DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1989

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SDA ASSURES SAI KUNG RESIDENTS ON VBP CENTRE

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY ITS BEST TO ADDRESS ALL THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY SAI KUNG RESIDENTS RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE NEAR THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR.

DURING A MEETING WITH TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RESIDENTS, MR LIAO SAID THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THEIR WORRIES AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MINIMISE THE INCONVENIENCES TO THE PUBLIC.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM THE SECURITY BRANCH, THE POLICE, THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE TOLD THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE DONE TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE PLANNED DETENTION CENTRE. THESE INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 17-FOOT-HIGH FENCE AROUND THE CENTRE.

THE FENCE WOULD BE SEALED WITH STEEL SHEETS UP TOSEVEN FEETABOVE GROUND LEVEL. THIS WOULD DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE CHANCE OF THE FENCE BEING CUT OPEN.

AT THE MEETING, THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE MR JOHN SHEPPARD ALSO GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE ADEQUATE MANPOWER TO POLICE THE DETENTION CENTRE AND NEARBY AREAS.

AS REGARDS RESIDENTS' FEAR THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE VBP CENTRE WOULD POLLUTE THE AREA, THE EPD REPRESENTATIVE SAID ALL WASTE WATER WOULD BE TREATED BEFORE IT WAS DISCHARGED INTO THE SEA. ALSO, DRY LATRINES WOULD BE PROVIDED BOTH INSIDE THE CENTRE FOR ITS INMATES AND OUTSIDE THE CENTRE FOR POSSIBLE VISITORS.

THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO TOLD THAT SINCE THE SITE FOR THE CENTRE WAS WELL BELOW THE DAM OF THE HIGH ISLAND RESERVOIR, WASTE WATER DISCHARGED FROM THE CENTRE WOULD DEFINITELY NOT POLLUTE THE WATER IN THE RESERVOIR.

MR LIAO ALSO SPOKE OF THE URGENCY FOR CONSTRUCTING THE CENTRE. HE SAID THE HIGH ISLAND SITE WAS URGENTLY NEEDED AND THERE WAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE. WITH THE PRESENT RATE OF VBP ARRIVAL, FURTHER DELAYS IN CONSTRUCTING THE CENTRE WOULD PUT MOUNTING PRESSURE ON EXISTING CENTRES.

MR LIAO ASSURED THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TRYING ITS BEST TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION TO THE VBP PROBLEM AND CALLED ON THEM TO SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION.

/AT A .....

AT A MEDIA BRIEFING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING, MR LIAO TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL MONITORING GROUP IN THE DISTRICT ALONG THE LINES OF THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE IN MA ON SHAN, SHA TIN TO MONITOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AND OPERATION OF THE DETENTION CENTRE.

THIS WOULD ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS' VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO FULL CONSIDERATION IN THE BUILDING AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE, HE ADDED.

MR LIAO BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN ALLAYING THE WORRIES OF RESIDENTS.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENTAT TODAY'S MEETING WERE THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR LEO KWAN; DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, RHKPF, MR JOHN SHEPPARD; REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR Y.N. WU; ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR MICHAEL CHIU; AND CHIEF MAINTENANCE SURVEYOR OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR K.K. NG.

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BARNES URGES PROTESTERS TO RECONSIDER POSITION

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR GEOFFREY BARNES, TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON THE PROTESTERS AT HIGH ISLAND TO REFLECT ON THEIR ACTIONS MORE CAREFULLY AND TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION.

"EVERY DAY MORE VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE ARE ARRIVING; WE HAVE HAD OVER 1,000 ARRIVALS IN THE LAST THREE DAYS." HE SAID.

"EVERY ADDITIONAL DAY'S DELAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGH ISLAND CENTRE IMPOSES AN EVEN GREATER BURDEN ON THE POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT STAFF AT OTHER CAMPS AND CENTRES.

"I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THIS IS REALLY WHAT THE CONCERNED GROUP AND THEIR SUPPORTERS WANT. I CANNOT BELIEVE THEY WISH TO MAKE LIFE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR OUR POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

"NONE OF US WANTS THIS VIETNAMESE BURDEN. BUT CIRCUMSTANCES ARE FORCING HONG KONG TO BEAR IT.

"THE HIGH ISLAND SITE IS NEEDED URGENTLY AND I AM AFRAID THAT THERE IS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE. NOR DOES TIME PERMIT OTHER SITES, EVEN IF THEY EXISTED, TO BE DEVELOPED."

/MR BARNES .....

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING HARD TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM AND TO FIND MEANS OF SATISFYING THE WORRIES EXPRESSED BY PEOPLE ABOUT THE HIGH ISLAND SITE.

"DESPITE BEING VERY OVER-STRETCHED, GOVERNMENT STAFF ARE PERFORMING MAGNIFICENTLY IN COPING WITH THE VIETNAMESE PROBLEM." HE SAID.

"I APPEAL TO YOU TO SUPPORT THEM AND NOT TO MAKE THEIR JOB ANY HARDER."

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REVISED ESTIMATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT FOR 1987, 1988

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DETAILS OF THE REVISED ESTIMATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) FOR 1987 AND 1988 WERE RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

DETAILED FIGURES ARE GIVEN IN THE ACCOMPANYING TWO TABLES - TABLES 1 AND 2.

REVISED EXPENDITURE-BASED GDP ESTIMATES FOR 1987 AND 1988 (TABLE 1)

THE REVISED PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE EXPENDITURE-BASED GDP FOR 1988 IS 7.3 PER CENT, WHICH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 7.4 PER CENT RELEASED IN MARCH 1989.

THE ESTIMATE OF THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN REVISED UPWARDS TO 9.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED GROWTH RATE OF 7.8 PER CENT. THIS IS DUE TO THE UPWARD REVISION IN THE 1988 ESTIMATE AND TO THE DOWNWARD REVISION IN THE 1987 ESTIMATE.

MODERATE DOWNWARD REVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ESTIMATES FOR CHANGE IN STOCKS AND EXPORTS OF SERVICES. MINOR REVISIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE OTHER GDP COMPONENTS.

THE REVISED PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE EXPENDITURE-BASED GDP FOR 1987 IS 13.8 PER CENT, WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE PUBLISHED IN MARCH 1989.

AN UPWARD REVISION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE ESTIMATE FOR CHANGE IN STOCKS AS A RESULT OF THE NEW DATA AVAILABLE FROM THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS OF THE MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION TRADE SECTORS.

THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE HAS BEEN REVISED DOWNWARDS TO 10.5 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ESTIMATE OF 11.1 PER CENT.

/MINOR REVISION .....

MINOR REVISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE ESTIMATE FOR GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION AT CONSTANT PRICES.

REVISED PRODUCTION-BASED GDP ESTIMATES FOR 1987 (TABLE 2)

THE REVISED PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF THE PRODUCTION-BASED GDP AT CURRENT PRICES FOR 1987 IS $348,940 MILLION (AT FACTOR COST), WHICH HAS BEEN REVISED UPWARDS BY $2,261 MILLION OR 0.7 PER CENT COMPARED TO THE PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE PUBLISHED IN MARCH 1989.

RELATIVELY MORE SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ESTIMATES FOR THE COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES AND THE OWNERSHIP OF PREMISES SECTORS IN WHICH RESPECTIVE UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS OF $1,490 MILLION AND $1,309 MILLION HAVE BEEN MADE.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GDP, THE ESTIMATE FOR THE COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES SECTOR HAS BEEN ADJUSTED UPWARDS FROM 14.9 PER CENT TO 15.3 PER CENT, AND THAT FOR THE OWNERSHIP OF PREMISES SECTOR HAS BEEN ADJUSTED UPWARDS FROM 10.0 PER CENT TO 10.3 PER CENT.

CONCURRENTLY, DOWNWARD REVISIONS IN PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTIONS TO GDP HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR (FROM 22.1 PER CENT TO 21.7 PER CENT), THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR (FROM 18.4 PER CENT TO 18.1 PER CENT) AND THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR (FROM 23.2 PER CENT TO 23.0 PER CENT).

REVISIONS MADE TO THE OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GENERALLY INSIGNIFICANT.

THE PRODUCTION-BASED GDP ESTIMATES HAVE BEEN REVISED FOLLOWING THE AVAILABILITY OF FINAL RESULTS FROM THE ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS COVERING VARIOUS SECTORS.

THE SCHEDULE FOR PUBLISHING GDP ESTIMATES

REVISIONS OF THIS NATURE ARE PART OF THE ROUTINE PROCESS OF PRODUCING ESTIMATES OF THE GDP. THEY ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE THE DATA USED IN COMPILING THE GDP ESTIMATES ARE AVAILABLE IN STAGES AND OFTEN WITH SIGNIFICANT TIME LAGS.

AS A RESULT, THE COMPILATION OF THE PRELIMINARY GDP ESTIMATES, WHICH ARE PUBLISHED AROUND FEBRUARY/MARCH OF EACH YEAR AT THE TIME OF THE BUDGET, INVOLVES USING PARTIAL DATA FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR WITH THE DATA GAPS BEING BRIDGED BY EXTRAPOLATION AND JUDGEMENT.

OVER THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS, INCREASINGLY COMPLETE DATA BECOME AVAILABLE AND, ACCORDINGLY, THE ESTIMATES OF THE GDP ARE REVISED AT HALF-YEARLY INTERVALS.

FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE REVISED GDP ESTIMATES MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8235077.

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/TABLE 1 .....

Table 1 : Revised Expenditure-based Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates for 1987 and 1988

	Revised Provisional Estimates for 1987				Revised Preliminary Estimates for 1988			
	at current market prices		at constant (1980) market prices		at current market prices		at constant (1980) market prices	
I. Expenditure components	HK$Mn	% change over 1986	HK$Mn	% change over 1986	HK$Mn	% change over 1987	HK$Mn	% change over 1987
1. Private consumption expenditure	221,670	+15.6	138,453	+10.5	256,565	+15.7	150,362	+9.0
2. Government consumption expenditure	25,776	+12.2	13,922	+4.5	29,813	+15.7	14,640	+5.2
3. Gross domestic fixed capital formation	89,632	+36.0	57,378	+15.0	110,165	+22.9	60,660	+5.7
4. Change in stocks	9,418	..	6,153	..	9,537	..	5,552	..
5. Exports of goods	378,034	+36.7	247,164	+32.9	493,069	+30.4	312,379	+26.4
6. Less Imports of goods	379,989	+36.9	244,623	+31.6	501,174	+31.9	309,691	+26.6
7. Exports of services	70,239	+29.4	44,443	+18.5	84,668	+20.5	50,315	+13.2
8. Less Imports of services	46,623	+18.7	33,742	+15.8	55,330	+18.7	38,905	+15.3
GDP	368,177	+22.4	229,148	+13.8	427,313	+16.1	245,812	+7.3
Per capita GDP ($)	65,589	+20.6	40,822	+12.2	75,214	+14.7	43,267	+6.0

II. Deflators	Index (1980=100)	% change over 1986	Index (1980=100)	% change over 1987
1. GDP deflator	160.7	+7.6	173.8	+8.2
2. Domestic demand deflator*	160.5	+7.9	175.3	+9.2

* The domestic demand deflator provides a general measure of domestic inflation. Domestic demand is defined to include private consumption expenditure, government consumption expenditure, gross domestic fixed capital formation and change in stocks.

.. Not applicable

/TABLE 2 .....

Table 2 : Revised Production-based Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates for 1987

Economic Sectors	Revised Provisional Estimates for 1987 at current prices HK$Mn	% change over 1986	% contribution to total GDP (at factor cost)
I. Agriculture and fishing	1,358	+2.0	0.4
II. Mining and quarrying	257	-25.7	0.1
III. Manufacturing	75,761	+20.7	21.7
IV. Electricity, gas and water	9,691	+15.6	2.8
V. Construction	16,400	+21.0	4.7
VI. Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	80,392	+34.2	23.0
VII. Transport, storage and communication	30,272	+32.2	8.7
VIII. Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	63,353	+30.4	18.1
IX. Community, social and personal services	53,254	+13.8	15.3
X. Ownership of premises	35,934	+19.6	10.3
XI. Nominal sector (adjustment for financial services)	-17,732	..	-5.1
GDP at factor cost (production-based estimate)	348,940	+23.9	100.0
Indirect taxes less subsidies	18,649	+26.4	
GDP at market prices (production-based estimate)	367,589	+24.1	

.. Not applicable

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MAY

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 4 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1989 COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1988, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 18 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) ROSE BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF MAY 1989 WITH MAY 1988, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT, AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT. HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS. IMPORT VOLUME ALSO INCREASED BY 19 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR MAY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-48 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-42 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-22 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-15 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (-12 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-7 PER CENT).

NEVERTHELESS, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+34 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+10 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+10 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+9 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+3 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (+1 PER CENT).

/PRICES OF .....

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988. THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+11 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+8 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+7 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+4 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+2 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+2 PER CENT); AND FOOTWEAR (+2 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-9 PER CENT); AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-1 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF TEXTILE FABRICS; AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH MAY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS; AND CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR. HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; AND SWINE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT. THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED FOOTWEAR; AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 13 PER CENT IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988. THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON; MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND IRON AND STEEL. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; BASE METALS, OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL; AND CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 42 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN MAY 1989 OVER MAY 1988.

THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; AND OFFICE MACHINES. A DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

COMPARING MAY 1989 WITH MAY 1988, IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+10 PER CENT); CONSUMER GOODS (+5 PER CENT); FOODSTUFFS (+4 PER CENT); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+3 PER CENT); AND CAPITAL GOODS (+2 PER CENT).

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988, WITH THE PERCENTAGE INCREASES RANGING FROM 9 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 90 PER CENT FOR FUELS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 19 PER CENT.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND FOODSTUFFS BOTH INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT IN MAY 1989 COMPARED WITH MAY 1988. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT; WHILE THOSE OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FUELS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MAY 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND AUGUST 10 AT $2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MAY 1989 WITH MAY 1988			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1989 WITH JAN-MAY 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	3	2	1	6	1	5
TEXTILE FABRICS	10	*	10	6	-1	7
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	13	2	10	17	1	15
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	*	8	-7	-12	6	-17
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-48	*	-48	-45	*	-45

/ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS .....

ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	22	-9	34	24	-6	31
FOOTWEAR	-20	2	-22	-16	1	-17
METAL MANUFACTURES	-2	11	-12	13	11	1
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	14	4	9	28	4	24
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1	-1	3	5	1	4
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-11	4	-15	-12	3	-14
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-38	7	-42	-24	7	-29
ALL COMMODITIES	2	3	-1	7	3	4

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAY 1989 WITH MAY 1988			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1989 WITH JAN-MAY 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	5	4	2	16	3	12
CONSUMER GOODS	35	5	29	35	5	28
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	17	3	13	22	4	18
FUELS	57	10	42	36	6	28
CAPITAL GOODS	20	2	17	29	3	25
ALL COMMODITIES	23	4	19	27	4	22

/TABLE 3 .....

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAY 1989 WITH MAY 1988			COMPARING JAN-MAY 1989 WITH JAN-MAY 1988		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-12	8	-19	15	7	8
CONSUMER GOODS	45	5	38	46	5	40
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	18	8	9	28	8	19
FUELS	93	2	90	52	-1	55
CAPITAL GOODS	37	7	28	53	7	43
ALL COMMODITIES	31	7	22	38	6	30

NOTE FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

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DB FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR SUBSIDISING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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ORGANISATIONS IN THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS FOR HOLDING COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THOSE ACTIVITIES SHOULD AIM AT ENHANCING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND SOCIAL COHESION, AND PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF THOSE LIVING, WORKING OR STUDYING IN THE DISTRICT.

FUNDS MAY BE SPENT ON CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES, EXHIBITIONS, SURVEYS OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL EVENTS, HE ADDED.

THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE HAS SENT MORE THAN 1,000 LETTERS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS INVITING THEM TO APPLY FOR FUNDS.

/APPLICATION FORMS .....

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE AT 37-39 TONKIN STREET, AND AT ITS SUB-OFFICES.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS SEPTEMBER 26.

THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE'S VETTING SUB-COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON NOVEMBER 15 TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS. APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS IN WRITING.

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SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS FEEDER BUS SERVICES IN TAI PO

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9) TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING FREE FEEDER BUS SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL ATTEND THE MEETING.

TAXI AND MAXICAB OPERATORS IN THE DISTRICT EARLIER COMPLAINED THAT THEIR BUSINESS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF TWO KCRC FEEDER BUS ROUTES BETWEEN THE RAILWAY STATION AND THE DENSELY POPULATED KWONG FUK AND FU SHIN ESTATES IN APRIL.

THEY SUGGESTED THAT THE TWO ROUTES BE SUSPENDED DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD, TAI PO.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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BUSES TO SERVE LAM TIN MTR STATION

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BUS SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE LAM TIN TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION AT LAM TIN ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9), A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY WILL INTRODUCE A NEW ROUTE, NO. 93M, BETWEEN PO LAM ESTATE AT TSEUNG KWAN O AND LAM TIN MTR STATION AT A BASIC FREQUENCY OF 15 MINUTES.

THE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM MONDAY TO SATURDAY DURING PEAK HOURS, FROM 6.15 AM TO 9 AM AND FROM 4.15 PM TO 7 PM.

IN ADDITION, A GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE NO. 24M WILL OPERATE DAILY BETWEEN LEI YUE MUN (SAM KA TSUEN) AND LAM TIN MTR STATION AT A BASIC FREQUENCY OF SEVEN MINUTES, FROM 6.12 AM TO MIDNIGHT.

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FLAG PRESENTED TO KWAI TSING YOUTH AMBASSADORS

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TEN YOUTH AMBASSADORS FROM KWAI TSING DISTRICT, WHO ARE GOING ON A SIX-DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE AS THEIR PRIZE FOR WINNING AN ESSAY COMPETITION ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WERE PRESENTED A FLAG TODAY (MONDAY).

THE FLAG WAS PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPETITION, AND KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER, MR CHAN KWOK-WAI, WHO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN OVER 300 PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMPETITION.

THE YOUTH AMBASSADORS, AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 24, WILL LEAVE FOR SINGAPORE ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 10) AND RETURN ON AUGUST 15. THEY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PHILIP CHAN, AND A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR WAN HING-YUEN.

DURING THEIR TOUR, THEY WILL VISIT THE PEOPLE ASSOCIATION, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE POST, AND MEET YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PAUL TANG, SAID RESPONSE TO THE ESSAY COMPETITION, HELD FOR THE THIRD TIME, HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING.

THE YOUNG AMBASSADORS HAD ALSO ACQUIRED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS THROUGH A SERIES OF SEMINARS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, MR TANG ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE COULD BE TRAINED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH YOUTH AMBASSADOR ACTIVITIES.

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CLEAN BEACH OPERATIONS IN SAI KUNG

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TWO CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AIMED AT AROUSING RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS TOOK PLACE AT THE LITTLE PALM AND A KUNG WAN BEACHES IN SAI KUNG TODAY (MONDAY).

THE OPERATIONS WERE ORGANISED BY THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE TERRITORY-WIDE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY TODAY WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, MR HO KOON-SHUN; CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, MR EDWARD PONG; SAI KUNG ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS LISA CHAN; AND THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR LAM CHI-CHUNG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES BEING PLANNED BY THE BOARD'S WORKING GROUP ON KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN INCLUDE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS AT TIU KENG LENG, PAK SHA WAN, TSEUNG KWAN O, TAI TAU CHAU, TIN HA WAN AND MA LAM WAT, AND A CLEAN VILLAGE COMPETITION.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 59.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 346.731 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 191.519 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 32.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER CUTS IN KOWLOON AREAS

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN MONG KOK WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE A NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY 31-59 WATERLOO ROAD, 1-28 KWONG WA STREET, 1-11 AND 2-4 KWONG YUNG STREET, 1-49 AND 2-28 YIN CHONG STREET, 20-124 SOY STREET, 41-91 DUNDAS STREET, 1-5 AND 2-24 FA YUEN STREET, 1-7 AND 2-22 TUNG CHOI STREET, 1-2 SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET AND 508-608 NATHAN ROAD.

ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 10), SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT WATERMAIN MAINTENANCE WORK.

/THE SUSPENSION .....

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, TUNG TAU, WONG TAI SIN, LOK FU, JORDAN VALLEY, WANG TAU HOM, FU SHAN, CHUK YUEN, KOWLOON TONG, FUNG WONG SAN CHUEN, TSZ WAN SHAN, DIAMOND HILL, NGAU CHI WAN, KOWLOON CITY, MA TAU WAI AND MA TAU KOK.

ON THE SAME DAY, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN CONNECTION.

THE AREA AFFECTED INCLUDED KWAI SHING ESTATE (EAST AND WEST) AND THE WHOLE KWAI SHING CIRCUIT.

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INSTALLATION OF PARKING METERS IN YUEN LONG TOWN

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THE PARKING METERS INSTALLED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AT FUNG KWAN STREET IN YUEN LONG TOWN WILL GO INTO OPERATION ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 9).

THERE ARE 61 PARKING METERS. FIFTY-TWO ARE TWO-HOUR METERS CHARGING $1 PER HALF-HOUR FOR PRIVATE CARS. AND NINE ARE ONE-HOUR METERS CHARGING 50 CENTS PER HALF-HOUR FOR GOODS VEHICLES.

THE METRES WILL BE IN USE FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM DAILY. EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD FLYOVER, TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN YAU MA TEI WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 1 AM TO 5.30 AM DAILY BETWEEN WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (AUGUST 9 AND 11).

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE :

- THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF GASCOIGNE ROAD BETWEEN WYLIE ROAD AND JORDAN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

- CROSS HARBOUR ROUTE NO. 122 WILL BE DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA HONG CHONG ROAD, CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, AUSTIN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, JORDAN ROAD, GASCOIGNE ROAD AND NATHAN ROAD ON JOURNEYS TO MEI FOO.

- MOTORISTS ON SOUTHBOUND CHATHAM ROAD NORTH HEADING FOR WESTBOUND GASCOIGNE ROAD ARE ADVISED TO TRAVEL VIA CHATHAM ROAD NORTH, CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH, AUSTIN ROAD, COX'S ROAD, JORDAN ROAD AND GASCOIGNE ROAD.

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