



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1978

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NEW BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR NEW BEACON HILL RAILWAY TUNNEL IS WELL UNDERWAY.

PILOT +BURROWING+ HAS STARTED ON BOTH THE NORTH AND SOUTH PORTALS AND SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR PROBLEMS.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE'S RAILWAY DIVISION, MR. LEUNG MIN-SUN, SAID TODAY +EVERYTHING IS FINE. WE ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.+

THE NEW 2.3 KM DOUBLE TRACK TUNNEL, COSTING A TOTAL OF ABOUT \$97 MILLION, WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING SINGLE TRACK TUNNEL WHICH HAS BEEN IN USE SINCE 1910 AND ACCOMMODATES THE LAST SECTION OF RAILWAY BETWEEN HUNG HOM AND SHA TIN. IT IS BEING CONSTRUCTED TO THE WEST OF THE EXISTING TUNNEL. COMPLETION DATE IS AROUND JUNE 1980.

+ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES,+ SAID MR. LEUNG, +WE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE UNDULY HELD UP.+

THE TUNNEL WILL BE LINED THROUGHOUT WITH CONCRETE WHICH WILL VARY FROM A THICKNESS OF 550 MM NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO 300 MM OVER MOST OF ITS LENGTH WHERE THE TUNNEL WILL PASS THROUGH SOLID ROCK.

THE ROUTE FOR THE NEW TUNNEL WILL IMPROVE THE ALIGNMENT OF THE KCR AND SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF THE RAILWAY, PARTICULARLY FOR GOODS TRAFFIC.

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NEW FERRY PIER FOR SHAM SHUI PO

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A NEW \$11 MILLION FERRY PIER WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN SHAM SHUI PO SOME TIME NEXT MONTH.

THE NEW PIER WILL PROVIDE BETTER BERTHING FACILITIES FOR FERRIES, INCLUDING THE LARGE TRIPLE-DECKERS, AND FOR PASSENGERS. MORE THAN 26 MILLION PASSENGERS TRAVELLED BY FERRIES TO SHAM SHUI PO LAST YEAR.

MR. HOWARD CHAMBERLAIN, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE PORT WORKS DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SAID TODAY THAT THE TWO-STORY PIER HAS TWO BERTHS WITH ELECTRICALLY OPERATED LIFTS AND RAMPS TO FACILITATE EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING OF PASSENGERS.

THERE IS ALSO A LARGE CONCOURSE WITH COVERED WALKWAYS, BUS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUS TERMINI AS WELL AS TAXI RANKS PROVIDING GOOD LAND TRANSPORT TO AND FROM THE PIER.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW PIER, TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE AREA SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR APRIL
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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (APRIL) WAS \$3,038 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$4,948 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$1,001 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT'S PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IS A RECORD HIGH FIGURE, EXCEEDING THE \$1,000 MILLION MARK FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY TO APRIL 1978 (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 11.5 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 20.1 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 29.1 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977.

COMPARED WITH APRIL LAST YEAR, EXPORTS INCREASED, BY VALUE, OF \$420 MILLION OR 16.1 PER CENT, IMPORTS BY \$819 MILLION OR 19.8 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$282 MILLION OR 39.2 PER CENT.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, APRIL 1978 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1978, SHOWED INCREASES OF \$178 MILLION OR 6.2 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$66 MILLION OR 1.3 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$14 MILLION OR 1.4 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM MAY 1977 TO APRIL 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE PREVIOUS CORRESPONDING 12 MONTHS SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 7.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 13.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 14.8 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES :-

LATEST 3 MONTHS	FEB. - APRIL	FEB. - APRIL	INCREASE OR	
	1978	1977	DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,023	7,198	+ 825	+ 11.5
IMPORTS	13,740	11,440	+2,300	+ 20.1
RE-EXPORTS	2,766	2,141	+ 624	+ 29.1

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SAME MONTH LAST YEAR <u>-----</u>	APRIL 1978	APRIL 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,038 (75.2%)	2,618 (78.5%)	+ 420	+ 16.1
IMPORTS	4,948	4,129	+ 819	+ 19.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,001 (24.8%)	719 (21.5%)	+ 282	+ 39.2

LAST MONTH <u>-----</u>	APRIL 1978	MARCH 1978	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,038 (75.2%)	2,860 (74.3%)	+ 178	+ 6.2
IMPORTS	4,948	4,882	+ 66	+ 1.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,001 (24.8%)	987 (25.7%)	+ 14	+ 1.4

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE <u>-----</u>	JAN. - APRIL 1978	JAN. - APRIL 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	10,743 (74.7%)	9,888 (76.8%)	+ 854	+ 8.6
IMPORTS	18,024	15,271	+2,753	+ 18.0
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	3,647 (25.3%)	2,982 (23.2%)	+ 665	+ 22.3

LAST 12 MONTHS <u>-----</u>	MAY 1977 TO APRIL 1978	MAY 1976 TO APRIL 1977	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	35,858	33,240	+2,619	+ 7.9
IMPORTS	51,454	45,378	+6,076	+ 13.4
RE-EXPORTS	10,495	9,139	+1,356	+ 14.8

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TWO-WAY TELEX LINK INSTALLED AT PORT CONTROL CENTRE

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NEW TELEX EQUIPMENT WHICH ENABLES THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH OTHER TELEX USERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE SHIPPING CIRCLE IN HONG KONG AND OTHER MAJOR CITIES, HAS RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT INTO USE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S PORT CONTROL CENTRE.

THE NEW INSTALLATION IS ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO LOCAL SHIPPING AGENTS FOR SENDING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HONG KONG-BOUND SHIPS TO THE PORT CONTROL CENTRE WITH WHICH ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS MUST REGISTER ON ENTERING OR CLEARING THE PORT.

THE TELEX LINK ALSO IMPROVES THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT AS THE TIME CONSUMING PROCESS OF TAKING DOWN SHIPPING INFORMATION FROM LOCAL AGENTS OVER THE TELEPHONE, WHICH AT TIMES MIGHT CAUSE CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING, IS ELIMINATED.

+THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THE CASE OF SHIPS WITH DANGEROUS GOODS, WHOSE ENTRY MUST BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT 48 HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL,+ MARINE OFFICER (COMMUNICATIONS), MR. P.J. WEAVER SAID TODAY.

+THE AGENTS AND COMPANIES CAN ALSO USE THIS TELEX LINK TO MAKE BUOY BOOKINGS, THUS SAVING A LOT OF OUR TIME AND MANPOWER PREVIOUSLY SPENT IN RECEIVING SUCH A REQUEST BY TELEPHONE.

+IN ADDITION, THEY CAN USE THE TELEX MACHINE TO PASS INQUIRIES OR MESSAGES OF COMPLICATED OR TECHNICAL NATURE TO MARINE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT CAUSING CONFUSION OR MISUNDERSTANDING AS COULD OCCUR ON THE TELEPHONE,+ MR. WEAVER SAID.

IN TIME OF EMERGENCIES SUCH AS SHIP IN DISTRESS OR THE APPROACH OF A STORM, THE NEW EQUIPMENT CAN SPEEDILY DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED.

MR. WEAVER SAID : +WHEN A VESSEL IS IN DIFFICULTY WITHIN OR NEAR HONG KONG'S TERRITORIAL WATERS, THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE SHIPPING AGENTS CONCERNED, THE SALVAGE COMPANIES AND OTHER 'NEED TO KNOW' DISCIPLINED SERVICES SUCH AS ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE AND THE POLICE.

+THE DISADVANTAGES OF RELAYING SUCH INFORMATION BY TELEPHONE WHICH MIGHT BE MISTAKEN AND HAMPER OR DELAY SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS NOW NO LONGER EXIST WITH THE PASSING OF SUCH INFORMATION DIRECT BY TELEX.+ HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE TELEX SYSTEM HAS A BUILT-IN MINI-COMPUTER TO ENABLE IT TO STORE INCOMING OR OUTGOING MESSAGES UP TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES FOR TENDER IN KWAI CHUNG
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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR TWO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES IN THE OFFENSIVE TRADES AREA IN KWAI CHUNG.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOTS, WHICH HAVE A TOTAL AREA OF 3,912 SQUARE METRES, ARE LIMITED TO HOLDERS OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS ISSUED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

THE SENIOR ESTATE SURVEYOR OF TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, MR. NIGEL BURLEY, SAID TODAY : +THE LOTS ARE THE LAST TWO REMAINING IN THE DESIGNATED OFFENSIVE TRADES AREA IN KWAI CHUNG.

+THEY ARE SITUATED NORTH OF GIN DRINKER'S BAY AND WEST OF THE NEW TSUEN WAN BY-PASS.+

THE FIRST LOT HAS AN AREA OF 3,390.3 SQUARE METRES AND CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$5,480,000 OVER 30 MONTHS. APPLICATIONS FOR THE LOT MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON FRIDAY (MAY 26).

THE SECOND LOT HAS AN AREA OF 522.3 SQUARE METRES AND CARRIES A BUILDING COVENANT OF \$850,000 OVER 30 MONTHS. APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY NOON ON JUNE 2 THIS YEAR.

IN ADDITION TO FACTORIES ERECTED ON THIS LOT, WAREHOUSES MAY ALSO BE BUILT.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH A CROSSED CHEQUE FOR \$10,000 MADE PAYABLE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AND SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE APPLICATION BOX IN THE RECEPTION LOBBY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, HONG KONG HOUSING AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

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DROP IN NUMBER OF FIRES
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A TOTAL OF 4,147 FIRES WERE RECORDED DURING THE FOUR MONTHS ENDED FEBRUARY 1978, COMPARED WITH 4,373 IN THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY.

BUT THE NUMBER OF FACTORY FIRES AND THE RESULTANT INJURIES HAVE RISEN.

THERE WERE 144 FIRES INVOLVING FACTORIES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW COMPARED WITH 134 IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR AND NEARLY 60 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 30 FIREMEN, WERE INJURED IN THESE BLAZES COMPARED WITH 20.

A FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN APPEALED TO FACTORY OWNERS TO ENSURE THAT ALL FIRE EXTINGUISHING SYSTEMS OR EQUIPMENT ARE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND IN EFFICIENT WORKING ORDER. FURTHERMORE, THEY SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT NO EMERGENCY EXITS ARE BLOCKED.

THE NUMBER OF DOMESTIC FIRE DROPPED FROM 622 IN THE FOUR-MONTH PERIOD ENDED FEBRUARY 1977 TO 558 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD THIS YEAR. THE NUMBER OF RESULTING DEATHS FROM THESE FIRES WERE 13 AND 11 RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT MOST OF THESE FIRES WERE CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS ON THE PART OF HOUSEHOLDS. HE ALSO WARNED THE PUBLIC THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN THE WET SEASON, THEY SHOULD NOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT FIRE PRECAUTIONS.

AS TO THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HILL FIRES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE HUMID WEATHER MAY BE THE REASON FOR THE GENERAL DECLINE.

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REGISTRATION TEAM TO OPERATE IN CHAI WAN
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A TEAM FROM THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICE WILL CONDUCT REGISTRATIONS IN YUE WAN ESTATE OFFICE, CHAI WAN FOR PEOPLE LIVING NEARBY FOR FIVE DAYS FROM MAY 29.

REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 9.30 A.M. AND 4.30 P.M. DAILY.

THE VISIT IS TO ENABLE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN AND WARDS BETWEEN 11 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE FOR JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS AND HOLDERS OF JUVENILE IDENTITY CARDS TO REGISTER FOR ADULT IDENTITY CARDS ON REACHING 18 YEARS OF AGE.

ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THIS AREA ARE REMINDED OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGISTER THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN FOR IDENTITY CARDS AND TO REPORT CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT OR RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES, MARITAL STATUS, OR ANY OTHER PARTICULARS WHICH HAVE CHANGED SINCE REGISTERING FOR THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

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