



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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UN Committee calls for continued reporting on human rights in HK after 1997

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The Government welcomes the Concluding Observations published today (Friday) by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) following its hearing in Geneva on October 23 on the supplementary report on Hong Kong under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

A Government spokesman said: "The British and Hong Kong Governments agree entirely with the Human Rights Committee's main conclusion that human rights treaties devolve with territory and the protection of human rights under the Covenant cannot be denied to the people of Hong Kong merely by virtue of transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong from Britain to China. Moreover, China is obliged under the Joint Declaration to ensure the continued application after July 1, 1997 of all the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights including that of submitting periodic reports on Hong Kong.

"The British Government has urged the Chinese Government to work with them and to agree on a way for this to be done," he added.

On the Committee's suggestions and recommendations on Britain's responsibilities in respect of Hong Kong, the spokesman said: "The Prime Minister has made it clear that the British Government takes its responsibilities towards Hong Kong and its people very seriously. It has an abiding concern that the promises set out in the Joint Declaration will be met in full both before and after the transfer of sovereignty. To this end, the British Government will continue to work with their Chinese counterparts to arrive at a satisfactory solution to the question of the continued application of the Covenant to Hong Kong."

Commenting on the Committee's request for a further report, the spokesman said: "The British Government will submit a further report to the Human Rights Committee to cover the period up to the transfer of sovereignty."

The spokesman indicated that the Committee's Concluding Observations would be passed to the Chinese Government.

End

Overall VM population now below 10,000

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A total of 237 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned to Vietnam on a voluntary repatriation flight this (Friday) morning and with their departure, the overall VM population fell below 10,000 for the first time since December 1988.

As at 12 noon today, there are 9,924 VMs in Hong Kong.

Commenting on this morning's flight, the Refugee Co-ordinator, Mr Brian Bresnihan, expressed satisfaction at the current rate of repatriation.

"Some 11,413 VMs have returned to Vietnam so far this year, 1,772 in October alone, the highest monthly figure in 1996," he said.

Mr Bresnihan said that in recent weeks, the Vietnamese authorities had agreed to voluntary repatriation flights landing in Ho Chi Minh City.

"This agreement was announced by UNHCR in the Whitehead Detention Centre on October 30 and was a factor which prompted a record 1,041 VMs in that camp to volunteer to go home in advance of the forthcoming cycle of Orderly Repatriation Programme flights.

"We remain determined to resolve this problem as soon as possible and, if the current repatriation trends continue, it should be possible to close our camps by mid-1997," he said.

End

Privacy Commissioner's recommendation being studied

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A spokesman for the Home Affairs Branch said today (Friday) that the Government has received a recommendation by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data that the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, other than sections 30 and 33, should commence operation in the latter half of December 1996.

The spokesman said it is the Government's intention all along to bring the Ordinance into effect within this year.

"However, regarding the recommendation to defer the implementation of sections 30 (on matching procedures) and 33 (on transfer of personal data to places outside Hong Kong), we appreciate that data users would require sufficient time to prepare for compliance with these two particular sections.

"We are studying the recommendation carefully and will make a firm decision within this month," he added.

End

#### Law reform on offence of fraud gazetted

\* \* \* \* \*

A proposal by the Law Reform Commission (LRC) in July this year to remove existing deficiencies in the law on the offence of fraud has been accepted by the Administration and is now put forward in a Fraud Bill 1996 published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

The proposal is for the creation of a substantive offence of fraud, and abolition of the offence at common law of conspiracy to defraud.

A government spokesman explained that at present, Hong Kong does not have a general offence of fraud. Instead, fraudulent conduct is dealt with under various laws, both statutory and at common law under the conspiracy charge.

Among the defects of the law identified by the LRC are:

- \* the offence extends to conduct which would not amount to an offence if committed by a single individual;
- \* it is arguably artificial to charge parties with an agreement to commit a crime where the fact of an agreement is often inferred from the fact that the crime has been committed;
- \* the breadth of the offence is so wide that its boundaries may go beyond the limitations of a fraud-related offence in the Theft Ordinance and may cover conduct which arguably ought not to be criminal at all;

- \* there are practical difficulties in bringing the charge of conspiracy to defraud, e.g. trials tend to be more complicated and lengthy than those of other offences;
- \* where fraud has a foreign element, an analysis of factual issues relating to jurisdiction (such as, where the offence took place) can present difficulties both before and during trial; and
- \* extradition from certain countries may be unavailable in conspiracy to defraud cases.

The spokesman pointed out that the advantage of a new offence of fraud is that it would enable an individual acting alone to be properly charged with a substantive offence, without the necessity of involving a secondary participant.

The new offence would also avoid the artificiality of the present conspiracy to defraud charge where the fraud has actually been committed and the fraudster has achieved his ends.

It would also place fraudulent conduct within more precise bounds by tying it to deceit rather than dishonesty, he said.

He noted that the new offence of fraud would correspond to what most people believe should be the law and would be a welcome contribution to the fight against crime, adding to Hong Kong's reputation as international financial centre.

End

#### Factory audit checks to enhance HK's textiles control

\* \* \* \* \*

To protect the integrity of Hong Kong's Textiles Export Control System and the Certification System and to further improve control, factory audit checks will be carried out on manufacturers, subcontractors and exporters of textiles goods to supplement the existing consignment check system with immediate effect, the Trade Department announced today (Friday).

Also with immediate effect, the Trade Department will make the requirement of compliance with the factory audit checks an additional condition for the issue of export licence and certificate of origin.

Giving details of the new measure, a Trade Department spokesman said: "A factory audit check is a combination of consignment check, factory inspection and production capacity verification where all certificates of origin and certificate of origin applications and/or licences and licence applications taken out or submitted by a manufacturer will be verified against the relevant manufacturing records and export documentation to ensure the accuracy of the material particulars declared on the certificates and/or licences.

"At the same time, all particulars declared on the application for factory registration and the production capacity information supplied by the manufacturer will also be verified."

The spokesman said factory audit checks would be conducted by authorised officers of the Customs and Excise Department on any manufacturers, subcontractors or exporters as and when required.

Officers of the Customs and Excise Department are empowered by law to enter the premises of the manufacturers, subcontractors, exporters and any other parties involved in the manufacture and export of textiles consignments and to conduct checks at any reasonable time.

The spokesman said in the event of factory audit checks, the responsible person of the factory would be required to complete a questionnaire and all parties concerned including the manufacturer, the exporter and the subcontractor should render all necessary assistance and co-operation to officers of the Customs and Excise Department in conducting the checks.

In particular, they are reminded to observe the following:

- a) the manufacturer, the exporter and the subcontractor must make the goods available for inspection and produce the relevant commercial and shipping documentation and manufacturing records as appropriate to show that the goods have been manufactured and will be properly exported in accordance with the provisions of the Textiles Export Control System;
- b) the manufacturer, the exporter and the subcontractor must produce the manufacturing records and other documents to substantiate the origin of textiles products. The manufacturer must also furnish the relevant records for verification of its declared production capacity; and

- c) if the goods in question have not been exported at the time of the factory audit check, the manufacturer, the exporter or the subcontractor concerned must make the goods available for inspection before shipment, including, if necessary, the opportunity for inspection at the point of exit of the goods from Hong Kong and the manufacturer, the exporter or the contractor concerned will be expected to provide shipping information to facilitate customs consignment checking at the point of exit.

"Failure to comply with the factory audit check requirement or failure to render all necessary assistance and co-operation to officers of the Customs and Excise Department in conducting the factory audit check will result in the suspension of all licensing and certification of origin facilities as well as other facilities provided under the Textiles Export Control System." the spokesman warned.

"The Director-General of Trade may also cancel, suspend and/or revoke the relevant certificates of origin, licences and/or production notifications, and may discount the shipment performance gained by all licences taken out by the parties concerned during a specific period for the purpose of future quota/permit allocation. In addition, other administrative actions may be taken."

Breach of any of the provisions of the Textiles Export Control System and the Certification System will be taken seriously. Offenders are liable to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$500,000 and two years' imprisonment upon conviction under the Import and Export Ordinance.

End

#### New forms for employees to report accident details

\* \* \* \* \*

Under the Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Regulation 1996 gazetted today (Friday), an employer will be required to provide more information to the Commissioner for Labour in the event that his/her employee is killed or injured in a work-related accident.

The Employees' Compensation Ordinance provides that an employer is required to give notice to the Commissioner for Labour in a prescribed form of any accident which causes death to an employee or incapacitates him/her for more than three consecutive days immediately following the accident. The form requires the employer to provide information relating to the accident. A separate form has been prescribed for reporting occupational disease in respect of an employee.

To facilitate the processing of employees' compensation claims, these new forms require an employer who is the subsidiary of a group of companies to submit information about the holding company if its liabilities are covered by an insurance policy taken out by the holding company.

In addition, an employer who is a sub-contractor or a subsidiary will be required to provide the business registration certificate number of the principal contractor or the holding company.

Under the new form for reporting accidents, employers will be required to provide information on the location of the accident and activity carried out thereat; the nature of injury sustained by the employee and the part of his/her body injured; the cause of injury and agents involved in the accident.

"These additional details will help the Labour Department compile comprehensive statistics on work-related accidents," a Labour Department spokesman said.

Since the majority of serious or fatal industrial accidents have taken place on construction sites, employers on these sites are required to furnish further information on the type of work performed by the employee and the machinery involved in the accident.

"Information collected from these forms will provide useful references for the Labour Department to target its enforcement actions and set priorities for improving industrial safety," the spokesman said.

The amendment regulation will be tabled at the Legislative Council on November 20, 1996. If approved, the new forms will be used from January 1, 1997.

End

Support from the community is essential to combat AIDS

\* \* \* \* \*

Prevention and education are the best ways to control AIDS, Mrs Lavender Patten said today (Friday).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Hong Kong's first AIDS Conference, Mrs Patten said: "In spite of the medical advances and our rising awareness of the disease, AIDS is still an incurable condition, affecting young and productive people in our society."

She pointed out that the impact of AIDS was significant even if the number of infected patients was apparently small in Hong Kong.

"The seemingly low rate of HIV infection in Hong Kong should not breed complacency. We must continue our efforts to control the disease," she said.

"Local and international experience tells us that for prevention to be effective as a society we must face up to behaviour with a high risk of leading to infection. In other words, subjects like sexual habits, drug abuse, the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases should be tackled when drawing up prevention programmes."

Mrs Patten said that in Hong Kong a target-oriented approach for preventing AIDS had been adopted which ensured, to a certain extent, that people get the right message which might lead to changes in behaviour or attitude.

She said support of the whole community was needed to develop an effective programme for AIDS. She appealed to the public to be understanding and compassionate to those living with the disease.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of Advisory Council on AIDS, Dr Conrad Lam, said: "The conference represents a milestone in our history. It will pave the way for better collaboration of all parties involved in AIDS prevention, care and control in Hong Kong."

"The policy, social, public health, clinical and care issues concerning HIV/AIDS will be addressed by local workers in the Conference and through their active participation, new ideas would be generated.

"I am hopeful that these ideas can be translated into useful strategies for the Advisory Council on AIDS in due course." he said.

The Chairman of Organising Committee of AIDS Conference, Ms Carlye Tsui also said the conference provided a timely and unique opportunity for Hong Kong to look back into the past, evaluate its efforts and plan for the coming future.

"Local efforts in the past 11 years towards the prevention, care and control of the disease succeeded to enhance public AIDS awareness, keep the epidemic under control, and provide support for people living with AIDS," she said.

"What we have achieved so far is a good base for us to strengthen the AIDS programme in Hong Kong. Togetherness will be the key to build new hope for the society and patients."

The two-day AIDS Conference, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, was organised by the Advisory Council on AIDS and sponsored by the Department of Health.

Programmes of the conference include a plenary session, symposiums, workshops, exhibitions and cultural events.

End

#### Man Kam To Food Control Office opening

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The Man Kam To Food Control Office set up by the Department of Health to strengthen surveillance of food items imported from China will be officially open on November 18 (Monday).

Funded and supported by the two municipal councils, the purposely-built checkpoint comprises, among other things, a laboratory capable of conducting confirmatory analyses for vegetables.

Officiating at the opening ceremony will be the Director of Health cum Chairman of the Hygiene Services Committee (HSC), Dr Margaret Chan.

Other officiating guests include HSC members and Urban Councillors, Mr Joseph Chan and Mr Wong Kwok-hing; HSC members and Regional Councillors Mr Ting Yin-wah and Mr Leung Che-cheung; and the Director of Architectural Services, Mr Chan Yat-sun.

Following the opening ceremony will be a tour of the various facilities of the Man Kam To Food Control Office.

End

### Family plays an important role in society

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The Director of Social Welfare, Mr Andrew Leung Kin-pong, spelt out the importance of the family unit, describing it as "a vital component of society".

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) Ma On Shan Family Services Centre today (Friday), Mr Leung said the family unit was an intimate environment in which personal care, mutual support and emotional security were provided.

"The increasing number of broken families resulted from separation and divorces, and the more and more families moving to new towns, would affect the mutual care between these families and their relatives," he said.

"The establishment of the family services centres, staffed by professional social workers, is designed to help individuals and families to cope with their problems."

SWD at present runs 42 such centres throughout the territory to maintain and to strengthen the effectiveness of the family unit in district level.

Mr Leung noted that there was a significant increase in population in the developing Ma On Shan new town, rising from 80,000 in 1992 to 130,000 at present.

He urged local residents with difficulties to approach this new family services centre for help without delay to avoid any unpleasant mishaps.

In general, problems handled by family services centres mainly involve interpersonal relationship problems, single parents, care or protection of children and young people, children or adolescents with behavioural problems, and people with mental or physical disabilities.

End

### HIV/AIDS situation in third quarter

\* \* \* \* \*

A total of 36 persons were found to be positive for the HIV Antibody Test in the third quarter of 1996, the Department of Health announced today (Friday). This brings the number of HIV infected persons in Hong Kong to 738.

Fourteen new AIDS cases were reported during the same period.

Up to the end of September, the total number of confirmed AIDS cases is 228.

Of the 738 HIV-infected, 364 acquired the infection through heterosexual sex and 234 through homosexual or bisexual sex; 14 were injecting drug users; three were mother-to-child transmissions around the time of birth; and 66 acquired the infection through contaminated blood or blood products before 1985 when HIV Antibody Test and safe heat treated clotting concentrates were not available.

As for the remaining 57, the information available was inadequate for classification.

End

#### Request to refrain from sounding whistles or sirens

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The Marine Department requests shipowners, shipmasters, officers and persons in charge of vessels, as far as possible, to refrain from sounding whistles or sirens within Victoria Harbour during the Remembrance Day service from 10.30 to 11.30 am on Sunday (November 10).

A spokesman for the Marine Department said today (Friday): "In particular, this should be observed during the two-minute silence period from 11 to 11.02 am.

"The beginning and ending of this period of silence will be indicated by the firing of a gun in Central."

End

#### BFBS marks Remembrance Day with two-minute silence

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The British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), based at the Prince of Wales Barracks in Central, will observe two minutes of silence at 11 am on Sunday (November 10) in honour of those men and women who gave their lives on active service.

The silence will be followed by the sounding of the Last Post.

End

### CAS Band to hold Beating Retreat on Sunday

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The Civil Aid Services (CAS) Band is to hold its Beating Retreat 1996 on Sunday (November 10) evening at the Gun Club Hill Barracks in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The biennial event will comprise a series of performances by the CAS Pipe Band and Brass Band as well as the Hong Kong Boys' Brigade Band.

The programme includes traditional band marching and pipes and drums parades. The highlight of the hour-long evening performance is the finale - Beating of Retreat.

The principal guest at the performance is the Deputy Secretary for Security, Mr Alex Fong.

The CAS Band, which is financed by the Government, was first formed in 1976 when the bugle and drum bands of the CAS Aberdeen and Sham Shui Po Cadet Units amalgamated into a brass band. It was expanded in 1977 by including one pipe band which can perform either independently or together with the brass band as a marching band.

In addition to staging performances at CAS events and major government functions, the band is becoming more and more popular by providing concert and martial music for the public on various occasions both locally and overseas.

The "Beating Retreat" is generally believed to have originated in the 16th Century. At that time, it was signalled by sounds made from drums, trumpets, pipes or other instruments on ramparts, half an hour before closing gates of a garrison town at night. The purpose of which was to recall troops within the walls, and to warn civilians as well.

At the same time, the night watch was set or guards mounted and the flag was lowered at nightfall. A ceremony was later set up to regulate these duties.

Nowadays, at places where troops are stationed, the Beating Retreat becomes the basis of military spectacles and serves as an entertainment for the public.

End

Volume and price statistics of external trade in August

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In the first eight months of 1996, the volume of re-exports increased by 7.8% over the same period last year, while the volume of domestic exports decreased by 8.2%, according to the statistics released today (Friday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 5.1%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 3.9% in volume.

Comparing August 1996 with August 1995, the volume of re-exports increased by 7.7%, while that of domestic exports decreased by 11%. Taken together, the volume of total exports increased by 4.6%. The volume of imports increased by 2.1%.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade value with the effect of price changes discounted.

As regards price changes in the first eight months of 1996 over the same period last year, the prices of re-exports decreased by 0.1%, while that of domestic exports increased by 0.7%. Import prices decreased by 0.9%.

Comparing August 1996 with August 1995, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports decreased by 1.6% and 0.8% respectively. Import prices also decreased by 2.7%.

Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, recorded an increase of 1% in the first eight months of 1996 over the same period last year.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Comparing August 1996 with August 1995, increases in volume were recorded for all the end-use categories of re-exports : foodstuffs (+30%); fuels (+29%); capital goods (+12%); raw materials and semi-manufactures (+6.2%); and consumer goods (+5.9%).

Over the same period of comparison, increase in the prices of re-exports was only noted of fuels (+13%).

On the other hand, the re-export prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures; capital goods; foodstuffs; and consumer goods decreased by 4.1%; 1.8%; 0.2% and 0.1% respectively.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing August 1996 with August 1995, commodity groups which recorded significant increases in volume of domestic exports included textile yarn and thread (+18%); and domestic electrical appliances (+10%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of textile made-ups and related products; and radios of all kinds decreased by 66% and 61% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included metal ores and scrap (+12%); and radios of all kinds (+8.9%).

On the other hand, the domestic export prices of electronic components; and domestic electrical appliances decreased by 7.3% and 4.9% respectively.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 15% in August 1996 compared with August 1995.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of soya bean oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil and lard; and fruit. However, decreases were recorded in the import volume of animals of the bovine species, live; and sugar.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods increased by 3.9%.

Increases in import volume were recorded in miscellaneous made-up articles of textile materials; and footwear. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of passenger motor cars; and alcoholic beverages.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 3% in August 1996 compared with August 1995.

Increases in import volume were recorded in most of the raw materials and semi-manufactures. Significant increases in the import volume were noted of lime, cement, and fabricated building materials except glass, clay construction materials and refractory construction materials; and woven fabrics of man-made fibres. However, decreases were noted of raw cotton; and man-made fibres.

Imports of fuels decreased by 49% in volume in August 1996 compared with August 1995.

As regards capital goods, the volume of imports increased by 6.3% in August 1996 over August 1995.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of transport equipment; and office machinery. The import volume of industrial machinery, other than textile machinery and electrical machinery; and construction machinery however decreased.

Comparing August 1996 with August 1995, the import prices of fuels and consumer goods increased by 12% and 1.2% respectively.

On the other hand, the import prices of raw materials and semi-manufactures; capital goods; and foodstuffs decreased by 7.1%, 4% and 0.6% respectively.

Details of the above statistics are published in the August 1996 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be available on sale around 11 November 1996 at \$14 per copy at either the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway or the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel 2582 4918).

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Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing AUG 1996 with AUG 1995			Comparing JAN-AUG 1996 with JAN-AUG 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	27.0	-0.2	29.8	13.6	*	13.7
Consumer goods	6.6	-0.1	5.9	5.9	0.9	4.3
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	1.7	-4.1	6.2	4.7	-1.8	6.6
Fuels	44.7	13.2	29.2	26.3	12.8	14.1
Capital goods	7.9	-1.8	11.8	14.2	-1.1	18.1
ALL COMMODITIES	6.0	-1.6	7.7	7.4	-0.1	7.8

\* less than 0.05%

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing AUG 1996 with AUG 1995			Comparing JAN-AUG 1996 with JAN-AUG 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	-6.6	-0.5	-5.5	-6.9	0.9	-7.4
Textile fabrics	4.7	-1.9	6.8	-4.2	-0.2	-5.1
Textile yarn and thread	22.7	5.2	18.1	22.2	5.2	17.3
Textile made-ups and related articles	-67.0	2.7	-66.1	-31.0	1.1	-31.4
Radios of all kinds	-57.1	8.9	-61.0	-1.2	6.9	-13.0
Electronic components	-25.4	-7.3	-21.5	-10.6	-1.5	-10.6
Footwear	-28.2	-2.6	-25.9	-53.8	-3.4	-53.9
Metal manufactures	-12.0	2.4	-13.7	-10.1	5.6	-15.2
Metal ores and scrap	-22.3	11.7	-30.3	-13.0	9.2	-18.9
Watches and clocks	-6.3	0.3	-6.1	-9.0	-0.2	-8.8
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-37.3	1.6	-38.4	-14.6	1.1	-16.1
Domestic electrical appliances	2.8	-4.9	10.1	36.1	-3.3	41.6
ALL COMMODITIES	-11.5	-0.8	-10.9	-8.3	0.7	-8.2

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing AUG 1996 with AUG 1995			Comparing JAN-AUG 1996 with JAN-AUG 1995		
	% changes			% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	14.9	-0.6	15.3	5.5	*	5.5
Consumer goods	5.1	1.2	3.9	2.3	1.6	0.6
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	-3.2	-7.1	3.0	-0.4	-3.0	2.7
Fuels	-40.0	11.5	-48.6	18.1	8.2	8.3
Capital goods	2.6	-4.0	6.3	8.0	-3.3	11.5
ALL COMMODITIES	0.7	-2.7	2.1	2.9	-0.9	3.9

\* less than 0.05%

End

Newly-built roof-top structure in Kwun Tong to be closed

\* \* \* \* \*

The Buildings Department announced today (Friday) that a newly-erected roof-top structure at Nos. 19-29 Mut Wah Street, Kwun Tong will be closed for demolition.

A Notice of Intention was issued to the owners of the building this morning informing them that the department would apply from the Hong Kong District Court for closing the structure on March 14, 1997.

The department's Chief Building Surveyor (Control and Enforcement), Mr Au Choi-kai, said the structure was found under construction upon an inspection to the building.

"Priority enforcement action will be taken against all unauthorised structures who are either newly-erected or under construction to contain the growth of illegal structures.

"A demolition order will then be served on the owners. We will not hesitate to initiate prosecution action if they fails to comply with the Order," Mr Au said.

End

Courses on drug education for secondary school teachers

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A number of vacancies of drug education courses are still available for secondary school teachers, the Principal Inspector (Biological Sciences) of the Education Department, Mr Ho Chung-nin, said today (Friday)

"School heads are urged to nominate their teachers to attend these courses," he said.

A total of five courses on drug education will be held between November 16 and December 13.

"Aided and government schools may apply for employment of supply teachers to take up the lessons of teachers attending the course which is held on school days," Mr Ho said.

"To support the Government's efforts to beat drug, the department has set the target to train one teacher on drug education for every local secondary school by 1997.

"At present, about two thirds of all secondary schools have their teachers completed these courses. We hope that the remaining schools will send teachers to attend these courses," he said.

The three-day courses consist of talks and workshops.

They aim to enhance participants' knowledge on substance abuse and its effect to health, promote their understanding with substance abuse at schools, and develop their skills for conducting preventive education against substance abuse at schools and helping pupils with substance abuse.

Priority will be given to schools without teachers trained in drug education, Mr Ho added.

End

#### Family Sports Cup competitions to kick off tomorrow

\* \* \* \* \*

Four teams, including Legislative Councillors, representatives from parent-teacher associations (PTAs), the Hong Kong Rats (ex-footballers) and the Hong Kong United Press (reporters), will tomorrow (Saturday) participate in the Family Sports Cup Soccer Tournament.

Jointly organised by the Committee on Home-School, Co-operation and the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, the soccer tournament will be held at the Hong Kong Sports Institute in Sha Tin.

It serves as a kicking-off ceremony for the Family Sports Cup, a series of sports events for PTAs to build up a "sporting culture" in family.

The Chairman of the Committee on Home-School Co-operation, Mr Tik chi-yuen: "The Family Sports Cup is to encourage schools to set up parent-teacher associations and to enhance parents' involvement in education, especially that of the fathers."

Present at the kicking-off ceremony will be Mr Tik and the Director of Corporate Services of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board, Mr Patrick Ho as well as captains/managers of the four competing teams.

End

Recovery rate for treating MARPOL waste to increase

\* \* \* \* \*

Fees charged by the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC) for receiving and treating wastes containing oil or noxious substances discharged from ships (known as MARPOL waste) will be increased.

A Government spokesman today (Friday) said that when the CWTC opened in April 1993, a free service was initially provided to encourage ship operators to dispose of their wastes properly. In accordance with the polluter pays principle, a charging scheme was introduced from 1 August 1995 to recover some of the cost of providing the service.

The initial charges were set to recover the full administrative costs and approximately 20 per cent of the variable operating cost (VOC) of the CWTC.

The VOC recovery rate will be increased from 20 to 25 per cent from 20 December 1996. This is in line with the new charges for the disposal of land-based chemical waste at the CWTC, made effective since June this year.

"Ship owners will still only pay a fraction of the cost of treating their waste. The Government will continue to bear about 75 per cent of the VOC, as well as the full fixed operating cost and capital cost of constructing the CWTC," the spokesman said.

The revised charges are set out in the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution)(Charges of Discharge of Polluting Waste)(Amendment) Regulation 1996 published in the gazette today (Friday).

Under the MARPOL Convention for the prevention of pollution from ships, ship operators are restricted from discharging MARPOL wastes into the sea.

At the same time, Governments are required to ensure that adequate reception facilities are available for the disposal of such wastes.

End

Three footbridges proposed for Tsing Yi

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government proposes to construct three footbridges in Area 3 of Tsing Yi.

Two of the footbridges will span across Tsing King Road while the other one will run over Tsing Luk Street.

The contract will also comprise construction of a staircase and a ramp linking Tsing Yi Garden and Tsing Yi Town Clinic together with footway and road widening works at the proposed footbridge locations, and construction of planter, safety fence, associated landscaping and ancillary works.

Details of the proposed works were contained in a notice published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

Plans showing the extent of the proposed works together with a scheme description can be seen at the Central and Western District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong; the Kwai Tsing District Office, Public Enquiry Service Centre, second floor, Kwai Hing Government Offices Building, 166-174 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories; and the Tsuen Wan District Lands Office, 10th floor, Tsuen Wan Station Multi-storey Carpark Building, 174-208 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories.

Any person objecting to the proposed works should submit a written objection reaching the Secretary for Transport, Central Government Offices, East Wing, second floor, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong not later than Tuesday, January 7, 1997.

He should describe his interest and the manner in which he alleges that he will be affected.

End

### Footbridge to be built across Yen Chow Street

\* \* \* \* \*

The Governor-in-Council has authorised the construction of a footbridge across Yen Chow Street at Ki Lung Street in Sham Shui Po to improve road junction capacity and enhance road safety there.

A government spokesman said that following the completion of a number of developments in the vicinity recently, it was anticipated that the pedestrian crossing demand across Yen Chow Street would increase significantly. It was therefore proposed to build a new footbridge to cope with the increased demand.

The project will include the construction of a five-metre wide footbridge across Yen Chow Street at Ki Lung Street with a staircase and escalator at one end and a connection to the existing landing at the first floor of Dragon Centre at the other end.

Associated ground level works and drainage works will also be included.

Work is expected to start later this month (November) for completion in 12 months.

End

### Improvement to van track at Ping Kong proposed

\* \* \* \* \*

The Government is proposing to improve the existing van track from Po Kin Road to Ping Kong, Sheung Shui to increase traffic capacity and to improve the safety of users.

The proposed improvement works will include:

- \* reconstruction and widening of the track section to approximately 3.5 metres with passing bays at suitable locations;
- \* construction of an approximately 1.6-metre wide footpath along the eastern side of the track section; and
- \* associated street furniture, drainage works and a vehicular and pedestrian crossing over the existing stream.

Details of the proposed works were published in the Government Gazette today (Friday).

The plan and scheme on the proposed works can be inspected at:

- \* Central Enquiry Service Centre, Central and Western District Office, ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong;
- \* North District Lands Office, sixth floor, North District Government Offices, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling, New Territories; and
- \* North District Office, third floor, North District Government Offices, 3 Pik Fung Road, Fanling, New Territories.

Any person, who wishes to object to the works or the use or both, is required to send his objection in writing to the Secretary for Transport, second floor, East Wing, Central Government Offices, Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong not later than January 7, 1997.

End

Sha Tau Kok lot for sale by tender

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the sale of a piece of government land in Area 17, Sha Tau Kok.

With an area of about 1,167 square metres, Lot No. 1000 in Demarcation District No. 40 is intended for non-industrial purposes excluding godown and service apartment.

The closing date for submission of tenders is noon on December 6.

Tender form, tender notice and conditions can be obtained from the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Hong Kong and the Kowloon District Lands Offices, 10th floor, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon.

Tender documents will also be available at the district lands offices of Sha Tin, Tai Po, North, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Sai Kung and Islands.

End

Slope stabilisation works at Shum Wan Road

\* \* \* \* \*

The Civil Engineering Department is inviting tenders for stabilisation works to slopes at Shum Wan Road in Aberdeen.

Following the landslide at Shum Wan Road in August 1995, temporary stabilisation works were implemented. With the completion of a full investigation into the landslide and adjacent areas, permanent upgrading works to the slopes can be undertaken.

Works will comprise trimming and excavation of slopes, installation of soil nails, construction of retaining walls and provision of surface drainage.

Landscaping work will be included as part of the construction to restore as much vegetation as possible on the slopes.

Works will start in January 1997 for completion in 12 months.

Only contractors on the List of Approved Suppliers of Materials and Specialist Contractors for Public Works in the category of Landslip Preventive/Remedial Works to Slopes/Retaining Walls are invited to tender.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from Halcrow Asia Partnership Limited, Room 3201 Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for the project will close at noon on Friday, November 29, 1996.

End

Tenders invited for two building contracts

\* \* \* \* \*

The Architectural Services Department is inviting tenders for two building contracts in Tseung Kwan O and Kowloon Bay respectively.

The contract for works in Tseung Kwan O involves the construction of a swimming pool complex, a district library, an indoor recreation centre and a district open space in Area 24.

The swimming pool complex will comprise a standard pool, a leisure pool with waterslides, two teaching pools, a training pool, a diving pool, a spectator stand accommodating 1,173 persons and ancillary facilities.

Work will commence in February 1997 for completion in March 1999.

The other contract is for the construction of a primary health care centre and a nursing home for the elderly in Kowloon Bay.

The primary health care centre will have a general out-patient clinic, a student health service centre, an integrated day treatment centre, a general radiography centre and a regional store.

The nursing home will provide 200 residential care places for elderly people in need of regular medical, nursing and personal care.

Work will start in March 1997 for completion in October 1998.

Tender forms and further particulars of both contracts can be obtained from the Architectural Services Department, 34th floor, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

Tender offers for both contracts will close at noon on Friday, December 6.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

\* \* \* \* \*

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,895	0930	+5
Closing balance in the account	3,100	1000	+5
Change attributable to:		1100	+5
Money market activity	+5	1200	+5
LAF today	+200	1500	-25
		1600	+5

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.5 \*-0.1\* 8.11.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/MTRC				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	4.84	2 years	2808	6.00	100.67	5.67
1 month	4.87	3 years	3910	6.28	100.63	6.13
3 months	4.93	5 years	5109	7.32	103.12	6.66
6 months	4.99	7 years	7308	7.24	102.09	6.96
12 months	5.25	10 years	1610	7.37	101.64	7.26
		5 years	M503	7.35	101.90	6.99

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$9,903 million

Closed November 8, 1996

End