



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987

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TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987

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CS TO MAKE STATEMENT ON GREEN PAPER

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER ON THE 1987 REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK 10 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 11 BILLS IN TOMORROW'S SITTING.

AMONG THE 11 BILLS, TWO WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987.

DEBATE WILL RESUME ON NINE BILLS WHICH ARE ALSO DUE FOR COMMITTEE STAGE AND FINAL READING. AMONG THEM ARE THE IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987. THE IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1987 AND THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF BILLS SEEKING TO GIVE LEGISLATIVE EFFECTS TO THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S BUDGET PROPOSALS.

IN ADDITION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO MAKE THE STATEMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER AFTER MOTIONS AND BILLS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR JOHN CHAN, WILL BRIEF THE MEDIA ON THE RELEASE OF THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AT 4.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, 5/F, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BRIEFING.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ABLE TO COLLECT COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER AT THE GIS NEWSROOM ON 6/F, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE FROM 2.30 PM TOMORROW. THEY ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT THE GREEN PAPER THEY OBTAIN IN ADVANCE IS EMBARGOED FOR USE UNTIL 4.30 PM.

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PATIENT LOBBYING HK'S RESPONSE TO TEXTILES BILL  
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ACTION HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE TO ALERT INTERESTED PARTIES TO THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THE U.S. TEXTILES BILL TO BUILD UP ORGANISED OPPOSITION TO IT, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR MILLER SAID HONG KONG'S RESPONSE TO THE THREATS OF THE BILL WAS TO CONTINUE WITH THE PATIENT PERSISTENT LOBBYING EFFORTS AND THERE WERE SIGNS THAT HONG KONG'S MESSAGE ABOUT ITSELF HAD BEEN GETTING THROUGH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BILL, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO BOTH HOUSES AND CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 19 THIS YEAR, SOUGHT TO LIMIT GLOBAL IMPORTS OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL FROM ALL SOURCES TO 1986 IMPORT LEVELS WITH ANNUAL GROWTH AT ONE PER CENT AND WITH A REVIEW AFTER 10 YEARS.

+IT COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT RUNNING INTO CONFLICT WITH THE MFA-NEGOTIATED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. INDEED, IT COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED BY REPLACING THE EXISTING SYSTEM BY GLOBAL QUOTAS ADMINISTERED BY THE USA.

+CONTRARY TO ITS CLAIMS, IT WOULD NOT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH GATT PROVISIONS.

+IT IS CLEARLY PROTECTIONIST AND PUTS AT RISK NOT ONLY TEXTILES BUT URUGUAY ROUND OF MTN TALKS AND INDEED THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM.+

HE ADDED THE LIKELIHOOD OF IMPORT CONTROL REPLACING EXPORT CONTROL WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR HONG KONG'S TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY AND WOULD LEAD TO CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY AND DISRUPTION.

MR MILLER ALSO SAID THERE WERE ALTOGETHER FOUR MAIN PIECES OF TRADE LEGISLATION CURRENTLY BEFORE CONGRESS WHICH WERE OF SIGNIFICANCE TO HONG KONG.

+APART FROM THE SECTOR-SPECIFIC TEXTILES BILL, THE OTHER THREE ARE +GENERIC+ TRADE BILLS, ONE INTRODUCED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONE BY THE SENATE AND ONE, FOR GOOD MEASURE, BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

+THE HOUSE BILL, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY THE FULL HOUSE, IS MORE EXTREME AND SEEKS TO LIMIT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION IN DEALING WITH TRADE PROBLEMS.

/+THE SENATE .....

+THE SENATE BILL, WHICH IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, WHILE MORE MODERATE STILL SEEKS TO LIMIT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION IN CERTAIN AREAS, WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION'S BILL PUTS EMPHASIS ON COMPETITIVENESS INSTEAD OF ON MORE RESTRICTIVE TRADE MEASURES.+

+PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN THE U.S. CONGRESS IS FOUNDED ON SUSTAINED AND GROWING TRADE DEFICITS COUPLED WITH AN ENORMOUS AND INTRACTABLE BUDGET DEFICIT.

+THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN VERY VOCAL IN ITS OPPOSITION NOT ONLY TO THE TEXTILES BILL, BUT ALSO TO A VARIETY OF MEASURES IN THE GENERIC BILLS.

+BUT THAT BEING SAID THERE ARE STILL DANGERS FOR HONG KONG,+ HE WARNED.

+THERE IS THE DANGER THAT THE TEXTILES BILL WILL PASS BOTH HOUSES, THAT MEASURES WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE FINAL GENERIC TRADE BILL AND THAT MEASURES INCORPORATED IN EITHER BILL MAY UNDERMINE THE MULTILATERAL PROCESS IN THE GATT, AND PREVENT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GREATER LIBERALISATION IN THE SERVICES, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND AGRICULTURE.+

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**STRONG EXPORT-LED ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTINUES IN FIRST QUARTER  
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THE GROWTH OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 WAS MAINLY EXPORT-LED, CONTINUING THE TREND ESTABLISHED IN THE LATTER PART OF 1986, ACCORDING TO THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1987 PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS STILL PROVIDED A MAJOR IMPETUS TO OVERALL GROWTH, RE-EXPORTS FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN THE RECENT GROWTH PATTERN OF EXTERNAL TRADE, THE REPORT ALSO SAID.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986, DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 28 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. THIS WAS HIGHER THAN THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF 23 PER CENT IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1986.

WHILE IMPROVED DEMAND FOR IMPORTS IN MANY OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PERFORMANCE, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR (IN LINE WITH THE DEPRECIATION OF THE US DOLLAR UNDER THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM) AGAINST MAJOR CURRENCIES AND THE CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE OF LOCAL MANUFACTURERS IN RAISING PRICES HAVE ALSO HELPED ENHANCE THE EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS.

THE LATEST FIGURES ON RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND ON THE ORDER BOOK POSITIONS OF LARGE MANUFACTURERS SUGGEST THAT DOMESTIC EXPORT PERFORMANCE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN GOOD IN THE COMING MONTHS.

RE-EXPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 49 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1986. AS RE-EXPORTS GREW AT A FASTER RATE THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE TO 49 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 FROM 45 PER CENT IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

DOMESTIC DEMAND, IN RESPECT OF BOTH CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT, WAS STRONG IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS FOR RETAINED IMPORTS OF BOTH FOODSTUFFS AND CONSUMER GOODS WAS ABOUT 9 PER CENT.

REFLECTING THE OPTIMISTIC BUSINESS OUTLOOK, MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT WAS MAINTAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL, AS INDICATED BY THE ESTIMATED 24 PER CENT GROWTH IN REAL TERMS IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A BUOYANT ECONOMY, THE DEMAND FOR LABOUR WAS STRONG AND OUTSTRIPPED SUPPLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. AS A CONSEQUENCE, BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES WERE AT VERY LOW LEVELS.

THE STRONG AGGREGATE DEMAND WITHIN THE ECONOMY COUPLED WITH THE DELAYED EFFECT OF THE INCREASES IN IMPORT PRICES DURING 1986 HAVE PUSHED UP THE RATE OF INFLATION. USING CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AS AN INDICATOR, THE RATE OF INFLATION ACCELERATED TO 4.3 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 FROM 3.6 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986.

THE REPORT ASSESSES DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ECONOMY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 USING SUCH STATISTICS AS ARE AVAILABLE. IT ALSO UPDATES THE ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH WAS GIVEN IN THE 1986 ECONOMIC BACKGROUND PUBLISHED ON BUDGET DAY. APART FROM GIVING AN OVERALL VIEW, THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE LABOUR SECTOR, ACTIVITY IN SELECTED SECTORS, AND PRICES.

ON THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS GREW RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1986.

ALTHOUGH CHINA'S IMPORT CONTROL MEASURES STILL REMAINED IN FORCE, THE GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY ABOUT 75 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS, IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1986.

THIS WAS PROBABLY DUE, IN PART, TO INCREASED OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE WITH CHINA, IN LINE WITH THE STRONG GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN GREW MORE RAPIDLY THAN THOSE TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987, REFLECTING THE SHARP DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE EUROPEAN CURRENCIES AND THE JAPANESE YEN.

THE STRONG GROWTH OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 WAS MAINLY DUE TO AN UPSURGE IN RE-EXPORT TRADE WITH CHINA WHICH HAS FEATURED PROMINENTLY BOTH AS A MARKET AND AS A SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS.

RETAINED IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 27 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1986, REFLECTING A FIRM DOMESTIC DEMAND AND BUOYANT MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY. A LARGE PART OF THIS INCREASE COMPRISED RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES FOR MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION. OVERALL IMPORTS GREW BY ABOUT 36 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

THE REPORT FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT OVER THIS PERIOD, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT 41 PER CENT, WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF IMPORTS. HENCE A VISIBLE TRADE GAP OF SIMILAR MAGNITUDE TO THAT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1986, EQUIVALENT TO 4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

ON THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR REMAINED STEADY AGAINST THE US DOLLAR THROUGHOUT THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. NOTWITHSTANDING THE SPECULATIVE PRESSURES ON THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM EXPERIENCED IN JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY, A MAXIMUM DEVIATION OF ONLY 0.6 PER CENT FROM THE LINKED RATE WAS RECORDED.

SECOND, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY GREW RAPIDLY DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987, LARGELY DUE TO INCREASED DOMESTIC CREDIT CREATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROWTH RATE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS SLOWED DOWN, BUT WAS STILL HIGHER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

THIRD, IN LINE WITH THE BUOYANT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND LOW INTEREST RATES, LOANS AND ADVANCES INCREASED AT A FASTER RATE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR THAN DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986.

FOURTH, REFLECTING THE MOVEMENT OF MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES, THE HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSIT RATES ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS WERE REDUCED IN MID JANUARY BUT SUBSEQUENTLY REVISED UPWARDS IN EARLY MARCH AS SPECULATIVE PRESSURES ON THE LINKED EXCHANGE RATE SYSTEM SUBSIDED.

ON THE LABOUR SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THAT BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WERE AT VERY LOW LEVELS. IF THE OLD SERIES OF LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS IS TAKEN TO BE COMPARABLE WITH THE NEW SERIES, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987, AT 2.1 PER CENT, WAS THE LOWEST QUARTERLY FIGURE RECORDED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1975 WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE FIRST COMPILED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

REFLECTING THE STRONG DEMAND FOR LABOUR RELATIVE TO ITS SUPPLY, EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND IN MOST OF THE SERVICES SECTORS, IN TERMS OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS DURING 1986.

THE REPORT OBSERVES THAT MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986, SO THAT FOR THE YEAR AS A WHOLE, THE QUANTITY OF MANUFACTURING OUTPUT WAS 16 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN 1985. ALL MAJOR INDUSTRIES RECORDED INCREASES IN OUTPUT IN 1986.

ON THE PROPERTY SECTOR, THE REPORT NOTES THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS.

FIRST, THE PRICES AND RENTALS OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PROBABLY INCREASED LESS RAPIDLY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987 THAN IN THE LATTER PART OF 1986, GIVEN THAT THE SUPPLY OF NEW FLATS WAS MORE ABUNDANT. NEVERTHELESS, TRADING IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET REMAINED ACTIVE.

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SECOND, REFLECTING AN EXCESS DEMAND FOR OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, OFFICE RENTALS INCREASED FURTHER IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. THIRD, THE UPWARD TREND IN THE PRICES AND RENTALS FOR SHOPPING SPACE, ESPECIALLY FOR PRIME LOCATIONS, HAS CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987. FOURTH, WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, THE BUOYANT PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN RECENT MONTHS HAS HELPED MAINTAIN DEMAND AT A HIGH LEVEL.

ON PRICES, THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE RATE OF INFLATION PICKED UP TOWARDS THE END OF 1986 AND INCREASED FURTHER IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1987.

THE ACCELERATION IN THE RATE OF INFLATION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TWO MAIN FACTORS. FIRST, FOLLOWING THE STRONG REVIVAL IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY DURING 1986, AGGREGATE DEMAND WITHIN THE ECONOMY WAS EXERTING GREATER PRESSURE ON THE AGGREGATE SUPPLY OF RESOURCES. SECOND, THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST MOST MAJOR CURRENCIES RESULTED IN INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES DURING 1986, THE EFFECT OF WHICH IS NOW BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE RETAIL LEVEL.

HOWEVER, SOFT WORLD COMMODITY PRICES IN GENERAL AND STABLE IMPORT PRICES FOR CHINESE GOODS HAVE EXERTED SOME DAMPENING EFFECT ON THE OVERALL UPWARD TREND IN CONSUMER PRICES.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1987 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$10.00 A COPY.

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APRIL PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED  
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EXTERNAL TRADE CONTINUED TO SHOW RAPID GROWTH IN APRIL 1987, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN APRIL 1987, AT \$14 539 MILLION, INCREASED BY 28.1 PER CENT OR \$3 191 MILLION OVER APRIL 1986, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 49.1 PER CENT OR \$4 695 MILLION TO \$14 255 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, AT \$28 794 MILLION, WAS 37.7 PER CENT OR \$7 886 MILLION HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1986. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY 35.6 PER CENT OR \$8 012 MILLION OVER APRIL 1986 TO \$30 489 MILLION.

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AS THE GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS SLOWER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP (THAT IS, THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS) IN APRIL 1987 NARROWED TO 5.6 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH A GAP OF SEVEN PER CENT IN APRIL 1986. HOWEVER, IN ABSOLUTE VALUE TERMS, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT RECORDED IN APRIL 1987, AT \$1 695 MILLION, WAS \$126 MILLION MORE THAN THAT RECORDED IN APRIL 1986.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987 WAS \$103 806 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$53 066 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$50 740 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1986, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$29 747 MILLION OR 40.2 PER CENT, THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$12 572 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT, AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS BY \$17 175 MILLION OR 51.2 PER CENT.

OVER THIS PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$30 705 MILLION OR 39.3 PER CENT, TO \$108 854 MILLION.

A CUMULATIVE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$5 048 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.6 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987. THIS COMPARES WITH A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$4 090 MILLION IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1986, WHICH WAS EQUIVALENT TO 5.2 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THAT PERIOD.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GROWTH MOMENTUM OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE LATTER PART OF 1986 HAD CONTINUED INTO THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, REFLECTING STRONG DEMAND FOR HONG KONG PRODUCTS IN OVERSEAS MARKETS AND THE STIMULATING EFFECT OF THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, IN LINE WITH THAT OF THE US DOLLAR, AGAINST MOST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES DURING THE COURSE OF 1986 AND THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1987.

THE VERY RAPID GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1987 WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FLOURISHING ENTREPOT TRADE WITH CHINA, WHICH FEATURED PROMINENTLY BOTH AS A SOURCE AND AS A MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS. THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT, GIVEN THE STRONG GROWTH IN IMPORTS, EXPORT PERFORMANCE WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN GOOD IN THE COMING MONTHS.

The Census and Statistics Department has released the following provisional merchandise trade figures for April:-

MERCHANDISE:	Domestic Exports	\$14,539 million	
	Re-exports	\$14,255 million	
	Total Exports	\$28,794 million	
	Imports	\$30,489 million	
	Trade balance	\$1,695 million	[in deficit]

## COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Feb 87 to	Feb 86 to	Increase	
	Apr 87	Apr 86	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	39,014	29,964	9,050	30.2
Re-exports	38,735	25,002	13,733	54.9
Total Exports	77,749	54,966	22,783	41.4
Imports	85,338	59,343	25,995	43.8
Trade balance	-7,589	-4,377	-3,212	

  

Same month last year	April	April	Increase	
	1987	1986	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	14,539	11,348	3,191	28.1
(% of Total Exports)	(50.5%)	(54.3%)		
Re-exports	14,255	9,560	4,695	49.1
Total Exports	28,794	20,908	7,886	37.7
Imports	30,489	22,477	8,012	35.6
Trade balance	-1,695	-1,569	-126	

  

Last month	April	March	Increase	
	1987	1987	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	14,539	14,483	56	0.4
(% of Total Exports)	(50.5%)	(51.1%)		
Re-exports	14,255	13,884	391	2.8
Total Exports	28,794	28,347	447	1.6
Imports	30,489	30,731	-242	-0.8
Trade balance	-1,695	-2,384	689	

  

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Apr	Jan-Apr	Increase	
	1987	1986	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	53,066	40,494	12,572	31.0
(% of Total Exports)	(51.1%)	(54.7%)		
Re-exports	50,740	33,565	17,175	51.2
Total Exports	103,806	74,059	29,747	40.2
Imports	108,854	78,149	30,705	39.3
Trade balance	-5,048	-4,090	-958	

  

Last 12 months	May 86 to	May 85 to	Increase	
	Apr 87	Apr 86	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	166,556	131,740	34,816	26.4
Re-exports	139,721	103,863	35,858	34.5
Total Exports	306,277	235,603	70,674	30.0
Imports	306,660	235,770	70,890	30.1
Trade balance	-383	-167	-216	

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987

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F.S. RETURNS FROM TALKS  
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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON THE DEFENCE COSTS AGREEMENT WOULD BE HELD IN HONG KONG IN JULY.

MR JACOBS MADE THE COMMENTS WHEN RETURNING FROM THE FIRST ROUND OF TALKS IN LONDON ON MAY 21 AND 22.

HE SAID THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG TEAM WERE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ROBERT UPTON, AND MR IAN WOTHERSPOON AND MR JOHN SHANNON FROM THE FINANCE BRANCH.

MR JACOBS REITERATED THAT THE TALKS WERE ON THE DEFENCE COSTS ONLY AND THE FUTURE OF THE BRITISH GARRISON IN HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) APPROVED \$11 636 IN INJURIES GRANT FROM THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE (TAVA) FUND TO NINE PEOPLE INJURED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LAST THURSDAY.

THREE PEOPLE, INCLUDING A MINI-BUS DRIVER AND HIS WIFE, WERE KILLED AND 28 PEOPLE INJURED IN THE COLLISION BETWEEN A BUS AND A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD ON MAY 21.

FOLLOWING THE ACCIDENT, OFFICERS FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S YUEN LONG AND KWAI CHUNG FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES AND FIELD UNITS AS WELL AS THE TAVA SECTION CONTACTED THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS TO RENDER NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. A TOTAL OF \$9 000 IN BURIAL GRANT HAD BEEN APPROVED FROM CHARITABLE FUNDS FOR THE TWO BEREAVED FAMILIES.

IN ADDITION, THE FIVE ORPHANS OF THE MINI-BUS DRIVER WERE GIVEN DISCRETIONARY GRANT OF \$10 000 FROM A CHARITABLE FUND. THE MONEY WAS HANDED OVER TO THEM YESTERDAY (MONDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG.

STAFF OF THE TAVA SECTION ARE STILL PROCESSING ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS FROM THE REMAINING VICTIMS.

THE TAVA SCHEME PROVIDES QUICK FINANCIAL HELP TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS OR THEIR DEPENDANTS, REGARDLESS OF WHO WAS AT FAULT IN CAUSING THE ACCIDENT.

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TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1987

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DRAGON BOAT RACES ON SUNDAY  
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IT WILL BE A FESTIVE WEEKEND THIS SUNDAY (MAY 31) WHEN THE TUEN NG FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED WITH EXCITING DRAGON BOAT RACES, COLOURFUL DECORATIONS AND RICE DUMPLINGS.

THE ANNUAL DRAGON BOAT RACES HAVE BECOME ONE OF HONG KONG'S MAJOR FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO FLOCK TO THE VENUES OF MAJOR RACES THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR.

IN SHA TIN, THE GOVERNOR WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE RACES WHICH WILL FEATURE 120 TEAMS COMPETING IN DRAGON AND PHOENIX BOATS ALONG THE SHING MUN RIVER.

AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL WATCH THE RACES AND PRESENT PRIZES. A TOTAL OF 53 TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN LARGE, MEDIUM AND PHOENIX BOATS.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACES IN THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER WHERE 59 TEAMS WILL BE VYING FOR TOP HONOURS IN THIS YEAR'S EVENT.

IN TAI PO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS. A TOTAL OF 55 TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE OPEN AND INVITATION SECTIONS ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF TOLO HARBOUR NEAR THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, WILL BE THE GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE SAI KUNG DRAGON BOAT RACES WHERE 45 TEAMS WILL COMPETE IN THE 1 000-METRE COURSE FROM PAK SHA WAN TO THE WATERFRONT OF SAI KUNG TOWN.

IN TUEN MUN, THE SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL PRESENT PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE DRAGON BOAT RACE THERE. A TOTAL OF 53 TEAMS IN LARGE, MEDIUM AND PHOENIX BOATS WILL COMPETE IN VARIOUS DIVISIONS OF THE RACES WHICH WILL BE THE BIGGEST HELD IN THE DISTRICT.

THERE WILL BE SPECIAL BUS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE DRAGON BOAT RACE IN THE CASTLE PEAK BAY TYPHOON SHELTER OFF WU KING ESTATE IN AREA 44.

BETWEEN 7.30 AM AND 1.30 PM ON THAT DAY, BUS ROUTES 59 AND 61A WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WU KING ROAD AND WU SHAN ROAD AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC GOING TO THE RACES ARE URGED TO USE BUS ROUTES 59, 59B AND 61A.

/ORGANISERS OF .....

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ORGANISERS OF THE DRAGON BOAT RACES HAVE URGED THE PUBLIC TO USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO GET TO AND FROM THE VENUES OF THE RACES AS PARKING SPACE WILL BE LIMITED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE FOLLOWING ARE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COVERAGE OF VIP'S ATTENDING THIS SUNDAY'S DRAGON BOAT RACES IN SHA TIN, YAU MA TEI, ABERDEEN, TAI PO, TUEN MUN AND SAI KUNG.

SHA TIN : THE GOVERNOR IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT AROUND 11.55 AM AT THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB SWIMMING POOL WHERE HE WILL PROCEED TO THE GRANDSTAND ON THE BANK OF THE SHING MUN RIVER. PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ARE ADVISED TO ARRIVE AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR EARLIER SO THAT THEY CAN TAKE UP POSITION TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S ARRIVAL. AS THE NUMBER OF PRESS BADGES ARE LIMITED, ONE ORGANISATION IS ENTITLED TO ONLY ONE BADGE. PRESS BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICER (SHA TIN) AT THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE, 6TH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN.

YAU MA TEI : THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, WILL ARRIVE AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER AT ABOUT 3 PM. PRESS BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF CNTA, 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, HARBOUR CITY, NO. 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI. THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE GRANDSTAND IS AT THE JUNCTION OF FERRY STREET AND MAN CHEONG STREET.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT : THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR DAVID FORD, WILL ARRIVE AT ABOUT 3.30 PM AT THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER GRANDSTAND NEAR THE FLYOVER ADJOINING ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD AND ABERDEEN PRAYA ROAD. PRESS BADGES FOR THE RACES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM THE NEWS AND PUBLICITY DIVISION OF CNTA, 12TH FLOOR, WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE, HARBOUR CITY, NO. 7 CANTON ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI.

TAI PO : THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR PIERS JACOBS, WILL ARRIVE AT ABOUT 11 AM AT THE GRANDSTAND ALONG THE WATERFRONT OF TOLO HARBOUR NEAR THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. PRESS BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICER (TAI PO) AT THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD.

/SAI KUNG : .....

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SAI KUNG : THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR JOHN CHAMBERS, WILL ARRIVE AT ABOUT 1 PM AT THE GRANDSTAND, NEAR THE WATERFRONT OF SAI KUNG TOWN. PRESS BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICER (SAI KUNG), 2ND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

TUEN MUN : THE SECRETARY, GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, WILL ARRIVE AT ABOUT 12 NOON AT THE CASTLE PEAK TYPHOON SHELTER, OFF WU KING ESTATE IN AREA 44. PRESS BADGES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE INFORMATION OFFICER (TUEN MUN), 2ND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, NO. 1 TUEN HI ROAD.

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**GOVERNOR TO VISIT SAI KUNG**  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AND LADY WILSON WILL TOUR SAI KUNG DISTRICT ON THURSDAY (MAY 28) AFTERNOON TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE DISTRICT AND MEET LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADERS.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WILL FLY BY HELICOPTER TO JUNK BAY AND STOP AT A VANTAGE POINT TO TAKE A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE NEW TOWN AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THEY WILL ALSO VISIT THE HANG HAU PUBLIC SCHOOL AT THE MANG KUNG UK VILLAGE AND A FAMILY AT THE TUI MIN HOI RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON WILL THEN TOUR SAI KUNG OLD TOWN AND SEE THE LIFE OF THE FLOATING POPULATION IN THE CHUNG MEI TUK AREA. THEY WILL THEN ATTEND A TEA RECEPTION WITH DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL PERSONALITIES AT THE SAI KUNG TOWN HALL.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO SAI KUNG ON THURSDAY (MAY 28). TRANSPORT FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL LEAVE THE KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER, NEXT TO STAR FERRY, BY 1.45 PM SHARP. PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE ADVISED TO BRING ALONG TELE-LENSES.

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**FOOD HYGIENE HOTLINE IN OPERATION**  
**\* \* \* \* \***

A TELEPHONE HOTLINE MANNED BY THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH HAS COME INTO OPERATION THIS MONTH TO GIVE ADVICE ON THE PREVENTION OF FOOD-BORNE DISEASES.

THE HOTLINE, OPERATING ROUND THE CLOCK UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, SERVES TO REMIND RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HYGIENE WITH THE APPROACH OF SUMMER.

+MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN DIAL 5-8916443 TO LISTEN TO A RECORDED MESSAGE. THEY CAN ALSO MAKE ENQUIRIES. STAFF OF THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT WILL CALL BACK AND ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,+ SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR MR WONG LUP-GAY SAID.

MR WONG URGED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST FOOD-BORNE DISEASES:

- \* DO NOT PATRONISE UNLICENSED COOKED FOOD HAWKERS BECAUSE THE PLACE AND WAYS IN WHICH THEY PREPARE THEIR FOOD ARE USUALLY NOT HYGIENIC;
- \* USE REFRIGERATORS PROPERLY AND STORE RAW AND COOKED FOOD SEPARATELY;
- \* COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY AND CONSUME WHILE STILL HOT, LEFTOVERS SHOULD ALSO BE REHEATED THOROUGHLY;
- \* COVER CUTS AND SORES WITH WATERPROOF DRESSINGS BEFORE COOKING AND EATING;
- \* KEEP CLEAN PERSONAL HABITS AND ALWAYS WASH HANDS BEFORE PREPARING FOOD; AND
- \* MAINTAIN A CLEAN KITCHEN.

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**CONSTRUCTION OF LRT BRIDGE PROPOSED**  
**\* \* \* \* \***

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT A BRIDGE IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN TO CARRY LIGHT RAIL CARRIAGES.

THE PROPOSED BRIDGE IS TO RUN GENERALLY IN A NORTH-SOUTH DIRECTION FROM NEAR SIU HONG COURT TO NEAR PRIME VIEW GARDEN.

/IT WILL .....

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IT WILL RUN ACROSS THE OLD AND NEW CASTLE PEAK ROADS AND THE NULLAH. IT WILL BE PART OF THE FORMATION OF THE LIGHT RAIL RESERVE FOR THE REGIONAL EXTENSIONS OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM.

THE EASTERN SPAN OF AN EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS CASTLE PEAK ROAD WILL BE MODIFIED TO CONNECT IT TO THE FUTURE STOP ON THE PROPOSED LRT BRIDGE.

THE PROJECT INCLUDES SLIGHT REALIGNMENT OF A SHORT SECTION OF THE EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY AND SOME ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

WRITTEN OBJECTIONS MUST REACH THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BY JULY 21.

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#### NEW PUMPHOUSE FOR HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION \* \* \* \* \*

WORK HAS BEGUN ON CONSTRUCTION OF A PUMPHOUSE WHICH WILL BECOME PART OF PHASE ONE OF THE HUNG HOM BAY RECLAMATION, THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

PROJECT ENGINEER, MR GEORGE KU, SAID THE PUMPHOUSE CONTRACT COMPRISED CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERGROUND SEA WATER PUMPING STATION AND LAYING APPROXIMATELY 700 METRES OF SALT WATER SUPPLY PIPES.

THE \$5.4 MILLION CONTRACT, AWARDED TO EXPRESS TRANSPORT AND BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD., WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT FEBRUARY.

MR KU SAID THE NEW PUMPHOUSE WOULD BE LOCATED WITHIN THE KOWLOON GOODS YARD OF THE KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION, ADJACENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE. IT WAS REQUIRED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING PUMPHOUSE AT HUNG HOM FERRY PIER WHICH WILL BE ENGULFED BY THE RECLAMATION.

THE 13.5-HECTARE RECLAMATION WORK, WHICH BEGAN LAST JULY, IS TO PROVIDE LAND FOR EXPANSION OF THE KOWLOON GOODS YARD. IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1989.

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**\$44 MILLION CONTRACT FOR LIFTS AND ESCALATORS**

**\* \* \* \***

WORK ON INSTALLING LIFTS AND ESCALATORS IN A 49-STORY GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT HARBOUR ROAD ON THE WAN CHAI RECLAMATION HAS COMMENCED FOLLOWING THE AWARD OF A \$44 MILLION CONTRACT BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

FORTY-FIVE LIFTS AND ESCALATORS ARE BEING INSTALLED IN WHAT WILL BE THE TALLEST GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING SO FAR CONSTRUCTED IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF STOREYS. THE WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 30 MONTHS.

THE BUILDING IS PART OF A GOVERNMENT COMPLEX BEING BUILT ON A 16 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE BOUNDED BY HARBOUR ROAD TO THE NORTH AND GLOUCESTER ROAD TO THE SOUTH.

WHEN COMPLETED, A TOTAL OF 108 000 SQUARE METRES OF GROSS FLOOR AREA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE TREASURY AND IMMIGRATION, WATER SUPPLIES AND RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENTS.

THE COMPLEX, WHICH IS BEING DEVELOPED IN FIVE STAGES, INCLUDES A BASEMENT CAR PARK, A SUB-DIVISIONAL FIRE STATION, THREE TOWER BLOCKS AND A LANDSCAPED PLAZA.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL FIVE STAGES WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE EARLY 1990'S.

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**DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED**

**\* \* \* \***

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON WONG KWONG-TIN ON OCTOBER 6, 1982 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON KUNG WAH ON JUNE 30, 1986 SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO A SENTENCE OF 20 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

WONG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MRS TAM LEUNG KIT-FAN WHILE KUNG WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF LUK LOK-FUK.

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MORE CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR SHA TIN  
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A TOTAL OF FOUR SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL 450 PLACES WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN SHA TIN OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+IN ADDITION, TWO SPECIAL CHILD CARE CENTRES WILL OPEN THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE 120 PLACES FOR PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN,+ HE SAID.

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WOMEN AND JUVENILES WELFARE ASSOCIATION LTD POK HONG ESTATE CHILDREN GARDEN IN SHA TIN.

AT PRESENT, THE NEW TOWN HAS 14 SUBVENTED CHILD CARE CENTRES WITH 1 540 PLACES AS WELL AS FIVE PRIVATE CENTRES.

MR CHUI NOTED THAT THE SETTING UP OF CHILD CARE CENTRES HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

+APART FROM PROVIDING MORE CENTRES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ALSO ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF SERVICE,+ HE SAID.

+FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD CARE CENTRES ORDINANCE IN 1975, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP A CHILD CARE CENTRES ADVISORY INSPECTORATE TO DEAL WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDINANCE AND THE RELATED REGULATIONS, TO INSPECT THE VARIOUS CENTRES REGULARLY AS WELL AS TO GIVE ADVICE TO AND DISCUSS WITH CENTRE OPERATORS AS HOW TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN,+ HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTRODUCED A FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME IN 1982 TO ENABLE LOW-INCOME AND NEEDY FAMILIES TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN EITHER TO CHILD CARE CENTRES OR KINDERGARTENS.

MR CHUI COMPLIMENTED THE NEW TERRITORIES WOMEN AND JUVENILES WELFARE ASSOCIATION LTD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE SCENE IN HONG KONG, PARTICULARLY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE NOTED THAT WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW CENTRE TODAY, THE AGENCY WOULD BE OPERATING FOUR CHILD CARE CENTRES WHILE TWO MORE WERE BEING PLANNED FOR OPENING WITHIN THIS YEAR IN TAI PO AND TSING YI.

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**CALL TO PAY WAGES ON TIME  
\* \* \***

EMPLOYERS WERE REMINDED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT WAGES MUST BE PAID ON TIME.

AT THE SAN PO KONG MAGISTRACY RECENTLY, THE PROPRIETOR OF AN ELECTRICAL FACTORY WAS FINED \$3 500 FOR FAILING TO PAY WAGES ON TIME TO SEVEN EMPLOYEES UPON TERMINATION OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

THE CASE SHOWED THAT THE FOUR-MONTH ARREARS OF WAGES WERE PAID ONLY CONSEQUENT TO AN ORDER MADE BY THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL AFTER A LAPSE OF TWO MONTHS.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, WAGES DUE AT THE END OF THE WAGE PERIOD MUST BE PAID AS SOON AS IS PRACTICABLE BUT IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN SEVEN DAYS THEREAFTER.

SIMILARLY, WAGES AND OTHER SUMS DUE MUST BE PAID WITHIN SEVEN DAYS ON THE COMPLETION OR TERMINATION OF A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

ANY EMPLOYER WHO WITHOUT ANY REASONABLE GROUNDS FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE IS LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND, UPON CONVICTION, TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000.

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**COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE  
\* \* \* \* \***

MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAN GROUP OF HOSPITALS TODAY (TUESDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, TO DISCUSS WELFARE PROJECTS PLANNED BY THE GROUP IN THE YEAR.

GROUP CHAIRMAN, MRS THERESA LAU, OUTLINED THE GROUP'S VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS INCLUDING THE EXPANSION OF THE CARE AND ATTENTION HOME IN SHJEN WAN, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LARGE YOUTH HOLIDAY CAMP IN SHEUNG SHUI, AND ADDITIONAL DAY NURSERIES IN NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

MRS WONG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GROUP FOR THEIR CONTINUED PROVISION OF HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND ASSURED BOARD MEMBERS THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM TO IMPLEMENT THESE SERVICES.

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DB TO FORM WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL REVIEW  
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YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP ON POLITICAL REVIEW.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE GROUP WILL HELP PUBLICISE THE CONTENT OF THE GREEN PAPER AMONG RESIDENTS, ENCOURAGE MORE RESPONSES AND COLLECT VIEWS.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE LAUNCHING OF A LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO IMPRESS UPON RESIDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MANAGEMENT FOR MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE HELD DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, INCLUDING A SYMPOSIUM, EXHIBITIONS AND SEMINARS TO BE CONDUCTED BY AREA COMMITTEES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT 5 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, YAU MA TEI DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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UC KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE TO MEET  
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THE URBAN COUNCIL'S KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MR WALTER SULKE WILL MEET TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED ANTI-SPITTING DRIVE.

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAMPAIGN, AND THE PROPOSED KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PROJECT WHICH INVOLVES DISTRICT PARTICIPATION.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING WHICH BEGINS AT 2.30 PM IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.2, 4/F, URBAN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, EDINBURGH PLACE.

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WATER CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE RE-OPENED  
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S CONSUMER ENQUIRY CENTRE AT SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK, WAS RE-OPENED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE CENTRE WAS CLOSED SEVEN WEEKS AGO TO FACILITATE ALTERATION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

ENQUIRIES CAN NOW BE MADE AT THE CENTRE FROM 8.30 AM TO 4.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAYS.

PAYMENT OF WATER BILLS CAN ALSO BE MADE AT THE CENTRE FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAYS.

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COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS MATERNITY LEAVE SCHEME  
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MEMBERS OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS GOVERNMENT'S RECENT PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE MATERNITY LEAVE SCHEME AT THEIR MEETING ON THURSDAY (MAY 28).

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A RECENTLY HELD SEMINAR ON THE CONTROL OF POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL EFFLUENTS, AN ARTICLE ON THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF TUEN MUN IN +PRODUCTIVITY NEWS+, AND PROCEDURES FOR RECOMMENDING DB GRANTS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING AT 2.30 PM ON THURSDAY IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DB SECRETARIAT ON THE 3RD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

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**VIOLIN MASTERCLASS**  
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WORLD RENOWNED MUSICIAN, KURT SASSMANSHAUS, WILL CONDUCT A VIOLIN MASTERCLASS ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE AT THE YAU MA TEI MUSIC CENTRE ON SATURDAY (MAY 30) FROM 2.30 PM TO 4.30 PM.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE MUSIKHOCHSCHULE KOLN IN WEST GERMANY, SASSMANSHAUS FURTHERED HIS STUDIES IN AMERICA AND WAS AWARDED A MASTER DEGREE IN JUILLIARD SCHOOL.

HE IS NOW THE HEAD OF THE STRINGS DEPARTMENT OF THE CINCINNATI COLLEGE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC.

AT THE MASTERCLASS, HE WILL COACH FOUR MUSIC OFFICE TRAINEES TO PLAY WORKS OF BACH, MOZART, BEETHOVEN AND KREISLER BEFORE THE AUDIENCE.

ADMISSION TO THE MASTERCLASS IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. FOR RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 3-7226240.

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**TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND**  
**\* \* \* \* \***

PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN PUI CHING ROAD AND ARGYLE STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY (MAY 29) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER RECONSTRUCTION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE SLIP ROAD TO PUI CHING ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD.

HOWEVER, ACCESS TO THE PREMISES ALONG THIS SECTION OF PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND WILL BE MAINTAINED. MOTORISTS ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR THESE PREMISES MAY USE EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING DIVERSION ROUTES:

- \* PUI CHING ROAD, SHEUNG SHING STREET, SHEK KU STREET, PERTH STREET AND THE ACCESS ROAD UNDERNEATH THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER; OR
- \* PUI CHING ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD NORTHBOUND, U-TURN LOOP NEAR THE JUNCTION OF WATERLOO ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD SOUTHBOUND AND THE ACCESS ROAD UNDERNEATH THE FLYOVER OPPOSITE PERTH STREET.

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**RESTRICTED ZONES IN TSUEN WAN**  
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A SECTION OF SHEK WAI KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (MAY 29).

THE AFFECTED SECTION RUNS FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CHEUNG PEI SHAN ROAD TO A POINT 110 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TEXACO ROAD NORTH.

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE TING KAU PUBLIC CAR PARK AT CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TSUEN WAN WILL BE DESIGNATED A ROUND-THE-CLOCK PROHIBITED ZONE FOR VEHICLES WITH GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT OVER 5.5 TONNES.

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**WATER CUTS IN YAU TONG**  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN THE YAU TONG AREA WILL BE TURNED OFF ON FRIDAY (MAY 29) FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR MAINS WORK.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES IN LEI YUE MUN TSUEN AND LING NAM SAN TSUEN.

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