



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR TO APPEAR BEFORE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE	1
HK COMMUNITY CAPABLE TO MAKE SOUND JUDGMENT: CS	2
GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE EBENEZER SCHOOL AND HOME FOR THE BLIND	3
FS SPEAKS ON AIRPORT PROGRESS	5
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE HELPS BOOST HEALTH CARE: GOVERNOR	6
ORDINANCE TO COVER VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS OF FILMS	6
JOINT LIAISON GROUP 28TH MEETING: JOINT COMMUNIQUE	8
SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND BENEFITS ALL	8
MEASURES TO HELP MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN COURT	10
PEOPLE SATISFIED WITH PRESENT SITUATION: POLL	11
VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN SEPTEMBER ...	12
NEW EDITION OF THE 'NAMES OF BUILDINGS' BOOK	17
NEW MINIBUS SERVES WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS	17
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW	18
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	18

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1993

- 1 -

GOVERNOR TO APPEAR BEFORE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE IN LATE JANUARY TO GIVE EVIDENCE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

THIS WAS REVEALED BY THE GOVERNOR TODAY (THURSDAY) WHEN HE SPOKE TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE EBENEZER SCHOOL AND HOME FOR THE BLIND.

"I AM GOING TO EXERCISE MY FREEDOM OF SPEECH TO GO ON SPEAKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON SIR PERCY CRADOCK'S REMARK, MR PATTEN SAID SIR PERCY WAS EXERCISING HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH SAYING THINGS WHICH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG KNEW HE HAD BEEN SAYING FOR MANY YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, MADE HIS STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, EVERY SINGLE ELECTED MEMBER WHO SPOKE FROM RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, NOT RETIRED OFFICIAL, SUPPORTED THE APPROACH THAT THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN TAKING.

ASKED ABOUT THE REMARK MADE BY CHINESE VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, MR QIAN QICHEN, ON THE QUESTION OF SINCERITY, MR PATTEN REITERATED THAT THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS WERE TOTALLY SINCERE IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, TO PRESERVE THE VALUES, THE FREEDOMS AND THE RULE OF LAW IN HONG KONG.

"WE ARE SINCERE IN THOSE OBJECTIVES. THAT'S WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, WE PROPOSED TALKS ON POLITICAL ISSUES TO THE CHINESE, THAT'S WHY WE HAVE GONE THROUGH 17 ROUNDS OF THOSE TALKS WITHOUT ALAS VERY MUCH TO SHOW FOR IT.

"THAT'S WHY WE WERE PREPARED TO OFFER CONDITIONALLY CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS DURING THOSE TALKS.

"BUT OUR SINCERITY IS ABOVE ALL THE SINCERITY OF WANTING TO WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, SINCERELY WANTING TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"AND THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE PRINCIPLES AND WE HAVE A BOTTOM LINE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WERE WORKING ON THE SAME OBJECTIVES FOR HONG KONG -- A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE WERE THINGS ON WHICH HE HOPED BOTH SIDES COULD AGREE AND ON WHICH BOTH SIDES COULD CO-OPERATE.

/"IT WOULD

"IT WOULD BE VERY SURPRISING IF WE ARE ABLE TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING DURING THIS UNIQUELY DIFFICULT PERIOD. BUT I HOPE THAT, EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING, THAT WON'T MEAN THAT WE DISAGREE ON EVERYTHING.

"THERE'S PLENTY ON WHICH WE CAN AGREE, PLENTY ON WHICH WE MUST CO-OPERATE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LIVELIHOOD AND THE STABILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"IT'S OUR INTENTION TO GO ON WORKING IN THAT CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT," HE SAID.

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HK COMMUNITY CAPABLE TO MAKE SOUND JUDGMENT
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THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF MAKING SOUND JUDGMENT ON WHAT IS IN ITS BEST INTERESTS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE LEAVING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR A PUBLIC FUNCTION, MRS CHAN SAID SHE WAS STRUCK BY THE CONCERN OF THOSE GIVING EVIDENCE AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LONDON AND OF SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DO WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR HONG KONG.

"OF COURSE WE IN HONG KONG ALSO HAVE A VIEW ON WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

"YOU ALL KNOW THAT HONG KONG IS A MATURE, STABLE AND EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY.

"THE DAYS OF BACK-DOOR DEALS OVER THE HEADS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE OVER. HONG KONG PEOPLE SIMPLY WILL NOT TOLERATE."

SHE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG STILL WANTED A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE.

"FOR THE AGREEMENT TO BE ACCEPTABLE AND CREDIBLE HERE IN HONG KONG, IT MUST ENABLE FAIR, OPEN ELECTIONS THAT ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"NOW YOU ALL KNOW THAT WE'VE GONE THROUGH 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS. WE WISH TO SEE THESE TALKS CONTINUE TO DISCUSS SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

"WE'VE SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN 18TH ROUND AND WE'RE AWAITING A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE."

SHE REITERATED THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS WERE FORMULATED IN HONG KONG AND WERE WIDELY ACCEPTED BY ALL LEVELS OF THE COMMUNITY AND A MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1993

- 3 -

GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING
THE EBENEZER SCHOOL AND HOME FOR THE BLIND

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GOVERNOR: GOOD MORNING. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO VISIT THE EBENEZER SCHOOL AND THE HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AND THIS CENTRE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ONLY SUFFERING FROM SIGHT DISABILITY BUT ALSO ARE HANDICAPPED IN OTHER WAYS. I'VE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY WHAT I'VE SEEN THIS MORNING AS IMPRESSED AS THE FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER, ALASTAIR GOODLAD, WAS WHEN HE CAME HERE RECENTLY. WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, EXTREMELY KEEN TO DEVELOP IN HONG KONG THE FACILITIES, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DISABILITY AND WE DO THAT FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, OF COURSE, BECAUSE IT'S ONLY FAIR TO DO ALL WE CAN FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DISABILITY, AND SECONDLY, WE DO IT IN A BROADER COMMUNITY INTEREST. HONG KONG IS A SMALL COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF ALL THE TALENTS THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. AND THOSE, AS I'VE SEEN THIS MORNING, WHO SUFFER FROM DISABILITY ARE INVARIABLY EXTREMELY TALENTED IN OTHER WAYS. WE'VE GOT TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THAT POTENTIAL. IT'S GREATLY IN HONG KONG'S INTEREST THEREFORE THAT WE CONTINUE TO BUILD UP THE SERVICES, THE REHABILITATION SERVICES, THE CARING SERVICES, THE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A HANDICAP OR DIABILITY. WE INTEND TO GO ON PUTTING MORE RESOURCES INTO THOSE SERVICES AS A GOVERNMENT. I JUST ADD THAT, AS EVER, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THE COMMITMENT AND THE DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO ARE TEACHING AND RUNNING THESE FACILITIES BUT I AM ALSO EXTREMELY IMPRESSED BY THE DEDICATION OF THE PUPILS AND THE ELDERLY RESIDENTS. I MET, AT THE BEGINNING OF MY VISIT, FIVE ELDERLY RESIDENTS WHO'VE BEEN HERE SINCE, I THINK, BEFORE THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND DEDICATED THEIR LIVES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO TRANSLATING THE BIBLE INTO BRAILLE. THAT'S A GREAT SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY AND TO OTHER COMMUNITIES AND I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE WORK OF FIVE VERY OLD LADIES WHO'VE DONE MARVELLOUS SERVICE TO THE WHOLE OF OUR COMMUNITY.

QUESTION: BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY SOLID PLAN TO IMPROVE THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE?

GOVERNOR: YES, WE DO. WE SET OUT OUR TARGETS FOR PROVIDING GREATER SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1992 WHEN WE ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD BE IMPLEMENTING ALL THE PROPOSALS OF THE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT OUT ON REHABILITATION FOR THE DISABLED. I ANNOUNCED IN MY RECENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SPEECH A RANGE OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY, NOT LEAST IN THE HOUSING FIELD AND IN THE HEALTH FIELD. WE ALSO ANNOUNCED WE WERE SETTING UP A TASK FORCE, A WORKING GROUP TO TRY TO BRING TOGETHER ALL OUR POLICIES ON THE ELDERLY TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF AGING BECAUSE THIS COMMUNITY IS GOING TO FIND THAT IT HAS MANY MORE ELDERLY RESIDENTS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO SIR PERCY'S COMMENTS YESTERDAY? DO YOU WORRY THAT THE BRITISH SUPPORT FOR YOUR PROPOSALS WILL FADE OUT?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN HONG KONG AND WE HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. AND SIR PERCY IS EXERCISING HIS FREEDOM OF SPEECH SAYING THINGS WHICH, I THINK, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN HONG KONG KNOW HE'S BEEN SAYING FOR MANY MANY YEARS. AT THE SAME TIME, WHAT ARE OTHER PEOPLE SAYING. WELL, WE KNOW THE VOICE OF HONG KONG AND WE KNOW THE VOICE OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT. WHEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY MADE THE STATEMENT AT THE OTHER DAY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, EVERY SINGLE MEMBER WHO SPOKE FROM RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, EVERY SINGLE ELECTED MEMBER, NOT RETIRED OFFICIAL, WHO SPOKE FROM RIGHT ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SUPPORTED THE APPROACH THAT WE'VE BEEN TAKING. AND I THINK THAT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. BUT AS FAR AS MY SPEECHES ARE CONCERNED, I AM GOING TO EXERCISE MY FREEDOM OF SPEECH TO GO ON SPEAKING UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND I'LL BE GIVING EVIDENCE. WE AGREED THIS WHEN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE VISITED HONG KONG A FEW WEEKS AGO. I'LL BE GIVING EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE AND SO WILL THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN LATE JANUARY.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK HIS COMMENT IS JUSTIFIED?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK I WANT TO SAY ANYTHING MORE.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK SECRET DIPLOMACY IS STILL ACCEPTABLE NOWADAYS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK PEOPLE KNOW MY APPROACH TO SECRET DEALS. I DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN TREAT A COMMUNITY LIKE HONG KONG IN A WHOLE IN A CORNER WAY. I THINK YOU HAVE TO TRUST PEOPLE. I THINK YOU HAVE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED, ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES IN THE WORLD. YOU CAN'T TREAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AS THOUGH THEY WERE IRRESPONSIBLE CHILDREN. THEY ARE VERY RESPONSIBLE. THEY ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL. WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANT IS TO BE TRUSTED AND THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO. THERE IS PERHAPS ONE THING THAT I CAN ADD. THERE'VE BEEN REPORTS THIS MORNING OF SOME REMARKS THAT THE CHINESE VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, THE VERY DISTINGUISHED MR QIAN QICHEN, MADE THIS MORNING. I HAVE ONLY INCOMPLETE REPORTS AND THERE MAY BE SOMETHINGS THAT HE SAID WHICH I WANT TO COMMENT ON LATER ON IN THE WEEK. BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT MR QIAN QICHEN SAID THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRC WERE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION AND A SMOOTH TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY. AND I WANT TO SAY IF THOSE'RE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHINESE SIDE, THEY ARE ENTIRELY SO SHARED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AND THEY ARE ENTIRELY SHARED BY THE BRITISH SIDE AS WELL. WE WANT TO HAVE AS SMOOTHEST AS POSSIBLE TRANSITION, WE WANT TO HAVE AS SMOOTHEST AS POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY, ABOUT WHICH THERE IS NO ARGUMENT WHATSOEVER IN 1997. WE ALSO WANT TO HAVE THE SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION, THAT REMARKABLE TREATY BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, IS IMPLEMENTED TO THE LETTER AND IN THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS WRITTEN. SO THOSE ARE THINGS ON WHICH I HOPE WE CAN AGREE AND ON WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE. MAY I JUST ADD THIS, IT WOULD BE VEY SURPRISING IF WE ARE ABLE TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING DURING THIS UNIQUELY DIFFICULT PERIOD. BUT I HOPE THAT, EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING, THAT WON'T MEAN THAT WE DISAGREE ON EVERYTHING. THERE'S PLENTY ON WHICH WE CAN AGREE, PLENTY ON WHICH WE MUST COOPERATE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE LIVELIHOOD AND THE STABILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT'S OUR INTENTION TO GO ON WORKING IN THAT COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. ONE MORE QUESTION.

- 5 -

QUESTION: YOU KNOW, AGAIN MR QIAN HAS SAID THAT, TALKING ABOUT THE SINCERITY AND HE SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE BRITISH SIDE IS LACK OF SINCERITY, WHAT IS YOUR COMMENT?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT IT IS SOMETIMES THE CASE THAT WORDS MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS TO CHINESE OFFICIALS. I THINK WHAT THE WORD "SINCERITY" MEANS TO SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS IS -- EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE WORLD MUST AGREE WITH US, OTHERWISE THEY ARE NOT BEING SINCERE. NOW THAT'S PRETTY UNIQUE WAY OF DEFINING THE WORD "SINCERITY". IT'S WHAT I THINK MIGHT BE CALLED UNILATERAL INTERPRETATION. WE ARE TOTALLY SINCERE IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. WE ARE WHOLELY SINCERE IN WANTING TO PRESERVE THE VALUES AND THE FREEDOMS, AND THE RULE OF LAW HERE IN HONG KONG. WE ARE SINCERE IN THOSE OBJECTIVES. THAT'S WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, WE PROPOSED TALKS ON POLITICAL ISSUES TO THE CHINESE, THAT'S WHY WE HAVE GONE THROUGH 17 ROUNDS OF THOSE TALKS WITHOUT ALAS VERY MUCH TO SHOW FOR IT. THAT'S WHY WE WERE PREPARED TO OFFER CONDITIONALLY CONSIDERABLE CONCESSIONS DURING THOSE TALKS. THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE A VERY GOOD WAY OF DEMONSTRATING SINCERITY. BUT OUR SINCERITY IS ABOVE ALL THE SINCERITY OF WANTING TO WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, SINCERELY WANTING TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND THAT MEANS THAT WE HAVE PRINCIPLES AND WE HAVE A BOTTOM LINE, AND WE DON'T TRANSLATE SINCERITY AS MEANING "DO WHATEVER CHINESE OFFICIALS TELL YOU TO DO". I DON'T THINK THAT IS A VERY SENSIBLE WAY OF INTERPRETING THE WORD. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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FS SPEAKS ON AIRPORT PROGRESS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO DECISIONS ON SOME KEY CONTRACTS AND FRANCHISES THAT ARE NEEDED ON THE AIRPORT IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID.

"WE SHALL CERTAINLY HAVE TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE ISSUE WITH LEGCO, I GUESS, SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR," HE SAID AFTER ATTENDING AN AMCHAM LUNCH TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE NOTED THAT PROGRESS ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS WAS GOING WELL, WITHIN BUDGET AND AT THE SPEED IT WANTED.

ON THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY, HE SAID: "WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH LEGCO IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO."

MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY WOULD REMAIN A DIALOGUE WITH CHINA ON THE FINANCING AND RELATED LAND ISSUES.

"WE INTEND TO CARRY ON WITH THAT SORT OF DISCUSSION WITH THE CHINESE, WHILE ALSO CONSULTING LEGCO," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1993

- 6 -

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE HELPS BOOST HEALTH CARE: GOVERNOR

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THE SETTING UP OF THE HONG KONG ACADEMY OF MEDICINE WILL HELP THE GOVERNMENT IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

"OUR AIM IS TO HAVE A SYSTEM THAT, IN ITS RANGE AND QUALITY OF THE SERVICE, CAN MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE SAID THE SYSTEM MUST ALSO BE FLEXIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO CHANGING NEEDS AND TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL IN DEVELOPING SUCH A SYSTEM THAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ITSELF SHOULD HAVE THE MEANS WHEREBY MEMBERS CAN ADD TO THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, AND CAN LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES AND NEW APPROACHES TO HEALTH CARE AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR CAREERS."

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE ACADEMY.

HE SAID IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THE ACADEMY WOULD SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE PROFESSION OF MEDICINE BY PROMOTING CO-OPERATION AMONG MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND BY SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY AND ETHICS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

MR PATTEN SAID THE WORK OF THE ACADEMY WOULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG CONTINUED TO BE SERVED BY A FREE STANDING, FORWARD LOOKING MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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ORDINANCE TO COVER VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS OF FILMS

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THE SCHEME OF CONTROL UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS OF A FILM FROM NEXT MONTH, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING, MRS RITA LAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MRS LAU TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG THAT A LOOPHOLE EXISTED IN THE LAW.

"MANY VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS ON THE MARKET ARE MADE FROM FILMS APPROVED UNDER THE FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE FOR SHOWING TO THE PUBLIC.

"THESE TAPES AND DISCS ARE, THEREFORE, EXEMPTED FROM THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE," MRS LAU SAID.

AN ANOMALOUS SITUATION AROSE WHERE EVEN THOUGH THE ORIGINAL FILM MIGHT BE APPROVED FOR SHOWING TO ONLY PERSONS AGED 18 OR ABOVE IN CINEMAS, THERE WAS NOTHING IN LAW TO PREVENT THE SUBSEQUENT VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS FROM BEING SOLD, HIRED, GIVEN OR LENT TO A PERSON BELOW THE AGE OF 18, SHE ADDED.

- 7 -

THE LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS SOUGHT TO RECTIFY AND PLUG THIS LOOPHOLE.

UNDER THESE AMENDMENTS, WHICH BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 14 NEXT YEAR, IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO SELL, HIRE, LEND, GIVE OR EVEN SHOW A CATEGORY III TAPE OR DISC TO A PERSON BELOW THE AGE OF 18 AND CONTRAVENTIONS WILL ATTRACT A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

OTHER VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS THAT ARE NOT MADE FROM A FILM ARE NOT AFFECTED AND WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) FOR PREVIEW.

ALSO, APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION SYMBOLS AND WARNING NOTICES ARE REQUIRED TO BE DISPLAYED ON THE VIDEO TAPES AND LASER DISCS AS WELL AS ON RELATED MATERIALS.

THE PACKAGING OF A CATEGORY III TAPE OR DISC IS REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED FOR SCRUTINY BY TELA WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IT TO BE WRAPPED UP WITH OPAQUE PAPER IF IT CONTAINED EXPLICIT SEXUAL AND OFFENSIVE MATERIALS SO THAT THE OFFENSIVE WORDS OR PICTURE WOULD NOT BE VISIBLE.

MRS LAU ALSO TOLD THE MEETING THAT AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FIRM COMMISSIONED BY TELA WOULD COMPLETE A FILM STANDARD SURVEY AROUND JANUARY.

SHE SAID THE SURVEY, UNDER WAY SINCE NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, WAS A BIENNIAL EXERCISE AIMED AT "FINDING OUT WHETHER THE STANDARDS WE USE IN CLASSIFYING FILMS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THOSE USED, CONSCIOUSLY OR SUBCONSCIOUSLY, BY GENERAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC."

"THE RESULT OF THE SURVEY WILL PROVIDE US WITH AN OBJECTIVE BASIS TO CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANY, CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE TO OUR FILM CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES AND ALSO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM," SHE ADDED.

AN ASPECT BEING LOOKED INTO IN THE SURVEY IS FILM POSTERS.

MRS LAU SAID: "I AM AWARE OF THE VIEWS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT SOME FILM POSTERS FAR EXCEED THE LIMIT OF DECENCY.

"INDEED, WE HAVE TAKEN OUT PROSECUTIONS OVER SOME OF THESE.

"THE SURVEY, I HOPE, WILL GIVE US A CLEAR INDICATION ON WHETHER THERE IS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE SUGGESTION, WHICH HAS BEEN PUT TO ME ON A FEW OCCASIONS, THAT ADVERTISING MATERIALS FOR FILMS, OR AT LEAST POSTERS, FOR CATEGORY III FILMS, SHOULD BE SUBJECT ALSO TO PRE-CENSORSHIP."

MRS LAU SAID CENSORSHIP WAS AN "EMOTIVE AND IRKSOME WORD".

"BUT, FEW IN OUR SOCIETY WOULD DOUBT THE NEED FOR A SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN FROM BEING EXPOSED TO FILMS THAT PORTRAY EXCESS SEX OR VIOLENCE," SHE SAID.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1993

- 8 -

JOINT LIAISON GROUP 28TH MEETING: JOINT COMMUNIQUE

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THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HELD ITS TWENTY EIGHTH MEETING IN LONDON FROM DECEMBER 7 TO 9, 1993.

THE GROUP HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LANDS WHICH ARE NOW IN USE FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES IN HONG KONG; MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS; HONG KONG'S AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS; FRANCHISES AND CONTRACTS EXTENDING BEYOND 1997 AND RELATED MATTERS; INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PROTECTION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND RELEVANT COUNTRIES; SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE OFFENDERS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND RELEVANT COUNTRIES; MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CERTAIN COUNTRIES; LOCALISATION OF LAWS; ADAPTATION OF LAWS; THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION RELATING TO THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997; VISA ABOLITION AGREEMENTS; THE RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES; AND CIVIL SERVICE MATTERS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE TIME AND PLACE TO BE AGREED BY THE TWO SIDES.

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SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND BENEFITS ALL

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (THURSDAY) EMPHASISED THAT THE BENEFICIAL LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WERE UNDENIABLE AND SUBSTANTIAL.

AT THE MOST GENERAL LEVEL, HE SAID, A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WOULD PROVIDE VALUABLE DIRECTION AND COMMITMENT TO THE WORLD'S TRADING COMMUNITY.

"IT WOULD MEAN THAT WORLD LEADERS COMMIT THEMSELVES TO AN AGREEMENT TO OPEN MARKETS, LOWER TRADE BARRIERS AND RESIST THE CLAMOUR OF SPECIAL DOMESTIC INTERESTS," HE SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HE NOTED THAT WHILE THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL BENEFITS WERE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY, A RECENT OECD STUDY SUGGESTED THAT THE ANNUAL BENEFITS MIGHT REACH US\$270 BILLION BY 2002 IF THE ROUND SUCCEEDED.

THE RESEARCHERS HAD ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE AND THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO FACTOR IN THE EFFECT ON TRADE IN SERVICES.

"SO HOPEFULLY THE BENEFITS WILL PROVE A GOOD DEAL HIGHER THAN THIS ALREADY ENCOURAGING ESTIMATE," MR MACLEOD SAID.

/HE ADDED

HE ADDED THAT TARIFF REDUCTIONS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THIS INCREASE IN WORLD WELFARE.

"THE SUCCESSIVE LOWERING OF TARIFF LEVELS IN SEVEN ROUNDS OF GATT TALKS SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1948 HAS PROBABLY BEEN THE GREATEST SINGLE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE DRAMATIC RISE IN WORLD TRADE OVER THOSE YEARS.

"A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WOULD ADD ITS WEIGHT TO THAT PROCESS, SPURRING AN EXTRA US\$745 BILLION A YEAR IN WORLD TRADE BY 2005, ACCORDING TO GATT ECONOMISTS," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE ONLY SIX DAYS LEFT TO THE DEADLINE ON DECEMBER 15 AND THE PRESSURE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WAS GREATER THAN IT HAD EVER BEEN.

"ONE OF OUR GREATEST CONCERNS, AS THE ROUND REACHES ITS FINALE, IS THAT IN THE LAST MINUTE DEAL-CUTTING PRINCIPALLY BETWEEN THE 'MAJORS', KEY GATT PRINCIPLES WILL BE COMPROMISED OR SACRIFICED," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD HIGHLIGHTED FOUR ISSUES IN WHICH HONG KONG HAD A SPECIAL INTEREST, NAMELY ANTI-DUMPING, MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, GATS (GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES) AND TARIFF REDUCTIONS.

ON ANTI-DUMPING, HE SAID HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT HONG KONG WOULD MISS A VITAL OPPORTUNITY TO RESTRICT ANTI-DUMPING TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS A TRADE POLICY INSTRUMENT OF LAST RESORT, TO BE USED ONLY WHERE GENUINE DUMPING WAS TAKING PLACE AND NOT AS A WEAPON TO HARRASS NORMAL TRADE.

AS FOR THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID HONG KONG WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF A SUBSTANTIAL RESTRUCTURING OF ITS TEXTILES AND GARMENT INDUSTRY BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PHASING OUT OF THE MFA.

ON GATS, HE BELIEVED THAT THE BENEFITS WOULD BE GRADUAL BUT THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD PROVIDE GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND A MEANS TO BRING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS TO LOWER BARRIERS TO SERVICE TRADE.

OF MORE IMMEDIATE BENEFIT WOULD BE THE TARIFF REDUCTIONS, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED UNLIKELY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ACHIEVE THE TARGET GATT MEMBERS SET FOR THEMSELVES AT THE START, WHICH WAS A ONE-THIRD REDUCTION IN TARIFFS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RELUCTANCE AMONG SOME DEVELOPED ECONOMIES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN TEXTILES AND CLOTHING TARIFFS WHICH WERE LIKELY TO REMAIN MUCH HIGHER THAN AVERAGE TARIFF LEVELS.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE MAY SEE HONG KONG-MADE PRODUCTS ATTRACTING OVER US\$400 MILLION LESS IN TARIFFS NEXT YEAR.

"OUR COMPETITORS WILL GAIN SIMILARLY, BUT LOWER TARIFFS SHOULD MEAN LOWER RETAIL COSTS AND HIGHER CONSUMPTION OVERALL," HE SAID.

WHAT IF THE URUGUAY ROUND FAILED? HE SAID THAT TRADE WOULD CONTINUE AND, IN THIS REGION AT LEAST, SHOULD CONTINUE TO GROW.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED: "BUT LIKE COMPOUND INTEREST ON A LARGE DEBT, THE COST OF FAILURE WILL ACCUMULATE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, THROUGH FAILURE TO RESIST DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURE FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION, FRUSTRATED TRADE, AND UNRESOLVED TRADE DISPUTES WITH ALL THE TRADE RETALIATION AND COUNTER RETALIATION WHICH THAT CAN INVOLVE."

HE APPEALED TO THE WORLD'S LEADERS TO MAKE THE URUGUAY ROUND A SUCCESS AS THE BEST CHANCE THE WORLD HAD FOR ACHIEVING A STRONG INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY RESTED IN A STRONG MULTILATERAL SYSTEM AND A COMMITMENT TO FREE TRADE PRINCIPLES.

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MEASURES TO HELP MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN COURT

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SIMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AIMED AT HELPING MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVE EVIDENCE IN COURT ARE EXPECTED TO BE PUT IN PLACE FAIRLY SOON.

THIS WAS DISCLOSED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY MR JUSTICE MICHAEL WONG KIN-CHOW, A HIGH COURT JUDGE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TASKED TO EXAMINE WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT MAY BE ASSISTED IN ORDER TO MINIMISE ANY TRAUMA THEY MAY SUFFER.

THE WORKING GROUP WAS APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR. IT HAS MET TWICE SINCE.

"I AM RATHER ENCOURAGED THAT THERE IS A BROAD CONSENSUS AMONG MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE SORT OF PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES THAT SHOULD, AND COULD, BE INTRODUCED WITHIN THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE COURT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," MR JUSTICE WONG SAID.

"THESE MEASURES DO NOT INVOLVE ANY LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS OR ENTAIL SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURE. THEY SHOULD THEREFORE BE EASIER AND QUICKER TO IMPLEMENT.

"THE WORKING GROUP WILL CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS FURTHER AT ITS NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 21. AN INTERIM REPORT WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE," HE ADDED.

MR JUSTICE WONG NOTED THAT FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERIM REPORT, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD FOCUS ON MORE COMPLEX AND LONG-TERM MEASURES.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A MEETING THIS MORNING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVEN CONCERNED BODIES, MAINLY PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS, TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THE INTERESTS OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE COULD BEST BE PROTECTED WHEN GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT.

MR JUSTICE WONG DESCRIBED THE SESSION AS A "MOST USEFUL EXERCISE WHICH PROVIDES A VALUABLE INPUT TO THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP".

THE SEVEN BODIES ARE THE HONG KONG JOINT COUNCIL OF PARENTS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED; THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF PRE-SCHOOL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN; THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED; THE ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED; THE INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEAGUE; THE HONG KONG DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION AND THE SOCIETY FOR WELFARE OF THE AUTISTIC PERSONS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE MR T C FOO, A SOLICITOR RECOMMENDED TO SIT ON THE WORKING GROUP BY THE LAW SOCIETY AND MRS MARIAN CHEUNG, A SOCIAL WORKER AND A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE GROUP.

THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF SEVEN PROFESSIONALS AND EXPERTS.

THEY ARE MR JOHN WOOD, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION; MR ALLAN CHOW, COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION; MR ANTHONY CHAN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (YOUTH AND REHABILITATION); MR MICHAEL LUNN, A BARRISTER RECOMMENDED BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION; MR T C FOO, A SOLICITOR RECOMMENDED BY THE LAW SOCIETY; DR SYLVIA CHEN, A PSYCHIATRIST IN PRIVATE PRACTICE; AND MR FRED LI WAH-MING, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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PEOPLE SATISFIED WITH PRESENT SITUATION: POLL

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A BI-MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH REVEALED THAT 76 PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

THIS REPRESENTED A THREE PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE FIGURE RECORDED IN THE SEPTEMBER POLL, A HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

RELEASING THE FINDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER TELEPHONE OPINION SURVEY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID PEOPLE'S EXPECTATION OF THE FUTURE WAS ALSO UP BY THREE PER CENT.

SIXTY-SEVEN PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS EXPECTED THE SITUATION TO EITHER IMPROVE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS OR STAY ABOUT THE SAME, COMPARED WITH 64 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER.

AND RESPONDENTS WHO HAD CONFIDENCE THAT HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE REMAINED MORE OR LESS THE SAME AT 60 PER CENT.

ON THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT A SLIGHT INCREASE OF TWO PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN THE NOVEMBER SURVEY WITH 52 PER CENT EXPRESSING SATISFACTION.

FIFTY-EIGHT PER CENT OF THE RESPONDENTS CONSIDERED THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON ITS POLICIES AND ACTIONS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO BE SATISFACTORY, COMPARED WITH 54 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER.

"RESPONDENTS WHO FELT THAT CIVIL SERVANTS' WORKING ATTITUDE WAS GOOD REMAINED THE SAME, AT 52 PER CENT," HE ADDED.

AS TO THE THREE MOST-TALKED-ABOUT PROBLEMS FACING THE TERRITORY, "HONG KONG FUTURE" CONTINUED TO TOP THE LIST, AT 47 PER CENT, FOLLOWED BY "HOUSING", AT 31 PER CENT, AND "SOCIAL WELFARE", AT 19 PER CENT.

ON THE "HONG KONG FUTURE" ISSUE, 22 PER CENT SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD HANDLED IT WELL WITH 78 PER CENT BELIEVING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD EXERTED EFFORT IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM.

THE TWO RATINGS ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT IN THE LAST SURVEY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE POLL, WHICH INVOLVED TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WITH 1,458 PEOPLE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 15 AND 19, WAS THE 49TH IN THE SERIES OF REGULAR POLLS CONDUCTED BY THE HOME AFFAIRS BRANCH.

THE TELEPHONE INTERVIEWS WERE BASED ON A RANDOM SAMPLE OF RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE NUMBERS CONTAINED IN THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES.

WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A SELECTED TELEPHONE NUMBER, A RESPONDENT AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 64 WAS RANDOMLY CHOSEN FOR INTERVIEW.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN SEPTEMBER

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR DECREASED BY 4.2% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 22%.

THESE ARE THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 15%. IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 15% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.4% WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 0.4%. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 0.7%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDICES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.4% IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING SEPTEMBER 1993 ALONE AND COMPARING WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 8.2% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 18%. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 11%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 11%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 0.5% WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 0.9%. IMPORT PRICES REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1993 WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FOR ALL COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED, PARTICULARLY RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-68%); AND FOOTWEAR (-56%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE PRICES OF FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 7.2%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-9.1%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-6.2%); AND TEXTILE FABRICS (-4.4%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 6.8% IN SEPTEMBER 1993 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1992.

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS; AND FRUIT. ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; AND WHEAT AND FLOUR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 12%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; FOOTWEAR; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS NOTED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 8.9% IN SEPTEMBER 1993 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS; AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF BASE METALS (OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL); INEDIBLE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; AND RAW COTTON.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 44% IN VOLUME IN SEPTEMBER 1993 AS COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1992.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 11%. NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY DECLINED.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1993 WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, THE IMPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS AND CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 3.1% AND 0.8% RESPECTIVELY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 9.0%, 2.0% AND 1.5% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING SEPTEMBER 1993 WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 99%.

THAT OF CAPITAL GOODS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND CONSUMER GOODS ALL REGISTERED INCREASES OF 18%. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 5.7%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE RE-EXPORT PRICE OF FOODSTUFFS; AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 1.9% AND 0.9% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 16% AND 3.4% RESPECTIVELY. THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SALE AROUND MID-DECEMBER AT \$8.5 A COPY AT EITHER THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

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/Table 1 :

Table 1 : Changes in domestic exports by principal commodity group

Commodity group	Comparing SEP 1993 with SEP 1992			Comparing JAN-SEP 1993 with JAN-SEP 1992		
	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %	Value %	Unit Value %	Volume %
Clothing	-12.4	-0.4	-12.1	-7.2	1.9	-8.9
Textile fabrics	-4.9	-4.4	-0.6	-2.8	-4.0	1.3
Textile yarn and thread	-21.1	-9.1	-13.2	-13.2	-5.9	-7.8
Textile made-ups and related articles	-27.2	-6.2	-22.4	-28.1	-0.5	-27.7
Radios of all kinds	-69.0	-3.2	-67.9	-41.8	-7.5	-37.1
Electronic components	-7.1	-0.1	-7.0	6.6	-0.9	7.6
Footwear	-52.8	7.2	-56.0	-45.8	6.4	-49.1
Metal manufactures	-1.9	-1.6	-0.3	-0.2	-2.3	2.1
Metal ores and scrap	-24.9	*	-24.9	-1.6	-2.0	0.4
Watches and clocks	-14.7	0.7	-15.3	-14.2	0.6	-14.7
Travel goods, handbags and similar articles	-26.0	-1.7	-24.6	-22.7	-2.4	-20.7
Domestic electrical appliances	-13.6	*	-13.6	-21.6	-2.7	-19.3
ALL COMMODITIES	-7.9	0.5	-8.2	-3.9	0.4	-4.2

* less than 0.05%

/Table 2 :

Table 2 : Changes in imports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1993 with SEP 1992			Comparing JAN-SEP 1993 with JAN-SEP 1992		
	Value	Unit	Volume	Value	Unit	Volume
	%	Value %	%	%	Value %	%
Foodstuffs	5.2	-1.5	6.8	-0.3	-0.8	0.3
Consumer goods	12.9	0.8	12.0	18.5	-0.4	18.9
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	6.6	-2.0	8.9	8.0	-2.9	11.2
Fuels	30.9	-9.0	43.9	10.3	-0.3	10.5
Capital goods	13.9	3.1	10.6	23.1	3.3	19.1
ALL COMMODITIES	11.0	*	11.1	14.5	-0.7	15.3

* less than 0.05%

Table 3 : Changes in re-exports by end-use category

End-use category	Comparing SEP 1993 with SEP 1992			Comparing JAN-SEP 1993 with JAN-SEP 1992		
	Value	Unit	Volume	Value	Unit	Volume
	%	Value %	%	%	Value %	%
Foodstuffs	-3.8	1.9	-5.7	-1.9	-0.8	-1.2
Consumer goods	17.7	-0.2	17.8	20.2	0.4	19.8
Raw materials and semi-manufactures	14.1	-3.4	17.9	15.4	-3.2	19.3
Fuels	68.0	-15.7	99.3	68.2	-5.2	77.4
Capital goods	18.9	0.9	17.9	36.6	2.3	33.5
ALL COMMODITIES	16.8	-0.9	17.9	21.3	-0.4	21.7

- 17 -

NEW EDITION OF THE 'NAMES OF BUILDINGS' BOOK

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A NEW EDITION OF THE 'NAMES OF BUILDINGS' BOOK REPLACING THE ONE PUBLISHED IN 1990 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE.

THE BOOK, AT \$75 A COPY, CONTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF BUILDING NAMES WITH ADDRESSES BOTH IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH.

FOR EASY REFERENCE, THE BOOK IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS.

PART ONE COMPRISES BUILDING NAMES IN HONG KONG AND KOWLOON; PART TWO GIVES BUILDING NAMES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE OUTLYING ISLANDS. AN INDEX OF CHINESE NAMES PRECEDES EACH PART.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW EDITION, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT SAID:

"ABOUT 15,000 BUILDING NAMES HAVE NOW BEEN RECORDED AND THE BOOK SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE POPULAR NOT ONLY WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BUT ALSO WITH PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSES."

HE ADDED THAT WHILE THERE WAS NO LEGISLATION CONTROLLING THE USE OF BUILDING NAMES, THE BOOK WOULD HELP OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS TO AVOID DUPLICATION WHEN NAMING THEIR BUILDINGS.

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NEW MINIBUS SERVES WONG TAI SIN RESIDENTS

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A NEW GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 55 PLYING BETWEEN SAN PO KONG AND TIN MA COURT WILL COME INTO SERVICE THIS SATURDAY (DECEMBER 11), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE CIRCULAR ROUTE WILL RUN FROM HONG KEUNG STREET, SAN PO KONG VIA WONG TAI SIN LOWER ESTATE, TIN MA COURT, WANG TAU HOM ESTATE AND BACK TO HONG KEUNG STREET.

IT WILL SERVE COMMUTERS FROM 6.30 AM TO 10.30 PM DAILY AT FREQUENCIES OF SEVEN TO EIGHT MINUTES.

THE FARE FROM SAN PO KONG TO TIN MA COURT WILL BE \$3.30. A SECTION FARE OF \$2.50 WILL BE CHARGED FOR PASSENGERS TRAVELLING FROM TUNG TAU TSUEN ROAD TO TIN MA COURT OR SAN PO KONG.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

ADVANCE COPIES OF THE PAPERS FOR THE MEETING WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER 2.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE PRESS ROOM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENT OF THE PAPERS ARE NOT FOR USE UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,980
REVERSAL OF LAF	+20
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-920
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,080

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.6 *+0.1* 9.12.93

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.97 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.34	3.62
1 MONTH	3.01 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.83	3.91
3 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.95	4.08
6 MONTHS	3.19 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.87	4.26
12 MONTHS	3.49 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.79	4.71

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,640 MN

CLOSED 9 DECEMBER 1993