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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY - AUGUST 1979

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HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE VALUE FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS $100 358 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 40 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 37 PER CENT TO $34 372 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 55 PER CENT TO $12 603 MILLION - REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 42 PER CENT IN TOTAL EXPORTS.

IMPORTS RECORDED A 38 PER CENT INCREASE, REACHING $53 383 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	JAN - AUG 79 (HK$ MN)	JAN - AUG 78 (HK$ MN)	INCREASE (HK$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
USA	11 635	9 675	+ 1 960	+ 20
FR OF GERMANY	3 889	2 625	+ 1 264	+ 48
UK	3 715	2 267	+ 1 448	+ 64
JAPAN	1 706	1 005	+ 701	+ 70
AUSTRALIA	1 095	902	+ 193	+ 21
CANADA	1 019	798	+ 221	+ 28
SINGAPORE	893	642	+ 251	+ 39
NETHERLANDS	855	557	+ 298	+ 54
SWEDEN	615	345	+ 270	+ 78
FRANCE	566	317	+ 249	+ 79

INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE US COMPRISED MAINLY CLOTHING ($4 534 MILLION, + 13 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS ($1 076 MILLION, + 37 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES ($914 MILLION, + 50 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT ($608 MILLION, + 26 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($606 MILLION, + 35 PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, EXPORTS OF RADIO BROADCAST RECEIVERS ($362 MILLION, - 9 PER CENT) AND PLASTIC ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS ($153 MILLION, - 17 PER CENT) CONTINUED TO DECLINE.

/DOMESTIC EXPORTS .....

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN CLOTHING ($2 301 MILLION, + 47 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ($402 MILLION, + 44 PER CENT) AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($278 MILLION, + 163 PER CENT).

DEMAND IN THE UK REMAINED ACTIVE FOR CLOTHING ($1 859 MILLION, + 58 PER CENT), TEXTILES ($375 MILLION, + 53 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ($252 MILLION, + 114 PER CENT), AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($221 MILLION, + 73 PER CENT).

INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN EXPORTS OF CLOTHING ($503 MILLION, + 86 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($142 MILLION, + 105 PER CENT) TO JAPAN, TEXTILES ($273 MILLION, + 29 PER CENT) TO AUSTRALIA, AND CLOTHING ($403 MILLION, + 18 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($66 MILLION, + 110 PER CENT) TO CANADA.

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION IS SHOWN AS FOLLOWS :-

	JAN - AUG 79 (HK$ MN)	JAN - AUG 78 (HK$ MN)	INCREASE (HK$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	12 772	9 831	+ 2 941	+ 30
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	5 785	4 106	+ 1 679	+ 41
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2 937	1 817	+ 1 120	+ 62
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2 479	1 697	+ 782	+ 46
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2 365	1 748	+ 617	+ 35

/ELECTRICAL MACHINERY .....

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	1 969	1 306	+ 663	+ 51

OVERSEAS DEMAND REMAINED BUOYANT FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($2 471 MILLION, + 66 PER CENT), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS ($2 276 MILLION, + 41 PER CENT), TEXTILE FABRICS ($1 904 MILLION, + 50 PER CENT), RADIO BROADCAST RECEIVERS ($1 202 MILLION, + 25 PER CENT), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT ($896 MILLION, + 30 PER CENT), AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS ($766 MILLION, + 34 PER CENT).

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

	JAN - AUG 79 (HK$ MN)	JAN - AUG 78 (HK$ MN)	INCREASE (HK$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	12 166	8 843	+ 3 323	+ 38
CHINA	8 983	6 282	+ 2 701	+ 43
USA	6 627	4 850	+ 1 777	+ 37
TAIWAN	3 693	2 544	+ 1 149	+ 45
SINGAPORE	2 967	2 030	+ 937	+ 46
UK	2 802	1 753	+ 1 049	+ 60
FR OF GERMANY	1 769	1 275	+ 494	+ 39
SWITZERLAND	1 616	1 190	+ 426	+ 36
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	1 574	1 113	+ 461	+ 41
AUSTRALIA	1 009	821	+ 188	+ 23

IMPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN ($273 MILLION, - 14 PER CENT) FROM JAPAN CONTINUED TO DECREASE BUT THIS WAS MORE THAN OFFSET BY INCREASES IN OTHER TEXTILE PRODUCTS, RESULTING IN A RISE OF 20 PER CENT FOR TEXTILES ($1 829 MILLION) FROM JAPAN.

OTHER MAJOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WERE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES ($1 212 MILLION, + 63 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($1 092 MILLION, + 42 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ($1 050 MILLION, + 68 PER CENT), IRON AND STEEL ($748 MILLION, + 32 PER CENT) AS WELL AS ROAD VEHICLES ($722 MILLION, + 33 PER CENT).

/IMPORTS FROM .....

IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE MAINLY COMPOSED OF TEXTILES ($1 824 MILLION, + 53 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS ($889 MILLION, + 97 PER CENT), LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD ($774 MILLION, + 4 PER CENT), CLOTHING ($559 MILLION, + 69 PER CENT), AND VEGETABLES AND FRUITS ($548 MILLION, + 25 PER CENT).

IMPORTS OF PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES ($574 MILLION, + 30 PER CENT) FROM THE US CONTINUED TO RISE. INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN ARRIVALS OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT ($597 MILLION, + 52 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES ($555 MILLION, + 38 PER CENT), VEGETABLES AND FRUITS ($420 MILLION, + 22 PER CENT), AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS ($360 MILLION, +170 PER CENT).

IMPORTS OF TEXTILES ($1 462 MILLION, + 42 PER CENT) FROM TAIWAN AND PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS ($1 662 MILLION, + 41 PER CENT) FROM SINGAPORE ALSO WENT ON AN UPWARD TREND.

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

	JAN - AUG 79 (HK$ MN)	JAN - AUG 78 (HK$ MN)	INCREASE (HK$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS AND DIAMONDS)	16 782	12 313	+ 4 469	+ 36
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	11 909	7 563	+ 4 346	+ 57
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	7 589	5 168	+ 2 421	+ 47
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	5 978	5 178	+ 800	+ 15
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4 237	2 869	+ 1 368	+ 48
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	2 906	2 045	+ 861	+ 42

/SIGNIFICANT INCREASES .....

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS OF TEXTILE FABRICS ($4 836 MILLION, + 46 PER CENT), PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS ($2 820 MILLION, + 42 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($2 636 MILLION, + 45 PER CENT), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ($2 044 MILLION, + 78 PER CENT), AND IRON AND STEEL ($1 784 MILLION, + 46 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO TREND UPWARDS, IN PARTICULAR, FOR TEXTILES ($1 749 MILLION, + 74 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES ($1 557 MILLION, + 40 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS ($755 MILLION, + 36 PER CENT), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ($746 MILLION, + 87 PER CENT), AND CLOTHING ($577 MILLION, + 102 PER CENT).

MAJOR MARKETS FOR OUR RE-EXPORTS INCLUDED JAPAN ($1 789 MILLION, + 28 PER CENT), US ($1 303 MILLION, + 72 PER CENT), TAIWAN ($1 143 MILLION, + 55 PER CENT), SINGAPORE ($1 133 MILLION, + 28 PER CENT), AND INDONESIA ($1 054 MILLION, + 26 PER CENT). REMARKABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA ($655 MILLION, + 400 PER CENT).

THE TRADE INDEX NUMBERS FOR JULY THIS YEAR WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

	VALUE INDEX	UNIT VALUE INDEX	QUANTUM INDEX
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	319	166	192
IMPORTS	312	171	182

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX FOR JULY THIS YEAR WAS 97.

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GRAVEYARD-VISITORS WARNED OF BOGUS GOVT STAFF

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THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) WARNED VISITORS TO PUBLIC GRAVEYARDS DURING THE CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL TO BE WARY OF IMPOSTORS SOLICITING MONEY FROM THEM.

A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SOME PEOPLE IMPERSONATING THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF IN THE NEW TERRITORIES PUBLIC CEMETERIES OFFERING TO EXHUME HUMAN REMAINS FOR AN EXORBITANT PROFIT WERE RECEIVED LAST YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR ANNOUNCED THAT ALL HUMAN REMAINS BURIED IN PUBLIC CEMETERIES IN 1972 SHOULD BE REMOVED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN SERVICES ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, ANYONE REQUIRING EXHUMATION OF BURIED REMAINS IN ADVANCE MUST APPLY FOR A PERMIT FROM THE DEPARTMENT, HE SAID.

+THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT DOES NOT OPERATE A PAID SERVICE FOR ANY PRIVATE EXHUMATION IN ANY PUBLIC CEMETERIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THERE IS NO APPOINTED CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE SUCH A SERVICE AND THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT SET ANY SCALE OF CHARGES,+ HE ADDED.

+IF GRAVE-VISITORS ARE APPROACHED BY UNDESIRABLE OR SUSPECTED CHARACTERS, THEY SHOULD REPORT THE CASES IMMEDIATELY TO THE POLICE ON DUTY AT THE CEMETERY OR TO THE CEMETERY OFFICE,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO URGED GRAVE-VISITORS TO KEEP THE PLACE CLEAN AND TO PREVENT OUTBREAKS OF HILL FIRES.

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LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME HELPS PO TOI ISLANDERS

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THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME - THE ARCHITECT FOR NUMEROUS PROJECTS IN THE NT OVER THE LAST 60 YEARS - HAS PAID NO LESS ATTENTION TO THE REMOTE ISLANDS OF HONG KONG WATERS.

A 12-METRE-LONG REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGE AT TAI WAN ON PO TOI ISLAND IS THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS OF ISLANDERS.

SPANNING A STRETCH OF THE LOCAL BEACH WHICH IS USUALLY INACCESSIBLE AT HIGH TIDE, THE BRIDGE WAS BUILT AT A COST OF OVER $61 000 TO A SPECIAL DESIGN WORKED OUT BY THE NTA'S ENGINEER, MR. DAVID CANTLE AND UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE WORKS SECTION OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE.

IT WAS COMPLETED THIS MONTH AND OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. NICKY LO, WHO, AT A BRIEF OPENING CEREMONY HELD ON THE ISLAND, DESCRIBED THE BRIDGE AS A FINE EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS SCHEME COULD ACHIEVE TO HELP IMPROVE FACILITIES FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE MORE RURAL AND LESS DEVELOPED AREAS.

+IT NOT ONLY PROVIDES AN EASY ACCESS ACROSS THE BEACH BUT ALSO ENDS THE ANXIETY OF LOCAL VILLAGERS OVER THE SAFE TRAVEL OF THEIR CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

MR. LO RECALLED THAT THE AREA WAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED BY A WOODEN BRIDGE BUILT JOINTLY BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE ARMY IN 1974.

+OVER THE YEARS, IT YIELDED TO THE CONTINUING BATTERING OF WIND AND WAVES AND COLLAPSED IN LATE 1977,+ HE SAID, + AND DESPITE EFFORTS TO KEEP IT OPEN, THERE HAS BEEN GROWING CONCERN AMONG VILLAGERS FOR THE SAFETY OF THEIR CHILDREN HAVING TO CROSS THE BRIDGE EVERY DAY TO ATTEND SCHOOL.+

+IN CONSULTATION WITH THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, THE DISTRICT OFFICE CAME TO THE RESCUE AND A REINFORCED CONCRETE BRIDGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DESIGNED AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORK CONTRACTED OUT IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.+

TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS, THE PO TOI ISLAND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE, MR. WONG SHU-KUN PRESENTED BANNERS TO MR. LO AND OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT.

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FILM ON SCHOOL GYMNASTICS FOR TEACHERS

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A FILM ON MODERN SCHOOL GYMNASTICS HAS BEEN PRODUCED JOINTLY BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG FOR THE BENEFIT OF TEACHERS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY): +THE FIRST PART OF THE FILM IS A SAMPLE LESSON FOR FORM III GIRLS BASED ON THE THEME 'TWISTING,' AND THE SECOND PART IS MOVEMENT DEMONSTRATION ON PARTNER WORK.+

TEACHERS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THIS FILM AT A SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 1 ON THE TEACHING OF SCHOOL GYMNASTICS, HE SAID.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE CLEMENTI MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FORTRESS HILL ROAD, NORTH POINT FROM 9 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M.

THERE WILL BE A TALK ON THE SUBJECT BY MRS. HUANG YEUNG TZE-KIT, INSPECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION SESSION.

TEACHERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND CAN SUBMIT THEIR NAMES THROUGH THEIR HEADS OF SCHOOL TO THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SEVENTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 23.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PHOTOGRAPHS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

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COPIES OF TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS, MR. DAVID JORDAN AND THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. KENNETH TOPLEY HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN GIS PRESS BOXES TODAY (MONDAY) FOR YOUR RECORD AND EDITORIAL USE.

IT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED IF, WHEN THE OCCASION ARISES, THE NEW PHOTOGRAPHS ARE USED INSTEAD OF THE OLD ONES.

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RESERVOIR SPILLWAY TO BE LOWERED

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE SPILLWAY OF THE KOWLOON BYEWASH RESERVOIR WOULD BE LOWERED BY 0.8 METRE TO IMPROVE THE STABILITY OF THE RESERVOIR DAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT RESERVOIR SAFETY STANDARDS.

THE CONTRACT FOR THE WORK WAS SIGNED TODAY BETWEEN MR. HU MAN-SHIU, CHIEF ENGINEER (SUPPLY) OF THE DEPARTMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KAM NGAI ENTERPRISES LIMITED AT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT OFFICES ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF LEIGHTON CENTRE, LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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PARTIAL OPENING OF MID-LEVEL FLYOVERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT A NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVEL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ON WEDNESDAY (OCTOBER 17) BECAUSE OF THE PARTIAL OPENING OF LOWER GLENEALY AND ALBANY ROAD FLYOVERS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM 2 P.M. ON THAT DAY, ARE:

* THE SECTION OF ROBINSON ROAD BETWEEN GARDEN ROAD FLYOVER AND RAIMONDI COLLEGE WILL BECOME ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.

* EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG ROBINSON ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO THE NEW GLENEALY FLYOVER.

* EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON ROBINSON ROAD WISHING TO ENTER ALBANY ROAD NORTHBOUND SHALL TRAVEL VIA THE NEW SLIP ROAD WHICH FORMS PART OF THE FLYOVER SYSTEM. AND

* TRAFFIC FROM GLENEALY WISHING TO GO TO ROBINSON ROAD EASTBOUND WILL HAVE TO TURN LEFT AT THE ROBINSON ROAD JUNCTION AND THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO THE NEW FLYOVER.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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