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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1993

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GOVT STAFF KEEP IN TOUCH ON LOCALISATION

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATION ARE WILLING TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH EACH OTHER ON THE LOCALISATION POLICY, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER A MEETING OF THE SENIOR CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL, WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS "A GOOD MEETING," MRS CHAN SAID:

"I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THAT THE MANAGEMENT HOPES TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS ON THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING OUR POLICY OF ALLOWING OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS TO APPLY FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS."

"I WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS ASSOCIATION THAT THEY, TOO, WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH THE MANAGEMENT," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID SHE HAD ALREADY MET REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND SHE REMAINED HAPPY TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER STAFF ASSOCIATIONS.

IN ADDITION, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL, IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BE SEEING THEIR OWN PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATIONS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THEIR SPECIFIC CONCERNS AND TO SEE IN WHAT WAYS STAFF CONCERNS CAN BE MET.

SHE STRESSED THAT IN THE BULK OF THE 70-ODD GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEM POSED BY THE CHANGE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED.

"WE HAVE IDENTIFIED 10 DEPARTMENTS WHERE, ON THE FACE OF IT, THERE MAY BE SPECIFIC STAFF CONCERNS," MRS CHAN SAID.

THESE DEPARTMENT ARE THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, BUILDINGS, LANDS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, CIVIL ENGINEERING, HOUSING, LEGAL, LEGAL AID, TRANSPORT, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENTS.

"WE WILL BE MEETING WITH STAFF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO TRY TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC CONCERNS IN SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTS," SHE SAID.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT THE SENIOR NON-EXPATRIATE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (SNEOA) PLANS TO SUE THE GOVERNMENT, MRS CHAN SAID SHE REGRETTED THE SNEOA HAD FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THE GOVERNMENT TO COURT.

"I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT THEY WILL NOT ACT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, THAT THEY WILL TRY TO ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC CONCERNS IN SPECIFIC DEPARTMENTS AND CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH US," SHE SAID.

THE SECRETARY REITERATED THAT TRANSFER OF OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS TO LOCAL TERMS IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

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"AN ELIGIBLE OFFICER, FIRST OF ALL, HAS TO APPLY," SHE SAID.

"WHETHER HE IS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS APPLICATION WILL DEPEND ON THE ADMINISTRATION MAKING THE DECISION BASED ON SERVICE NEEDS AND THE OFFICERS' PERFORMANCE AND ON WHETHER HE IS PHYSICALLY FIT," MRS CHAN SAID.

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RESPONSE TO NCNA REMARKS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ABOUT REMARKS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BY A NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY OFFICIAL TODAY, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO DENG XIAOPING WERE MADE BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, CHINA WILL RESUME SOVEREIGNTY ON JULY 1, 1997. BEFORE THEN, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG."

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NO RELAXATION FOR MORTGAGE LENDING

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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE GUIDELINE OF A 70 PER CENT MORTGAGE CEILING FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES SHOULD REMAIN IN FORCE.

HE SAID THERE WAS NO TRUTH IN A NEWSPAPER REPORT WHICH SAID THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A PROPOSAL PUT FORTH BY THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION TO RELAX MORTGAGE CEILING FOR GENUINE HOME-BUYERS.

MR TSANG SAID THE 70 PER CENT MORTGAGE CEILING HAD HELPED CURB EXCESSIVE SPECULATION AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THERE SHOULD BE A RELAXATION AT THIS STAGE.

AT A MEETING WITH THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION ON MAY 27 THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROBLEM FACED BY FIRST-TIME HOME-BUYERS, MR TSANG NOTED.

"BUT MR MACLEOD HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE FIRST-TIME HOME-BUYERS AND TO DEVISE A SPECIAL MORTGAGE LENDING PACKAGE FOR THEM," MR TSANG SAID.

MR TSANG POINTED OUT THAT MR MACLEOD HAD REITERATED AT THE MEETING THAT HE COULD NOT SEE ANY JUSTIFICATION TO RELAX THE CEILING, BEARING IN MIND THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE PROPERTY MARKET.

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THE ACTING FINANCIAL SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE BANKING SECTOR WAS FIRMLY BACKING THE 70 PER CENT CEILING AS BANKS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE PROPERTY MARKET.

"THERE IS ALSO WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THIS MEASURE," HE ADDED.

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EAST LAMMA CHANNEL DREDGING WORKS AUTHORISED
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN AUTHORISATION TO DREDGE MARINE SAND WITHIN AN AREA OF 134 HECTARES OF SEABED IN THE EAST LAMMA CHANNEL.

THE AREA IS ONLY PART OF THE 939 HECTARES NOTIFIED IN THE GAZETTE IN 1991.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS DEPARTMENT SAID THE DREDGING WOULD BE SUBJECT TO STRINGENT ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND THE HIGHEST OPERATIONAL CONTROLS SO AS TO MINIMISE ANY IMPACT ON MARINE LIFE, NEARBY BEACHES, SEA-WATER INTAKES AND FISH CULTURE ZONES.

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OPERATIONAL CONTROLS WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED. IF NECESSARY, MITIGATION MEASURES, INCLUDING CESSATION OF DREDGING, WILL BE ADOPTED TO KEEP IMPACTS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LEVELS.

"A COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PLAN WILL BE DRAWN UP TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE WORKS MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 13 NEXT YEAR.

THE NOTICE, TOGETHER WITH ITS RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, SHOP 25, GROUND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN;
- * ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * ISLANDS DISTRICT LAND OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; AND
- * SOUTHERN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 20TH FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

COPIES OF THE PLAN CAN ALSO BE BOUGHT FROM THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

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ROAD NETWORK PROPOSED FOR TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN
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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT ROAD WORKS REQUIRED FOR PHASE I DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN, AN AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECT WHICH WILL HOUSE ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE BY 1997.

THE WORKS WILL INVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD NETWORK WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY VIA TWO INTERCHANGES, AND TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHEK LAP KOK ISLAND VIA A HIGHWAY BRIDGE.

THE PROPOSAL ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES, FOOTPATHS, CYCLE TRACKS, FOOTBRIDGE, SUBWAYS, BICYCLE PARKING AREAS AND ROADSIDE AMENITY AREAS.

A NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED WORKS ISSUED UNDER THE ROADS (WORKS, USE AND COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE IS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN OF THE PROPOSED WORKS IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MUI WO SUB-OFFICE OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE.

ANY OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED WORKS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 12, 1993. IN HIS SUBMISSION, A PERSON MUST STATE HIS INTEREST AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSAL.

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TENDERS FOR SEWER CONSTRUCTION INVITED
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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONSTRUCT A NETWORK OF PUBLIC SEWERAGE SYSTEM IN TAN CHEUNG, PO LO CHE AND TUI MIN HOI, SAI KUNG TO IMPROVE THE SANITARY CONDITION OF UNSEWERED VILLAGES THERE.

THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY OF PORT SHELTER.

THE NOTICE FOR INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE WORKS INVOLVE THE LAYING OF ABOUT 5.2 KILOMETRES OF SEWERS WITH DIAMETERS RANGING FROM 225 MM TO 375 MM, WHICH WILL CONNECT WITH THE TERMINAL MANHOLES OF THE VILLAGE HOUSES WITHIN THE CATCHMENT.

THE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER FOR COMPLETION IN TWO YEARS.

"UPON COMPLETION, SEWAGE GENERATED FROM TAN CHEUNG, PO LO CHE AND TUI MIN HOI WILL BE COLLECTED AND CONVEYED TO THE EXISTING SAI KUNG SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS FOR SECONDARY TREATMENT BEFORE ULTIMATE DISPOSAL IN PORT SHELTER THROUGH A SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

"AS A RESULT, THE POLLUTANTS CURRENTLY BEING DISCHARGED FROM THESE VILLAGES INTO PORT SHELTER WILL BE REDUCED," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

TENDER FORMS AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE NEW WORKS DIVISION, DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 44TH FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 10.

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FUK CHAK STREET TO BE REBUILT

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RECONSTRUCT FUK CHAK STREET AND THE NEARBY REAR LANES IN TAI KOK TSUI.

THE PROJECT COMPRISES THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING CARRIAGEWAY AND FOOTWAY, CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-METRE-WIDE FOOTWAY AT THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF FUK CHAK STREET AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE/UNDERGROUND SERVICES.

AT PRESENT FUK CHAK STREET AND THE NEARBY REAR LANES ARE NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND MANAGED BECAUSE THEY ARE UNDER MULTIPLE SUB-DIVIDED OWNERSHIP.

IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO RESUME THE PRIVATE STREET AND NEARBY REAR LANES TO ENSURE THEIR PROPER MAINTENANCE AND USE.

THE IMPROVEMENT WORK IS PROGRAMMED TO START IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

A NOTICE ON THE WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME CAN BE SEEN AT THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT OFFICES DURING OFFICE HOURS:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND
- * MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, GROUND FLOOR, 30 LUEN WAN STREET, KOWLOON.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL MUST SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG, NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12 THIS YEAR.

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RESUMPTION AND REPAIR OF MERCURY STREET

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RESUME AND REPAIR PART OF MERCURY STREET IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE STREET IS UNDER PRIVATE MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP AND IS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OR MAINTAINED. AS A RESULT, THE ROAD IS IN POOR CONDITION AND PARTLY OCCUPIED BY STALLS THAT OBSTRUCT VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS, CAUSING CONSIDERABLE ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

THE RESUMPTION WILL ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO REPAIR THE STREET TO A PROPER STANDARD AND IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC FLOW FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START BY MAY 1995.

A NOTICE ON THE PROPOSED WORKS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PLAN AND SCHEME SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS AND LAND RESUMPTION CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, 29 TAI ON STREET, GROUND FLOOR, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG; AND
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG EAST, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH, IS REQUIRED TO WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, SECOND FLOOR, EAST WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, HONG KONG NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12 THIS YEAR.

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UPDATE ON HKCEE-RELATED ENQUIRIES

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UP TO 5.30 PM TODAY (FRIDAY), THE CAREERS AND GUIDANCE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED 455 VISITORS AND HANDLED 202 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE RELEASE OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS BRINGS TO 1,993 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE VISITED AND 1,125 CALLERS TELEPHONED THE CENTRE SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE HKCEE RESULTS ON TUESDAY.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT'S 24-HOUR AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE RECEIVED MORE THAN 7,017 CALLERS SINCE MONDAY -- ONE DAY BEFORE THE START OF STAGE I OF THE SECONDARY 6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE.

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S6 ADMISSION

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STAGE IV OF THE SECONDARY SIX ADMISSION PROCEDURE IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY (AUGUST 16) AND TUESDAY.

A LIST OF SCHOOLS WITH VACANCIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT ALL DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AT 9 AM ON MONDAY AND STUDENTS WITH MINIMUM A-LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS MAY APPLY TO ONE OR MORE OF THESE SCHOOLS.

APPLICATION RESULTS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THESE SCHOOLS ON TUESDAY AND SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS CAN ONLY REGISTER WITH ONE SCHOOL BEFORE 3.30 PM ON THE SAME DAY.

TOTAL NO. OF S6 PLACES AVAILABLE	23,200
VACANCIES AFTER STAGE I (AUGUST 10)	9,687
AFTER STAGE II (AUGUST 12)	5,112
AFTER STAGE III (AUGUST 13)	3,201

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR JULY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR JULY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

IN JULY, THERE WERE NO EXCEEDANCES OF THE 24-HOUR OR HOURLY AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE FOR ANY OF THE POLLUTANTS REPORTED.

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DUST LEVELS WERE, AS USUAL, HIGHER AT MONG KOK THAN AT CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG.

THE MONTHLY AVERAGE SO₂ CONCENTRATIONS AT KWAI CHUNG WAS 2.5 TIMES HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR. BY CONTRAST, AT MONG KOK AND CENTRAL/WESTERN LEVELS WERE LOWER THAN LAST YEAR.

THIS YEAR, PEAKS OF 24-HOUR SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS WERE OBSERVED AT KWAI CHUNG ON THE 27TH AND 30TH BUT NOT AT THE OTHER TWO SITES. HOWEVER, THE PEAKS WERE WELL BELOW THE 24-HOUR LIMIT OF 350 UG PER CUBIC METER.

COMPARED TO LAST YEAR, NITROGEN DIOXIDE LEVELS WERE 2.5 TIMES HIGHER AT KWAI CHUNG, SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT MONG KOK AND SLIGHTLY LOWER AT CENTRAL/WESTERN.

IN ABSOLUTE TERMS, THOUGH, NITROGEN DIOXIDE LEVELS WERE STILL HIGHEST AT THE STREET LEVEL SITE OF MONG KOK.

THE DEPARTMENT IS INVESTIGATING THE TREND OF THESE HIGHER POLLUTION LEVELS IN KWAI CHUNG.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO₂ MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS.

NO₂ IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO₂.

IT IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES; OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY MONITORING AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT 11 STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LEUNG, ON TEL 594 6401.

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HK DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK BEGINS

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WITH THE CEREMONIAL DOTTING OF THE EYE OF A SLEEPING DRAGON TO AWAKEN ITS SPIRIT, THE THIRD ANNUAL HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK BEGAN ON THURSDAY (NEW YORK TIME) AT THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER IN LOWER MANHATTAN.

AS HUNDREDS OF LUNCH-TIME NEW YORKERS WATCHED ON, A 60-FOOT-LONG DRAGON WOUND ITS WAY THROUGH THE LARGE WINTER GARDEN OF THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER TO LAUNCH THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION OF CHINESE CULTURE, WHICH INCLUDES A DRAGON BOAT RACE ON THE HUDSON RIVER ON AUGUST 15, FROM NOON TO 4 PM.

THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK, RUNNING FROM AUGUST 12 TO 15, IS PRESENTED BY THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK AND HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK. IT IS SPONSORED BY HONGKONGBANK.

"THE FESTIVAL PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW YORKERS TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THAT, APART FROM THE BUSINESS SIDE OF HONG KONG, THERE IS A CULTURAL AND SPORTING COLOR TO HONG KONG LIFE," SAID MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, HONG KONG COMMISSIONER USA, WHO PERFORMED THE CEREMONIAL EYE-DOTTING OF THE DRAGON UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A BUDDHIST PRIEST.

"HONG HONG IS PRIVILEGED TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THROUGH THESE EVENTS SOME OF THE WAYS OF THE PEARL TO NEW YORKERS IN THE BIG APPLE."

"HONG KONG IS WELL KNOWN AS THE MAIN BUSINESS GATEWAY TO CHINA; AND AS A BUSINESS HUB FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION," SAID MR WIGGHAM, WHO HEADS THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, DC.

"OF COURSE, THERE ARE ALREADY CLOSE TRADING AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S.: THIS IS REFLECTED BY A STRONG AMERICAN PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, WITH MORE THAN 900 AMERICAN COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS THERE.

"OVERALL U.S. INVESTMENT IS ESTIMATED AT US\$7 BILLION. MORE THAN 26,000 AMERICANS LIVE IN HONG KONG AND THE NUMBER IS INCREASING AT THE RATE OF OVER 1,000 A YEAR," HE SAID.

"BUT I AM DELIGHTED THAT, AS THE NEW HONG KONG COMMISSIONER IN THE UNITED STATES, MY VERY FIRST OFFICIAL FUNCTION IS NOT STRICTLY RELATED TO THE "ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS" OF THE FORMAL TITLE, BUT TO A DIFFERENT SIDE OF HONG KONG LIFE," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

THE FOUR-DAY CELEBRATION IN THE WINTER GARDEN AND ON THE PLAZA OUTSIDE THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER FEATURES DEMONSTRATIONS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE CRAFTS, COOKING, MARTIAL ARTS AND DANCES, AND STATE-OF-THE-ART PRODUCTS AND DISPLAYS.

THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXHIBITS INCLUDE: CHINESE MUSIC AND DANCE, MARTIAL ARTS, CHINESE KNOTTING, CALLIGRAPHY, ARTISTIC SEAL CARVING, CHINESE PAINTING AND DOUGH FIGURES.

"THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER AND THIS WINTER GARDEN WILL REMIND THOSE OF YOU WHO KNOW HONG KONG, OF ITS DRAMATIC SKYLINE AND ITS SOARING AND ARCHITECTURAL INNOVATIVE INTERIORS," SAID MR RODERICK RICHARDS, CHAIRMAN, HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN NEW YORK, INC AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK.

"IT IS HERE AT THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER THAT NEW YORK COMES CLOSEST TO LOOKING LIKE HONG KONG AND ITS HARBOUR AND THE WATERFRONT. THIS CENTER ON THE HUDSON IS THUS THE IDEAL SPOT FOR TODAY'S EXHIBITION AND THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT NEW YORK CHAMPIONSHIP RACES TO BE HELD THIS COMING SUNDAY."

ON SUNDAY, THE CHAMPIONSHIP DRAGON BOAT RACES FEATURE 12 TEAMS FROM NEW YORK AND ACROSS THE U.S. COMPETING IN AUTHENTIC CHINESE DRAGON BOAT RACES ALONG A 640-METRE COURSE ON THE HUDSON RIVER OFF THE WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER.

FOUR OF THE TEAMS WERE THE WINNERS FROM AMONG 17 TEAMS WHICH COMPETED IN THE NEW YORK CITY DRAGON BOAT RACES HELD LAST SATURDAY AT FLUSHING MEADOWS PARK IN QUEENS.

THE WINNING TEAM OF THIS SUNDAY'S RACE WILL BE FLOWN TO HONG KONG BY DELTA AIRLINES TO COMPETE IN THE HONG KONG DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL RACES NEXT YEAR.

ON SUNDAY, THERE WILL ALSO BE A "HONG KONG VILLAGE" DISPLAY AT THE PLAZA ON THE RACE SITE.

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ENERGY STATISTICS REPORT ON SALE

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS PUBLISHED THE "HONG KONG ENERGY STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT, 1992" WHICH DESCRIBES THE SITUATION OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN HONG KONG.

THE REPORT CONTAINS COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT DIFFERENT FORMS OF ENERGY, INCLUDING OIL PRODUCTS, COAL PRODUCTS, ELECTRICITY AND TOWN GAS.

IT ALSO INCLUDES AN OVERALL ENERGY BALANCE WHICH SUMMARISES THE SOURCES AND USES OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF ENERGY, AND DEPICTS THEIR RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES.

REGARDING VARIOUS OIL PRODUCTS, STATISTICS ON LIST PRICES, STORAGE CAPACITY, TANK STOCK, IMPORTS, RE-EXPORTS, RETAINED IMPORTS, AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OF IMPORTS, AND QUANTITY OF SALES BY TYPE OF USER ARE PRESENTED IN THE REPORT.

FIGURES ON IMPORTS, RE-EXPORTS, RETAINED IMPORTS AND AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OF IMPORTS OF SELECTED COAL PRODUCTS ARE GIVEN.

FOR ELECTRICITY AND TOWN GAS, THE REPORT LISTS FIGURES ON TARIFF CHARGES, GENERATING CAPACITY, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF USER.

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR THE YEARS 1982 TO 1992 ARE PROVIDED WITH RESPECT TO MOST OF THESE STATISTICS. IN ADDITION, QUARTERLY FIGURES FOR 1991 AND 1992 ARE PRESENTED FOR SELECTED ITEMS.

THE REPORT, AT \$25 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, PUBLICATIONS SECTION, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 839 3246.

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HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE TO START OPERATION
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A FOURTH CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT (CHEU) WILL START PARTIAL OPERATION FROM MONDAY (AUGUST 16), IN TSUEN WAN.

LOCATED ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING AT 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, THE CENTRE WILL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF HEALTH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, WHICH INCLUDE INFORMATION HANDOUTS SUCH AS LEAFLETS, POSTERS AND PAMPHLETS; REGULAR EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAYS; AND AUDIO AND VIDEO SHOWS.

SAME AS THE OTHER CHEU CENTRES, THE TSUEN WAN CENTRE WILL PROVIDE A TELEPHONE COUNSELLING SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE, ON TEL 417 6502.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AT THE CENTRE WILL ALSO GIVE HEALTH TALKS TO SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS UPON REQUESTS.

INITIALLY, THE CENTRE WILL BE OPENED ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS BETWEEN 8.30 AM TO 1 PM, AND 2 PM TO 5 PM.

ALL SERVICES AT THE CENTRE ARE FREE.

FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE DIAL TEL 417 6505.

THE OTHER EXISTING CHEU CENTRES ARE:

*CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT,
SEVENTH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE,
130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG
ENQUIRY NO. : TEL 572 1476
HEALTH COUNSELLING : TEL 692 8753

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*SHA TIN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE,
SHA TIN LEK YUEN HEALTH CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR,
9 LEK YUEN STREET, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES
ENQUIRY NO. : TEL 692 8749
HEALTH COUNSELLING : TEL 692 8753

*YUNG FUNG SHEE HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE,
YUNG FUNG SHEE MEMORIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHA KWO LING ROAD, KWUN TONG, KOWLOON
ENQUIRY NO. : TEL 727 8229
HEALTH COUNSELLING : DITTO

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TENDERS CALLED FOR SCHOOLS

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN AP LEI CHAU, AND A SECONDARY SCHOOL AND A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN TIN SHUI WAI.

THE SCHOOLS WILL BE OF GOVERNMENT STANDARD DESIGN, EACH HAVING A MAIN TEACHING BLOCK, A BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS, AN ASSEMBLY HALL, SEPARATE ANCILLARY BUILDINGS AND STAFF QUARTERS.

THE MAIN TEACHING BLOCK OF EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL CONTAIN 26 CLASSROOMS WHILE THAT OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL WILL COMPRISE 30 CLASSROOMS.

EACH SCHOOL WILL ALSO HAVE A LIBRARY, A COMPUTER ROOM, STAFF ROOMS, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, A BASKETBALL COURT, A COVERED PLAY AREA, A CAR PARK AND PLANTING AREAS.

THE BLOCK OF SPECIAL ROOMS WILL HOUSE FACILITIES FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS.

WORKS FOR BOTH PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE 16 TO 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDER OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON SEPTEMBER 10.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON THE 34TH FLOOR OF THE QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

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LUK KENG ROAD TO UNDERGO IMPROVEMENTS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TWO SHARP BENDS AT LUK KENG ROAD.

IT IS A SINGLE-LANE ROAD RUNNING FROM SHA TAU KOK ROAD TO BRIDE'S POOL ROAD. IT IS NOW SERVING TWO-WAY TRAFFIC BY PROVIDING SOME PASSING BAYS ALONG THE ROAD.

THE ALIGNMENT AT THE TWO SHARP BENDS IS TORTUOUS AND THE SIGHTLINES ARE POOR. WORKS ARE THEREFORE REQUIRED TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY THERE.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

THE SEAWALL AND MARINE WORKS WILL BE COMPLETED BY APRIL NEXT YEAR TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF EGRETS IN THE AREA.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

A NOTICE TO INVITE TENDERS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE REGIONAL HIGHWAY ENGINEER/NEW TERRITORIES REGION, HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, THIRD FLOOR, ROOM 314, HO MAN TIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 88 CHUNG HAU STREET, KOWLOON. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 762 3594.

TENDERS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED AND ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOARD, AND PLACED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS TENDER BOX AT THE LIFT LOBBY ON 34TH FLOOR OF THE QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG, BEFORE NOON ON SEPTEMBER 3. LATE TENDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

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NEW PREMISES FOR MONG KOK POST OFFICE

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THE MONG KOK POST OFFICE WILL MOVE BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL ADDRESS AT BUTE STREET WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW MONGKOK TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING.

THE NEW OFFICE, ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE BUILDING, 37 BUTE STREET, KOWLOON, WILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS AT 9.30 AM ON AUGUST 23.

"THE NEW PURPOSE-BUILT OFFICE IS SPACIOUS AND EQUIPPED WITH IMPROVED FACILITIES TO SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS BETTER," THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MRS DORIS HO, SAID.

ITS HOURS OF BUSINESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

/THIS OFFICE

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THIS OFFICE WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE AT UNION PARK CENTRE, 771-775 NATHAN ROAD WHICH WILL BE CLOSED FOR BUSINESS AFTER 1 PM ON AUGUST 21.

MRS HO ADVISED LOCAL PHILATELISTS THAT A SPECIAL HANDBACK SERVICE WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE MONG KOK POST OFFICE ON AUGUST 23.

UNREGISTERED FULLY POSTAGE PREPAID "FIRST DAY COVERS" PREPARED PRIVATELY, AND BEARING A LOCAL ADDRESS, WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE COUNTER, IMPRESSED WITH THE NORMAL POST OFFICE DATESTAMP AND HANDED BACK TO THE PERSON PRESENTING THEM.

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REVISED FEE FOR VALUATION LIST DATA

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THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES TODAY (FRIDAY) SAID THE FEE FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE ADDRESS OR DESCRIPTION, AND RATEABLE VALUE OF ANY TENEMENT CONTAINED IN A VALUATION LIST WOULD BE REVISED FROM \$50 TO \$55 WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 16.

THE REVISION HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN A NOTICE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

SECTION 15(4) OF THE RATING ORDINANCE PROVIDES FOR THE PAYMENT OF SUCH FEE.

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FARM LAND TO BE RESUMED FOR DRAINAGE WORKS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME SOME 1,510 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FROM SEVEN PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN TAI HANG, TAI PO FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DRAINAGE CHANNEL TO ALLEVIATE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN THE LOW-LYING AREAS.

MEANWHILE, IN PIK UK, SAI KUNG, 5,456 SQUARE METRES OF LAND FROM 30 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WILL BE RESUMED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, A FOOTBRIDGE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE WORKS ARE PROGRAMMED TO START LATER IN THE YEAR.

RESUMPTION NOTICES WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY). THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THREE MONTHS LATER.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,470
REVERSAL OF LAF	+530
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-952
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,048

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.4 *-0.1* 13.8.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.13 PCT	12 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.78	3.61
1 MONTH	3.02 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.00	3.83
3 MONTHS	3.09 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.04	4.07
6 MONTHS	3.21 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.07	4.35
12 MONTHS	3.60 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 23,027 MN

CLOSED 13 AUGUST 1993

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