



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1992

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CALL FOR JOINT EFFORT TO FIGHT OVER MFN

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THE IMPORTANCE TO HONG KONG OF UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS FOR CHINA WAS EMPHASISED BY TRADE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEETING REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID THE GOVERNMENT LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON THIS ISSUE IN 1992.

"WE SHOULD AIM AT A COHERENT AND FORCEFUL MESSAGE AND WE SHOULD TIME OUR MISSIONS TO THE U.S. CAREFULLY AND TARGET OUR EFFORT SENSIBLY," HE SAID.

MR TSANG TOLD TRADE LEADERS THAT BY JUNE 3 PRESIDENT BUSH WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON CHINA'S MFN STATUS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

HE WELCOMED THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S PLANS TO SEND MISSIONS TO THE U.S., AND THEIR OTHER INITIATIVES.

HE SAID THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD INTENSIFY ITS OWN EFFORTS AND WOULD WORK WITH ALLIES IN THE U.S. FOR THIS PURPOSE.

MR TSANG ASSURED TRADE LEADERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM AND ORGANISE FURTHER MEETINGS WITH THEM AS NECESSARY.

PRESENT AT TODAY'S BRIEFING SESSION AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION, THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND THE TEXTILE COUNCIL.

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WAGE INDEXES FOR SEPTEMBER 1991

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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR WAS 10.6% HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1990, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BUT THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR WAS 0.8% LOWER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

WHILE NOMINAL WAGES STILL SHOWED DOUBLE-DIGIT INCREASES IN MOST SECTORS OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, INFLATION REMAINED HIGH OVER THE PERIOD.

THEREFORE AFTER DISCOUNTING FOR INFLATION, SMALL DECLINES IN REAL TERMS WERE RECORDED.

/COMPARING SEPTEMBER .....

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1991 WITH MARCH 1991, OVERALL WAGES SHOWED INCREASES BOTH IN NOMINAL TERMS AND REAL TERMS, BY 4.6% AND 0.5% RESPECTIVELY.

ANALYSED BY INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRY/SERVICE SECTORS, THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX SHOWED THE FASTEST YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN SEPTEMBER 1991 COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990 IN TRANSPORT SERVICES (13.7%), FOLLOWED BY BUSINESS SERVICES (10.9%), MANUFACTURING (10.4%), WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (10.4%), AND PERSONAL SERVICES (7.7%).

WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991 AND BEARING IN MIND THIS COMPARISON COULD BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE LARGEST INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE TRANSPORT SERVICES (8.8%), FOLLOWED BY INCREASES IN MANUFACTURING (4.4%), WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (4.2%), BUSINESS SERVICES (4.0%) AND PERSONAL SERVICES (2.7%).

THE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1990 TO SEPTEMBER 1991 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 RESPECTIVELY. DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

THE WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE RESULTS OF THE HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING EMPLOYEES AT ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN FIVE MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEXES IS MARCH 1982.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN ADDITION TO WAGES WHICH INCLUDED ALL THE REGULAR PAYMENTS, PAYROLL ALSO INCLUDED OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCE.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ON HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOLUME I, SEPTEMBER 1991 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT \$9.5 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WANCHAI, HONG KONG.

VOLUME II OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN MID FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 4744 OR 582 4747.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	SEP. 1990	MAR. 1991	SEP. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/ MAR. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/ SEP. 1990
MANUFACTURING	202.8	214.4	223.9	+4.4	+10.4
WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	200.9	212.7	221.7	+4.2	+10.4
TRANSPORT SERVICES	253.5	265.0	288.2	+8.8	+13.7
BUSINESS SERVICES	252.7	269.3	280.2	+4.0	+10.9
PERSONAL SERVICES	237.2	248.6	255.4	+2.7	+7.7
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	210.3	222.2	232.5	+4.6	+10.6

TABLE 2: REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	SEP. 1990	MAR. 1991	SEP. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/ MAR. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/ SEP. 1990
MANUFACTURING	111.2	109.9	110.1	+0.2	-1.0
WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	110.2	109.0	109.1	+0.1	-1.0
TRANSPORT SERVICES	139.1	135.8	141.8	+4.4	+1.9
BUSINESS SERVICES	138.6	138.0	137.8	-0.1	-0.6
PERSONAL SERVICES	130.1	127.4	125.6	-1.4	-3.5
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	115.3	113.8	114.4	+0.5	-0.8

TABLE 3: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

SELECTED MAJOR INDUSTRIES	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	SEP. 1990	MAR. 1991	SEP. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/MAR. 1991	% CHANGE SEP. 1991/SEP. 1990
GARMENTS	171.5	178.8	186.6	+4.4	+8.8
GLOVES	203.8	205.4	224.8	+9.4	+10.3
HANDBAGS	205.5	214.8	221.4	+3.1	+7.7
COTTON SPINNING/WEAVING	216.9	232.6	238.3	+2.5	+9.9
KNITTING	182.4	187.9	197.6	+5.2	+8.3
BLEACHING AND DYEING	218.0	230.0	242.6	+5.5	+11.3
PRINTING	267.2	280.0	298.9	+6.8	+11.9
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	190.1	208.6	218.7	+4.8	+15.0
METAL PRODUCTS	212.8	222.3	233.1	+4.9	+9.5
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	256.4	268.3	276.4	+3.0	+7.8
ELECTRONICS	241.1	261.6	278.9	+6.6	+15.7
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	245.2	256.8	259.5	+1.1	+5.8
MANUFACTURING	202.8	214.4	223.9	+4.4	+10.4

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## DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR VISITS PRIVATE SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES

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A TOTAL OF 33 PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AND THE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME HAS ALMOST REACHED THE PLANNED TARGET OF 500 PLACES, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR SIR DAVID FORD WAS TOLD THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SIR DAVID VISITED A NUMBER OF SOCIAL WELFARE FACILITIES WHICH WERE RUN BY PRIVATE BODIES.

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID STARTED HIS VISIT BY TOURING A PRIVATE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY IN WATERLOO ROAD.

THE SHUI OI HOME PROVIDES SOME 40 CARE-AND-ATTENTION PLACES FOR THE NEEDY AND IS A REGISTERED HOME WHICH PARTICIPATES IN THE SWD'S BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME.

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOME, SIR DAVID TALKED TO THE HOME OPERATOR, STAFF AND RESIDENTS THERE.

THE PARTY THEN ARRIVED AT ANOTHER ELDERLY HOME IN KOWLOON TONG. THIS HOSTEL WAS RUN BY THE CHINA COAST COMMUNITY LIMITED ON A NON-PROFIT-MAKING SELF-FINANCING BASIS.

IT HAS A CAPACITY OF 38 PLACES FOR DISTRESSED ENGLISH-SPEAKING ELDERLY OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WHO HAVE CHOSEN HONG KONG AS THEIR HOME.

THE LAST LEG OF SIR DAVID'S TOUR WAS A VISIT TO A STREET SLEEPERS' SHELTER IN SHAM SHUI PO - THE UN CHAU STREET SHELTER WHICH WAS RUN BY THE STREET SLEEPERS' SHELTER SOCIETY TRUSTEE INCORPORATED.

THE CENTRE HAS A CAPACITY OF 92 PLACES AND PROVIDES OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION FOR DESTITUTE AND HOMELESS PERSONS.

SIR DAVID LEARNED THAT A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS ALSO OPERATED URBAN HOSTELS FOR THE HOMELESS. THE LATEST ONE IN WAN CHAI WAS OPERATED BY THE AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

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#### EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MUST BE LICENSED

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ANY PERSON OR COMPANY INTENDING TO TAKE UP JOB PLACEMENT BUSINESS MUST FIRST OBTAIN AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENCE FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

"THIS APPLIES ALSO TO AGENCIES DEALING WITH THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR FROM CHINA OR OTHER OVERSEAS COUNTRIES," ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ANY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH AIMS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT FOR A JOB-SEEKER OR TO SUPPLY STAFF TO AN EMPLOYER IS REGARDED AS AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

COMMENTING ON A NEWSPAPER REPORT ON A COMPANY CLAIMING TO BE ABLE TO IMPORT FOREIGN WORKERS FOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS, MR CHAN SAID UNLESS THE COMPANY WAS A LICENSED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, IT WOULD BE ILLEGAL TO ENGAGE IN SUCH OPERATION.

/"AN EMPLOYMENT .....

"AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY MUST DISPLAY ITS LICENCE IN A PROMINENT POSITION AT THE PLACE OF BUSINESS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT UNLICENSED OPERATION OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY IS AN OFFENCE CARRYING A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$20,000.

HE ALSO STRESSED THAT AN APPLICATION UNDER THE CURRENT IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEME MUST BE MADE BY EMPLOYERS PERSONALLY.

"AN EMPLOYER MUST FIRST REGISTER HIS JOB VACANCIES WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) BEFORE APPLYING TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO BRING IN FOREIGN WORKERS," HE SAID.

HE SAID SHOULD AN EMPLOYER FAIL TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, HIS APPLICATION WOULD NOT BE VETTED BY THE EMPLOYMENT VISA CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE SCHEME.

MR CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT QUOTAS TO IMPORT LABOUR WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE EMPLOYER CONCERNED AND WERE IN NO CASE TRANSFERRABLE.

"HENCE, THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ANY COMPANY APPLYING FOR SUCH QUOTAS ON BEHALF OF AN EMPLOYER, OR OF TRANSFERRING QUOTAS ALLOCATED FROM ONE COMPANY TO ANOTHER," HE ADDED.

MR CHAN ALSO REMINDED EMPLOYERS INTENDING TO IMPORT WORKERS THAT WHEN REGISTERING JOB VACANCIES WITH THE LES, THE MONTHLY WAGES OFFERED MUST BE AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO THE MONTHLY WAGES PUBLISHED IN THE LIST OF PRINCIPAL JOB TITLES PLUS \$400.

JOB VACANCIES TO BE REGISTERED SHOULD KEEP TO THE LIST OF PRINCIPAL JOB TITLES AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ALTHOUGH IMPORTATION OF WORKERS IN JOB CATEGORIES NOT SPECIFICALLY SHOWN ON THE LIST MAY BE APPLIED.

MR CHAN ALSO ASKED EMPLOYERS NOT TO OVERSTATE THEIR REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED WORKERS WHEN MAKING APPLICATION.

"AN EMPLOYER WILL BE REQUIRED, WHEN APPLYING FOR AN EMPLOYMENT VISA UNDER THE SCHEME, TO PAY A LUMP-SUM IN RESPECT OF EACH IMPORTED WORKER ON THE BASIS OF \$400 PER MONTH MULTIPLIED BY THE NUMBER OF MONTHS COVERED IN THE CONTRACT," HE POINTED OUT.

"FOR INSTANCE, IF THE CONTRACT FOR AN IMPORTED WORKER IS FOR TWO YEARS, THE LUMP-SUM PAYABLE WILL BE \$9,600.

"THE LUMP-SUM PAYMENT, TO BE USED AS ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR ENHANCING RETRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR LOCAL WORKERS, WILL NOT BE REFUNDABLE," MR CHAN STRESSED.

ENQUIRIES ON THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTING FOREIGN LABOUR AND ON EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES MAY BE MADE TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 829 3220 OR 829 3225 AND TO THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES ADMINISTRATION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 852 3535 RESPECTIVELY.

PDB ENDORSES ADDITIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL FACILITIES

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THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY) ENDORSED THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL FACILITIES IN 1995.

SPEAKING AFTER THE BOARD MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING, ITS CHAIRMAN, MR JOHN GRAY, SAID WITH CONTAINER THROUGHPUT INCREASING RAPIDLY IN THE PORT, ADDITIONAL FACILITIES WERE URGENTLY REQUIRED.

HE CAUTIONED THAT SOME CONGESTION COULD BE EXPECTED IN THE PORT IN THE PEAK SUMMER MONTHS THIS YEAR BUT THAT NO RELIEF WOULD BE AVAILABLE UNTIL CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 8 BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE SUMMER OF 1993.

BEYOND THAT, THERE WAS A CLEAR NEED FOR THE NEXT TERMINAL, NO. 9, BY MID 1995 EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY AT THE TERMINALS.

WHILST HE AWAITED AN EARLY GOVERNMENT DECISION, HE COULD SEE NO PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE TO THAT TERMINAL BEING PUT ON SOUTHEAST TSING YI.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE GENUINE CONCERNS BY TSING YI RESIDENTS OVER THIS. THESE CONCERNS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

BOTH TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS COULD BE IMPROVED BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH THE CT9 DEVELOPMENT OFFERED TO RELOCATE EXISTING ROAD ACCESS FURTHER AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND CONSTRUCTING A NEW TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE.

NOT ONLY WOULD A BUFFER OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE TERMINAL AND THE NEAREST HOUSING BLOCKS, BUT ALSO CAREFUL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN SHOULD MINIMISE THE NOISE IMPACT.

"THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS THAT IF HONG KONG CANNOT HANDLE ITS TRADE AND THAT OF SOUTHERN CHINA, THE LIFE BLOOD OF OUR BUSINESS WILL GO ELSEWHERE AND OUR ECONOMY WILL BE PERMANENTLY DAMAGED. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THAT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

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MARINE DEPT READY TO MEET CHALLENGES OF RAPID CARGO GROWTH IN PORT  
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS READY TO MEET THE CONTINUING CHALLENGE OF A RAPID GROWTH OF CARGO THROUGH THE PORT.

SPEAKING AT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE LUNCHEON, MR MILLER SAID: "THE POTENTIAL FOR TRADE GROWTH IN THE REGION IS THERE. HONG KONG IS IDEALLY PLACED TO SERVICE IT. OUR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AIMS TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE CAPACITY OF THE PORT BY 2006.

"OUR PROBLEMS ARE THE HAPPY ONES OF EXPANSION AND MAKING SURE THAT NOTHING IS ALLOWED TO CONSTRAIN POTENTIAL GROWTH."

NOTING THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WAS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN REFINING THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR LONG-TERM PORT DEVELOPMENT, MR MILLER EMPHASISED THE NEED TO MAKE EFFICIENT AND RATIONALE USE OF WATER SPACE.

MR MILLER SAID: "WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACT THAT WATER SPACE IS A SCARCE RESOURCE. RECLAMATION HAS PROGRESSIVELY REDUCED THE SIZE OF THE ORIGINAL HARBOUR. OUR NEW PLANS MOVE IT WESTWARDS.

"WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT IN DOING SO WE MAXIMISE THE USE OF MOORINGS AND EXPAND THE ANCHORAGE EFFICIENTLY."

HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE CAREFUL LOGISTIC PLANNING NEEDED AS EACH SUCCESSIVE PHASE OF RECLAMATION AROUND THE HARBOUR AFFECTED EXISTING WATERFRONT USES AND THE CARE TAKEN TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONFLICTS WITHIN THE HARBOUR.

THE DIRECTOR SAID THE HARBOUR WAS ONE OF THE BUSIEST STRETCHES OF WATER IN THE WORLD. THE NEED FOR DREDGING AND OTHER MARINE DEVELOPMENT WORK INCREASED TRAFFIC PROBLEMS, AS DID THE GROWING VOLUMES OF RIVER TRADE TRAFFIC.

"WE WILL BE DEALING WITH THESE IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, WE WILL BE ENCOURAGING A MORE PRO-ACTIVE USE OF THE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES SYSTEM.

"SECONDLY, IN DEVELOPING FACILITIES FOR THE FUTURE WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR WAYS OF SEPARATING POTENTIAL TRAFFIC CONFLICTS BY BETTER SITING OF SHORE FACILITIES."

HE ALSO EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE GROWTH OF TRADE THROUGH HONG KONG.

CARGO THROUGHPUT LAST YEAR AT 104 MILLION TONS HAD BROKEN ALL RECORDS AND WAS WELL AHEAD OF THE TREND GROWTH RATE.

HE EMPHASISED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS DID NOT ALLOW ANYTHING TO CONSTRAIN HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO PROFIT FROM THIS GROWTH.

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THE PORT OF HONG KONG HANDLES ABOUT 90 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY'S TRADE.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. WE PLAN TO MAKE SURE THAT IT CONTINUES TO PLAY THIS VITAL ROLE," MR MILLER SAID.

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OVERSTAYERS ARREST

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON ARRESTED 12 TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS FOR OVERSTAYING AND TAKING UP UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT.

THIS FOLLOWED THE ARREST OF TWO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND 20 TWO-WAY PERMIT VISITORS FOR BREACH OF CONDITION OF STAY DURING A 24-HOUR OPERATION STARTING IN THE MORNING OF JANUARY 21.

DURING THE OPERATION YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, FIVE FACTORIES WERE VISITED. IMMIGRATION OFFICERS CONDUCTED IDENTITY CHECKS ON 284 PERSONS.

THE 12 VISITORS FROM CHINA, NINE FEMALES AND THREE MEN AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 40, ARE ALL NATIVES OF FUJIAN.

ELEVEN OF THEM WERE INTERCEPTED IN A GARMENT FACTORY IN TSUEN WAN. APART FROM A FEMALE WHO IS WITHIN HER LIMIT OF STAY IN HONG KONG, THE REST HAVE OVERSTAYED HERE. THEY ADMITTED TO HAVE TAKEN UP UNAPPROVED EMPLOYMENT AT THE FACTORY AT AN HOURLY WAGE OF \$10.

THE REMAINING TWO-WAY PERMIT VISITOR IS ALSO AN OVERSTAYER. SHE WAS CAUGHT WORKING IN A GARMENT FACTORY IN KWUN TONG.

FOUR HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE SUSPECTED TO BE THE EMPLOYERS OF THIS GROUP OF VISITORS ARE ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REMINDED VISITORS THAT THEY MUST LEAVE HONG KONG WITHIN THEIR LIMIT OF STAY IMPOSED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THAT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE UP ANY EMPLOYMENT, WHETHER PAID OR UNPAID, WITHOUT THE PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION.

THOSE WHO BREACH THEIR CONDITION OF STAY HERE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND UPON CONVICTION, TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

PEOPLE WHO AID AND ABET OTHERS TO COMMIT THESE OFFENCES ARE ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY.

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PUBLIC ADVISED AGAINST DUTY-NOT-PAID CIGARETTES

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLS ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC NOT TO RISK PROSECUTION BY BUYING DUTY-NOT-PAID CIGARETTES FROM STREET HAWKERS AT SPECIALLY LOW PRICES.

THE CALL CAME AFTER A 42-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS ARRESTED BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN SHEK KIP MEI EARLY TODAY FOR ALLEGEDLY BUYING DUTY-NOT-PAID CIGARETTES FROM A STREET HAWKER.

THE ARREST WAS MADE IN AN OPERATION CONDUCTED BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS THIS MORNING WHEN THEY VISITED RESTAURANTS AND HAWKER BAZAARS IN NINE AREAS.

IN THE FOUR-HOUR OPERATION CARRIED OUT BETWEEN 5 AM AND 9 AM, CUSTOMS OFFICERS ARRESTED FOUR MEN AND THREE WOMEN AND SEIZED ABOUT 50,000 PIECES OF SUSPECTED DUTY-NOT-PAID CIGARETTES WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$45,000.

THE DUTY POTENTIAL OF THE CIGARETTES WAS \$24,000.

THE SEVEN PEOPLE ARRESTED, AGED FROM 35 TO 68, WILL BE CHARGED WITH SELLING AND POSSESSING DUTIABLE CIGARETTES LATER TODAY.

THEY WILL BE ALLOWED BAIL RANGING FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000 PENDING APPEARANCE IN COURT.

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SOUTHERN DB TO HOLD SEMINAR ON DISTRICT AFFAIRS

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SEMINAR TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO FACILITATE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DISTRICT'S SEVEN AREA COMMITTEES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON VARIOUS DISTRICT ISSUES.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HUI YUNG-CHUNG, SAID THE ANNUAL FORUM HAD PROVEN TO BE AN ASSET IN THE EVALUATION OF THE BOARD'S WORK AND IN FORMULATING ITS FUTURE WORK PLAN.

HE SAID THE AREA COMMITTEES HAD EARLIER ORGANISED DIFFERENT SEMINAR WITH LOCAL RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS CORPORATIONS TO DISCUSS LOCAL MATTERS.

"TOMORROW'S SEMINAR WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNE VENUE TO CONSOLIDATE THE AREA COMMITTEES' AND LOCAL RESIDENTS' VIEWS," MR HUI SAID.

/THE SOUTHERN .....

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1992

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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE, WOULD OPEN THE SEMINAR WITH A SPEECH FOCUSING ON THE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND AREA COMMITTEES AS ADVISORY BODIES IN THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME.

AFTER THAT WOULD BE THE PRESENTATION OF REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS FOUR COMMITTEES, AND A 10-MINUTE SLIDE SHOW RELATING TO THE DISTRICT'S LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

MORE THAN 100 DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS, AREA COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD ALSO HOLD GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS THAT FALL WITHIN THE BOARD'S PURVIEW.

"ALL THE SUBJECTS RAISED IN THE SEMINAR WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OR ITS COMMITTEES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS," MR HUI ADDED.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD MEETS AREA COMMITTEES" SEMINAR TO BE HELD FROM 7.30 PM TO 10.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE AP LEI CHAU COMMUNITY HALL, AP LEI CHAU ESTATE.

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#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME EXHIBITION STARTS

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AN EXHIBITION OF 19 PROJECTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME (OYS) WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (JANUARY 25 AND 26).

THE EXHIBITION WILL OPEN AT 10.30 AM AND CLOSE AT 5 PM ON BOTH DAYS.

A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE PROJECTS WERE SELECTED FROM EACH OF THE 19 ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS IN HONG KONG.

IT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF A SERIES OF PROGRAMMES ORGANISED UNDER THE SCHEME WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1974.

THE SCHEME ENCOURAGES YOUNG PEOPLE FROM GROUP WORK UNITS, YOUTH VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND UNIFORM GROUPS TO DESIGN PROJECTS THAT CAN HELP DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS AND BENEFIT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY. GRANTS ARE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHEME TO ASSIST THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR PROJECTS.

/AT 10.30 .....

AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY WHEN THE EXHIBITION STARTS, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE SCHEME WILL SELECT AMONG THE 19 PROJECTS A WINNER FOR THE HONG KONG BEST OYS AWARD.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SELECTION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, MR ERIC LI, AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHEME EXHIBITION AND AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE NEW WORLD PLAZA IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 25) STARTING FROM 10.30 AM.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FUNCTION. SWD INFORMATION OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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CHEQUE TO FIRE SERVICES FUND RECEIVED

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THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (NEW TERRITORIES), MR JAMES HO KWOK-CHUEN, ON BEHALF OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$380,000 TO THE FIRE SERVICES WELFARE FUND AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE LEI MUK SHUE FIRE STATION TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CHEQUE WAS PRESENTED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF WINSOR INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION LTD., MR CHOI HING-SHUN, TO THANK FIREMEN FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN PUTTING OUT A FOURTH ALARM FIRE IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

IN ADDITION, MR CHOI ALSO PRESENTED A SOUVENIR TO EACH OF THE FOUR FIREMEN WHO WERE INJURED DURING THE FIRE.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF A NINE-STORY FACTORY BUILDING AT 63-73 WO YI HOP ROAD, KWAI CHUNG, AT 12.26 AM ON DECEMBER 29.

IT WAS UPGRADED TO THIRD ALARM AT 12.47 AM AND FOURTH ALARM AT 6.39 AM. THE FIRE WAS PUT OUT AT 5.45 PM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

TWO FLOORS USED AS GODOWN TO STORE ACRYLIC AND COTTON YARNS WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1992

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A WAN CHAI BUILDING SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED AT THE REAR STAIRCASE, FROM THE FIRST FLOOR TO THE FOURTH FLOOR OF YAU KWONG BUILDING AT 418-430 HENNESSY ROAD.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 19 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE BUILDING AUTHORITY ALSO SEEKS TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS LOCATED AT FLAT 2 ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF TAI YUE MANSION AT 129-135 SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK.

THE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 27 HAS ALSO BEEN POSTED.

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	22.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	23.1.92	+934
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-934
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+400*

\* LATE O/N ASSISTANCE,  
TO BE REVERSED ON 24 JANUARY 1992

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.0 \*-0.1\* 23.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.82 PCT	23 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.45	5.47
1 MONTH	4.27 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.18 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.18 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.53 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,392 MN

CLOSED 23 JANUARY 1992

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