



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992

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GOVT FULLY BACKS POLICE IN COMBATTING ROBBERIES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO THE POLICE TO COMBAT ARMED ROBBERIES, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF ROBBERY CASES.

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE POLICE FORCE IN TERMS OF THE RESOURCES THEY NEED, IN TERMS OF THE WEAPON AND THE MEN THAT THEY NEED," HE SAID.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS THAT WE TALK TO THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ACROSS THE BORDER TO TRY TO PUT AN END TO THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPON WHICH IS GOING ON AND WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF MANY OF THESE ROBBERIES AND PEOPLE TOO.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO LIAISE CLOSELY TO TRY TO PUT A STOP TO THE MOVEMENT OF CRIMINALS AND WEAPONS ACROSS THE BORDER."

ASKED IF THE REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS CONTRADICTED WHAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT DID AT ALL.

"THE BALANCE OF THE REPORT SAID THAT THE OFFICERS CONCERNED ACTED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, THAT THEY HAD THE INTEREST OF THE DEPOSITORS AT HEART, AND THEY ACTED WITHIN THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT. WE HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE OFFICERS CONCERNED," HE ADDED.

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TRADE DEPARTMENT PRESS STATEMENT ON MFN

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED BY A MARGIN OF 357 TO 61 TO OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENTIAL VETO ON THE CHINA MFN CONDITIONALITY BILL LAST NIGHT.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE OUTCOME AS "WIDELY EXPECTED".

"THE RESULT CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO US AS PREVIOUS VOTING PATTERNS SHOWED THAT A VETO OVERRIDE WOULD BE CARRIED BY A LARGE MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE.

"THE REAL BATTLE IN THE SENATE MIGHT TAKE PLACE LATER THIS MONTH AND WE ARE CLOSELY MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS," HE SAID.

/THE BILL .....

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THE BILL WHICH SEEKS TO PLACE CONDITIONS ON GRANTING MFN TRADING STATUS TO CHINA WAS PASSED IN THE SENATE TWO WEEKS AGO BY A 59 TO 39 MARGIN AND WAS VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 2.

IN HIS VETO MESSAGE, THE PRESIDENT INDICATED AGAIN HIS READINESS TO VETO ANY BILL ATTACHING CONDITIONS TO RENEWING MFN TRADING STATUS FOR CHINA.

A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS IS REQUIRED TO OVERRIDE A PRESIDENTIAL VETO.

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TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT PLEDGES FULL ASSISTANCE TO TUNNEL STAFF

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN A SERIES OF ACTIONS TO SECURE JOB TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE FOR STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE CONTRACTING OUT OF THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT TUNNELS.

THROUGH THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH, THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO NEGOTIATING WITH ITS BEST EFFORTS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR STAFF CONCERNED IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR POSTS IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR ERNEST LEE SHU-WING, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) AFTER MEETING THE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES.

"SINCE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR TO CONTRACT OUT THE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT TUNNELS, INDIVIDUAL LETTERS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO ALL CONCERNED INCLUDING TRANSPORT CONTROLLERS, TRANSPORT ASSISTANTS, WORKMEN II AND COOKS, EXPLAINING HOW THE EXERCISE WOULD AFFECT THEM.

"ALL OFFICERS WERE PROVIDED WITH A PRELIMINARY CALCULATION OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS THAT WOULD BE PAYABLE TO THEM UNDER THE ABOLITION OF OFFICE TERMS," MR LEE SAID.

THIS WOULD HELP INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS CONCERNED TO DECIDE IF THEY WOULD PREFER TO STAY WITHIN THE CIVIL SERVICE OR OTHERWISE.

AT THE SAME TIME, PREFERENCE FORMS WERE ISSUED SO THAT THEY COULD INDICATE CLEARLY WHETHER THEY WOULD WANT THE DEPARTMENT TO HELP IN THEIR JOB TRANSFER.

"FOR THOSE WHO PREFER A CIVIL SERVICE JOB TRANSFER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS CIRCULATED AND WILL CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE TO THEM CIVIL SERVICE VACANCIES PERTINENT TO THEIR QUALIFICATIONS.

"AS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD WANT TO APPLY FOR NEW VACANCIES TO BE ADVERTISED BY CONTRACTORS TENDERING TO MANAGE AND OPERATE GOVERNMENT TUNNELS BY EARLY 1993, THE DEPARTMENT HAS PLEDGED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONTRACTORS TO HIRE THEM WHERE APPROPRIATE," MR LEE ADDED.

/MR LEE .....

MR LEE HAS EARLIER MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT ASSISTANTS UNION AND THE TRANSPORT CONTROLLER/TRANSPORT ASSISTANT BRANCH OF THE CHINESE CIVIL SERVANTS' ASSOCIATION.

"BOTH SIDES EXCHANGED VIEWS FRANKLY AND FURTHER MEETINGS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE UNIONS WILL CONTINUE," MR LEE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THROUGH VARIOUS STAFF CHANNELS INCLUDING DEPARTMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND TRANSPORT CONTROLLER/TRANSPORT ASSISTANT GRADE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GRADE TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS AND CONCERNS, AND TO INFORM THEM OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, APART FROM PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND ANNOUNCING NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES BEING FELT BY MEMBERS OF THE GRADE AND WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS IN ARRANGING APPROPRIATE REDEPLOYMENT FOR THE AFFECTED STAFF," HE SAID.

HOWEVER, MR LEE URGED THE STAFF TO TAKE PUBLIC INTEREST INTO CONSIDERATION.

HE SAID THE SPECIAL TEAM HEADED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT IS THERE FULL-TIME TO PROVIDE HELP TO TUNNEL STAFF ON ALL MATTERS CONCERNING THE REDUNDANCY ARRANGEMENTS.

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1992 RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY THIS YEAR, AT \$109,082 MILLION, DECREASED BY 8% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 26% TO \$14,165 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS, AT \$39,008 MILLION, RECORDED VIRTUALLY NO GROWTH.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS DECREASED BY 9% TO \$53,174 MILLION IN JANUARY 1992. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS DECREASED BY 8% TO \$55,909 MILLION.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH. IN PARTICULAR, TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR ARE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1991, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1% TO \$226,034 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS WAS UP BY 26% TO \$534,829 MILLION.

/TAKING DOMESTIC .....

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 16%. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 17% TO \$774,230 MILLION. THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, AS A WHOLE, INCREASED BY 17%.

CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS DECREASED. SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TAIWAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SINGAPORE, BY 40%, 34%, 31% AND 28% RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE U.S., CHINA, FRANCE, JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS AND CANADA ALSO DECREASED, BY 24%, 23%, 21%, 21%, 19% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITIES, INCLUDING CLOTHING (BY \$1,167 MILLION OR 19%), TEXTILES (BY \$710 MILLION OR 52%), AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$659 MILLIONS OR 37%).

ALSO INCLUDED WERE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$527 MILLION OR 40%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$507 MILLION OR 31%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$507 MILLION OR 30%), AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$329 MILLION OR 18%).

CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE U.S., SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 25%, 24%, 21% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THAILAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY AND CHINA DECREASED BY 7%, 6%, 5%, 3% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN INCREASED BY 5%.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF TEXTILES (BY \$2,956 MILLION OR 45%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,340 MILLION OR 22%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$66 MILLION OR 1%).

NEVERTHELESS, THE IMPORT VALUE OF SOME MAJOR COMMODITIES RECORDED MODERATE INCREASES, INCLUDING MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$373 MILLION OR 9%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$323 MILLION OR 7%), AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$30 MILLION OR 1%).

CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 34%, 16% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 3% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CANADA, FRANCE, ITALY, THE U.S. AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED BY 22%, 16%, 15%, 9% AND 7% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1992 WITH JANUARY 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$609 MILLION OR 13%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$499 MILLION OR 33%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$386 MILLION OR 12%), AND CLOTHING (BY \$8 MILLION OR LESS THAN 0.5%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILES (BY \$1,887 MILLION OR 46%), AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$511 MILLION OR 16%).

STARTING FROM JANUARY THIS YEAR, THE THIRD REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC REV. 3) HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN HONG KONG IN PLACE OF THE SECOND REVISION FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF TRADE STATISTICS BY COMMODITY.

TO ACHIEVE COMPARABILITY, THE COMMODITY TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1991 PRESENTED HERE HAVE BEEN RE-CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1992 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS. THE JANUARY 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND MARCH 18, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT \$52.00 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 582 4915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
U.S.A.	3,571	4,712	- 1,140	- 24
CHINA	3,296	4,263	- 968	- 23
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,156	1,930	- 774	- 40
U.K.	831	1,201	- 371	- 31
JAPAN	744	938	- 194	- 21
SINGAPORE	621	861	- 240	- 28
NETHERLANDS	406	502	- 96	- 19
CANADA	387	440	- 53	- 12
TAIWAN	368	559	- 191	- 34
FRANCE	264	334	- 70	- 21

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,944	6,111	- 1,167	- 19
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,497	1,826	- 329	- 18
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,185	1,692	- 507	- 30
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,117	1,625	- 507	- 31

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,101	1,760	- 659	- 37
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	800	1,327	- 527	- 40
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	663	1,374	- 710	- 52

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
CHINA	22,653	22,881	- 228	- 1
JAPAN	9,228	8,816	+ 412	+ 5
TAIWAN	4,458	5,635	- 1,177	- 21
U.S.A.	3,937	5,280	- 1,344	- 25
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,375	2,815	- 440	- 16
SINGAPORE	2,369	3,099	- 731	- 24
U.K.	1,251	1,310	- 60	- 5
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,191	1,276	- 85	- 7
ITALY	738	763	- 25	- 3
THAILAND	704	746	- 42	- 6

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,279	5,345	- 66	- 1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,859	4,536	+ 323	+ 7

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,823	6,162	- 1,340	- 22
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,347	3,973	+ 373	+ 9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,608	6,564	- 2,956	- 45
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,960	2,931	+ 30	+ 1

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
CHINA	10,755	11,090	- 336	- 3
U.S.A.	8,345	7,625	+ 720	+ 9
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,466	2,948	- 481	- 16
JAPAN	2,223	2,261	- 38	- 2
TAIWAN	1,322	2,016	- 694	- 34
U.K.	1,136	1,061	+ 76	+ 7
SINGAPORE	839	955	- 115	- 12
ITALY	745	647	+ 98	+ 15
CANADA	744	612	+ 132	+ 22
FRANCE	740	641	+ 100	+ 16

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1992 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,216	5,208	+ 8	*

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MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	5,208	4,600	+ 609	+ 13
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,571	3,185	+ 386	+ 12
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,732	3,244	- 511	- 16
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,194	4,082	- 1,887	- 46
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,030	1,531	+ 499	+ 33

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

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## BARMA OPENS POLYESTER DYEING PLANT

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRAISED A JAPANESE JOINT VENTURE COMPANY FOR ITS ABILITY TO CAPITALISE ON THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES OF HONG KONG IN EXPANDING ITS OPERATION HERE.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE POLYESTER DYEING PLANT OF YUEN LONG TEXTILE COMPANY LTD. AT YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR BARMA SAID THE COMPANY WAS ABLE TO COMBINE ITS MANUFACTURING AND MARKETING ABILITY WITH THE RESULTS THAT ITS FORESIGHT AND PLANS WERE BEING TRANSLATED INTO A VALUABLE OPERATION.

THE YUEN LONG TEXTILE COMPANY LTD. IS THE FIRST JAPANESE DYEING AND FINISHING OPERATION ADMITTED INTO YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

IT HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS A MAJOR LOCAL SUPPLIER OF ACETATE TAFFETA AND SATIN, FABRICS WHICH ARE WIDELY USED AS LINING FOR QUALITY SUITS, BLOUSES, SKIRTS AND TROUSERS.

MR BARMA SAID THE COMPANY WAS CERTAINLY A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE MANY SUCCESSFUL JAPANESE INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG.

/"IT IS .....

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD SINCE IT WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN HONG KONG, THE COMPANY IS ABLE TO MOVE INTO A NEW AREA OF PRODUCTION.

"THE POLYESTER DYEING PLANT WHERE WE ARE TODAY IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, AND IT IS A FURTHER CHAPTER OF THE COMPANY'S LONG LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID JAPAN WAS NOW THE LEADING OVERSEAS INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"THERE WERE 173 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS WITH JAPANESE INVESTMENT BY THE END OF 1990 AND THEY ACCOUNTED FOR A CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT OF HK\$9.5 BILLION, OR 32 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"THESE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS INITIATIVES ALSO UNDERPIN THE CAPABILITY OF HONG KONG TO MOVE TOWARDS MORE SOPHISTICATED MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

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FEBRUARY AIR QUALITY REPORT RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY THIS YEAR AS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THIS IS THE EIGHTH MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT. SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE REGULARLY.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO<sub>2</sub>) AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO<sub>2</sub>) WHICH ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY ROUND THE CLOCK, AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE SAMPLED FOR 24 HOURS EVERY SIX DAYS.

THE GENERAL NITROGEN DIOXIDE AND SULPHUR DIOXIDE LEVELS IN FEBRUARY WERE BETTER THAN IN JANUARY. NO MEASUREMENT EXCEEDED THE HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES.

THE HIGHER LEVELS MEASURED IN THE BEGINNING AND NEAR THE END OF THE MONTH WERE DUE TO LOWER WIND SPEED AND HENCE POORER DISPERSION OF AIR POLLUTANTS DURING THESE PERIODS.

DUST LEVELS WERE LOWER AS AVERAGE HUMIDITY WAS HIGHER IN FEBRUARY THAN IN JANUARY.

AT THE CENTRAL/WESTERN STATION ALL MONITORING ACTIVITIES WERE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED ON FEBRUARY 13 DUE TO CONSTRUCTION WORK TAKING PLACE AT THE STATION. OPERATION IS EXPECTED TO RESUME IN LATE APRIL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE GENERAL AIR QUALITY LEVELS TO WHICH THEY MIGHT BE EXPOSED, AND THE ATMOSPHERIC AND OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECTED AIR QUALITY.

THESE AIR POLLUTANTS MAINLY COME FROM COMBUSTION OF FUEL IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND MOTOR VEHICLES ENGINES. TSP AND RSP ARE ALSO GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND SOME MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

THE DAILY HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES OF SO<sub>2</sub> AND NO<sub>2</sub>, TSP AND RSP ARE 350, 150, 260 AND 180 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRES RESPECTIVELY.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE COMPARABLE TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED AIR QUALITY STANDARDS RECOMMENDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC.

HIGH LEVELS OF SO<sub>2</sub> CAUSE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS, REDUCES LUNG FUNCTION AND INCREASE MORTALITY RATE.

NO<sub>2</sub> CAUSES RESPIRATORY IRRITATION, INCREASES SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RESPIRATORY INFECTION AND IMPAIRS LUNG DEVELOPMENT.

TSP ACTS SYNERGISTICALLY WITH OTHER GASEOUS POLLUTANTS AND RSP CAUSES RESPIRATORY ILLNESS, REDUCES LUNG FUNCTION AND SOME FORMS OF RSP MAY CAUSE CANCER.

THE MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG STATIONS BROADLY REPRESENT AIR QUALITY RESPECTIVELY AT : LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILD-UP URBAN DISTRICT; COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS; AND DISTRICT CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

CURRENTLY THE DEPARTMENT OPERATES A TOTAL OF 11 FIXED AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE.

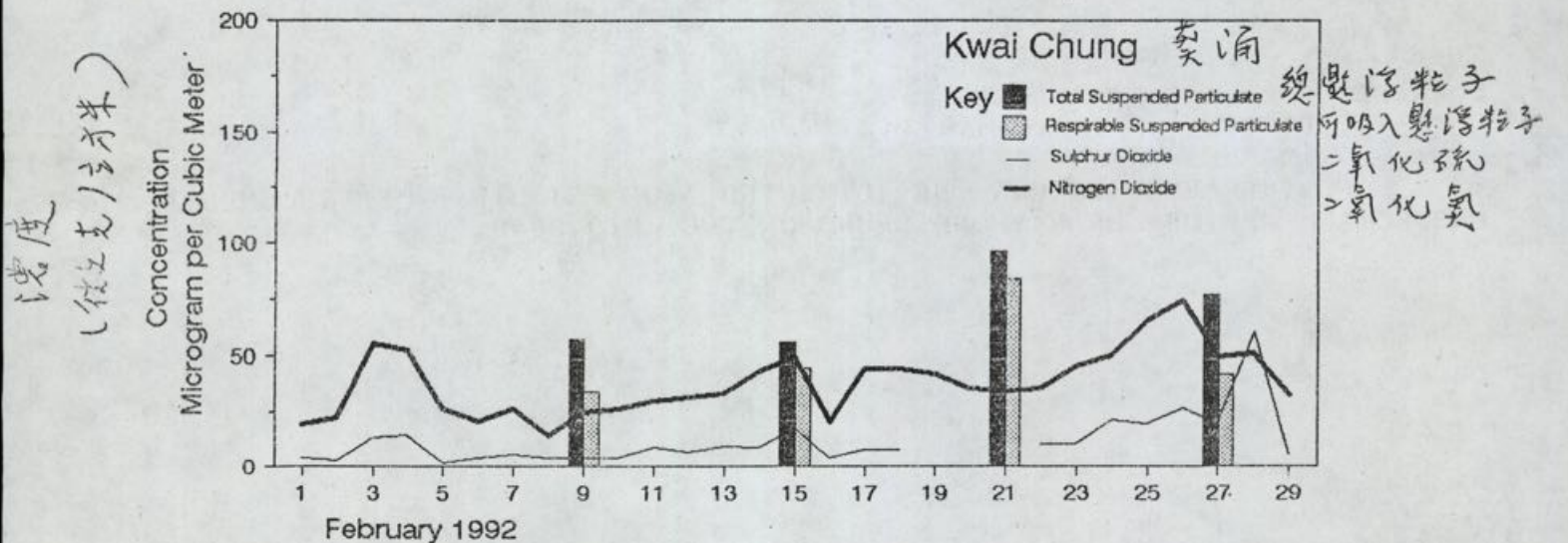
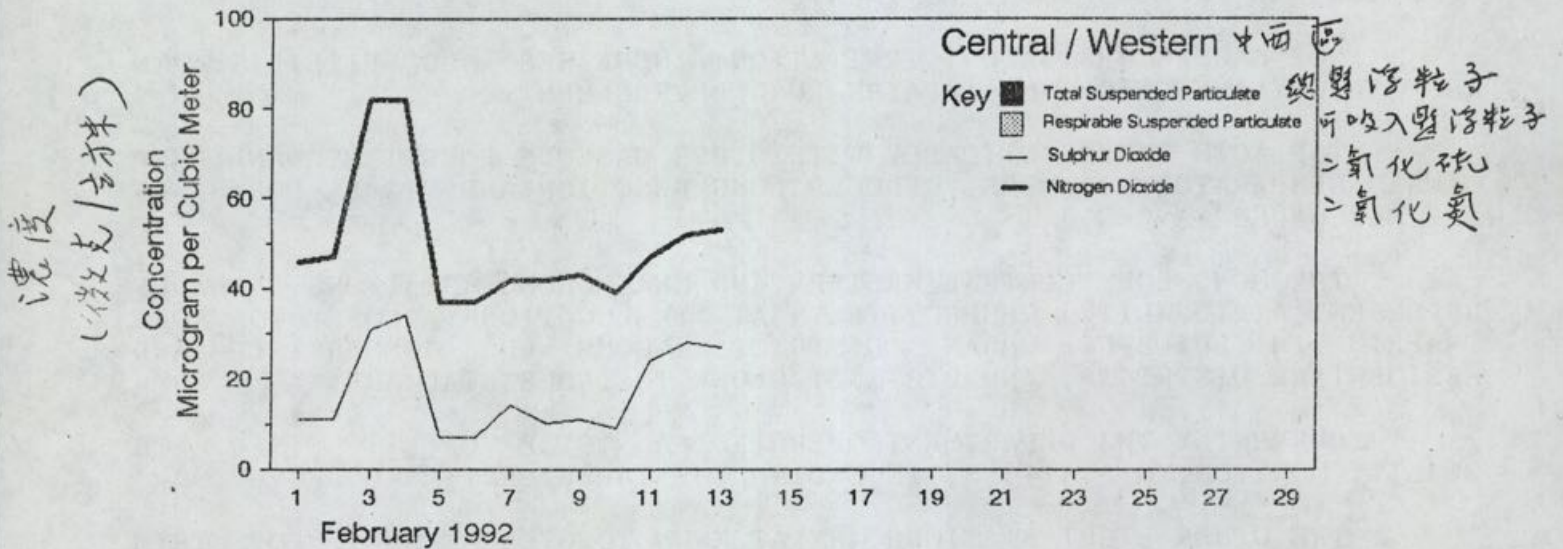
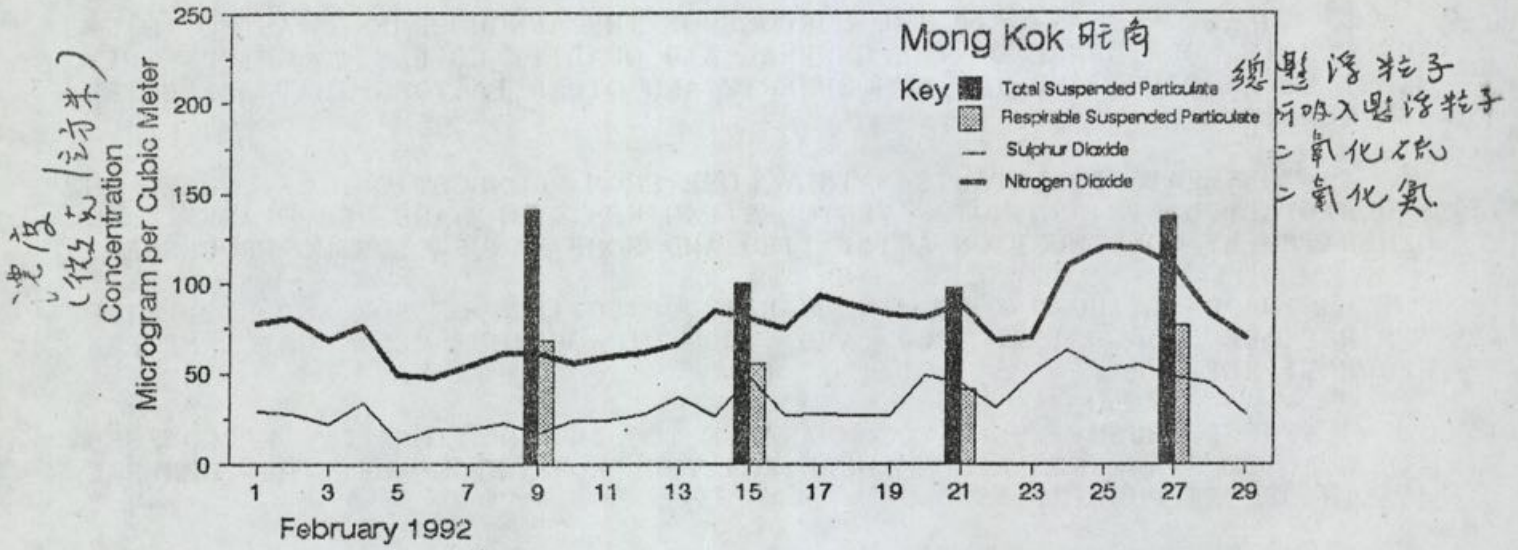
THE OTHER EIGHT STATIONS ARE AT KWUN TONG, SHAM SHUI PO, TSIM SHA TSUI, TSEUNG KWAN O, TSUEN WAN, HONG KONG SOUTH, TAI PO AND SHA TIN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRY CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR RAYMOND LEUNG ON TEL. 810 3049.

# 一九九二年二月空氣質素報告 Hong Kong Air Quality Report for February 1992



THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992

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TWO MERCHANT SHIPPING REGULATIONS TAKE EFFECT

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TWO SETS OF REGULATIONS INCORPORATING RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA 1974 (SOLAS) HAVE COME INTO EFFECT.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992 AND THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (USE OF SIGNALS OF DISTRESS) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1992 WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY (MARCH 6).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE FIRST SET OF REGULATIONS REQUIRES SHIPS OF 150 GROSS TONS AND OVER TO BE PROVIDED WITH A TELEPHONE OR OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION FOR RELAYING HEADING INFORMATION TO THE EMERGENCY STEERING POSITIONS.

"SHIPS OF 500 GROSS TONS OR OVER CONSTRUCTED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1 THIS YEAR ARE, IN ADDITION, TO BE PROVIDED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLYING VISUAL COMPASS READINGS AT THE EMERGENCY STEERING POSITIONS.

"THE SECOND SET OF REGULATIONS PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF DISTRESS SIGNALS ON A SHIP WHEN A PERSON IS IN SERIOUS OR IMMINENT DANGER," HE SAID.

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EXPERT TALKS ON CHILD CARE CENTRES

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AN OVERSEAS EXPERT ON CHILD CARE SERVICES IS NOW BACK AGAIN IN TOWN, AT THE INVITATION OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, TO GIVE TALKS ON EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF CHILD CARE CENTRES.

ATTENDING THE TWO-DAY WORKSHOP, WHICH STARTED TODAY (THURSDAY), WERE MORE THAN 40 CHILD CARE CENTRE SUPERVISORS AND CO-ORDINATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF AGENCIES OPERATING CHILD CARE CENTRES, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE EXPERT, MR KENNETH JAFFE, WHO CAME TO HONG KONG LAST OCTOBER AND ENLIGHTENED US ON THE CONCEPT OF WORKBASED CHILD CARE CENTRES, WILL THIS TIME FOCUS ON THE PROVISION OF QUALITY CHILD CARE CENTRES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MR JAFFE, AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD RESOURCE INSTITUTE IN THE UNITED STATES, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF 82 COUNTRY-INFORMATION-SYSTEM, INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S POLICY ISSUES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS ON A WORLDWIDE LEVEL.

/AT TODAY'S .....

AT TODAY'S WORKSHOP HELD AT THE LADY TRENCH CENTRE, HE GAVE TALKS ON THE MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVE APPROACH, THE DESIGN OF A PLANNING BLUEPRINT, STAFF SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT, AND MOTIVATION FOR STAFF.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO UPDATE THEMSELVES ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PROGRAMME PHILOSOPHY AND CURRICULUM IN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, ITS APPLICABILITY TO HONG KONG AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CENTRE PROGRAMME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE WORKSHOP, MR KENNETH JAFFE WILL ALSO HOLD A SERIES OF TRAINING AND CONSULTATION PROGRAMME ON CHILD CARE CENTRES, INCLUDING A SEMINAR ON FACILITY DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT IN CHILD CARE CENTRES NEXT THURSDAY (MARCH 19).

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE TWO WORKSHOPS ON PLANNING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES IN CHILD CARE CENTRES TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK FOR CHILD CARE WORKERS.

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TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD TO REPORT ON WORK

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD WILL BRIEF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD'S WORK IN THE PAST YEAR AT A CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14).

MEMBERS OF RURAL COMMITTEES, AREA COMMITTEES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL AT 2.30 PM.

THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, WILL PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS TO RESIDENTS WHO HAVE HELPED ORGANISE ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, AND DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, WILL ALSO PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE DISTRICT BOARD HAS ALSO INVITED THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITY RELATIONS) OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR PAUL TANG, TO GIVE A TALK ON THE NEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SATURDAY (MARCH 14) IN THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992

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FOUR OFFICERS TO STUDY UK IMMIGRATION SERVICE

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FOUR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM LATER THIS MONTH FOR A SIX-WEEK ATTACHMENT PROGRAMME WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION SERVICE.

THEY WILL VISIT BRANCHES OF THE HOME OFFICE HANDLING IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY MATTERS AS WELL AS IMMIGRATION OFFICES AND PORTS.

AT A BRIEFING BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURE, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR LAURENCE LEUNG, POINTED OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GIVING ITS STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.

HE SAID BECAUSE OF THE GROWING COMPLEXITY OF IMMIGRATION WORK, MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE WERE REQUIRED TO BE VIGILANT AND ALERT TOWARDS CHANGES THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

HE HOPED THE ATTACHMENT WOULD PROVIDE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR THE OFFICERS TO WIDEN THEIR HORIZON AND TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE FOUR OFFICERS ARE ACTING SENIOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS MR TSANG MON-WAH AND MS YEUNG NGAN-KUEN, IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR WONG YIN-SANG AND ACTING IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR AU-YEUNG CHEUNG.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	11.3.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	12.3.92	+22
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-22
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.7 \*+0.0\* 12.3.92

/HONG KONG .....

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.24 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.48	6.03
1 MONTH	4.03 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.88	6.21
3 MONTHS	4.01 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.24 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.70 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 2,170 MN

CLOSED 12 MARCH 1992

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