



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY .....	1
EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST HYPERTENSION .....	5
COLOURFUL BOOKLET ON DESALTING PLANT ON SALE .....	7
NOTICE OF RATES PAYMENT .....	8
TAI KOK TSUI TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT .....	8

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

- 1 -

TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY

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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR ROSE BY 1.2 PER CENT TO \$2,721 MILLION COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE FIGURES ALSO SHOWED THAT THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR INCREASED BY 11.9 PER CENT TO \$4,288 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS UP BY 4.9 PER CENT TO \$882 MILLION AS COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1977.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS:

	JAN. 1977	JAN. 1978	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PERCENTAGE
	(HK\$ MN)	(HK\$ MN)	(HK\$ MN)	CHANGE
U.S.A.	918	996	+ 78	+ 8.5%
F.R. OF GERMANY	332	287	- 45	-13.5%
UNITED KINGDOM	226	214	- 12	- 5.2%
AUSTRALIA	123	135	+ 12	+ 9.4%
JAPAN	94	111	+ 17	+17.7%
CANADA	94	84	- 10	-10.7%
SINGAPORE	71	82	+ 11	+15.6%
NETHERLANDS	67	62	- 4	- 6.7%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	60	62	+ 2	+ 3.9%
SWEDEN	73	32	-41	-56.0%

EXPORTS TO FIVE OF THESE 10 MAJOR MARKETS SHOWED POSITIVE GROWTH RATES. HOWEVER, THESE INCREASES WERE OFFSET BY THE DECLINES IN EXPORTS TO THE OTHER FIVE MARKETS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DROP WAS RECORDED IN EXPORTS TO SWEDEN. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. SLOWED DOWN CONSIDERABLY, ONLY REGISTERING AN INCREASE OF 8.5 PER CENT IN CONTRAST WITH THE 20.6 PER CENT GROWTH RATE RECORDED FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

/THE CONTINUED .....

THE CONTINUED DECLINE IN EXPORTS OF GARMENTS TO F.R. OF GERMANY ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO THE SHARP DECLINE RECORDED IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, THE DROP IN EXPORTS TO U.K. AND CANADA HAD MODERATED AND A FAVOURABLE INCREASE WAS OBSERVED IN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS IS PRESENTED BELOW:

	JAN. 1977 (HK\$ MN)	JAN. 1978 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	1,082	964	-118	-10.9%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC FLOWERS, TOYS AND DOLLS)	416	444	+ 28	+ 6.6%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (MAINLY TRANSISTORISED RADIOS)	218	205	- 13	- 5.8%
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	219	200	- 19	- 8.5%
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	130	189	+ 59	+ 45.4%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES, HOUSEHOLD TYPE EQUIPMENT)	140	153	+ 13	+ 9.3%

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES DECLINED IN THE FACE OF SLUGGISH OVERSEAS DEMAND. INCREASES WERE OBSERVED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$152 MILLION, +50.9 PER CENT), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS (\$67 MILLION, +32.9 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD TYPE, ELECTRICAL AND NON-ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (\$54 MILLION, +37.9 PER CENT).

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARISED BELOW:

	<u>JAN. 1977</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>JAN. 1978</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>INCREASE/ DECREASE</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
CHINA	659	821	+ 162	+ 24.6%
JAPAN	753	814	+ 61	+ 8.1%
U.S.A.	445	471	+ 26	+ 5.8%
TAIWAN	291	280	- 11	- 3.9%
SINGAPORE	208	251	+ 44	+ 20.9%
UNITED KINGDOM	171	193	+ 22	+ 12.8%
SOUTH KOREA	128	180	+ 52	+41.0%
F.R. OF GERMANY	129	164	+ 35	+ 27.1%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	112	118	+ 6	+ 5.6%
AUSTRALIA	69	96	+ 28	+ 40.6%

IMPORTS INCREASED FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS IN JANUARY EXCEPT FOR TAIWAN. THE INCREASE IN IMPORTS FROM CHINA WAS DUE MAINLY TO MORE IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (\$55 MILLION, + 166 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FABRICS (\$78 MILLION, +58.9 PER CENT),

IMPORTS FROM JAPAN RECORDED A MODEST INCREASE OF 8.1 PER CENT. THE MAJOR INCREASES OCCURRED IN TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS AND RELATED PRODUCTS (\$134 MILLION, +24.6 PER CENT) AND VEHICLES (\$62 MILLION, +65.5 PER CENT).

/THE FOLLOWING .....

THE FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS:-

	JAN. 1977 (HK\$ MN.)	JAN. 1978 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS AND DIAMONDS)	1,064	1,234	+170	+16.0%
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	734	796	+ 62	+ 8.4%
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD	634	693	+ 59	+ 9.3%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS)	438	505	+ 67	+15.4%
CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS (MAINLY TEXTILE FIBRES)	296	340	+ 45	+15.1%
MISCELLANEOUS CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, (MAINLY ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS= MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS)	296	301	+ 5	+1.6%

MAJOR INCREASES IN IMPORTS WERE FOUND IN TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS AND RELATED PRODUCTS (\$578 MILLION, +15.5 PER CENT)= PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (\$235 MILLION, +20.5 PER CENT)= MISCELLANEOUS NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES, MAINLY DIAMONDS (\$251 MILLION, +17.1 PER CENT)= TEXTILE FIBRE AND THEIR WASTE (\$181 MILLION, +24.6 PER CENT) AND VEHICLES (\$105 MILLION, +45.2 PER CENT).

RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN REMAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR'S JANUARY, INCREASING ONLY BY 0.5 PER CENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE (AT \$113 MILLION, INDONESIA (AT \$114 MILLION) AND THE U.S. (AT \$82 MILLION) GAINED IMPRESSIVE GROWTH RATE OF 14.4 PER CENT, 70.1 PER CENT AND 25.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/THESE INCREASES .....

THESE INCREASES WERE DUE TO MORE RE-EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM RELATED PRODUCTS TO SINGAPORE, VEHICLES TO INDONESIA, AND MISCELLANEOUS NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES, MAINLY DIAMONDS TO THE U.S.

THE TRADE INDEX NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 1977 WERE ALSO RELEASED AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>UNIT VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>QUANTUM INDEX</u> (1973=100)
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	220	131	168
IMPORTS	203	135	150

THE TERM OF TRADE INDEX (I.E. EXPORT UNIT VALUE INDEX/ IMPORT UNIT VALUE INDEX) FOR DECEMBER WAS 97.

NOTE: ALL VALUES WERE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST MILLION DOLLAR.

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#### EDUCATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST HYPERTENSION

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A MASSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN, ASSISTED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, WILL BE LAUNCHED ON FRIDAY (APRIL 7) TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF HYPERTENSION, THE +SILENT, SECRET THREAT TO THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.+

THE CAMPAIGN, DESIGNATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AND FEDERATION OF CARDIOLOGY AS THE WORLD HYPERTENSION MONTH, WILL FEATURE A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION TO BE HELD AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL FROM APRIL 7.

THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH, DR. K.L. THONG, WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE EXHIBITION.

THIS IS THE FIRST EXHIBITION OF ITS KIND TO BE STAGED IN HONG KONG, AND IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG CARDIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE HONG KONG HEART FOUNDATION AND THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF HONG KONG UNIVERSITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT HYPERTENSION OFTEN PASSES UNNOTICED AS IT PRESENTS NO SYMPTOMS IN ITS EARLY STAGES, BUT ITS COMPLICATIONS ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSES OF DEATH AND INCAPACITY IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

- 6 -

+AS BLOOD PRESSURE RISES SO DOES THE RISK OF STROKE AND CORONARY HEART DISEASES, AND AS BLOOD PRESSURE GOES UP, LIFE EXPECTANCY GOES DOWN,+ HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT HYPERTENSION IS THE SINGLE DISEASE THAT AFFECTED MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER ILLNESS.

IN A RECENT SURVEY OF EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN ADULTS, BETWEEN 10 AND 15 PER CENT WERE FOUND TO HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, YET ONLY HALF OF THESE CASES DISCOVERED WERE KNOWN BY THEIR DOCTORS TO HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. OF THESE, ONLY ABOUT 30 PER CENT WERE UNDER REGULAR TREATMENT.

+THIS IS THE SITUATION IN COUNTRIES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED MEDICAL RESOURCES. PREVALENCE OF HYPERTENSION MAY BE AS HIGH IN COUNTRIES LIKE HONG KONG,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES ON WHAT HYPERTENSION IS ALL ABOUT BY ATTENDING THE WEEK-LONG EXHIBITION.

BECAUSE THE PROBLEM OF HYPERTENSION IS WORLDWIDE, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION HAS CHOSEN HYPERTENSION AS THE HEALTH THEME THIS YEAR WITH SLOGAN +DOWN WITH HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.+

IN HIS MESSAGE TO WHO MEMBER COUNTRIES, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, DR. H. MAHLER, SAID THAT CONTROL OF THIS COMMUNITY HEALTH PROBLEM GOES BEYOND MEDICAL SERVICES.

+IT NEEDS THE CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC, OFTEN SPEARHEADED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS. THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY -- TEACHERS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND THE MASS MEDIA -- MUST BE ENLISTED TO HELP DETECT THE LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS AT RISK WHO ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR CONDITION,+ HE SAID.

+NURSES, DOCTORS, MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MUST ALL BE READY TO HELP THE PERSON AT RISK SEEK TREATMENT AND THEN TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO STICK TO IT. IN MANY CASES A BETTER LIFE-STYLE WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING DIET AND INCREASING EXERCISE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED,+ HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE EXHIBITION ON HYPERTENSION WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR. K.L. THONG, AT 11 A.M. ON FRIDAY (APRIL 7) AT THE OCEAN TERMINAL, KOWLOON. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE EVENT.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

- 7 -

COLOURFUL BOOKLET ON DESALTING PLANT ON SALE  
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A FULL COLOUR BOOKLET ON THE LOK ON PAI DESALTING PLANT IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE 24-PAGE BOOKLET, AT \$6 EACH, IS THE SECOND OF A SERIES OF THREE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S BOOKLETS ON WATER PROJECTS.

THE FIRST BOOKLET IN THE SERIES -- ON PLOVER COVE -- WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, AND THE LAST ONE ON HIGH ISLAND WATER SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO BE OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

THE LOK ON PAI DESALTER, ONE OF THE LARGEST OF ITS TYPE IN THE WORLD, NEAR TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING 181,800 CUBIC METRES OF FRESH WATER A DAY BY USING THE MULTI-STAGE FLASH DISTILLATION TECHNIQUE.

THE BOOKLET STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER AS A VITAL RESOURCE TO A COMMUNITY AND DESCRIBES THE GROWTH OF DESALINATION TECHNOLOGY IN THIS CENTURY. IT DESCRIBES IN SIMPLE TERMS HONG KONG'S EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF DESALINATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO BUILD THE PLANT. IT ALSO GIVES DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION, AND THE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT INSTALLED.

THE PLANT HAS MODERN CONTROL AND COMPUTER FACILITIES AS WELL AS CLOSED-CIRCUIT T.V. SCANNING TO MINIMISE AIR POLLUTION. IT WAS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, IN OCTOBER 1975.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1978

- 8 -

NOTICE OF RATES PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS WERE TODAY REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE SECOND QUARTERS OF 1978 MUST BE SETTLED BY NOON, APRIL 29.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE SHOULD APPLY IMMEDIATELY FOR A COPY TO THE RATES SECTION OF TREASURY REVENUE BRANCH, ROOM 203, HANG CHONG BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR, 5 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

+NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY NOON ON APRIL 29,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+AND UNLESS SO PAID IT MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE. A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO AMOUNTS, INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE, WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE,+ HE ADDED.

WHEN MAKING PAYMENT, RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID IS INDICATED ON THE DEMAND NOTE BY AN ARROW-HEAD IN THE +TOTAL AMOUNT NOW DUE+ BOX.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT +RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE ORDINANCE.+

HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WOULD BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES, UNLESS IT IS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY-ORDER THROUGH THE POST TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUING. IF THEY ARE PAYING IN PERSON THEY ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO EARLY AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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TAI KOK TSUI TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT WILLOW STREET AT ITS EASTERN JUNCTION WITH TUNG CHAU STREET IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY (APRIL 7) TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF WILLOW STREET EAST OF MAPLE STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM ONE-WAY EASTBOUND TO TWO-WAY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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