



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1979

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1979

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SIGNIFICANT RISE IN AIRBORNE TRADE
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HONG KONG'S MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 WAS WORTH \$15,830 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 48 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1978, ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT TO \$5,498 MILLION, REPRESENTING A 24 PER CENT SHARE OF THE OVERALL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN TERMS OF VALUE.

AIRBORNE IMPORTS AT \$7,491 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS AT \$2,840 MILLION ALSO ROSE BY 52 PER CENT AND 56 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, 20 PER CENT OF OVERALL IMPORTS AND 31 PER CENT OF RE-EXPORTS WERE DESPATCHED BY AIR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SIX MAJOR MARKETS:

	<u>JAN.-JUNE 79</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE 78</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
U.S.A.	2,169	1,784	+ 385	+ 22
WEST GERMANY	664	481	+ 183	+ 38
JAPAN	477	267	+ 210	+ 79
U.K.	403	228	+ 175	+ 77
SWITZERLAND	160	133	+ 27	+ 20
CANADA	147	105	+ 42	+ 40

IN TERMS OF COMMODITIES, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$1,788 MILLION, + 27 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$1,479 MILLION, + 62 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES (\$527 MILLION, + 32 PER CENT), JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (\$288 MILLION, + 20 PER CENT) AS WELL AS BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (\$151 MILLION, + 194 PER CENT).

DETAILED BREAKDOWN FIGURES REVEALED THAT THE GROWTH RATES WERE REMARKABLE FOR AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES TO WEST GERMANY (\$355 MILLION, + 25 PER CENT), JAPAN (\$179 MILLION, + 96 PER CENT), AND THE U.K. (\$143 MILLION, + 65 PER CENT).

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO WEST GERMANY (\$160 MILLION, + 123 PER CENT), JAPAN (\$105 MILLION, + 129 PER CENT) AND THE U.K. (\$139 MILLION, + 100 PER CENT).

/IMPORTS BY.....

IMPORTS BY AIR FROM THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SUPPLIERS ALSO
RECORDED INCREASES:

	<u>JAN.-JUNE 79</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>JAN.-JUNE 78</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>INCREASE</u> <u>(HK\$ MN.)</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u> <u>CHANGE</u>
JAPAN	1,638	1,076	+ 5,616	+ 52
U.S.A.	1,358	918	+ 440	+ 48
SWITZERLAND	847	554	+ 293	+ 53
ISRAEL	451	346	+ 105	+ 30
U.K.	416	232	+ 184	+ 79
SINGAPORE	361	219	+ 142	+ 65

THE UPTRENDS IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS WERE MAINTAINED IN WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$1,791 MILLION, + 45 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES (\$1,140 MILLION, + 60 PER CENT), PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$1,082 MILLION, + 76 PER CENT), ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES (\$225 MILLION, + 54 PER CENT) AS WELL AS JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (\$200 MILLION, + 55 PER CENT).

THE IMPORT VALUES OF WATCHES AND CLOCKS BY COUNTRIES WERE JAPAN (\$754 MILLION, + 50 PER CENT), SWITZERLAND (\$615 MILLION, + 35 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (\$83 MILLION, + 23 PER CENT) AND THE U.S. (\$51 MILLION, + 59 PER CENT).

INCREASES WERE ALSO REGISTERED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES FROM THE U.S. (\$291 MILLION, + 32 PER CENT), JAPAN (\$275 MILLION, + 108 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (\$137 MILLION, + 51 PER CENT).

ALMOST ALL THE GOODS FLOWN IN FROM ISRAEL WERE PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$446 MILLION, + 30 PER CENT).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS SHOWED REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, WITH MAJOR RE-EXPORT ITEMS BEING PEARLS, PRECIOUS AND SEMI-PRECIOUS STONES (\$744 MILLION, + 81 PER CENT), WATCHES AND CLOCKS (\$479 MILLION, + 23 PER CENT), THERMIONIC, COLD CATHODE AND PHOTO-CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES (\$393 MILLION, + 100 PER CENT) AND MISCELLANEOUS CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (\$157 MILLION, + 39 PER CENT).

JAPAN (\$684 MILLION, + 24 PER CENT) REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET FOR AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS, FOLLOWED BY TAIWAN (\$409 MILLION, + 57 PER CENT), THE U.S. (\$372 MILLION, + 104 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (\$278 MILLION, + 8 PER CENT), THAILAND (\$126 MILLION, + 98 PER CENT) AND ISRAEL (\$116 MILLION, + 764 PER CENT).

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TUEN MUN NEW TOWN CENTRE TAKING SHAPE

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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WILL TOMORROW (FRIDAY) INVITE TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND DRAINS TO SERVE TUEN MUN'S NEW TOWN CENTRE.

THE WORK WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1,400 METRES OF INTERNAL ROADS AND A STORMWATER AND FOUL WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID: +THE TOWN CENTRE OCCUPIES SOME 16 HECTARES OF LAND.

+IT COMPRISES SOME 23 RESIDENTIAL TOWERS, EACH ABOUT 28 STOREYS HIGH, TOGETHER WITH RETAIL SHOPPING AND PARKING FACILITIES ON PODIUM FLOORS.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN CENTRE, WHICH WOULD BE SERVED BY A MAJOR BUS TERMINUS, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN STAGES OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

ON COMPLETION, IT WILL HAVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, DEPARTMENT STORES, A CINEMA, A MARKET, A CIVIC AND CULTURAL COMPLEX, A MAGISTRACY AND A POLYCLINIC.

UNDER THE CONTRACT, AN EXISTING TEMPORARY STEEL FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS TUEN MUN ROAD WILL BE RELOCATED IN A NEW POSITION TO ENABLE PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS THE ROAD IN SAFETY.

WORK ON THE CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER AND TAKE ABOUT 15 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND WORK WILL BE SUPERVISED BY SCOTT WILSON KIRKPATRICK AND PARTNERS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, ON BEHALF OF THE TUEN MUN NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

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DISTRICT WELFARE NEEDS UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS TO REVIEW FROM TIME TO TIME THE WELFARE NEEDS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS WILL BE DONE ON THE BASIS OF THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE WHITE PAPER, SAID MR. LEE IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT THE CEREMONY FOR THE OPEN DAY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SHA TIN - TAI PO DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK, MR. STEPHEN WONG YUEN-CHEONG, OFFICIATED AT THE CEREMONY. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND A WELFARE SERVICES EXHIBITION.

MR. LEE SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MEET AN INCREASING NEED ARISING FROM RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR HAD PLANNED FOR A BALANCED PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

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IN THE SHA TIN - TAI PO DISTRICT, HE SAID, THE DEPARTMENT OPERATES TWO SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS WHICH NOW HANDLE MORE THAN 14,000 CASES, AND ONE FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE WHICH TAKES CARE OF 864 FAMILIES.

THE DEPARTMENT'S LEK YUEN SHELTERED WORKSHOP IN SHA TIN OFFERS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PERSONS ENABLING THEM TO CONTINUE LEADING A USEFUL WORKING LIFE, HE SAID.

OTHER SERVICES AND FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE DISTRICT INCLUDE A COMMUNITY HALL, A YOUTH CENTRE, A SOCIAL CENTRE AND PROBATION SERVICES, HE ADDED.

MR. LEE SAID THAT ON TOP OF THESE, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OPERATING IN THE DISTRICT ALSO PROVIDE SERVICES IN CHILD CARE, RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR THE AGED AND REHABILITATION FOR THE DISABLED.

ALSO ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, MR. STEPHEN WONG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS EXPANSION IN WELFARE SERVICES IN RECENT YEARS FOR RURAL PEOPLE.

AS A RESULT OF URBANISATION IN RURAL DISTRICTS, HE SAID, MANY VILLAGERS HAVE TURNED TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE WORK PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO HELP THOSE UNABLE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THEMSELVES.

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LIBERATION DAY CEREMONY AT CITY HALL

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HONG KONG WILL OBSERVE THIS YEAR'S LIBERATION DAY WITH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT CITY HALL ON MONDAY (AUGUST 27) AT 11 A.M.

DURING THE CEREMONY, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) AND THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT WILL LAY WREATHS AT THE SHRINE IN MEMORY OF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS WHO DIED IN THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG IN DECEMBER 1941 OR LATER AS PRISONERS OF WAR.

THE WREATH OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR ASSOCIATION WILL BE LAID BY ITS HON. SECRETARY, MR. F.M. CASTRO.

REGIMENTAL WREATHS OF THE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE LAID BY THE HONORARY COLONEL, THE HON. OSWALD CHEUNG AND MAJOR GEORGE ROYLANCE, WHEREAS THAT OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT IS TO BE LAID BY WARRANT OFFICER SECOND CLASS (WO2) JOHN HAMILL.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT AND THE VOLUNTEERS FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE IN THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG.

/WO2 HAMILL.....

WO2 HAMILL JOINED THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT AS A JUNIOR LEADER IN 1962 AND SERVED WITH IT UNTIL IT BECAME THE FOURTH BATTALION OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT. HE IS AT PRESENT A PERMANENT STAFF INSTRUCTOR WITH THE VOLUNTEERS.

THE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE SOUNDING OF THE LAST POST BY A BUGLER, A TWO-MINUTE SILENCE AND REVEILLE, AND THE FIRING OF THREE VOLLEYS OF SALUTE.

THE FIRING PARTY AND THE BUGLER WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE VOLUNTEERS.

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SPECIAL TRAIN TO PLEASURE GARDEN

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THE SPECIAL TRAIN SERVICE TO THE PLEASURE GARDEN IN SHA TIN RACE COURSE WILL CONTINUE THIS SUNDAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE KOWLOON STATION IN HUNG HOM AT 10.29 A.M. AND ARRIVE AT MONG KOK STATION AT 10.34 A.M. TO PICK UP PASSENGERS. IT WILL THEN DEPART FROM MONG KOK STATION AT 10.36 A.M. AND ARRIVE AT THE RACE COURSE STATION AT 10.50 A.M.

ON THE RETURN JOURNEY, THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE RACE COURSE STATION AT 4.10 P.M. IN ADDITION, ONE ORDINARY PASSENGER TRAIN DEPARTING FROM TAI PO MARKET STATION WILL BE RE-ROUTED VIA THE RACE COURSE STATION AT 1.21 P.M. TO PICK UP PASSENGERS WISHING TO LEAVE THE PLEASURE GARDEN EARLIER.

ONLY ORDINARY CLASS RETURN TICKETS VALID FOR THE DATE OF ISSUE WILL BE SOLD AT THE KOWLOON AND MONG KOK STATIONS. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE RACE COURSE STATION FOR DOWN-TRAINS TO KOWLOON NOR AT NEW TERRITORIES STATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL TRAINS.

THE FARE FOR ADULTS WILL BE \$4 EACH AND FOR CHILDREN \$2 EACH.

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HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARINE DEPARTMENT

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ITS PORT COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AND PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS IN WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN WILL REMAIN OPEN NEXT MONDAY (AUGUST 27), WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

IN ADDITION, THE VICTORIA SMALL CRAFT LICENSING SECTION WILL OPERATE FROM 9 A.M. TO 11 A.M. AND THE MACAU FERRY WHARF UNIT FROM 7.30 A.M. TO 1.30 A.M. THE FOLLOWING DAY.

ALL OTHER OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CLOSED ON THAT DAY.

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