHERE IT IS PROBABLY MOST EFFICIENT TO INTRODUCE YOUNG PEOPLE TO COMPUTER SYSTEMS, THIS IS PROBABLY A USEFUL AND COST-EFFECTIVE THING TO DO,+ HE SAID.

DR WRIGHT SAID THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF EXPANDING COMPUTER FAMILIARISATION WAS THROUGH COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING.

THIS, HOWEVER, REQUIRED PLENTY OF SOPHISTICATED SOFTWARE AND VERY FEW SCHOOLS HAD STAFF OR SENIOR STUDENTS CAPABLE OF WRITING SOFTWARE THAT WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, HE CONTINUED.

+IT FOLLOWS THAT SCHOOLS NEED ACCESS TO AN ADVISORY BODY OR A CENTRE THAT CAN MAINTAIN A LIBRARY OF SOFTWARE AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS.

+IT IS BETTER STILL IF THE CENTRE CAN DEVELOP AND LOCALISE CURRICULA THAT, IN TURN, DEVELOP COMPUTER AWARENESS AND RUN COURSES ON WAYS TO INSTRUCT CHILDREN ABOUT COMPUTERS,+ HE ADDED.

DR WRIGHT SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR CAREFUL CHOICE AND EFFICIENT USE OF MICROCOMPUTERS AND HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ORGANISERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF MICROCOMP '83 FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO COMPUTER LITERACY IN HONG KONG.

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HK TAKING PART IN TYPHOON STUDY PROJECT

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TWO OFFICERS FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WILL REPRESENT HONG KONG IN THE FOLLOW-UP PHASE OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL, TYPHOON OPERATIONAL EXPERIMENT - TOPEX - TO BE HELD BETWEEN AUGUST 1 AND OCTOBER 15 THIS YEAR.

IN THIS FIELD PHASE OF THE EXPERIMENT, THE TWO HONG KONG OFFICERS WILL WORK IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIMENT CENTRE IN TOKYO, JAPAN.

AT THE SAME TIME, AN EXPERIMENT SUB-CENTRE WILL BE SET UP AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY IN HONG KONG, ENABLING HONG KONG TO LIAISE WITH THE TOKYO-BASED MAIN CENTRE IN CARRYING OUT A PROGRAMME OF OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSES AND FORECASTS DURING ACTUAL TYPHOON CONDITIONS.

THE AIM OF THE EXPERIMENT, IS TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES IN THE REGION TO ANALYSE, FORECAST AND ISSUE WARNINGS SO THAT THE COMMUNITY MAY BE BETTER PREPARED AGAINST THE DAMAGE THAT CAN BE CAUSED BY FLOODING AND THE STORMS, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

+UNDER THIS EXPERIMENT, MORE OBSERVATIONAL DATA WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE MOVEMENT, GENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TYPHOONS IN THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, HE SAID.+

THE PROJECT, TOPEX, IS LAUNCHED BY AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TYPHOON COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED JOINTLY BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) AND THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION (WMO). ITS AIM IS TO HELP MINIMISE TYPHOON DAMAGE.

THE PARTICIPATING MEMBERS ARE CHINA, HONG KONG, JAPAN, MALAYSIA, THE PHILIPPINES, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THAILAND AND VIETNAM.

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MEET-THE-PUBLIC SESSION EXTENDED

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THE MEET-THE-PUBLIC SESSION IN SAI KUNG WILL BE EXTENDED TO TWO REMOTE PLACES IN THE DISTRICT STARTING NEXT MONTH, MAKING IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR RESIDENTS TO CHANNEL THEIR VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

AT PRESENT, MEMBERS ARE MEETING THE RESIDENTS ONCE A WEEK AT THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE BRANCH OFFICE IN MAN NIN STREET.

STARTING FROM AUGUST, THE SESSIONS WILL ALSO BE HELD IN THE HANG HAU RURAL COMMITTEE OFFICE AND THE RENNIE'S MILL SERVICE CENTRE ON A ROTATION BASIS.

/MEETING TIME

MEETING TIME IS BETWEEN 2.30 PM AND 4.30 PM EVERY MONDAY.

A DISTRICT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID THE MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME WOULD SERVE BETTER PURPOSE AND BE MORE USEFUL IF THE SESSIONS WERE ALSO HELD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DISTRICT INSTEAD OF ONLY IN THE SAI KUNG TOWN.

+THE POPULATION IN SAI KUNG IS SPARSELY DISTRIBUTED, AND RESIDENTS IN FAR-OFF PLACES HAVE TO TRAVEL A LONG WAY TO THE TOWN CENTRE IF THEY WANT TO MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO ATTEND THESE SESSIONS CAN MAKE APPOINTMENT WITH THE BOARD SECRETARIAT AT 3-7557916.

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ROAD CLOSED FOR WORKS
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FROM 4 PM ON SATURDAY (JULY 30) TO 6 AM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1), THE U-TURN SLIP ROAD AT COTTON TREE DRIVE, OPPOSITE THE BANK OF AMERICAN TOWER WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA HARCOURT ROAD WESTBOUND, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WESTBOUND, PEDDER STREET, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND AND HARCOURT ROAD EASTBOUND.

BUSES ON CMB ROUTES 12M, 17 AND 40M WILL BE DIVERTED VIA QUEENSWAY, ARSENAL STREET AND HARCOURT ROAD.

THOSE ON ROUTE 103 ON QUEENSWAY WESTBOUND WILL ENTER COTTON TREE DRIVE DIRECT, AND THE ROUTE'S TWO BUS STOPS AT QUEENSWAY OPPOSITE MURRAY ROAD CAR PARK AND AT JACKSON ROAD OUTSIDE THE SUPREME COURT WILL BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED.

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SWIMMING LESSONS FOR CHILDREN
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SWIMMING CLASSES ARE BEING ORGANISED FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN THREE AND 13 IN THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS IN YUE WAN, CHAI WAN.

STARTING FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 1), THE ONE-MONTH CLASSES WILL BE HELD AT THE CHAI WAN SWIMMING POOL EVERY TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS FROM 7 AM TO 9 AM.

SPONSORED BY THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, THE CLASSES ARE BEING ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE RECREATION AND SPORT OFFICE AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE ACTION COUNCIL.

+SWIMMING IS A FAVOURITE SPORT FOR CHILDREN DURING THE HOT SUMMER VACATION AND GOOD AND PROPER TRAINING IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR SAFETY,+ THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GORDON JONES SAID.

HE RECALLED A TRAGIC ACCIDENT RECENTLY IN WHICH TWO CHILDREN, AGED THREE AND FIVE, DROWNED AT CHAI WAN.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S CHAI WAN SUB-OFFICE AT BLOCK 2 OF HING WAH ESTATE.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY TODAY, MR JONES RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$2 909 FOR ORGANISING THE CLASSES FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH, MR LARRY LAW.

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CROWN LAND SOLD
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A PIECE OF CROWN LAND IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN WAS SOLD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT AT AN AUCTION HELD IN THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL THIS AFTERNOON.

THE SITE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 8 531 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

IT WAS SOLD TO GLORYLAND LTD. FOR \$12.6 MILLION, OR \$1 476.97 PER SQUARE METRE.

TWO OTHER SITES, ONE IN SHA TIN AND ONE IN YUEN LONG, WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE AUCTION BECAUSE THERE WERE NO BIDDERS.

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983

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TRAFFIC CHANGES FOR MTR WORKS

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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN NORTH POINT AND SAI WAN HO FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO ALLOW FOR WORK ON THE MTR ISLAND LINE.

IN NORTH POINT, THE EXISTING +TRAM-ONLY+ LANE ON THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KING'S ROAD BETWEEN SHU KUK STREET AND KAM HONG STREET WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR ABOUT 16 MONTHS.

THIS EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY SECTION WILL BE DESIGNATED AS AN URBAN CLEARWAY BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY.

A NUMBER OF ROAD SECTIONS IN SAI WAN HO WILL ALSO BE DESIGNATED AS URBAN CLEARWAYS BETWEEN 7 AM AND MIDNIGHT DAILY FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS.

THESE INCLUDE HOLY CROSS PATH BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND SAI WAN HO STREET, SAI WAN HO STREET BETWEEN HOLY CROSS PATH AND TAI CHEONG STREET, AND TAI CHEONG STREET BETWEEN SAI WAN HO STREET AND SHAU KEI WAN ROAD.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, NO VEHICLES OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIODS.

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NEW TRAFFIC PLAN FOR NORTH POINT

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FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JULY 29), NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN NORTH POINT TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

TRAFFIC ON NORTH VIEW STREET BETWEEN FORT STREET AND KIN WAH STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY SOUTHBOUND, AND THOSE ON CHEUNG HONG STREET BETWEEN FORT STREET AND KIN WAH STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY NORTHBOUND.

HOWEVER, TRAFFIC ON KIN WAH STREET BETWEEN CHEUNG HONG STREET AND NORTH VIEW STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND.

THE PARKING SPACES ON BOTH SIDES OF CHEUNG HONG STREET SOUTH OF FORT STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

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WATER LEAKAGE TEST

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN NORTH POINT WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

AFFECTED PREMISES ARE BOUNDED BY SHU KUK STREET, KING'S ROAD, TIN CHIU STREET AND THE SEA FRONT, INCLUDING 395-423 KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT ESTATE, NORTH POINT PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR FERRY PIERS.

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