



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, May 29, 1973

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VALUE OF EXPORTS CONTINUES TO RISE

The value of Hong Kong's domestic exports continue to show a marked increase over that of the corresponding months last year.

Provisional trade statistics released today show that these exports last month were worth \$1,298 million -- an increase of 20.7 per cent or \$222 million over April 1972.

The value of imports increased by \$368 million or 21.1 per cent to \$2,109 million. However, the biggest increase -- 54.9 per cent -- was in re-exports which were worth \$404 million, a rise of \$143 million over the corresponding month last year.

A spokesman for the Commerce and Industry Department said today the figures are most encouraging and "reflect a very satisfactory measure of growth".

The figures for the three month period, February to April 1973, showed increases over the same period in 1972 of 18.9 per cent for domestic exports, 19.5 per cent for imports and 44.1 per cent for re-exports.

The provisional trade figures for April are:-

<u>MERCHANDISE:</u>	Domestic Exports	:	\$1,298 million
	Imports	:	\$2,109 million
	Re-exports	:	\$ 404 million

/COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

	<u>April 1973</u> \$ Mn.	<u>April 1972</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Increase or decrease</u> \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	1,298	1,076	+ 222	+ 20.7
Imports	2,109	1,742	+ 368	+ 21.1
Re-exports	404	261	+ 143	+ 54.9
	<u>Feb.-April 1973</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Feb.-April 1972</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Increase or decrease</u> \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	3,853	3,240	+ 614	+ 18.9
Imports	5,958	4,985	+ 974	+ 19.5
Re-exports	1,222	848	+ 374	+ 44.1
	<u>Jan.-April 1973</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Jan.-April 1972</u> \$ Mn.	<u>Increase or decrease</u> \$ Mn. %	
Domestic Exports	5,067	4,386	+ 681	+ 15.5
Imports	7,817	6,516	+ 1,301	+ 20.0
Re-exports	1,580	1,136	+ 444	+ 39.1

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C.A.S. COMES OF AGE

The Governor, Sir Murray MacLehose, will be the chief guest at a Chinese dinner party to be held by the Civil Aid Services on Thursday (May 31) to commemorate its 21st anniversary.

About 700 officers and members of C.A.S., including the Commissioner, Mr. P.C. Woo, and the Chief Staff Officer, Mr. J.A. Fortune will attend.

Among the guests will be the Commander British Forces, Lt. Gen. Sir Richard Ward, Commodore J.K. Stevens of the Royal Navy, Dr. G.H. Choa, Mr. D.R. Alexander, Mr. I.M. Lightbody, Mr. C.P. Sutcliffe, Mr. D.S. Whitelegge, Mr. A.E.H. Wood, and Major G.F. Doggett of the Auxiliary Medical Service.

The Civil Aid Services was formed in 1952 during the Korean War and this year -- 21 years since then -- marks its "coming of age".

At the time of formation it was thought that its main role was to maintain precautions against the effects of conventional air-raids.

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Even then, however, it was clearly recognised that it also had an important part to play on other occasions such as during natural disasters.

Since its establishment, the C.A.S. has given invaluable service to the community in numerous typhoons, fires and floods.

In 1968, the C.A.S. expanded its strength by providing training for a Cadet Corps. It now has 3,800 officers and members in its adult section and some 2,000 youths in the Cadet Corps.

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Note to Editors:

You are invited to send a photographer and/or reporter to cover the arrival of the guests at the main entrance to the City Hall Low Block. It will be possible to take photographs during the reception prior to the dinner, but the press are expected to leave the reception area immediately before 8 p.m. The Governor will arrive at about 8.10 p.m. He will be met by Mr. P.C. Woo and Mr. J.A. Fortune, Chief Staff Officer, C.A.S. After covering the arrival of the Governor, the press party is requested not to enter the reception area again.

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LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Youth Work Unit of the Social Welfare Department has arranged a leadership training programme for young people.

The programme will be in two parts and is planned to help young people develop their knowledge and skills in leadership as well as arouse their interests in social services.

The first part -- a youth leadership symposium -- will be held from June 14 to July 12 and will consist of lectures on such aspects as human relations and communications, programme planning, public speaking and organising outdoor activities. There will also be a practical exercise organised by the participants themselves in the form of a practice camp.

The symposium will be held twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at the Lady Trench Training Centre, Wanchai.

The second part of the programme will concentrate on social services and will include lectures on community work, probation and correctional service, counselling service, rehabilitation service and the social security scheme. Visits to welfare agencies will also be arranged during the course.

This part of the programme will take place, again twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 24 to August 21 from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. It will be held at the Ward Memorial Methodist Church in Waterloo Road.

Certificates will be presented to those completing the course.

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Any young people between 17 and 25 with secondary school education or above are eligible to apply. Application forms are available from the Youth Work Unit offices of the Social Welfare Department.

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WATER INTERRUPTION

Water supply to a number of premises in Tai Kok Tsui will be cut off for five hours from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Friday (June 1).

The temporary stoppage is to allow staff of the Waterworks Office to carry out a leakage test in the area.

The area affected is bounded by Boundary Street, Tai Kok Tsui Road, Cherry Street, sea-front and Lee Tak Street.

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SPECIAL TRAINS FOR DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Special trains will operate between Tsim Sha Tsui and Tai Po Market on Dragon Boat Festival Day next Tuesday (June 5) for the large crowds expected to watch the boat races at Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po.

The trains, which will run in addition to the scheduled services, will pick up passengers en route at the Mong Kok, Sha Tin, University and Tai Po Kau stations.

Eight special trains will run from Tsim Sha Tsui to Tai Po Market, departing at 7.59 a.m., 8.58 a.m., 9.49 a.m., 10.57 a.m., 12.05 p.m., 1.11 p.m., 2.07 p.m. and 2.35 p.m.

From Tai Po Market, 10 special trains will leave at 8.51 a.m., 9.59 a.m., 10.46 a.m., 11.54 a.m., 1.06 p.m., 1.56 p.m., 3.05 p.m., 3.24 p.m., 4.31 p.m. and 5.27 p.m.

A spokesman for the Kowloon-Canton Railway said that additional special trains would also run in the late evening if traffic warrants.

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DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL -
STATUTORY HOLIDAY FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

The Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Paul Tsui, today reminded employers that next Tuesday (June 5), the day of the Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival, is one of the six statutory holidays to which industrial workers are entitled under the Industrial Employment Ordinance.

With few exceptions, all manual workers in industrial undertakings paid on a monthly, daily, or piece-rate basis must be given a holiday on that day. Non-manual workers in industrial undertakings earning not more than \$700 a month have the same right.

A worker or employer, who is in doubt about his rights or obligations regarding statutory holidays or holiday pay, may obtain the advice of the Senior Labour Inspector in charge of the Women and Young Persons Unit at various branch offices of the Labour Department.

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NEW BUILDINGS OPENED

Two three-storey car parks, a community centre and a gymnasium all in Mei Foo Sun Chuen were among the 42 buildings which were certified for occupation by the Building Authority in April.

The total declared construction cost of these buildings was over \$131 million.

At the same time, 54 plans for new buildings were approved, including three blocks of 30-storey apartment/commercial buildings in Ngau Tau Kok Road.

The Authority also gave permission for work to start on 40 building projects.

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QUEEN'S ROAD BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED

The Building Authority today ordered the demolition of three buildings in Queen's Road Central after declaring them in a dangerous condition.

The four-storey pre-war buildings -- 287, 289 and 291 Queen's Road Central -- have been under regular observation for several years. They were re-examined following the closure of adjoining buildings after a verandah collapse.

The Principal Government Building Surveyor said that cracks and weaknesses in the party walls were developing and there were decayed timbers throughout the buildings.

These conditions, he said, give rise to a risk of collapse and notices of intention to apply for closure orders in Victoria District Court at 9.30 a.m. on July 3 were posted today in respect of 287 and 289 Queen's Road Central.

The third building, number 291, has already been closed as a precautionary measure.

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MPs MEET URBAN COUNCILLORS

Note to Editors: The three visiting British MPs, Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Mr. Michael Jopling and Mr. Michael Shaw, will meet members of the Urban Council tomorrow (Wednesday) for private talks.

The meeting will take place in the Council Chamber, on the 12th floor of Central Government Offices, West Wing at 8.45 a.m.

The discussions are private and reporters/photographers will not be allowed inside the chamber during the talks. But arrangements have been made for photographers to take pictures of the MPs, and the Councillors before the meeting commences.

It is not known whether the MPs will make a statement afterwards, but if they should, their statement or statements will be sent on the teleprinter to you so that reporters need not wait unnecessarily.

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RECEPTION AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

If the weather is bad tomorrow (Wednesday), the reception at Government House may be curtailed in view of the large number of people invited. However, a final decision will be made shortly before 11 a.m.

If those who have been invited are doubtful whether the reception will be held, they are advised to listen to Hong Kong's broadcasting and television services between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., when an announcement will be made at intervals on whether it will take place as scheduled.

Alternatively they can telephone their City District Office or their District Office in the New Territories.

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WAGE INCREASE AGREEMENT

Note to Editors: At 3.00 p.m. sharp tomorrow afternoon (Wednesday May 30), representatives of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wood Trunk Workers Union and the Hong Kong and Kowloon Art Carved Furniture and Camphor-wood Chests Merchants Association will sign a collective agreement on wage increases for the workers of the trade in the presence of a Labour Department Officer at New Rodney Block, Queensway, Ground floor, Hong Kong.

You are invited to send a reporter/photographer to cover the occasion.

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Release time: 7.00 p.m.