



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN 1979

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THE PRICES OF BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND IMPORTS ROSE BY 18 PER CENT IN 1979 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

A SLIGHTLY HIGHER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS REGISTERED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS (+ 17%) THAN IMPORTS (+ 15%).

RE-EXPORTS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 20 PER CENT IN PRICE IN 1979 OVER 1978, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS UP BY 27 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED. THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE ARE DERIVED FROM THE TRADE VALUES, LESS THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIVE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY IS GIVEN BELOW :-

CHANGES IN 1979 OVER 1978

	EXPORT VALUES	EXPORT UNIT VALUES	EXPORT VOLUME
CLOTHING (EXCEPT FUR)	+ 27%	+ 21%	+ 5%
TEXTILE FABRICS	+ 42%	+ 23%	+ 15%
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	+ 30%	+ 21%	+ 8%
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	+ 49%	+ 24%	+ 20%
ALL TRANSISTORISED RADIOS	+ 37%	+ 11%	+ 23%
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	+ 30%	+ 11%	+ 16%
FOOTWEAR	+ 21%	+ 8%	+ 12%
METAL MANUFACTURES	+ 42%	+ 18%	+ 20%
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	+ 83%	+ 29%	+ 41%
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	+ 59%	+ 3%	+ 54%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 37%	+ 18%	+ 17%

THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUES OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES EXPORTED WERE ATTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE INCREASE IN PRICES. IN FACT, THE VOLUME OF CLOTHING AND TEXTILES EXPORTED TO USA DECREASED BY THREE PER CENT AND 14 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN 1979. THE HIGHEST REAL GROWTH FOR CLOTHING EXPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR UK (+ 18%) AND THAT FOR TEXTILES WAS WEST GERMANY (+ 50%).

THE OVERSEAS DEMAND FOR LOCALLY PRODUCED WATCHES AND CLOCKS REMAINED ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. EXPORT VOLUMES TO WEST GERMANY, UK AND USA INCREASED BY 128 PER CENT, 46 PER CENT AND 40 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES, AND VOLUMES OF IMPORTS CLASSIFIED BY END-USE ARE AS FOLLOWS :-

CHANGES IN 1979 OVER 1978

	<u>IMPORT VALUES</u>	<u>IMPORT UNIT VALUES</u>	<u>IMPORT VOLUME</u>
FOODSTUFFS	+ 17%	+ 10%	+ 6%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 28%	+ 16%	+ 11%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 49%	+ 10%	+ 36%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 41%	+ 21%	+ 17%
FUELS	+ 58%	+ 45%	+ 9%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 36%	+ 18%	+ 15%

THE DEMAND FOR CAPITAL GOODS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES WAS FAR MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT FOR CONSUMER GOODS. THE REAL GROWTH IN IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS WAS REGISTERED CHIEFLY IN RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS AND TAPE RECORDERS (+ 70%), FOOTWEAR (+ 51%), CLOTHING (+ 34%) AND SOAPS, CLEANSING AND POLISHING PREPARATIONS (+ 27%). ON THE OTHER HAND, A SLIGHT DECREASE (- 3%) WAS REGISTERED IN THE DEMAND FOR HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RAW COTTON WHICH DECLINED BY 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME IN 1979 LOCAL DEMAND FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF RAW MATERIALS CONTINUED TO RISE, PARTICULARLY FOR WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK (+ 38%), PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS (+ 31%), LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS (+ 28%), AND BASE METALS EXCLUDING IRON AND STEEL (+ 25%). IMPORT PRICES FOR IRON AND STEEL WENT UP BY ABOUT 32 PER CENT IN 1979 AND PRICES FOR PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS, YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES, CHEMICAL ELEMENTS AND COMPOUNDS AS WELL AS WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK ALSO ROSE BY SOME 30 PER CENT.

AT 10 PER CENT, THE INCREASE IN PRICES OF IMPORTED CAPITAL GOODS WAS SLIGHT. CONSIDERABLE GROWTH RATES WERE NOTED IN THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF OFFICE MACHINES (+ 76%), TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ 75%), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY (+ 40%).

/THE CHANGES

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUES, UNIT VALUES, AND VOLUMES OF RE-EXPORTS CLASSIFIED BY END-USE ARE SHOWN AS FOLLOWS :-

CHANGES IN 1979 OVER 1978

	RE-EXPORT VALUES	RE-EXPORT UNIT VALUES	RE-EXPORT VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	+ 35%	+ 15%	+ 18%
CONSUMER GOODS	+ 49%	+ 20%	+ 25%
CAPITAL GOODS	+ 62%	+ 20%	+ 34%
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	+ 56%	+ 20%	+ 30%
FUELS	+ 15%	+ 39%	- 17%
ALL COMMODITIES	+ 52%	+ 20%	+ 27%

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DPW OPENS SEMINAR ON PRESTRESSED CONSTRUCTION
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THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MR DAVID MCDONALD, TODAY (MONDAY) OPENED THE T.Y. LIN SEMINAR ON +PRESTRESSING IN THE 80S+ IN EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR, SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE READY-MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE AND THE CONCRETE SOCIETY (HK) LTD, WAS CALLED IN HONOUR OF PROFESSOR T.Y. LIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENGINEERING WORLD, IN PARTICULAR HIS WORK IN THE FIELD OF PRESTRESSING AND PRESTRESSED CONCRETE.

PROFESSOR LIN, AS A PRACTISING CONSULTING ENGINEER, HEADS THE T.Y. LIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION WITH OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES, HONG KONG, TAIWAN, SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, HAWAII AND SOUTH AMERICA.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR MCDONALD SAID IT GAVE HIM MUCH PLEASURE TO SEE, BY THE ATTENDANCE AT THE SEMINAR, +THE INTEREST WHICH EXISTS IN HONG KONG IN THE APPLICATION OF PRESTRESSING TO CONCRETE STRUCTURES+.

+HONG KONG IS NOWADAYS, WITH A FEW NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, A REINFORCED CONCRETE CITY AND PRESTRESSING IS BY NO MEANS NEW TO IT,+ HE SAID.

+NEVERTHELESS, A SEMINAR SUCH AS THAT ON WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO EMBARK IS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF HEARING OF, AND DISCUSSING, NEW METHODS AND APPLICATIONS OF PRESTRESSING WHICH HAVE BEEN USED WITH SUCCESS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.+

/MR MCDONALD

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MR MCDONALD SAID THE APPLICATION OF PRESTRESSING TECHNIQUES TO BUILDINGS, IN PARTICULAR, RENDERED IT POSSIBLE FOR SLENDER STRUCTURAL MEMBERS, CAPABLE OF BEING FORMED TO A VARIETY OF SHAPES AND PROFILES, BOTH STRAIGHT AND CURVED, TO SUPPORT HEAVY LOADS.

IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, HE SAID, SUCH TECHNIQUES HAD BEEN USED IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, CITING THE ELLIPTICAL DOME OF THE PLANETARIUM AT TSIM SHA TSUI AND THE CANTILEVERED CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRITISH FORCES HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AT HMS TAMAR AS EXAMPLES.

MR MCDONALD STRESSED: +IN THIS FIELD, WITH CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, THERE IS GREAT SCOPE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MORE IMAGINATIVE AND ADVENTUROUS ARCHITECTURE.+

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SHA TIN TO HAVE FIRST PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE SOON * * * * *

SHA TIN WILL SOON HAVE ITS FIRST PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE WHICH WILL OPERATE IN THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) OFFICE IN THE CENTRE OF LEK YUEN ESTATE.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY (MONDAY) BY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, WHEN OPENING THE DISTRICT'S NEWEST LIBRARY, ALSO IN THE DAB OFFICE, ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SAU CHUEN HOUSE.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID THE DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE, OPENED JUST SIX MONTHS AGO, HAD PROVED POPULAR, BUT WAS CAPABLE OF HEAVIER USAGE.

+THUS, THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS OFFICE ARE BEING EXPANDED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SHA TIN RESIDENTS.+

THE NEW LIBRARY IS THE SIXTH IN THE NEW TOWN. COSTING \$30 000, IT IS SPONSORED BY THE SHA TIN DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD TO COMPLEMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND FOUR SMALLER LIBRARIES RUN BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF 56 SQUARE METRES (600 SQUARE FEET), IT IS KNOWN AS THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION READING ROOM. THE ASSOCIATION IS BEING SET UP AS A PERMANENT BODY TO PROMOTE ARTS AND CULTURE IN SHA TIN.

MR AKERS-JONES SAID IT WOULD PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED STUDY FACILITIES DURING NON-SCHOOL HOURS.

APART FROM THE LIBRARY, THE NEW PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE WOULD SOON COMMENCE OPERATION.

/+ALSO, THE

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+ALSO, THE OFFICE WILL BE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION AND THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS,+ HE SAID.

CONGRATULATING ALL CONCERNED FOR THEIR INITIATIVE AND FORESIGHT IN PROVIDING THE PROJECT, MR AKERS-JONES SAID HE HOPED THE EXCELLENT FACILITIES WOULD BE HEAVILY USED BY SHA TIN ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

JOINING MR AKERS-JONES IN A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY WERE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, MR WONG PO-MING, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'S ARTS SUB-COMMITTEE, AND MR NG CHAN-LAM, CHAIRMAN OF THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION.

THE BOARD HAS PURCHASED OVER 1 000 BOOKS AND PERIODICALS TO STOCK THE LIBRARY AND RECRUITED TWO PART-TIME SUPERVISORS TO RUN IT.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN FROM 5.30 PM TO 9.30 PM ON WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAYS AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

IT WILL BE CLOSED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, AND CHRISTMAS AND BOXING DAYS.

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CIVIL AVIATION CHIEF LEAVES FOR PUBLIC HEARING IN LONDON
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THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR BRIAN KEEP LEFT FOR LONDON TONIGHT TO ATTEND A PUBLIC HEARING BY THE UNITED KINGDOM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY CONCERNING AN APPLICATION BY THE BRITISH CALEDONIA AIRWAYS TO VARY A LICENCE WHICH IT HOLDS FOR FAR EAST SERVICES.

THE HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 19) AND IS EXPECTED TO LAST THREE TO FOUR DAYS.

BRITISH CALEDONIA HAD APPLIED TO AMEND ITS LICENCE FOR THE FAR EAST TO INCLUDE HONG KONG AND MANILA IN ITS LONDON-BAHRAIN-SINGAPORE AIR-ROUTE.

MR TREVOR THORPE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION WILL ACT AS DIRECTOR DURING MR KEEP'S ABSENCE.

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PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATION OF VALUATION LISTS FOR 1980/81
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED RATEPAYERS THAT THE 21-DAY PERIOD FOR MAKING PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATION OF THE VALUATION LISTS FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1980 EXPIRES ON MARCH 28.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DAY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT RATEABLE VALUES WILL NORMALLY NOT BE CHANGED FOR NEXT YEAR BUT THAT TENEMENTS IN CERTAIN NEW RATING AREAS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL BE PAYING RATES FOR THE FIRST TIME NEXT MONTH.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT THE RATEABLE VALUE OF HIS TENEMENT IS TOO HIGH OR WHO HAS ANY OTHER QUERY IN RELATION TO HIS RATING ASSESSMENT IS WELCOME TO CALL AT THE DEPARTMENT DURING THIS 21-DAY PERIOD TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE VALUER CONCERNED.

RATEPAYERS WISHING TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH VALUERS ARE ADVISED TO TELEPHONE FIRST. FOR PROPERTIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN KOWLOON THE NUMBER TO CALL IS 5-281424, FOR THOSE IN NEW KOWLOON 5-284047, AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES 5-284037.

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LEAFLET TO EXPLAIN JSEA SYSTEM
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PARENTS OF STUDENTS CAN NOW LEARN MORE ABOUT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT (JSEA) SYSTEM BY READING A NEWLY PRODUCED BILINGUAL LEAFLET EXPLAINING THE INTERNAL ASSESSMENT, SCALING TEST AND PLACE ALLOCATION INVOLVED IN THE SYSTEM.

THE JSEA IS A CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF SELECTION AND ALLOCATION FOR FORM THREE LEAVERS WHO WISH TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

IT IS NOT A PUBLIC EXAMINATION, AND THE INTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS WILL BE THE BASIS FOR THE SELECTION AND ALLOCATION OF AIDED FORM FOUR PLACES.

THE FIRST SCALING TEST WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TEST TO BE HELD ANNUALLY IS TO SCALE AND CONVERT INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS SO AS TO MAKE THEM COMPARABLE.

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET TO EXPLAIN THE SYSTEM ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY OF THE CITY DISTRICT OFFICES OR DISTRICT OFFICES- OR AT THE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AT ROOM 3040, LEE GARDENS, THIRD FLOOR, HYSAN AVENUE, HONG KONG.

FURTHER INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TELEPHONE 5-276359.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN KWAI CHUNG
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SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN KWAI CHUNG FROM 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 19) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN THE AREA.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON KWAI ON ROAD WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM TURNING RIGHT ONTO THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TAI LIN PAI ROAD WHILE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING LEFT TURN ONTO THE SOUTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN KWAI CHUNG WILL BE TURNED OFF FOR 24 HOURS FROM 10 AM NEXT WEDNESDAY (MARCH 19) TO FACILITATE REPAIR TO A DEFECTIVE VALVE AT KWOK SHUI ROAD NEAR FU UK ROAD.

THE AREAS TO BE AFFECTED INCLUDE HA KWAI CHUNG, SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG AND KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL.

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