



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1981

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY 1981

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) PUBLISHED THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY 1981.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR JANUARY WAS \$9 674 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$6 346 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$3 328 MILLION. WITH IMPORTS AT \$10 685 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JANUARY WAS \$1 011 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1980, THERE WERE THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE: \$1 349 MILLION OR 27 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS- \$1 281 MILLION OR 63 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS- \$2 630 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$2 553 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, WAS 9.5 PER CENT IN JANUARY THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 13.4 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1980.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1981 WAS HIGHER THAN THOSE RECORDED IN RECENT MONTHS. WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINING RAPID, THE GROWTH RATE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, CONTRIBUTING TO A NARROWING OF THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+.

HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT READING TOO MUCH INTO ONE MONTH'S STATISTICS PARTICULARLY SINCE, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, THE FIGURES WERE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR. UNLIKE 1980 WHEN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FELL IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF 1981 WAS IN EARLY FEBRUARY. SO THE HIGHER GROWTH RATE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JANUARY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SHIPMENTS DURING THE DAYS PRECEDING THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY.

COMPARING THE STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 1980 TO JANUARY 1981 WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1979 TO JANUARY 1980, THE INCREASES BY VALUE WERE 16 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 58 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, 28 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND 33 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY:

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$ 6 346 MILLION
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$ 3 328 MILLION
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$ 9 674 MILLION
	IMPORTS	:	\$10 685 MILLION
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$ 1 011 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	NOV 1980 TO JAN 1981	NOV 1979 TO JAN 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18 486	15 914	+ 2 572	+ 16.2
RE-EXPORTS	9 376	5 937	+ 3 439	+ 57.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	27 863	21 851	+ 6 011	+ 27.5
IMPORTS	32 854	24 661	+ 8 193	+ 33.2
TRADE BALANCE	- 4 991	- 2 810	- 2 181	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	JAN 1981	JAN 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 346 (65.6%)	4 997 (70.9%)	+ 1 349	+ 27.0
RE-EXPORTS	3 328	2 047	+ 1 281	+ 62.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	9 674	7 044	+ 2 630	+ 37.3
IMPORTS	10 685	8 132	+ 2 553	+ 31.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 011	- 1 088	+ 77	

<u>LAST MONTH</u>	JAN 1981	DEC 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	6 346 (65.6%)	6 270 (66.8%)	+ 76	+ 1.2
RE-EXPORTS	3 328	3 120	+ 208	+ 6.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	9 674	9 391	+ 283	+ 3.0
IMPORTS	10 685	11 306	- 621	- 5.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 1 011	- 1 915	+ 904	

<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	FEB 1980 TO JAN 1981	FEB 1979 TO JAN 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	69 520	57 070	+12 450	+ 21.8
RE-EXPORTS	31 353	20 741	+10 612	+ 51.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	100 872	77 811	+23 061	+ 29.6
IMPORTS	114 204	88 569	+25 635	+ 28.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 13 332	- 10 758	- 2 574	
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NOTE TO EDITORS:

PRESS COVERAGE OF URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION
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MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHO WISH TO VISIT ANY OF THE 13 POLLING STATIONS OR TO BE PRESENT AT THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES ON MARCH 5 (THURSDAY), URBAN COUNCIL ELECTION DAY, MUST COMPLETE FORM 20 -- DECLARATION OF SECRECY -- BEFORE A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, A PRESIDING OFFICER OR THE RETURNING OFFICER.

THEY SHOULD HAVE THE FORMS WITH THEM WHEN THEY CALL AT ANY OF THE POLLING STATIONS.

COPIES OF THESE FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE GIS PRESS ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED TO COVER THE ELECTION, THE RETURNING OFFICER, MR THOMAS TSO, WILL BE PRESENT IN THE GIS CONFERENCE ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, TO ADMINISTER THE DECLARATION AT 2.30 PM ON MARCH 2 (MONDAY).

THIS DECLARATION CAN BE ALTERNATIVELY ADMINISTERED BY ANY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

THE ATTENTION OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IS DRAWN TO REGULATION 29 (SEE FOOTNOTE) OF THE URBAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH IT IS AN OFFENCE INTER ALIA TO SPEAK TO ANY ELECTOR OR TAKE ANY PHOTOGRAPH WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ANY POLLING STATION.

/FOOTNOTE:

FOOTNOTE:

REGULATION 29 STATES:

29 (1) ANY PERSON OTHER THAN -

- (A) THE RETURNING OFFICER OR AN ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER -
- (B) THE PRESIDING OFFICER OR AN ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICER -
- (C) MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER -
- (D) POLICE ON DUTY AT ANY POLLING STATION -
- (E) A COMPANION OF A BLIND VOTER ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 36.

WHO SPEAKS TO ANY ELECTOR WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ANY POLLING STATION SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION THEREFORE TO A FINE OF \$500.

(2) ANY PERSON WHO -

- (A) TAKES ANY PHOTOGRAPHS -
- (B) CANVASSES - OR
- (C) DISPLAYS ANY POSTER,

WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF ANY POLLING STATION SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION THEREFORE TO A FINE OF \$500.

(3) ANY ELECTOR WHO -

- (A) TAKES ANY BALLOT PAPER, WHETHER MARKED OR UNMARKED, OUT OF THE POLLING STATION - OR
- (B) DEPOSITS IN THE BALLOT BOX ANY PAPER OTHER THAN THE BALLOT PAPER GIVEN TO HIM BY THE POLL CLERK,

SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE ON CONVICTION THEREFORE TO A FINE OF \$500 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

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SHA TIN SITE TO BE FORMED
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THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS CALLING TENDERS FOR SITE FORMATION AND ROAD WORKS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TOWN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OFFICE SAID THAT UNDER THE CONTRACT, ABOUT 5.3 HECTARES OF LAND WOULD BE FORMED AT HO TIN.

HE SAID, +TOGETHER WITH THE ADJACENT AREA NOW BEING DEVELOPED, THE LAND WILL ENABLE ACCOMMODATION TO BE PROVIDED FOR SOME 34 000 PEOPLE IN PUBLIC HOUSING.+

THE CONTRACT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING OF A SECTION OF MING KUM ROAD BETWEEN PUI TO ROAD AND SHEK PAI TAU ROAD TO A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO FOOTBRIDGES FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL BEGIN IN MAY AND WILL TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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TWO MORE SCHOOLS FOR SHA TIN
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BUILD ANOTHER TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SHA TIN NEW TOWN.

TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOLS, WHICH WILL BE BUILT ON A 8 000 SQUARE-METRE SITE IN YUEN CHAU KOK, ARE BEING INVITED BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID EACH OF THE SCHOOLS, WOULD HAVE A MAIN TEACHING BLOCK, COMPRISING 24 CLASSROOMS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES AND CHANGING ROOMS- A BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS, PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS, A LIBRARY AND WORKSHOPS- AND SEPARATE ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AND MENIAL STAFF QUARTERS.

THERE WILL BE A COMMON BLOCK COMPRISETING TWO ASSEMBLY HALLS, SERVING THE TWO SCHOOLS.

WORK ON THE PROJECT, WHICH IS PART OF THE NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, WILL START IN APRIL THIS YEAR AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 1982, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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COUNTRYSIDE AMBULANCES

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RESIDENTS AND PICNICKERS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE WILL BENEFIT FROM A MUCH IMPROVED SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICE (AMS), THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONATION OF TWO AMBULANCES BY AN URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR AMBROSE K.C. CHOI.

IN A CEREMONY THIS MORNING IN KOWLOON HOSPITAL, THE UNIT CONTROLLER OF AMS, DR K.L. THONG RECEIVED THE KEYS TO THE AMBULANCES FROM MR CHOI, WHO IS ALSO A LONG SERVING AND SENIOR MEMBER OF THE SERVICE.

DR THONG SAID THE TWO AMBULANCES WILL BE DEPLOYED TO SERVE THE COUNTRY PARKS AT BRIDE'S POOL IN PLOVER COVE AND PAK TAM CHUNG IN SAI KUNG.

HE SAID THE AMBULANCES WERE MODIFIED TO ENABLE AMS MEMBERS TO CARRY OUT CASUALTY CONVEYANCE AND LIGHT RESCUE WORK IN HILLY REGIONS.

IN ADDITION TO A COMPLETE SET OF STANDARD AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT AND OXYGEN APPARATUS, THE AMBULANCES ARE ALSO FITTED WITH SEARCH LIGHTS, EXTENSION CABLING FOR LIGHTING, ROPES AND GEAR.

AT PRESENT THE PLOVER COVE COUNTRY PARK IS SERVED BY A STATIC FIRST AID POST MANNED BY AMS PERSONNEL ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. A SIMILAR POST WILL BE SET UP IN PAK TAM CHUNG SHORTLY.

MR CHOI HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF THE SERVICE IN THE MORE REMOTE AREAS. THROUGH HIS EFFORTS, IN 1973 THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON WEST DONATED AN AMBULANCE TO AMS, WHICH IS STILL IN SERVICE ON LANTAU ISLAND.

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\$2.5 MILLION HOME FOR THE AGED AT TAI O

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THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION IS TO GRANT A SITE AT TAI O TO BUILD A \$2.5 MILLION HOME FOR THE AGED.

THE 1 000-SQUARE-METRE SITE WILL BE GRANTED BY PRIVATE TREATY TO A NON-PROFIT-MAKING TAOIST ASSOCIATION, HING WAN KWU TONG.

THE HOME, TO BE CALLED TAI O HING WAN KWU TONG HOME FOR THE AGED, WILL ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE.

CONSTRUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY 1983. COSTS WILL BE MET BY THE ASSOCIATION.

THE TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE HAS PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT AND WILL RAISE FUNDS TO FURNISH THE HOME.

ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NICKY LO, DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS +A MUCH NEEDED FACILITY FOR TAI O.+

/HE SAID

HE SAID TAI O HAD A POPULATION OF OVER 10 000. OF THE 463 PEOPLE RECEIVING GOVERNMENT OLD AGE ALLOWANCES, 216 LIVED ALONE.

A PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM HING WAN KWU TONG, TAI O RURAL COMMITTEE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL BE SET UP TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT.

THIS COMMITTEE WILL FORM THE BASIS OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE RUNNING OF THE HOME AFTER IT IS COMPLETED.

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SPECIAL CAR NOS. SALE BY AUCTION

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THIRTY-FIVE SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE SOLD BY AUCTION THIS MORNING (SATURDAY) FOR A TOTAL OF \$675 300 WHICH WILL GO INTO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 61ST ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$17 688 132.

AUCTION HELD AT CITY HALL SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER 398 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$100 000.

ANOTHER NUMBER CL3 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$80 000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1 000 EACH FOR CH8801, CH8082, CH8798, CJ2173, CH3839, CJ2022 AND CJ4428.

THE OTHER SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE SOLD AT THE FOLLOWING PRICES:

HK1949	\$ 1 800	CH3233	\$ 4 000	CH6686	\$ 3 500
729	46 000	AX 1	65 000	CJ 125	9 100
CK1000	9 000	HK 14	27 000	CJ 380	15 000
CC 23	20 000	CC 606	27 000	CJ1168	2 300
CC 38	32 000	CJ 328	27 000	CJ 162	12 000
CH2683	2 600	CK 888	36 000	CJ 399	10 500
CJ1812	3 500	CH9288	2 000	BC3231	2 000
CJ 128	30 000	CL 10	33 000	CK 666	15 000
CK 5	22 000	CL 2	58 000		

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

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WATER CUT IN WAH FU ESTATE

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THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO PREMISES IN WAH FU ESTATE WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MARCH 2) TO 6 AM ON TUESDAY (MARCH 3) FOR A LEAKAGE TEST.

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FIRING PRACTICE REMINDER

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT THERE WILL BE FIRING PRACTICE AT THE HA TSUEN/CASTLE PEAK RANGE FROM 8 AM TO 5 PM ON TUESDAY NEXT WEEK (MARCH 3).

THEY ARE WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE FLYING.

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