



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

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TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF MARCH EXTERNAL TRADE
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MARCH 1984 PRICES OF TOTAL EXPORTS, DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS, AND IMPORTS ALL ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 17 PER CENT COMPARED WITH MARCH 1983 PRICES, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) REMAINED AT THE LEVEL OF MARCH 1983.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 36 PER CENT AND 42 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF FIGURES FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1984 WITH THOSE FOR THE SIMILAR QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, SHOWS THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 30 PER CENT AND 37 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT. AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECT OF PRICE INCREASE OF 17 PER CENT, IMPORTS RECORDED A 22 PER CENT GROWTH IN VOLUME TERMS.

A COMPARISON OF THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH THIS YEAR WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 1983, SHOWED THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE, ON AVERAGE, BY 12 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT AND 24 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, THUS GIVING A 21 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 15 PER CENT.

A CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT 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 VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE EXPORT PRICES OF ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM SIX PER CENT FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO 28 PER CENT FOR FOOTWEAR.

/THE DOMESTIC

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+80 PER CENT), DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+65 PER CENT), FOOTWEAR (+45 PER CENT), METAL MANUFACTURES (+40 PER CENT), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+39 PER CENT), TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+36 PER CENT), CLOTHING (+35 PER CENT), RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+34 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+30 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-34 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED, RANGING FROM EIGHT PER CENT FOR FUELS TO 21 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS DECLINED IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD, RICE, VEGETABLE AS WELL AS CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR. HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SWINE, TEA AND COFFEE AS WELL AS MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, CLOTHING AS WELL AS CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. HOWEVER, SLIGHT DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR WATCHES AND PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE, AMONG WHICH RAW COTTON, MAN-MADE FIBRES, YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, SILK FABRIC, WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK, COTTON YARN AND THREAD, WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR, THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS AS WELL AS YARN AND FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY.

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND BUILDING MATERIALS, EXCEPT GLASS DROPPED SLIGHTLY.

IMPORTS AND FUELS ROSE BY 20 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALL COMMODITIES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY, OFFICE MACHINES AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF NEARLY ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED; RANGING FROM 25 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 61 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. HOWEVER, A DECREASE OF FOUR PER CENT WAS OBSERVED FOR FUELS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MARCH 1984 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$2 PER COPY LATER THIS MONTH.

TABLE 1 : CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1984 WITH MARCH 1983 OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

<u>COMMODITY GROUP</u>	<u>EXPORT VALUE</u>	<u>EXPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>EXPORT VOLUME</u>
CLOTHING	+65%	+22%	+35%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+49%	+21%	+23%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+62%	+17%	+39%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+52%	+12%	+36%
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	+56%	+16%	+34%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+92%	+ 7%	+80%
FOOTWEAR	+85%	+28%	+45%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+61%	+14%	+40%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-24%	+15%	-34%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 8%	+ 6%	+ 2%
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	+50%	+15%	+30%
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	+89%	+14%	+65%
ALL COMMODITIES	+59%	+17%	+36%

/TABLE 2 :

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TABLE 2 : CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1984 WITH MARCH 1983
OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

<u>END-USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>IMPORT VALUE</u>	<u>IMPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>IMPORT VOLUME</u>
FOODSTUFFS	+19%	+19%	INSIGNIFICANT
CONSUMER GOODS	+37%	+16%	+18%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+63%	+21%	+35%
FUELS	+30%	+ 8%	+20%
CAPITAL GOODS	+39%	+13%	+23%
ALL COMMODITIES	+46%	+17%	+24%

TABLE 3 : CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1984 WITH MARCH 1983
OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

<u>END-USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT VALUE</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE</u>	<u>RE-EXPORT VOLUME</u>
FOODSTUFFS	+58%	+19%	+32%
CONSUMER GOODS	+43%	+14%	+25%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+91%	+21%	+58%
FUELS	+19%	+24%	- 4%
CAPITAL GOODS	+79%	+11%	+61%
ALL COMMODITIES	+66%	+17%	+42%

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YOUTH URGED TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC LIFE
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YOUNG PEOPLE WERE URGED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR POTENTIAL AND TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN PUBLIC LIFE DURING THE 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR AND BEYOND.

THIS CALL WAS MADE TODAY (TUESDAY) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BY MRS SELINA CHOW IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON 1985 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR.

+IN THIS CRUCIAL TIME IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY, WHEN ALL OF US ARE SO CONCERNED ABOUT OUR FUTURE, WE SHOULD NO DOUBT PAY MORE ATTENTION TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS CONSTANTLY AND RAPIDLY CHANGING SOCIETY,+ SHE SAID.

SHE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE FORTHCOMING SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CHANGES WOULD HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG REALISE AND FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL TO THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS DESIGNATED 1985 AS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR TO HIGHLIGHT THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED TO THE U.N. CALL TO OBSERVE THE YOUTH YEAR. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE, COMPRISING UNOFFICIAL AND OFFICIAL MEMBERS, YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS, HAS BEEN FORMED TO PLAN AND COORDINATE LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH YEAR.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ADOPTED +PARTICIPATION+, +DEVELOPMENT+ AND +PEACE+ AS THE THEMES OF THE YOUTH YEAR.

SHE SAID PARTICIPATION COULD MEAN TAKING PART IN PUBLIC LIFE AND IN SOCIAL CHANGE, BOTH OF WHICH ARE CENTRAL TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THIS TIME OF HONG KONG'S HISTORY.

+WE HOPE YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE CAPABLE OF DECIDING ON MATTERS WHICH CONCERN THEIR OWN LIVES, CAN TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN OUR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AND PUT THOSE DECISIONS INTO EFFECT,+ SAID MRS CHOW.

+IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR WILL ALLOW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS, FROM THE PERSONAL LEVEL THROUGH TO THE POLITICAL-INTERNATIONAL LEVEL,+ SHE SAID.

IN SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH YEAR, MRS CHOW SUGGESTED THAT THE WIDE VARIETY OF YOUTH-ORIENTED ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY BODIES SHOULD ORGANISE MORE YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN 1985.

SHE ALSO APPEALED TO THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR TO PROVIDE SPONSORSHIP FOR SUCH EVENTS:

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THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE YOUTH YEAR IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN EARLY JANUARY, 1985, BUT A PRELUDE OF EVENTS IS BEING PLANNED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LATTER PART OF 1984, WHICH WILL INCLUDE YOUTH YEAR SONG COMPETITION AND POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION.

THE CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS PLANNING SEVERAL MAJOR EVENTS WHICH WILL BE HELD DURING THE YOUTH YEAR.

+EACH OF THESE EVENTS IS DESIGNED TO INVOLVE THE ACTIVE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH OF HONG KONG,+ SHE SAID.

+WE ARE ALL DETERMINED THAT 1985 WILL BE THE LAUNCHING POST OF A CONTINUING PROGRAMME, NOT JUST A ONE-OFF SERIES OF EXTRAVAGANZAS,+ MRS CHOW SAID.

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BOARD MEMBERS LOOK AT IMPROVEMENT WORKS * * *

FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TOURED THE DISTRICT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO LOOK OVER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORK.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NIGEL WHITNEY, MEMBERS FIRST INSPECTED A DAMAGED BREAKWATER AND A CHOKED DRAIN AT MA WAN VILLAGE IN LEI YUE MUN TO SEE IF ANY IMPROVEMENT COULD BE MADE TO IT.

THEY THEN WENT TO THE YAU TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA AND WERE TOLD BY THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER (KOWLOON EAST), MR A.L.A. ALEXANDER-WEBBER, THAT THREE SITES ON CHO YUEN STREET AND A SITE NEAR THE TSUI PING ROAD ESTATE WOULD BE USED AS TEMPORARY RECREATIONAL GROUNDS.

AT LAM TIN THIRD VILLAGE, MEMBERS LOOKED AT TWO PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY THE COMMITTEE - A CHAIN-LINK FENCING AND INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS.

THEY ALSO VISITED THE BACKLANES OF LUEN ON STREET IN THE TING HONG AREA AND SAW THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS POSED BY THE ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

SOME 50 STRUCTURES ARE SCHEDULED FOR CLEARANCE NEXT MONTH UNDER THE +OPERATION FAR FLING+ IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MEMBERS INSPECTED SOME SQUATTER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THE COMMITTEE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

THESE INCLUDED A ROADSIDE AMENITY SPOT NEAR THE SAU MAU PING BUS TERMINUS, AND A SITTING-OUT AREA, GROUP LETTER BOXES AND A NOTICE BOARD IN ON LOK VILLAGE.

TODAY'S VISIT WAS INITIATED BY THE COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE THE GROUNDWORK FOR MEMBERS TO PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ALLOCATED \$1 MILLION FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

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\$83M MORE FOR NEEDED INDUSTRIAL TRAINING
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MORE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT YEAR, WHEN THE KWAI CHUNG TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX IS COMPLETED, DR FRANCIS TIEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SAID TODAY.

A \$83-MILLION CONTRACT TO BUILD THIS COMPLEX AT TAI LIN PAI ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE HSIN CHONG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED BY THE COUNCIL.

PRESIDING AT THE CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, DR TIEN SAID THAT THE KWAI CHUNG COMPLEX IS THE SECOND OF THE TWO COMPLEXES BEING CONSTRUCTED BY THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED WELL-TRAINED MANPOWER FOR INDUSTRY.

FIVE TRAINING CENTRES - FOR THE AUTOMOBILE, ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONICS, MACHINE SHOP AND METAL WORKING, AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES - WILL BE HOUSED IN THE TEN-STORY BUILDING, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 4 100 TRAINING PLACES A YEAR.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME COURSES AT OPERATIVE, CRAFT AND TECHNICIAN LEVELS WILL BE OFFERED IN THESE CENTRES.

+WORKSHOPS IN THE CENTRES WILL BE DESIGNED AND EQUIPPED TO SIMULATE AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE ACTUAL WORKING CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY SO THAT TRAINEES WILL BE EXPOSED TO AN INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE TRAINING.

+UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSES, TRAINEES WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER INDUSTRY FOR FURTHER JOB EXPERIENCE OR BECOME APPRENTICES AND RECEIVE ADDITIONAL TRAINING ON THE JOB+, HE SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE FIRST COMPLEX IN KOWLOON BAY WAS GOING WELL AND THAT ENROLMENT OF TRAINEES WOULD START SOON.

+WHEN THESE TWO INDUSTRIAL TRAINING BUILDING PROJECTS COME INTO FRUITION, HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO EMBARK ON A WELL-DEvised SYSTEM OF MANPOWER TRAINING TO SUSTAIN THE GROWTH OF LOCAL INDUSTRY,+ DR TIEN SAID.

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UMELCO RECEIVE VIEWS ON TAXI POLICY

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UMELCO DUTY ROSTER MEMBERS HON Q W LEE, HON WONG LAM AND HON J J SWAINE TODAY (TUESDAY) RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE TRAFFIC SERVICES EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION ON GOVERNMENT'S TAXI POLICY REVIEW.

AT THE MEETING, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION PRESENTED TO MEMBERS A PAPER CONTAINING THEIR VIEWS ON THE 1983 TAXI REVIEW REPORT.

IN ADDITION TO OUTLINING THE PRESENT SITUATION OF TAXI OPERATION, THEY ALSO MADE THREE SUGGESTIONS, NAMELY THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD FREEZE THE ISSUE OF TAXI LICENCES; GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT TREAT TAXIS LIKE PRIVATE CARS BECAUSE TAXI IS A MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD POSTPONE RAISING SUBSTANTIALLY THE FIRST REGISTRATION TAX AND LICENCE FEE SO AS NOT TO INCREASE THE BURDEN OF TAXI OPERATORS.

MEMBERS PROMISED TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CONSIDERATION.

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WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CLEANSING SCHEME

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ON WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY TODAY THE URBAN COUNCIL APPROVED A \$865 000 PILOT SCHEME FOR THE PROVISION OF A PRIVATELY-OPERATED CLEANSING SERVICE FOR THE SHAU KEI WAN SQUATTER AREA.

+IT IS A HAPPY COINCIDENCE THAT TODAY'S DECISION WAS MADE ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY, CHOSEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS,+ SAID A COUNCIL SPOKESMAN.

+NO ORGANISATION IN HONG KONG IS MORE CONSCIOUS OF AND WORKING HARDER TO SOLVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE URBAN AREAS THAN THE COUNCIL, AND TODAY'S DECISION MARKS A FURTHER STEP BY THE COUNCIL TO BRING ABOUT AN IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AS FROM NEXT MONTH, A PRIVATE CLEANSING COMPANY WILL TAKE OVER THE CLEANSING SERVICES IN KAU FU, MA SHAN AND NAM ON FONG VILLAGES IN SHAU KEI WAN FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL, FOR A FOUR-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD.

THEREAFTER, THE SERVICE CONTRACT MAY BE EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR FOLLOWED BY TWO FURTHER PERIODS OF ONE YEAR EACH, SUBJECT TO THE SCHEME PROVING WORTHWHILE.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MAIN AIM OF THE EXERCISE IS TO UPGRADE STANDARDS IN CLEANSING SERVICES TO SQUATTER AREAS.

/+THE SHAU

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+THE SHAU KEI WAN SQUATTER AREA IS IDEAL FOR LAUNCHING THE SCHEME BECAUSE OF THE DENSE CONCENTRATION OF SQUATTER HUTS IN ONE LOCATION,+ HE SAID.

+FURTHERMORE, CLEANSING IN SUCH PLACES IS COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE, REQUIRING NO SPECIAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

+EFFICIENT MANPOWER IS ALL THAT IS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE WORK AND THE COMPANY CHOSEN IS EXPERIENCED IN THIS FIELD.+

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NEW PRICE STATISTICS SYSTEM EXPLAINED

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DETAILS OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICE STATISTICS SYSTEM ARE PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE IN THE MARCH 1984 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE CONCEPTS AND METHODOLOGY USED IN THE PRICE SURVEYS AND IN THE COMPILATION OF PRICE INDEXES. IT ALSO PRESENTS A COMPARISON OF THE PRICE INDEXES AND THE CORRESPONDING UNIT VALUE INDEXES.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAD STARTED PLANNING FOR SUCH STATISTICS, WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC ANALYSES, SINCE APRIL 1982.

THE MARCH 1984 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AT \$25 PER COPY.

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SUBMARINE OUTFALL FOR JUNK BAY

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A 3.4 KILOMETRES LONG SUBMARINE OUTFALL IS TO BE BUILT AT JUNK BAY AS PART OF THE NEW TOWN'S SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES.

CONTRACTORS WITH THE REQUIRED EXPERTISE ARE INVITED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TO APPLY TO QUALIFY TO TENDER AT A LATER STAGE.

THE OUTFALL WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF CONCRETE-ENCASED STEEL WITH A DIAMETER OF 1 600 MILLIMETRES.

WORK WILL START NEXT YEAR AND TAKE 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

/OTHER SEWAGE

OTHER SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES BEING PLANNED INCLUDE A TWO KILOMETRES LONG TUNNEL RUNNING BETWEEN PAK SHEK KOK AND SIU CHIK SHA AND A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT NEAR SIU CHIK SHA.

THEY WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF 1986, IN TIME FOR THE FIRST INTAKE OF POPULATION FOR THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED AT JUNK BAY.

UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE NEW TOWN WILL ACCOMMODATE AN INITIAL POPULATION OF 175 000.

THE JUNK BAY NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND UNDERTAKING THE PROJECTS.

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LABOUR LAW OFFENDERS FINED

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FINES TOTALLING \$562 000 WERE IMPOSED BY COURTS IN APRIL IN 578 CONVICTIONS FOR BREACHES OF LABOUR LAWS.

MOST OF THE CASES, BROUGHT BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, RELATED TO BREACHES OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE AND ITS VARIOUS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AND THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS.

THERE WERE 174 CASES CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS, WITH \$263 300 IN FINES. INCLUDED WERE 81 CASES (WITH \$141 350 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS AND 27 CASES (WITH \$57 200 IN FINES) FOR BREACH OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITES (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

AND 339 CASES RELATING TO BREACHES OF THE WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) REGULATIONS RESULTED IN \$250 350 IN FINES.

OF THE OTHER CONVICTIONS, 17 CASES RELATED TO FAILURE TO KEEP RECORD OF EMPLOYEES, LEADING TO \$8 000 IN FINES.

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ECOLOGY SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS

TWO SEMINARS ON ECOLOGY WILL BE HELD ON JULY 31 AND AUGUST 7 BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S FIELD STUDIES CENTRE FOR HIGHER LEVEL AND ADVANCED LEVEL BIOLOGY TEACHERS.

THE AIM OF THE SEMINARS IS TO ACQUAINT TEACHERS WITH THE ECOLOGICAL METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED IN FIELD STUDIES, AND TO FAMILIARISE TEACHERS WITH THE FACILITIES AND RESOURCES OF THE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE.

THE ENROLMENT FOR EACH SEMINAR IS LIMITED TO 30. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO NEW GRADUATES WHO TEACH THE SUBJECT, AND ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

HEADS OF SCHOOLS WISHING TO NOMINATE THEIR BIOLOGY TEACHERS TO ATTEND THE SEMINARS SHOULD APPLY TO THE INSPECTOR, FIELD STUDIES CENTRE, SAI KUNG OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE, PAK KONG, SAI KUNG, NEW TERRITORIES, BY JUNE 15.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SEMINARS MAY BE MADE TO THE FIELD STUDIES CENTRE ON 3-2814009.

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WORK BEGINS ON CHATHAM ROAD SUBWAYS

WORK BEGAN TODAY ON BUILDING TWO SUBWAYS UNDER CHATHAM ROAD TO REPLACE AN EXISTING UNDERPASS.

A \$6-MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE WORK WAS RECENTLY AWARDED TO KO'S CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BY THE RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE THREE-METRE-WIDE SUBWAYS - ONE 42 METRES AND THE OTHER 35 METRES LONG - WILL BE BUILT CLOSE TO THE UNDERPASS AND CONNECT OI MAN ESTATE WITH WINSLOW STREET, HUNG HOM.

THE UNDERPASS WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORK ON AN ADDITIONAL RAIL TRACK, AND IMPROVEMENT WORK TO THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION'S KOWLOON STATION GOODS YARDS.

INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT IS CONSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATHS, STAIRCASES AND RETAINING WALLS AND PROVISION OF FLOWER BEDS AND FENCING.

THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 10 MONTHS.

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SPEEDPOST TO UK SUSPENDED

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DUE TO AN INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE AFFECTING THE BRITISH POST OFFICE, THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE UK IS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ANNOUNCED TODAY.

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WATER STORAGE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 72.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 427.331 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 495.691 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 84.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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