



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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| <u>CONTENTS</u> | <u>PAGE NO.</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY-JUNE 1981 | 1 |
| BUS TERMINUS TO BE MOVED FOR ONE NIGHT | 5 |
| MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR JUNE 1981 | 6 |
| HUNG HOM STADIUM ROOF LOWERED INTO POSITION | 7 |
| KWUN TONG BOARD HEARS ABOUT SQUATTER PROBLEM | 8 |
| MORE FLEXIBILITY IN CIVIL SERVANTS REFINANCING SCHEME | 9 |
| DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SURVEY IN TSUEN WAN | 10 |
| LAUNCH PICNIC FOR SHAM SHUI PO WORKERS | 10 |
| WARNING OF POSSIBLE DANGERS IN CONFINED SPACES | 11 |
| JING YING CHAMBER CONTINUES TO WIN PRAISE | 12 |
| FIREMEN VISIT MACAU | 12 |

HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JANUARY-JUNE 1981

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR JANUARY TO JUNE 1981, VALUED AT \$120 761 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT, AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1980.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ROSE BY 14 PER CENT TO \$35 604 MILLION, IMPORTS BY 26 PER CENT TO \$65 620 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS BY 48 PER CENT TO \$19 536 MILLION.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 24 PER CENT.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT RELEASED TODAY THE RELEVANT DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR OVERSEAS MARKETS WERE AS FOLLOWS :-

| | JAN-JUNE 81 (HK\$M) | JAN-JUNE 80 (HK\$M) | INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$M) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| USA | 12 554 | 10 414 | +2 140 | +21 |
| UK | 3 394 | 3 128 | + 266 | + 9 |
| FR OF GERMANY | 3 223 | 3 391 | - 168 | - 5 |
| JAPAN | 1 246 | 1 036 | + 210 | +20 |
| CHINA | 1 177 | 680 | + 497 | +73 |
| AUSTRALIA | 1 076 | 895 | + 181 | +20 |
| CANADA | 993 | 762 | + 231 | +30 |
| SINGAPORE | 802 | 828 | - 26 | - 3 |
| NETHERLANDS | 724 | 737 | - 13 | - 2 |
| FRANCE | 699 | 621 | + 78 | +13 |

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE US CONTINUED TO GROW. SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$917 MILLION OR 24%), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS (BY \$631 MILLION OR 131%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$427 MILLION OR 45%) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$134 MILLION OR 19%). ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF OFFICE MACHINES DECLINED (BY \$60 MILLION OR 46%).

INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UK OF CLOTHING (BY \$97 MILLION OR 6%), PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (BY \$81 MILLION OR 59%), AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$65 MILLION OR 51%).

AS FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN CLOTHING (BY \$12 MILLION OR 1%) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$10 MILLION OR 7%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT DECLINED (BY \$38 MILLION OR 15%, AND BY \$57 MILLION OR 17%, RESPECTIVELY).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO JAPAN (BY \$122 MILLION OR 50%), AND IN THE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$131 MILLION OR 299%) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS (BY \$85 MILLION OR 108%) TO CHINA.

AN ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION IS PRESENTED BELOW :-

| | <u>JAN-JUNE 81</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>JAN-JUNE 80</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>INCREASE</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES | 12 402 | 10 588 | +1 814 | +17 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS) | 5 476 | 5 082 | + 394 | + 8 |
| PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS | 3 655 | 3 026 | + 629 | +21 |
| ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORS AND DIODES AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE APPLIANCES) | 2 576 | 2 025 | + 551 | +27 |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT | 2 416 | 2 361 | + 55 | + 2 |
| TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 2 401 | 2 158 | + 243 | +11 |

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS :-

| | JAN-JUNE 81 (HK\$M) | JAN-JUNE 80 (HK\$M) | INCREASE (HK\$M) | PERCENTAGE CHANGE |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| JAPAN | 15 502 | 11 654 | +3 848 | +33 |
| CHINA | 13 207 | 9 629 | +3 578 | +37 |
| USA | 7 289 | 6 479 | + 810 | +13 |
| TAIWAN | 5 207 | 3 652 | +1 555 | +43 |
| SINGAPORE | 4 870 | 3 376 | +1 494 | +44 |
| UK | 2 915 | 2 536 | + 379 | +15 |
| SOUTH KOREA | 2 678 | 1 751 | + 927 | +53 |
| FR OF GERMANY | 1 625 | 1 443 | + 184 | +13 |
| SWITZERLAND | 1 469 | 1 341 | + 128 | +10 |
| THAILAND | 918 | 801 | + 117 | +15 |

LOCAL DEMAND FOR JAPANESE GOODS REMAINED STRONG. INCREASES WERE NOTED PARTICULARLY FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$628 MILLION OR 62%), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$608 MILLION OR 63%), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$494 MILLION OR 48%), TEXTILES (BY \$418 MILLION OR 24%), AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$349 MILLION OR 30%).

AS FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA, INCREASES WERE RECORDED MAINLY IN TEXTILES (BY \$817 MILLION OR 45%), CLOTHING (BY \$714 MILLION OR 90%), VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$212 MILLION OR 51%) AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD (BY \$164 MILLION OR 23%).

INCREASES IN IMPORTS FROM THE US WERE LARGELY OF OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$180 MILLION OR 30%), ORGANIC CHEMICALS (BY \$144 MILLION OR 274%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$134 MILLION OR 26%), AS WELL AS VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$99 MILLION OR 32%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (BY \$179 MILLION OR 29%), AND TEXTILE FIBRES (BY \$290 MILLION OR 43%).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORTS OF TEXTILES (BY \$730 MILLION OR 54%) FROM TAIWAN, AND OF PETROLEUM AND RELATED PRODUCTS (BY \$1 193 MILLION OR 55%) FROM SINGAPORE.

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

| | <u>JAN-JUNE 81</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>JAN-JUNE 80</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>INCREASE</u> <u>(HK\$M)</u> | <u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE PRODUCTS, DIAMONDS, IRON AND STEEL, AND PAPER) | 19 303 | 15 690 | +3 613 | +23 |
| MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT | 15 495 | 11 486 | +4 009 | +35 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS, ARTICLES OF APPAREL) | 10 784 | 7 495 | +3 289 | +44 |
| FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD | 6 298 | 5 171 | +1 127 | +22 |
| MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS | 5 059 | 3 682 | +1 377 | +37 |
| CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS | 4 276 | 4 264 | + 12 | INSIGNIFICANT |

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA (BY \$2 265 MILLION OR 136%), USA (BY \$935 MILLION OR 74%), INDONESIA (BY \$706 MILLION OR 58%), SINGAPORE (BY \$447 MILLION OR 41%), MACAU (BY \$205 MILLION OR 47%), SOUTH KOREA (BY \$203 MILLION OR 44%), NIGERIA (BY \$189 MILLION OR 64%), JAPAN (BY \$173 MILLION OR 16%), UK (BY \$143 MILLION OR 37%) AND PHILIPPINES (BY \$122 MILLION OR 27%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECLINES WERE REGISTERED IN RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$43 MILLION OR 14%) AND SWITZERLAND (BY \$82 MILLION OR 28%).

/MOST COMMODITIES

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

- 5 -

MOST COMMODITIES RE-EXPORTED THROUGH HONG KONG EXHIBITED STRONG GROWTH, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES BEING TEXTILES (BY \$1 604 MILLION OR 92%), ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$690 MILLION OR 149%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (BY \$496 MILLION OR 55%), TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$459 MILLION OR 93%), AND CLOTHING (BY \$293 MILLION OR 44%).

THE JUNE 1981 ISSUE OF +THE HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS - SUMMARY+, BEING A SUMMARY REPORT ON HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1981, WILL SOON BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$3 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, +HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE+, WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MONTH'S IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS, WILL BE PUBLISHED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT HK\$10 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG. (TEL. NO. : 5-214375).

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BUS TERMINUS TO BE MOVED FOR ONE NIGHT
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THE TAI KOO SHING TERMINUS FOR CMB ROUTE NO. 21 WILL BE MOVED TO THE SAI WAN HO FERRY TERMINAL FOR ONE NIGHT FROM 9 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 19) TO FACILITATE EXCAVATION WORK AT THE JUNCTION OF KING'S ROAD AND TAI KOO SHING ROAD.

CMB ROUTE NO. 21 WILL AGAIN TERMINATE AT TAI KOO SHING ON THURSDAY MORNING (AUGUST 20).

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- 6 -

MONTHLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT,
PAYROLL AND ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR JUNE 1981

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY RELEASED ORDERS-ON-HAND STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1981 AS FOLLOWS:

| <u>INDUSTRY GROUP</u> | <u>ORDERS-ON-HAND IN TERMS OF MONTHS</u> | | |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | <u>JUNE 1980</u> | <u>MAY 1981</u> | <u>JUNE 1981</u> |
| WEARING APPAREL, EXCEPT FOOTWEAR | 5.0 | 4.6 | 4.8 |
| TEXTILES, EXCEPT WEARING APPAREL | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| PLASTIC PRODUCTS | 4.2 | 3.9 | 3.6 |
| FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT | 4.3 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC MACHINERY, APPARATUS, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| OTHERS | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| ALL MANUFACTURING | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.2 |

COMPARED WITH MAY 1981, THE OVERALL ORDER BOOK POSITION FOR JUNE REMAINED UNCHANGED. INCREASES IN ORDERS WERE FOUND IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY WHILE DECREASES IN ORDERS WERE OBSERVED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, METAL PRODUCTS, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE BASED ON AN UPDATED AND ENLARGED PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SELECTED BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZE IN SEPTEMBER 1979. AS THE PANEL IS NOT A SCIENTIFICALLY DESIGNED SAMPLE, RESULTS OBTAINED WILL BE REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE COMPANIES INCLUDED IN THE PANEL, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT THEY WILL GENERALLY INDICATE THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE.

THE MONTHLY SURVEY ALSO ASKS QUESTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL AND COVERS THE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTED SERVICES SECTORS BESIDES MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JUNE 1981 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (AT 3-7213578).

HUNG HOM STADIUM ROOF LOWERED INTO POSITION * * * *

THE 1 300-TONNE SPACE-FRAME ROOF STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG'S +INVERTED PYRAMID+ MULTI-PURPOSE INDOOR STADIUM IN HUNG HOM, WAS TODAY LOWERED TO ITS DESIGNATED POSITION ON THE EDGES OF THE WALLS OF THE STADIUM, MARKING THE COMPLETION OF ANOTHER PHASE OF THE PROJECT.

OFFICIATING AT THE LOWERING CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, POINTED OUT THAT THE DOUBLE-DECK ROOF, SPANNING 103.3 METRES, WAS THE LARGEST SPAN IN HONG KONG PROVIDING A COLUMN-FREE INTERIOR SPACE.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STADIUM WAS DONE IN THREE SEPARATE PHASES.

FIRST, THE ROOF STRUCTURE WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE PODIUM FLOOR OF THE HUNG HOM RAILWAY TERMINUS COMPLEX AND THEN HOISTED TO A POSITION ABOUT 24 METRES ABOVE THE FLOOR AND SUPPORTED TEMPORARILY ON FOUR STEEL TOWERS.

PHASE TWO, WHICH HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED, INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUPPORTING SIDE WALLS.

PHASE THREE WOULD INCLUDE THE REMAINING STRUCTURAL WORKS AND THE FINISHING WORKS. THIS WAS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR, MR MCDONALD SAID.

BECAUSE THE STADIUM WAS BUILT ON THE PODIUM DECK ABOVE THE RAILWAY TRACKS, ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SUPPORTS COULD BE PROVIDED AT GROUND LEVEL, SO AS TO AVOID DISRUPTING THE TRACKS.

+AS A RESULT OF THIS CONSTRAINT, THE DESIGN OF THE STADIUM TOOK THIS BOLD FORM IN THE SHAPE OF AN INVERTED PYRAMID RESTING ON SUPPORTS WHICH ARE CARRIED DOWN THROUGH THE TRACK LEVEL TO THE CAISSON FOUNDATIONS,+ MR MCDONALD SAID.

BEFORE ACTIVATING THE MECHANISM TO LOWER THE ROOF, MR MCDONALD CONGRATULATED THE PROJECT TEAM, PARTICULARLY ON LEE AND CO., THE ROOF SPACE-FRAME CONTRACTORS, AND TECHNIC CONSTRUCTION CO., THE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF THE SUPERSTRUCTURE WALLS.

THE \$133 MILLION INDOOR STADIUM WILL HAVE A SEATING CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 12 000 PEOPLE AND WILL BE AIR-CONDITIONED.

AMONG ITS MAJOR FEATURES WILL BE A FOUR-SIDED VIDEO SCREEN, SUSPENDED ABOVE THE CENTRE OF THE ARENA AND INCORPORATING A SCOREBOARD AND CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION FACILITIES.

SUCH EQUIPMENT, PROVIDING LARGER-THAN-LIFE CLOSE-UPS AND INSTANT REPLAYS, ALL IN COLOUR, WILL GIVE OPTIMUM VISUAL PLEASURE TO SPECTATORS.

THE ARENA ITSELF WILL BE LARGE ENOUGH FOR TWO BASKETBALL COURTS, VOLLEYBALL COURTS OR TENNIS COURTS, OR FOR EIGHT BADMINTON COURTS OR 24 TABLE-TENNIS TABLES AT ONE TIME.

OTHER FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE CHANGING ROOMS, MEETING ROOMS, GENERAL OFFICES, A LARGE EQUIPMENT STORE, FURNITURE STORE, CONTROL COUNTERS, BOOKING OFFICES AND TOILETS.

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

- 8 -

KWUN TONG BOARD HEARS ABOUT SQUATTER PROBLEM
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EASTERN KOWLOON IS A FAVOURITE CONCENTRATION POINT FOR SQUATTERS, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WAS TOLD AT ITS FOURTH MEETING TODAY.

THIS WAS DUE TO A COMBINATION OF FACTORS, INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF MANY HOUSING ESTATES, LARGE TRACTS OF UNDEVELOPED HILLSIDES, SUCH AS IN YAU TONG, LAM TIN AND SAU MAU PING, AND ALSO THE PRESENCE OF +GO-BETWEEN+ RACKETEERS WHO ORGANISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF HUTS FOR SALE TO MEET DEMAND, AND THE SUPPLY OF WATER FROM STREAMS OR CONNECTION FROM MAINS SUPPLY PIPE, AND ELECTRICITY, USUALLY FROM ILLEGAL TAPPING OF AN AUTHORISED SUPPLY, IT WAS TOLD IN A PAPER ON THE SQUATTER PROBLEM PREPARED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

SOME 80 PER CENT OF THE NEW SQUATTERS ARE RECENT IMMIGRANTS, THE BOARD WAS TOLD.

THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT UPSURGE IN SQUATTER BUILDING, AND WELL OVER 500 ILLEGAL HUTS WERE DEMOLISHED LAST MONTH IN KWUN TONG DISTRICT.

A WIDE RANGE OF MATTERS WAS DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD.

ON TRAFFIC, IT WAS TOLD THAT SEVERAL MEASURES HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE KWUN TONG AREA.

THE HIGHWAYS OFFICE IS EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING A SEPARATE GRADED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING NETWORK IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA, WHILE THE TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS FORMULATED BOTH SHORT AND MEDIUM TERM MEASURES TO EASE THE CONGESTION ALONG LEI YUE MUN ROAD.

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED HOW MING LANE SUBWAY AND TSUN YIP LANE FOOTBRIDGE WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR AND IN APRIL, RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE AREA OF ENTERTAINMENT, LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE PREPARING FOR THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13 BY THE BOARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE AREA'S CULTURE AND RECREATION PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

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/9

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

- 9 -

MORE FLEXIBILITY IN CIVIL SERVANTS REFINANCING SCHEME

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CERTAIN CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE CIVIL SERVANTS REFINANCING SCHEME, ALLOWING A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION UP TO MARCH 11, 1982 FOR LOAN APPLICATIONS, AND PROVIDING MORE FLEXIBILITY IN OBTAINING AND REPAYING THE LOANS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL SERVANTS' FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE PREVIOUS FOUR MONTHS OF THE SCHEME.

IN THAT TIME, IT WAS FOUND THAT A NUMBER OF APPLICANTS COULD AFFORD TO REPAY MORE THAN 25 PER CENT OF THEIR BASIC SALARIES EACH MONTH, WHILE SOME WOULD REQUIRE A LARGER REFINANCING LOAN THAN PERMISSIBLE THROUGH REPAYMENTS OF 25 PER CENT OF THEIR SALARIES, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

+THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED WITH THE INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHEME AND AGREEMENT HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE MAJORITY OF THEM TO ALLOW CERTAIN FLEXIBILITY IN CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF THE REFINANCING LOAN WHICH THEY ARE PREPARED TO GIVE,+ HE SAID.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN CHANGES:

- (A) THE SIZE OF THE LOAN WILL HAVE TO BE WITHIN THE BORROWER'S REPAYMENT ABILITY-
- (B) UP TO 40 PER CENT OF THE SALARY (AS AGAINST 25 PER CENT PREVIOUSLY) MAY BE REPAID MONTHLY ON THE LOAN FOR A TEN-YEAR PERIOD-
- (C) IF A SPOUSE WITH A STEADY INCOME AGREED TO HELP, THE SIZE OF THE LOAN MAY BE INCREASED TO A SUM REQUIRING A MONTHLY REPAYMENT OF 50 PER CENT OF THE BORROWER'S SALARY.

A CHANGE HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO ALLOW REFINANCING FOR SETTLEMENT OF DEBTS INCURRED AFTER MARCH 12, IF THE NEW DEBTS WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPAYMENT OF A LOAN OR PAYMENT OF INTEREST FOR A LOAN ACQUIRED BEFORE THAT DATE.

THE PERIOD OF GRACE CONCERNING CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS ON PECUNIARY EMBARRASSMENT, INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED IN KEEPING WITH THE APPLICATION PERIOD. STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY WILL BE MAINTAINED ON APPLICANTS WHO HAVE APPLIED BEFORE OR WILL BE APPLYING DURING THE EXTENSION PERIOD.

ALSO, FROM SEPTEMBER 14, THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE FINANCE ADVISORY OFFICE WILL BE FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM ON WEEK-DAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS.

UP TILL LAST MONTH, 1 900 APPLICANTS WERE GIVEN REFINANCING ASSISTANCE INVOLVING AMOUNTS TOTALLING \$30 MILLION. MOST OF THE APPLICANTS WERE IN THE \$1 500 TO \$2 000 SALARY GROUP AND BETWEEN 21 AND 40 YEARS OF AGE.

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/10

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

- 10 -

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SURVEY IN TSUEN WAN
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ABOUT 2 000 HOUSEHOLDS IN TSUEN WAN WILL TAKE PART IN A SURVEY ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE SURVEY WILL BE THE THIRD CONDUCTED BY TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE TO COLLECT RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE SCHEME AND THE ELECTIONS.

IT WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 20).

ABOUT 200 VOLUNTARY WORKERS, ASSISTED BY LIAISON OFFICERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISERS, WILL ASK HOUSEHOLD ABOUT THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION AND THEIR CONFIDENCE IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

SIMILAR SURVEYS WERE HELD IN MAY AND JUNE THIS YEAR WHEN ABOUT 1 200 PEOPLE WERE INTERVIEWED.

RESULTS FROM THE FIRST SURVEY SHOWED THAT MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF TSUEN WAN RESIDENTS WERE AWARE OF THE SCHEME AND THE ELECTIONS. THIS ROSE TO 65 PER CENT IN THE SECOND SURVEY.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 1.

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LAUNCH PICNIC FOR SHAM SHUI PO WORKERS
* * * *

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FROM THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A LAUNCH PICNIC IN SAI KUNG ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 23).

THE LAUNCH PICNIC IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, LAI CHI KOK AND UN CHAU AREA COMMITTEE AND THE TING TAI WAH CHONG METAL MANUFACTURING CO. LTD.

+THE AIM OF THE PICNIC IS TO INTRODUCE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION TO INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN THE DISTRICT THROUGH RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES,+ A SPOKESMAN OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT OFFICE SAID.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY WILL INCLUDE SWIMMING, FISHING, WATER GAMES, A QUIZ, A LUCKY DRAW, AND TALKS ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT WILL BE MR ISAAC CHOW, DISTRICT OFFICER (SHAM SHUI PO), AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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/11

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

- 11 -

WARNING OF POSSIBLE DANGERS IN CONFINED SPACES

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EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS WORKERS ARE URGED TO BE ALERT TO THE DANGERS THAT MAY EXIST IN CONFINED SPACES — OXYGEN DEFICIENCY OR THE PRESENCE OF DEADLY GASES.

THE PLEA WAS MADE TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, FOLLOWING THE RECENT ACCIDENT IN WHICH FOUR PEOPLE DIED AFTER BEING REPORTEDLY OVERCOME BY UNKNOWN GASES INSIDE A WELL IN SHEUNG SHUI.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT EXAMPLES OF CONFINED SPACES COMMONLY FOUND IN INDUSTRY WERE WELLS, CHAMBERS, TANKS, VATS PITS, TUNNELS, PIPES, FLUES, BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS, IN ALL OF WHICH DANGEROUS FUMES MIGHT BE PRESENT.

FOR THEIR PART, EMPLOYERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT A CONFINED SPACE IS FREE FROM DANGEROUS FUMES, HARMFUL GASES, OR OXYGEN DEFICIENCY, AND TO ENSURE THAT THE SPACE IS ADEQUATELY VENTILATED.

EMPLOYERS MUST ALSO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT BREATHING APPARATUS, SUITABLE REVIVING EQUIPMENT, OXYGEN VESSELS, SAFETY BELTS AND ROPES.

THIS EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE AND IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION, AND WORKERS MUST BE PROPERLY INSTRUCTED IN ITS USE.

IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR WORKERS TO BE MORE SAFETY CONSCIOUS, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

THEY SHOULD NOT ENTER A CONFINED SPACE UNLESS AUTHORISED TO DO SO BY THEIR EMPLOYERS.

WHILE ENTERING OR REMAINING IN A CONFINED SPACE, THEY MUST WEAR BREATHING APPARATUS UNLESS IT HAS BEEN CERTIFIED THAT THE SPACE IS SAFE AND FREE FROM DANGEROUS FUMES OR OXYGEN DEFICIENCY.

IF PRACTICABLE, THEY SHOULD WEAR A SAFETY BELT AND ROPE SO THAT THEY MAY BE PULLED OUT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CONFINED SPACES) REGULATIONS REQUIRE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO OBSERVE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WHEN ENTERING OR WORKING IN CONFINED SPACES. FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS MIGHT LEAD TO PROSECUTION AND A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50 000 FOR EMPLOYERS.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF SAFETY TRAINING COURSES FREE OF CHARGE, INCLUDING CONFINED SPACE SAFETY.

IN ADDITION, THE FACTORY INSPECTORS AT VARIOUS DIVISIONAL OFFICES ARE ALWAYS READY TO OFFER ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS CONCERNING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1981

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JING YING CHAMBER CONTINUES TO WIN PRAISE
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THE HONG KONG JING YING CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, IN MELBOURNE TO PERFORM IN THE FIFTH AUSTRALIAN YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL, CONTINUES TO WIN FAVOURABLE COMMENTS.

AT A LUNCH-TIME PERFORMANCE OF DOMING LAMS 'CONTRAST' AND SCULTHORPE'S 'IRKANDA IV' AT MELBA HALL, THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY ON AUGUST 6, THE ORCHESTRA WAS DESCRIBED BY THE AUDIENCE, COMPRISING MUSIC TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, AS +ENDOWED WITH A MUSICAL MIND, TINGED WITH TOUCHES OF SHEER POETRY ... A PERFORMANCE TO RESPECT.+

THE FOLLOWING EVENING THE ORCHESTRA TOOK PART IN A CONCERT AT THE DALLAS BROOKS HALL, TOGETHER WITH THE HANNOVER COLLEGE OF MUSIC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. THE JING YING'S PRESENTATION OF BEETHOVEN'S FIRST SYMPHONY WAS SAID TO BE +SPARKLING+ AND +STYLISH+.

THE JING YING MUSICIANS ALSO PRESENTED AN EXTENDED PROGRAMME AT THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA.

THE PROGRAMME WAS PRECEDED BY A LION DANCE AND INCLUDED PERFORMANCES BY THE CHINESE ENSEMBLE AND A DIZI SOLO. SOME 2 500 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE PERFORMANCE.

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FIREMEN VISIT MACAU
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A 20-MEMBER DELEGATION LED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR MAURICE LANE LEFT FOR MACAU TODAY (MONDAY) TO ATTEND MACAU FIREMEN'S DAY.

DURING THEIR TWO-DAY VISIT, THE DELEGATION WILL ATTEND A REQUIEM MASS FOR MACAU FIRMEN WHO DIED ON DUTY, FOLLOWED BY A WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY.

THEY WILL ALSO VISIT THE MACAU FIRE STATION AND TOUR THE CITY AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT WILL BE A FRIENDLY SEVEN-A-SIDE MINI SOCCER MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES.

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