



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1981

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE, FEBRUARY 1981

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ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE BY 8 PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY 1981 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1980. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECLINED BY 1 PER CENT.

AN INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR IMPORTS (+16 PER CENT), BUT A DECREASE IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS (-12 PER CENT). THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT, WITH VOLUME UP BY 47 PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES ROSE BY 9 PER CENT AND VOLUME ROSE BY 6 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN BELOW:

CHANGES COMPARING FEBRUARY 1981 WITH FEBRUARY 1980

	<u>EXPORT VALUES</u>	<u>EXPORT UNIT VALUES</u>	<u>EXPORT VOLUMES</u>
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	-10%	+ 9%	-17%
TEXTILE FABRICS	- 3%	+ 5%	- 8%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-13%	+ 5%	-17%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	- 8%	+11%	-18%
ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS	-25%	+ 5%	-29%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+53%	+13%	+35%
FOOTWEAR	- 6%	+ 4%	-10%
METAL MANUFACTURES	22%	+12%	-31%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+41%	+ 2%	+38%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+38%	- 5%	+45%
ALL COMMODITIES	- 5%	+ 8%	-12%

APART FROM A DROP OF 5 PER CENT FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS, THE EXPORT PRICES OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED AT VARYING RATES, FROM A 2 PER CENT INCREASE FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP TO A 13 PER CENT INCREASE FOR ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS.

/CONSIDERABLE GROWTH

CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS NOTED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+45 PER CENT), METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+38 PER CENT) AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+35 PER CENT). HOWEVER, THE EXPORT VOLUMES OF THE OTHER COMMODITY GROUPS DECLINED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:

CHANGES COMPARING FEBRUARY 1981 WITH FEBRUARY 1980			
	IMPORT VALUES	IMPORT UNIT VALUES	IMPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+20%	+16%	+ 3%
CONSUMER GOODS	+40%	+ 6%	+33%
FUELS	+14%	+40%	-19%
RAW MATERIALS	+21%	+ 7%	+13%
AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES			
CAPITAL GOODS	+36%	+ 6%	+28%
ALL COMMODITIES	+28%	+10%	+16%

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUELS, THE PRICES OF WHICH JUMPED BY 40 PER CENT, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY INCREASED MODERATELY, RANGING FROM 6 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS AND CAPITAL GOODS, TO 16 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS.

MOST IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS ROSE IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, AS WELL AS VEGETABLES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF PEANUT OIL AND LARD, RICE, AS WELL AS TEA AND COFFEE FELL.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, FOOTWEAR, RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS AND TAPE RECORDERS, CAMERAS AND APPARATUS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, AND CLOTHING. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TOBACCO MANUFACTURES DECLINED.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 19 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE IMPORT VOLUMES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SHOWED A MIXED TREND. WHEREAS PURCHASES OF FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES AND WOOLLEN YARN ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY, DEMAND FOR RAW COTTON, COTTON YARN AND THREAD AND BASE METALS (EXCLUDING IRON AND STEEL) DECLINED.

AS FOR CAPITAL GOODS, MAJOR INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY.

/THE CHANGES

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUMES OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW:

CHANGES COMPARING FEBRUARY 1981 WITH FEBRUARY 1980		
RE-EXPORT VALUES	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUES	RE-EXPORT VOLUMES
FOODSTUFFS	+125%	+107%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 50%	+ 43%
FUELS	+ 10%	- 22%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 60%	+ 41%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 87%	+ 69%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 61%	+ 47%

APART FROM FUELS, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF WHICH DECLINED BY 22 PER CENT, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUMES OF THE MAJOR END-USE CATEGORIES SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES, RANGING FROM 41 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 107 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS.

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FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS PAY OFF

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DAMAGE CAUSED BY HILL FIRES ON THE COUNTRYSIDE IN THE LAST DRY SEASON WAS MUCH REDUCED, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

BETWEEN LAST SEPTEMBER AND APRIL THIS YEAR, 281 HILL FIRES WERE ATTENDED, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 36 PER CENT COMPARED WITH LAST SEASON. DAMAGE TO WOODLANDS WAS REDUCED TO 116 HECTARES, AS AGAINST 971 HECTARES IN 79/80.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN PREVENTING AND FIGHTING HILL FIRES HAD UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN EFFECTIVE IN THE PERIOD WHEN THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS MOST VULNERABLE TO FIRE.

HE RECALLED THAT A COUNTRYSIDE FIRES COMMITTEE, COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, WAS FORMED AS A RESULT OF THE MANY HILL FIRES WHICH DAMAGED THOUSANDS OF TREES IN TAI LAM DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL PERIOD IN 1979.

AFTER IT WAS SET UP, THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED AN OVERALL STRATEGY AND ORGANISATION OF EFFORTS FOR PREVENTING AND FIGHTING COUNTRYSIDE FIRES.

FOUR PROBLEM AREAS - BARBECUE FIRES, BURNING-OFF OF VEGETATION, GRAVE WORSHIPPING AND FLYING OF HUNG MING LANTERNS - WERE SINGLED OUT. A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME WAS DRAWN UP TO TACKLE THEM.

AS 61 PER CENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY PICNICKERS, PUBLICITY EFFORTS CONTINUED TO WARN PEOPLE VISITING THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR BARBECUES TO USE DESIGNATED PITS.

FIRE BAN WAS IMPOSED BETWEEN JANUARY 16 AND FEBRUARY 20 AT PAT HEUNG AND TAI PO KAU. NO FIRES WERE REPORTED IN THE AREA WHERE THE BAN WAS EFFECTIVE, WHEREAS SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF FIRES WERE REPORTED ELSEWHERE.

TO COMBAT THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN THE BURNING-OFF OF VEGETATION, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW TERRITORIES CIVILIAN INFORMATION TEAM GAVE FARMERS ADVICE ON THE SAFE METHODS OF GOING ABOUT PRACTICE. RADIO STATIONS ALSO HELPED PUBLICISE THE MESSAGE THROUGH THEIR NT AND FARMER PROGRAMMES.

DURING THE CHING MING FESTIVAL PERIOD, MORE THAN 1 000 METAL CONTAINERS WERE PLACED NEAR GRAVES FOR THE BURNING OF JOSS STICKS AND JOSS PAPERS. SIGNS WERE ALSO PUT UP TO WARN GRAVE VISITORS. AS A RESULT, ONLY NINE FIRES OCCURRED ON APRIL 5 AND 6, INSIDE COUNTRY PARK AREAS.

THE BAN ON HUNG MING LANTERNS IN SEPTEMBER 1980 HAD ALSO PROVED EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING FIRES.

DURING THE SEASON THE COUNTRY PARK AUTHORITY BROUGHT 179 SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL LIGHTING OF FIRES INSIDE COUNTRY PARKS, RESULTING IN FINES TOTTALLING \$49 010 WITH INDIVIDUAL FINES UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$500.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT DESPITE THE SUCCESS, THERE WAS NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY. +IN THE SEASON TO COME, WE WILL BE PLANNING A REPEAT OF THE FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES WITH THE INTENTION OF CONSOLIDATING WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN 1980/81,+ HE SAID.

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CARE - AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN BUILDING A GOOD COMMUNITY

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CARE IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN BUILDING AND PROVIDING FOR A GOOD COMMUNITY.

DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM, SAID THIS TODAY (SUNDAY) AT THE INAUGURATION OF 24TH TERM OFFICE-BEARERS, NEW TERRITORIES WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, IN TUEN MUN.

MR CHUI SAID THE NEW TERRITORIES SCENE HAD UNDERGONE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE PAST 24 YEARS.

THE POPULATION HAD GROWN FROM ONLY TENS OF THOUSANDS IN 1957 TO 1.5 MILLION TODAY, WITH THE MOST RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN MORE RECENT YEARS.

BY 1985, THE POPULATION WOULD BE 2.3 MILLION.

HE SAID WITH THE POPULATION INCREASING AT SUCH A RAPID RATE THE NEED TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND FACILITIES WAS STAGGERING.

+WE NEED TO PROVIDE JOBS, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES AND RECREATION.

/+THEREFORE WE

+THEREFORE WE NEED TO BUILD FACTORIES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, NURSERIES AND CRECHES, SPORTS GROUNDS AND STADIA, AND RUN, MAINTAIN AND MANAGE THEM AFTER THEY ARE BUILT.

+IN SHORT WE NEED TO CARE FOR THE PEOPLE MOVING IN TO LIVE IN A NEWLY BUILT COMMUNITY.

MR CHUI SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THE WORK OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD PLAYED - AND HE HOPED WOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY - A VITAL ROLE, PARTICULARLY IN CARING FOR THE OLD, THE YOUNG, THE SICK AND THE INFIRM.

HE SAID THE NEW TERRITORIES WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION HAD A HISTORY OF NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AND SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, MUCH HAD BEEN DONE FOR NEW TERRITORIES RESIDENTS.

+IT HAS A LONG TRACK RECORD OF SOCIAL SERVICE AND I SINCERELY HOPE THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS UTMOST IN THE AREA OF CARE,+ HE SAID.

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HILL ROAD FLYOVER READY SOON
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THE HILL ROAD FLYOVER, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FAST TRAFFIC LINK BETWEEN POK FU LAM AND CENTRAL, IS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

THE TWO-LANE, ONE-WAY ELEVATED ROAD EXTENDS FOR 650 METRES FROM THE JUNCTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD AND HILL ROAD DOWN TO THE WATERFRONT IN CONNAUGHT ROAD WEST.

MR NG KWOK-KEE, PROJECT ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S HIGHWAYS OFFICE, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT THE \$42 MILLION FLYOVER WOULD SERVE AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FROM POK FU LAM TO CENTRAL.

AT PRESENT, COMMUTERS USING THE SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD BETWEEN QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG EXPERIENCE SERIOUS TRAFFIC JAM DURING BUSY HOURS.

+ONCE THE FLYOVER IS OPENED, CONGESTION ALONG THIS SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD IS EXPECTED TO BE EASED AND TRAVELLING TIME WILL BE SHORTENED,+ SAID MR NG.

TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRAFFIC FLOW FROM THE FLYOVER TO CENTRAL, HE ADDED, CARGO HANDLING ACTIVITIES AT THE EXISTING WESTERN PIER WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PERMANENT CARGO WORKING AREA AT THE WESTERN RECLAMATION.

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NEW JUNCTION TO BE OPENED
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FROM 10.30 AM ON TUESDAY (MAY 5), THE NEW JUNCTION AT WONG CHUK HANG ROAD AND NAM FUNG ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO ABERDEEN-BOUND TRAFFIC AND THE EXISTING TEMPORARY DIVERSION ROAD WILL BE CLOSED, A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (SUNDAY).

APPROPRIATE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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