



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1984

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SIR GEOFFREY HOWE ARRIVES
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, ARRIVED IN HONG KONG THIS AFTERNOON (THURSDAY).

SIR GEOFFREY WAS MET AT KAI TAK BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE= THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR PHILIP HADDON-CAVE= THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG, AND SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO. THE DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, SIR JOHN CURLE WAS ALSO PRESENT.

FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF SIR GEOFFREY'S REMARKS TO WAITING JOURNALISTS:

+I AM VERY GLAD TO BE BACK IN HONG KONG JUST THREE MONTHS AFTER MY LAST VISIT. AS ON THE LAST OCCASION I HAVE GOT TWO MAIN PURPOSES. HERE IN HONG KONG, I LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING ONCE AGAIN WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF HONG KONG OPINION AND TALKING ABOUT THE WAY IN WHICH WE ARE CONDUCTING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING. TOMORROW I GO ON TO PEKING TO REVIEW WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS THE PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO CARRY THEM FORWARD.

+AS YOU KNOW, SINCE APRIL, IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE: WE HAD THE LONDON VISIT OF UMEICO AND OTHER HONG KONG GROUPS; WE HAD THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE 16TH OF MAY; WE HAVE HAD THE SETTING UP OF THE WORKING GROUP IN PEKING; WE HAVE HAD MR LUCE'S VISIT HERE TWO WEEKS AGO; WE HAVE HAD THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER AND OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TESTING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF AN AGREEMENT IN HONG KONG; AND, OF COURSE, WE HAVE HAD EIGHT MORE ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING.

+SO, THIS VISIT, WHICH WAS ENVISAGED WHEN I WAS HERE LAST TIME AND WHICH HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, IS PART OF A PATTERN OF INCREASING ACTIVITY.

+I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND YOUR INTENSE INTEREST IN THE OUTCOME OF THESE CRUCIAL NEGOTIATIONS. A LOT HAS ALREADY BEEN REVEALED ABOUT OUR APPROACH, NOTABLY IN THE STATEMENT THAT I MADE HERE ON THE 19TH OF APRIL AND, SINCE THEN OF COURSE, IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. I INTEND TO CONTINUE THAT PROCESS AS FAR AS I REASONABLY CAN BEARING IN MIND THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY; BEARING IN MIND AS WELL THE FACT THAT WHAT MATTERS MOST IS GETTING THE RIGHT AGREEMENT AT THE END OF THE DAY.

/+MEANWHILE, THERE

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+MEANWHILE, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT I WANT TO EMPHASISE: FIRST, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES STILL TO BE RESOLVED THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE ON COURSE; SECOND, IT IS COMMON GROUND BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG BETWEEN NOW AND 1997 RESTS WITH BRITAIN. WE SHALL FULFIL THAT RESPONSIBILITY; THIRD, OUR OBJECTIVE REMAINS UNCHANGED - A BINDING AND DETAILED AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL PRESERVE A HIGH DEGREE OF CONTINUITY AND AUTONOMY IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997.

+THE FACT THAT THIS IS MY SECOND VISIT IN JUST THREE MONTHS UNDERLINES HOW IMPORTANT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AS WELL AS FOR MYSELF. IN FACT THEY ARE ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES. WE ARE DOING OUR UTMOST TO BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, BY WHICH I MEAN A CONCLUSION WHICH BEST SERVES THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO JUST THAT.+

TRAVELLING WITH SIR GEOFFREY WERE:

SIR PERCY CRADOCK, DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE, MR L.V. APLEYARD, PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR P.J. GOULDEN, HEAD OF NEWS DEPARTMENT, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR A.C. GALSWORTHY, HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT, FCO, AND MR P.F. RICKETTS, PRIVATE SECRETARY.

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GOVERNOR RETURNS TO HK
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, RETURNED TO HONG KONG TODAY AFTER THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS IN PEKING ON THE FUTURE.

HE WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MR DENIS BRAY, THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, AND THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR ROGER LOBO.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS, SIR EDWARD SAID:

+THIS WAS QUITE A NORMAL ROUND -- I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT WAS ALSO A PREPARATION FOR SIR GEOFFREY'S VISIT, AS YOU KNOW WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING HIM THIS AFTERNOON. HE WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE HAD A FULL REPORT FROM MR RICHARD LUCE, WHO WAS HERE A FEW WEEKS AGO, BUT THIS VISIT WILL ENABLE US TO BRING HIM UP TO DATE ON THE STATE OF THE TALKS AND ALSO ON THE STATE OF OPINION IN HONG KONG ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES.

+FOR ME THIS IS QUITE A FAST TURNROUND BECAUSE I SHALL BE GOING BACK UP TO PEKING WITH HIM TOMORROW AND I SHALL BE THERE UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK WHEN I WILL COME BACK DOWN WITH HIM ON THE SAME AIRCRAFT, AND I AM SURE THAT WILL BE A VERY USEFUL AND IMPORTANT VISIT.

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IS BASIS OF DEMOCRACY - NG
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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION IS THE BASIS OF THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR PETER NG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

AND THE LINK BETWEEN DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED UNDER PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED GREEN PAPER, HE ADDED.

MR NG WAS OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

HE SAID THAT CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE VARIOUS DISTRICT BOARDS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS WERE EVIDENT TO ALL PEOPLE.

TAKING YUEN LONG AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE BOARD HAD SPENT MORE THAN \$1.3 MILLION TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

+CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE ON MATTERS CONCERNING TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, SOCIAL SERVICES AND RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

+THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROOF ABOVE THE TAI TONG ROAD MINI-BUS TERMINAL AND THE ORGANISATION OF THE YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL ARE OTHER EXAMPLES OF THE BOARD'S ACHIEVEMENT.+

STRESSING THAT DISTRICT BOARDS NEEDED EVERY SUPPORT, MR NG URGED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO REGISTER AS VOTERS.

+AND THIS SHOULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY GOING TO THE POLLS DURING NEXT YEAR'S DB ELECTIONS TO SELECT THE CANDIDATES OF THEIR CHOICE,+ HE SAID.

+THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED CAN SHOW THEIR SUPPORT BY ENCOURAGING THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TO REGISTER.+

MR NG ALSO PRAISED THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING SPORTS ACTIVITIES BY ORGANISING, OR PARTICIPATING IN, INTER-DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE COMPETITIONS.

THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR JAMES WILSON, PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT TO THE NEW OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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CHANGES PLANNED FOR HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS TO RECOMMEND A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO EXISTING HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY. AMONG THE MAJOR CHANGES ARE:

- * SINGLE PERSONS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIALLY DESIGNED UNITS IN RENTAL HOUSING -- THOSE LIVING IN TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WOULD BE REHOUSED FIRST.
- * TWO-PERSON FAMILIES TO BE ENTITLED TO RENTAL HOUSING AND TO APPLY FOR HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME.
- * A NEW CATEGORY OF SQUATTER CLEARANCES IS TO BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WILL ALLOW THOSE SQUATTERS LIVING OUTSIDE DEVELOPMENT ZONES TO BE CLEARED UNDER A PHASED PROGRAMME.
- * AS AN ADDED INCENTIVE TO PURCHASE HOS FLATS MORE GROUPS ARE TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY THROUGH THE GREEN FORM SYSTEM. THEY WILL INCLUDE:
 - * TENANTS AFFECTED BY THE REDEVELOPMENT OF MARK 1-11 BLOCKS TO BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY.
 - * TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA RESIDENTS.
 - * PERSONS AFFECTED BY CLEARANCES.
 - * THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST WHO ARE DUE FOR ALLOCATION OF A RENTAL FLAT.
 - * LARGE FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING WHO GIVE UP ONE OF THEIR RENTAL FLATS.
- * ANYONE WHO OWNS DOMESTIC PROPERTY SHOULD BE DEBARRED FROM ALLOCATION OF A PUBLIC HOUSING FLAT. THIS WOULD INCLUDE SQUATTERS AND THA RESIDENTS. TENANTS OF RENTAL HOUSING FLATS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AT PRESENT.
- * FAMILIES IN PUBLIC HOUSING WHO WANT TO MOVE TO A LARGER FLAT WILL IN FUTURE ONLY BE ABLE TO DO SO THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF AN HOS HOME. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WILL STILL BE ABLE TO DIRECT FAMILIES TO MOVE IN CASES OF BAD OVERCROWDING.
- * INHERITANCE -- IN FUTURE, CHILDREN OF TENANTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO INHERIT OR TAKE OVER THE TENANCIES AFTER THE DEATHS OF THEIR PARENTS ONLY IF THEY COMPLY WITH A MEANS TEST, BUT THE PRESENT POLICY OF ALLOWING ONE MARRIED CHILD AND HIS-HER FAMILY TO BE ADDED TO THE PARENTS' TENANCY WILL CONTINUE.

/THE HOUSING

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD A VERY LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON THE QUESTION OF BETTER-OFF TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES. APART FROM THE MEASURES MENTIONED ABOVE THE CONSENSUS OF MEMBERS WAS AGAINST TAKING DRASTIC ACTION AGAINST BETTER-OFF TENANTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES. MANY REASONS WERE ADVANCED IN SUPPORT OF THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE EVICTION OF WELL-OFF TENANTS. THEY INCLUDED:

- * IT WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE AND COULD AFFECT THE STABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY.
- * TENANTS WHO IMPROVE THEIR SITUATION WHILE IN PUBLIC HOUSING SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED.
- * THE DIFFICULTIES IN COMING TO AN AGREED DEFINITION OF WELL-OFF TENANTS WERE CONSIDERABLE.
- * IT WOULD CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES IF THE PRESENT MIX OF POPULATION WAS CHANGED.

HOWEVER, MEMBERS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT IN FUTURE, BETTER-OFF TENANTS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO ENJOY HEAVILY SUBSIDISED RENTS AS AT PRESENT. IT WAS, THEREFORE, DECIDED THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO THIS WHOLE QUESTION AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IN DUE COURSE. IN THE MEANTIME, PRESENT POLICIES WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE PUT TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY, AND IF AGREED, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. MEANWHILE, THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW POLICIES WILL FURTHER BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THEN BY THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THESE DECISIONS BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY FOLLOWED TWO LONG SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD ON JULY 19 AND 26 TO DISCUSS HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPINION ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON APRIL 26, 1984.

COMMENTING ON THIS REVIEW, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID, +WE ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WHICH HAS ENABLED MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY TO HAVE A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF PUBLIC OPINION ON HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICIES AND TO REACH DECISIONS WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY WAS ENCOURAGED TO KNOW THAT MANY OF THESE CONFIRMED THAT EXISTING POLICIES WERE SEEN TO BE ON THE RIGHT LINES AND WERE SUPPORTED. MANY IDEAS CAME FORWARD AND I AM SURE WE WILL WISH TO ADOPT THIS METHOD OF SOUNDING PUBLIC OPINION ON OTHER SUITABLE TOPICS OF HOUSING POLICY IN THE FUTURE.+

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SHA TIN DB TO DISCUSS GREEN PAPER
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PRELIMINARY VIEWS OF SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ON THE RECENTLY-PUBLISHED GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT THEIR FULL BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) MORNING.

UNOFFICIAL BOARD MEMBERS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING IN CAMERA THIS EVENING TO DISCUSS THE GREEN PAPER.

AT TOMORROW'S MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO COMMENT ON A REPORT OF THEIR STUDY TOUR TO KOREA. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS A TRAINING SCHEME, SIMILAR TO THE SAEMAUL MOVEMENT (NEW COMMUNITY MOVEMENT) IN KOREA, TO BE TRIED OUT IN SHA TIN TO PROMOTE CIVIC-MINDEDNESS AMONG ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

AN INFORMATION PAPER ON A PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO STAGE A FIREWORKS DISPLAY IN SHA TIN ON DECEMBER 9 THIS YEAR WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

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LABOUR MP COMING
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A LABOUR MP, DR JEREMY BRAY WILL ARRIVE IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR A 12-DAY VISIT.

DR BRAY WILL MEET A WIDE CROSS-SECTION OF THE PUBLIC AND WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE HE LEAVES ON AUGUST 7.

HE WILL MEET UMELCO, MEMBERS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MAC CHAIRMEN, LOCAL NT LEADERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, INTEREST GROUPS, REPRESENTATIVES OF CIVIL SERVICE TRADE UNIONS, PEOPLE IN THE LABOUR FIELD, AND MANUFACTURERS.

DR BRAY WILL ALSO VISIT A NUMBER OF PLACES, INCLUDING TAI PO AND SHA TIN DISTRICTS AND A HOUSING ESTATE, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, AND WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD.

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EXPORTS STAY ON UP SWING
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THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JUNE 1984 ROSE BY 39 PER CENT OR \$3 446 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, TO REACH \$12 366 MILLION, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED, BY 54 PER CENT OR \$2 386 MILLION, TO \$6 775 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS -- DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS -- THUS REACHED \$19 141 MILLION, 44 PER CENT OR \$5 832 MILLION HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS TOTALLED \$19 378 MILLION IN JUNE 1984, UP 34 PER CENT OR \$4 897 MILLION OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR JUNE THIS YEAR WAS \$237 MILLION, COMPARED WITH \$1 172 MILLION IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE AT A FASTER RATE THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, NARROWED FURTHER TO ONE PER CENT IN JUNE 1984, COMPARED WITH EIGHT PER CENT IN JUNE 1983 AND THREE PER CENT IN MAY 1984.

PUTTING THE MONTH'S TRADE FIGURES INTO CONTEXT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1984 WAS \$99 884 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$62 641 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$37 243 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST HALF OF 1983, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$32 748 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT, DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY \$19 481 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT, AND RE-EXPORTS BY \$13 267 MILLION OR 55 PER CENT.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$29 481 MILLION, OR 39 PER CENT, TO \$105 557 MILLION.

AS THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS FASTER THAN THAT OF IMPORTS, THE VISIBLE TRADE GAP NARROWED TO FIVE PER CENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1984 FROM 12 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THESE COMPARATIVE FIGURES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GROWTH IN EXPORTS HAD CONTINUED.

THE STRONG ORDER-BOOK POSITIONS, COUPLED WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES IN RECENT MONTHS, SUGGEST THAT EXPORT PERFORMANCE IN THE SHORT TERM WILL REMAIN ENCOURAGING.

/THE FOLLOWING

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1984:

MERCHANDISE:

DOMESTIC EXPORTS	: \$12 366 MILLION
RE-EXPORTS	: \$ 6 775 MILLION
TOTAL EXPORTS	: \$19 141 MILLION
IMPORTS	: \$19 378 MILLION
TRADE BALANCE	: \$ 237 MILLION (IN DEFICIT)

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	<u>APRIL - JUNE</u> <u>1984</u>	<u>APRIL - JUNE</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	34 525	24 532	+ 9 993	+40.7
RE-EXPORTS	19 522	12 823	+ 6 699	+52.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	54 047	37 355	+16 692	+44.7
IMPORTS	56 774	41 936	+14 838	+35.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 727	- 4 581	+ 1 854	

<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>JUNE</u> <u>1984</u>	<u>JUNE</u> <u>1983</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	12 366 (64.6%)	8 920 (67.0%)	+ 3 446	+38.6
RE-EXPORTS	6 775	4 389	+ 2 386	+54.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 141	13 309	+ 5 832	+43.8
IMPORTS	19 378	14 481	+ 4 897	+33.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 237	- 1 172	+ 935	

/LAST MONTH

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LAST MONTH	JUNE 1984	MAY 1984	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	12 366 (64.6%)	11 712 (63.7%)	+ 654	+ 5.6
RE-EXPORTS	6 775	6 662	+ 113	+ 1.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	19 141	18 374	+ 767	+ 4.2
IMPORTS	19 378	18 869	+ 509	+ 2.7
TRADE BALANCE	- 237	- 495	+ 258	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JANUARY - JUNE 1984	JANUARY - JUNE 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	62 641 (62.7%)	43 160 (64.3%)	+19 481	+45.1
RE-EXPORTS	37 243	23 976	+13 267	+55.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	99 884	67 136	+32 748	+48.3
IMPORTS	105 557	76 076	+29 481	+38.3
TRADE BALANCE	- 5 673	- 8 940	+ 3 267	

LAST 12 MONTHS	JULY 1983 TO JUNE 1984	JULY 1982 TO JUNE 1983	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	123 886	88 366	+35 520	+40.2
RE-EXPORTS	69 562	46 911	+22 651	+48.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	193 448	135 277	+58 171	+43.0
IMPORTS	204 924	150 251	+54 673	+36.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 11 476	- 14 974	+ 3 498	

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OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL EXTENSIONS
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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO MOUNT LARGE-SCALE OPERATION AGAINST A 20-STOREY BUILDING IN SAN PO KONG WHICH HAS NEARLY 650 ILLEGAL EXTENSIONS.

THE BUILDING, SAN PO KONG MANSION, IS AT THE JUNCTION OF CHOI HUNG ROAD AND YIN HING STREET AND HAS ABOUT 590 UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION.

ORDERS WILL BE ISSUED UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE REQUIRING OWNERS OF THE UNITS TO REMOVE ALL UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AND STRUCTURES WHICH INCLUDE:

- * 19 FLAT ROOF STRUCTURES AT THE FIRST FLOOR LEVEL;
- * 445 CAGES AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES ON THE FOUR ELEVATIONS OF THE BUILDING; AND
- * 190 CANOPIES AND RACKS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE SAID THE ORDERS WOULD BE ISSUED TOMORROW (FRIDAY). OWNERS WOULD BE GIVEN ONE MONTH TO START THE WORK AND A FURTHER TWO MONTHS TO COMPLETE IT.

HE SAID ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE OWNERS TO REMOVE DEFECTIVE REINFORCED CONCRETE FEATURES ON THE OUTSIDE WALLS AS THEY WERE CONSIDERED LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

+NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT ORDER,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE RECEIPT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT ILLEGAL BUILDING ACTIVITIES, PROMPTED FURTHER DETAILED SURVEYS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

CONSEQUENTLY, A LARGE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL BUILDING EXTENSIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT SOME OF THEM ARE IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CONDITION.

THEY ALSO OBSTRUCT LIGHTING AND VENTILATION AND POSE A HEALTH HAZARD.

+THE PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON THE EXTERNAL WALLS HAS NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE IT IS ENVIRONMENTALLY UNACCEPTABLE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

+THE BUILDING IS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE WORST IN THE AREA AS REGARDS MASS BREACHES OF THE BUILDING LAW,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID IT HAD BEEN DECIDED THAT THE ILLEGAL EXTERNAL STRUCTURES SHOULD BE REMOVED ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

IF THE OWNERS DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE REMOVAL ORDER CONTRACTORS WOULD BE EMPLOYED AND THE COSTS BORNE BY THE OWNERS.

THEY COULD START WORK IN OCTOBER AND HAVE IT COMPLETED BY NEXT APRIL.

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IMPORTANCE OF CAREERS EDUCATION STRESSED
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MORE THAN 90 PER CENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG HAVE AN ESTABLISHED CAREERS PROGRAMME AND A TEAM OF CAREERS TEACHERS, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SIXTH SEMINAR ON CAREERS EDUCATION HELD AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG.

+WE ALL REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREERS EDUCATION AND HOW VITAL IT IS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TRAINED TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE REAL WORLD, FULLY PREPARED AND WELL EQUIPPED FOR ADULT LIFE,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE CAREERS EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN EXPANDED AND A CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED TO STRENGTHEN ITS ADVISORY AND SUPERVISORY ROLE AND TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

+SINCE THE CENTRE OPENED IN APRIL LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 7 000 PEOPLE HAVE VISITED THE CENTRE AND MORE THAN 8 000 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES HAVE BEEN SPEEDILY DEALT WITH,+ MR LEUNG SAID.

DATA COLLECTION AND INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION HAD BEEN GREATLY ASSISTED BY THE ACQUISITION OF A MICRO-COMPUTER.

THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS HAD ALSO GIVEN FACILITIES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS TO PROVIDE AN ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS, HE SAID.

+THIS VOLUNTARY PROFESSIONAL SERVICE HAS PROVED VERY USEFUL AND THE SERVICE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO KOWLOON SINCE MAY 1984,+ MR LEUNG ADDED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, DR. JAMES HAYES SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT INTENDED TO EXTEND ITS PIONEERING WORK-ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.

DR HAYES SAID THE PROGRAMME, FIRST ORGANISED IN MAY FOR 400 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN TUEN MUN, HAD RECEIVED VERY FAVOURABLE RESPONSE FROM SCHOOLS.

THE PROGRAMME PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO VISIT VARIOUS PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT AND TO OBSERVE PEOPLE AT WORK IN DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS.

/DR HAYES

DR HAYES SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S THREE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES WOULD BE EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTERS NEXT MONTH TO DISSEMINATE JOB INFORMATION.

+HUNDREDS OF JOB INFORMATION SHEETS, GIVING SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, JOB NATURE, AND TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON.

+VISITORS MAY EITHER LOOK AT THIS RICH COLLECTION OF JOB INFORMATION ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN, OR TAKE AWAY THE INFORMATION IN WHICH THEY ARE INTERESTED IN THE FORM OF A COMPUTER PRINTOUT,+ HE SAID.

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REPORT ON DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES OUT
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A STATISTICAL REPORT ENTITLED +1982 SURVEY OF WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT-EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS+ HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS IN THE SAME SERIES COVER 1977, 1979, 1980 AND 1981.

THE REPORT CONTAINS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, AND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCE OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADE AND SERVICE SECTOR IN 1982.

INCLUDED IN THE REPORT ARE ANALYTICAL TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY-MAJOR GROUP AND ANALYSED BY NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, SALES AND OTHER RECEIPTS, VALUE ADDED, PURCHASES OF GOODS FOR SALE, DISTRICT AND TYPE OF OWNERSHIP.

THE REPORT ALSO CONTAINS A TABLE COMPARING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS CLASSIFIED BY ACTIVITY AND MAJOR GROUP FOR THE YEARS 1980, 1981 AND 1982.

BESIDES PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY FORMULATION, THE STATISTICS ARE USEFUL TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR DECISION MAKING, ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND MARKET RESEARCH, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$5 A COPY.

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SONG CONTEST IN NORTH DISTRICT
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THE PRELIMINARIES OF THE 18-DISTRICT AMATEUR SINGING CONTEST WILL BE COMPLETED ON SATURDAY (JULY 28) EVENING WHEN 12 CONTESTANTS IN NORTH DISTRICT WILL VIE FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

THE CHAMPION, TOGETHER WITH WINNERS FROM THE OTHER 17 DISTRICTS, WILL REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS IN A SEMI-FINAL TO BE HELD AT THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HALL ON AUGUST 11.

NINE SEMI-FINALISTS WILL COMPETE IN THE GRAND FINAL ON SEPTEMBER 1.

MORE THAN 5 000 PEOPLE HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE SINGING CONTEST WHICH IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG AND A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ORGANISATION AS PART OF A SERIES OF PUBLICITY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN.

SATURDAY'S PRELIMINARY WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTH DISTRICT TOWN HALL AT 8 PM AND FREE ADMISSION TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS THREE SUB-OFFICES.

GUEST PERFORMERS OF THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A POPULAR SINGER, MISS CHANG LAI-PING, AND THE NORTH DISTRICT ARTS ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION'S DANCE GROUP.

THE ACTING DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR NG, WILL BE THE OFFICIATING GUEST.

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FEEES REVISED
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT FEES CHARGED UNDER THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE AND THE LEGITIMACY ORDINANCE WILL BE REVISED FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE REVISED FEES, PROPOSED UNDER AMENDMENT BILLS, WERE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY AND WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW.

THE FEE FOR THE ISSUE OF A BIRTH CERTIFICATE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$5 TO \$10. THE FEES FOR POST-REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, SEARCH OF RECORDS AND ALTERATION OF ENTRIES IN REGISTERS WILL ALSO BE DOUBLED.

FEES FOR RE-REGISTRATION OF BIRTH AND THE ISSUE OF CERTIFIED COPIES OF ENTRIES OF THE BIRTH OF LEGITIMATED PERSONS WILL BE RAISED FROM \$15 AND \$1.50 TO \$30 AND \$10 RESPECTIVELY.

CHARGES FOR A CERTIFICATE AND FOR VARIOUS LICENCES UNDER THE FOREIGN MARRIAGE ORDINANCE WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$1 AND \$30 TO \$5 AND \$60 RESPECTIVELY.

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CATERING EQUIPMENT FOR POLICE STATION

CATERING EQUIPMENT VALUED AT ABOUT \$93 000 IS TO BE INSTALLED AT MONGKOK POLICE STATION.

THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THIS SUM TO THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LTD.

THE 10-STOREY BUILDING AT THE JUNCTION OF NATHAN ROAD AND PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST IS NOW BEING MODERNISED.

THE WORK INCLUDES PARTITIONING, INSTALLING NEW TOILETS, RENOVATING AND MODERNISING THE CANTEEN AND KITCHEN AND REFURBISHING THE INTERIOR.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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STORMWATER DRAINS FOR QUARRY BAY

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND \$5.09 MILLION ON EXTENDING THE STORMWATER DRAINS AT QUARRY BAY AS A RESULT OF RECLAMATION.

THEY WILL RUN FROM THE OLD SEAWALL TO THE NEW ONE CREATED BY THE RECLAMATION.

A WORKS CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO HANG KEE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BY THE CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL START EARLY NEXT MONTH, CALLS FOR LAYING 105 METRES OF BOX CULVERT AND 370 METRES OF PRECAST CONCRETE PIPES.

WHEN THE NEW STORMWATER DRAINS ARE READY BY THE END OF 1985, THE EXISTING TEMPORARY CHANNELS WILL BE COVERED TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

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TRAFFIC MEASURES IN ABERDEEN

FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (JULY 28), THE SECTION OF TUNG SING ROAD BETWEEN WU PAK STREET AND WU NAM STREET AND THE SECTION OF WU NAM STREET BETWEEN TUNG SING ROAD AND ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS TO FACILITATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, TRAFFIC ON CHENGTU ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD EASTBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA NAM NING STREET AND FUNG TIN STREET.

BUSES ON ROUTES 70 AND 72 AND MAXICABS ON ROUTES 4, 5, 27 AND 35 FROM ABERDEEN TERMINI WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TUNG SING ROAD TO REJOIN ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

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