



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

- 1 -

FIRST LOCAL LAW OFFICERS APPOINTED

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR PETER V T NGUYEN AND MR DANIEL R FUNG, QC AS HONG KONG'S FIRST TWO LOCAL LAW OFFICERS.

MR NGUYEN HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS WHILE MR FUNG WILL BECOME THE SOLICITOR GENERAL.

MR NGUYEN, WHO WILL SUCCEED MR JOHN WOOD, WHO WILL RETIRE AND RETURN TO BRITAIN IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, WILL TAKE UP HIS APPOINTMENT IN JULY. MR FUNG WILL ASSUME OFFICE IN DECEMBER 1994.

MR MATHEWS, IN WELCOMING THESE APPOINTMENTS SAID MR NGUYEN AND MR FUNG, BOTH HIGHLY RESPECTED SENIOR BARRISTERS, WILL BRING A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE TO THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

HE NOTED THAT THEIR APPOINTMENTS MARKED A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD IN THE LOCALISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT, AT A VERY SENIOR LEVEL. HE LOOKED FORWARD VERY MUCH TO WORKING WITH THEM.

WITH THEIR APPOINTMENTS, 28.8 PER CENT OF THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTORATE ARE LOCAL OFFICERS, AS COMPARED WITH 6.3 PER CENT IN 1988, WHEN A NUMBER OF SCHEMES WERE INTRODUCED TO SPEED UP LOCALISATION IN THE DEPARTMENT, WHILE THE PROPORTION OF LOCAL OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OVERALL HAS JUMPED FROM ONE THIRD IN 1988 TO OVER HALF.

FOLLOWING ARE THE BIOGRAPHIES OF MR NGUYEN AND MR FUNG:

MR PETER V T NGUYEN, NEWLY-APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

BORN IN 1943, MR NGUYEN WAS CALLED TO THE BAR OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1970, AND TO THE HONG KONG BAR IN 1974.

MR NGUYEN SERVED AS AN ASSISTANT CROWN COUNSEL AND CROWN COUNSEL IN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT FROM AUGUST 1970 TO NOVEMBER 1974, DURING WHICH PERIOD HE PROSECUTED IN ALL LEVELS OF THE COURTS.

MR NGUYEN WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE SINCE 1974, STARTING WITH A MIXED PRACTICE DURING THE INITIAL FIRST FEW YEARS BUT AFTER THAT HAVING AN EXCLUSIVELY CRIMINAL PRACTICE.

DURING THESE YEARS OF PRIVATE PRACTICE, HE HAS PROSECUTED AND DEFENDED IN MANY COMPLEX CASES, INCLUDING BRIBERY AND FRAUD CASES.

MR NGUYEN SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE BAR COMMITTEE OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION IN 1984; THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE ON BAIL IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (1986-88); AND THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE ICAC (1990-91).

MR NGUYEN IS MARRIED WITH TWO SONS.

/MR DANIEL

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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MR DANIEL R FUNG, QC NEWLY-APPOINTED SOLICITOR GENERAL

MR FUNG WAS BORN IN HONG KONG IN 1953.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON IN 1974, HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1975 AND ADMITTED TO THE HONG KONG BAR IN 1977. HE WAS APPOINTED A QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1990.

MR FUNG HAS A COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC LAW PRACTICE, AND HAS APPEARED IN MANY BILL OF RIGHTS CASES.

HE ALSO HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC, LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SERVICE.

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BASIC LAW CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FROM 1985 TO 1990; A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL STUDIES BOARD BETWEEN 1988 AND 1989; A MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BILL OF RIGHTS IN 1988; AND A PART-TIME MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL POLICY UNIT BETWEEN 1993 AND 1994.

HE WAS ALSO A DEPUTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE IN 1986 AND SAT AS DEPUTY HIGH COURT JUDGE BETWEEN 1992 AND APRIL THIS YEAR.

MR FUNG WAS THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION FROM 1985 TO 1988; AND A MEMBER OF THE BAR COUNCIL BETWEEN 1984 AND 1991.

MR FUNG SERVED AS HONORARY LECTURER AND EXTERNAL EXAMINER IN THE FACULTY OF LAW, HONG KONG UNIVERSITY FROM 1987 TO 1994 AND IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE FACULTY BOARD, LAW FACULTY, CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, MR PETER NGUYEN, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR DANIEL FUNG, QC WILL MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTIVELY IN THEIR OFFICES THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

MR FUNG WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AT 3 PM IN HIS CHAMBERS AT SUITES 1517-1522, TWO PACIFIC PLACE, 88 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

MR NGUYEN WILL MEET MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT 4.30 PM IN HIS CHAMBERS AT 22ND FLOOR, ON HING BUILDING, 1-9 ON HING TERRACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSIONS.

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STATEMENT ON AIRPORT FINANCING

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS ON REMARKS TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL, MR LU PING, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT SOON ON FINANCING FOR THE NEW AIRPORT, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE WELCOME THIS INDICATION THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON FINANCING FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY WILL BE BROUGHT TO AN EARLY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

"WE WILL ALSO WELCOME FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON THE AIRPORT CORPORATION BILL."

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EXCO APPROVES YAUMATI FERRY FARE RISE

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A FARE INCREASE BY AN OVERALL WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF 14.2 PER CENT FOR THE HONG KONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF).

HYF LAST REVISED ITS FARES TWO YEARS AGO.

THE STATUTORY ORDER SETTING OUT THE NEW FARES WILL BE GAZETTED AND SUBMITTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL WITH A VIEW TO IMPLEMENTING IT ON JULY 1.

IN APPROVING THE FARE INCREASE, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS TO BE INTRODUCED TOGETHER WITH THE NEW FARES.

- * THE HIGHER WEEKEND FARES FOR OUTLYING ISLAND SERVICES ON SATURDAY MORNINGS WILL BE WITHDRAWN.
- * THE EXISTING CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 WILL BE EXTENDED TO HOVERFERRY SERVICES.
- * THE EXISTING CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 65 AND ABOVE WILL BE EXTENDED TO ALL ROUTES AT ALL TIME AND IN ALL NON-DELUXE CLASSES.

THE FARE CHANGES FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	RANGE OF % INCREASE	INCREASE IN MONEY TERMS
	-----	-----
PASSENGER SERVICES		

- CROSS HARBOUR	13% - 19%	30 CENTS - 50 CENTS
- NEW TOWN	10% - 20%	50 CENTS - \$2
- OUTLYING DISTRICTS		
- WEEKDAYS	12% - 22%	50 CENTS - \$3
- WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS	8% - 22%	50 CENTS - \$3.5

/EXTENSION OF

	RANGE OF % REDUCTION	REDUCTION IN MONEY TERMS
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EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME FOR ELDERLY PASSENGERS	33% - 45%	\$1.4 - \$9
EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONARY FARE SCHEME FOR CHILDREN	33% - 40%	\$1.5 - \$6
SATURDAY MORNING FARE REDUCTIONS	12% - 67%	\$0.7 - \$9

ALSO, FARES FOR VEHICULAR SERVICES WILL GO UP BY AN AVERAGE OF 7.6 PER CENT AND FREIGHT SERVICE BY 20 PER CENT. THE NON-PEAK HOUR DISCOUNTED FARE FOR NEW TOWN HOVERFERRY SERVICES WILL BE WITHDRAWN.

THE APPROVED RATE OF INCREASE IS LOWER THAN THE ESTIMATED INFLATION RATE OF 17 PER CENT FROM JULY 1992 TO JULY 1994. OVERALL ABOUT 77 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PASSENGERS WILL HAVE THEIR FARES INCREASED BY 15 PER CENT AND BELOW.

THE NEW FARES WILL ONLY INCREASE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) MARGINALLY BY 0.01 PER CENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID EVEN WITH THE APPROVED FARE INCREASE, THE COMPANY WOULD NOT BE MAKING ANY PROFIT THIS YEAR LARGELY BECAUSE OF DECREASING PATRONAGE, INCREASING OPERATING COST AND STRONGER COMPETITION FROM OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE FARE INCREASE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO REDUCE THE ESTIMATED LOSS.

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\$742 MILLION WORKS CONTRACT AWARDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, TODAY (TUESDAY) SIGNED A \$742-MILLION CONTRACT WITH THE AOKI CORPORATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF MA ON SHAN TREATMENT WORKS.

THIS IS THE LARGEST CONTRACT EVER AWARDED BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

UPON COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1996, THE MA ON SHAN TREATMENT WORKS WILL HAVE A PUMPING STATION AND A DAILY OUTPUT OF 227,000 CUBIC METRES AND A PRIMARY SERVICE RESERVOIR WITH A STORAGE CAPACITY OF 40,000 CUBIC METRES.

IT CAN MEET THE DEMAND OF THE GROWING POPULATION IN MA ON SHAN AS WELL AS THE EASTERN AND WESTERN AREAS OF SHA TIN FOR MORE FRESH WATER SUPPLY.

/ANOTHER CONTRACT

ANOTHER CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND LAYING OF WATER MAINS FROM THE TREATMENT WORKS TO SHA TIN HAS ALSO BEEN AWARDED RECENTLY.

AFTER THE CONTRACT-SIGNING, MR HU ANNOUNCED HIS DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES FOR THIS YEAR.

"THE NEW PLEDGES AIM AT IMPROVING MY DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS BY ENHANCING OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND BY DEVELOPING A CLIENT-BASED CULTURE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

"THEY MAINLY COVER THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES RELATED TO WATER ACCOUNTS AND DAILY WATER SUPPLY MATTERS.

"IN THE PAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVED VERY SATISFACTORY RESULTS FOR ITS PERFORMANCE TARGETS," HE SAID.

MR HU SAID FOR MOST TARGETS, THE ACHIEVEMENT RATES HAD REACHED OR WERE VERY CLOSE TO 100 PER CENT.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE FRESH WATER QUALITY AT SUPPLY CONNECTION POINTS, WHICH IS CUSTOMERS' MAJOR CONCERN, HAS ACHIEVED A COMPLIANCE RATE OF 99.9 PER CENT AGAINST THE GUIDELINE STANDARDS OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.

OTHER MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN CUSTOMER SERVICES IN THE PAST YEAR INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF A CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUP, PUBLICATION OF A QUARTERLY CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER, REFURBISHMENT OF THE CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES AND THE COMMISSIONING OF THE WATER INFOLINK, A 24-HOUR AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SYSTEM, MR HU POINTED OUT.

HE ADDED THAT AFTER REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF LAST YEAR'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES AND HAVING CONSIDERED VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS, HE HAD DECIDED TO ENHANCE SOME OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES MADE LAST YEAR AND INTRODUCED NEW TARGETS TO FURTHER IMPROVE SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS THIS YEAR.

MR HU SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD DEVOTE ITSELF TO PROVIDING RELIABLE, EFFICIENT AND CUSTOMER-ORIENTED SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, HE STRESSED.

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FISHERMEN'S CLAIMS BEING PROCESSED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED FISHERMEN TO CONTINUE THEIR DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN REGARD TO THEIR CLAIM FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FOR ANY REDUCTION OF CATCHES AS A RESULT OF DREDGING OR DUMPING WORK WITHIN HONG KONG WATERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PROCESS THEIR CLAIMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE NOTED THAT PAYMENT TO FISHERMEN OPERATING OFF SOUTH CHEUNG CHAU WAS ALREADY MADE LAST AUGUST.

/"WE ARE

"WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF HANDLING APPEALS FROM CLAIMANTS WHO ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PAYMENT."

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED THAT THE RATE OF PAYMENT WAS WORKED OUT ON FAIR AND EQUITABLE GROUND AND HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WHEN THEY APPROVED THE NECESSARY FUND FOR CURRENT EXERCISES.

IT IS BASED ON THREE TIMES THE ANNUAL NET INCOME OF EACH VESSEL OPERATING IN AN AFFECTED FISHING GROUND.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT REGISTRATION OF CLAIMS WAS EITHER IN PROGRESS OR HAD COMPLETED IN SEVEN LOCATIONS AND WOULD COMMENCE IN THREE OTHER LOCATIONS SHORTLY.

REGISTRATION OF LARGER VESSELS EXCEEDING 15 METRES WILL BEGIN IN AUGUST.

WITH REGARD TO THEIR REQUEST FOR RETENTION OF THEIR ENTITLEMENT TO EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE UPON DISPOSAL OF THEIR VESSELS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED SYMPATHETICALLY.

ON THEIR DEMAND FOR IMPORTING HELPERS FROM CHINA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL LABOUR IMPORTATION POLICY.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO UNDERTOOK TO REFER THEIR REQUEST FOR PUBLIC REHOUSING TO THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

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PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON TV BROADCASTS

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THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD DURING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE ATV AND TVB COMMERCIAL TELEVISION LICENCES WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY (MAY 28), THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID BOTH LICENCES WERE RENEWED IN DECEMBER 1988 FOR A TERM OF 12 YEARS EXPIRING IN DECEMBER 2000.

"BOTH LICENCES CARRY A CONDITION STATING THAT THEY ARE SUBJECT TO RENEWAL BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BUT NOT BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 1994," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARING WAS TO OBTAIN FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE QUALITY AND ACCEPTABILITY OF COMMERCIAL TELEVISION BROADCASTS.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE INVITED TO COMMENT ON A RANGE OF TOPICS COVERING THE PROGRAMMES AND ADVERTISEMENTS BROADCAST," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE LIMITED TO POINTS FALLING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW AND WITH REGARD TO MATTERS CONCERNING POLICY. THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH WOULD CONDUCT A SEPARATE STUDY.

"THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY WILL SEEK PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON WHAT HAS BEEN BROADCAST OVER THE PAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS. THIS WILL HELP THE AUTHORITY DETERMINE WHETHER ANY CHANGES TO THE REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING IS REQUIRED," HE SAID.

THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM ON MAY 28 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL.

TWO MORE SESSIONS OF THE HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN JUNE IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE KOWLOON SESSION WILL BE HELD IN THE LECTURE HALL OF HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM IN SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI ON JUNE 16.

THE NEW TERRITORIES SESSION WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF SHATIN TOWN HALL IN SHA TIN ON JUNE 22.

BOTH SESSIONS WILL BEGIN AT 6.30 PM.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BECAUSE SEATS WERE LIMITED, ADMITTANCE WILL BE FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON VENUES. ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS CAN BE MADE ON 594 5792.

A PAMPHLET GIVING DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS IS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT DISTRICT OFFICES.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES
SURVEY FOR MARCH
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1994, ESTIMATED AT \$15.9 BILLION, INCREASED BY 17% WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1993, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 11% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN MARCH 94 OVER MARCH 93 WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A STRONG GROWTH IN SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR (28% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME), JEWELLERY AND WATCHES (20% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME), CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES (19% IN VALUE AND 17% IN VOLUME), AND SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES (17% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME).

MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES IN SUPERMARKETS, BY 14% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME; SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS, BY 8% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME; AND SALES OF FUELS, BY 6% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED BY 3% IN VALUE AND 10% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 18% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1994, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MARCH 1994 INCREASED BY 4% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1994 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR MARCH 1994.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1994 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE MARCH 1994 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1994 AND THOSE FOR MARCH 1993, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO MARCH OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE MARCH 1994 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$3 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for March 1994 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,854.9 million
for February 1994 (Revised Figure) = HK\$15,233.6 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1994 AND MARCH 1994

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of outlet	Index of Retail Sales	February 1994	March 1994	March 1994 compared with February 1994		March 1994 compared with March 1993		Jan.-Mar.1994 compared with Jan.-Mar.1993	
				Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) <u>FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</u>	Value	(Revised figures) 162.2	(Provisional figures) 168.8	+6.6	+4.1	+24.3	+16.8	+26.5	+17.9
	Volume	132.7	138.9	+6.1	+4.6	+13.6	+10.9	+15.2	+11.9
(B) <u>BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET</u>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	127.2	129.4	+2.2	+1.8	+9.8	+8.2	+10.5	+8.7
	Volume	95.5	100.8	+5.3	+5.6	+2.1	+2.1	+5.7	+5.9
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	156.5	151.4	-5.1	-3.3	+18.3	+13.7	+22.1	+16.4
	Volume	116.7	110.7	-6.1	-5.2	+7.3	+7.1	+10.4	+9.8
Fuels	Value	109.7	136.3	+26.6	+24.2	+7.8	+6.1	-2.7	-2.1
	Volume	81.0	98.0	+17.0	+21.0	+3.2	+3.4	-4.5	-4.7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	208.0	219.1	+11.1	+5.4	+48.1	+28.1	+57.9	+31.4
	Volume	162.5	171.8	+9.4	+5.8	+31.9	+22.8	+35.6	+23.4
Consumer durable goods	Value	181.8	187.2	+5.4	+3.0	+15.8	+9.2	+20.7	+12.4
	Volume	153.3	159.1	+5.8	+3.8	+8.6	+5.7	+12.5	+8.5
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	205.2	176.2	-29.0	-14.1	-5.6	-3.1	+3.0	+1.5
	Volume	153.2	130.7	-22.4	-14.6	-14.8	-10.2	-9.7	-6.2
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	164.9	195.1	+30.3	+18.4	+31.2	+19.1	+33.6	+22.8
	Volume	153.4	179.7	+26.3	+17.2	+25.6	+16.6	+28.6	+20.6
Department stores	Value	154.8	139.1	-15.7	-10.2	+20.5	+17.3	+17.5	+12.2
	Volume	123.6	110.3	-13.3	-10.7	+12.8	+13.1	+7.6	+6.4
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	156.7	186.4	+29.7	+18.9	+30.9	+19.8	+35.2	+24.6
	Volume	150.1	178.9	+28.8	+19.2	+13.2	+8.0	+18.1	+11.9
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	167.4	177.3	+9.9	+5.9	+37.2	+26.6	+37.9	+26.0
	Volume	136.2	142.7	+6.5	+4.7	+26.2	+22.5	+27.0	+22.2

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES UP

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THE ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES WILL BE INCREASED TO 4.56% (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 3.84% (TAX FREE) FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED THE INCREASE WAS GAZETTED YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.38 PER MONTH PER \$100.

INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 25, 1994.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE MAY 25 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:

8.04%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 4, 1990 AND BEFORE AUGUST 15, 1990;
7.56%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 15, 1990 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 24, 1990;
7.08%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 24, 1990 AND BEFORE JANUARY 30, 1991;
6.60%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 30, 1991 AND BEFORE MAY 29, 1991;
7.56%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 29, 1991 AND BEFORE JULY 3, 1991;
6.60%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 3, 1991 AND BEFORE AUGUST 14, 1991;
6.00%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 14, 1991 AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 18, 1991;
5.52%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 18, 1991 AND BEFORE NOVEMBER 6, 1991;
5.04%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 6, 1991 AND BEFORE MAY 6, 1992;
4.56%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 6, 1992 AND BEFORE MAY 27, 1992;
3.60%	PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 27, 1992 AND BEFORE JULY 8, 1992;

/3.00%

3.00% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 8, 1992 AND BEFORE MARCH 30, 1994; AND

3.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 30, 1994 AND BEFORE MARCH 25, 1994.

THEY ARE ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

FOR EXAMPLE:

\$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON MAY 25, 1994, JUNE 25, 1994 AND JULY 25, 1994 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON AUGUST 24, 1994 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:-

ON \$1,000, MAY 25, 1994 TO AUGUST 24, 1994
THREE COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$3.80 PER MONTH = \$11.40

ON \$1,000, JUNE 25, 1994 TO AUGUST 24, 1994
TWO COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$3.80 PER MONTH = \$7.60

ON \$1,000, JULY 25, 1994 TO AUGUST 24, 1994
ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT \$3.80 PER MONTH = \$3.80

\$22.80
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LANGUAGE FUND COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (TUESDAY) THANKED THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR TAKING UP "A VERY IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL APPOINTMENT" AS ADVISERS TO HONG KONG'S \$300 MILLION LANGUAGE FUND.

MR WONG IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE FUND AND PROFESSOR ROSIE YOUNG THE CHAIRMAN. OTHER MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE COMMITTEE INCLUDED LANGUAGE EXPERTS, EDUCATIONALISTS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

ADDRESSING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY FORMED ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY, MR WONG SAID: "WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRAW ON YOUR RICH EXPERIENCE AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE IN DIFFERENT FIELDS, INCLUDING THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES AND THEIR DAY-TO-DAY APPLICATION.

"WE ARE GREATLY INDEBTED TO PROFESSOR ROSIE YOUNG WHO HAS GENEROUSLY CONSENTED TO BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

/"WITH HER

"WITH HER EXTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE AND EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING HIGH LEVEL EDUCATIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, AND UNDER HER CAPABLE LEADERSHIP, I AM SURE THAT THE LANGUAGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL MAKE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE LANGUAGE FUND AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON WORTHY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES AIMED AT IMPROVING PROFICIENCY IN THE USE OF CHINESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"THESE PROGRAMMES MAY EITHER ENHANCE EXISTING EFFORTS AND MEET TEMPORARY SHORTFALLS, OR MAY BE TOTALLY NEW INITIATIVES," MR WONG SAID.

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ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE TO HOLD OPEN DAYS

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE OFFERED VARIOUS INTERESTING PROGRAMMES DURING THE OPEN DAYS OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE (AMO) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH FROM MAY 26 TO 28.

THE EVENT IS AIMED AT AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LOCAL HERITAGE AND INTRODUCING THEM TO THE WORK OF AMO WHICH HAS BEEN SET UP TO PRESERVE HONG KONG'S HERITAGE SINCE 1976.

THE OFFICE IS NOW HOUSED IN THE BUILDING OF THE FORMER KOWLOON BRITISH SCHOOL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AMO SAID THE BUILDING WAS A TYPICAL VICTORIAN STRUCTURE AND WAS THE OLDEST SURVIVING SCHOOL BUILDING IN THE TERRITORY.

THE THREE-DAY PROGRAMMES WILL INCLUDE LECTURES ON HISTORICAL STRUCTURES, ARCHAEOLOGY AND EDUCATION; DEMONSTRATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP AND ARTEFACT CONSERVATION; VIDEO SHOWS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS; AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKSHOPS.

GUIDES TOURS TO THE BUILDING WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED.

ALL ACTIVITIES WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

IN ADDITION, AN EXHIBITION ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY AT CHEK LAP KOK WILL GO ON AT AMO FROM MAY 7 TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE OPENING HOURS FOR THE OPEN DAYS ARE:

MAY 26 (THURSDAY)	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM 2.30 PM - 5 PM
MAY 27 (FRIDAY)	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM 2.30 PM - 5.30 PM
MAY 28 (SATURDAY)	9 AM - NOON

THE AMO IS LOCATED AT 136 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON. FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 721 2326.

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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POST OFFICE APPOINTS TWO COURIER COMPANIES

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THE POST OFFICE HAS APPOINTED TWO COURIER COMPANIES, GESELLSCHAFT DER SCHNELLKURIERE GMBH & CO. KG OF GERMANY AND ASG SWEDEN AB TO UNDERTAKE CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND DELIVERY OF SPEEDPOST ITEMS IN GERMANY AND SWEDEN RESPECTIVELY WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

SPEAKING AT THE CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY YESTERDAY (MONDAY), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID THE APPOINTMENTS WERE NECESSARY.

HE SAID THE APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE FOLLOWING DECISIONS BY THE TWO COUNTRIES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPEEDPOST NETWORK AND TO TERMINATE THEIR EXISTING OBLIGATIONS TO OTHER POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS TO DELIVER SPEEDPOST ITEMS WITHIN THEIR TERRITORIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

MR PAGLIARI SAID THE TWO COMPANIES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION AND THAT THEIR SERVICES WERE FOUND TO BE BOTH SATISFACTORY AND RELIABLE BY THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE.

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NEW STAMPS ON CHINESE FESTIVALS

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A SET OF SPECIAL STAMPS WOULD BE ISSUED ON JUNE 8 ON THE THEME OF "TRADITIONAL CHINESE FESTIVALS", THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS: \$1, \$1.9, \$2.4 AND \$5.

THE STAMPS ARE DESIGNED BY MR KEN LI AND PRINTED BY THE HOUSE OF QUESTA LIMITED OF ENGLAND. THE STAMPS FEATURE FOUR TRADITIONAL CHINESE FESTIVALS: THE DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL (\$1), THE LUNAR NEW YEAR (\$1.9), THE SEVEN SISTERS FESTIVAL (\$2.4) AND THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL (\$5).

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM FRIDAY (MAY 27).

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, AS FROM FRIDAY AT \$1 EACH.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MAY 27 TO JUNE 2. THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

A RESTRICTION OF TWO SHEETS OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION (100 SETS) PER CUSTOMER QUEUING WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

/FIRST DAY

FIRST DAY COVERS AFFIXED WITH A SET OF THE TRADITIONAL CHINESE FESTIVALS STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES AT \$13.30 EACH :-

- BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
- GENERAL POST OFFICE
- GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
- PEAK POST OFFICE
- SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
- TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON JUNE 8 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

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193 VMS RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 193 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 69 MEN, 52 WOMEN, 44 BOYS AND 28 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 209TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,747 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 42,360 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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TWO GOVT LOTS FOR AUCTION

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL AUCTION TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT 2.30 PM IN THE THEATRE OF THE CITY HALL ON MAY 26 (THURSDAY).

THE FIRST LOT, HAVING AN AREA OF ABOUT 20,780 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED IN AREA 19, LUEN WO HUI, FANLING. IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL USE EXCLUDING GODOWN.

THE SECOND LOT IS SITUATED AT FUNG KAM STREET, YUEN LONG, HAVING ABOUT 5,889 SQUARE METRES FOR THE SAME USE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE AUCTION.

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
TENDER RESULTS
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TENDER DATE	24 MAY 94	24 MAY 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q421	H465
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$4,890 MN	HK\$4,170 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.23 PCT	4.72 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.24 PCT	4.73 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 50 PCT	ABOUT 40 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.29 PCT	4.78 PCT

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 30 MAY 1994-

TENDER DATE	31 MAY 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q422
ISSUE DATE	1 JUN 94
MATURITY DATE	31 AUG 94
TENOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,500 + 300 MN

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TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,404	0930	+295
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,752	1000	+295
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+565
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+568	1200	+568
LAF TODAY	-220	1500	+568
		1600	+568
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 124.7 *+0.0*	24.5.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.81	18 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.81	5.78
1 MONTH	3.86	24 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.47	6.19
3 MONTHS	4.20	29 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.08	6.52
6 MONTHS	4.70	32 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.25	6.67
12 MONTHS	5.24	35 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.63	6.78

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,308 MN

CLOSED 24 MAY 1994

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