



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1984

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1984

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HK GROUP AT WHITEHALL MEETING
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CALLED ON MR RICHARD LUCE, THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE MINISTER WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, AT HIS WHITEHALL OFFICES THIS MORNING.

THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY SIR PERCY CRADOCK, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG AND FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

DURING THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SIR EDWARD AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE. MR LUCE ALSO HOSTED A LUNCH FOR THE GROUP DURING THEIR STAY IN THE U.K.

THE MEETINGS FORMED PART OF THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNOR AND LADY YOUDE AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR HONG KONG TOMORROW.

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11-MONTH EXPORTS RISE 25 PER CENT
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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1983, VALUED AT \$300 082 MILLION, INCREASED BY 23 PER CENT OVER THE SIMILAR PERIOD IN 1982, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 25 PER CENT TO \$93 484 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 21 PER CENT TO \$156 520 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 26 PER CENT TO \$50 078 MILLION. DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S.A. ROSE BY 40 PER CENT IN VALUE. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$4 224 MILLION OR 40%), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$2 038 MILLION OR 106%) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1 672 MILLION OR 111%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$260 MILLION OR 9%) AND TRANSISTORS AND DIODES (BY \$120 MILLION OR 55%).

/INCREASES IN

INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WERE REGISTERED FOR METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$619 MILLION OR 937%), OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$193 MILLION OR 303%) AND TEXTILES (BY \$107 MILLION OR 26%). HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS REGISTERED FOR OFFICE AND STATIONERY SUPPLIES (BY \$23 MILLION OR 57%).

MOST COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED IN VALUE, INCLUDING CLOTHING (BY \$205 MILLION OR 6%) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$172 MILLION OR 330%). HOWEVER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF DECREASED BY \$17 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA OF TEXTILES (BY \$604 MILLION OR 73%) AND FEEDING STUFF FOR ANIMALS (BY \$101 MILLION OR 170%); AND IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN OF METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$112 MILLION OR 57%).

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 2.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

DEMAND FOR IMPORTED GOODS FROM CHINA REMAINED STRONG.

INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN TEXTILES (BY \$2 481 MILLION OR 48%); CLOTHING (BY \$1 468 MILLION OR 35%); VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$303 MILLION OR 20%); MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS (BY \$286 MILLION OR 27%); AND CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (BY \$275 MILLION OR 38%).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM JAPAN, INCREASES WERE NOTED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$2 055 MILLION OR 72%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$1 402 MILLION OR 36%). HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES, INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES (BY \$462 MILLION OR 18%), AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$152 MILLION OR 11%).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.A. WERE MOSTLY OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1 409 MILLION OR 93%), PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$476 MILLION OR 298%) AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$354 MILLION OR 28%). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS OF GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$136 MILLION OR 21%) AND PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES UNWORKED OR WORKED (BY \$98 MILLION OR 13%).

/DECREASES WERE

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN OF IRON AND STEEL (BY \$18 MILLION OR 5%) AND IN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$924 MILLION OR 15%). HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF TEXTILES FROM TAIWAN INCREASED (BY \$473 MILLION OR 15%); AND IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM SINGAPORE ALSO INCREASED (BY \$409 MILLION OR 66%).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS.

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$3 220 MILLION OR 45%), U.S.A. (BY \$2 045 MILLION OR 40%), SINGAPORE (BY \$816 MILLION OR 25%), REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA) (BY \$667 MILLION OR 44%), TAIWAN (BY \$636 MILLION OR 26%), JAPAN (BY \$498 MILLION OR 21%), SAUDI ARABIA (BY \$396 MILLION OR 47%), AND THAILAND (BY \$333 MILLION OR 46%). ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA (BY \$540 MILLION OR 13%) AND NIGERIA (BY \$314 MILLION OR 39%). THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR MARKETS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 5.

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG SHOWED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING CLOTHING (BY \$1 343 MILLION OR 50%)= ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1 237 MILLION OR 40%)= TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$1 095 MILLION OR 19%), AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$945 MILLION OR 33%).

DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE RE-EXPORTS OF ROAD VEHICLES (INCLUDING AIR CUSHION VEHICLES) (BY \$379 MILLION OR 18%), METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$158 MILLION OR 55%) AND CRUDE RUBBER (INCLUDING SYNTHETIC AND RECLAIMED) (BY \$16 MILLION OR 41%). THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 6.

THE NOVEMBER 1983 ISSUE OF +HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+ WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$5 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER 1983 WILL BE ON SALE IN EARLY FEBRUARY, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. : 5-214375). ENQUIRIES CONCERNING TRADE STATISTICS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 5-444436).

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	39 495	28 263	+11 232	+40
U.K.	7 542	6 363	+ 1 179	+19
F.R. OF GERMANY	6 969	6 115	+ 854	+14
CHINA	5 501	3 389	+ 2 113	+62
JAPAN	3 510	2 912	+ 598	+21
CANADA	3 381	2 350	+ 1 031	+44
AUSTRALIA	2 588	2 576	+ 12	INSIGNIFICANT
SINGAPORE	2 009	1 767	+ 242	+14
NETHERLANDS	1 710	1 461	+ 249	+17
SWITZERLAND	1 479	1 245	+ 234	+19

TABLE 2 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISIONS	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	30 594	25 637	+ 4 957	+19
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS, JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS)	15 062	14 338	+ 724	+ 5
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	8 530	7 250	+ 1 281	+18

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7 568	5 199	+ 2 369	+46
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES)	7 358	5 486	+ 1 872	+34
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6 316	4 476	+ 1 840	+41

TABLE 3 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES

MAJOR SOURCES	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	37 626	29 451	+8 175	+28
JAPAN	36 060	28 388	+7 672	+27
U.S.A.	17 233	14 061	+3 172	+23
TAIWAN	11 024	9 254	+1 770	+19
SINGAPORE	9 354	9 318	+ 36	INSIGNIFICANT
U.K.	6 775	6 195	+ 579	+ 9
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	4 479	4 046	+ 433	+11
F.R. OF GERMANY	4 197	3 154	+1 043	+33
SWITZERLAND	2 870	2 371	+ 499	+21
AUSTRALIA	2 488	2 073	+ 415	+20

/TABLE 4:

TABLE 4 : IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS

COMMODITY SECTIONS	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER)	43 973	35 850	+8 122	+23
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	35 341	29 040	+6 301	+22
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL)	28 308	22 268	+6 040	+27
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	16 864	14 570	+2 294	+16
CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.	11 564	8 556	+3 008	+35
MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS	10 482	10 474	+ 8	+ 0.1

TABLE 5 : RE-EXPORTS BY TEN MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKETS	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
CHINA	10 413	7 192	+3 220	+45
U.S.A.	7 124	5 079	+2 045	+40
SINGAPORE	4 079	3 263	+ 816	+25

/INDONESIA

INDONESIA	3 562	4 102	- 540	-13
TAIWAN	3 069	2 432	+ 636	+26
JAPAN	2 836	2 338	+ 498	+21
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH KOREA)	2 198	1 531	+ 667	+44
MACAU	1 693	1 421	+ 272	+19
PHILIPPINES	1 523	1 356	+ 166	+12
SAUDI ARABIA	1 237	841	+ 396	+47

TABLE 6 : RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISIONS	JAN.-NOV. 1983 (\$ MN)	JAN.-NOV. 1982 (\$ MN)	INCREASE (\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6 954	5 859	+1 095	+19
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES	4 352	3 116	+1 237	+40
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4 038	2 695	+1 343	+50
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3 779	2 834	+ 945	+33
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES	2 823	2 140	+ 683	+32
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	2 415	2 353	+ 63	+ 3

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DB RECOMMENDS PRIORITY FACILITIES

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MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAVE DISCUSSED AND DRAWN UP PRIORITIES FOR A PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE VARIOUS PUBLIC FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRIORITIES COME UNDER THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: COMMUNITY BUILDING, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT, HOUSING, RECREATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE, SOCIAL SERVICES, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT AND URBAN COUNCIL FACILITIES.

THE MAIN POINTS OF THEIR PROPOSALS HAVE NOW BEEN SUMMARISED IN A FIVE-PAGE PAPER ENTITLED +CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT STRATEGY+.

THE PUBLIC CAN OBTAIN COPIES OF THE PAPER, IN ENGLISH OR CHINESE, FREE OF CHARGE BY TELEPHONING THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARY AT 5-450868.

EARLIER, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS MAKING UP THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAD COMPILED A 94-PAGE DOCUMENT CALLED +OUTLINE OF EXISTING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN+.

THE DOCUMENT, WHICH GIVES THE OBJECTIVES OF EXISTING MAJOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AND PRESENTS THE SHORT AND LONG TERM PROVISIONS OF VARIOUS FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT, HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS FOR COMMENTS.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT WAS TO ENABLE THE DISTRICT BOARD TO MONITOR AND ASSESS THE PRESENT LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE, IDENTIFY SHORTFALLS, AND ADVISE ON THE PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES AS WELL AS TO PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS IN SPECIFIC AREAS.

UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS HELD A SPECIAL MEETING LAST MONTH TO DISCUSS THE DOCUMENT AND RECOMMENDED PRIORITIES ACCORDINGLY.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1984

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HONG KONG LAW ON PROPERTY SOUND

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THERE IS GROWING INTERNATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS, IN PARTICULAR THOSE RELATING TO TRADE MARKS AND COPYRIGHT.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR KEITH BROADBRIDGE, TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HE ADDRESSED THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENINSULA.

HONG KONG'S LAW IN THIS FIELD IS SOUND, HE SAID.

+FOR EXAMPLE, UNLIKE MANY OTHER JURISDICTIONS, TRADE MARK OFFENCES ARE A MATTER OF CRIMINAL LAW RATHER THAN CIVIL LAW. AND ON COPYRIGHT, IN HONG KONG IT IS FOR THE DEFENDANT TO PROVE THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT COPYRIGHT EXISTS IN AN OFFENDING ARTICLE.

+FROM THE ENFORCERS' POINT OF VIEW, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT REVERSAL OF THE NORMAL BURDEN OF PROOF,+ HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE HAWKING OF FAKE BRAND ARTICLES, HE SAID:
+HONG KONG HAS AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SUCH COUNTERFEITERS AND THE THEFT OF A TRADE MARK IS COMPARABLE TO THE THEFT OF ANY OTHER FORM OF PROPERTY.+

AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, HE EMPHASISED, IS CAPABLE OF REACTING QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO ANY COMPLAINT ABOUT A POSSIBLE TRADE MARK, TRADE DESCRIPTION OR COPYRIGHT OFFENCE.

MR BROADBRIDGE SAID THAT IN 1983 THE TRADE CONTROLS INVESTIGATION BRANCH INVESTIGATED 913 TRADE MARK AND TRADE DESCRIPTIONS CASES, SEIZED APPROXIMATELY \$21 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND THE COURTS IMPOSED FINES OF \$2 476 130.

+THIS WAS A RECORD NUMBER OF CASES AND A RECORD VALUE OF GOODS SEIZED. MOST CASES INVOLVED FASHIONWARE OR WATCHES,+ HE SAID.

+IN 1983 THE COPYRIGHT DIVISION INVESTIGATED 82 COPYRIGHT CASES, SEIZED APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS AND THE COURTS IMPOSED FINES TOTTALLING \$126 000,+ HE SAID.

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PROBATION SERVICE HAS HIGH SUCCESS RATE

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THE VALUE OF THE PROBATION SERVICE FOR OFFENDERS IS THAT THEY ARE SOCIALLY REHABILITATED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF BEING LOCKED AWAY IN PRISON, SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REGIONAL OFFICER (HONG KONG), MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, TODAY (TUESDAY).

IN A LUNCHEON TALK TO THE CITY LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE SUCCESS RATE IN PROBATION HAD BEEN MAINTAINED AT 80 PER CENT IN RECENT YEARS.

THE SUCCESS RATE IS DEFINED ON THE BASIS THAT PROBATIONERS DO NOT COMMIT ANY OFFENCE FOR AT LEAST A YEAR AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE PROBATION PERIOD.

+THE SUCCESS OF THE PROBATION SERVICE,+ SHE SAID,+DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE PROBATION OFFICER AND THE PROBATIONER, BUT ALSO ON THE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT WHICH THE PROBATIONER'S FAMILY, SCHOOL AND SOCIETY ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE.+

SHE SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT THE COURTS' DIRECTIVES TO PROVIDE PROBATION SUPERVISION, RESIDENTIAL TRAINING AND AFTERCARE SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INTEGRATING THEM BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

IN 1982-83, 2 337 PEOPLE WERE PLACED ON PROBATION AND OVER 90 PER CENT OF THEM WERE MALES UNDER 21. THEIR OFFENCES WERE MAINLY THEFT AND BURGLARY.

+PROBATION IS AN ALTERNATIVE SENTENCE TO IMPRISONMENT AND IS AVAILABLE FOR OFFENDERS AT ALL AGES.

+IT PERMITS THEM TO REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND SUPERVISION OF A PROBATION OFFICER FOR A PERIOD OF ONE TO THREE YEARS,+ SHE SAID.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID THAT THE MAIN DUTIES OF A PROBATION OFFICER WERE TO PROVIDE THE COURTS WITH INFORMATION ON AN OFFENDER'S CHARACTER AND BACKGROUND PRIOR TO SENTENCING, AND TO OFFER SUPERVISION AND PERSONAL GUIDANCE TO PROBATIONERS THROUGH HOME VISITS AND INTERVIEWS.

+OVER THE YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATION REPORTS PREPARED BY PROBATION OFFICERS AS WELL AS IN THE NUMBER OF OFFENDERS PLACED ON PROBATION SUPERVISION,+ SHE ADDED.

THERE ARE AT PRESENT 11 PROBATION OFFICES ATTACHED TO JUVENILE COURTS, MAGISTRACIES AND THE SUPREME COURT.

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TUEN MUN NULLAH TO BE DESILTED
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THE ENVIRONMENT IN FOUR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE IMPROVED AS THE RESULT OF A \$0.55 MILLION CONTRACT WHICH HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED BY THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE CONTRACT IS FOR CLEARING THE NEW TOWN'S NULLAH OF RUBBISH AND ANIMAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE.

IT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO CHEONG HING CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.

THE NULLAH RUNS BETWEEN YAU OI, TAI HING AND SAN FAT ESTATES AND SIU HONG COURT. CLOSE BY ARE SITTING-OUT AREAS AND A PLAYGROUND.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES DREDGING 24 000 CUBIC METRES OF SILT, DEBRIS, MUD AND OTHER WASTE FROM THE NULLAH AND TRANSPORTING IT TO THE CONTROLLED TIP AT PILLAR POINT.

THE WORK, WHICH WILL COMMENCE LATER THIS WEEK AND TAKE ABOUT TWO MONTHS TO COMPLETE, WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SAID WHEN THE WORK WAS COMPLETED RESIDENTS OF TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING ALONG THE BANKS OF THE NULLAH, WOULD ENJOY A MUCH MORE HYGIENIC AND PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT.

MEANWHILE, SEWAGE IN THE NULLAH IS ALSO BEING PUMPED TO PILLAR POINT TREATMENT WORKS FROM A PUMPING STATION NEAR SIU HONG COURT WHICH WAS PUT INTO OPERATION TOWARDS THE END OF LAST YEAR.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE PRESENT DESILTING WORK, TOGETHER WITH THE OPERATION OF THE PUMPING STATION, WILL SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE ODOUR FROM THE NULLAH.

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LRS HELPS SETTLE PROBLEMS

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IN 1983 THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT RECORDED AN ALL-TIME LOW FIGURE FOR WORKING DAYS LOST DUE TO WORK STOPPAGES SINCE RECORDS STARTED IN 1968.

LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 11 WORK STOPPAGES RESULTING IN 2 530 WORKING DAYS LOST, WHICH REPRESENTS AN AVERAGE OF 1.15 DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES.

+THIS FIGURE IS VERY LOW BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS,+ MR DONALD CHAN, CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+IT IS A POSITIVE INDICATOR OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS IN GENERAL IN HONG KONG. IT ALSO SHOWS THAT IN HELPING EMPLOYERS OVERCOME THEIR DIFFICULT TIMES, OUR WORKERS ARE WILLING TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.+

DURING THE YEAR, MR CHAN POINTED OUT, THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS) OF THE DEPARTMENT HANDLED 152 TRADE DISPUTES. OF THESE, 68 OR 45 PER CENT, WERE SETTLED, WHILE THE REST WERE MOSTLY INSOLVENCY CASES THAT HAD TO BE PASSED TO THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT FOR WINDING UP PROCEEDINGS.

THE LRS ALSO PROVIDED CONCILIATION FOR 17 739 CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE OR TERMS OF CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT; SETTLED 11 658 OR 66 PER CENT OF THEM; AND REFERRED MOST OF THE REMAINDER TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL FOR JUDICIAL DECISION.

A TOTAL OF 19 633 WORKERS RECEIVED SOME \$40 MILLION FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS AFTER THEIR LABOUR-MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS WERE SETTLED THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE LRS.

OF THIS SUM, \$8 143 243 OR 20 PER CENT WAS SEVERANCE PAYMENTS MADE TO 2 731 EMPLOYEES RENDERED REDUNDANT BY OPERATIONAL OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE REMAINING \$32 416 506 WAS PAID OUT AS ARREARS OF WAGES, WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, STATUTORY HOLIDAY PAY, BONUSES AND OTHER PAYMENTS DUE TO 19 622 EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THE 2 731 WHO RECEIVED SEVERANCE PAYMENTS.

IN THE SAME YEAR, THE LRS INVESTIGATED 197 MAJOR COMPLAINTS ABOUT ALLEGED BREACHES OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, SUCH AS FAILURE TO PROVIDE REST DAYS, HOLIDAYS WITH PAY, ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PAY AND IMPROPER DEDUCTIONS OF WORKERS' WAGES.

DURING THE YEAR, THE LRS ALSO HANDLED 302 277 ENQUIRIES AND CONSULTATIONS, COMPARED WITH 272 754 CASES IN 1982.

MOST OF THESE CONCERNED PROVISIONS IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING LABOUR RELATIONS.

+THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ENQUIRIES AND CONSULTATIONS REFLECTS THE GROWING IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO LABOUR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS BY BOTH EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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FLORAL ART COMPETITION FOR STUDENTS
* * * *

STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A FLORAL ART COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH ITS ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, WHICH WILL BE HELD BETWEEN MARCH 16 AND 18.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES -- FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 AND THOSE BETWEEN 12 AND 16 YEARS.

THE THEME FOR THE JUNIOR CATEGORY IS, +UNDER THE SEA+, AND FOR THE SENIOR SECTION IS, +MY FAVOURITE FESTIVAL+.

ENTRY FORMS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION ARE AVAILABLE AFTER JANUARY 20 FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN ICE HOUSE STREET; THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CENTRAL; ALL DISTRICT OFFICES USD'S KOWLOON PARK OFFICES AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE AT 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

ENTRY FEE FOR THE COMPETITION IS \$1. THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES WILL BE FEBRUARY 29, 1984.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE COMPETITION CAN BE MADE AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE, ED ON 5-629205 OR THE CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON 5-95598.

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TUEN MUN ROAD SLOPE BEING REBUILT
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WORK HAS STARTED ON REBUILDING THE AREA OF THE SLOPE AT PUN SHAN TSUEN, NEAR THE START OF TUEN MUN ROAD, WHERE A FAILURE OCCURRED LAST SEPTEMBER AS A RESULT OF HEAVY RAIN.

THE WORK INCLUDES MOVING 67 000 CUBIC METRES OF MATERIAL FROM THE SLOPE AFFECTED BY THE FAILURE AND FORMING A NEW SLOPE 90 METRES HIGH.

IT ALSO INCLUDES CONSTRUCTING A LARGE NUMBER OF DRAINS TO LOWER THE HIGH LEVEL OF GROUNDWATER AND STABILISING THE FORMER SLOPE.

A CONTRACT VALUED AT \$5.51 MILLION TO CARRY OUT THE WORK HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ENPACK (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY THE GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND CONSTRUCTION IS BEING SUPERVISED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES DIVISION OF THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE WORK WILL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON.

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