



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1977

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JAN-JUNE 1977
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED DETAILED TRADE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR. THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 6.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY TO JUNE THIS YEAR OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR. IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 13.7 PER CENT AND 8.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE FOLLOWING SHOWS HONG KONG DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS:

	<u>JAN-JUNE 1976</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>JAN-JUNE 1977</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
U.S.A.	4,912	6,033	+22.8%
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,885	1,636	-13.2%
UNITED KINGDOM	1,626	1,357	-16.6%
AUSTRALIA	676	587	-13.2%
JAPAN	609	589	-3.2%
CANADA	641	536	-16.4%
SINGAPORE	357	394	+10.2%
NETHERLANDS	334	355	+6.3%
FRANCE	157	214	+36.4%
ITALY	146	185	+27.0%

THE INCREASE IN EXPORTS TO U.S.A. WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASED EXPORTS OF CLOTHING (+12.9%), MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS) (+40.1%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+38.1%).

THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE EXPORTS OF CLOTHING, TEXTILE YARN, FABRIC AND MADE-UP ARTICLES WAS THE RESULT OF REDUCED EXPORTS TO F.R. OF GERMANY, U.K., AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

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

	<u>JAN-JUNE 1976</u>	<u>JAN-JUNE 1977</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
	(HK\$ MN.)	(HK\$ MN.)	
CLOTHING	6,760	6,308	-6.7%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC FLOWERS, TOYS AND DOLLS)	1,988	2,674	+34.5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLI- ANCES (MAIN- LY TRANSISTOR RADIOS AND ELECTRONIC PARTS)	1,724	2,307	+33.8%
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS AND MADE-UP ARTICLES	1,506	1,246	-17.2%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	632	852	+34.8%
MANUFACTURES OF METAL, N.E.S. (MAINLY FINISHED STRUCTURAL PARTS AND STRUCTURES, AND TOOLS FOR USE IN THE HAND OR IN MACHINES)	379	453	+19.5%

/EXPORTS OF

EXPORTS OF CLOTHING CONTINUED TO DECLINE BY 6.7 PER CENT. THE INCREASE IN EXPORTS OF MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTED TO INCREASED EXPORTS OF PLASTIC ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS (+\$30 MILLION) AND TOYS (+\$364 MILLION).

EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE BY 33.8 PER CENT BECAUSE OF AN INCREASE OF \$165 MILLION IN ALL TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND \$105 MILLION IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTER. THE DROP OF 17.2 PER CENT IN THE EXPORTS OF TEXTILE YARNS, FABRICS, MADE-UP-ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS WAS DUE TO REDUCTIONS IN EXPORTS OF TEXTILE YARN (-\$34 MILLION) AND FABRICS (-\$240 MILLION).

EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS TOTALLED \$642 MILLION IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 34.5 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

CHANGES OF IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE RECORDED BELOW:

	<u>JAN-JUNE 1976</u>	<u>JAN-JUNE 1977</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
	(HK\$ MN.)	(HK\$ MN.)	
JAPAN	4,530	5,471	+20.8%
CHINA	3,615	3,685	+1.9%
U.S.A.	2,404	3,095	+28.7%
TAIWAN	1,467	1,650	+12.5%
SINGAPORE	1,222	1,416	+15.8%
UNITED KINGDOM	892	1,010	+13.2%
SOUTH KOREA	754	834	+10.6%
THAILAND	362	438	+20.8%
ITALY	228	312	+36.7%
ISRAEL	205	279	+36.2%

THE INCREASE IN IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WAS LARGELY EXPLAINED BY A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+\$258 MILLION). OTHER INCREASES OCCURRED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+\$106 MILLION), MACHINERY, OTHER THAN ELECTRIC (+\$123 MILLION), PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS= PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+\$189 MILLION).

INCREASES OF IMPORTS OF TEXTILE FIBRES (+\$423 MILLION), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS (+\$105 MILLION) FROM U.S.A. CHIEFLY ACCOUNTED FOR A 28.7% INCREASE IN IMPORT VALUE.

THE FOLLOWING LISTS OUT THE MORE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN COMMODITY SECTIONS:

	<u>JAN-JUNE 1976</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>JAN-JUNE 1977</u> (HK\$ MN.)	<u>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</u>
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE YARN AND FABRICS, AND DIAMONDS)	6,624	6,969	+5.2%
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	3,557	4,550	+27.9%
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	3,085	3,486	+13.0%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES)	2,267	2,900	+27.9%
CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUEL	1,622	1,816	+12.0%
CHEMICALS	1,697	1,770	+4.3%

THE MORE REMARKABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+\$471 MILLION) AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+\$350 MILLION). IMPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS ALSO REFLECTED AN INCREASE OF \$246 MILLION. IMPORTS OF TEXTILE FABRICS AND TEXTILES YARN DECREASED BY \$128 MILLION AND \$91 MILLION RESPECTIVELY DUE TO A DOWNTURN IN THE EXPORT ORDERS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE VARIOUS TRADE INDEX NUMBERS (1973 = 100) FOR MAY AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>UNIT VALUE INDEX</u>	<u>QUANTUM INDEX</u>
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	182	131	139
IMPORTS	173	134	129

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (I.E. EXPORT PRICE OVER IMPORT PRICES) FOR MAY IS 98.

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COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS TO FEATURE HONG KONG ORCHIDS
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THE NEXT ISSUE OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS, TO BE RELEASED ON OCTOBER 12, WILL FEATURE THREE HONG KONG ORCHIDS, POPULARLY KNOWN AS BUTTERCUP, LADY'S SLIPPER AND SUSAN ORCHID.

THE FLOWERS IN THE STAMPS DESIGN, WHICH CAN BE FOUND GROWING WILD LOCALLY, ARE FROM WATER COLOURS SPECIALLY PAINTED BY MRS. BERYL WALDEN OF HONG KONG.

THESE ORCHID STAMPS IN DENOMINATIONS OF 20 CENTS, \$1.30 AND \$2 WILL BE THE FIFTY-SECOND COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE BY THE POST OFFICE SINCE HONG KONG STAMPS WERE FIRST PRODUCED IN 1862.

ANOTHER SET OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS, THE LUNAR NEW YEAR ISSUE, WILL BE RELEASED FOR SALE ON JANUARY 26, 1978.

THIS SET OF THE YEAR OF THE HORSE STAMPS WAS DESIGNED BY MR. PATRICK CHUNG, A GRAPHIC DESIGNER IN HONG KONG. IT WILL BE THE TWELFTH AND LAST OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR SERIES WHICH COMMENCED WITH THE YEAR OF THE RAM ISSUE IN 1967.

IN RECENT YEARS MANY OF THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES DESIGNED BY HONG KONG ARTISTS HAVE COVERED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG—THE FESTIVALS CELEBRATED BY THE PEOPLE, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPORTANT EVENTS.

THROUGH THESE STAMPS, WHICH WERE SENT OUT ON TENS OF MILLIONS OF LETTERS AND PARCELS EACH YEAR, THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE AS WELL AS THE BEAUTY OF HONG KONG HAS BEEN VIVIDLY BROUGHT TO EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD. THIS WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE AS MORE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES ARE BEING PLANNED FOR THE YEARS AHEAD.

FIRST DAY COVERS, PRODUCED TO COINCIDE WITH THE STAMP ISSUES, ARE USUALLY AS POPULAR AS THE STAMPS THEMSELVES, SO MUCH SO THAT THEY ARE SOMETIMES SOLD OUT. HOWEVER STOCKS HELD OUT TO SUPPLY A RECORD 204,000 FIRST DAY COVERS FOR THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

ANOTHER POPULAR ITEM IS THE CHRISTMAS AEROGRAMME WHICH IS NORMALLY DESIGNED EACH YEAR BY THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT. GREETINGS AND GOODWILL MESSAGES WERE CONVEYED LAST YEAR THROUGH SOME 113,000 OF THESE COLOURFUL AEROGRAMME FORMS TO OUR OVERSEAS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

THE DEFINITIVE STAMPS NOW IN USE IN HONG KONG HAVE THE PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN AS THE MAIN FEATURE OF THEIR DESIGN, TAKEN FROM A PHOTOGRAPH OF A BAS-RELIEF BY ARNOLD MACHIN. THE HIGHEST VALUE OF THE 14 DENOMINATIONS IS \$20 AND THE LOWEST 10 CENTS.

/THE SMALLEST

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THE SMALLEST FACE VALUE POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED IN HONG KONG WAS A ONE CENT STAMP WHICH WAS PUT IN CIRCULATION IN 1903.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN HONG KONG WAS MADE IN 1862. THE STAMPS FEATURED A PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE LOWEST DENOMINATION IN THE SERIES WAS TWO CENTS.

ONE SUCH TWO CENT STAMP, ON A PARCEL WRAPPER SENT FROM YOKOHAMA TO SHANGHAI IN JULY 1865, AND CANCELLED WITH A SUNBURST POSTMARK, FETCHED \$22,000 - MORE THAN A MILLION TIMES ITS ORIGINAL VALUE - IN AN INTERNATIONAL STAMP AUCTION HELD IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR.

SIZES OF STAMPS VARY, AND ARE MEASURED FROM PERFORATION TO PERFORATION. IN THE CURRENT DEFINITIVE SERIES THE LOWER VALUE STAMPS, FROM 10 CENTS TO \$1, MEASURE 0.95 INCH BY 0.8 INCH AND THE HIGHER VALUES, \$1.30 TO \$20, MEASURE 1.310 INCHES BY 1.125 INCHES.

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES ARE USUALLY 1.1 INCHES BY 1.75 INCHES BUT SOMETIMES, ESPECIALLY IN THE CASE OF OMNIBUS ISSUES SUCH AS FOR THE SILVER JUBILEE, A LARGER SIZE IS USED.

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REVOLUTIONARY EXPLOSIVES INCREASINGLY POPULAR WITH
HK DEVELOPERS

HONG KONG CONTRACTORS ARE TURNING TO A NEW TYPE OF EXPLOSIVES AS AN AID IN MAJOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

KNOWN AS WATER GEL OR 'SLURRY', THE NEW BLASTING AGENT IS A PRODUCT OF AN IMPORTANT RECENT BREAKTHROUGH IN HIGH EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY WHICH HAS REVOLUTIONISED THE INDUSTRY WITH ITS HIGH QUALITY AND SUPERIOR SAFETY CHARACTERISTICS.

IT IS NOW EXTENSIVELY USED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN MAJOR BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS, AND IS FAST BECOMING A VITAL TOOL IN HONG KONG'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

ALREADY WATER GEL IS BEING SUCCESSFULLY USED IN DIFFICULT EXCAVATIONS AND TUNNELLING WORK FOR THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, IN QUARRYING AND MINING OPERATIONS, ROADWORKS AND IN PRIVATE BUILDING WORKS.

LAST YEAR, 140 TONNES OF WATER GEL WERE USED IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG, AND THIS YEAR THE FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 200 TONNES.

AND ACCORDING TO MR. GEORGE RANSON, CHIEF EXPLOSIVES OFFICER OF THE MINES DIVISION, WATER GELS WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER LARGE SCALE PROJECTS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

+AT THE MOMENT, WATER GELS ARE BY FAR THE SAFEST TYPE OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES AVAILABLE AND ARE IDEALLY SUITED FOR LOCAL CONDITIONS,+ SAID MR. RANSON, AN ACKNOWLEDGED EXPLOSIVES EXPERT WITH MORE THAN 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL TYPES OF COMMERCIAL EXPLOSIVES.

+THEY ARE PARTICULARLY SUITED FOR BLASTING OPERATIONS IN URBAN AREAS AS THEY ARE SAFER TO HANDLE AND CONTROL, AND THERE IS MUCH LESS RISK OF ACCIDENTAL DETONATION FROM IMPACT, FIRE, HEAT OR FRICTION,+ HE SAID.

MR. RANSON NOTED THAT WORKERS WERE MUCH MORE AT EASE WITH WATER GEL THAN WITH OTHER EXPLOSIVES, BUT EMPHASISED THAT ONE STILL NEEDED TO BE CAREFUL WITH IT AS IT WAS A HIGH EXPLOSIVES WHICH REQUIRED PROPER HANDLING.

HE SAID ITS HIGH QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS HAD MADE WATER GEL READILY ACCEPTABLE TO LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS WITH A KEEN APPRECIATION FOR HIGHER SAFETY STANDARDS AND NEW BLASTING TECHNIQUES.

AMONG THEM IS OVE ARUP AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS FOR THE GIANT HOPEWELL CENTRE PROJECT IN WAN CHAI WHICH WILL BE THE TALLEST BUILDING COMPLEX IN ASIA WHEN COMPLETED NEXT YEAR.

/+BECAUSE OF

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+BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE SITE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROJECT ITSELF WE'VE NEEDED TO CARRY OUT A SERIES OF BLASTS TO IMPROVE EXCAVATION PROGRESS FOR THE FOUNDATION WORK, AND WATER GEL HAS PROVED EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE,+ SAID MR. JULIAN WALLACE, RESIDENT ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF BLASTING AT THE HOPEWELL CENTRE SITE.

+DYNAMITE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SERVED AS WELL,+ HE ADDED, +BUT WATER GEL GIVES YOU A MUCH WIDER SAFETY MARGIN AND IS FAR EASIER TO HANDLE.

+IN PRACTICAL TERMS, IT THEREFORE HAS DISTINCT ADVANTAGES OVER DYNAMITE.

+FOR INSTANCE, WATER GEL DOES NOT CAUSE THE SEVERE HEADACHES ASSOCIATED WITH DYNAMITE AND IT ALLOWS MUCH BETTER CONTROL OVER VIBRATION IN THE TYPE OF BLASTING THAT WE ARE DOING,+ SAID MR. WALLACE.

WATER GEL IN CARTRIDGES WAS FIRST INTRODUCED INTO HONG KONG IN 1974 BY THE AMERICAN FIRM DU PONT WHICH IS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF 'SLURRY' EXPLOSIVES TO HONG KONG. A LIMITED QUANTITY IS ALSO IMPORTED BY THE BRITISH FIRM I.C.I.

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN U.K.

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A \$30,000 SCHOLARSHIP IS TO BE DONATED BY THE CHINESE BRITISH-RETURNED STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR A HONG KONG STUDENT WISHING TO TAKE A TWO YEAR GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ADVANCED LEVEL COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE YEARS 1978-79 AND 1979-80, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF A SUITABLE PLACE IN A SCHOOL.

A CHEQUE FOR THE AMOUNT WILL BE HANDED TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR. COLVYN HAYE, BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION, MR. CARY YEUNG, ON AUGUST 10.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD BE UNDER 17 ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1978, AND SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED VERY GOOD RESULTS IN THE 1978 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

SELECTION WOULD BE BASED MAINLY ON THE RESULTS IN THE EXAMINATION BUT ALSO ON A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HEAD OF THE SCHOOL IN WHICH THE STUDENT COMPLETED FORM 5 AND, IF NECESSARY, AN INTERVIEW.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL THE EXPENSES FOR A TWO-YEAR COURSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

+APPLICANTS SHOULD THEREFORE HAVE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MAKE UP THE BALANCE OF SCHOOL FEES, THE COST OF RETURN AIR PASSAGES AND SO ON.

+IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED BUT THE SUCCESSFUL STUDENT SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PAY SOME \$30,000 FROM HIS OWN RESOURCES TO FINANCE HIMSELF OVER THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD,+ HE SAID.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP AND WHO ARE CONFIDENT OF OBTAINING VERY GOOD RESULTS IN THE 1978 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION INCLUDING GOOD RESULTS IN ENGLISH, MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS FROM THE OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SECTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HONG KONG BRANCH OFFICE, HONG KONG IN JUNE 1978.

COMPLETED FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE SAME OFFICE WITHIN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE 1978 HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO HAVE THE PRESENTATION OF THE \$30,000 CHEQUE TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION COVERED. THE CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE AT 10 A.M. ON AUGUST 10 IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, LEE GARDENS, THIRD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

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