



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992

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INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY TO BE HELD INTO SHEK KONG DISTURBANCE  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, CONFIRMED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT AN INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY WOULD BE HELD INTO THE DISTURBANCE WHICH LED TO THE DEATH OF 22 PEOPLE AT THE SHEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE ON FEBRUARY 4.

THE ENQUIRY WILL BE SEPARATE FROM THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ALREADY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE POLICE AND WILL FOCUS ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF THE TRAGEDY.

SIR DAVID SAID: "WE ARE ALL APPALLED BY THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AT SHEK KONG. OUR FIRST PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN TO CARE FOR THE INJURED AND BRING TO JUSTICE THOSE RESPONSIBLE. THE POLICE HAVE MADE RAPID PROGRESS WITH THEIR INVESTIGATIONS. WE ARE NOW TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO THE WIDER ISSUES.

"I HAVE DECIDED, IN VIEW OF THE SCALE OF THE TRAGEDY, THAT AN INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY WOULD BE RIGHT AND THAT IT MUST BE CONDUCTED QUICKLY. WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE THAT ANY LESSONS WHICH CAN BE LEARNED ARE LEARNED."

FULL DETAILS OF THE INDEPENDENT ENQUIRY WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WORK WILL THEN COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY. A REPORT WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR. THE FINDINGS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

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GDP FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 1991  
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HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW BY 3.6% IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF LAST YEAR OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990, ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

AMONG THE MAIN DOMESTIC COMPONENTS OF THE GDP ESTIMATES, GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION GREW SIGNIFICANTLY BY 11.5% IN REAL TERMS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990.

WITHIN THIS COMPONENT, INVESTMENT IN PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, IN PARTICULAR, SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 23.9%.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS FOR PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE WAS 7.6%, WHILE THAT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE WAS 4.9%.

/REGARDING EXTERNAL .....

REGARDING EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS, TOTAL EXPORTS REGISTERED A REAL GROWTH RATE OF 18.2%, AMONG WHICH RE-EXPORTS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 29.8% WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS DROPPED SLIGHTLY BY 0.5%. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR IMPORTS OF GOODS WAS 21.5%.

AS REGARDS EXPORTS OF SERVICES, THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS WAS 4.9%. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR IMPORTS OF SERVICES WAS 6.9%.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GOODS FOR BOTH DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND RE-EXPORTS ARE LARGELY SUPPLIED FROM IMPORTS.

THE INCREASE IN GDP DUE TO THE FASTER GROWTH RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND RE-EXPORTS IS THEREFORE LARGELY OFFSET BY THE CORRESPONDINGLY HIGH GROWTH RECORDED FOR IMPORTS.

AS A RESULT, OVERALL GDP RECORDS A SLOWER GROWTH THAN THESE COMPONENTS.

FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 1991, ESTIMATES OF INDIVIDUAL EXPENDITURE COMPONENTS OF GDP WERE UPDATED BASED ON LATEST DATA AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

NEVERTHELESS, THE OVERALL GROWTH RATE FOR THE QUARTER WAS UNCHANGED AT 3.6% FROM THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1991.

BASED ON THE LATEST ESTIMATES, GDP GREW BY 3.8% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF 1990.

THE IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATOR OF GDP, AS A BROAD MEASURE OF OVERALL INFLATION IN THE ECONOMY, ROSE BY 9.8% IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 OVER THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990.

THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATOR OF GDP IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WAS REVISED UPWARDS TO 10.1%, FROM THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 9.1% RELEASED IN NOVEMBER, 1991.

FOR THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1991, THE IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATOR OF GDP INCREASED BY 9.3% OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF 1990.

THE LATEST ESTIMATES OF QUARTERLY GDP FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 TO THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ENTITLED "QUARTERLY ESTIMATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, THIRD QUARTER 1991".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2.0 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND AT THE PUBLICATION SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 5077.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Estimates for the  
second (Q2) and third (Q3) quarters of 1991

Expenditure Components of GDP	Revised (February 92) Estimates for Q2 1991				Preliminary Estimates for Q3 1991			
	at current market prices		at constant (1980) market prices		at current market prices		at constant (1980) market prices	
	HK\$Mn	% Change over Q2 1990	HK\$Mn	% Change over Q2 1990	HK\$Mn	% Change over Q3 1990	HK\$Mn	% Change over Q3 1990
Private consumption expenditure	89,633	17.4	40,814	6.6	97,502	17.7	43,721	7.6
Government consumption expenditure	12,700	22.6	4,197	10.5	13,024	15.5	4,357	4.9
Gross domestic fixed capital formation	43,355	18.0	18,908	10.9	45,324	17.4	19,557	11.5
of which:								
Buildings & construction	14,321	7.0	5,306	-1.3	15,662	4.6	5,766	-2.5
Plant, machinery and equipment	18,274	24.8	8,636	21.4	18,159	24.9	8,574	23.9
Change in stocks	5,895	..	3,382	..	-617	..	656	..
Total exports of goods :	185,178	20.2	106,612	17.4	207,911	21.8	118,412	18.2
Domestics exports	56,425	4.3	34,723	2.1	62,068	1.6	38,102	-0.5
Re-exports	128,753	28.8	71,889	26.6	145,843	33.1	80,310	29.8
Less Imports of goods	197,385	23.5	113,570	20.7	203,564	23.6	116,588	21.5
Exports of services	30,221	15.5	14,811	7.9	31,742	13.0	15,431	4.9
Less Imports of services	20,284	17.0	11,611	7.2	22,227	13.7	12,701	6.9
<b>GDP</b>	<b>149,313</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>63,543</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>169,095</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>72,845</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Implicit price deflator of GDP (1980=100)			235.0				232.1	
% change over the same quarter of preceding year			10.1				9.8	

.. Not applicable

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PROVISIONAL RETRAINING FUND BOARD MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROVISIONAL RETRAINING FUND BOARD.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND DR SAMUEL WONG PING-WAI, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.

THE MEMBERS ARE:

FOUR EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES:

MR R.A. ZALA  
MR HENRY TANG YING-YEN  
DR LUI MING-WAH  
MR HO SAI-CHU

FOUR EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES:

MR LEUNG FU-WAH  
MS LI FUNG-YING  
MR LEUNG TSZ-LEUNG  
MR CHEUNG LUN

REPRESENTATIVES OF STATUTORY TRAINING AUTHORITIES:

MR HORACE KNIGHT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL  
MR TONG YAT-CHU OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
TRAINING AUTHORITY  
MR HERBERT CHENG OF CLOTHING INDUSTRY TRAINING  
AUTHORITY  
THE COMMISSION FOR LABOUR OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD ARE:

- \* TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER ON THE PROVISION, ADMINISTRATION AND DELIVERY OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAMMES TO ASSIST LOCAL WORKERS TO ADJUST TO CHANGES IN THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET;
- \* TO IDENTIFY OCCUPATIONS WHICH HAVE HIGH VACANCY RATES AND WHICH WILL BENEFIT FROM TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAMMES;
- \* TO LIAISE WITH VARIOUS TRAINING AUTHORITIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS ON THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF TRAINING AND RETRAINING PROGRAMMES;
- \* TO RECOMMEND CRITERIA FOR AND LEVELS OF TRAINING ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO TRAINEES; AND
- \* TO OVERSEE THE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF THE RETRAINING FUND.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR THE BOARD MEMBERS TO MEET WITHIN 10 DAYS' TIME.

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PROVISIONAL RETAIL SALES SURVEY RESULTS FOR NOVEMBER 1991 RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$11,700 MILLION, INCREASED BY 19.3% WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1990, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL FINDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER 1991 ROUND OF THE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE INCREASES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 12.7% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE MARKED INCREASES WERE MAINLY DUE TO A HIGH LEVEL OF CONSUMER SPENDING ON CLOTHING, JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND MOTOR VEHICLES.

TOTAL SALES IN RETAIL OUTLETS SELLING JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS RECORDED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN NOVEMBER 1991 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO.

SALES WERE UP BY 32% IN VALUE AND 39% IN VOLUME. THERE WAS A FALL IN PRICES OF THESE VALUABLE ITEMS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE MARKED INCREASE IN THE SPENDING ON SUCH COMMODITIES.

SALES IN RETAIL OUTLETS SELLING CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 32% IN VALUE AND 21% IN VOLUME.

SPENDING ON CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY SIMILAR MAGNITUDES, 25% IN VALUE AND 19% IN VOLUME. THE RAPID INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO AN INCREASE IN SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

SALES IN SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED LESS MARKED INCREASES, BY 9% AND 2% IN VOLUME RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A DECREASE IN SALES VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO OUTLETS, OTHER THAN SUPERMARKETS, BY 5% IN NOVEMBER 1991 OVER NOVEMBER 1990.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 17% IN VALUE AND 10% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1991, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1991 REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 1% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

/THE REPORT .....

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THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1991 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1.5 PER COPY.

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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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TWO TABLES WILL BE SENT BY FACSIMILE.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR OCTOBER 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1991.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1991 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 NOVEMBER 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1991 AND WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1990, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

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/TABLE 1 .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for November 1991 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$11,672.7 million  
 for October 1991 (Revised Figure) = HK\$11,689.7 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR OCTOBER 1991 AND NOVEMBER 1991

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	October 1991	November 1991	November 1991 compared with October 1991		November 1991 compared with November 1990		Jan.-Nov. 1991 compared with Jan.-Nov. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</b>									
	Value	124.5	124.3	-0.2	-0.1	+20.1	+19.3	+16.9	+16.7
	Volume	113.4	111.7	-1.6	-1.4	+12.6	+12.7	+9.6	+9.7
<b>(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET:</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	123.2	123.6	+0.4	+0.3	+7.8	+6.7	+11.7	+11.5
	Volume	108.2	109.2	+1.0	+0.9	-5.1	-4.5	+0.7	+0.7
Supermarkets	Value	115.3	109.8	-5.5	-4.8	+18.4	+20.2	+14.0	+13.8
	Volume	99.4	94.5	-4.9	-4.9	+8.0	+9.3	+3.0	+3.0
Fuels	Value	132.6	118.9	-13.7	-10.4	+0.5	+0.4	+16.7	+15.8
	Volume	108.4	96.0	-12.3	-11.4	+0.4	+0.4	+2.0	+2.0
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	123.1	136.1	+13.1	+10.6	+32.8	+31.7	+22.1	+22.4
	Volume	110.5	115.8	+5.3	+4.8	+20.1	+21.0	+13.7	+14.1
Consumer durable goods*	Value	137.1	132.7	-4.4	-3.2	+26.6	+25.0	+21.3	+20.7
	Volume	126.4	122.0	-4.4	-3.5	+19.4	+18.9	+14.4	+14.1
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	152.6	154.4	+1.9	+1.2	+51.6	+50.2	+21.6	+20.9
	Volume	134.6	135.8	+1.3	+1.0	+37.6	+38.3	+10.4	+10.2
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	125.8	116.9	-8.9	-7.1	+8.4	+7.8	+21.1	+20.5
	Volume	120.5	112.1	-8.4	-7.0	+6.2	+5.8	+17.2	+16.9
Department stores	Value	116.5	124.4	+7.9	+6.8	+12.0	+10.7	+11.3	+11.3
	Volume	104.4	107.3	+3.0	+2.8	+2.5	+2.4	+4.4	+4.4
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gift	Value	118.3	112.4	-5.8	-4.9	+27.5	+32.4	+16.2	+16.5
	Volume	120.5	114.6	-6.0	-4.9	+32.0	+38.8	+16.6	+17.0
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	129.5	130.1	+0.6	+0.5	+21.1	+19.4	+20.8	+20.5
	Volume	117.1	117.2	+0.1	+0.1	+11.2	+10.6	+14.1	+14.0

NOTE : \* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

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FRAMEWORK TO ENSURE SAFE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE  
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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THREE SETS OF REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR A FRAMEWORK OF CONTROL TO ENSURE THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE IN HONG KONG.

THE THREE SETS OF REGULATIONS - THE WASTE DISPOSAL (CHEMICAL WASTE) (GENERAL) REGULATION, WASTE DISPOSAL (APPEAL BOARD) REGULATION AND WASTE DISPOSAL (FORMS AND FEES FOR LICENSES) REGULATION ARE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

"A CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY (CWTF) IS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WILL PROVIDE A SAFE DISPOSAL FACILITY FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE 10,000 FACTORIES PRODUCING CHEMICAL WASTE.

"THE REGULATION WILL ENSURE THAT IN FUTURE SAFE PRACTICES ARE ADOPTED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE," HE SAID.

THE CHEMICAL WASTE REGULATION PROVIDES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL OF CHEMICAL WASTE SO THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE DISPOSAL ACTIVITY INCLUDING WASTE HANDLING, STORAGE, COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND TREATMENT ARE CARRIED OUT IN A SAFE MANNER.

THE PRODUCERS OF CHEMICAL WASTE WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TO ARRANGE FOR DISPOSAL OF THEIR WASTES AT LICENSED DISPOSAL FACILITIES SUCH AS THE CWTF.

"THE MOVEMENT OF CHEMICAL WASTE, AFTER LEAVING THE INDUSTRIAL PREMISES IN WHICH IT IS PRODUCED WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED FROM THE POINT OF THEIR CREATION UNTIL DISPOSAL.

"THE REGULATION ALSO PROVIDES FOR CERTAIN WASTE PRODUCERS, WHO MEET THE CRITERIA LAID DOWN IN THE REGULATION, TO BE ABLE TO TREAT THEIR OWN WASTE," HE SAID

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE OTHER TWO REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN APPEAL MECHANISM AGAINST DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE (CAP 354) AND TO PRESCRIBE THE FORMS AND FEES WHICH WOULD BE USED IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM.

"IN ORDER TO ASSIST INDUSTRIES WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE REGULATION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ARE DRAWING UP A SERIES OF GUIDANCE BOOKLETS AND CODES OF PRACTICES TO EXPLAIN THE CONTROLS AND ASSIST INDUSTRY IN COMPLYING WITH THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.

"CONSULTATION WITH INDUSTRY ON THESE CODES IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY, AFTER WHICH THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) WILL BE INVITED TO ENDORSE THE CODES," HE SAID.

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN SAID MANY INDUSTRIALISTS HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSED CHARGING SCHEME FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE COST OF THE CWTF.

HE SAID THE REGULATION WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE CHARGING SCHEME. IT WOULD BE NEEDED IRRESPECTIVE OF WHAT FORM ANY CHARGING SCHEME MIGHT EVENTUALLY TAKE.

"THE CWTF CANNOT OPERATE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK PROVIDED BY THIS LEGISLATION. IT CAN OPERATE WITHOUT A CHARGING SCHEME.

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE REGULATION IS BEING BROUGHT IN NOW WHILE DISCUSSIONS WITH INDUSTRY ON THE CHARGING SCHEME ARE STILL CONTINUING," HE SAID.

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DREDGING FOR MARINE SAND EAST OF SHA CHAU

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AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DREDGE WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,956 HECTARES OF SEABED EAST OF SHA CHAU.

THIS IS TO PROVIDE MATERIALS FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTION AND FUTURE RECLAMATIONS INCLUDING THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED WAS DESCRIBED IN A NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE INJURIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THIS UNDERTAKING MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 6, 1993.

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TWO ANTI-DRUG ORDINANCES TO BE AMENDED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO AMEND TWO ANTI-DRUG ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLY WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

BOTH THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 AND THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

/THE COMMISSIONER .....

THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, EXPLAINED THAT AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO ORDINANCES WERE NECESSARY AS A RESULT OF AN APPEAL COURT RULING LAST YEAR THAT CERTAIN PRESUMPTIONS IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE HAD BEEN REPEALED BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE.

"THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE APPEAL COURT RULING IS THAT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO BRING SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS FOR DANGEROUS DRUGS OFFENCES, UNLESS WE MAKE THESE AMENDMENTS", MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

THE NARCOTICS DIVISION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE POLICE, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST, HAD REVIEWED THE LEGISLATION WITH A VIEW TO LIMITING THE DAMAGE DONE TO DRUG ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, WHILST ENSURING THAT HONG KONG CONTINUED TO MEET ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

"WE PROPOSE TO DELETE OR AMEND THE PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPEALED BY THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE, AS WELL AS OTHER PROVISIONS WHICH MIGHT ALSO BE VULNERABLE TO BILL OF RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN FUTURE," HE ADDED.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 SEEKS TO -

- \* REMOVE THE SEPARATE OFFENCE OF POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSES OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFICKING AND INCLUDE THIS OFFENCE AS A TRAFFICKING OFFENCE;
- \* INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OFFENCES ON INDICTMENT TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$1 MILLION;
- \* AMEND AND REPEAL INCOMPATIBLE PRESUMPTIONS CONCERNING MANUFACTURING, THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM AMOUNTS OF DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFICKING AND DIVANS; AND
- \* LIMIT PRESUMPTIONS TO CERTAIN PARTICULAR SITUATIONS WHERE THE PRESUMPTIONS WILL ONLY ARISE IF A PERSON HAS IN HIS PHYSICAL POSSESSION A THING CONTAINING SUCH A DRUG, OR THE KEYS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONTAINERS OR A MOTOR VEHICLE CONTAINING SUCH A DRUG.

MR WOODHOUSE EXPLAINED THAT THE INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OFFENCES ON INDICTMENT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO DEAL WITH THOSE IN POSSESSION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF DRUGS.

HE SAID THE PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF DRUGS, USUALLY FOR AN ADDICT'S PERSONAL USE, WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED, AT A MAXIMUM OF THREE-YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000.

"OUR POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE DRUG ABUSERS TO SEEK TREATMENT, THEREFORE, THE PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF SMALL QUANTITIES HAVE NOT BEEN REVISED," HE SAID.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE NEW, HIGHER PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION SHOULD PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO THE COURTS AND TO THE PROSECUTION.

"POSSESSION CASES CAN EITHER BE BROUGHT BEFORE A MAGISTRATE TO SEEK A SUMMARY CONVICTION, IN CASES OF SIMPLE POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE, OR BEFORE THE DISTRICT OR HIGH COURT TO SEEK AN INDICTMENT FOR MORE SERIOUS CASES OF POSSESSION", HE SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER EMPHASISED THAT THOSE CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING OFFENCES WOULD STILL FACE A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 MILLION.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL SEVERELY WITH TRAFFICKERS", MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

THE ACETYLATED SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 SEEKS TO MAKE AMENDMENTS WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE.

THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE FIRST READING AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE SECOND READING DEBATE ON FEBRUARY 26.

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TWO PRE-WAR BUILDINGS DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY HAS DECLARED THE BUILDING AT 48 GRAHAM STREET IN CENTRAL TO BE DANGEROUS AND THE BUILDING AT 50 OF THE SAME STREET LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY (FRIDAY), THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR (PGBS) SAID THE BUILDINGS WERE THREE-STOREY PRE-WAR STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTED OF LOADBEARING BRICK WALLS WITH TIMBER FLOORS, STAIRCASES AND ROOF JOISTS AND HAD COCKLOFTS.

THE ORIGINAL ROOF COVERINGS ON BOTH BUILDINGS WERE REPLACED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH CORRUGATED METAL SHEET COVERED WITH CEMENT RENDERING AND THE BUILDINGS HAVE A COMMON PARTY WALL.

REPAIRS TO PARTS OF THE BUILDING AT 48 GRAHAM STREET HAD RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED IN RESPONSE TO AN ORDER BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

HOWEVER, FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF THE ADJOINING BUILDINGS AT 2 AND 3 TSUN WING LANE, WHICH WERE CLOSED UNDER EMERGENCY ORDERS LAST AUGUST SOME MAJOR DEFECTS AT 48 GRAHAM STREET BECAME APPARENT.

/SUBSEQUENT DETAILED .....

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992

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SUBSEQUENT DETAILED INSPECTION OF 48 GRAHAM STREET REVEALED THE EXISTENCE OF A NUMBER OF SERIOUS DEFECTS TO THE LOADBEARING WALLS, SOME OF WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE OCCURRED VERY RECENTLY SUGGESTING THAT MOVEMENT OF THE REAR PORTION OF THE BUILDING WAS TAKING PLACE.

FURTHERMORE, MANY FLOOR JOISTS AND THE TIMBER STAIRCASE WERE ALSO IN DEFECTIVE CONDITION.

THE PGBS SAID THERE WAS A DANGER OF COLLAPSE OF THE REAR PORTION OF 48 GRAHAM STREET, AND COUPLED WITH THE EXTENT OF THE DEFECTIVE STRUCTURAL TIMBERS IN THE BUILDING, THE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE CLOSED AS BEING DANGEROUS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BE DEMOLISHED IN ORDER TO PROTECT LIVES AND PROPERTY.

HE CONSIDERED THAT 50 GRAHAM STREET, WHICH WAS ALSO IN DILAPIDATED CONDITION AND HAVING SIGNS OF MOVEMENT, COULD NOT SAFELY WITHSTAND THE DEMOLITION OF 48 AND SHOULD ALSO BE CLOSED AS BEING LIABLE TO BECOME DANGEROUS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BE DEMOLISHED IN A JOINT OPERATION.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 6 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

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GOVT LAND TO LET BY TENDER  
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON FOUR PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

ALL THE FOUR SITES ARE LOCATED AT TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITES HAVE AREAS RANGING FROM 798 TO 846 SQUARE METRES AND ARE DESIGNATED FOR THE REPAIRS AND/OR MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING PAINT-SPRAYING) OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON, FEBRUARY 21.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE AT YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	3.2.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	7.2.92	-333
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+333
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.3 \*-0.1\* 7.2.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.83 PCT	22 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.29	5.54
1 MONTH	3.89 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.94 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.04 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.60 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 4,548 MN

CLOSED 7 FEBRUARY 1992

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