



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1978

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QUEEN EXTENDS GOVERNOR'S TERM OF OFFICE
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THE QUEEN HAS APPROVED THE EXTENSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S
TERM UNTIL AUGUST 1979.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE FOLLOWING IS THE GOVERNOR'S PRESS STATEMENT ON THE
EXTENSION OF HIS TERM OF OFFICE:

+THE ENTHUSIASM OF MY WIFE AND MYSELF FOR HONG KONG AND
ITS PEOPLE IS WELL KNOWN, AND WE ARE OF COURSE BOTH DELIGHTED TO
HAVE THIS EXTRA TIME HERE. BUT, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE IN HONG KONG,
WE ARE HERE TO WORK.

+THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF HONG KONG AT THIS TIME ARE
THE CONFIDENCE ENGENDERED BY THE EXCELLENT STATE OF ANGLO/CHINESE
RELATIONS, AND THE RAPID ADVANCES THAT ARE BEING MADE WITH
HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC EXPANSION, SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, AND FIGHT
AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

+PROGRESS AND CHANGE OF THIS SPEED AND ON THIS SCALE HAVE
BROUGHT PROBLEMS - FOR INSTANCE QUITE UNFAIR PROBLEMS FOR OUR
EXPORTERS ABROAD, AND TEMPORARY PRESSURES OR INCONVENIENCE FOR
MANY INDIVIDUALS AT HOME, AND PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTRATION AS
THE SCALE OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY INCREASES. THE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION
OF NEW POLICIES ALSO PROVIDES FOOD FOR HEALTHY CONTROVERSY.
NEVERTHELESS THE REMARKABLE UPWARD TREND ON SO MANY FRONTS IS
THE MAIN FEATURE, AND TO MAINTAIN IT IS CLEARLY THE WHOLEHEARTED
WISH OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.

+DURING THE NEXT 17 MONTHS THE OBJECT OF MY WORK WILL BE
TO PRESERVE AND FORTIFY THE PROGRESS AND REDUCE OR RESOLVE THE
ACCOMPANYING PROBLEMS.+

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY

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THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR LAST MONTH (FEBRUARY) WAS \$2,125 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$3,910 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$778 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT'S PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1977 TO FEBRUARY 1978 (LATEST THREE MONTHS) SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF 4.8 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 16.3 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 13.9 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD DECEMBER 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1977, INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$531 MILLION OR 15.7 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$118 MILLION OR 17.9 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS AND A DECREASE OF \$129 MILLION OR 5.7 PER CENT IN EXPORTS WERE RECORDED.

THE SHORT TERM CHANGES, FEBRUARY 1978 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1978, SHOWED DECREASES OF \$595 MILLION OR 21.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$379 MILLION OR 8.8 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$105 MILLION OR 11.8 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

THESE DECREASES APPEAR TO BE MAINLY DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM MARCH 1977 TO FEBRUARY 1978 COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE PREVIOUS CORRESPONDING 12-MONTH PERIOD SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF FIVE PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 12.2 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 10.2 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

FOLLOWING ARE COMPARATIVE TRADE FIGURES:-

<u>LATEST 3 MONTHS</u>	DECEMBER 1977	DECEMBER 1976	INCREASE OR	
	TO	TO	DECREASE	
	FEBRUARY 1978	FEBRUARY 1977	<u> </u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,423	8,036	+ 387	+ 4.8
IMPORTS	13,115	11,276	+1,839	+16.3
RE-EXPORTS	2,634	2,312	+ 322	+13.9

/SAME MONTH LAST YEAR

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<u>SAME MONTH LAST YEAR</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u> 1978	<u>FEBRUARY</u> 1977	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,125 (73.2%)	2,254 (77.4%)	-129	- 5.7
IMPORTS	3,910	3,378	+531	+15.7
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	778 (26.8%)	659 (22.6%)	+118	+17.9
<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u> 1978	<u>JANUARY</u> 1978	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,125 (73.2%)	2,721 (75.5%)	-595	-21.9
IMPORTS	3,910	4,288	-379	- 8.8
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	778 (26.8%)	882 (24.5%)	-105	-11.8
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	<u>JAN.-FEB.</u> 1978	<u>JAN.-FEB.</u> 1977	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,846 (74.5%)	4,944 (76.7%)	- 98	- 2.0
IMPORTS	8,198	7,210	+989	+13.7
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	1,660 (25.5%)	1,500 (23.3%)	+160	+10.6
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	<u>MARCH 1977</u> <u>TO</u> <u>FEBRUARY 1978</u>	<u>MARCH 1976</u> <u>TO</u> <u>FEBRUARY 1977</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	34,906	33,242	+1,665	+ 5.0
IMPORTS	49,690	44,283	+5,407	+12.2
RE-EXPORTS	9,989	9,062	+ 927	+10.2

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT CONCERNED WITH OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE MATTERS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH AIMS TO PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BY EDUCATION, PERSUASION AND ADVICE, THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR (DESIGNATE), MR. J.C.A. HAMMOND, SAID TODAY.

BUT, HE ADDED, IF THESE METHODS FAILED TO MAKE A WORKPLACE SAFE, THEN FAIR AND FIRM PROSECUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN.

MR. HAMMOND WAS SPEAKING AT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CASH AWARDS TO EIGHT STUDENTS WHO WON PRIZES IN AN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY POSTER AND SLOGAN COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS.

MR. HAMMOND CONTINUED: +IN THE END, SUCCESS IN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY WORK RESTS WITH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS ALIKE REALISING THAT IT IS ENTIRELY IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS TO AIM AT AND TO ACHIEVE SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS AND PRACTICES.+

REFERRING TO LAST YEAR'S STATISTICS, HE SAID THERE WERE 49,854 OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS.

HE SAID ACCIDENTS CAUSED MUCH SUFFERING TO WORKERS CONCERNED AND BROUGHT MISERY TO THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ALSO DISRUPTED PRODUCTION AND COULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL LOSS FOR EMPLOYERS.

MR. HAMMOND PRAISED THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE COMPETITION FOR THEIR INTEREST AND CONCERN ABOUT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION.

HE SAID:+I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT YOU, THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF HONG KONG, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP PROMOTE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.+

MORE THAN 367 ENTRIES FROM 23 SCHOOLS WERE RECEIVED THIS YEAR AND THE FIRST PRIZE OF \$300 CASH WAS AWARDED TO ALAN LEUNG CHUN-MAN OF BISHOP BIANCHI COLLEGE OF CAREERS.

THE SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES OF \$250 AND \$200 WENT TO LAW SAI-KEUNG OF KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL AND YAN WAI-YEE OF BISHOP BIANCHI COLLEGE OF CAREERS RESPECTIVELY.

FIVE CONSOLATION PRIZES OF \$100 EACH WERE AWARDED TO : ALLAN JIM KWOK-FAI OF DELIA MEMORIAL SCHOOL= LO SIU-FUN OF ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS= CHAN WAI-MAN OF C.M.A. PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL= AU KWOK-CHOI OF BISHOP BIANCHI COLLEGE OF CAREERS= AND ELEENA YU OF BISHOP BIANCHI COLLEGE OF CAREERS.

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TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS AT LAI KING HEADLAND
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TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS WITH ACCESS ROADS AND A DRAINAGE SYSTEM WILL BE BUILT SOON ON THE HILLTOPS OF LAI KING HEADLAND IN TSUEN WAN.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS CALLING TENDERS FOR THE WORK WHICH FORMS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

MR. NORMAN TUCKER, CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SAID TODAY THAT WORK ON THE CONTRACT WOULD BEGIN NEXT MONTH AND WOULD TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

+THE TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS ARE REQUIRED TO MEET CLEARANCE COMMITMENTS ARISING FROM THE EXTENSION OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY TO TSUEN WAN TOGETHER WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN,+ HE ADDED.

MR. TUCKER SAID THAT THE HILLTOPS, WHICH WERE USED AS BORROW AREAS, HAD NOW BEEN FORMED INTO PLATFORMS BY THE DEVELOPERS OF THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL.

INITIALLY, HE POINTED OUT, THE PLATFORMS WOULD BE USED AS TEMPORARY HOUSING AREAS BUT WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

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HONG KONG DONATES CRANES TO USA
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SIX WHITE-NECKED CRANES WERE FLOWN TO THE U.S.A. THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING AS GIFTS OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

THE CRANES WERE SEIZED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT EARLY LAST YEAR UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

+THE CRANE IS INCLUDED IN THE ENDANGERED SPECIES CATEGORY AND THE SEIZURES WERE IN RELATION TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION AND ILLEGAL EXPORTATION OF THE SPECIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID.

SINCE THEN THEY WERE KEPT AT THE ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR THEIR FUTURE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE CRANES WERE SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION IN WISCONSIN, U.S.A., FOR BREEDING PURPOSES.

HE ADDED THAT THE OFF-SPRING OF THESE CRANES WOULD BE SENT TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD TO HELP ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPECIES.

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METHADONE TREATMENT CENTRES OPEN DURING EASTER HOLIDAYS
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT ALL THE METHADONE TREATMENT CENTRES WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.

ALL THE 16 EVENING DETOXIFICATION CENTRES WILL BE OPEN FROM 6 P.M. TO 10 P.M., WHILE THE DAY DETOXIFICATION CENTRES WILL BE OPEN ONLY IN THE MORNING FROM 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M. DURING THE HOLIDAYS.

THE FOUR MAINTENANCE CENTRES WILL BE OPERATING AS USUAL FROM 7 A.M. TO 9.30 P.M.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LEE GARDEN ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE SECTION OF LEE GARDEN ROAD BETWEEN HENNESSY ROAD AND KAI CHIU ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1 A.M. AND 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY (MARCH 24) TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN THE AREA.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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