



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1977

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1977

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THERE WAS A DROP IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS LAST MONTH COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS MONTH, ACCORDING TO PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR JUNE WAS \$2,930 MILLION, IMPORTS WERE WORTH \$3,992 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$806 MILLION. COMPARED WITH MAY, THE FIGURES REPRESENTED DECREASES OF \$27 MILLION OR 0.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$184 MILLION OR 4.4 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND \$16 MILLION OR 1.9 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, THE FIGURES SHOWED INCREASES, BY VALUE, OF \$100 MILLION OR 3.5 PER CENT IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$339 MILLION OR 9.3 PER CENT IN IMPORTS AND \$69 MILLION OR 9.4 PER CENT IN RE-EXPORTS.

THE FIGURES FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE 1977 ALSO SHOWED INCREASES BY VALUE, OF 6.9 PER CENT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 12.9 PER CENT FOR IMPORTS AND 9.3 PER CENT FOR RE-EXPORTS, COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1976.

FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD FROM JULY 1976 TO JUNE 1977, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 20.6 PER CENT, 17.5 PER CENT AND 15.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING 12 MONTH OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TRADE TABLE GIVES THE COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	APRIL-JUNE 1977	APRIL-JUNE 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	8,505	7,957	+ 548	+ 6.9
IMPORTS	12,298	10,889	+1,409	+ 12.9
RE-EXPORTS	2,347	2,147	+ 200	+ 9.3
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JUNE 1977	JUNE 1976	INCREASE OR DECREASE	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,930 (78.4%)	2,831 (79.3%)	+ 100	+ 3.5
IMPORTS	3,992	3,652	+ 339	+ 9.3
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	806 (21.6%)	737 (20.7%)	+ 69	+ 9.4

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<u>LAST MONTH</u>	<u>JUNE</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>MAY</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	2,930 (78.4%)	2,958 (78.3%)	- 27	- 0.9
IMPORTS	3,992	4,176	- 184	- 4.4
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	806 (21.6%)	822 (21.7%)	- 16	- 1.9
<u>CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE</u> <u>1977</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE</u> <u>1976</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	15,776 (77.4%)	14,800 (77.7%)	+ 976	+ 6.6
IMPORTS	23,440	20,606	+2,833	+ 13.7
RE-EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	4,610 (22.6%)	4,259 (22.3%)	+ 351	+ 8.2
<u>LAST 12 MONTHS</u>	<u>JULY 1976</u> <u>TO</u> <u>JUNE 1977</u>	<u>JULY 1975</u> <u>TO</u> <u>JUNE 1976</u>	<u>INCREASE OR</u> <u>DECREASE</u>	
	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	33,605	27,856	+5,749	+ 20.6
IMPORTS	46,126	39,259	+6,867	+ 17.5
RE-EXPORTS	9,279	8,019	+1,260	+ 15.7

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SETTING UP OF VOLUNTARY INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORGANISATION SUGGESTED

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, TODAY (TUESDAY) SUGGESTED THAT INDUSTRY COULD DEVELOP A VOLUNTARY SAFETY ORGANISATION TO HELP PREVENT INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

MR. WILLIAMS TOLD A FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES LUNCHEON AUDIENCE THAT THERE WERE STILL GAPS IN ACCIDENT PREVENTION DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND EDUCATION THROUGH ITS INSPECTION SYSTEM.

EXPLAINING THE ROLE OF A POSSIBLE VOLUNTARY INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORGANISATION, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, IN GENERAL TERMS IT COULD PRODUCE CODES OF SAFE WORKING PRACTICES= ESTABLISH A FORUM FOR THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS= PROVIDE A TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE FOR MATTERS OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH= PROVIDE TRAINING COURSES FOR INDUSTRY AND STIMULATE INFORMED INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH THROUGH PUBLICITY SERVICES.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE ANNUAL TOLL OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DEATH WAS HUGE AND THAT LAST YEAR ALONE THERE WERE MORE THAN 45,000 OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AND 249 DEATHS. INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY 70 PER CENT OF THIS TOTAL.

+THE AMOUNT PAID OUT AS COMPENSATION UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ORDINANCE FOR ABOUT 35,000 SETTLED CASES WAS \$22 MILLION, AND THIS SUM DOES NOT INCLUDE INDIRECT COSTS SUCH AS MEDICAL EXPENSES, INTERFERENCE WITH PRODUCTION, DAMAGE TO PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, SPOILAGE OF MATERIAL OR COMPENSATION PAID AS CIVIL DAMAGES,+ HE SAID.

+IT IS RECOGNISED INTERNATIONALLY THAT SUCH INDIRECT COSTS AMOUNT TO FOUR TO FIVE TIMES THE ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID IN COMPENSATION, AND IT CAN THEREFORE BE SAID THAT THE LOSS LAST YEAR WAS IN THE ORDER OF \$100 MILLION,+ HE ADDED.

+IT IS CLEAR THAT HONG KONG CANNOT BEAR SUCH LOSSES AND THAT INCREASED PRACTICAL PREVENTIVE EFFORT BY MANAGEMENT, LABOUR AND THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE MADE, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY,+ HE STRESSED.

+IN THE END, ALL OF THESE LOSSES MUST BE BORNE BY THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. AND THEREFORE IT IS ONLY PROPER THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE EFFORT TO KEEP WORKERS FROM BEING INJURED OR KILLED BY ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

HE REFERRED TO THE MANY NEW SETS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN RECENT YEARS AND THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE'S INSPECTION OF WORKPLACES TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS.

/+BUT REGULATORY

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+BUT REGULATORY ACTION ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT,+ MR. WILLIAMS SAID, +AND SO THE INSPECTORATE ALSO ASSUMED THE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF EDUCATING ALL GRADES OF SUPERVISORS AND MANAGERS IN THEIR DUTY OF PREVENTING INJURIES TO THEIR WORKFORCE.+

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD QUICKLY CONCLUDED IN HIS FIRST FEW WEEKS AS COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR THAT EDUCATION PROPERLY BACKED BY ENFORCEMENT WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH.

MR. WILLIAMS RECOUNTED THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRY.

FOR THOSE EMPLOYERS WHO WERE NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO ENGAGE FULL-TIME SAFETY PERSONNEL, HE OFFERED THE SERVICES OF THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE FOR ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE.

THE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE, HE SAID, OFFERED A VARIETY OF SAFETY TRAINING COURSES FREE OF CHARGE TO INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES AT VARIOUS LEVELS.

THE INSPECTORATE ALSO ORGANISED SAFETY EXHIBITIONS TO PUT ACROSS THE SAFETY MESSAGE TO BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

FACTORY INSPECTION, MR. WILLIAMS SAID, HAD DONE MUCH TO MAKE WORKING CONDITIONS IN INDUSTRY SAFER AND HEALTHIER BUT SUCH INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT WERE ONLY A PART OF THE JOB TO BE DONE.

+MUCH MORE MUST BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE THE VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION OF EMPLOYERS,+ HE CONTINUED.

+THE MANAGEMENT THAT REALISES HOW AND WHY ACCIDENTS COST MONEY WILL TURN ITS ENERGIES MORE AND MORE TO THE JOB OF ELIMINATING THEM, AND WILL IN THIS WAY DO FAR MORE TO SAFEGUARD ITS EMPLOYEES THAN IT COULD BE COMPELLED TO DO BY LAW,+ THE COMMISSIONER ADDED.

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GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED TO DO MORE ON RAT CONTROL IN LEGCO
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UNOFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE HON. T.S. LO WILL MOVE A MOTION ASKING THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE ITS EFFORTS IN RODENT CONTROL WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING, THE HON. FRANCIS TIEN WILL ALSO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF +THE PRESENT OUTLOOK OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRIES+.

EIGHTEEN QUESTIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE RAISED BY THE UNOFFICIALS, INCLUDING ONE BY THE HON. T.S. LO ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PROPERTY ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ON THE LOCATION AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

DR. THE HON. S.Y. CHUNG WILL PUT IN A QUESTION ASKING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF AN ENQUIRY REPORT ON THE COLLISION OFF CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND BETWEEN A HYDROFOIL AND A YAUMATI FERRY.

THERE WILL BE OTHER QUESTIONS ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW GRADUATES FROM THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, CONTROL OF SPEED-BOATS NEAR GAZETTED BEACHES, SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER SKIERS, PROTECTION OF RAPE VICTIMS, MORE STUDY ROOMS IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUE OF 'JUMBO' PASSPORTS, WHEELCHAIRS FOR DISABLED PASSENGERS AT KAI TAK, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN WATER SUPPLY TO SAI KUNG DISTRICT.

THERE WILL ALSO BE QUESTIONS ON RELOCATING PIG-BREEDERS NOW IN THE URBAN AREAS TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS TO PEDESTRIANS ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD NEAR MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED, FEASIBILITY OF A MTR/KCR INTERCHANGE STATION AT KOWLOON TONG, AND MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON MINIBUSES IN CERTAIN AREAS.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG, USE OF LYEMUN BARRACKS FOR PUBLIC RECREATION, MERIT TRIPS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING THE LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE CUTS TO FILMS IN HONG KONG TO BE ADVERTISED WILL BE ASKED.

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FOOD OPERATORS CAUGHT WASTING WATER IN SURPRISE VISITS
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TEAMS OF WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT STAFF HAVE BEEN PAYING A SERIES OF SURPRISE VISITS TO RESTAURANTS AND COOKED FOOD STALLS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR TO CHECK ON PEOPLE WHO WASTE WATER DURING THE CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS.

THE AREAS COVERED SO FAR INCLUDE MONG KOK, YAU MA TEI AND CENTRAL.

MORE THAN 30 RESTAURANTS AND COOKED FOOD STALLS IN 18 STREETS IN THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN VISITED IN THE PAST FEW DAYS.

MR. WILLIAM TUCKER, DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, SAID LEGAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST OPERATORS OF NINE RESTAURANTS AND ONE COOKED FOOD STALL WHO WERE FOUND TO HAVE LET THEIR TAPS RUNNING WHILE WASHING VEGETABLES, FISH, MEAT OR COOKING UTENSILS.

SEVERAL OTHERS HAD BEEN WARNED THAT THEY MIGHT FACE LEGAL ACTION IF THEY WERE AGAIN FOUND TO LET WATER DRIPPING FROM THEIR TAPS.

MR. TUCKER SAID THAT THE SURPRISE VISITS PROVED TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE AS A NUMBER OF RESTAURANT AND COOKED FOOD STALL OPERATORS WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE.

HOWEVER, HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE OPERATORS OF MOST OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS VISITED SO FAR WERE USING WATER WITH MAXIMUM ECONOMY.

MR. TUCKER APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR FULL CO-OPERATION IN SAVING WATER.

HE SAID: +WE HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT THE USE OF WATER IF THE TARGET SAVING OF 20 PER CENT IS TO BE MAINTAINED.

+TO ENSURE THAT THE CURRENT WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE PROPERLY ENFORCED, STAFF OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PAY RANDOM VISITS FROM TIME TO TIME TO RESTAURANTS AND COOKED FOOD STALLS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.+

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN STEP WITH NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS IMPROVING ITS SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC BY SETTING UP BRANCH OFFICES IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND, IN KOWLOON AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR. PETER WILLIAMS, AT THE OPENING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW BRANCH OFFICE IN TUEN MUN NEW TOWN.

THE OFFICE, AT TAK CHING COURT, TUEN MUN, WAS JOINTLY OPENED BY THREE LOCAL LEADERS, MR. LEUNG KUEN, ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN RURAL COMMITTEE, MR. LAU CHI-YUEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION AND MR. LAU NAM-ON, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUEN MUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE NEW OFFICE WILL REPLACE THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OFFICE LOCATED AT ROOM 109 ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICE.

MR. WILLIAMS SAID TUEN MUN WAS THE 15TH BRANCH OFFICE AND HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO KEEP PACE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN.

THE OFFICE INCLUDES THREE UNITS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT -- THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE AND THE INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS UNIT.

MR. WILLIAMS, SPEAKING IN CHINESE, SAID : +ALTHOUGH THESE SERVICES ARE DIFFERENT IN NATURE, THEY ALL PROVIDE IMPORTANT SERVICES IN A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL TOWN.+

THE COMMISSIONER BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE WORK OF THE THREE UNITS. THE FIRST, HE SAID, WAS TO HELP FACTORIES AND SHOPS IN THE AREA TO FIND SUITABLE EMPLOYEES AND JOB-SEEKERS IN OBTAINING SUITABLE EMPLOYMENT. THE SECOND WAS TO PROMOTE GOOD EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP AND TO CONCILIATE LABOUR DISPUTES, AND THE THIRD TO ASSIST INDUSTRIALISTS TO IMPROVE THEIR WORKING ENVIRONMENT, AND SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AS WELL AS THE WELFARE OF WORKERS, HE SAID.

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HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE WAN CHAI AND THE YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, AND THE PORT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE WILL BE OPEN AS USUAL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 1) WHICH IS A GENERAL HOLIDAY.

THE VICTORIA SMALL CRAFT LICENSING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M. ON THAT DAY WHILE THE MACAU FERRY WHARF UNIT OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 1.30 A.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ALL OTHER OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE HOLIDAY.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LION ROCK TUNNEL

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THE LION ROCK TUNNEL WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON THURSDAY (JULY 28) BETWEEN 10.30 A.M. AND 11 A.M. TO ALLOW THE CHINA LIGHT COMPANY TO ADJUST THE MAINS SUPPLY TO THE TUNNEL.

TRAFFIC POLICE WILL BE AT THE VARIOUS ROAD JUNCTIONS LEADING TO THE TUNNEL TO ADVISE MOTORISTS OF THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE.

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