



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1976.

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VALUE OF DECEMBER EXPORTS UP BY \$561 MILLION

THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$2,292 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF \$561 MILLION OR 32.4 PER CENT, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1974.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS AT 3,438 MILLION WAS 35.3 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT FOR DECEMBER 1974, WHILE RE-EXPORTS WERE UP BY 18.9 PER CENT TO \$626 MILLION.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SAID THAT HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE HAD CONTINUED TO RECOVER SINCE SEPTEMBER.

FIGURES FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 1975 SHOWED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES, BY VALUE, COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1974, OF 27.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 29 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 18.6 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE DECLINE IN EARLIER MONTHS OF THE YEAR, THE VALUE FIGURES FOR THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1975 COMPARED WITH 1974 SHOWED DECREASES OF 0.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 1.9 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 2.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NOTE TO EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING TABLE WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES IS GIVEN FOR YOUR EASY REFERENCE:

DOMESTIC EXPORTS : \$2,292 MILLION
IMPORTS : \$3,438 MILLION
RE-EXPORTS : \$ 626 MILLION

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

	DECEMBER 1975	DECEMBER 1974	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,292 (78.5%)	1,732 (76.7%)	+ 561	+ 32.4
IMPORTS	3,438	2,542	+ 896	+ 35.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	626 (21.5%)	527 (23.3%)	+ 100	+ 18.9

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	<u>OCT. - DEC.</u> 1975	<u>OCT. - DEC.</u> 1974	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	6,586	5,167	+1,420	+27.5
IMPORTS	9,762	7,570	+2,193	+29.0
RE-EXPORTS	1,914	1,614	+ 300	+18.6
	<u>JAN. - DEC.</u> 1975	<u>JAN. - DEC.</u> 1974	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	22,859	22,911	- 52	- 0.2
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(76.6%)	(76.3%)		
IMPORTS	33,472	34,120	-648	-1.9
RE-EXPORTS	6,973	7,124	- 151	- 2.1
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(23.4%)	(23.7%)		

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NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COIN

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THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COIN HAS BEEN ADVANCED TO AUGUST THIS YEAR.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE ESCALATION OF BANK NOTE PRINTING COSTS HAD MADE IT ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO DO SO.

HE SAID THAT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, IT HAD PROVED NECESSARY TO DEFER THE ISSUE OF THE NEW ONE-DOLLAR COIN.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE, THE NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COIN WILL BE TEN-SIDED WITH A PLAIN EDGE SIMILAR TO THE TWO-DOLLAR AND TWENTY-CENT COINS NOW IN CIRCULATION.

IT WILL MEASURE 31 MM DIAGONALLY AND WEIGH 10.76 GRAMS AND WILL BE ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE AS THE PRESENT ONE-DOLLAR COIN. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF ITS SHAPE AND A REDUCTION IN THE THICKNESS OF THE COIN, IT WILL BE SLIGHTLY LIGHTER IN WEIGHT THAN THE PRESENT DOLLAR COIN.

AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE COINAGE REVIEW COMMITTEE'S REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN 1974 AS A STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG'S COINAGE. THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TWO-DOLLAR AND TWENTY-CENT COINS, WHICH HAVE NOW BECOME FAMILIAR TO EVERYONE. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE ONE-DOLLAR COIN IN 1976 AND THE FIFTY-CENT COIN IN 1977 WITH COINS BOTH SMALLER AND LIGHTER IN WEIGHT AND FOR THE MINTING OF A NEW FIVE-DOLLAR COIN TO REPLACE THE BANK NOTES CURRENTLY IN USE.

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MORE FACTORIES GOING UP IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN

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TEN NEW FACTORY BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED OR PARTIALLY COMPLETED IN TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER LAST YEAR WHILE A FURTHER 23 WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. PLANS FOR 17 MORE WERE APPROVED.

THIS INDICATION OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TSUEN WAN IS CONTAINED IN THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE TOWN'S WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1975.

ONE OF THE PLANS APPROVED WAS FOR A TEXTILE FACTORY WITH A POTENTIAL WORK FORCE OF MORE THAN 19,000. THE MAJORITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS ARE EITHER TEXTILE FACTORIES OR GODOWNS- THEY ARE BEING BUILT LARGELY BY EXISTING FIRMS WANTING TO EXPAND OPERATIONS. THE PRICE BEING BID FOR INDUSTRIAL LAND IN THE AREA IS ABOUT \$160 PER SQ. FT.

BESIDES INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, SIX OTHER BUILDINGS WERE COMPLETED OR PARTIALLY COMPLETED- 23 WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THE GO-AHEAD WAS GIVEN FOR 35 FURTHER BUILDINGS TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

ESTATE STAFF ATTACHED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE, TSUEN WAN, NEGOTIATED MORE THAN 50 OTHER TRANSACTIONS DURING THE QUARTER, INCLUDING PRIVATE TREATY GRANTS, EXCHANGES, MODIFICATIONS AND SHORT-TERM TENANCIES. ONE OF THE BIGGEST DEALS INVOLVED A \$200 MILLION PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT.

MUCH OF THE PRESENT INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN IS TAKING PLACE IN SOUTH KWAI CHUNG ON LAND RECLAIMED FROM GIN DRINKER'S BAY, BUT THE EMPHASIS WILL SHIFT EVENTUALLY TO DEVELOPMENT, BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND RESIDENTIAL, OF NORTH TSUEN WAN.

ALREADY THE NEW TERRITORIES' MOST POPULOUS TOWN, TSUEN WAN WILL HAVE BY 1985 ABOUT 850,000 PEOPLE, OR ROUGHLY DOUBLE THE PRESENT NUMBER LIVING THERE.

THE READY AVAILABILITY OF MANPOWER TO WORK IN THE GROWING NUMBER OF FACTORIES IS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION TO AN INDUSTRIALIST LOOKING FOR A SITE FOR HIS FACTORY- SO IS THE TOWN'S PROXIMITY TO THE CONTAINER BERTHS, OF WHICH THERE WILL BE SIX EVENTUALLY.

BESIDES TSUEN WAN ITSELF, THE NEW TOWN TAKES IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI ISLAND. THE ISLAND IS PROVING AN ATTRACTIVE SITE FOR SETTING UP FACTORIES TO BOTH LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS. TENDERS ARE NOW BEING INVITED FOR A SITE ON THE ISLAND TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY AS A SHIP-BUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING YARD.

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CONTRACT FOR TRAINING CENTRE TO BE SIGNED
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A CONTRACT-SIGNING CEREMONY TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WILL MARK A SIGNIFICANT BREAK-THROUGH IN THE TRAINING OF SKILLED MANPOWER FOR HONG KONG GENERALLY AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR.

THE CONTRACT INVOLVES A \$6.2 MILLION PROJECT FOR BUILDING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRE IN KWUN TONG WHICH WILL PROVIDE ONE-YEAR FULL-TIME BASIC TRAINING FOR 660 CRAFT TRAINEES ANNUALLY IN KEY CONSTRUCTION TRADES.

BUILDING WORK IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY APRIL 1977 WHEN THE FIRST BATCH OF TRAINEES WILL BE RECRUITED.

THE TRAINING CENTRE FOLLOWS THE ENACTMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY) ORDINANCE IN AUGUST LAST YEAR.

A CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORMED TO ADMINISTER THE CENTRE WHICH IS TO BE FINANCED BY A LEVY OF 0.25 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF ALL CONSTRUCTION WORK UNDERTAKEN IN HONG KONG AND PAYABLE BY THE CONTRACTORS CONCERNED.

THE CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW BY MR. GEOFFREY YEH, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY, AND MR. J.E. WARD, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF GAMMON (H.K.) LIMITED — THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE PROJECT.

THE TRAINING CENTRE IN TAI YIP STREET, KWUN TONG, WILL BE A FIVE-STORY STRUCTURE WITH AN AREA OF OVER 14,000 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR ON A SITE OF ABOUT 59,000 SQ. FT. GRANTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO THE AUTHORITY AT NIL PREMIUM.

IT WILL HOUSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY AND VARIOUS PROPERLY EQUIPPED WORKSHOPS FOR TRAINEES IN THE KEY CONSTRUCTION TRADES, INCLUDING :-

- * BRICK-LAYING, PLASTERING, TILING, GRANOLITHIC AND TERRAZZO WORK=
- * CARPENTRY=
- * PAINTING, DECORATING AND SIGN-WRITING=
- * PLUMBING AND PIPE-FITTING=
- * BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING=
- * MASONRY= AND
- * PLANT MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS.

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THE TRAINEES WILL ALSO RECEIVE RELATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION ON A PART-TIME BASIS AT A TECHNICAL INSTITUTE. ON COMPLETION OF THE ONE-YEAR TRAINING, THE CENTRE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO PLACE THEM WITH CONTRACTORS AS SECOND-YEAR CRAFT APPRENTICES FOR A FURTHER TWO TO THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE THEIR TRAINING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADES.

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GOVERNMENT TO RESUME TWO BUILDINGS IN MONGKOK
REQUIRED FOR METRO CONSTRUCTION
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THE OWNERS AND TENANTS OF 2-4 TAI PO ROAD AND 205-205A, SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET ARE BEING ADVISED TODAY THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SHORTLY BE INSTITUTING STATUTORY RESUMPTION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE THE LAND ON WHICH THEIR BUILDINGS STAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE METRO.

ADVISORY NOTICES ARE BEING POSTED TO NON-RESIDENT OWNERS OF THE BUILDINGS CONCERNED WHILE STAFF OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, SHAM SHUI PO, ARE NOW VISITING THE OCCUPANTS OF THE BUILDINGS TO PERSONALLY HAND OVER THE ADVISORY NOTICES TO THEM.

THE ADVISORY NOTICE WARNS THAT STATUTORY RESUMPTION NOTICES SIGNIFYING THE BEGINNING OF RESUMPTION PROCEDURES WILL BE POSTED ON THE BUILDINGS ON FEBRUARY 13, 1976 AND THAT ON APRIL 13, 1976, THAT IS, TWO MONTHS AFTER THE POSTING OF THOSE NOTICES, THE PROPERTIES WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

THE OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS ARE BEING ADVISED THAT UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, ANYONE WHO HAS ANY CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION CAN FILE THIS CLAIM DIRECT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO MAY SETTLE IT ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

HOWEVER, IF AT THE END OF FOUR MONTHS FROM THE RECEIPT OF A CLAIM BY THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SETTLE THE CLAIM, THE CLAIMANT CAN SEEK SETTLEMENT THROUGH PROCEEDINGS WITH THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THE OWNERS AND TENANTS ARE ALSO BEING ADVISED THAT IN ORDER TO ASSIST ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, MEETINGS WILL BE ARRANGED BY STAFF OF THE MASS TRANSIT STUDIES OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO EXPLAIN TO THEM CLAIMS PROCEDURES AND THEIR STATUTORY RIGHTS. THESE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD DURING MARCH.

DOMESTIC TENANTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN INFORMED THAT IF THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR REHOUSING IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

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PLBS TO HAVE NEW-STYLE DESTINATION BOARDS

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PLANS PUT FORWARD BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FOR ALL NEW MINIBUSES TO BE FITTED WITH CENTRAL ROOF-MOUNTED DESTINATION INDICATOR BOARDS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY PLB ASSOCIATIONS.

THIS FOLLOWED A MEETING YESTERDAY (MONDAY) BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT.

THE DESTINATION BOARDS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OF FRANCHISED BUSES, WILL BE INSTALLED BY THE MANUFACTURERS OF ALL NEW MINIBUSES IMPORTED INTO HONG KONG FROM AUGUST 1, 1976. THIS FOLLOWS 18 MONTHS OF TALKS BETWEEN THE MANUFACTURERS' AGENTS AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

THE BOARDS, WHICH WILL BE ILLUMINATED AT NIGHT, WILL HAVE A ROLLER BLIND, WOUND FROM INSIDE THE CAB, WITH THE DESTINATION IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, COLOUR CODED BY AREA: DARK BLUE FOR ROUTES ON HONG KONG ISLAND- GREEN FOR KOWLOON- YELLOW FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES- AND RED FOR CROSS-HARBOUR ROUTES.

MINIBUSES LICENSED BEFORE AUGUST 1976 WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL AUGUST THE FOLLOWING YEAR TO INSTALL THE NEW-STYLE BOARDS. BUT DURING THE INTERIM THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISPLAY MORE THAN ONE DESTINATION BOARD WHICH MUST BE AT THE CENTRE BASE OF THE WINDSCREEN.

DURING YESTERDAY'S MEETING, THE PLB ASSOCIATIONS ACCEPTED THAT THEIR EARLIER THREE-POINT PLAN FOR NATHAN ROAD DURING THE METRO CONSTRUCTION, WHICH WAS WIDELY PUBLICISED IN THE PRESS A WEEK AGO, HAD IN FACT BEEN CONSIDERED AT LENGTH BY THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

FIRSTLY THE SUGGESTION FOR PLB STANDS IN NATHAN ROAD WAS ACCEPTED BY THE PLB OPERATORS AS BEING QUITE IMPRACTICABLE CONSIDERING THE EXPECTED CONGESTION WHEN HALF THE WIDTH OF NATHAN ROAD IS CLOSED IN MARCH 1976.

THE SECOND POINT, OF PROHIBITING ALL PARKING IN PORTLAND STREET SO THAT PLBS COULD PICK UP PASSENGERS THERE, WAS ACCEPTED AND HAD ALREADY BEEN PLANNED IN CERTAIN SECTIONS.

THE FINAL POINT WAS OF CLEARING HAWKERS FROM CANTON ROAD SO AS TO MAKE THIS A FURTHER ARTERY. A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ASSURED THE PLB ASSOCIATIONS THAT THIS ASPECT WAS STILL BEING LOOKED INTO, THOUGH THERE WERE PROBLEMS OF WHERE TO MOVE THE OLD-ESTABLISHED COOKED FOOD STALLS.

/AT THE MEETING

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AT THE MEETING THE PLB ASSOCIATIONS ALSO WELCOMED PLANS BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TO REOPEN APPLICATIONS FOR NEW PLB DRIVING TESTS ON MARCH 1, 1976, AFTER A LAPSE OF ALMOST THREE YEARS.

A SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICATIONS WOULD ONLY BE ACCEPTED BY POST FROM DRIVERS WITH AT LEAST THREE YEARS' DRIVING EXPERIENCE AND WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DISQUALIFIED.

AFTER RETURNING THE APPLICATION FORMS BY POST, SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD THEN BE NOTIFIED WHEN TO COLLECT THEIR TEST FORMS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LICENSING OFFICES. THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, DRIVING LICENCES AND A TEST FORM FEE OF \$150.

ALL TESTS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE NEW CENTRE AT SHEK LEI IN KOWLOON BUT SOME TESTS MIGHT BE HELD AT SOO KUN PO ON HONG KONG ISLAND IF THERE IS ANY SPARE CAPACITY.

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