



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1980

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1980

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 1980 WAS \$8 827 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$5 893 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2 933 MILLION. WITH IMPORTS AT \$10 901 MILLION, THE VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT FOR NOVEMBER WAS \$2 074 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1979, THE FOLLOWING INCREASES BY VALUE WERE RECORDED: \$556 MILLION, OR 10 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS= \$931 MILLION OR 47 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS= \$1 488 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS AND \$2 669 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS.

IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+, THAT IS THE PROPORTION OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS NOT COVERED BY THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS, WAS 19 PER CENT (\$2 074 MILLION)= IN NOVEMBER 1979, THE +GAP+ WAS 11 PER CENT (\$893 MILLION).

COMMENTING ON THE NOVEMBER TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NORMAL SEASONAL PATTERN OF HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE IS SUCH THAT FAIRLY LARGE SHIPMENTS OF IMPORTS ARRIVE IN THE LAST QUARTER OF A YEAR, SOON AFTER DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR SATISFYING CHRISTMAS DEMAND IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED OUT. IN CONSEQUENCE THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ INEVITABLY WIDENS.

IN 1979, THIS OCCURRED IN OCTOBER WHEN THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ WIDENED FROM 8 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER THAT YEAR TO 14 PER CENT. THIS YEAR, THE LARGE IMPORT SHIPMENTS DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL NOVEMBER, AND THIS IS THE REASON WHY THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ WIDENED FROM 6 PER CENT IN OCTOBER TO 19 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER.

USING THREE MONTH AVERAGES TO AVOID THE DISTORTION CAUSED BY THE TIMING OF IMPORT SHIPMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER THIS YEAR WAS 11 PER CENT WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1979.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT, USING THE SAME COMPARISON, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS AT 24 PER CENT WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS WHICH WAS MADE UP OF A GROWTH RATE OF 13 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND 56 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

COMPARING THE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME MONTHS OF 1979, DOMESTIC EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED IN VALUE BY 23 PER CENT, RE-EXPORTS BY 49 PER CENT, TOTAL EXPORTS BY 30 PER CENT AND IMPORTS BY 29 PER CENT.

THE VISIBLE TRADE +GAP+ FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WAS SLIGHTLY OVER 11 PER CENT, WHILE THAT FOR THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1979 WAS SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 12 PER CENT.

/THE FOLLOWING

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THE FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	SEPT - NOV 1980	SEPT - NOV 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	17 960	15 951	+ 2 009	+ 12.6
RE-EXPORTS	8 606	5 530	+ 3 076	+ 55.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	26 566	21 481	+ 5 085	+ 23.7
IMPORTS	29 822	24 141	+ 5 682	+ 23.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 3 256	- 2 660	- 596	
<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	NOV 1980	NOV 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 893 (66.8%)	5 337 (72.7%)	+ 556	+ 10.4
RE-EXPORTS	2 933	2 002	+ 931	+ 46.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	8 827	7 339	+ 1 488	+ 20.3
IMPORTS	10 901	8 232	+ 2 669	+ 32.4
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 074	- 893	- 1 181	
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	NOV 1980	OCT 1980	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	5 893 (66.8%)	6 106 (67.8%)	- 213	- 3.5
RE-EXPORTS	2 933	2 899	+ 34	+ 1.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	8 827	9 005	- 179	- 2.0
IMPORTS	10 901	9 572	+ 1 328	+ 13.9
TRADE BALANCE	- 2 074	- 567	- 1 507	

/CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN - NOV 1980	JAN - NOV 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	61 923 (69.7%)	50 323 (73.5%)	+11 601	+ 23.1
RE-EXPORTS	26 957	18 133	+ 8 824	+ 48.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	88 880	68 456	+20 425	+ 29.8
IMPORTS	100 383	77 524	+22 859	+ 29.5
TRADE BALANCE	- 11 503	- 9 068	- 2 435	
	DEC 1979 TO NOV 1980	DEC 1978 TO NOV 1979	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
LAST 12 MONTHS	\$M	\$M	\$M	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	67 513	54 636	+12 876	+ 23.6
RE-EXPORTS	28 846	19 359	+ 9 487	+ 49.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	96 359	73 996	+22 363	+ 30.2
IMPORTS	108 696	84 365	+24 331	+ 28.8
TRADE BALANCE	- 12 337	-10 369	- 1 968	

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HIGH PERFORMANCE FIRE BOAT TO BE LAUNCHED

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A NEW FIRE BOAT WITH A GIANT SNORKEL AND CAPABLE OF PUMPING FOAM AND WATER AT A RATE OF 11 300 LITRES PER MINUTE, WILL JOIN THE FIRE SERVICES FLEET EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE \$10 MILLION VESSEL, SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND BEING BUILT IN HONG KONG, WILL BE CAPABLE OF A TOP SPEED OF 13 KNOTS -- THE FASTEST OF ALL MAJOR FIRE BOATS AT PRESENT IN SERVICE.

+IT WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND TO A FIRE WITHIN MINUTES AND CONSIDERABLY BOOST OUR RESPONSE TO MARINE AND COASTAL INCIDENTS,+ THE FIRE SERVICES ACTING DIVISIONAL OFFICER (MARINE DIVISION), MR DOONG HWA SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE NEW FIRE BOAT WOULD BE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH ALL TYPES OF FIRE -- ELECTRIC OR CHEMICAL FIRES, FIRES INVOLVING OIL, AND FIRES ON CONTAINER SHIPS.

+IT WILL BE FULLY GEARED TO EFFECTIVELY TACKLE ANY PROLONGED FIRE FIGHTING OPERATION,+ HE SAID.

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THE MOST PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE 34-METRE BOAT IS THE HYDRAULIC PLATFORM WHICH CAN TURN FULL CIRCLE AND BE ELEVATED TO A HEIGHT OF 24 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

+ITS MONITOR WITH LARGE WATER FLOW AND THE FACT THAT IT CAN TOWER OVER A FIRE MAKE IT A POTENT FORCE IN FIGHTING SHIP FIRES EVEN ON LARGE CONTAINER SHIPS,+ MR DOONG SAID.

THE VESSEL WILL ALSO HAVE A DRY CHEMICAL UNIT WITH A CAPACITY TO STORE 1 030 KILOGRAMS OF DRY CHEMICAL POWDER.

COMPLEMENTING THESE ARE THREE FOAM/WATER MONITORS AT THE BOW AND THREE WATER MONITORS AT THE STERN. THERE ARE ALSO FOUR DELIVERY HEADS FOR CONNECTING EXTRA HYDRANTS.

+THE SNORKEL AND MONITORS WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH FOAM COMPOUND THROUGH FOUR SETS OF VARIABLE INDUCTORS FROM TWO FOAM LIQUID STORAGE TANKS, EACH OF WHICH HAS A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 8 600 LITRES,+ SAID MR DOONG.

ANOTHER OUTSTANDING FEATURE OF THE FIRE BOAT IS ITS TWIN DIESEL ENGINES OF 850 HORSE POWER EACH.

THEY WILL ALSO POWER TWO OF THE THREE SETS OF DUAL-STAGE CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS. THE THIRD WILL BE DRIVEN BY AN INDEPENDENT ENGINE. THIS WILL PERMIT PUMPING AND MANOEUVRING TO BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE TOTAL PUMPING CAPACITY IS ABOUT 27 275 LITRES PER MINUTE.

THE ENGINES ARE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE AS THEY HAVE ATTACHED TWO VARIABLE PITCH PROPELLERS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE CREW TO MANOEUVRE THE BOAT WITH EASE.

STANDARD INSTALLATIONS INCLUDE MODERN NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, TELECOMMUNICATION AND INTERCOM SYSTEMS, AND LIFE-SAVING AND BREATHING APPARATUS EQUIPMENT. IT WILL ALSO BE FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED.

THE VESSEL WILL CARRY A 12-MAN CREW, AND WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE DEPLOYED AT THE FIRE BOAT BERTH NEAR TSING YI.

AT PRESENT, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SIX FIRE BOATS AND A CREW OF 158 PROVIDING FIRE COVER IN HONG KONG WATERS. SOME 60 MORE MEMBERS WILL BE RECRUITED TO MAN THE NEW BOAT.

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REMINDER TO TAXPAYERS

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SALARIES AND PROFITS TAX PAYERS ARE URGED TO CHECK THEIR DEMAND NOTES TO ENSURE THAT THE FIRST INSTALMENT OF THE TAX DUE IS PAID ON OR BEFORE THE SPECIFIED DUE DATE.

IF THE FIRST INSTALMENT IS NOT SO PAID, THE SECOND INSTALMENT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME DUE IMMEDIATELY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THIS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED AND PLEAS FOR OVERSIGHT WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO BOTH INSTALMENTS BECOMING IMMEDIATELY PAYABLE TOGETHER, WHERE TAX IS NOT PAID BY THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE MAY ORDER A SURCHARGE NOT EXCEEDING FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TAX. THIS WILL ALSO BE IMMEDIATELY DUE FOR PAYMENT.

THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATES HOW THE ARRANGEMENTS WILL OPERATE :

TOTAL TAX DUE	5.1.81	\$22 000
PAYABLE ON	5.1.81	\$17 000
PAYABLE ON	5.4.81	\$ 5 000

IF \$17 000 IS PAID ON 5.1.81, THE SECOND INSTALMENT OF \$5 000 IS PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE 5.4.81.

IF \$17 000 IS NOT PAID BY 5.1.81, THE WHOLE AMOUNT OF \$22 000 PLUS A SURCHARGE OF \$1 100, TOTAL \$23 100, IS IN DEFAULT AND ACTION TO RECOVER THIS AMOUNT WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY AFTER 5.1.81.

THEREFORE TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TWO INSTALMENTS SHOWN ON THE NOTE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FIRST PAYMENT IS MADE ON OR BEFORE THE DUE DATE SHOWN ON THEIR DEMAND NOTES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE AT COLLECTION OFFICES IN :

HONG KONG - WINDSOR HOUSE, 3RD FLOOR, 311 GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY-

KOWLOON - PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR, 56 DUNDAS STREET, MONG KOK- OR IN

TSUEN WAN - FOU WAH CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 210 CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

TAX MAY ALSO BE PAID BY POST BY SENDING A CROSSED CHEQUE, ATTACHED TO THE DEMAND NOTE, TO THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, GPO BOX 132, HONG KONG.

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SHA TIN'S MINI LIBRARY POPULAR WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN
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THE MINI LIBRARY AT LEK YUEN ESTATE IN SHA TIN HAS BECOME A POPULAR RETREAT FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN LIVING IN THE AREA SINCE IT OPENED IN MARCH THIS YEAR.

OCCUPYING SOME 56 SQUARE METRES ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE IN SAU CHUEN HOUSE, THE LENDING LIBRARY IS ALSO USED AS A STUDY ROOM.

NOT ONLY CHILDREN LIVING IN THE VICINITY BUT ALSO THOSE LIVING FURTHER AWAY FIND IT CONVENIENT BECAUSE OF ITS COMPARATIVELY LONG OPENING HOURS, FROM 5.30 PM TO 9.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID EXPANSION OF LIBRARY SERVICE AT SHA TIN WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING POPULATION OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE MINI LIBRARY IS THE SIXTH IN THE TOWN AND HAS A STOCK OF MORE THAN 1 000 BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THERE IS AT PRESENT A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN SHA TIN OPERATED BY THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN ADDITION TO FOUR SMALLER LIBRARIES RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND A MOBILE LIBRARY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

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TRIBUTE TO CUSTOMS SERVICE
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NOTE TO EDITORS :

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WELFARE FUND WILL RECEIVE A DONATION OF \$15 000 AND GIFTS OF TWO TELEVISION SETS AND TWO VIDEO-TAPE RECORDERS FROM AN ELECTRONICS COMPANY, IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS AND SUCCESS OF THE SERVICE'S COPYRIGHT PROTECTION UNIT IN STAMPING OUT VIDEO PIRACY.

AT A CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 30) AT 11 AM IN THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE SENIOR OFFICERS MESS, 9TH FLOOR, RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK BUILDING, THE COMMISSIONER, MR DOUGLAS JORDAN WILL RECEIVE THE DONATION AND GIFTS FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ESQUIRE (ELECTRONICS) LTD, MR S.C. GURDAS.

GUESTS ATTENDING THE CEREMONY WILL INCLUDE LAWYERS ASSOCIATED WITH COPYRIGHT MATTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VIDEO-TAPE RECORDING INDUSTRY. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO COVER THE EVENT.

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TUNG CHUNG NULLAH BEING IMPROVED
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THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO A NULLAH WHICH RUNS THROUGH A REMOTE VILLAGE ON LANTAU TO PREVENT LOCAL VILLAGE HOUSES FROM FLOOD DAMAGE.

THE VILLAGE IS SAN TAU TSUEN, NEAR TUNG CHUNG.

THE NULLAH, WHICH IS 500 METRES LONG, WAS FORMERLY A NATURAL STREAM.

WALLS WERE CONSTRUCTED SOME YEARS AGO TO PREVENT THE BANKS FROM COLLAPSING, BUT THESE HAVE NOW DETERIORATED THROUGH EROSION.

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPEND \$130 000 ON THE IMPROVEMENTS, USING ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS VOTE.

WORK INCLUDES CONSTRUCTION OF A REINFORCED CONCRETE INVERT TO PROTECT THE BOTTOM OF THE NULLAH.

AN ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID WORK WAS NECESSARY AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST FLOOD, OR HOUSES NEAR THE NULLAH WOULD SUFFER SERIOUS DAMAGE SHOULD THE BANKS COLLAPSE.

WORK STARTED EARLY THIS MONTH AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY.

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WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN
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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF TUEN MUN WILL BE INTERRUPTED FROM 10 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 30) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

THE AREA COVERS ALL PREMISES AND VILLAGES ALONG CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN FU TEI SHEUNG TSUEN AND TAI LAM CHUNG, AND INCLUDES INDUSTRIAL ZONE AREAS 9 AND 12, SAM SHING ESTATE AND ON TING/YAU OI ESTATE.

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