



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 2842 8777

Thursday, April 11, 1996

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Governor's press briefing after lecture in London	1
Governor's press briefing at London Office	7
Lectures on Hong Kong legal system for Guangdong Procurators	13
AG to attend Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting	14
Law to protect rights of plant breeders	14
Against Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Campaign launched	15
Transfer of VMs from High Island Detention Centre	18
107 VMs transferred to Victoria Prison	18
Monitors' report submitted to CS	19
Report on issue of Air Operator Certificate denied	19
Investigation into sinking of pleasure vessel completed	19

/\$110 million

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
\$110 million saved in government purchases	20
Opening of restored walled village in Fanling	21
Practical school -- an alternative education system	22
Secondary 6 admission procedure streamlined	25
December 1995 employment and vacancy statistics released	26
External trade figures for January	31
Report on consumer price index for 1995	37
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	37

Governor's press briefing after lecture in London

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of a press briefing by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at 1215 hours BST, after his inaugural lecture for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London today (Thursday):

Question: You said in your last comment that China had to realise that Hong Kong could suffer greatly if they went ahead ... I am not saying that Hong Kong's reputation would in any way be sullied, but what real hopes do you have that the kind of corruption that we see in China won't spread to Hong Kong despite the various guarantees that China has undertaken?

Chris Patten: We have an extremely good and effective Commission against corruption which was understandably alarmed at a rising trend of reported corruption in the 1992-1994 period, but is a little more satisfied by a levelling off in the trend. I would refer you to a very good article in the Financial Times the other day. I think everybody realises the importance of Hong Kong retaining its reputation as a decent and clean place to do business. I have heard that remark made by Chinese officials and I am sure they understand the truth and importance of it. I do not think there will be too much difficulty in getting assurances from Chinese officials and commitments about the importance of continuing with the battle against corruption as one of Hong Kong's highest priorities.

Question: It seems from what you said today, Governor, and indeed from what you said yesterday, that there is really no room for any compromise with China over, let me call it, the constitutional issue, in other words, what is will happen to LegCo and whether another one is going to be set up. In that case, how do you see yourself proceeding diplomatically in the next 15 months. Are there other steps they should be thinking of taking perhaps like bringing other people into this debate outside Asia such as the Foreign Secretary suggested when he was over?

Chris Patten: I do not think there is anyone else who needs to be brought into this debate at the moment. Our objective and strategy remains clear, which is to do all that we can to safeguard the implementation of the Joint Declaration. We will not do anything which compromises that.

Question: The Chinese government have recently expressed a request for cooperation. Your office has suggested that cooperation will be provided. What sort of cooperation would you be providing and how extensive will that be?

Chris Patten: We have received a series of requests from the Secretary of the Preparatory Committee. We will be responding to those requests reasonably soon. I do not think there is any pressure on us to do so, as it were, today. We have been waiting for the lists since last October and we only received it a week or ten days ago and we think it requires serious attention. I have made it abundantly plain - and there should be no doubt about this - that we can do absolutely nothing to compromise the credibility and legitimacy of the governing institutions of Hong Kong. We do not want to do anything which in any way corrodes the integrity or morale of our civil service and we certainly will not do anything which undermines the position of our freely elected Legislative Council, threats to demolish which were described by the British Foreign Secretary as being 'unjustifiable and reprehensible'.

Question: Are you suggesting that you are as wet as Tony Blair and how would you mark yourself in relationship to Mr Blair?

Chris Patten: I am saying that I'm the same as I always was, but as I have always have in the past learned from experience, so I have during my period as Governor of Hong Kong. As you know, Tony, that makes me a balanced, reasonably, moderate, sensible, all-embracing, father of three daughters, you know the rest!

Where does that put me in relation to Mr Blair? I am a Tory and Mr Blair is, I understand, Leader of the Labour Party. It is for Mr Blair to describe his socialism in its modern dress, but I am not new Labour, I am old Tory.

Question: You seem to be indicating in your answers to John a few moments ago that you would perhaps be in favour of internationalising issues should things go wrong. There have been suggestions that there might be some move towards getting some kind of international legal judgment if China should rip up the Joint Declaration after the handover. What are your own views on that? Do you think it could be effective?

Chris Patten: I think it's an interesting question, but it would be injudicious to answer what one would do in circumstances of China, which we hope won't happen, behaving badly. It is still our objective to encourage China to recognise the importance of abiding by the letter and the spirit of the Joint Declaration. What happens if that does not happen? It would be unfair to China and unwise of me to speculate about that.

But there is one aspect of the question - and I don't mean to be critical - with which I don't quite agree, and that is the suggestion that there is something called internationalising the Hong Kong issue. The Hong Kong question will be an international issue in the sense that Hong Kong is one of the greatest cities in the world and the way it is treated after the transfer of sovereignty will inevitably be a matter of great concern to the region and to the world. People will recognise of course that, after 1997, China is sovereign, but they will also, I am sure and as I have said before, regard the way that Beijing handles Hong Kong as being a litmus test for the way China is going to behave on all sorts of other issues.

There is nothing which Britain or China can do to stop Hong Kong being a matter of global concern and interest.

Question: The Director of the HKMAO, Lu Ping, was sent to Hong Kong to consult Hong Kong on the provisional legislature before it was set up. He has chosen to exclude members of the professional teachers union because they don't support -

Chris Patten: Because they are democrats.

Question: - the provisional legislature. How do you feel generally about Lu Ping's consultation process and his choice of selective consultation?

Chris Patten: I am sure that people in Hong Kong and people outside Hong Kong will regard any institution as less credible if its establishment is on the basis of advice from all those people, or, only those people, who say what some Chinese officials want to hear.

What is the situation with which Chinese officials now find themselves dealing? It is a situation in which they know perfectly well that between 60 and 70 per cent of the people of Hong Kong vote for, support, the democrats. Are those 60 or 70 per cent of the people of Hong Kong so anathematised to be told that their opinions cannot be considered, to be told that they have to be locked out of the political process or the political dialogue? What sort of consultation is that? What sort of credibility or legitimacy would that sort of consultation have?

You cannot govern Hong Kong successfully, you cannot govern any community successfully on the basis that you will only listen to or talk to those people who will guarantee in advance to agree with whatever conclusions you reach. That is not a dialogue. So I very much hope that exposure to a variety of opinions in Hong Kong over the next week will encourage Director Lu to extend his hand to those who may disagree with him, but those who will undoubtedly play an important part in the development of Hong Kong in the years ahead.

What will Hong Kong be like in ten years' time? I am sure it will be an open and democratic community and those who will make it an open and democratic community cannot now be shut out of the debate and discussion about its future. Does it show great confidence in one's own views to say that you will not talk to people who might express a contrary view? I don't think it does.

I hope that the Director, who is an experienced public official, will make it clear that he will talk to anybody in Hong Kong who has a contribution to make to Hong Kong's future, and that means everybody in Hong Kong.

Question: How do you feel about the issue on the civil service in Hong Kong? There seems to be some pressure there...?

Chris Patten: In a full and open society, the civil service is politically neutral. The civil service in Hong Kong is loyal to Hong Kong. It works for the interests of the people of Hong Kong. Not to understand that is to fundamentally misunderstand the nature of a free society and the nature of public service in a free society.

As far as I am concerned, I have no doubt at all that the civil service will be loyal to the government before 1997 and loyal to the government after 1997, and if anybody didn't feel they could give that loyalty, I am sure that they would reach the inevitable conclusions around their professional lives. But I have no doubt whatsoever that the Hong Kong civil service will remain as loyal in the future as it has been in the past. I think it is very dangerous to suggest otherwise.

Question: What effect have the Taiwanese presidential elections had, or what effect do you think they will have on the future of Hong Kong and the Chinese treaty?

Chris Patten: It's difficult to know for certain, but let me make one rather obvious point. It has sometimes been said by analysts that the way China treats Hong Kong will affect Taiwan's attitude to Beijing. It has often been said that the one country/two systems model, if successfully applied in Hong Kong, will send out appropriate signals to Taiwan. It has been said by analysts and it has actually been said, by senior Chinese officials (I think I am right that President Jiang Zemin said it when he met a group of Hong Kong businessmen a few months ago). If that's true, it may well be the case that the relationship between Beijing and Taiwan has some effect on attitudes in Hong Kong. I merely pose the question and hope that Chinese officials think it true too.

Question: Are you confident that you will manage to find agreement over the handover ceremony? At the moment it seems that China is not going to listen to the British Government's desire and want to scale down the proposed handover ceremony that was suggested.

Chris Patten: It is inconceivable that we can spend the next year and a quarter arguing or debating with China about a handover ceremony. Mr Qian Qichen, when he met Mr Rifkind last autumn, said that we should have a handover ceremony which was 'grand, solemn and decent', and I think that such a handover ceremony would be in the interests of the future SAR government in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong will be in the limelight next summer as never before and perhaps never again. The eyes of the world will be on Hong Kong. It would be valuably important to see it face its new age in a decent and civilised way.

Now, if Chinese officials wish to resile from the proposition that we should have a 'grand, decent and solemn' ceremony, not a triumphalist ceremony - that has never been one of our aims - if that's their new position, then alas, so be it. I do not think it's any individual British official who is hurt by that. I think it is bad for Hong Kong and it would be a missed opportunity to show to members of the UN Security Council, dealing with an issue left over from the last century in a way which, while not without its problems, was reasonably successful.

What I don't think any of us should do is to spend the rest of the year, or next year, arguing about these matters. There are far more important things to talk about. As far as I am concerned, if we cannot agree on something that makes sense, that looks decent, then we had better go our own ways, but I hope still, in Hong Kong's interest that we can manage to agree on a ceremony which is appropriate to the occasion. I just do not want anybody to think that this is going to be my or our fixation. There are many other issues that I want to see resolved. I want us to see us resolve the Vietnamese migrants' issue, I want to see us, I hope, get as broad an international agreement for visa-free access for SAR passport holders as possible. There are all these important issues to get on with and not spend our time arguing about fireworks.

Question: If their taxation was such a good idea, why don't you think the British Government would want some?

Chris Patten: When I was Chairman of the Conservative Party, I would have responded to that with the honest, graceful urbanity which Tony Bevan will remember! But as I am the Governor of Hong Kong, you had better ask an active British politician about the Government's tax policies. I can tell you about Hong Kong's tax policies!

Question: You spoke about Tony Blair ... This is in stark contrast to the document issued by Central Office last night which poured speculation on Tony Blair's activities in the past The document is slightly misjudged and would you

Chris Patten: It's very tempting to mix it on the British political agenda, but it's easier for me to resist the temptation since, like I understand Mr Blair to be, I am a Christian and should place Christian charity high in my list of personal motivations. So, I'll be charitable all round and say nothing.

But let me just say one thing. Every election campaign I've ever been involved in, I've been told, 'it's going to be, was, the dirtiest ever'. We have pretty clean election campaigns in this country and they involve robust exchanges of other people's points of view and philosophies and views on the world. I don't think anybody, whether Conservative or dare I say it, old Labour or new Labour, or Liberal Democrats, Nationalists, whatever, should get too worried about the ordinary cut and thrust of political debate. All of us have had experience of it. I have had experience of it myself.

Question: I know you don't want to get into hypothetical questions about Chinese breach of the Joint Declaration, but there is one announcement of an intending breach which is the setting up of a political legislature in Hong Kong which would start operating six months before the handover. That is clearly a breach of the Declaration. What courses of action would be open to you and the British Government? Is there anything in fact that you could do about it?

Chris Patten: We have it from one or two Chinese sources, though not officially, that the provisional Legislative Council which is threatened would be set up before 30 June 1997. But I have to say that that has not been stated by any, I think, Chinese official organs. I think it is a smoke signal from deep in the bush, but I don't think any of us knows whether it represents a real intention. The provisional Legislative Council before the middle of June 1997 is, to be frank, China's problem, and it would have no status in Hong Kong and explaining it away would be a matter for Chinese officials. The worry is that it would do damage to Hong Kong and damage people's confidence in the future of Hong Kong, confidence in Hong Kong and confidence outside Hong Kong. What we do if it happens falls into that unhappy category of the hypothetical, which I mentioned earlier.

The only thing I want to add is this. I do not think that a British Prime Minister and a British Foreign Secretary could have made it clearer than Mr Major and Mr Rifkind have, that Britain's interest in and commitment to Hong Kong does not end on 30 June 1997. We have, among other things, a clear moral commitment which goes well beyond 30 June 1997, and as signatories to a treaty which guarantees Hong Kong for 50 years afterwards, we have a treaty obligation to Hong Kong as well. I repeat that I don't think those matters could have been put more clearly by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister.

What gives me additional confidence in reflecting on those views is that Hong Kong is one of the few issues in British politics that by and large there is cross-party agreement at Westminster. Of course, from time to time, there have been criticisms of our policies. One or two of the functional constituencies in the House of Lords have occasionally been critical, but by and large we have been able to look to understanding and support right across the political spectrum, from Liberal Democrats, from Labour and Conservatives. Look at the support we have had from the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. That persuades me that what I am saying is not true of individuals, but it is true of the political establishment in the United Kingdom, and I hope it is true of our media too.

On which happy note of blessed consensual unanimity, I will make my excuses and leave. Thank you very much indeed.

End

Governor's press briefing at London Office

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of a press briefing by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at Hong Kong Government Office in London at 1730 hours BST today (Thursday):

Chris Patten: I am sorry to keep you waiting, but my meeting at the Foreign Office went on rather longer than I expected. I am also sorry to be inviting you to the second press conference of the day. I have nothing new to say, though you might be able to squeeze something new out of me, and I do not know whether you have any new questions.

Just let me recap. I had a couple of days of useful meetings here in London with the Prime Minister yesterday and with Foreign Office officials today. I was also pleased to speak at two very well-attended occasions. I am going to Northern Ireland tomorrow, where the principal event is a speech at the Institute of Directors annual dinner, when I will be setting out for Northern Ireland businessmen the attractions of the Hong Kong economy, and also will be looking at one or two things with which I have been involved over the years, and I am going back to Hong Kong on Saturday. It has been one of my shorter duty visits; the next one I am hoping to make in July, when among other things I will be attending the Royal Tournament, at which there will be a substantial Hong Kong representation.

Question: You talked yesterday about policy issues with John Major, about the need to spread liberal visa regimes for SAR passport holders around the place. What different approaches might be being made at the moment to these countries, given that we still are in limbo over China's refusing to define right of abode at this stage?

Chris Patten: We are still to a degree in limbo. Obviously everyone is hoping that during his visit to Hong Kong Director Lu Ping will set out in detail what the Chinese are proposing on right of abode, and that he will recognise the importance of discussing that as soon as possible with the Hong Kong government, because we obviously have the expertise in managing immigration policy and it is the Hong Kong Immigration Department which will have to implement whatever proposals are finally put forward.

I also hope that Director Lu will make as liberal and generous a gesture as the British Government did with its decision on visa-free access.

Now, I think that what we are looking for is discussions with priority countries, and we are obviously looking for a range of possibilities. Some, one knows in advance, would be very reluctant to accept a visa-free regime, but one would be hoping for as liberal a regime as possible. It is a question of horses for courses.

I also believe that it is exceptionally important to avoid any suggestion of reciprocity when we talk about visa-free access. Hong Kong itself has, I suppose, as open access as anyone in the world, and if we were to start insisting that everybody else did exactly what we did or else had to accept a visa regime, we would find ourselves in the impossible position of, for instance, getting over one million Japanese tourists to apply for visas to come to Hong Kong. It would be very bad for us in business terms, and it would be very bad for Hong Kong and its reputation as an international city.

We need to pursue the objective energetically. It will vary from one country to another, and I think at all costs we should avoid wandering round international capitals with a blunderbuss called 'reciprocity' under our arm.

Question: Are you going to wander round international capitals in terms of a lobbying campaign per se?

Chris Patten: Yes, we will be pursuing things with the help of British Embassies around the world, and I am sure that it is an area where Britain and China should work in harmony.

Question: You met with Foreign Office officials this afternoon; can you outline who you met, and possibly what you discussed?

Chris Patten: I met the Deputy Secretary responsible, Mr Burn. I met Graham Fry, and I met Sherard Cowper-Coles, the head of the Hong Kong department, plus some other officials, and we discussed broadly speaking the same sort of agenda that I discussed with the Prime Minister yesterday. We reviewed events since the Prime Minister's visit to Hong Kong. We looked in particular at the outcome of Mr Hanley's successful visit to Vietnam. We discussed some of the upcoming issues, for example on the human rights front, our future reporting to Geneva on the international covenants, and it was a useful meeting looking at the whole agenda - other matters too, but those are some of the main ones.

Question: On the UN issue, is that progressing at all, the reporting?

Chris Patten: I am thinking about our reporting, because we do not have any difficulty with reporting, and I hope that China will not have any difficulty reporting after 1997. Certainly the obligations on China to report are as clear as pikestaff.

Question: If I could come back to the human rights issue, perhaps with a more specific question than a general one, generally what might it be saying about long-term future of Britain as mother of the free if in 1998 Hong Kong ends up being somewhat less free and less democratic than Taiwan, and very specifically in that broad context and on the question of the human rights and the covenant, given that the newly-articulated - or fairly recently articulated - jurisprudential principles that human rights guarantees might require are permanent and involved with territory and not with sovereignty, will Britain join the 85 or so other signatories of the first optional protocol of the ICCPR so that individuals from Hong Kong - if one accepts that jurisprudential principle - will be able to appeal directly to its human rights committee after 1997?

Chris Patten: On the first point it would be sad for Britain and even sadder for Hong Kong if after 1997 Hong Kong was less free and less democratic than it is promised it will be by China and Britain, but as well as being sad for Britain and sad for Hong Kong, it would be extremely bad for China's international reputation, because what China has signed up to in the Joint Declaration is absolutely plain.

Secondly, I very much hope that we will be able to persuade China that what among others the Chairman of the relevant committee said about jurisprudence, and I hope we will be able to persuade the Chinese that this underlines the case for them recognising their obligations and reporting to Geneva. If they decline to accept those obligations then we will have to consider the consequences, but I remain as reluctant this afternoon as I was this morning, yesterday afternoon, yesterday morning and previous weeks, months and years, to answer hypothetical questions about what we will do if China breaks its word.

Question: I have a question about the provisional legislature of Hong Kong. You have already said that the Hong Kong Government is not prepared to work with this legislation. On the other hand, China is ongoing. To what extent is an effective dialogue between the two governments on the transition of Hong Kong?

Chris Patten: The Foreign Secretary made it clear that in our view the announcement from the Preparatory Committee about the future of legislature was, and I quote "reprehensible and unjustifiable". That is the position, and as far as we are concerned there is one legitimate legislative council in Hong Kong. There will not be another one. There certainly won't be another one before 1997, and if the Chinese side go ahead with their threats to this Legislative Council, they will have to explain the consequences to the people of Hong Kong and to international opinion.

Question: But will this affect the agenda of the JLG on the series of issues you are discussing?

Chris Patten: Well, I do not imagine it will be very helpful, and of course the Chinese side under JD30 and elsewhere - I think I have remembered JD30 correctly - are committed to the proposition that we are responsible for the government and administration of Hong Kong until 30 June 1997. There are some very eloquent arguments about the importance of us retaining authority until the 30 June 1997 by some of the most pre-eminent members of the Preparatory Committee, although some of them, it is true, made those comments before they became members of the Preparatory Committee.

Question: I know you mentioned this this morning, and I know you are not averse to going over old ground -

Chris Patten: I always like to repeat myself if the question is the same as one I have answered before. I hate to be interesting!

Question: Would you comment on the withdrawal of the invitation by the Preliminary Committee of Cheung Man Kwong and Szeto Wah?

Chris Patten: I find it difficult to believe that any Chinese official can believe that it is in China's interest or Hong Kong's interest to take the view and act on the view that those who clearly represent majority opinion in Hong Kong should be frozen out of a dialogue about Hong Kong's future. I do not think that is the way to promote social or political stability in Hong Kong. I do not think that is the way to win hearts and minds in Hong Kong, and I do not think it is the best way of convincing Hong Kong opinion or international opinion that come hell or high water the Chinese are committed to making sure that the Joint Declaration is implemented as enthusiastically as possible.

Apart from anything else, what are Chinese officials worried about? The gentlemen you mentioned would be horrified if they were to be patted on the back by colonial government, particularly since one of them attacked me in colourful and eloquent terms for my colonial credentials. But they are civilised, intelligent individuals with robust opinions which they express forcefully - I am told particularly forcefully in Cantonese. What is the problem? They don't bite. They may argue back, but Hong Kong is a free society and people are allowed to argue back in Hong Kong - as I know.

Question: The two people concerned are apparently sitting outside the building from which they are debarred. Have you any message you can send them about their attitude?

Chris Patten: I hope the pavement is not too uncomfortable. I hope some generous-hearted official from the NCNA will bring them a cushion and a cup of tea. I hope even more that Chinese officials will be sensible and will think again and ask them in for a talk rather than seek to freeze them out.

What message does it send? Here is a great country, one of the great powers of the world, and in 1997, we see the resolution - successful, we hope - of an issue left over from the middle of the last century. That is what we are talking about. What sort of impression does it convey if you slap down anybody who might have a contrary opinion? That's no way to behave. It's certainly not very Confucian.

Question: I have two questions, one newsy and one less newsy about your speech this morning and about the handover ceremonies. You mentioned this morning that you are not prepared to let the discussion of the handover ceremonies drag on over 15 months, if the Chinese side know what elements are to be involved in a grand and solemn ceremony. I was wondering what the British Government's idea of a grand and solemn ceremony was, and additionally what you think your role as Governor would be in that ceremony. The Chinese officials seem to think that you will be just a spectator of the whole thing and not a participant.

Chris Patten: Well, no. To be fair to them, Chinese officials during our discussions have not mentioned my role. One or two 'sources' have speculated about my role, but I am Governor of Hong Kong; I shall be Governor of Hong Kong - God willing - until midnight on 30 June 1997, at which time I will depart. I think it would be surprising if I was not part of whatever British representation took part in the final ceremonies.

But, as I said this morning, there are more substantial issues to talk about. If Chinese officials want to resile from their previous objectives on the handover ceremony, well, it's sad for the SAR Government, but in that case we will have to make our own arrangements. It would send the most awful signals to the world about the future of Hong Kong if we were to spend the next 15 months rattling sabres about this handover ceremony, about how we depart and how the Chinese arrive. People would think we were out of our senses. I think they are pretty surprised at the moment that Chinese officials won't talk to us about important issues, but it's for them to explain. It's not demeaning for us, it is rather demeaning for them.

Your second question?

Question: In your speech this morning about 'Asian Values and Asian Success' you said that Marx and Weber were correct in their analysis of the processes by which values do not change in respect of each other. It seems to me that your account was very much a Marxian analysis -

Chris Patten: I'm a well known Marxist!

Question: I am interested to know whether all these years you have been working and thinking in this kind of materialistic framework, or is this something you found in the past few years when you were in Hong Kong? To put it simplistically, have you turned left or right?

Chris Patten: I thought what I was saying this morning - which some would say was all too typical of my political stance on other issues that I agreed with both Marx and Weber - I was trying to argue that values affected economic development, but economic development equally affected values and affected society broadly, so I was backing both horses. It was a quenelle - is that what I mean? Yes. I guess it would be difficult with the benefit of hindsight to regard a bet on March in a quenelle as necessarily a winner, but I thought I was taking a characteristically sensible and balanced approach to the issue.

Question: You mentioned this morning about freezing out people who have had changing views in the confrontation process. By doing that the Chinese would find it difficult to invest in the economy of Hong Kong. What sort of reply would you give to the Government if they froze those people out and what do you foresee?

Chris Patten: I hope it doesn't happen, but if you try to freeze people out of the dialogue about their governance, particularly if they are people who represent 60 per cent or 70 per cent of public opinion, then you have a less successful, less prosperous, less decent, less open, less dignified, and conceivably less stable society. Let me remind you of something which was said the other day. Mr Liu Han [phonetic] a member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, said, quoting Mao Zedong - and I paraphrase - that if you ask people to speak up, to give their opinions, it is not a disaster, but it is a disaster if they keep quiet and are not encouraged to speak up. How does that admirable Maoist sentiment square with these decisions that we have been hearing about? I think it is very curious.

OK - thank you very much.

End

Lectures on Hong Kong legal system for Guangdong Procurators

* * * * *

A series of four lectures on the legal system in Hong Kong are being given by senior members of the Legal Department this week in Guangzhou for Procurators in Guangdong province.

Details of the four lectures are as follows:

- * "The Legal System of Hong Kong Now and Post-1997" by Solicitor General, Mr Daniel Fung, QC;
- * "The Structure of the Attorney General's Chambers and the work of Crown Counsel" by Deputy Solicitor General, Mr Stephen Wong Kai-yi;
- * "The Prosecution Policy and Criminal Justice System in Hong Kong" by Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Peter Nguyen, QC, and
- * "Bilingual Legislation and Localisation of Laws" by the Law Draftsman, Mr Tony Yen.

These lectures are part of a training course on the legal systems in Hong Kong and Macau organised for the first time by the Guangdong Province People's Procuratorate. A request for contribution by AGC officers was made by the Chief Procurator of Guangdong Province People's Procuratorate, Mr Wang Jun.

End

AG to attend Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting

* * * * *

The Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Mathews will attend the next Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting from April 15 to 20 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He will be accompanied by Deputy Principal Crown Counsel (International Law), Mr John Hunter, Senior Crown Counsel, Mr Peter Wong Hing-hong and by the Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr So Kam-shing.

The Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting is held every three years. Its objective is to broaden and enhance arrangements on mutual assistance and co-operation in the field of administration of justice amongst Commonwealth jurisdictions. The last meeting was held at Mauritius in 1993. Hong Kong attends as part of the UK team.

The Crown Solicitor, Mr Ian Wingfield, will act as Attorney General during Mr Mathews' absence.

End

Law to protect rights of plant breeders

* * * * *

The Plant Varieties Protection Bill, to be gazetted tomorrow (Friday), will protect the intellectual property rights of breeders of plant varieties.

The World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement) requires that every signatory, which includes Hong Kong, must provide for the protection of rights to plant varieties. The Bill will enable Hong Kong to fulfil that obligation.

Under the Bill, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries will be appointed as the Registrar of Plant Variety Rights and be able to consider applications for plant variety rights. A plant variety must be new, distinct, uniform and stable and have an acceptable name in order to be considered for protection under the new provisions.

The Bill defines the party entitled to protection and the period and scope of protection afforded. Generally, once rights to plant variety have been granted, the grantee will be able to control propagation and commercial exploitation of the plant for 20 years.

The Bill provides for offenders relating to false declaration, false representation and misuse of the name of a protected plant variety, with a maximum penalty in each case of a fine of \$100,000.

A spokesman for the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said that he expected the Bill to benefit a number of companies and individuals who are currently breeding ornamental plants and vegetables and encourage marketing of new plant varieties in Hong Kong by overseas breeders.

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on April 24, 1996.

End

Against Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Campaign launched

* * * * *

The first stage of an Against Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Campaign, focusing on educating young children the need of self-protection against sexual abuse, was launched today (Thursday).

The publicity campaign was launched by the Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare), Mrs Patricia Chu, the Assistant Director of Information Services (Publicity), Mr Harold Yau, and the Assistant Director (Agency Service) of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Miss Virginia Chan on behalf of the Public Education Sub-committee of the Working Group on Child Abuse.

Speaking at a press conference on the campaign strategy, Mr Yau said that the Against Child Abuse Campaign had been running for a number of years to increase general awareness of the problem. The new phase will focus specifically on the problem of child sexual abuse.

"We intend to conduct this campaign in three stages. The first aimed directly at children under the age of 12 - the prime risk group - as well as their parents and minders. The aim is to help children protect themselves.

"The message is shout 'NO', run and tell someone. Certainly, no simple task when addressing young innocent minds. We have therefore been extremely careful to keep the message simple, so as to avoid causing fear or alarm," Mr Yau said.

He said the following publicity materials would be launched in the first stage:

- * A television announcement of public interest (TV API), presented in three-dimensional computer graphics featuring two friendly cartoon characters - Toto (penguin) and Bobo (dinosaur) to convey the message of the need for young children to protect themselves against sexual abuse.
- * A 32-page illustrated booklet, featuring Toto and Bobo again to provide more detailed information on self-protection.
- * A radio announcement of public interest with similar message.
- * An opinion survey by the Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to gauge the public's attitude towards child abuse, with special attention on child sexual abuse.

Mr Yau added that the second and third stage of the campaign would be targeted more on parents and minders, advising them how to identify and handle child sexual abuse cases.

Commenting on the problem itself, the Assistant Director of Social Welfare (Family and Child Welfare), Mrs Patricia Chu, said that child sexual abuse takes place when children are involved in sexual activity, both physical and non-physical, through force, deception, ingratiating acts or any other method to satisfy the sexual desire or other purposes of the perpetrator, who may be individuals closely related to the child or being total strangers.

With the publicity efforts of both government and non-governmental organisations, the public is more aware of the problem of child sexual abuse, Mrs Chu said.

"The number of active child sexual abuse cases has risen from 61 in 1993, to 77 in 1994 and 116 in 1995. The percentage of child sexual abuse cases as compared to the total number of child abuse cases has also risen from 14.7% in 1993, to 17.1% in 1994 and 20.1% in 1995.

"It is encouraging to find that, among the 116 active cases in 1995, 27 of them (23%) were reported by family members or the child. This reflected that the child victims and family members have become more ready to bring the problem to light and to seek help when child sexual abuse occurs," Mrs Chu said.

Apart from the territory-wide publicity campaign launched today, Mrs Chu said localised prevention programmes are organised by the District Committees on Child Abuse to strengthen prevention of the problem. These committees were set up to promote co-operation among multi-disciplinary professionals in combating the problem at district level.

In addition to the existing five District Committees on Child Abuse founded in 1995 in Tuen Mun, Kwun Tong, Tai Po and North, Sham Shui Po, Eastern and Wan Chai, eight more will be set up in 1996 in Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing, Sha Tin, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim and Mong Kok, Central Western and Islands, and Southern Districts.

To tie-in with the amended Criminal Procedure Ordinance implemented in 1996 which enables child abuse victims to give evidence through video recorded interviews and to testify through a live television video link system in court, Mrs Chu said that the Police and Social Welfare Department had formed a Child Protection Special Investigation Team (CPSIT) on December 4, 1995.

Furthermore, she noted that to enhance handling of child sexual abuse cases by front-line professionals of different disciplines and different departments or organisations, a set of comprehensive guidelines, "Procedure for Handling Child Sexual Abuse Cases", had also been implemented with effect from March 1, 1996.

"Professional resources for the child protection service will be further strengthened by additional staffing provision to the Child Protective Services Unit in 1996/97 as well as continuing to arrange joint training programmes for the concerned professionals," said Mrs Chu.

Apart from initiatives taken by the Government, the Assistant Director (Agency Service) of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Miss Virginia Chan noted at the press conference that the children abuse problem was also a prime concern of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

On the role of the NGOs, she said: "NGO workers in many service sectors, like family service centres, child care centres, outreaching teams, children and youth centres and integrated teams, will be involved in making referrals to the Child Protection Special Investigation Team.

"Some NGOs start to organise pilot treatment groups for adult survivors of child sexual abuse and parallel groups for parents and children on prevention of child sexual abuse."

"In addition, public education programmes including seminars, exhibitions, distribution of publicity materials and mass programmes have also been carried out by NGOs at the district level," said Miss Chan.

End

Transfer of VMs from High Island Detention Centre

* * * * *

The Government announced that a group of about 150 Vietnamese migrants will be transferred from the High Island Detention Centre today (Thursday) in preparation for their return under the Orderly Repatriation Programme.

They will be transferred to Victoria Prison for pre-flight documentation and medical checks prior to leaving Hong Kong in two groups within the next two weeks.

The transfer will be observed by independent monitors.

End

107 VMs transferred to Victoria Prison

* * * * *

In an operation which lasted one-and-a-half hours, 107 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) were transferred from the north section of High Island Detention Centre (HIDC) to Victoria Prison today (Thursday).

"The operation went smoothly and no large scale resistance was encountered," a Correctional Services Department (CSD) spokesman said.

The group was selected for return to Vietnam on two Orderly Repatriation Programme flights to be held over the next two weeks.

The operation started at 10 am. Passive resistance was encountered when a male VM was removed by CSD officers.

At one stage, eight VMs climbed onto the roof of a hut in the north section of the Centre. After repeated calls by CSD officers, these eight VMs came forward voluntarily.

No injuries were sustained. The operation ended at 11.25 am.

As is the practice, the whole operation was observed by independent monitors.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

* * * * *

The monitors appointed to observe today's (Thursday) transfer of Vietnamese migrants selected for the Orderly Repatriation Programme from the High Island Detention Centre to Victoria Prison have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The four monitors comprised two non-official Justices of the Peace, Miss Elsie Leung Oi-sie and Mrs Liao Yuen Ching-me; and representatives from two non-governmental organisations -- Mr Christopher Stokes from Medecins Sans Frontieres and Mr Stephen Tsui from Oxfam.

End

Report on issue of Air Operator Certificate denied

* * * * *

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Department stated that there was no foundation in a press report published today (Thursday) that an Air Operator Certificate had been issued to China National Aviation Corporation (HK) by the department.

The spokesman said: "At present the application is still being processed in accordance with Hong Kong rules and regulations."

End

Investigation into sinking of pleasure vessel completed

* * * * *

The Marine Department has completed its investigation into the sinking of a pleasure vessel south of West Brother Island in Tuen Mun on December 25, 1995, a Marine Department spokesman said today (Thursday).

Four persons were reportedly on board of the vessel when she sank. One of them was rescued and the other three died.

The Director of Marine has accepted the findings of the report but on the advice of the Coroner the content cannot be published until the death inquest is held.

End

\$110 million saved in government purchases

* * * * *

The Government Supplies Department has achieved savings of over \$110 million last year through negotiations with suppliers of finished products.

The department also obtained nearly \$58 million in sales of confiscated goods, surplus government property and unclaimed parcels. The amount is over 40 per cent above the figure for the previous year.

The achievement was highlighted by the department's director, Mr Nigel Shipman at a press conference today (Thursday).

In his briefing on government purchasing statistics for 1995, Mr Shipman noted that Government purchases of finished products last year exceeded \$4.5 billion, an increase of 5.25 per cent compared with the figure for 1994.

He pointed out that in 1995, computer equipment and software constituted the largest category, with purchases exceeding \$869 million.

"We also spent \$848 million on pharmaceuticals, \$452 million on hospital and medical equipment, \$387 million on equipment for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and \$224 million on waterworks items.

"Total purchases of equipment for Chek Lap Kok airport have so far amounted to \$928 million," Mr Shipman said.

He said that this programme was now nearing completion, with only some \$200 million of planned purchases remaining.

"The Government Supplies Department has thus made a major contribution to ensuring that the new airport will be ready for opening in April 1998," Mr Shipman said.

He said his department supplied all Government departments and many non-government organisations, including the Hospital Authority, for whom the department arranged contracts worth \$1,559 million and supplied common-user items worth \$81 million.

Regarding larger contracts valued at \$50,000 and above, Mr Shipman said over \$1.5 billion was spent on products from the United States, accounting for over 34 per cent of total purchases.

"These purchases included telecommunications equipment, computer systems and software, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and a helicopter," he said.

Other important sources of supply were the United Kingdom (\$534 million; 12 per cent); Germany (\$422 million; 9.5 per cent); China (\$363 million; 8.1 per cent); Japan (\$209 million; 4.7 per cent), and Hong Kong (\$152 million; 3.4 per cent).

The highest value contract signed during the year was with AEG Electrocom of Germany for a postal mechanisation system for the new air mail centre at Chek Lap Kok at \$193 million.

The second highest value contract was with Hewlett Packard at \$145 million for computerisation of the Land Registry records.

Mr Shipman noted that his department monitored price trends for many of the items that it bought regularly.

"Last year the price trend indicator rose by 2.4 per cent, which compares favourably with the rise of 9.2 per cent in the Consumer Price Index (B)," he said.

Mr Shipman explained that decisions on contract awards were normally based on tendered offers.

"We negotiate with tenderers to obtain a lower price only when there are special reasons for doing so, for example, when additional amounts are to be purchased or when the prices quoted appear out of line with current contract prices or with market information," he said.

End

Opening of restored walled village in Fanling

* * * * *

The restored Kun Lung Wai in Fanling, an authentic walled city, will be open to the public following a rehabilitation ceremony this Saturday (April 13).

The \$4.8 million restoration project was carried out in phases since 1988 under the supervision of the Antiquities and Monument Office of the Recreation and Culture Branch and the Architectural Services Department.

The walled village was one of the five wais (walled villages) and six tsuens (villages) established by the Tangs who settled in Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling in the 14th Century. Of the five walled villages, Kun Lung Wai is the best preserved one.

Built in 1744, Kun Lung Wai is surrounded by thick brick walls on four sides, with a watch tower at each corner and a communal shrine at the farthest end to the entrance gate. Embrasures on the walls and the watch towers were equipped with guns in the early years. Most of the walls had collapsed by 1980s but have now been restored. The moat which once surrounded the village is now filled up.

The uniqueness of the village lies in its gate tower, comprising two free standing halls which are rare in the territory. The tower was declared a monument in 1988 and the walls and watchtowers were also declared as monuments in 1993.

End

Practical school -- an alternative education system

* * * * *

"I see gradual change of my son after transferring to a practical school," Yeung Wai-kit's mother said.

Yeung Wai-kit joined S2 of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Practical School last September. He was originally studying at a grammar school.

"Changes are obvious seen," his mother said.

"Wai-kit seldom talked about school life of that grammar school. I felt that he was very unhappy and unable to catch up with the curriculum.

"He was not interested in learning and was reluctant to go to school."

"Everything has changed completely. Now, he is eager to tell me about his school and dormitory life.

"He enjoys it very much. It is a good beginning," his mother said.

"Yeung Wai-kit is just one of the successful examples of our school," a school social workers said.

We are glad to see his learning attitude and interpersonal relationship improve, he added.

In order to discover and develop potential of students, an alternative curriculum catering their interest in practical subjects is offered in practical school.

Students also have academic subjects like Chinese, English, Mathematics, Integrated Science and Social Studies.

"Graduates of practical school will attain same basic language level of those mainstream junior secondary students," head of TWGHs Practical School, Miss Ng Shuk- Ying noted.

At the same time, they have opportunities to learn computer studies, accommodation and catering services, commercial studies, fashion and clothing, hair styling and seamanship.

These subjects aim at arousing learning interest of students and providing basic knowledge to them, Miss Ng said.

They can pursue further development in future, she said.

Extra learning programmes are organised after school. They are interest groups and complimentary studies.

Interest groups including soccer, tennis, guitar and folk songs are organised.

On the other hand, students can choose complementary studies.

They are short courses supplementing formal curriculum which aims at developing students' potential and preparing them for vocational training when they leave school.

Courses like silk-screening, repair and maintenance of air-conditioners, car maintenance and bakery had been organised and were well-received by students.

Most of the students join these activities voluntarily according to their interest. However, teachers and social workers will encourage passive students to take part.

"Counselling is very important in school," Miss Ng said.

An innovative 'Sun Campaign' was launched in TWGHs Practical School in February last year.

Each student will be given a special passport. Whenever they do something right, they will gain credits.

They are free to choose whether to exchange these credits for awards or cancellation of bad points.

"The sense of freedom to choose is cultivated," the principal said.

They will also learn that if and only if they choose to do it, they will succeed; and nothing will be gained without efforts, Miss Ng added.

She noted that the students regard these credits as honours. Their behaviour and learning attitude improve after joining the campaign.

Dormitory life is also another major of practical school.

Under guidance of programme workers and house parents, boarding students will participate in various recreational programmes.

Apart from tuition, they may join interest courses on drama, handicraft and chess.

Organised outings will also be arranged. Students will not go out individually.

"It is just a misunderstanding that our neighbourhood will be affected by our students," Miss Ng said.

"Dormitory is a place to cultivate students' leadership and independence," the vice-principal of Hong Kong Sea School, Mr Kwong Lit-ming added.

Hong Kong Sea School is the first practical school in Hong Kong.

Our students are those less motivated by normal school curriculum. They are likely to benefit from our curriculum placing more emphasis on practical skill, Mr Kwong said.

It is our responsibility to provide a suitable education system catering the need of those students who cannot develop their potential in traditional curriculum, he added.

The range of subjects and skills provided will better stimulate students' interest in learning and eventually building up their self-confidence.

Upon completion of junior secondary education, students will choose to continue their studies in ordinary schools, further their vocational training, or start their career.

"Half of our graduates continue their secondary education in grammar schools and half of them choose technical institutes," Mr Kwong said.

"Only a small percentage of students seek jobs immediately," he added.

Practical schools provide students with an equal opportunity for proper schooling through a special curriculum and avert their tendency to drop out from mainstream education.

"Practical schools provide students that cannot adapt with traditional curriculum with education opportunities. We should not discriminate against them," Yeung Wai-kit's mother said.

End

Secondary 6 admission procedure streamlined

* * * * *

The Education Department announced today (Thursday) that the Secondary 6 (S6) admission procedure for the 1996-97 school year will be shortened to 8-1/2 working days from nine in 1995-96.

A Principal Education Officer, Mr C K Tam, said that a total of about 24,060 places will be available in September 1996 for application by students, compared with 23,790 in the previous year.

He said the five-stage procedure for admission to S6 for the 1996-97 school year is basically the same as that for the 1995-96 school year, except that the duration of Stage V, which is for central allocation of places, will be shortened by half a day to 4-1/2 days.

"The shortening of the Stage V procedure is to tie in with the provision of a two-week pre-S6 Intensive English Programme for some students."

"In addition, three more centres will be made available for central allocation, bringing the total number of centres to eight," Mr Tam said.

The Education Department has produced a new leaflet and a summary table containing admission details, addresses and telephone numbers of the 19 District Education Offices to help students seek further information.

Mr Tam said schools are being asked to collect the leaflet and summary for distribution to S5 students.

Private candidates will receive the leaflet and summary table from the Hong Kong Examination Authority when it sends out the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE) Identification Forms.

Additional leaflets and summary tables are available from District Education Offices and district offices throughout the territory.

A 24-hour telephone enquiry service will be operated in early August. Students who wish to hear S6 places admission procedures may dial 2891 0088.

In addition, a hotline will be set up when the results of the HKCEE are announced, to help students seek advice or clarification about admission procedures, and to handle any complaints.

Vacancy situations during the admission procedure will be announced at District Education Offices and through the media.

End

December 1995 employment and vacancy statistics released

* * * * *

According to the figures released today (Thursday) by the Census and Statistics Department, employment in most of the major service sectors increased between December 1994 and December 1995.

Meanwhile, employment in the manufacturing sector declined further. Employment at construction sites registered a further significant increase.

Vacancies in the manufacturing sector remained on a downtrend in December 1995 over a year earlier, while those in the various service sectors also recorded decreases of various magnitudes. Vacancies at construction sites, on the other hand, remained on a strong uptrend. As in December 1995, there were still around 41,300 vacancies for all major sectors taken together.

In terms of the number of persons engaged, the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector was the largest, employing 1,018,200 persons in December 1995. This was followed by the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, with an employment of 378,200; the manufacturing sector, 375,800; the community, social and personal services sector, 302,000; the transport, storage and communications sector, 172,200; and the construction sites (for manual workers only), 68,500.

In terms of growth rate, employment at construction sites (for manual workers only) recorded the fastest increase, by 8.7% in December 1995 over December 1994; followed by the transport, storage and communications sector, by 4.9%; the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, by 2.3%; and the community, social and personal services sector, by 0.9%. On the other hand, employment in the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector showed a marginal decrease of 0.4%, while that in the manufacturing sector fell by 11.2%. The respective employment figures are shown in greater detail in Table 1.

Vacancies at construction sites continued to record a substantial increase in December 1995 over a year earlier. The marked increases in both employment and vacancies at construction sites reflected the heavy demand for construction workers by the new airport and related projects. However, vacancies in the manufacturing sector and in all major service sectors decreased substantially. Job vacancy figures are shown in greater detail in Table 2.

Of the total of some 41,300 vacancies (other than those in the Civil Service) recorded in December 1995, the majority fell into four major occupation groups, viz. associate professionals; clerks; service workers and shop sales workers; and elementary occupations. They together accounted for over three-quarters of the total number of vacancies in all the major sectors surveyed. Vacancy figures broken down by major occupation group are shown in Table 3. As these figures are compiled starting from June 1995, year-on-year comparisons are not yet available.

The above statistics for December 1995 were derived from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies, the Supplementary Survey of Job Vacancies and the Quarterly Employment Survey of Construction Sites conducted by the Department. In the former two surveys, some economic activities (e.g. those where self-employment are predominant, such as taxi operators, hawkers and freelance authors) are not covered and hence the respective employment and vacancy figures relate only to those selected industries included in the surveys. In the latter survey on the construction sites, employment and vacancy figures relate to manual workers only.

Detailed breakdowns of the above statistics are available from the Quarterly Report of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll Statistics, December 1995 and the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies at Construction Sites, December 1995. They will be available at HK\$44 per copy and HK\$20 per copy (both exclusive of postage) respectively at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong and at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Table 1 : Employment figures and percentage changes by selected major sector

<u>Selected major sector</u>	<u>Persons engaged (employment)</u>			<u>Percentage change</u>	
	<u>Dec. 94</u>	<u>Sep. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95 over Dec. 94</u>	<u>Dec. 95 over Sep. 95</u>
Manufacturing	423 000	386 100	375 800	-11.2	-2.7
Construction sites (manual workers only)	63 100	65 800	68 500	+8.7	+4.1
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	1 021 900	1 030 900	1 018 200	-0.4	-1.2
Transport, storage and communications	164 200	170 000	172 200	+4.9	+1.3
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	369 600	375 400	378 200	+2.3	+0.8
Community, social and personal services	299 300	298 300	302 000	+0.9	+1.2

Table 2 : Vacancy figures and percentage changes by selected major sector

<u>Selected major sector</u>	<u>Number of vacancies</u>			<u>Percentage change</u>	
	<u>Dec. 94</u>	<u>Sep. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95</u>	<u>Dec. 95 over Dec. 94</u>	<u>Dec. 95 over Sep. 95</u>
Manufacturing	10 520	6 860	5 520	-47.5	-19.4
Construction sites (manual workers only)	860	2 550	1 040	+20.4	-59.3
Wholesale,retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	29 650	21 950	17 710	-40.3	-19.3
Transport, storage and communications	3 260	3 120	2 310	-29.2	-26.0
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	10 410	8 570	7 390	-29.0	-13.7
Community, social and personal services	9 700	7 810	7 300	-24.7	-6.5

Table 3 : Vacancy figures and percentage distribution by major occupation group

<u>Major occupation group</u>	<u>Number of vacancies in December 1995</u>	<u>Percentage distribution (%)</u>
Managers and administrators	870	2.1
Professionals	2 850	6.9
Associate professionals	6 530	15.8
Clerks	9 150	22.2
Service workers and shop sales workers	9 440	22.9
Craft and related workers	2 730	6.6
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	3 400	8.2
Elementary occupations	6 340	15.4

End

External trade figures for January

* * * * *

The volume of re-exports in January 1996 increased by 20% over January 1995, while the volume of domestic exports increased by 2.8%, according to the statistics released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Thursday).

Taking re-exports and domestic exports together, the volume of total exports increased by 17%. Meanwhile, imports increased by 21% in volume.

The growth in the volume of trade is derived from the growth in trade values with the effect of price changes being discounted.

As regards price changes over the same period of comparison, the prices of re-exports and domestic exports increased by 1.9% and 1.7% respectively. Import prices increased by 2.2%.

Price changes are reflected by changes in unit value indices, which are compiled based on average unit values or, for certain commodities, based on specific price data.

The terms of trade index, defined as the ratio of total export price index to import price index, decreased marginally by 0.3% in January 1996 over January 1995.

Caution should be exercised in interpreting the changes in the volume of trade for a single month at the beginning of each year which may be affected by the timing of the Lunar New Year holidays. It is more meaningful to make comparisons over a longer period.

Comparing the three months ending January 1996 with the three months ending January 1995, the volume of re-exports and imports grew by 13% and 12% respectively. However, the volume of domestic exports decreased by 2.9%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of re-exports by end-use category are shown in Table 1.

Comparing January 1996 with January 1995, the volume of re-exports of all end-use categories recorded increases of various magnitudes: capital goods (+38%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+37%), fuels (+31%), foodstuffs (+18%), and consumer goods (+5.8%).

Over the same period of comparison, increases in the prices of re-exports were noted of most of the end-use categories: fuels (+21%), consumer goods (+2.2%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+2.2%) and foodstuffs (+0.4%).

On the other hand, the re-export price of capital goods decreased marginally by 0.3%.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of domestic exports by principal commodity group are shown in Table 2.

Comparing January 1996 with January 1995, commodity groups which recorded significant increases in the volume of domestic exports included radios of all kinds (+606%); domestic electrical appliances (+74%); and textile made-ups and related articles (+58%).

On the other hand, the volume of domestic exports of footwear and metal ores and scrap decreased by 28% and 21% respectively.

Commodity groups which recorded increases in domestic export prices included textile yarn and thread (+11%); and metal manufactures (+8.5%).

On the other hand, the domestic export price of footwear and domestic electrical appliances decreased by 2.2% and 1.7% respectively.

The changes in the value, unit value and volume of imports by end-use category are shown in Table 3.

The import volume of foodstuffs increased by 11% in January 1996 compared with January 1995.

Significant increases were recorded in the import volume of soya bean oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil and lard; and wheat and flour. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of tea and coffee; and live poultry.

Over the same period of comparison, the import volume of consumer goods increased by 9.6%.

Increases in import volume were recorded in most of the consumer goods, especially in passenger motor cars; and miscellaneous made-up articles of textile materials. However, decreases in the import volume were noted of radios, television-sets, gramophones, records, tape recorders and amplifiers; and cameras, flashlight apparatus and supplies for photography.

The import volume of raw materials and semi-manufactures increased by 32% in January 1996 compared with January 1995.

Significant increases in import volume were noted of yarn of man-made fibres; and man-made fibres. However, the import volume of silk fabrics; and woven fabrics of man-made fibres declined.

Imports of fuels increased by 6.2% in volume in January 1996 compared with January 1995.

As regards capital goods, the import volume increased by 34% in January 1996 over January 1995.

Notable increases were recorded in the import volume of office machines; and scientific, medical, optical, measuring and controlling instruments and apparatus. The import volume of transport equipment however declined.

Comparing January 1996 with January 1995, the import prices of all end-use categories increased : fuels (+11%), raw materials and semi-manufactures (+2.5%), consumer goods (+2.5%), foodstuffs (+2.1%), and capital goods (+0.6%).

Details of the above statistics are published in the January 1996 issue of the "Hong Kong Trade Index Numbers".

The report will be available on sale around April 13, 1996 at HK\$14 per copy at either (i) the Government Publications Centre on the ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway; or (ii) the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department on 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Tel 2598 8194) and enquiries on trade indices to the Census and Statistics Department (Tel 2582 4918).

Table 1 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JAN 1996 with JAN 1995		
	% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	17.4	0.4	17.7
Consumer goods	8.3	2.2	5.8
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	40.6	2.2	36.9
Fuels	40.7	20.6	30.6
Capital goods	33.8	-0.3	38.1
ALL COMMODITIES	21.7	1.9	20.4

Table 2 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing JAN 1996 with JAN 1995		
	% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Clothing	2.9	2.8	-0.4
Textile fabrics	13.1	0.2	11.1
Textile yarn and thread	29.0	10.6	17.5
Textile made-ups and related articles	49.2	0.2	58.3
Radios of all kinds	731.0	8.4	605.7
Electronic components	4.2	-1.4	4.6
Footwear	-26.5	-2.2	-27.5
Metal manufactures	18.3	8.5	8.4
Metal ores and scrap	-20.6	5.6	-21.1
Watches and clocks	-2.4	-0.3	-1.9
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	9.0	2.7	5.9
Domestic electrical appliances	70.0	-1.7	74.2
ALL COMMODITIES	4.5	1.7	2.8

Table 3 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing JAN 1996 with JAN 1995		
	% changes		
	Value	Unit Value	Volume
Foodstuffs	13.7	2.1	11.1
Consumer goods	12.6	2.5	9.6
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	35.2	2.5	32.2
Fuels	16.7	10.6	6.2
Capital goods	33.3	0.6	33.8
ALL COMMODITIES	24.1	2.2	21.4

End

Report on consumer price index for 1995

* * * * *

The Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1995 has recently been published by the Census and Statistics Department.

The report provides a detailed analysis of the movements of the CPI(A), CPI(B), Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI in 1995.

Charts and tables showing movements of the CPIs by individual commodity/service components, and their contributions to the overall change in the indices are also presented in the report.

Apart from statistics on the CPIs, the report also contains a detailed explanation of the concepts and compilation method of the CPIs so as to help readers gain a better understanding of those issues.

The report in bilingual version is now on sale, at HK\$34 a copy, at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, and the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries concerning this report can be directed to the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6403.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

* * * * *

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,080	0930	+718
Closing balance in the account	1,878	1000	+718
Change attributable to :		1100	+718
Money market activity	+718	1200	+718
LAF today	-920	1500	+718
		1600	+718

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.1 *+0.1* 11.4.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.26	2 years	2802	5.16	98.18	6.31
1 month	5.15	3 years	3901	5.57	97.65	6.61
3 months	5.19	5 years	5103	6.75	98.69	7.19
6 months	5.35	7 years	7302	6.02	92.78	7.51
12 months	5.70	5 years	M502	7.30	100.02	7.43

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,927 million

Closed April 11, 1996

End