



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1977

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR FIRST TEN MONTHS THIS
YEAR

HONG KONG EXPORTED \$28,372 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS DURING THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR= IMPORTS WERE \$39,460 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS \$7,986 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO TRADE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY, DOMESTIC EXPORTS GREW BY 6.1 PER CENT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 11.1 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS UP BY 9.4 PER CENT COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ITS TEN MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS:

	JAN.-OCT. 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN.-OCT. 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
U.S.A.	9,295	11,165	+ 1,870	+ 20.1%
F.R. OF GERMANY	3,226	2,849	- 377	- 11.7%
UNITED KINGDOM	2,663	2,344	- 319	- 12.0%
JAPAN	1,186	1,138	- 49	- 4.1%
AUSTRALIA	1,146	1,038	- 98	- 8.5%
CANADA	1,168	965	- 203	- 17.4%
SINGAPORE	642	730	+ 89	+ 13.8%
NETHERLANDS	592	591	- 1	- 0.1%
SWEDEN	576	502	- 75	- 13.0%
SWITZERLAND	533	461	- 72	- 13.5%

DECLINES WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SEVERAL MAJOR MARKETS. HOWEVER, THIS DROP WAS MORE THAN OFFSET BY THE GROWTH IN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, MAINLY OF A 15 PER CENT INCREASE IN CLOTHING, 37.1 PER CENT IN PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS AND 28.1 PER CENT IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES.

/AN ANALYSIS OF

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS IS PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS:

	JAN.-OCT. 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN.-OCT. 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
CLOTHING	11,855	11,227	- 628	- 5.3%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS)	3,905	4,937	+1,033	+ 26.5%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (MAINLY TRANSISTORIZED RADIOS AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS)	3,355	4,207	+ 852	+ 25.4%
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,551	2,136	- 415	- 16.2%
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS, PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,229	1,688	+ 459	+ 37.4%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES OF METAL (MAINLY HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT OF BASE METALS AND LOCKS, PADLOCKS AND KEYS OF BASE METAL)	685	792	+ 107	+ 15.6%

DESPITE THE PESSIMISTIC OUTLOOK IN EXPORT DEMAND FOR CLOTHING AND TEXTILES, EXPORT SALES OF SEVERAL MAJOR COMMODITIES REMAINED BUOYANT. THEY ARE PLASTIC TOYS AND DOLLS (+\$554 MILLION OR +37.7%), ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND PARTS FOR COMPUTERS (+ \$181 MILLION OR + 47.7%) WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$361 MILLION OR + 38.4%).

/THE CHANGE IN

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM TEN MAJOR SOURCES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

	JAN.-OCT. 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN.-OCT. 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
JAPAN	7,587	9,215	+ 1,628	+ 21.5%
CHINA	6,270	6,454	+ 184	+ 2.9%
U.S.A.	4,412	5,020	+ 608	+ 13.8%
TAIWAN	2,490	2,673	+ 183	+ 7.3%
SINGAPORE	2,124	2,418	+ 295	+ 13.9%
UNITED KINGDOM	1,516	1,764	+ 248	+ 16.4%
SOUTH KOREA	1,322	1,354	+ 32	+ 2.4%
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,072	1,178	+ 106	+ 9.9%
SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN	921	1,031	+ 110	+ 11.9%
AUSTRALIA	750	780	+ 30	+ 4.1%

IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WENT UP NEARLY BY ONE-FIFTH BECAUSE OF INCREASING IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ \$336 MILLION OR + 127.5%), MACHINERY OTHER THAN ELECTRIC (+ \$178 MILLION OR + 23.8%), ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+ \$161 MILLION OR + 15.2%) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$298 MILLION OR + 63.1%).

SUPPLY FROM CHINA ATTAINED A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 2.9 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS. MORE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (+ \$137 MILLION OR + 57.0%), CRUDE ANIMALS AND VEGETABLES MATERIALS, N.E.S. (NOT ELSEWHERE STATED) (+ \$105 MILLION OR + 42.0%) AND CLOTHING (+ \$103 MILLION OR + 40.9%).

INCREASES OF IMPORTS FROM U.S.A. WERE MAINLY ACCOUNTED FOR BY A REMARKABLE 643.4 PER CENT INCREASE IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND 100.8 PER CENT IN TEXTILE FIBRES AND THEIR WASTE.

/THE FOLLOWING TABLE

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THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS THE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY COMMODITY SECTIONS:

	JAN.-OCT. 1976 (HK\$ MN)	JAN.-OCT. 1977 (HK\$ MN)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL (MAINLY TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, AND DIAMONDS)	11,046	11,674	+ 628	+ 5.7%
MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	6,268	7,579	+ 1,311	+ 20.9%
FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS	5,428	5,906	+ 478	+ 8.8%
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY WATCHES AND CLOCKS)	4,031	5,240	+ 1,209	+ 30.0%
CHEMICALS	2,838	2,962	+ 124	+ 4.4%
CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE EXCEPT FUEL (MAINLY TEXTILE FIBRES)	2,811	2,730	- 81	- 2.9%

IMPORTS OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ \$572 MILLION OR + 94.9%) AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+ \$569 MILLION OR + 16.3%) INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, REFLECTING STRONG DEMAND FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

OTHER INCREASES WERE REGISTERED IN WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+ \$469 MILLION OR + 26.8%), NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES, N.E.S. (+ \$411 MILLION OR + 18.8%) AND PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (+ \$243 MILLION OR + 11.1%).

DUE TO THE SLUGGISH DEMAND FOR EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, THERE WAS A DECLINE IN IMPORT VALUES OF TEXTILE FIBRES (- \$296 MILLION OR - 16.9%), TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS (- \$302 MILLION OR - 5.4%).

FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS THIS YEAR, RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN WENT DOWN BY \$116 MILLION OR 9.4 PER CENT. HOWEVER, RE-EXPORTS TO SEVERAL ASIAN MARKETS GAINED CONSIDERABLY, WITH RE-EXPORTS TO INDONESIA INCREASING BY \$253 MILLION OR 43.2 PER CENT, SINGAPORE (+ \$105 MILLION OR + 14.1%), SOUTH KOREA (+ \$65 MILLION OR + 20.4%).

/INCREASES IN

INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS WERE MAINLY RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES (+ \$150 MILLION OR + 29.2%), TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+ \$96 MILLION OR + 59.0%) AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (+ \$86 MILLION OR + 129.8%).

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE TRADE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1977 AS FOLLOWS:

	(1973 = 100)		
	VALUE INDEX -----	UNIT VALUE INDEX -----	QUANTUM INDEX -----
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	184	135	136
IMPORTS	155	135	115

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (I.E. EXPORT PRICES OVER IMPORT PRICES) FOR SEPTEMBER WAS 100.

(NOTE: ALL VALUE FIGURES WERE ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST MILLION DOLLAR).

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OVER \$26 MILLION FROM LOTTERIES FUND FOR
WELFARE PROJECTS
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OVER \$26 MILLION FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR VARIOUS SOCIAL WELFARE PROJECTS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID: +OF THIS AMOUNT, ABOUT \$8 MILLION WILL BE SPENT ON REHABILITATION SERVICES, \$2 MILLION ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, \$9 MILLION ON GROUP AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, \$7 MILLION ON FAMILY SERVICES, \$220,000 ON SERVICES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS AND SOME WILL BE USED TO MEET ANY CONTINGENCIES DURING THE YEAR.+

ON REHABILITATION SERVICES, 75 PER CENT OF THE GRANT WILL BE SPENT ON SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED. THE REST OF THE SUM WILL BE USED IN SERVICES FOR THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED, THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.

/AS FOR THE GRANT

+AS FOR THE GRANT FOR GROUP AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, ALLOCATIONS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND WILL BE USED FOR PROJECTS SUCH AS THE SETTING UP OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES, SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TURNING TO THE \$7 MILLION GRANT FOR FAMILY SERVICES, HE NOTED THAT MORE THAN \$6 MILLION WOULD BE USED FOR THE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT ON CHILD CARE SERVICE WHILE THE REST OF THE SUM WOULD BE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES RUNNING CHILDREN'S HOMES.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SO FAR THIS YEAR, MAJOR CAPITAL GRANTS APPROVED FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND INCLUDE \$1.5 MILLION TO THE MONGKOK KAIFONG WELFARE ASSOCIATION TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF THE PROPOSED SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE.

+ANOTHER \$1.5 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOTTED IN LOK SIN TONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY AND \$1 MILLION TO THE SIK SIK YUEN TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO HOMES FOR THE AGED.

+ABOUT \$1.3 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAINING CENTRE FOR MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN.

+THE PO LEUNG KUK, THE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND THE CARITAS WILL EACH SET UP AN EXPERIMENTAL CENTRE FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY RETARDED WITH A TOTAL OF MORE THAN \$1.34 MILLION GRANTS FROM THE LOTTERIES FUND,+ HE ADDED.

TODAY, MORE THAN 180 WELFARE AGENCIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND WHICH WAS SET UP IN 1965. UP TILL THE END OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, THE TOTAL INCOME OF THE FUND AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$108 MILLION. OF THIS, MORE THAN \$90 MILLION HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR 570 PROJECTS INITIATED BY THESE ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG.

REFERRING TO THE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE LOTTERIES FUND IN THE PAST YEARS THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT ABOUT 46 PER CENT HAD BEEN PROCEEDS FROM LOTTERIES SALES, 20 PER CENT FROM PROCEEDS FROM MARK VI, FIVE PER CENT FROM AUCTIONS OF SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS, 11 PER CENT FROM FORFEITURE OF UNCLAIMED PRIZE MONEY AND THE REST FROM ACCRUED INTEREST, REFUNDS OF GRANTS AND REPAYMENT OF LOANS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FROM THE FUND WOULD BE ENTERTAINED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: CAPITAL SUBVENTION TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES= RECURRENT GRANTS OF LIMITED DURATION TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS= CAPITAL LOANS TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES= AND GOVERNMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS WITHIN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL SERVICES EXCEPT PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF STATUTORY DUTIES AND GENERAL MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS.

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STAGE EQUIPMENT AND LIGHTING FOR TSUEN WAN
AUDITORIUM
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THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STAGE EQUIPMENT AND LIGHTING FOR THE TSUEN WAN MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM.

A P.W.D. SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THE STAGE LIGHTING REQUIRED INCLUDED FLOODLIGHTS, SPOTS LIGHTS, FOLLOW-SPOTS, DIMMER UNITS AND A LIGHTING CONTROL SYSTEM SUITABLE FOR THEATRICAL PLAYS, CHINESE OPERA AND POP MUSIC SHOWS.

THE EQUIPMENT TO BE INSTALLED BACKSTAGE INCLUDES ELECTRICALLY OPERATED HOISTING GEAR, A STEEL FRAMED ACOUSTIC REFLECTOR AND REMOVABLE ORCHESTRA TIERING, SAFETY CURTAIN AND A COUNTER WEIGHT SYSTEM.

MEANWHILE, CONSTRUCTION WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE \$23 MILLION AUDITORIUM AT THE CENTRE OF TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN.

ON COMPLETION IN THE AUTUMN OF 1979, THE 1,500 SEAT AUDITORIUM WILL PROVIDE TSUEN WAN WITH THE MUCH NEEDED VENUE FOR THE INCREASING NUMBER OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TOWN.

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UN CHAU TSAI SQUATTERS TO BE CLEARED FOR TAI PO
DEVELOPMENT

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NEARLY ALL OF THE 85 FAMILIES WHO ARE TO MOVE IN THE FIRST STAGE OF THE CLEARANCE OF THE UN CHAU TSAI SQUATTER AREA HAVE NOW BEEN ALLOCATED SITES AT YUE KOK TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA.

THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR. CLIVE OXLEY, SAID TODAY THAT ONLY FIVE FAMILIES HAD YET TO BE REGISTERED FOR ALLOCATION. +I EXPECT THEM TO DO SO IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO,+ HE SAID.

+MEANWHILE, THE MAJORITY OF THE UN CHAU TSAI PEOPLE ARE HAPPILY AND BUSILY DOING THEIR PARTITIONING IN THEIR NEW HOMES THEMSELVES. SO IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE REMOVAL IN THE FIRST PHASE ARE NOT GOING TO BE TOO DIFFICULT AND I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN COMPLETE THE FIRST PHASE OF THE REMOVAL WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. OXLEY SAID SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 4,000 AND 4,500 PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE INTERCHANGE SECTION OF THE SHATIN TO TAI PO COASTAL ROAD. +THIS ROAD IS VITAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO AS A MODERN MARKET TOWN. THE NEW TOWN WILL BE DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS WITH AN ULTIMATE POPULATION OF 220,000 PEOPLE,+ HE POINTED OUT.

+WE HAVE DIVIDED THE CLEARANCE UP INTO FIVE PHASES -- THE FIRST PHASE STARTS THIS MONTH AND THE LAST PHASE WILL BE COMPLETED, HOPEFULLY, BY MAY NEXT YEAR.+

MR. OXLEY SAID THAT ALL THE ELIGIBLE SQUATTERS HAD BEEN OFFERED EITHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY HOUSING. +THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PERMANENT HOUSING AT THE MOMENT BUT WE CAN OFFER PERMANENT PUBLIC HOUSING IN PLACES LIKE SHATIN, TUEN MUN OR TSUEN WAN,+ HE SAID.

+SO FAR ONLY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT OF THOSE OFFERED THIS ALTERNATIVE HAVE ACCEPTED PERMANENT HOUSING ELSEWHERE. THE REMAINING 92 PER CENT WISH TO STAY IN TAI PO BECAUSE THEY HAVE FAMILY OR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS IN TAI PO OR THEIR CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL HERE,+ MR. OXLEY EXPLAINED.

+THE FIRST PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE IN TAI PO WILL BE READY IN EARLY 1980. THAT IS THE FIRST OF SEVERAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND THE UN CHAU TSAI PEOPLE WHO WILL BE MOVING INTO TEMPORARY HOUSING WILL OF COURSE BE OFFERED PERMANENT HOUSING AT THAT TIME.+

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DEMONSTRATION MUSIC CONCERTS SCHEDULED IN SCHOOLS
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TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE HAS ARRANGED A SERIES OF DEMONSTRATION CONCERTS IN HONG KONG TO BE PERFORMED BY ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIANS.

THE FIRST DEMONSTRATION CONCERT IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 17 AT THE HOMANTIN GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL. THE OTHER CONCERTS -- ALSO ON A +TRIAL-RUN+ BASIS -- WILL BE HELD IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BEFORE MARCH 1978.

AT THE CONCERTS, THE PERFORMERS WILL EXPLAIN THE MUSIC AND THE INSTRUMENTS THEY PLAY. STUDENTS WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN THE CONCERTS BY JOINING THE PLAYERS IN SINGING.

IN NOVEMBER, A CIRCULAR WAS ISSUED TO ALL SCHOOLS INVITING THEM TO INDICATE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE DEMONSTRATION CONCERTS IN THEIR SCHOOLS.

+THE RESPONSE FROM THE SCHOOLS TO THE NEW VENTURE WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC,+ SAID MR. GORDON SIU, THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR.

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN THE CONCERTS MAY APPLY TO THE MUSIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, 9TH FLOOR, HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT 5-283257 OR 5-779007.

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