



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1979

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
APRIL MONEY SUPPLY STATISTICS	1
EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES TO THE EEC	3
WARM TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER	3
PART-TIME LECTURERS REQUIRED FOR EVENING COURSES	4
NO ENTRY FOR LEARNER DRIVERS	5
PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATORS URGED TO USE BLAKE PIER	5
PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT GIFTS	6
ONE-WAY ONLY	6

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1979

- 1 -

APRIL MONEY SUPPLY STATISTICS

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THE APRIL 1979 MONEY SUPPLY STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) WITH THE MONTHLY FIGURES FOR BANKS AND FOR DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES.

THE GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY IS STILL SLOWING DOWN, BUT BANK LENDING CONTINUES TO EXPAND TOO FAST, ALTHOUGH LENDING TO THE PUBLIC BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TOGETHER IS GROWING RATHER LESS FAST.

MONEY SUPPLY

THE MONEY SUPPLY ON BOTH DEFINITIONS ROSE IN APRIL. M1 (NOTES AND COIN IN CIRCULATION AND DEMAND DEPOSITS AT LICENSED BANKS) ROSE BY \$1,048 MILLION (4.7 PER CENT) TO \$23,355 MILLION, WHICH IS 25.7 PER CENT ABOVE THE LEVEL AT THE END OF APRIL 1978.

M1 HAS BEEN MOVING VERY ERRATICALLY IN RECENT MONTHS; DESPITE ITS SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN APRIL IT IS STILL BELOW THE LEVEL OF END-JANUARY (WHICH WAS INFLATED BY THE LUNAR NEW YEAR EXPANSION OF THE NOTE CIRCULATION).

SINCE END-DECEMBER 1978 M1 HAS RISEN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF A LITTLE OVER 15 PER CENT.

M2 (M1 PLUS TIME AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS) ROSE IN APRIL BY \$1,582 MILLION (2.5 PER CENT) TO \$78,376 MILLION, WHICH WAS 23.9 PER CENT ABOVE THE LEVEL OF END-APRIL 1978. SINCE THE END OF DECEMBER 1978, M2 HAS RISEN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF ABOUT 22 PER CENT.

A COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF M2 IN THE THREE MONTHS FEBRUARY TO APRIL 1979 WITH THE SAME PERIOD OF 1978 SHOWS AN INCREASE OF 24.2 PER CENT- THIS COMPARISON HAS FALLEN EVERY MONTH SINCE ITS PEAK OF 28.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST TO OCTOBER 1978.

THIS CONFIRMS THAT, DESPITE THE ERRATIC PATH OF M1, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE MONEY SUPPLY ON THE WIDER DEFINITION IS CONTINUING TO FALL TOWARDS A LEVEL MORE COMPATIBLE WITH THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY IN 1979.

BANKING STATISTICS

BANK LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG (INCLUDING LOANS TO DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES) ROSE IN APRIL 1979 BY \$2,161 MILLION (3.7 PER CENT) TO \$60,116 MILLION, WHICH WAS 46.2 PER CENT ABOVE THE LEVEL OF APRIL 1978.

/ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF INCREASE IN BANK LENDING HAS NOT SLOWED DOWN THIS MAY BE DUE TO THE DRAWING DOWN OF LONG STANDING COMMITMENTS. IN THE FOUR MONTHS SINCE DECEMBER 1978 THE TOTAL HAS RISEN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 47 PER CENT (I.E. ALMOST THE SAME AS THE CHANGE OF APRIL 1979 ON APRIL 1978).

IN THE THREE MONTHS FEBRUARY TO APRIL 1979 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTHS OF 1978, THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF BANK LOANS GREW BY 46.2 PER CENT. ON THIS COMPARISON BANK LENDING HAS BEEN ACCELERATING EVERY MONTH SINCE OCTOBER 1977.

THE NET IDENTIFIABLE FOREIGN ASSETS OF THE BANKING SYSTEM FELL BY \$690 MILLION TO \$15,454 MILLION, DESPITE A RISE IN BANK LENDING OUTSIDE HONG KONG OF \$465 MILLION TO \$18,712 MILLION, 15.9 PER CENT ABOVE THE LEVEL OF APRIL 1978.

THE AVERAGE LIQUIDITY OF THE BANKS DURING APRIL ROSE FROM 45.9 PER CENT TO 48.25 PER CENT, ITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE JUNE 1976.

THIS MAY PARTLY REFLECT ANTICIPATION OF THE EXCHANGE FUND (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1979, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE ON MAY 1, 1979, AND REQUIRES ANY BANK HOLDING EXCHANGE FUND DEPOSITS ON DEMAND, AT CALL OR AT SHORT NOTICE TO HOLD LIQUID ASSETS EQUIVALENT TO 100 PER CENT OF THOSE DEPOSITS, INSTEAD OF A MINIMUM OF 25 PER CENT AS HITHERTO.

THE RATIO OF LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG TO DEPOSITS ROSE FROM 82.7 PER CENT TO 83.8 PER CENT. TWO MORE RECENTLY-LICENSED BANKS BEGAN TO OPERATE DURING APRIL, BRINGING THE NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS TO 97.

DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES

DEPOSITS AT THE 244 REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE IN APRIL 1979 BY \$1,346 MILLION TO \$15,362 MILLION, BUT THE AMOUNT ON-LENT BY THESE COMPANIES TO BANKS IN HONG KONG ROSE BY \$1,853 MILLION TO \$11,700 MILLION, SO THAT THE NET DEPOSIT LIABILITIES FELL BY \$507 MILLION TO \$3,662 MILLION.

LOANS AND ADVANCES IN HONG KONG BY DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE BY \$61 MILLION TO \$10,428 MILLION, BUT AFTER TAKING ACCOUNT OF AN INCREASE OF \$726 MILLION IN THE AMOUNT BORROWED FROM BANKS BY THESE COMPANIES, THEIR NET LENDING IN HONG KONG FELL BY \$665 MILLION TO \$2,186 MILLION.

LENDING TO THE PUBLIC BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES TOGETHER HAS RISEN SINCE DECEMBER 1978 AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 34 PER CENT (WHICH IS THE SAME ANNUALISED GROWTH RATE RECORDED IN MARCH): THIS IS A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER RATE OF INCREASE THAN IS SHOWN BY THE FIGURES FOR BANKS ALONE.

NET IDENTIFIABLE FOREIGN ASSETS OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ROSE IN APRIL BY \$435 MILLION TO \$8,174 MILLION, LARGELY REFLECTING AN INCREASE OF \$384 MILLION TO \$21,037 MILLION IN THEIR LENDING ABROAD.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1979

- 3 -

EXPORT OF RESTRAINED TEXTILES
TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
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THE TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TO INCREASE THE QUOTAS FOR 1979 FOR A NUMBER OF ITEMS INCLUDING WOVEN TROUSERS, WOVEN AND KNITTED BLOUSES, WOVEN SHIRTS, KNITTED UNDERPANTS AND WOVEN WORK GARMENTS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE REQUEST WAS MADE UNDER A PROVISION IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH INCREASES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT HONG KONG'S QUOTAS FOR SOME OF THESE PRODUCTS HAD BEEN CUT DURING THE 1977 NEGOTIATIONS.

+IF THE REQUEST IS SUCCESSFUL, IT WOULD BE A SMALL MEASURE OF REDRESS OF WHAT WAS LOST TWO YEARS AGO,+ HE SAID.

+THE COMMISSION FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS CONSIDERING THE HONG KONG REQUEST, AND A RESPONSE IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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WARM TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER
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THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. J.N. HENDERSON, THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING PAID A GLOWING TRIBUTE TO MR. TSUI TIM-FOOK, CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

SPEAKING AT A FAREWELL DINNER, MR. HENDERSON SAID MR. TSUI, WHO IS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN TO HIS COLLEAGUES AS +TIM,+ HAS SERVED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT FOR MORE THAN 28 YEARS.

+MOST OF THAT TIME HAS BEEN IN THE FIELD OF LABOUR RELATIONS. IT IS THERE -- AND IN THE EXACTING WORK OF CONCILIATION THAT TIM'S NAME IS INDELIBLY ASSOCIATED,+ HE SAID.

+THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE THAT HE HAS RENDERED IN LABOUR RELATIONS WORK IS WELL KNOWN TO ALL OF YOU, AND THERE ARE FEW TRADE DISPUTES OF CONSEQUENCE IN THE LAST 15 YEARS OR SO IN WHICH HE HAS NOT PLAYED A PART.+

MR. HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT MR. TSUI DURING A +FINE CAREER+ HAS HAD NO LESS THAN SIX FORMAL COMMENDATIONS FROM SEVERAL COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF.

HE WAS ALSO COMMENDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN AUGUST 1967 FOR HIS COURAGE AND DETERMINATION SHOWN IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY DURING THAT PERIOD WHEN HONG KONG WAS UNDER GREAT TENSION.

/+HIS OUTSTANDING,

+HIS OUTSTANDING, DISTINGUISHED AND LOYAL SERVICE WAS RECOGNISED BY THE AWARD OF MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 1968.

+HE WAS ALSO APPOINTED AN OFFICIAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN 1976 -- AN INDICATION OF HIS RECOGNISED STANDING IN THE COMMUNITY.+

MR. TSUI WILL BE JOINING THE CABLE AND WIRELESS LTD. LATER THIS YEAR IN AN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CAPACITY, AND MR. HENDERSON WISHED HIM GOOD FORTUNE IN THIS NEW ENDEAVOUR.

ON BEHALF OF COLLEAGUES, MR. HENDERSON PRESENTED MR. TSUI WITH A CAMERA AND ASSESSORIES AS +A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR ESTEEM.+

MR. TSUI JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE AS A TELEGRAPHIST IN THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IN 1949 AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AS AN INTERPRETOR/TRANSLATOR CLASS II AT THE BEGINNING OF 1951.

HE JOINED THE LABOUR OFFICER GRADE AS AN ASSISTANT LABOUR OFFICER IN SEPTEMBER 1957 AND WAS PROMOTED TO LABOUR OFFICER IN JANUARY 1964, SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER IN APRIL 1968 AND TO HIS PRESENT POST IN MAY 1974.

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PART-TIME LECTURERS REQUIRED FOR
EVENING COURSES

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APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR PART-TIME EVENING LECTURERS FOR THE 1979-80 ACADEMIC YEAR AT THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE EVENING COURSES WILL BE IN 12 DISCIPLINES MAINLY AT CRAFT LEVEL (POST FORM III) AND TECHNICIAN LEVEL (POST FORM V), AND ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE SECTORS TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES.

THE 12 DISCIPLINES ARE HOTEL KEEPING AND TOURISM, COMMERCIAL STUDIES, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, GENERAL STUDIES, INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, PRINTING, TEXTILE INDUSTRIES, CLOTHING INDUSTRIES, MARINE AND FABRICATION, AND DESIGN.

THE LECTURERS' FEE DEPENDS ON THE LEVEL OF THE COURSES RUN, AND RATES OF PAYMENTS VARY FROM \$28 TO \$50 PER HOUR.

APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TRIPLICATE AND RETURNED TO THE RESPECTIVE INSTITUTES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 23.

THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED VARY BETWEEN COURSES, AND FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE COURSES OFFERED BY THE INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTES AS WELL AS APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE INSTITUTE EITHER IN PERSON OR IN WRITING.

THE FIVE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES ARE MORRISON HILL, KWUN TONG, KWAI CHUNG, HAKING WONG AND LEE WAI LEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1979

- 5 -

NO ENTRY FOR LEARNER DRIVERS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING AND PRACTISING ON CALDECOTT ROAD.

AND FROM 10 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY, LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING BOTH THE TWO ACCESS POINTS TO THE UN-NAMED ROAD SURROUNDING THE HONG KONG STADIUM AND THE STADIUM PATH NEAR THE JUNCTION OF EASTERN HOSPITAL ROAD AND CAROLINE HILL ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATORS URGED TO USE BLAKE PIER

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OWNERS, COXSWAINS AND OPERATORS OF LOCAL CRAFT TODAY (FRIDAY) WERE ADVISED TO USE BLAKE PIER TO EASE CONGESTION AND AVOID EXCESSIVE WAITING TIME AT KOWLOON PUBLIC PIER AND QUEEN'S PIER.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID HEAVY CONGESTION HAD BEEN OBSERVED DURING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS AT THE TWO PIERS, ESPECIALLY FROM 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M. AND 3 P.M. TO 6 P.M. WHEN LARGE NUMBERS OF PLEASURE LAUNCHES WERE WAITING TO EMBARK AND DISEMBARK PASSENGERS.

+THE L-SHAPED BLAKE PIER PROVIDES LANDING FACILITIES FOR BIGGER LAUNCHES AND GOOD PARKING FACILITIES IN THE VICINITY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT HAD ALSO BEEN OBSERVED, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT, THAT THERE WAS A TENDENCY FOR ALL TYPES OF VESSELS TO NAVIGATE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE VARIOUS PASSENGER AND VEHICULAR PIERS IN THE HARBOUR.

+THIS PRACTICE IS BOTH IMPRUDENT AND DANGEROUS,+ HE STRESSED.

+ALL PERSONS IN CHARGE OF SMALL VESSELS, WHETHER POWERED OR UNDER SAIL, ARE REQUIRED TO PASS THESE PIERS AT A DISTANCE OF NOT LESS THAN 300 FEET.

+SHIPMASTERS, PILOTS AND COXSWAINS ARE REQUIRED TO GIVE ALL FERRY, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC PIERS AS WIDE A BERTH AS IS COMMENSURATE WITH OTHER NAVIGATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE PORT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1979

- 6 -

PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT GIFTS
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THREE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE RETIRING SHORTLY AFTER A TOTAL OF 95 YEARS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THEY ARE MR. LAI KUI-CHEUNG, SENIOR SUPPLIES SUPERVISOR, AND TWO CHARGEHANDS, MR. LEUNG BING AND MR. WONG KING.

MR. LAI AND MR. LEUNG HAVE EACH SERVED THE GOVERNMENT FOR 33 YEARS AND MR. WONG 29 YEARS.

TO MARK THEIR RETIREMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, MR. F.J. YOUNG, WILL PRESENT THEM WITH RETIREMENT GIFTS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 8 IN THE CANTEEN OF THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRESENTATION OF RETIREMENT GIFTS TO THREE OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT IN THE CANTEEN OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, TOP FLOOR, OIL STREET, NORTH POINT, ON FRIDAY (JUNE 8) AT 4 P.M.

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ONE-WAY ONLY
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FROM 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY (JUNE 5), SHIPYARD LANE WILL BE ROUTED ONE-WAY IN AN ANTI-CLOCKWISE DIRECTION TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THIS AREA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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