DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CONTENTS PAGE NO.

MINISTER SENDS CONDOLENCES 1

GOVERNOR, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS 1

WORKING PARTY ON PROPOSED COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT COURSE 2

NO-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PLACES 3

BUSY TIME FOR SPECIAL TAX COMPLAINTS OFFICE 4

PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH 1982 5

5 000 COMPANIES GET BONUS QUOTA ALLOCATIONS 8

OPIUM FOUND IN CONTAINER SHIP 9

YAU MA TEI DB MEETING 9

CYC MEMBERS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA 10

FRESH WATER CUT IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING 10

DB MEMBERS TOUR SHAM SHUI PO 11

PROPRIETORS REMINDED ABOUT GUARDING OF MACHINERY 11

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES 12

REMEDIAL WORK ON URN BURIAL SITES AT WO HOP SHEK 13

MINISTER SENDS CONDOLENCES

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THE MINISTER OF STATE, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, LORD BELSTEAD, HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSING HIS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO DIED IN THE RECENT RAINSTORMS.

LORD BELSTEAD SAID HE WAS SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE RECENT DEATHS FOLLOWING THE VERY HEAVY RAINS IN HONG KONG AND ASKED THE GOVERNOR TO CONVEY HIS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES.

LORD BELSTEAD CLOSELY FOLLOWED REPORTS ON THE SITUATION. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES COPED SO WELL AND EXTENDED HIS WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM.

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GOVERNOR, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HAS BEEN PLEASED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR CHRISTOPHER TURNER, OBE, AS GOVERNOR, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS IN SUCCESSION TO MR J.C. STRONG, OBE.

MR TURNER, WHO IS EXPECTED TO TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN SEPTEMBER, IS AT PRESENT THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF THE STAFF PLANNING DIVISION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH.

HE JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN DECEMBER 1980 AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND HAS SINCE SERVED IN THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

HE HAS BEEN ACTING AS A STAFF GRADE C OFFICER SINCE MARCH 1981.

MR TURNER WAS BORN ON AUGUST 17, 1933 AND WAS EDUCATED AT TRURO CATHEDRAL SCHOOL AND JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

AFTER SERVICE AS A PILOT OFFICER IN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BEFORE UNIVERSITY, HE JOINED HER MAJESTY'S OVERSEAS CIVIL SERVICE IN 1958, SERVING IN TANGANYIKA UNTIL 1970 AS, SUCCESSIVELY, DISTRICT OFFICER, DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, REGIONAL LOCAL COURTS OFFICER AND MAGISTRATE.

FROM 1970 HE SERVED AS DISTRICT AGENT, DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND, FINALLY, CHIEF SECRETARY IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

MR TURNER IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN.

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WORKING PARTY ON PROPOSED COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT COURSE

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY IN HIS SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON APRIL 15 ANNOUNCED THAT A WORKING PARTY WAS ABOUT TO BE APPOINTED TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FULL-TIME IN-SERVICE COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT COURSE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS FOR MID-CAREER OFFICERS IN BOTH COMMON SERVICE AND DEPARTMENTAL CADRES AND IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES, WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING SUCH OFFICERS FOR DIRECTORATE LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE WORKING PARTY HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP:-

CHAIRMAN: MR F.K. LI
(CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION).

MEMBERS: DR HO KAM-FAI
(THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)=
PROFESSOR P.B. HARRIS
(UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)=
LT COL M.J. ROSE
(FORCES HQ)=
MR J.C.H. GRAVES
(ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (FORCE TRAINING))=
MR H.S. GREWAL
(DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (APPOINTMENT))=
MR G.K.C. SIU
(ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C).

SECRETARY: MR W.J.K. ELLIS
(ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SPECIAL DUTIES) GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING MID-CAREER OFFICERS FOR WIDER MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES GENERALLY AT THE DIRECTORATE LEVEL AND THE NEED FOR A TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THESE OFFICERS SPECIFICALLY AIMED TO DEVELOP:

(1) A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, LEGAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS WHICH A SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTIES, INCLUDING DEALINGS WITH THE MEDIA= AND
(2) INCREASED COMPETENCE IN KEY AREAS OF MANAGEMENT SPECIALISATION SUCH AS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, STAFF PLANNING AND STAFF MANAGEMENT.

THE WORKING PARTY WILL ALSO ADVISE ON THE STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND DURATION OF THE COURSE, THE NUMBER AND MIX OF OFFICERS WHO WILL ATTEND, POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN WHOLE OR PART BY PRIVATE SECTOR CANDIDATES, THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COURSES WHICH WOULD FORM AN EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR EVALUATION, AND THE STAFF AND SUPPORT FACILITIES REQUIRED, TOGETHER WITH AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST.

THE WORKING PARTY IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

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NO-SMOKING AREAS IN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT PLACES
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ALL ENCLOSED PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT-CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND AUDITORIA-THROUGHOUT HONG KONG ARE NOW REQUIRED TO DESIGNATE NO-SMOKING AREAS IN THEIR PREMISES UNDER NEW LICENSING CONDITIONS INTRODUCED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

FROM NOW ON, ALL APPLICATIONS FOR NEW LICENCES OR RENEWAL OF LICENCES FOR SUCH PREMSIES WILL BE PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED LICENSING POLICY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT ALSO URGED MANAGEMENTS OF ESTABLISHMENTS WHOSE LICENCES ARE NOT YET DUE FOR RENEWAL TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW LICENSING CONDITIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE NEW CONDITIONS FOLLOW RECENT ANTI-SMOKING MEASURES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

UNDER THE NEW LICENSING CONDITIONS, MANGEMENTS OF CINEMAS, THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS AND AUDITORIA MUST DESIGNATE NOT LESS THAN 50 PER CENT OF THE SEATS IN EACH TICKET CLASS (E.G. FRONT STALLS, BACK STALLS AND DRESS CIRCLES), OR 50 PER CENT OF THE AUDITORIUM WHERE NO FIXED SEATS ARE PROVIDED AS NO-SMOKING AREAS.

THEY ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO INDICATE SUCH DESIGNATIONS ON THE LAYOUT PLANS SUBMITTED FOR AUTHENTICATION AND RETENTION BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AND ON THE SEATING PLANS FOR USE IN THE TICKET BOOKING OFFICES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THESE PREMISES MUST DISPLAY SUFFICIENT NOTICES PROHIBITING SMOKING IN ENGLISH BLOCK LETTERS AND IN LEGIBLE CHINESE CHARACTERS OF SUCH SIZE AS TO BE CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM A DISTANCE OF TWO METRES.

+THE NOTICES MUST BE DISPLAYED CONSPICUOUSLY IN THE NO-SMOKING AREAS AND CONTINUOUSLY WHEN THE PREMISES ARE BEING USED AS PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 100 LICENSED ENCLOSED PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT IN THE URBAN AREAS AND ABOUT 30 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SMOKING IS ALREADY PROHIBITED IN ALL THEATRES, CONCERT HALLS, AUDITORIA, INDOOR GAMES HALLS AND STADIA MANAGED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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BUSY TIME FOR SPECIAL TAX COMPLAINTS OFFICE
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THE SPECIAL COMPLAINTS SECTION OF THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT HAD A BUSY TIME IN THE 1981-82 TAX YEAR, DEALING WITH AND SETTLING SOME 650 TAX COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES OF VARIOUS KINDS, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR ANTHONY AU-YEUNG, TOLD LIONS CLUB OF CASTLE PEAK MEMBERS THIS EVENING.

IN HIS TALK ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TAX LAW IN HONG KONG, MR AU-YEUNG SAID THE SPECIAL COMPLAINTS SECTION WAS SET UP IN 1978 TO GIVE TAXPAYERS +AN ADDITIONAL CHANNEL FOR MAKING ENQUIRIES AND EXPRESSING THEIR GRIEVANCES+.

+IF THE TAXPAYERS COME ACROSS INSTANCES OF INCIVILITY, DELAY AND INEFFICIENCY IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT, OR IF THEY HAVE ANY VALID TAX COMPLAINTS AT ALL, THEY MAY CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPLAINTS OFFICER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE (5-79595656) OR BY WRITING TO GPO BOX 11234, HONG KONG,+ HE TOLD THE LIONS AT THEIR DINNER MEETING.

HE FURTHER GAVE ASSURANCE THAT ALL COMPLAINTS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY THE COMPLAINTS OFFICER, AND IN THE CASE OF A MORE SERIOUS NATURE THEY WOULD BE PERSONALLY REVIEWED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOT THE COMPLAINTS OFFICER'S DUTY TO SETTLE DISPUTES OVER THE CORRECTNESS OF AN ASSESSMENT OR THE LAW ITSELF.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE TAX ORDINANCES EXPLICITLY CONTAIN OBJECTION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES, TO ENSURE THAT OBJECTIONS AGAINST ASSESSMENTS ARE PROPERLY PROCESSED UNTIL THEY ARE FINALLY SETTLED BY AGREEMENT OR BY THE COMMISSIONER OR BY AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL OR COURT,+ HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMPLAINTS OFFICE WAS SET UP AS AN ADDITIONAL MEANS TO WHAT IS ALSO PROVIDED IN THE LAW TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF TAXPAYERS.

DISCUSSING THE RIGHTS PROVIDED BY LAW TO THE TAXPAYER, HE SAID IF A TAXPAYER DID NOT AGREE OR WAS DISSATISFIED WITH A NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT, HE COULD OBJECT AGAINST THIS.

+THIS IS A SACRED RIGHT CONFERRED ON TAXPAYERS BY THE LAW TO SAFEGUARD THEM AGAINST ABUSE OF POWER AND MAL-ADMINISTRATION, AND TO PROVIDE IMPARTIALITY,+ HE SAID.

MR AU-YEUNG POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE OBJECTION HAD TO BE IN WRITING AND BASED ON PRECISE GROUNDS, AND HAD TO BE LODGED WITHIN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THE ASSESSMENT.

/+IF THE .....

+IF THE OBJECTION IS AGAINST AN ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT MADE IN THE ABSENCE OF A RETURN, A COMPLETED RETURN TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING ACCOUNTS AND SCHEDULES MUST BE SUBMITTED. OTHERWISE THE OBJECTION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS VALID,+ HE SAID.

DISCUSSING SOME OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF TAXPAYERS, HE SAID A PERSON IN EMPLOYMENT AND SUBJECT TO SALARIES TAX MUST FILE A RETURN EVERY YEAR.

RETURNS ARE ISSUED IN MAY EVERY YEAR, AND ANYONE CHARGEABLE TO SALARIES TAX WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED A RETURN SHOULD ADVISE THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE AND ASK FOR ONE, HE ADVISED. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD BE AN OFFENCE, HE SAID.

THROUGH ITS IMPROVED TAX ADMINISTRATION AND A REASONABLY HIGH LEVEL OF TAXPAYER-COMPLIANCE, HONG KONG HAD SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO RAISE THE REQUISITE REVENUE NOTWITHSTANDING ITS LOW LEVELS OF TAXATION, HE SAID.

IN THE 1981-82 TAX YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT COLLECTED SOME $14.2 BILLION OF INTERNAL REVENUE, REPRESENTING ABOUT 42 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL REVENUE THAT YEAR, HE SAID.

THESE COLLECTIONS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 26.8 PER CENT OVER THE COLLECTIONS OF $11.2 BILLION OF THE YEAR BEFORE AND 86.8 PER CENT OVER THE 1979-80 COLLECTIONS OF $7.6 BILLION.

IN HIS TALK, MR AU-YEUNG ALSO TOLD THE LIONS OF THE NEED FOR A BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE, THE NEED TO KEEP PROPER ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS AND TO FILE TAX RETURNS, AMONG OTHER OBLIGATIONS.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MARCH 1982

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THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 10 PER CENT AND THOSE OF IMPORTS BY 11 PER CENT IN MARCH 1982 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1981, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECLINED BY ONE PER CENT.

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS DROPPED BY THREE PER CENT WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY THREE PER CENT.

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT, WITH VOLUME DOWN BY TWO PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, PRICES WERE UP BY 12 PER CENT AND VOLUME WAS UP BY ONE PER CENT.

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FOR THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD TO MARCH 1982 AS COMPARED WITH THE TWELVE MONTHS TO MARCH 1981, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY NINE PER CENT, THOSE OF IMPORTS BY 12 PER CENT AND THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS BY 10 PER CENT. THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS EXPANDED BY SIX PER CENT AND THAT OF RE-EXPORTS BY 17 PER CENT, GIVING AN AVERAGE NINE PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS AS AGAINST A SIX PER CENT INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM CHANGES IN TRADE VALUES, AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN BELOW (IN PERCENTAGES):-

	CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1982 WITH MARCH 1981		
	EXPORT VALUE	EXPORT UNIT VALUE	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+14	+12	+ 1
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 5	+ 9	- 3
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+ 5	INSIGNIFICANT	+ 5
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+13	+21	- 7
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	-29	- 5	-25
FOOTWEAR	+10	+ 6	+ 3
METAL MANUFACTURES	+19	+10	+ 8
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-50	-12	-43
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 3	-18	+25
ALL COMMODITIES	+14	+10	+ 3

THE EXPORT PRICES OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED, FROM SIX PER CENT FOR FOOTWEAR TO 21 PER CENT FOR TEXTILE MADE-UPS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXPORT PRICES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, METAL ORES AND SCRAP, AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS, DECLINED BY FIVE PER CENT, 12 PER CENT AND 18 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

CONSIDERABLE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS REGISTERED FOR WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+25 PER CENT) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+EIGHT PER CENT). ON THE OTHER HAND, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-SEVEN PER CENT), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-25 PER CENT) AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-43 PER CENT).

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW (IN PERCENTAGES):-

	CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1982 WITH MARCH 1981		
	IMPORT VALUE	IMPORT UNIT VALUE	IMPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+21	+ 9	+10
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 6	+ 8	- 2
FUELS	-10	INSIGNIFICANT	-10
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 5	+12	- 7
CAPITAL GOODS	+20	+19	+ 1
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 8	+11	- 3

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FUELS, THE PRICES OF WHICH ROSE ONLY MARGINALLY, THE PRICES OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY INCREASED MODERATELY, RANGING FROM EIGHT PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 19 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

MOST OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS ROSE IN VOLUME TERMS, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING LIVE POULTRY, MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RICE, CATTLE AS WELL AS TEA AND COFFEE DECLINED.

IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF PASSENGER MOTOR CARS, TOBACCO MANUFACTURES, CAMERAS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AS WELL AS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FELL CONSIDERABLY.

IMPORTS OF FUELS FELL BY 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECLINED AMONG WHICH YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, MAN-MADE FIBRES AS WELL AS WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR DROPPED SUBSTANTIALLY. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF BASE METALS, AND CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS ROSE CONSIDERABLY.

AS FOR CAPITAL GOODS, MAJOR INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, WHEREAS SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS.

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN BELOW (IN PERCENTAGES):-

	CHANGES COMPARING MARCH 1982 WITH MARCH 1981		
	RE-EXPORT VALUE	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUE	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+ 9	+17	- 7
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 4	+10	- 6
FUELS	-14	+11	-22
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+15	+15	INSIGNIFICANT
CAPITAL GOODS	+31	+22	+ 7
ALL COMMODITIES	+12	+14	- 2

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORT VOLUME VARIED, RANGING FROM A 22 PER CENT DECREASE FOR FUELS TO A SEVEN PER CENT INCREASE FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MARCH 1982 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+, AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK$2 PER COPY.

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5 000 COMPANIES GET BONUS QUOTA ALLOCATIONS

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OVER 5 000 COMPANIES HAVE RECEIVED ALLOCATIONS OF QUOTAS FOR THE EEC TOTALLING 1.14 MILLION KILOGRAMMES AS A RESULT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A BONUS SCHEME. THIS WILL BE DISCLOSED IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

+THE OBJECT OF THIS SCHEME IS TO ENSURE THAT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, QUOTAS ARE OFFERED TO COMPANIES WHICH HAVE A DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR THEM,+ SAID A TICD SPOKESMAN.

+MANY OF THE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE BONUS ARE ONES WHICH ARE COMPARATIVELY NEW TO THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, AND HAVE HAD TO GO INTO THE QUOTA TRANSFER MARKET IN ORDER TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS.

+THE SCHEME HAS BEEN INTRODUCED AS A RESULT OF THE 1980 REVIEW OF THE TEXTILE CONTROL SYSTEM CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE QUOTAS BEING ALLOCATED COME FROM FORFEITURES FROM COMPANIES WHICH, DURING 1980 AND 1981, WERE UNABLE TO USE MORE THAN HALF OF THEIR QUOTAS, AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO OTHER COMPANIES.

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OPIUM FOUND IN CONTAINER SHIP

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CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) SEIZED 38.5 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM FOUND CONCEALED IN AN EMPTY CABIN ON THE CONTAINER VESSEL +ELIZABETH MAERSK+.

THE SHIP HAD ARRIVED IN HONG KONG AFTER CALLING AT KARACHI, BOMBAY, PENANG AND SINGAPORE, AND THE DRUGS WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM KARACHI.

THE VESSEL WAS DETAINED FOR 12 HOURS FOR AN INTENSIVE SEARCH AND FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS.

NINE FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS, WHO WERE DETAINED FOR ENQUIRIES, WERE LATER RELEASED. NO ARRESTS HAVE SO FAR BEEN MADE. THE MARKET RETAIL VALUE OF THE DRUGS IS HK$1.3 MILLION.

THIS IS THE FOURTH DRUG SEIZURE MADE BY HONG KONG'S CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE FROM CONTAINER VESSELS SO FAR THIS YEAR.

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YAU MA TEI DB MEETING

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THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD ITS THIRD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 3.30 PM AT THE YAU MA TEI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL DISCUSS THE EXTENSION OF PARKING METER OPERATION TO SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN TSIM SHA TSUI OR YAU MA TEI= TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT FOR THE GASCOIGNE ROAD AND WYLIE ROAD JUNCTION AND THE RE-OPENING OF THE SIDE-STREET JUNCTIONS ALONG SHANGHAI STREET WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

THE BOARD WILL ALSO DISCUSS PROPOSALS FOR AN INTER-DISTRICT COMPETITION BETWEEN YAU MA TEI AND MONG KOK.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE THIRD MEETING OF THE YAU MA TEI DISTRICT BOARD AT 3.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY). MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YAU MA TEI CITY DISTRICT OFFICE AT 490-492, NATHAN ROAD BEFORE 3.15 PM.

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CYC MEMBERS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

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EIGHT OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE AUSTRALIA DURING THE FORTHCOMING SUMMER VACATION.

THE EIGHT-DAY STUDY VISIT IS ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (CHARITIES) LTD AS A REWARD TO OUTSTANDING CYC MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO BROADEN THEIR GENERAL OUTLOOK, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CYC SAID TODAY.

SELECTION FOR THE EIGHT OUTSTANDING MEMBERS IS NOW TAKING PLACE. HEADS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO NOMINATE THEIR STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED EITHER THE SECOND OR THIRD STAGE OF THE CYC MERIT AWARD SCHEME, TO TAKE PART IN AN ESSAY COMPETITION THIS SATURDAY AT LOK SIN TONG YU KAN HING SCHOOL IN WANG TAU HOM.

THE AIM OF THE COMPETITION IS TO ASSESS THE PARTICIPANTS' KNOWLEDGE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

STUDENTS WHO DO WELL IN THE ESSAY COMPETITION WILL BE ASKED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW FROM WHICH THE FINAL EIGHT STUDENTS WILL BE SELECTED.

LED BY AN OFFICER FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND A MEMBER OF THE CYC CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE STUDENTS WILL DEPART FOR AUSTRALIA ON AUGUST 6 AND RETURN TO HONG KONG ON AUGUST 13.

DURING THEIR STAY IN THE COUNTRY, THE STUDENTS WILL VISIT A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AS WELL AS OTHER HISTORICAL AND SCENIC SPOTS.

THE AUSTRALIA TRIP IS THE SECOND OVERSEAS STUDY VISIT ORGANISED FOR OUTSTANDING CYC MEMBERS. LAST YEAR, SIX STUDENTS WERE TAKEN ON A TOUR OF SINGAPORE.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN SHEUNG SHUI AND FANLING WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR EIGHT HOURS FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM ON MONDAY (JUNE 7) TO FACILITATE WORK ON A FRESH WATER MAIN.

PREMISES AFFECTED BY THE WATER STOPPAGE WILL BE THOSE LOCATED ALONG JOCKEY CLUB ROAD FROM THE FANLING ROUNDABOUT TO SHEUNG SHUI, INCLUDING FAN LENG LAU TSUEN, LING SHAN TSUEN, FAN GARDENS CAMP, TIN PING SHAN TSUEN AND SHEK WU SAN TSUEN.

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DB MEMBERS TOUR SHAM SHUI PO

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SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TOURED SHAM SHUI PO AND KWAI CHUNG AND INSPECTED VARIOUS SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THEY ALSO VISITED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICES IN THE DISTRICT TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THEIR WORKING PROCEDURES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE CITY DISTRICT COMMISSIONER OF SHAM SHUI PO, MR STEPHEN IP, THE MEMBERS FIRST VISITED SHAM SHUI PO FERRY CONCOURSE WHERE A PROPOSED CLOCK-TOWER IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE CHEUNG SHA WAN ABATTOIR AND THE LAI CHI KOK INCINERATION PLANT.

DURING THEIR VISIT TO THE KOWLOON MOTOR BUS DEPOT AT KWAI CHUNG, THE MEMBERS HAD CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR KMB STAFF MEMBERS ON BUS SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

DURING THE TOUR, THEY ALSO VISITED VARIOUS RECREATIONAL PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT.

AT THE LAI CHI KOK RECLAMATION AREA, THEY INSPECTED CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE LAI CHI KOK PARK INDOOR GAMES HALL AND A SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX. THEY THEN VISITED THE SITTING-OUT AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT WAI MAN VILLAGE.

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PROPRIETORS REMINDED ABOUT GUARDING OF MACHINERY

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FACTORY PROPRIETORS WERE REMINDED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ENSURING THAT MACHINERY IS PROPERLY GUARDED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS IN THEIR PREMISES.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A FACTORY WAS FINED $25 000 ON A SUMMONS FOR FAILING TO GUARD THE DANGEROUS PARTS OF 17 POWER PRESSES IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (GUARDING AND OPERATION OF MACHINERY) REGULATIONS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE REGULATIONS REQUIRE FACTORY PROPRIETORS TO EFFECTIVELY GUARD DANGEROUS PARTS OF EVERY PIECE OF MACHINERY AND PLANT WHICH IS DRIVEN BY MECHANICAL POWER. DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINERY ARE SPECIFIED IN THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE REGULATIONS.

+BOTH PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE DANGER ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORKING OF MACHINERY. PROPER GUARDING CAN ENSURE SAFE OPERATION AT ALL TIMES AND GIVES CONFIDENCE TO OPERATIVES. GUARDS WHICH ARE PROPERLY DESIGNED, INSTALLED AND MAINTAINED CAN ALSO HELP INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY,+ HE NOTED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT FACTORY PROPRIETORS SEEKING IDEAS AND ADVICE ABOUT MACHINE GUARDING WERE WELCOME TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT'S FACTORY INSPECTORATE AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND ITS BRANCH OFFICES.

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INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES

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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TO BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW (JUNE 4) CONTAINS A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED A DECREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM TOMORROW, THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 10.8 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 12 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE $0.90 PER MONTH PER $100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETED MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1982.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

3.24%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 22, 1978 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 24, 1978=
5.04%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 24, 1978 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 16, 1979=
5.76%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 16, 1979 AND BEFORE MAY 4, 1979=
8.04%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 4, 1979 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 26, 1979=
8.4%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 26, 1979 AND BEFORE APRIL 11, 1980=
10.5%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 11, 1980 AND BEFORE MAY 30, 1980=
9%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 30, 1980 AND BEFORE JUNE 27, 1980=
7.2%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 27, 1980 AND BEFORE JULY 30, 1980=
6.24%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 30, 1980 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1980=
8.16%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1980 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 21, 1980=

/9.84% PER .....

9.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 21, 1980 AND BEFORE JULY 31, 1981=

13.2% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 31, 1981 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 1981=

14.4% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 16, 1981 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND

12% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 4, 1981 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1982=

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETED MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE:

$1 000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON JUNE 7, 1982, JULY 7, 1982 AND AUGUST 7, 1982 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1982 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:-

ON $1 000, JUNE 7, 1982 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 1982,
3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $9 PER MONTH - $27

ON $1 000, JULY 7, 1982 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 1982,
2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $9 PER MONTH - $18

ON $1 000 AUGUST 7, 1982 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 1982,
1 COMPLETE MONTH AT $9 PER MONTH - $ 9

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REMEDIAL WORK ON URN BURIAL SITES AT WO HOP SHEK

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REMEDIAL WORK ON TWO URN BURIAL SITES AT WO HOP SHEK CEMETERY IN THE NEW TERRITORIES BEGAN TODAY (THURSDAY).

ABOUT 500 URNS BURIED AT THE SITES WERE AFFECTED BY LANDSLIPS CAUSED BY THE HEAVY RAINFALL DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS.

THE WORST AFFECTED AREAS CONTAINED URNS DATING BACK TO 1967, SAID A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

WORKERS ARE NOW REMOVING THE DEBRIS AND PUTTING THE URNS IN SAFE PLACES AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE.

ALL AFFECTED URNS WILL BE REGISTERED PROPERLY BY THE STAFF OF THE CEMETERY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

NEXT-OF-KIN WILL BE NOTIFIED BY LETTER TO GO AND IDENTIFY THE URNS AND ARRANGE RE-BURIAL AFTER COMPLETION OF THE REPAIR WORK.

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