



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

Friday, March 31, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of Governor's media session	1
Transcript of Financial Secretary's media session	4
Compassionate rehousing for 24 fire victims	6
Proposed LegCo election guidelines published	8
Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index 1994	10
Census continues to conduct General Household Survey	11
Money Statistics for February 1995	12
Period lodging Proposal for Alteration of Valuation List in April and May 1995	15
Hong Kong's throughput grows and grows	16
Lawyers invite to join Legal Department	17
Special campaign against problem factories	19
Hong Kong Shipping Register ranks 15th in the world	20

/Elderly home

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Elderly home operators urged to apply a licence	21
Deputy Chairman of SFC appointed	22
Fee for enquiries on outstanding property tax revised	23
Fight Crime Committee member appointed	23
Members appointed to the Board, Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust ...	24
Fresh water service reservoirs for Ho Man Tin and Tai Po	26
Roadworks in Tai Po proposed	26
Tenders invite for Lo Wai roadworks	27
Former Gate Lodge on Peak declared as historical building	28
Removal of Family Court to Supreme Court Building	28
All-day hotline on building matters	29
"Dual access" period for the numbering change to end soon	30
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	31

Transcript of Governor's media session

* * * * *

The following is a transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Friday) after opening the exhibition "Focus at the Frontline" presented by the Hong Kong Press Photographers' Association:

Question: The Chinese side insisted that the 1996-97 Budget, the British side should fully consult the Chinese side's opinion and then the next Budget the Chinese side should play the leading role. What is your position on that?

Governor: I think the Financial Secretary is making a statement about that. Indeed, I think he has already done so, so I'll leave it to him.

Question: Mr Patten, what are your greatest concerns now about the seizure of the two vessels by the Chinese?

Governor: All of us want, I think, to avoid if at all possible, an incident like the one that most unfortunately occurred the other day becoming the focus for mounting concern. So I think we want, first of all, to keep that incident in perspective. We used to count the number of incursions into our waters each year in the 30s, 40s, even 50s. In 1993 we brought the number of incidents down and there were about 15 incidents; last year there were seven incidents; and this most unfortunate incident the other day was the first this year and indeed, the first since last October. So the first point I want to make is that clearly, the Chinese side and the Chinese officials have been trying very hard to reduce the number of incidents that occur like this one. But any incident is one too many.

We are obviously seeing what lessons we need to learn from what has happened. So far as the Chinese side are concerned, we obviously view what has happened with considerable anxiety, considerable concern. We have protested both here in Hong Kong and in London and in Peking. We want to see the incident resolved as rapidly as possible and to be able to go on attempting to eliminate any incidents like this and that has been our purpose throughout.

But clearly, there has been a change in the Chinese explanation of what's happened. The first description of what happened has now been adjusted and we are told that the Hong Kong vessels with Hong Kong crewmen on board were first of all arrested in Chinese waters, and now we are told they were forcibly being escorted through Hong Kong waters when the incident occurred. Well, if they were being forcibly escorted through Hong Kong waters, I don't think there is any real doubt that the jurisdiction is a matter for Hong Kong, so I very much hope that the vessels and the men on board will be returned to Hong Kong as soon as possible and that will enable us to close the book on this particular incident and get on with what we all want to do which is to see these sort of matters eliminated completely.

Question: Are you confident that taking the issue into the diplomatic level is the most effective way to bring the two people released?

Governor: I very much hope so. Judging by what Chinese officials have said, there may be some problems of communication between the centre and Zhuhai; and there were obviously, on the day - which I think is conceded - problems of communication between Zhuhai and the vessel in question. I repeat that the easiest and quickest way of resolving all this is to have the boats and the men returned.

Question: Governor, the Security Branch officials said that on this incident the Government don't want to demonstrate it is a weak government and it has been reported that you ordered to use military vessels if there is going to be further incursions in HK waters.

Governor: All that we are keen to ensure is that if something like this happens there is proper co-ordination between the Marine Police and the Royal Navy and I think that is a view which is shared by the Police who have a very difficult job to do, and by the Navy as well. And it is primarily a matter which is the responsibility of the Police with the Navy, the Garrison in general there, to support our Police, should that ever be necessary. But we all want to draw what lessons we can.

I just want to repeat one other thing. Of course we want to protect our own waters. We want to ensure that others recognise our own waters and we want to protect our own residents and our own craft. We also want to co-operate in a proper way with the Chinese authorities in preventing smuggling and other illegal activities in and around our coasts and there is no argument between us and the Chinese authorities on that matter at all.

Now in trying to secure their objectives, we don't want to put the lives and the welfare of our own Forces unnecessarily at risk and that is a consideration which you have to take account of whenever an incident like this occurs. At the end of the day, we have to remember that we have one of the best Police Forces anywhere in the world. The morale and the competence of that Police Force are matters which are always - always - at the top of my personal agenda. When people talk about the stability of Hong Kong, when they talk about the rule of law in Hong Kong, those are matters which are, above all, the concern of our Police. So it will always be my number one priority to give their morale and their ability to do their job competently my top priority.

Question: Do you think this incident that has just happened, and other incidents, are undermining seriously the morale of the Police Force? Are their hands tied behind their backs?

Governor: No, I don't believe that is happening but obviously, whenever there is any question of morale it is a matter that I want to address very rapidly. And I would have thought, to be frank, that Chinese officials would recognise that too.

Question: Mr Patten, how far is Britain prepared to go to get these Hong Kong people back and these ships back?

Governor: Well, we addressed our concerns in both Peking and in London yesterday and I am sure that the Chinese authorities will have taken note of the extreme concern which we have about this matter.

Question: What is the correlation between weak or strong government on this issue?

Governor: I think that the remark that you are referring to is one that an official made in response to questions. I don't think he raised the issue himself. Okay?

Question: How can the rules of engagement on border protection be seen as adequate with Hong Kong people being abducted by Chinese gunmen in daylight?

Governor: The rules of engagement, both for the Police and for the Royal Navy, are in our judgment wholly adequate. In every circumstance what those on the spot and those who are able to consult have to weigh in the balance, is the security of our Police and the objective on the other hand which they want to achieve. And that is a difficult balance to strike and I don't want to second guess those who are in operational command.

Question: Taking this incident and other issues in the headlines these days, such as the Budget, such as the Civil Service late last year, are you not concerned that these incidents create a cumulative impression in the minds of the Hong Kong public that China is behaving as though 1997 is already here and that your authority is being undermined?

Governor: Well, what they do, if there are too many incidents like this, is obviously to create anxieties about 1997 and beyond and those are anxieties which none of us want to see, and those are anxieties which it is in everybody's interest to try to dispel. It's partly because we have to work together and co-operate together that I have been, remain and will always be very keen to talk to Director Lu Ping about these matters. There's been more controversy about that in the papers today, not because of anything I've said but because of things that Director Lu Ping has said. Let me make it absolutely plain: long before Director Lu Ping went to the United States, I invited him, once again - to be precise I invited him in February - to come and see me in Hong Kong next time he was able to be here. We recognise that his diary, perhaps, gets full up when he is coming to Hong Kong, so we gave plenty of notice which would enable him to find time in his, as they say, busy schedule next time he was in Hong Kong. There is an obligation on us to meet - it is in the Memorandum of Understanding.

The fact that our Commissioner in Washington wasn't able to respond to a dinner engagement by a foundation when Director Lu was speaking to it, is frankly, I think everybody recognises, neither here nor there.

We look around the world, we see people talking in every country, in every continent, about matters which are far more difficult, far more vexatious than the ones which affect us in Hong Kong. So people do argue, I think, people do wonder why one or two Chinese officials are the odd men out when all over the world we're trying to resolve these matters through discussion and through co-operation.

It will remain my position until June 30, 1997 that my door, the Chief Secretary's door, everybody's door is open for discussion. And when a matter has happened, like the one the other day, which we are trying to resolve in a firm but low-key manner, when matters like that happen it underlines the importance of consultation and co-operation. We have shared interests in Hong Kong and I hope, frankly, that Chinese officials will recognise that from time to time.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Transcript of Financial Secretary's media session

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of the media session by the Financial Secretary, Sir Hamish Macleod, at Central Government Offices on transitional Budget matters today (Friday):

Good morning,

I thought it would be useful just to try and clear up some of the confusion that seems to be arising about the talks on the 1997-98 Budget.

The subject actually goes back quite a long way. Back in June last year, Ambassador Guo, in the JLG talks at that time made a proposal; the proposal was that we should consult on the 1997-98 Budget and brief them on the procedures used for the preceding budget, that is to say the 1996-97 Budget. So that was their proposal.

And we went back in November with more detailed proposals on how to do precisely that, that is to say do what the Chinese side had suggested. We got a positive response at that time to our reaction to their proposal. It came up again in a meeting in December. Again, we had no indication that there were any problems on this issue, and in particular on the scope of the talks. I then further gave some details of our proposals, of course, in the Budget Speech again. Even by then, no problems had emerged.

So we are very puzzled. We are very puzzled. Why just a day or two before the talks, in fact the day before the talks I think, this whole issue of the scope of the talks was raised. And as you know, it took some discussions to resolve that but it was resolved, and I'm very pleased that it was resolved. And, of course, an agreed basis was reached and was announced and the agreed basis was that we would discuss the transitional Budget and related matters and, of course, the transitional Budget is the 1997-98 Budget. So all seemed clear and we set off for the talks in good heart, thinking that it was absolutely agreed what we were talking about.

So I am very disappointed that even after the talks, again doubt is being thrown by the Chinese side on what the talks should be about. Actually, we've had a consistent line. We've agreed with the Chinese side with what they put forward in June and as I say, I am extremely disappointed that this unnecessary argument has emerged at this late date. So that is the background.

Now, we won't let that affect our attitude. We will continue in expert talks to do what we were asked to do, in good faith. We have a detailed programme which we want to discuss with the Chinese side and take them through so that they can follow the procedures for the 1996-97 Budget and then we can consult them on the transitional Budget.

So that is the history. Any problems which have emerged are completely unexpected and I am extremely puzzled why they have emerged at this late date. Questions?

Question: The Secretary for the Treasury, Donald Tsang, said this morning in Beijing that if both sides focus on the practical issues, that would help in narrowing any differences of the principles for the formulation of the Budget. What exactly are these practical issues and how will they help?

FS: Well, I think he is probably referring to the fact, as I said, that we have a detailed programme set out. We want to discuss the whole budget procedure - the resource allocation procedure which goes along with it. We want to do extensive briefings. And "briefings", by the way, was a word which they used back in June 1994. There is nothing controversial about the word "briefings". So I think Donald is saying what I am saying, that having set the record straight, we must put that behind us and get on with the talks in an appropriate spirit. But that is what the talks are about. That has to be clear.

Question: But that wouldn't resolve the differences over principles would it?

FS: I don't believe there are any differences of principle, as I said, because what we are doing is actually precisely what Ambassador Guo asked us to do back in June 1994. So I don't think there are any real issues here whatsoever.

Question: So, while you are puzzled, do you have any impression that the whole issue is now being (inaudible)?

FS: Sorry, I missed the last bit?

Question: Do you have an impression that the whole thing is now trying to shift from purely practical things to political issues?

FS: Well, I hope not. I mean if this is handled sensibly, these arguments will blow over and we will get down to the real discussion which is: procedures for the next budget and consultation on the transitional Budget. That is where we should be.

Question: And the Chinese side said that there should be a full consultation of the 1996-97 Budget and (that) should be before the draft. Is it possible once the Chinese side - there is an objection of the 1996-97 Budget, the Government will do it unilaterally?

FS: The Chinese side will have to explain why they have suddenly changed their view. The fact is, they didn't ask for consultation on the 1996-97 Budget, they asked for a briefing on the procedures. That is what we are giving them. So there isn't a problem unless someone wants to create one. There really isn't a problem. What we are doing is what they asked us to do. Thank you very much.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Compassionate rehousing for 24 fire victims

* * * * *

The Government has completed processing all applications for compassionate rehousing from fire victims of the bedspace apartment at Yeung Uk Road in Tsuen Wan, a Government spokesman said today (Friday).

Of the 41 lodgers, 26 have been assessed by the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to be eligible for compassionate rehousing on the basis of their age, health and income.

"Nineteen of them have today been given the keys to their new homes in public housing estates in Tsuen Wan and Kwai Chung. Five others will get theirs in a few days and the applications of the remaining two are being vetted," the spokesman said.

The 15 singletons who are not eligible for compassionate rehousing have been offered three choices of accommodation assistance.

The spokesman pointed out that since the owner of the flat had indicated that the apartment will not be refurbished or rented out again, these singletons are now homeless.

"Under existing government policy, they may choose to go to Temporary Housing Area units in the New Territories. Several units in Tsing Yi are available to them.

"Alternatively, they may choose to move into one of the singleton hostels run by the Home Affairs Department. The third option is Housing Department's transit centre at Kwok Shui Road, Tsuen Wan."

A few residents on the floor above the bedspace apartment are also demanding rehousing by Government. However, they are not eligible because government building surveyors and structural engineers have inspected the building three times and identified no structural damage.

Besides, the owner of the flat has commenced repairing the minor damages caused by the fire and confirmed that he would continue to let out the rooms.

"In this case, these residents are not homeless and therefore there is no question of rehousing because of the fire.

"However, if any of them believe they have a case for compassionate rehousing, they should approach the SWD. Their cases will be assessed immediately," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the Housing Authority, Ms Rosanna Wong, has offered to meet representatives of fire victims on Monday (April 3) at the Housing Authority Headquarters.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Proposed LegCo election guidelines published

* * * * *

The Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) today (Friday) published its proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Legislative Council Elections for public consultation.

The BEC Chairman, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, said at a press conference that the guidelines were aimed at ensuring that elections would be conducted openly, fairly and honestly.

The one-month public consultation will start tomorrow and last until April 30. During the period from April 12 to 22, the BEC will meet, by appointment, interested individuals and organisations to receive their oral or written representations.

The 16-chapter proposed guidelines explain in detail the electoral procedure, the regulations which candidates and their agents should observe and the areas to which they should pay special attention.

Mr Justice Woo said, in drawing up the draft guidelines, the BEC had used the electoral guidelines for the 1994 District Board Elections and the 1995 Municipal Council Elections as blueprints.

Experience in the two elections were also drawn formulating the proposed arrangements for the LegCO Elections on September 17.

There will be 20 seats for geographical constituencies (GC), 30 seats for 29 functional constituencies (FC) and 10 seats for the election committee constituency (ECC).

A number of new arrangements were proposed. These include:

- * A "centralised" polling station each for the ECC and the three FCs with the smallest number of electors (Urban Council, Regional Council and the Rural FCs).
- * As regards the remaining 26 FCs, polling will be held on a territory-wide basis, in the same polling stations designated for the GC elections.
- * Under this arrangement, the majority of the electors will be offered maximum convenience as they will be able to cast their votes for both GC and FC at the same polling station near their homes.

- * The GC ballot papers will be white and the FC ballot papers will be of different colour patterns.
- * In each polling station, there will be two sets of ballot boxes, one for the GC and the other for the 26 FCs.
- * Candidates and agents may observe from behind the issuing desk in a polling station the work of the polling staff.
- * Two candidates or their agents will be allowed to escort the sealed ballot boxes after the close of poll to the counting station. This arrangement would enhance transparency and public confidence in the electoral process.
- * There will be one counting station for each of the ECC, the Urban Council, the Regional Council and the Rural FCs. The venue for the counting station may be the same as the polling station. The counting of votes for the 20 GC and 26 FCs will be undertaken in a central counting station.
- * A large "no canvassing area" will be designated outside each polling station to ensure the free and safe passage of electors into the polling station. A "no staying area" will also be designated immediately outside the entrance of a polling station to avoid any obstruction of entry.
- * Publication, distribution and display of any election advertisement by a prospective candidate before he submits his nomination paper will be subject to the control provisions which include the requirements for the serial numbering, declaration and return and deposit of copies and samples etc.
- * There will be new arrangements for the display of election advertisements for candidates of the different elections. Apart from private properties, display spots on government land and properties will be subject to allocation to candidates by the drawing of lots.
- * The Housing Department has agreed to reduce the time limit to one clear working day for application to conduct electioneering activities in housing estates under its management. This improvement would offer candidates with more convenience.

The Chairman said the BEC was aware of suggestions for a "cooling off day" on the polling day when all electioneering activities will be banned.

"The Commission's preliminary view is that implementing such a proposal would entail considerable practical difficulties and has thus proposed to set up a "no canvassing area" outside each polling station.

"The Commission will be happy to listen to public views on this issue. We also hope to meet interested organisations to discuss the enforcement problems and the arrangements to maintain order on the polling day," he said.

Mr Justice Woo expects to complete making the relevant subsidiary legislation and to publish the finalised guidelines in early July.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index 1994

* * * * *

The Annual Report on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for 1994 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 1994.

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.

The report is a bilingual publication in both English and Chinese. Apart from statistics on the CPIs, the report also contains a detailed explanation of the concepts and computation method of the CPIs so as to help readers to gain a better understanding of the CPIs.

The report is now on sale, at HK\$32.00 a copy, at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway; and the Publications Section 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 telephone 2805 6403.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Census continues to conduct General Household Survey

* * * * *

The Census and Statistics Department continues to conduct the General Household Survey during the quarter from April to June this year.

The survey, conducted on a continuous basis, collects information on employment, unemployment and underemployment, and the general social characteristics of the population.

In addition, questions on Hong Kong residents' expenditure abroad, worker displacement in Hong Kong, hospitalisation and household expenditure on rent will be included in this round of the survey.

Each quarter, about 12,000 households from all districts are selected using a scientifically designed sample for participation in the survey.

To measure more accurately changes in the socio-economic characteristics of the population, the survey adopts an overlapping sample design such that about half of the households enumerated in a given quarter are the same as those enumerated in the preceding quarter.

An official letter, in both Chinese and English, has been sent to the sampled households to explain the purpose of the survey and to seek their voluntary co-operation.

Officers of the department will contact the households concerned, to collect the required information.

When visiting households, they will carry with them a Government Identity Card and a certificate for conducting the survey. They will make such documents available for inspection by households to confirm their identities.

To make it more convenient for both the households and the department, the sampled households could telephone the department to make prior appointment for visit by the interviewers.

The General Household Survey is conducted under Part IIIA of the Census and Statistics Ordinance (Chapter 316 of the Laws of Hong Kong) as notified in the General Notice No. 212 in the Gazette of January 19, 1990.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance, data relating to individual persons or households collected will be kept confidential and will not be released to the public, any private organisations or other Government departments.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Money Statistics for February 1995

* * * * *

According to statistics published today (Friday) by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, most of the monetary aggregates recorded growth in February 1995 except cash held by the public and, hence, HK\$M1, because of the post Lunar New Year effect. Foreign currency swap deposits continued to fall sharply reflecting the second stage of deregulation of the interest rate cap on HK dollar time deposits with effect from January 3, 1995.

Table 1 sets out summary figures for February 1995 and comparisons with earlier months.

Deposits

Total HK dollar deposits reversed the decline of 0.5% in January 1995 to rise by 2.1% in February 1995. All types of HK dollar deposits rose during the month. HK dollar demand deposits and savings deposits rose 4.8% and 0.6% respectively while the growth of HK dollar time deposits moderated from 2.4% in January to 2.2% in February.

The rise in HK dollar demand deposits and saving deposits which in aggregate amounted to HK\$ 6.1 billion will have reflected the fall of HK\$ 12.4 billion in cash held by the public, which largely reversed the rise of HK\$ 16.2 billion in this item in January.

Foreign currency deposits also rebounded from a decline of 1.4% in January to an increase of 3.7% in February. The rise was mainly in US dollar deposits which increased by 6.2% while other foreign currency deposits grew 0.9%.

Following a marked decrease of 13.7% in January, swap deposits continued to decline by 11.4% in February. This is mostly due to the second stage of the removal of HKAB's interest rate cap, as HK dollar time deposits have become a preferred alternative to foreign currency swap deposits.

Loans and Advances

Total outstanding loans and advances approved by AIs expanded notably by 2.1% in February, up from 0.9% in January. Foreign currency loans grew particularly strongly during the month. The growth in HK dollar loans, however, moderated slightly from 0.8% in January to 0.7% in February.

Money Supply

Owing to the post Lunar New Year effect, currency held by the public dropped by 14.7% in February. Although part of the decrease was offset by the growth in demand deposits, HK\$M1 registered a marked decrease of 4.4% during the month.

The growth of both HK\$M2 and HK\$M3 moderated to 0.8% this month from 0.9% and 1.1% in January respectively.

Note to Editors:

For further press enquiries, please contact the Press and Publications Section, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, at telephone 2878 8261.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 1995

	Feb 1995	Earlier months (% change to Feb 1995)			(HK\$mn)
		Jan 1995	Nov 1994	Feb 1994	
<u>Money Supply</u>					
M1 - HK\$	169,244	177,110 (-4.4)	167,456 (1.1)	178,903 (-5.4)	
Foreign currency	18,529	16,095 (15.1)	16,479 (12.4)	21,081 (-12.1)	
Total	187,773	193,205 (-2.8)	183,935 (2.1)	199,984 (-6.1)	
M2 - HK\$@	1,114,306	1,104,930 (0.8)	1,082,240 (3.0)	949,518 (17.4)	
Foreign currency*	922,245	887,581 (3.9)	896,699 (2.8)	843,643 (9.3)	
Total	2,036,551	1,992,511 (2.2)	1,978,939 (2.9)	1,793,161 (13.6)	
M3 - HK\$@	1,131,942	1,123,466 (0.8)	1,098,849 (3.0)	966,364 (17.1)	
Foreign currency*	983,249	949,447 (3.6)	958,954 (2.5)	884,847 (11.1)	
Total	2,115,191	2,072,912 (2.0)	2,057,803 (2.8)	1,851,211 (14.3)	
Notes and coins in circulation	80,566	96,966 (-16.9)	73,496 (9.6)	76,798 (4.9)	
of which held by public	71,570	83,950 (-14.7)	65,282 (9.6)	68,695 (4.2)	
<u>Total Deposits</u>					
Total Demand deposits	116,203	109,255 (6.4)	118,653 (-2.1)	131,289 (-11.5)	
Total Savings deposits	380,466	378,246 (0.6)	397,720 (-4.3)	416,416 (-8.6)	
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	1,425,592	1,378,997 (3.4)	1,356,430 (5.1)	1,151,972 (23.8)	
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	36,049	37,685 (-4.3)	35,986 (0.2)	25,587 (40.9)	
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	19,888	19,753 (0.7)	19,745 (0.7)	17,820 (11.6)	
HK\$ deposits@	1,031,587	1,010,833 (2.1)	1,006,275 (2.5)	878,829 (17.4)	
Demand deposits	97,674	93,159 (4.8)	102,174 (-4.4)	110,208 (-11.4)	
Saving deposits	263,133	261,509 (0.6)	271,921 (-3.2)	280,194 (-6.1)	
Time deposits@	670,781	656,164 (2.2)	632,180 (6.1)	488,427 (37.3)	
US\$ deposits*	512,987	483,263 (6.2)	497,327 (3.1)	422,417 (21.4)	
Other foreign currency deposits*	433,623	429,840 (0.9)	424,932 (2.0)	441,838 (-1.9)	
All deposits	1,978,198	1,923,936 (2.8)	1,928,534 (2.6)	1,743,083 (13.5)	
Foreign currency swap deposits	79,422	89,606 (-11.4)	104,023 (-23.6)	73,289 (8.4)	
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>					
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	135,120	132,136 (2.3)	128,549 (5.1)	104,068 (29.8)	
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	13,404	12,724 (5.3)	12,967 (3.4)	11,355 (18.0)	
Other loans for use in H.K.	1,286,216	1,273,692 (1.0)	1,248,556 (3.0)	1,119,004 (14.9)	
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,883,984	1,829,136 (3.0)	1,811,102 (4.0)	1,721,047 (9.5)	
Other loans where the place of use is not known	41,452	42,050 (-1.4)	43,212 (-4.1)	45,634 (-9.2)	
Loans in HK\$	1,134,172	1,126,473 (0.7)	1,114,634 (1.8)	991,314 (14.4)	
Loans in foreign currencies	2,226,004	2,163,264 (2.9)	2,129,752 (4.5)	2,009,794 (10.8)	
Total loans and advances	3,360,176	3,289,738 (2.1)	3,244,386 (3.6)	3,001,108 (12.0)	

* Adjusted to exclude foreign currency swap deposits.
 @ Adjusted to include foreign currency swap deposits.

Note: Data may not add up to total due to rounding.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Period lodging Proposal for Alteration of Valuation List in April and May 1995

* * * * *

The Rating and Valuation Department has published a notice in today's Gazette reminding the public that if they wish to make a proposal to alter the rateable value of their property for the financial year commencing April 1, 1995, they may do so during the months of April and May this year.

Forms for this purpose (Form R20A) may be obtained from the department at Hennessy Centre, 17th Floor, 500 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, and also from district offices.

Proposals must be lodged with the department within the two months and they will not be accepted as valid if served before 1 April or after 31 May. They can be lodged by post or by hand, but transmission by facsimile is not acceptable.

A spokesman for the department pointed out that rateable values and rates percentage charges for the financial year 1995-96 will be the same as for 1994-95.

Nevertheless, some ratepayers will be required to pay more in rates, since the increase in rates in 1994-95 will have been limited by the Rates Relief Scheme.

This scheme limited any increase in rates payable in 1994-95 to 20% of the rates payable for the same property in the preceding year. However, increases in 1995-96 will again be confined to 20% of the amount payable in 1994-95.

The spokesman also said that where an alteration was made to the rateable value as a result of a proposal lodged in 1994, the revised figure will continue to apply for 1995-96 so no further proposal needs to be made.

He also emphasised that notwithstanding the lodging of a proposal, rates, as shown on the rates demand, must still be paid by the due date.

The department will carefully consider all proposals and notify the ratepayers of its decisions on them before September 1. Any changes in rates payable resulting from any of these decisions will take effect from April 1, 1995, and any overpayment will be refunded.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Hong Kong's throughput grows and grows

* * * * *

Hong Kong missed by a whisker logging its fourth one million TEU month in a row in October.

Official port throughput figures, just released, show total throughput for October was 999,217 twenty-foot-equivalent units (TEUs).

In July, Hong Kong became the world's first port to handle one million TEUs in a single month and it also surpassed the one million mark in August and September.

The October figures brought Hong Kong's throughput for the first 10 months of 1994 to 9.16 million TEUs. This was a rise of 20.6 per cent over the same period in 1993.

The Secretary of the Port Development Board, Mr Tony Clark, said: "The figures underline the urgent necessity of building additional container capacity in Hong Kong as soon as possible.

"There have been media reports that Hong Kong has enough spare handling capacity to skip Container Terminal 9 on Tsing Yi Island and go straight on to CT10 and 11 on Lantau.

"These throughput figures don't support such an argument. Besides our official total throughput figures, we already know that in the first two months of this year our eight container terminals showed a throughput rise of 19 per cent over the same period last year to total 1.15 million TEUs."

In the first 10 months of 1994, Hong Kong's eight container terminals handled just over six million TEUs, a rise of 26.3 per cent over the same period in 1993. Mid-stream operations accounted for 2.36 million, a rise of just 0.8 per cent. River trade rose by 58.2 per cent to 759,393 TEUs.

Mr Clark said: "To say that Hong Kong has enough spare capacity to handle these throughput increases just ignores the facts."

"We base our planning for new container terminals on a five-year trigger point mechanism which is established by the Port Development Board and accepted by the government and the terminal operators. According to this five-year trigger point, the first berth of CT9 was required in December last year. The second will be needed in May this year, the third in November and the final berth in May 1996.

"Even if the go ahead on CT9 were given today, the first berth could not be ready before June 1997 and the fourth berth by June 1998.

"Similarly, our trigger point mechanism shows we need the first berth of CT10 by September 1996 and the first berth of CT11 by December 1997. At the moment it is unlikely that the first berth of CT10 will come on stream before April 1998 and the first berth of CT11 a year later."

"Of course the Board and government planners are doing their best to accelerate the development programme. But it is clear that we will soon be facing a shortage of container facilities despite the improved efficiency of the existing terminals," Mr Clark added.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Lawyers invite to join Legal Department

* * * * *

The Legal Department is inviting lawyers to join the department as Crown Counsel.

In view of the increasing workload and activities in the department's various fronts, including the prosecution, law drafting and civil and criminal advisory, lawyers will find joining the department a good chance to demonstrate their professional ability in a varied and challenging job, a spokesman for the Legal Department said today (Friday).

Young Crown Counsel will also be able to develop their interest and expertise in a particular area as they will be posted to work in the department's various divisions.

"A newly-appointed counsel will normally be posted in the first instance to the Civil Division, the Law Drafting Division, Prosecutions Division or Legal Policy Division. He or she may be subsequently posted to other divisions for career development," the spokesman said.

He pointed out that as the Legal Department is fully committed to a programme of localisation, preference will be given to local applicants.

He said that a similar recruitment exercise was launched in April last year. It was found that an increasing number of local lawyers were interested in joining the Legal Department.

A total of 164 local applications, as against 99 in the 1993 recruitment exercise, were received during that exercise and more than 30 candidates were found suitable, he said.

On promotion prospects, the spokesman said that Crown Counsel were considered for promotion to the next rank of Senior Crown Counsel on the basis of ability, performance, legal experience, character and vacancies availability.

"Local Crown Counsel who had insufficient experience to justify promotion to Senior Crown Counsel but otherwise show a special potential meriting accelerated advancement might be promoted under the Double Ladder Scheme, which was specially designed to groom local Crown Counsel with potential to Senior Crown Counsel," he said.

Turning to duties, he said a Crown Counsel deployed in the Attorney General's Chambers would undertake criminal advocacy, civil litigation, legal advisory work, bilingual legislation drafting, commercial law and legal policy work.

The pay scale for a crown counsel is \$33,130 to \$54,985 per month, the entry pay depends on experience.

As regards entry requirements, candidates should be (A) admitted as solicitors in a recognised jurisdiction as stipulated under the Legal Officers Ordinance and Schedule 1 to Legal Practitioners Ordinance; or (B) barristers with two years' professional experience since call to the bar in a recognised jurisdiction as stipulated under the Legal Officers Ordinance and Schedule 1 to Legal Practitioners Ordinance.

Barristers with the right to practise but who do not possess two years' professional experience since call may also apply. If selected, they may enter at an appropriate point below the minimum of the Crown Counsel pay scale.

Candidates who will complete their training as a trainee solicitor or pupillage on or before 30 September this year may also apply. Their appointment, however, will be subject to their admission as a solicitor or satisfactory completion of pupillage.

Candidates should apply in writing with a completed application form (GF 340 (Rev. 5/90)), which is obtainable from district offices, Home Affairs Department or the Local Employment Services, Labour Department, and a full C.V. to the Appointments Unit, Legal Department, ninth floor, High Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong not later than April 22, 1995 .

Enquires could be made on 2867 2276.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Special campaign against problem factories

* * * * *

The Labour Department will launch a special territory-wide campaign from April 3 to 29 against factories with poor safety records.

The campaign aims at safeguarding the safety of factory workers and producing a deterrent effect on factory owners who make light of their employees' safety.

"Surprise inspections will be made on factories which have repeatedly flouted safety law or with high hazard ratings. Factory owners found to have infringed safety legislation will be prosecuted," Deputy Chief Factory Inspector, Mr Kan Hon-sang said today (Friday).

He emphasised that efforts to pressurise factory owners to pay due attention to workers' safety would not be relaxed although fatal accidents in factories were decreasing.

"According to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance, every proprietor of an industrial undertaking has the duty to ensure the safety and health of workers employed by providing a safe system of work, safety training and instructions and suitable personal protective equipment. Any proprietor who fails to do so will be liable to prosecution," he added.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Hong Kong Shipping Register ranks 15th in the world

* * * * *

The latest addition to the Hong Kong Shipping Register, a 29,195-ton container vessel, M.V. Trade Maple, was named in a ceremony in Korea this (Friday) morning, bringing to 564 the number of vessels on the Register.

The Director of Marine, Mr Ian Dale, who is in Korea for the ceremony, said he was pleased to see another quality vessel joining the Hong Kong Register.

A review conducted earlier this (March) month showed that in terms of tonnage Hong Kong is the 15th largest shipping register in the world with a total gross tonnage of over 8.3 million.

"In less than five years since its inception on December 3, 1990, the Hong Kong Shipping Register has established itself as a quality register known to the shipping community worldwide," Mr Dale said.

"This ranking is another indication that the Marine Department's aim of maintaining a quality register and a responsible maritime administration is well supported by shipowners who will not trade off quality for a lowering of safety and environmental standards," Mr Dale said.

Built in Korea, the 185-metre vessel is owned by Hong Kong-based Well Dragon Shipping Limited and managed by Wah Tung Shipping Agency Company Limited. She is capable of holding 2,200 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units).

The ship will sail on her maiden voyage this evening to Tianjin, China and then calls at a number of other ports in Asia before going to Europe.

Eleven other vessels including a stable mate of Trade Maple are currently in the process of joining the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Elderly home operators urged to apply a licence

* * * * *

Operators of residential care homes for the elderly are urged to apply for a licence or a certificate of exemption from the Social Welfare Department's (SWD) Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly from tomorrow (Saturday).

Making the appeal, a spokesman for the department said today (Friday) that the Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance, with the exception of Section 6, would come into operation from tomorrow (April 1).

To further publicise the new legislation, the SWD has produced a poster advising operators to apply a licence or a certificate of exemption. It will be put up at various government poster sites throughout the territory.

"With the implementation of the new legislation, residential care homes for the elderly will have to comply with the licensing requirements on location, space, design, structure, safety, fire precautions, staffing and quality of care to the residents before they are allowed to operate.

"The Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Ordinance aims to regulate homes established for the residential care of elderly persons who have attained the age of 60 so as to ensure that these homes provide services of a reasonable standard and that the well-being of the elderly residents is safeguarded.

"The SWD will regulate residential care homes either by a licence or a certificate of exemption. Licences may be issued to residential care homes which are able to comply with the requirements in accordance with the ordinance," the spokesman said.

Applications for either a licence or a certificate of exemption should be forwarded to the Licensing Office of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly located at Room 2354, 23rd floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai.

The spokesman explained it was the department's policy that all residential care homes which came into existence and which intended to start operation on or after April 1 this year should be subject to regulation by the issue of a licence rather than the issue of a certificate of exemption.

"Although the SWD will, of course, consider all applications for a certificate of exemption, it is unlikely that a certificate of exemption will be issued to any residential care home which commences operation on or after April 1 this year unless there is something exceptional in the circumstances which warrant a departure from this policy.

"The main reason for this approach is that regulation by the issue of a licence will better ensure high standards of residential care for elderly persons and better safeguard the interests of elderly residents than will regulation under a certificate of exemption," he said.

On the certificates of exemption, the spokesman said they were to be granted to residential care homes already in operation before April 1 this year but which were unable to comply fully with the legislative requirements.

"The policy of allowing these homes to continue in operation is to safeguard the interests of the residents on the one hand and the interests of the operators in business terms on the other.

"However, the certificate of exemption will be revoked if there is danger to the residents or the well-being of the residents may be adversely affected.

"Section 6 of the ordinance, which is intended to come into operation on April 1, 1996, stipulates that any person, who on any occasion operates, keeps, manages or otherwise has control of a residential care home in respect of which neither a licence nor a certificate of exemption has been issued, commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$100,000 and an imprisonment of two years," the spokesman added.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Deputy Chairman of SFC appointed

* * * * *

The Governor has approved the appointment of Mr Michael Wu as the Deputy Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) in addition to his appointment as Executive Director (Intermediaries), the Secretary for Financial Services, Mr Michael Cartland, said today (Friday).

Mr Wu, 46, joined the SFC at its inception in May 1989. He was appointed Executive Director (Intermediaries) in May 1992 and has worked in the Supervision of Markets Division of the Commission.

Prior to joining the Commission, Mr Wu had worked as a Trade Officer and later as an Administrative Officer with the Government.

He was secretary to the Securities Review Committee which recommended the reforms which have been put into place in the last six years.

Mr Wu's appointment will take effect from May 1 and will last until the end of 1996. Mr Robert Gilmore, the incumbent Deputy Chairman, will leave the SFC on the expiry of his contract on April 30.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Fee for enquiries on outstanding property tax revised

* * * * *

The fee charged for answering written enquiries on any outstanding amounts of property tax will be revised as from tomorrow (Saturday).

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue Department said because of rising costs, the fee would go up from \$260 to \$290 per enquiry on each property.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Fight Crime Committee member appointed

* * * * *

The Government today (Friday) announced the appointment of a new member and the re-appointment of three existing members to the Fight Crime Committee.

Ms Sansan Ching Teh-chi is appointed for a period of two years from April 1, 1995, to March 31, 1997.

Miss Rosanna Wong and Mrs Alice Chong are re-appointed up to March 31, 1997 and Mrs Miriam Lau is re-appointed up to March 31, 1996.

Following is the membership list of the Fight Crime Committee:

Chairman: Chief Secretary, Mrs Anson Chan
Deputy Chairman: Attorney General, Mr Jeremy Matthews
Members: Mrs Miriam Lau
Mrs Alice Chong
Miss Rosanna Wong
Mr James To
Mr Robert George Kotewall, QC
Mr Hui Yung-chung
Mr Edward Pong
Ms Sansan Ching
Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai
Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Michael Suen
Secretary for Health and Welfare, Mrs Katherine Fok
Secretary for Education and Manpower, Mr Michael Leung
Commissioner of Police, Mr Eddie Hui
Commissioner of Correctional Services, Mr Raymond Lai
Secretary: Principal Assistant Secretary for Security, Mr Jack Chan

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Members appointed to the Board, Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

* * * * *

The Governor has re-appointed the Rt Hon the Baroness Dunn as the Chairman and the following as members of the Board of Trustees of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust:

Mr Au Siu-kee, Alexander
Miss Chiu Kam-hing, Kathy
Mr Edward Ho Sing-tin
Mr Kwok Ping-sheung, Walter
Mr Li Tzar-kai, Richard
Mr Lung Ping-yee, David
Mr Alasdair G Morrison
Mr Tsui Tsin-tong
The Secretary for Home Affairs or his representative (ex officio)
The Secretary for Recreation and Culture or his representative (ex officio)

In addition, two new members - Mr Andrew Dixon and Mr Liu Lit-mo - have been appointed.

The Governor has also re-appointed Mr Edward Ho Sing-tin as Chairman and the following as members of the Council of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust:

Mr Lung Ping-ye, David
Mrs Pamela Rumball Rogers
Dr Sinn Yuk-ye, Elizabeth
Mr Yuen King-yuk, Jason
Director of Architectural Services or his representative
Director of Education or his representative
Commissioner for Recreation and Culture or his representative (ex officio)

All the appointments which are published in the Gazette today (Friday), are for two years, with effect from tomorrow (April 1).

The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust was established in December 1992, following the enactment of an Ordinance bearing the same name, to provide an opportunity for the community to express its appreciation of the contribution made to Hong Kong by Lord Wilson during his term as Governor of Hong Kong, and to join hands further to promote the preservation and conservation of Hong Kong's heritage.

The main function of the Board of Trustees is to manage the investment of the Trust capital and related financial matters so as to ensure that a steady income will be generated to finance the Trust's activities. The Board also decides on broad policy matters and gives direction on how the objects of the Trust should be met.

The Council on the other hand is concerned with the execution of the Board's decisions, and the implementation of activities for promoting heritage preservation and conservation in Hong Kong.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Fresh water service reservoirs for Ho Man Tin and Tai Po

The Water Supplies Department is inviting tenders for the construction of two fresh water service reservoirs in Ho Man Tin and Tai Po, the Gazette notified today (Friday).

The two reservoirs will have a capacity of 64,000 cubic metres and 14,600 cubic metres respectively.

Works for the one in Tai Po will also include the laying of about 4.4 kilometres of fresh water mains.

Upon completion of the works, fresh water supply to southeast Kowloon and eastern Tai Po will be improved.

The two projects are expected to start in July for completion in about 20 and 18 months respectively.

Tender forms and further particulars can be obtained from the Water Supplies Department, 44th floor, Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

Tender offers will close at noon on April 28.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Roadworks in Tai Po proposed

As part of the Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy Programme, the Government proposes constructing a van track at Lung A Pai, Tin Liu Ha and She Shan Tsuen to provide access to She Shan Tsuen from Lam Kam Road, Tai Po, it was gazetted today (Friday).

The works are scheduled to start towards the end of this year.

The plan and scheme showing the proposed works can be seen at the Central and Western District Office, Central Enquiry Service Centre, Ground floor, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central; Tai Po District Lands Office and the Tai Po District Office, both in Tai Po Government Offices Building, Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories.

Any person who wishes to object to the works may write to Secretary for Transport not later than May 30.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Tenders invite for Lo Wai roadworks

* * * * *

The Territory Development Department's New Territories West Development Office is inviting tenders for roadworks in Lo Wai, Tsuen Wan.

The contract is part of the continuing development programme for the Tsuen Wan New Town, involves the construction of an access road and associated footpaths from Yi Pei Chun Road into Lo Wai Village, roadside car parks, local open spaces, drainage and sewerage systems.

The works are scheduled to begin in June for completion in 24 months.

A notice of the tender invitation was gazetted today (Friday).

Tender forms and further particulars may be obtained from Ho Tin and Associates Consulting Engineers Limited, Room 1704, Leighton Centre, 77 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay.

The tender closing date is noon on April 21.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Former Gate Lodge on Peak declared as historical building

* * * * *

The former Gate Lodge on Mt. Austin Road, the Peak, was gazetted as a historical building under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance today (Friday).

The Gate Lodge was originally used to accommodate the keeper of Mountain Lodge, the summer residence of the Governor on the Peak. It is currently managed by the Urban Services Department as a store for the adjoining public park.

The main facade of the Gate Lodge is symmetrical in design with the entrance door at the central position. There are matching pediments over the entrance door, windows and rear door.

It is still in very good condition since it was solidly built of brickwork. Much of the joinery of the period which was well assembled from good quality timber still survives in good condition.

The Mountain Lodge was built in 1902 and demolished in 1946. Its design was inspired by Scottish lodges and was described then as "the largest and most handsome building at the Peak".

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Removal of Family Court to Supreme Court Building

* * * * *

The Family Court and its Registry will move to the Supreme Court Building and start operation there from Monday (3 April).

The Family Court and the Divorce Registry, currently situated in the Wan Chai Law Courts, will be closed tomorrow (April 1) to make way for the removal.

To better reflect the work of the Family Court which deals with both divorce and adoption cases, the Divorce Registry will also be renamed the Family Court Registry.

The family courts will be located on the 14th floor of the Supreme Court Building at 38 Queensway while the Family Court Registry will be on LG3.

"The move is to make room for the expansion of the District Court. It will also mean an improvement in the facilities for the Family Court," the Judiciary Administrator, Ms Alice Tai Yuen-ying said.

"The new premises for the family courts will provide a more comfortable environment with better illumination, waiting areas and consultation rooms," she said.

Noting that the number of applications for divorce jurisdictions filed had increased substantially from 6,767 in 1990 to 9,272 in 1994 - up 37 per cent in five years, she said the number of Family Court judges would be increased from three to four from April to cope with increasing caseload and to speed up the handling of cases.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

All-day hotline on building matters

* * * * *

The Buildings Department will operate a 24-hour telephone and facsimile enquiry service to provide information on building matters to the public, starting tomorrow (April 1).

The public may call "The Buildings Department Enquiry Hotline" at 2868 9229 to obtain information in Cantonese or English on building safety, building defects, unauthorised building works, alteration works to existing buildings, demolition works and building works in progress.

The department aims to improve its existing enquiry service by expanding its operation into a round-the-clock service seven days a week. It has been operating a telephone enquiry (2848 2222) service which is switched to recording mode after normal office hours.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

"Dual access" period for the numbering change to end soon

* * * * *

All residential and business telephone and facsimile numbers in Hong Kong have already been changed from 7-digit to 8-digit by adding a prefix "2" in front of the previous numbers, a spokesman for the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) reminded today (Friday).

"There has been a 'dual access' period allowing calls to be put through after dialling the new 8-digit numbers or the previous 7-digit numbers," the spokesman said.

"However, users should accustom themselves quickly to using the 8-digit numbers because the 'dual access' period for local calls will end at the end of May.

For international incoming calls, the "dual access" period will end at mid-night today (March 31).

"Up to the end of June, callers dialling the old 7- digit numbers will receive a recorded announcement asking them to dial the new 8-digit numbers.

"Therefore, it is necessary for all telephone users to let their overseas friends and relatives know their new telephone numbers," the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the telephone numbers for the paging services would be changed on October 1 this year. The paging service operators will inform their customers of the details in the near future.

The common short-code numbers such as "999" for emergency services, "001" and "002" for international calling, "1081" and "1083" for directory enquiries, "109" for telephone line fault reporting and "1881 - 1887" for telebet services remain unchanged.

Any enquiries on the above numbering change can be directed to OFTA's hotline on tel 2961 6333.

End/Friday, March 31, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	2,762	0930	-152
Closing balance in the account	2,576	1000	-142
Change attributable to :		1100	-104
Money market activity	-59	1200	-60
LAF today	-127	1500	-59
		1600	-59

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 117.9 *+0.3* 31.3.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.32	14 months	2605	6.35	100.28	6.17
1 month	5.21	23 months	2702	7.50	101.69	6.64
3 months	5.42	28 months	3707	6.95	100.56	6.79
6 months	5.71	34 months	3801	8.00	102.76	7.02
12 months	6.07	60 months	5003	7.75	101.25	7.58

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$25,249 million

Closed March 31, 1995

End/Friday, March 31, 1995