



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
VIGOROUS GROWTH FOR AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY	1
BOARD CANDIDATES TO HOLD FORUM	3
JAPANESE YOUTH GROUP VISIT +WELL WORTHWHILE+	4
NEW WATER PIPELINE PLANNED FOR TAP MUN ISLAND	5
TWO MORE PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR HOUSING ESTATES	5
SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX TO BE BUILT	6
GOLD COIN FLATS READY FOR ELDERLY	6
MONTHLY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR MAY	8
NEW GOODS VEHICLES CHECKS START AGAIN	11
ESTATE TO HAVE POST OFFICE	11
WATER FIGURES	11
SAI YEE STREET SECTION CLOSED FOR MAINS WORK	12
KWUN TONG WATER MAINS WORK	12
PROHIBITED ZONE AT SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER	12

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

VIGOROUS GROWTH FOR AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY

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WITH ITS EXTERNAL TRADE ON THE REBOUND, HONG KONG IS EXPERIENCING A BRISK UPSURGE IN ITS AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY.

STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR SHOW AN ENCOURAGING GROWTH PATTERN. IN ALL, 164 420 TONNES OF AIR FREIGHT PASSED THROUGH THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UP MORE THAN 16 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

+THE AIR CARGO MOVEMENT IS A GOOD BAROMETER OF HONG KONG'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE, PARTICULARLY IN HIGH-VALUE, TIME-SENSITIVE GOODS, + A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MONTHLY VOLUME OF OUTGOING AIR CARGOES GREW VIGOROUSLY OVER THE CORRESPONDING MONTH OF 1982, SOARING FROM AN 11 PER CENT INCREASE IN JANUARY TO 39 PER CENT IN JUNE.

EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRANSHIPMENT GOODS COMBINE TO MAKE THE HONG KONG TERMINAL THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST IN THROUGHPUT, JUST BEHIND THE LUFTHANSA TERMINAL IN FRANKFURT.

AT PRESENT, HONG KONG RANKS 17TH AMONG THE EXPORTING NATIONS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING THE OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND ITS HUGE KWAI CHUNG SEA CONTAINER PORT RANKS THIRD AFTER NEW YORK AND ROTTERDAM.

THE UNITED STATES IS HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET FOR EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BY AIR, WHILE JAPAN IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF AIR-FREIGHTED IMPORTS. THE LARGEST CUSTOMER IN TRANSHIPMENT IS CHINA.

LAST YEAR, 306 000 TONNES OF GOODS, VALUED AT HK\$61 BILLION, WERE CONSIGNED THROUGH THE TERMINAL.

YET, THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S AIR CARGO TRAFFIC HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RECENT.

ITS REAL GROWTH STARTED IN THE LATE 1960'S WHEN U.S. PLANES WERE FLYING SUPPLIES TO INDO-CHINA.

ON THEIR WAY BACK, THEY WERE CHARTERED BY HONG KONG MERCHANTS TO CARRY GOODS TO THE U.S. AT A CHEAP RATE.

+WHEN THE WAR ENDED, COMMERCIAL AIRLINES MAINTAINED THE FLOW OF FREIGHT BY INTRODUCING THE 'CONTAINER RATE' AND THE 'PALLET RATE' WHICH, THOUGH HIGHER THAN THE FORMER RATES, WERE ECONOMICAL AND GENERATED A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF CARGO, + THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

/TODAY,

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 2 -

TODAY, THE AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES.

BY VOLUME, IT ACCOUNTS FOR A MERE 0.8 PER CENT OF THE TRADE, BUT BY VALUE IT TAKES UP 23 PER CENT -- AND THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE TREND TOWARDS AIR FREIGHTING WILL INCREASE.

FOR INSTANCE, BECAUSE OF THE QUOTA LIMITATIONS AS WELL AS LOWER LABOUR COSTS IN SOME NEIGHBOURING ASIAN COUNTRIES, HONG KONG HAS BEEN PRODUCING MORE HIGH-VALUE GARMENTS AND OTHER TEXTILE ITEMS IN ORDER TO STAY AHEAD.

THESE GOODS ARE ALSO TIME-SENSITIVE AND COST-EFFECTIVE FOR SHIPMENT BY AIR. OTHER EXPORTS THAT MAKE UP A GOOD PROPORTION OF AIR CARGOES INCLUDE ELECTRONICS, TV GAMES, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND TELE-COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT.

BY ITS HIGH EFFICIENCY AND STRATEGIC POSITION, HONG KONG HAS ALSO SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING A CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF THE AIR TRANSHIPMENT BUSINESS.

LAST YEAR, THIS TRAFFIC ACCOUNTED FOR 15 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL FREIGHT VOLUME RECORDED AT THE AIRPORT.

BESIDES CHINA, HONG KONG'S OTHER CUSTOMERS IN TRANSHIPMENT INCLUDE SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND TAIWAN WHICH ALSO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOWER RATES OFFERED BY CHARTERED FLIGHTS HERE.

ALL AIR CARGOES PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG ARE HANDLED BY HONG KONG AIR CARGO TERMINALS LIMITED (HACTL), WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AS THE SOLE OPERATOR IN 1976.

+PREVIOUSLY, INDIVIDUAL AIRLINES OPERATED THEIR OWN TERMINALS AT THE AIRPORT AND THIS LED TO CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION. AS A SOLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO CENTRALISE THE MANAGEMENT BY RUNNING A SINGLE FACILITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, + THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS CENTRALISED OPERATION USING THE LATEST MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES OFFERS ONE MAJOR ADVANTAGE: AIRLINES USING IT CARRY NO ADDITIONAL OVERHEADS AND HAVE ONLY TO PAY THE RATES FOR USING THE TERMINAL.

THE PRESENT TERMINAL FEATURES MODERN EQUIPMENT OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, AND IS CAPABLE OF SERVICING FOUR FREIGHTERS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

IN ANTICIPATION OF FURTHER GROWTH, CONSTRUCTION IS NOW UNDERWAY TO DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING TO AN ANNUAL THROUGHPUT OF 700 000 TONNES. WORK ON IT IS EXPECTED TO FINISH BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

/+THE PRESENT

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 3 -

+THE PRESENT ANNUAL CAPACITY OF 350 000 TONNES WILL BE EXHAUSTED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, AND THE NEW THROUGHPUT CAPACITY WILL BE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEXT DECADE,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE CARGO AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON WILL BE EXTENDED TO PROVIDE FOR MORE PARKING FACILITIES.

AT PRESENT, MORE THAN 150 AIR FREIGHT AGENTS OPERATE IN HONG KONG, THRIVING UNDER ITS FREE PORT POLICY WHICH ALLOWS FLEXIBLE RATES FOR COLLECTIVE TRANSPORT.

WHILE COMPETITION IS KEEN, HONG KONG'S STEADY MOVE-UP TOWARDS HIGH-QUALITY MARKETS SHOULD GENERATE MORE AIR TRANSPORT BUSINESS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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BOARD CANDIDATES TO HOLD FORUM
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FOUR CANDIDATES CONTESTING IN THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION WILL OUTLINE THEIR PLATFORMS AND DISCUSS DISTRICT MATTERS WITH PARTICIPANTS IN AN OPEN FORUM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10).

THE FORUM, ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL BE HELD AT 8 PM AT THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 15 HENNESSY ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, WAN CHAI.

THE FOUR CANDIDATES ARE MR CHUNG YEE-ON, MR CHAN PAK-CHEUNG, MR SZETO CHIK AND MR KWONG HON-WAH. THEY WILL CONTEST ON AUGUST 17 THE SEAT IN THE WAN CHAI WEST CONSTITUENCY MADE VACANT FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF AN ELECTED MEMBER, MR NG SAI-YING.

ELECTORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE FORUM.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPEN FORUM AT 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10) AT THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICE BUILDING, 15 HENNESSY ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, WAN CHAI.

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/4

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 4 -

JAPANESE YOUTH GROUP VISIT +WELL WORTHWHILE+
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REPRESENTATIVES OF A VISITING JAPANESE YOUTH GROUP FROM NAGANO PREFECTURE WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME THIS (MONDAY) MORNING WHEN THEY PAID A COURTESY VISIT ON THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

IN A WELCOMING SPEECH, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THE VISIT OF 460 YOUNG WORKERS FROM THE NAGANO PREFECTURE WOULD STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO PLACES AND HELP TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND SOLIDARITY.

HONG KONG, SHE SAID, ALREADY HAD TRADING TIES WITH THE PREFECTURE THROUGH THE INVESTMENT OF SOME 22 FIRMS HERE.

+DESPITE OUR GEOGRAPHICAL SEPARATION, ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, I THINK YOUTHS EVERYWHERE SHARE THE SAME ASPIRATION OF STRIVING FOR A BETTER WORLD WHERE PEACE, SELF-SUFFICIENCY, GOOD HEALTH, SOCIAL PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY CAN PREVAIL,+ SHE SAID.

+THE VISIT OF THE 'CORAL PRINCESS' BRINGING ITS MANY YOUNG AMBASSADORS FROM JAPAN TO HONG KONG HAS NOW BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT AND SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO BY THE YOUTHS OF OUR TWO COMMUNITIES,+ SHE ADDED.

MRS CHAN SAID THAT THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES IN YOUTH WORK BETWEEN THE VISITORS AND LOCAL YOUTH WORKERS WOULD BE +WELL WORTHWHILE+.

THE GROUP, ON THEIR TENTH VISIT TO HONG KONG SINCE 1974, ARRIVED HERE ON BOARD THE +CORAL PRINCESS+ THIS MORNING AS PART OF THEIR STUDY TOUR, ORGANISED BY THE NAGANO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT.

AMONG THE VISITORS WERE THE PREFECTURE'S DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR I. YAMAGISHI, AND THE GROUP'S LEADER MR M. KURASHIMA.

THE NAGANO GROUP IS HOLDING A DINNER RECEPTION AT 6.30 PM TODAY ON BOARD THE +CORAL PRINCESS+ FOR 140 STUDENTS STUDYING JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE HERE. AMONG THE GUESTS WILL BE THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS EVELYN DOE, AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE SHIP WILL LEAVE HONG KONG TOMORROW NIGHT FOR SHANGHAI.

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/5

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 5 -

NEW WATER PIPELINE PLANNED FOR TAP MUN ISLAND
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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LAY A SUBMARINE WATER PIPELINE OF ABOUT 650 METRES LONG FROM KAU LAU WAN TO TAP MUN ISLAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PIPELINE IS TO REPLACE AN EXISTING OLD PIPELINE TO PROVIDE FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO RESIDENTS OF THE ISLAND.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL IS PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE NOTICE, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, WITH ITS RELATED PLAN CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS NEAR THE SITE.

THE PLAN SHOWING THE AREA INVOLVED MAY ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, SURVEY DIVISION, 5TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON; AND TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICE, TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL MUST REACH THE SECRETARY FOR LANDS AND WORKS BY OCTOBER 4, 1983.

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TWO MORE PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR HOUSING ESTATES
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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S BUILDING COMMITTEE HAS APPROVED TWO TENDERS WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$16 MILLION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO MORE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT TWO PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE TWO PRIMARY SCHOOLS ARE BOTH STANDARD 24-CLASSROOM TYPES.

+ONE OF THEM WILL BE BUILT AT CHOI YUEN ESTATE IN SHEK WU HUI AND THE OTHER ONE AT CHEUNG HONG ESTATE ON TSING YI ISLAND,+ AN AUTHORITY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

+THEY WILL BRING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT CHOI YUEN TO TWO AND AT CHEUNG HONG TO THREE.

+WORK ON BOTH SCHOOLS WILL START SHORTLY. THE SCHOOL AT CHOI YUEN WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST 1984, AND THE ONE AT CHEUNG HONG IN OCTOBER NEXT YEAR,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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/6

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 6 -

SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX TO BE BUILT
* * *

A NEW SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX WILL SOON BE BUILT AT LAI CHI KOK ROAD ADJACENT TO THE SHAM SHUI PO PARK.

TENDERS FOR THE PROJECT ARE BEING INVITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL OFFICE OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN BUILDING AND EIGHT SWIMMING POOLS INCLUDING TWO LARGE MAIN POOLS, A DIVING POOL AND TRAINING, TEACHING AND CHILDREN'S POOLS.

FACILITIES SUCH AS A CAFE, SPECTATOR SEATS, CHANGING ROOMS AND TOILETS WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED.

WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL TAKE ABOUT 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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GOLD COIN FLATS READY FOR ELDERLY
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THANKS TO THE EAGERNESS OF HONG KONG COIN COLLECTORS, THE FIRST GROUP OF 100 OLD PEOPLE TO BENEFIT UNDER A TRIAL SCHEME TO PROVIDE SHELTER AND HOUSING FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL BE MOVING INTO NEW FLATS IN SHATIN FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE COST OF THE FLATS HAS BEEN MET FROM A TOTAL OF \$35.2 MILLION EARMARKED FROM SURPLUS FUNDS OBTAINED FROM THE SALES OF THE VERY POPULAR GOLD COINS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT EACH YEAR AND STAMPED WITH THE APPROPRIATE ANIMAL OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC.

SO FAR THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A SERIES OF EIGHT GOLD COINS TO COMMEMORATE THE 12 LUNAR YEARS WHICH FALL IN THE WESTERN CALENDAR YEARS 1976/87.

THE COINS WERE DESIGNED BY LADY HADDON-CAVE. THE LATEST COIN, MARKING THE YEAR OF THE PIG, WAS ISSUED ON DECEMBER 20, 1982.

THE PROJECT, KNOWN AS THE GOLD COIN SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY, WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SESSION ON OCTOBER 6, LAST YEAR.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT: +THERE IS IN OUR COMMUNITY A TRADITIONAL AND COMMENDABLE RESPECT FOR THE OLD; AND WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT HONG KONG TODAY OWES MUCH TO THEIR HARD WORK IN THE PAST DECADES. THEY DESERVE A DIGNIFIED OLD AGE.

/+THE GOVERNMENT

+THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO PURCHASE FLATS IN PRIVATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS. THIS WILL BE A TRIAL SCHEME WHICH, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WILL PROVIDE SOME 700 PLACES ACCOMMODATED IN FLATS SUITABLE FOR FOUR TO SIX ELDERLY PERSONS LIVING TOGETHER IN A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT.+

IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PURCHASED 80 FLATS IN THE SHA TIN CITY ONE COMPLEX. THE FLATS ARE FULLY FURNISHED, SUPPLIED WITH WATER, GAS AND ELECTRICITY, AND COME WITH A REFRIGERATOR, COOKING FACILITIES AND A TELEPHONE.

EACH APARTMENT HAS THREE BEDROOMS — ONE FOR A MARRIED COUPLE — AND TWO BEDROOMS TO ACCOMMODATE FOUR SINGLE PERSONS.

THE FIRST BATCH OF FLATS WILL ACCOMMODATE 470 PERSONS. MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT OTHER HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS TO PROVIDE MORE PLACES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE TRIAL SCHEME.

THE GOLD COIN HOUSING SCHEME FOR THE ELDERLY IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE PLACES FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE UNABLE, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, TO LIVE WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS IN HONG KONG OFTEN MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR OLD PEOPLE, WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF A FAMILY, TO AFFORD DECENT SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION. MANY OF THESE OLD PEOPLE ARE STILL IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND, WITH A MINIMUM OF SUPPORT, THEY ARE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

THROUGH THE SURPLUS FUNDS OBTAINED FROM THE SALES OF THE GOLD COINS, THE PROVISION OF SHELTERED HOUSING WILL ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO FOREGO THE MORE INSTITUTIONAL FORMS OF RESIDENTIAL CARE.

THERE ARE CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO ENTRY. THE ELDERLY ACCEPTED FOR THE SCHEME SHOULD BE AGED 60, OR OVER, BUT PREFERABLY NOT OVER 70.

THEY SHOULD HAVE GENUINE HOUSING NEEDS AND HAVE INCOME NOT EXCEEDING THAT SET FOR OTHER APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING. THE OLD PEOPLE SHOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT FAMILY-STYLE LIVING, BE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY HEALTHY AND CAPABLE OF LOOKING AFTER THEMSELVES.

A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IS TO BE BUILT WITHIN THE SHA TIN CITY ONE COMPLEX.

THE GOVERNMENT REGARDS THE GOLD COIN SHELTERED HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY SCHEME AS A ONE-OFF PROJECT BUT THE RESULTS WILL BE CAREFULLY MONITORED. IF IT PROVES A SUCCESS THEN, AS THE GOVERNOR NOTED IN HIS SPEECH LAST YEAR: +SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FURTHER FUNDS, THE SCHEME COULD BE EXPANDED BY THE ACQUISITION OF FURTHER PROPERTIES.+

MONTHLY SURVEY OF RETAIL SALES FOR MAY
* * *

THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES FOR THE RETAIL TRADE SECTOR IN MAY 1983 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE \$4 643 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

AT 137, THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEX FOR MAY 1983 INCREASED BY 7 POINTS OR 5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1983, AND BY 15 POINTS OR 12 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1982.

THE OVERALL RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX FOR MAY 1983, AT 106, WAS 5 POINTS OR 5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR APRIL 1983, AND 4 POINTS OR 4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT FOR MAY 1982.

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1983, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, FOLLOWED BY CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, OTHER CONSUMER GOODS AND FUELS, WITH INCREASES OF 6 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 1 PER CENT.

IN VOLUME TERMS, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE OF 7 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO, AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS, EACH OF 5 PER CENT, AND FUELS, AND CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, EACH OF 4 PER CENT.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1982, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS, AND THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 14 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS OR 7 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

WHILE RETAIL SALES OF FUELS, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS, AND OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 16 PER CENT, 8 PER CENT AND 11 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS, THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN VOLUME TERMS WERE 3 PER CENT, 2 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, HAVING BEEN STAGNANT FOR A LONG PERIOD, INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1983. SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES ALSO SHOWED INCREASES IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES.

WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1982, SUPERMARKETS RECORDED INCREASES IN BOTH THE VALUE AND VOLUME OF SALES. WHILE DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED AN INCREASE IN SALES VALUE, THERE WAS A MODERATE DECLINE IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

TABLES 1 AND 2 PRESENT THE REVISED FIGURES FOR APRIL 1983 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR MAY 1983 OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES AND RETAIL SALES VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS).

THE AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES IN 1980 ARE TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISON OF THE MAY RESULTS WITH THOSE OF THE PRECEDING MONTH AND OF THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN 1982 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, TEL. NO. 3-7216024.

TABLE 1 : VALUE INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR APRIL AND MAY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	APRIL	MAY	MAY 1983		MAY 1983	
	1983	1983	COMPARED WITH		COMPARED WITH	
	(REVISED	(PROVISION-	POINTS	%	POINTS	%
	FIGURES)	AL FIGURES)				
TOTAL RETAIL SALES (HK\$ MILLION)	4 411	4 643				
RETAIL SALES VALUE INDEXES :						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	130	137	7	5	15	12
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	145	146	1	1	18	14
FUELS	171	179	8	5	25	16
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	140	148	8	6	11	8
CONSUMER DURABLES	112	123	11	10	12	11
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	124	131	7	6	13	11
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
SUPERMARKETS	194	206	12	6	37	22
MOTOR VEHICLES	44	57	13	30	-8	-12
DEPARTMENT STORES	109	117	8	7	8	7

/NOTES:

NOTES: +FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO+ INCLUDES THOSE SOLD AT SUPERMARKETS.

+CONSUMER DURABLES+ INCLUDES MOTOR VEHICLES.

+OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ INCLUDES THOSE SOLD AT DEPARTMENT STORES.

TABLE 2 : VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR APRIL AND MAY 1983

(MONTHLY AVERAGE OF 1980 = 100)

ITEM	APRIL 1983	MAY 1983	MAY 1983 COMPARED WITH APRIL 1983		MAY 1983 COMPARED WITH MAY 1982	
			(REVISED FIGURES)	(PROVISION- AL FIGURES)	POINTS	%
RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEXES :						
(I) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES	101	106	5	5	4	4
(II) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS						
FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO	102	107	5	5	7	7
FUELS	119	124	5	4	4	3
CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	106	110	4	4	2	2
CONSUMER DURABLES	98	105	7	7	9	9
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	98	103	5	5	1	1
(III) BY SELECTED TRADES						
SUPERMARKETS	137	145	8	6	11	8
MOTOR VEHICLES	31	40	9	29	-8	-17
DEPARTMENT STORES	86	92	6	7	-2	-2

NOTES: +FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO+ INCLUDES THOSE SOLD AT SUPERMARKETS.

+CONSUMER DURABLES+ INCLUDES MOTOR VEHICLES.

+OTHER CONSUMER GOODS+ INCLUDES THOSE SOLD AT DEPARTMENT STORES.

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 11 -

NEW GOODS VEHICLES CHECKS START AGAIN
* * *

FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 15), ALL NEW GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO PASS A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EXAMINATION BEFORE REGISTRATION.

THIS PRACTICE CEASED IN JUNE 1982 BECAUSE OF A SHORTAGE OF VEHICLE EXAMINERS.

+THE PROBLEM HAS NOW EASED,+ SAID A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

+APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE USUAL WAY WITH THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE.+

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ESTATE TO HAVE POST OFFICE
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A NEW POST OFFICE WILL BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC AT NOON ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 11) IN UNITS S8 AND S9, ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SHEK FONG HOUSE, SHEK WAI KOK ESTATE, TSUEN WAN, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT WILL BE THE 93RD POST OFFICE IN HONG KONG.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, THERE WILL BE A SHORT OPENING CEREMONY AT 11 AM ON THE SAME DAY. DR FRANK CHEUNG, A MEMBER OF THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING TOGETHER WITH THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR T.H. BARMA, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICER, TSUEN WAN, MR LUI KIN-FUN.

EDITORS ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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WATER FIGURES
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 87.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 506.447 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 407.850 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1983

- 12 -

SAI YEE STREET SECTION CLOSED FOR MAINS WORK
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THE SECTION OF SAI YEE STREET BETWEEN PLAYING FIELD ROAD AND BOUNDARY STREET HAS BEEN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC TO FACILITATE URGENT WATER MAINS REPAIR WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO LAST FOR ABOUT A WEEK, TRAFFIC ON PLAYING FIELD ROAD BETWEEN SAI YEE STREET AND FA YUEN STREET, HAS BEEN REROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TO ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.

ALL TRAFFIC, INCLUDING MAXICAB ROUTES NO. 4 AND NO. 21K ON SAI YEE STREET NORTHBOUND FOR BOUNDARY STREET, HAS BEEN DIVERTED TO SAI YEE STREET, PLAYING FIELD ROAD AND TUNG CHOI STREET.

KMB ROUTES NO. 2C (ON JOURNEYS TO TAI HANG TUNG) AND NO. 104 (ON JOURNEYS TO PAK TIN) HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO OPERATE VIA SAI YEE STREET NORTHBOUND, PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WESTBOUND, TUNG CHOI STREET NORTHBOUND AND BOUNDARY STREET EASTBOUND.

A TEMPORARY BUS STOP FOR TWO DIVERTED BUS SERVICES HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN TUNG CHOI STREET OUTSIDE THE MONG KOK POLICE STATION.

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KWUN TONG WATER MAINS WORK
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 11) TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY PING TIN STREET AND ON TIN STREET INCLUDING BLOCKS 15 TO 24 LAM TIN ESTATE, LAM TIN FIRST AND SECOND VILLAGES AND LAM TIN THIRD AND FOURTH VILLAGES.

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PROHIBITED ZONE AT SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER
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FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 10), THE SHAM SHUI PO FERRY PIER PLB TERMINUS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A PROHIBITED ZONE.

ALL MOTOR VEHICLES EXCEPT PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, OMNIBUSES AND THOSE VEHICLES AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ZONE.

WITHIN THE PROHIBITED ZONE, ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND OMNIBUSES EXCEPT THOSE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE AUTHORITY, WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING ITS WESTERN-MOST DEPARTURE BAY.

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