



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ACTING GOVERNOR VISITS OLD AND NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES ...	1
STATEMENT ON U.S. SANCTIONS ON CHINA .....	2
SHA INVITES VIEWS ON EQUALITY OF SEXES .....	2
CENTRAL RECLAMATION CONTRACT AWARD .....	5
WSD REFUTES REPORTS ON EAST RIVER WATER .....	6
HIN TIN SWIMMING POOL RE-OPENS .....	7
PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JULY 1993 .....	7
INDUSTRY BRIEFED ON FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE .....	10
LAND REGISTRY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY .....	11
ISSUE OF LIGHT BUS DRIVING INSTRUCTOR LICENCES .....	12
CLOSING DATE FOR LOGO CONTEST DRAWS NEAR .....	13
CARGO AREAS REMAIN OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS .....	14
BEACH WATER GRADES .....	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	18

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 1 -

ACTING GOVERNOR VISITS OLD AND NEW PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES

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THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, MADE A SWEEPING VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO LOOK AT DIFFERENT TYPES OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE AREA - THOSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN HOMES FOR TENANTS FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS.

ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE AT THE TOP OF MA HANG VALLEY WHERE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS BUILDING UNDER PHASE I SIX BLOCKS - FOUR RENTAL WITH 660 UNITS AND TWO HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME BLOCKS WITH 360 UNITS - SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT ON COMPLETION LATER THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 3,600 CLEAREES FROM THE ADJACENT SQUATTER AREA WOULD BE RELOCATED TO THESE FLATS, BUILT TO THE LATEST HARMONY DESIGNS.

CHIEF ARCHITECT, MISS PENNY WARD, EXPLAINED THAT IN DESIGNING THE NEW ESTATE - WHICH TAKES UP A PICTURESQUE CORNER OF STANLEY AND CHUNG HOM KOK - THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAD TO INTEGRATE THE HEIGHT OF THE BLOCKS INTO THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING (SQUATTER CONTROL AND CLEARANCE), MR PETER YIP, ALSO TOLD SIR DAVID THAT WITH THE CLEARANCE OF THE MAJORITY OF SQUATTERS FROM THE SECOND AND THIRD PHASE, PART OF THE SITE WOULD BE USED TO PROVIDE ANOTHER FIVE NON-STANDARD HARMONY RURAL DOMESTIC BLOCKS FOR ANOTHER 4,400 PEOPLE.

THE REMAINING SITE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE VALLEY WOULD INCORPORATE A VILLAGE SQUARE THAT WOULD INCLUDE A SHOPPING CENTRE, A CAR PARK BUILDING, AN ESTATE MANAGEMENT OFFICE, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD MURRAY HOUSE AND A WATERFRONT PARK.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO PRESERVE MA HANG'S SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS, WITH THE EXISTING TEMPLES AND THE FOOTPATH PATTERN PRESERVED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

AFTER SEEING A NUMBER OF SAMPLE FLATS OF DIFFERENT SIZES AND TOURING THE LANDSCAPED CHINESE GARDEN BETWEEN THE BLOCKS, SIR DAVID LEFT FOR AN OLDER ESTATE IN THE DISTRICT.

BUILT BETWEEN 1966 AND 1968, THE SIX MARK IV BLOCKS OF SHEK PAI WAN NOW HOUSE ABOUT 12,400 PEOPLE. AND FROM THE ROOF OF ONE OF THE BLOCKS SIR DAVID HAD A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE EXTENSIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THAT HAD SPRUNG UP AROUND ABERDEEN HARBOUR.

SIR DAVID THEN VISITED THE NEARBY YUE KWONG CHUEN WHICH WAS BUILT BY THE HOUSING SOCIETY IN THE 1960'S.

HE WAS BRIEFED BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SOCIETY (ESTATE MANAGEMENT), MRS JULIA WONG, THAT THE ESTATE COMPRISED FIVE BLOCKS, WITH THE FIRST ONE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1962. THE ESTATE HOUSES A POPULATION OF 4,614.

ACCOMPANIED BY MRS WONG, HE VISITED A FAMILY IN ONE OF THE BLOCKS, HOY KONG LAU. HE WAS TOLD THAT THIS BUILDING, ORIGINALLY DESIGNED WITH COMMUNAL KITCHEN AND TOILET FACILITIES, HAD BEEN CONVERTED TO SELF-CONTAINED UNITS SINCE 1984.

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- 2 -

THE OTHER FOUR BUILDINGS HAD SELF-CONTAINED UNITS WHEN THEY WERE FIRST CONSTRUCTED.

NOTING THAT THE ESTATE WAS BUILT ON SLOPE, SIR DAVID WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT ANNUAL INSPECTION WAS PERFORMED ON THE SLOPE TO ENSURE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS.

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STATEMENT ON U.S. SANCTIONS ON CHINA

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE IMPACT ON HONG KONG REGARDING THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE U.S. ON CHINA, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY):

"ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION SO FAR AVAILABLE, THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE U.S. ON CHINA WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HONG KONG."

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SHA INVITES VIEWS ON EQUALITY OF SEXES

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IT HAS LONG BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN AND TO FOSTER EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

RELEASING THE GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR SUEN SAID EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR WOMEN AND MEN TO PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN ALL ASPECTS OF SOCIETY.

THE GREEN PAPER EXAMINES THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO WOMEN IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF ACTIVITIES.

"IT ALSO ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH WHETHER WOMEN AND MEN PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN ALL FIELDS AND SETS OUT POSSIBLE MEASURES TO FOSTER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG.

"THE GREEN PAPER HAS A VERY IMPORTANT EDUCATION VALUE. BY GENERATING PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT, THE GREEN PAPER WILL PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

"SINCE THE GREEN PAPER COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS, THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE ISSUES COVERED IN THE DOCUMENT.

/"IN CONJUNCTION .....

"IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN PAPER, WE INTEND TO LAUNCH A SURVEY ON THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN; THE PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF AREAS OF INEQUALITY, IF ANY, AND THE REASONS FOR SUCH INEQUALITY," HE SAID.

MR SUEN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO FIRM VIEWS ON HOW TO UNDERTAKE THIS SURVEY BUT WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH EXPERTS OUTSIDE THE GOVERNMENT.

"WORK ON THE SURVEY WILL START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HE POINTED OUT.

REFERRING TO THE CONTENTS OF THE GREEN PAPER, MR SUEN SAID IN ALMOST ALL AREAS SURVEYED IN THE GREEN PAPER, WOMEN ENJOYED THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AND RIGHTS AS MEN DID.

"THEY ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS; TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT, AND TO RECEIVE EDUCATION.

"THEY HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES."

YET MEN AND WOMEN, MR SUEN OBSERVED, DO NOT PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN ALL FIELDS.

IN POLITICS, FOR INSTANCE, 5.1 PER CENT OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND 9.1 PER CENT OF THE ELECTED DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS ARE FEMALE.

"AND OF THE SOME 690 VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THERE IS ONLY ONE FEMALE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE," MR SUEN SAID.

IN EMPLOYMENT, MR SUEN NOTED THAT WOMEN AND MEN TENDED TO TAKE UP DIFFERENT OCCUPATIONS.

"WOMEN CONCENTRATE IN CLERICAL POSITIONS. THERE IS ALSO A GENDER GAP IN REMUNERATION."

IN EDUCATION, WOMEN AND MEN TEND TO HAVE DIFFERENT ACADEMIC INTERESTS AND PURSUITS.

"THERE IS A HIGHER FEMALE PRESENCE IN ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES SUBJECTS IN THE UNIVERSITIES," MR SUEN ADDED.

REFERRING TO THE DIFFERENCES, MR SUEN EMPHASISED THAT EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN DID NOT DEPEND ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONE.

"BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES, PERSONAL PREFERENCES AND SOCIAL FORCES ALL AFFECT THE EXTENT OF EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

"IN EMPLOYMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS RECOGNISED THAT THERE COULD BE A DEGREE OF ROLE BIAS IN SOCIETY WHICH HAS AFFECTED THE NUMBER OF WOMEN OR MEN PARTICIPATING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS; FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE FEWER FEMALE ENGINEERS AND MALE PERSONAL SECRETARIES," MR SUEN SAID.

"IN A FREE SOCIETY WHICH TREASURES THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, IT IS NOT FOR GOVERNMENT TO ENGINEER PERSONAL CHOICES NOR TO PRESCRIBE SOCIAL NORMS AND ATTITUDES."

NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVED THERE WERE A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE MEASURES TO FOSTER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG.

THEY INCLUDED STEPPING UP PUBLIC EDUCATION, DEVELOPING A CHARTER FOR WOMEN, INSTITUTING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL, EXTENDING THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) TO HONG KONG, AND SETTING UP A WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

"EVERY IMPROVEMENT MEASURE INEVITABLY CARRIES WITH IT PARTICULAR IMPLICATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY," MR SUEN SAID.

CITING LEGISLATIVE CONTROL AS AN EXAMPLE, MR SUEN SAID INTRODUCING EQUAL PAY AND ANTI-SEX DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE AN AVENUE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED FROM DISCRIMINATION TO SEEK REDRESS.

BUT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO INVOLVE A CERTAIN DEGREE OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE OPERATION OF INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYERS.

"TO MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS, EMPLOYERS MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP A FORMAL SYSTEM OF RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION PROCEDURES. SOME SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS MIGHT FIND IT ONEROUS TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGISLATION," MR SUEN SAID.

ON THE EXTENSION OF CEDAW TO HONG KONG, MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT CEDAW OBLIGED STATES PARTIES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO ELIMINATE UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BODIES.

"THE EXTENSION WOULD IMPOSE WIDE-RANGING OBLIGATIONS ON HONG KONG. SOME FORM OF EQUAL PAY OR ANTI-SEX DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION WHICH APPLY TO BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REQUIRED," MR SUEN EXPLAINED.

AN ORGANISATION TO CO-ORDINATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CEDAW WOULD ALSO NEED TO BE ESTABLISHED.

AS FOR THE SETTING UP OF A WOMEN'S COMMISSION, THIS COULD HAVE DIFFERENT MODES OF OPERATION AND PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR DISCUSSING WOMEN'S MATTERS.

"SUCH A COMMISSION WOULD REQUIRE EXECUTIVE SUPPORT IN ORDER TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY," MR SUEN ADDED.

EMPHASISING THAT THE STATUS OF WOMEN WILL BE ULTIMATELY DETERMINED BY THE ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, MR SUEN SAID IT WAS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD EXPRESS THE VIEWS ON WHETHER ACTION WAS NEEDED TO FURTHER EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND IF SO, THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

INVITING THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, MR SUEN SAID: "GOVERNMENT HAS AN OPEN MIND ON THE MEASURES TO ENHANCE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS WOULD BE CRUCIAL IN GUIDING GOVERNMENT TO CHART OUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER."

COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER ARE INVITED TO WRITE TO -

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION  
31ST FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE,  
130 HENNESSY ROAD,  
WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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CENTRAL RECLAMATION CONTRACT AWARD

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ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) HAS TODAY (THURSDAY) ACCEPTED A \$1.72 BILLION TENDER FROM THE DRAGAGES/PENTA/BSG JOINT VENTURE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE CONTRACT PRICE IS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ORIGINAL PROJECT ESTIMATE. WORK ON THIS 48-MONTH CONTRACT IS EXPECTED TO START IN EARLY SEPTEMBER."

THE RECLAMATION WILL PROVIDE NEW LAND FOR GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT. IT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A SITE FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY'S TERMINUS STATION FOR CENTRAL, WHICH WILL MAKE IT AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

BECAUSE OF THE PROJECT'S CONNECTION WITH THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, THE MTRC HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO AWARD THE CONTRACT AND TO MANAGE THE EXECUTION OF THE WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) TO 25, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$28.5 BILLION. THIS AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY 68 PER CENT BY VALUE OF ALL THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ON THE ACP.

"TOGETHER WITH FOUR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WORTH \$9.7 BILLION AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRACTS AWARDED ON THE ACP IS SOME \$38.5 BILLION.

"THE DRAGAGES-PENTA-BSG JOINT VENTURE'S PRICE OF \$1.72 BILLION (MONEY OF THE DAY) WAS THE LOWEST SUBMITTED BY TWO SHORTLISTED TENDERERS FOR THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION PHASE ONE CONTRACT, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MTRC AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE TWO CONSORTIA WERE SHORTLISTED BECAUSE THEY SUBMITTED THE LOWEST PRICES WHEN TENDERS FOR THE CONTRACT WERE FIRST RETURNED BY SIX TENDERERS IN SEPTEMBER 1992.

/"THE CONTRACT .....

"THE CONTRACT PRICE IS WITHIN BUDGET ESTIMATES, DESPITE SOME INEVITABLE INCREASES IN COSTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE DELAY IN MAKING THE CONTRACT AWARD."

PHASE ONE OF THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION COMPRISES A 20-HECTARE AREA FROM RUMSEY STREET TO BLAKE PIER, AND INCLUDES SIX HECTARES FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY STATION SITE. IT FORMS THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE CENTRAL AND WANCHAI RECLAMATION, LATER PHASES OF WHICH STRETCH EASTWARD TO CAUSEWAY BAY.

THE DRAGAGES-PENTA-BSG JOINT VENTURE COMPRISES DRAGAGES ET TRAVAUX PUBLICS OF FRANCE, PENTA OCEAN CONSTRUCTION CO LTD OF JAPAN, AND BACHY SOLETANCHE GROUP OF FRANCE.

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WSD REFUTES REPORTS ON EAST RIVER WATER

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS DISMISSED THE REPORTS PUBLISHED IN SOME NEWSPAPERS TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT COMPLAINTS OF DISCOLOURATION OF WATER LODGED BY SOME CONSUMERS IN TSING YI PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES MIGHT BE DUE TO POOR QUALITY OF THE RAW WATER FROM EAST RIVER AND THE PURIFICATION PROCESS OF THE RAW WATER IN SHENZHEN.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE REPORTS WERE TOTALLY WRONG AND MISLEADING.

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE RAW WATER FROM EAST RIVER WAS TREATED AND PURIFIED IN THE VARIOUS TREATMENT WORKS IN HONG KONG AND THAT THERE WAS NO PURIFICATION OF THE RAW WATER IN SHENZHEN BEFORE IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE TERRITORY.

"BESIDES, THE ADDITION OF MANGANESE TO WATER FOR PURIFICATION PURPOSES, AS REPORTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS, HAS NEVER BEEN A PRACTICE IN THE WATER SUPPLY INDUSTRY ALL OVER THE WORLD," HE NOTED.

THE SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF ONLY FIVE COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISCOLOURED WATER FROM THE RESIDENTS OF CHEUNG ON ESTATE AS WELL AS CHING TAI AND CHING NGA COURTS IN TSING YI IN THE PAST FEW DAYS.

"THESE COMPLAINTS HAVE ALL BEEN INVESTIGATED AND FOUND TO BE ISOLATED CASES. TESTS ON THE WATER SAMPLES COLLECTED FROM THE COMPLAINANTS' PREMISES HAVE INDICATED THAT MOST LIKELY THE DISCOLOURATION HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE RUSTY PIPES WITHIN THE CONSUMER'S BUILDING," HE ADDED.

"IF ANYONE IS IN DOUBT ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THE WATER, HE SHOULD REPORT THIS TO THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL COMPLAINTS CENTRE SO THAT PROPER INVESTIGATIONS CAN BE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT," THE SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMPLAINTS CENTRE ARE 811 0788 FOR HONG KONG AND OUTLYING ISLANDS AND 396 0210 FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

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HIN TIN SWIMMING POOL RE-OPENS

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THE HIN TIN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL IN SHA TIN WILL BE RE-OPENED TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAD CONDUCTED A THOROUGH INSPECTION OF THE POOL'S STRUCTURE, PIPINGS AND CONNECTIONS, FILTRATION AND DISINFECTION SYSTEM, AND OTHER ENGINEERING ASPECTS, AND FOUND THEM IN ORDER.

SUBSEQUENTLY, ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE FOR TESTING OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE SWIMMING POOL.

SINCE RESULTS OF TESTS ON THESE SAMPLES HAD BEEN FOUND TO BE SATISFACTORY, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE POOL COULD BE RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JULY 1993

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IN JULY 1993, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SHOW A STRONG GROWTH BUT DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE STILL SLACK. IMPORTS RECORDED A NOTABLE INCREASE.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN JULY 1993 ROSE BY \$15,721 MILLION OR 26% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$76,503 MILLION. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED MARGINALLY BY \$11 MILLION OR 0.1% TO \$21,369 MILLION.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN JULY 1993 GREW BY \$15,710 MILLION OR 19% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$97,872 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$13,725 MILLION OR 16% TO \$98,690 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$818 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.8% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JULY 1993.

THIS WAS SMALLER THAN THE DEFICIT OF \$2,804 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.3% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN JULY 1992.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 8 -

IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$452,292 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$82,278 MILLION OR 22% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$124,551 MILLION, WAS \$3,770 MILLION OR 2.9% LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$576,843 MILLION, WAS \$78,508 MILLION OR 16% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$77,804 MILLION OR 15% TO \$605,417 MILLION.

A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$28,573 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.7% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993. THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$29,277 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS REBOUNDED TO 26% IN JULY, FROM 13% IN JUNE.

THE DECLINE IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS ALSO MODERATED MARKEDLY.

THIS OVERALL EXPORT PERFORMANCE RESEMBLED MORE CLOSELY THAT IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, AND WAS EVEN BETTER THAN THAT IN MAY.

IT THUS APPEARED THAT THE SETBACK IN JUNE WAS ONLY TEMPORARY, MAINLY DISRUPTED BY THE HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE FURTHER, FROM 74% IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1992 TO 78% IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1993, REFLECTING THE ONGOING STRUCTURAL SHIFT FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS GREW BY 5.4%.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN JULY 1993, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

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/PROVISIONAL FIGURES .....

## PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JULY 1993

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$21,369 million
Re-exports :	\$76,503 million
Total Exports :	\$97,872 million
Imports :	\$98,690 million
Trade balance :	-\$818 million

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COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	May 93 to	May 92 to	Change	
	Jul 93	Jul 92	HKS Mn.	%
	HKS Mn.	HKS Mn.		
Domestic Exports	58,027	61,897	-3,870	-6.3
(% of Total Exports)	(21.6%)	(25.9%)		
Re-exports	210,479	177,072	+33,407	+18.9
Total Exports	268,507	238,969	+29,537	+12.4
Imports	278,709	251,105	+27,604	+11.0
Trade balance	-10,202	-12,136	+1,934	
Same month last year	July	July	Change	
	1993	1992	HKS Mn.	%
	HKS Mn.	HKS Mn.		
Domestic Exports	21,369	21,380	-11	-0.1
(% of Total Exports)	(21.8%)	(26.0%)		
Re-exports	76,503	60,782	+15,721	+25.9
Total Exports	97,872	82,162	+15,710	+19.1
Imports	98,690	84,966	+13,725	+16.2
Trade balance	-818	-2,804	+1,986	
Last month	July	June	Change	
	1993	1993	HKS Mn.	%
	HKS Mn.	HKS Mn.		
Domestic Exports	21,369	18,509	+2,860	+15.5
(% of Total Exports)	(21.8%)	(21.6%)		
Re-exports	76,503	67,041	+9,462	+14.1
Total Exports	97,872	85,551	+12,321	+14.4
Imports	98,690	89,295	+9,396	+10.5
Trade balance	-818	-3,744	+2,926	
Calendar year to-date	Jan-Jul	Jan-Jul	Change	
	1993	1992	HKS Mn.	%
	HKS Mn.	HKS Mn.		
Domestic Exports	124,551	128,321	-3,770	-2.9
(% of Total Exports)	(21.6%)	(25.8%)		
Re-exports	452,292	370,014	+82,278	+22.2
Total Exports	576,843	498,335	+78,508	+15.8
Imports	605,417	527,612	+77,804	+14.7
Trade balance	-28,573	-29,277	+704	
Last 12 months	Aug 92 to	Aug 91 to	Change	
	Jul 93	Jul 92	HKS Mn.	%
	HKS Mn.	HKS Mn.		
Domestic Exports	230,353	233,264	-2,910	-1.2
(% of Total Exports)	(23.0%)	(27.2%)		
Re-exports	773,108	623,234	+149,874	+24.0
Total Exports	1,003,461	856,498	+146,963	+17.2
Imports	1,033,099	878,291	+154,809	+17.6
Trade balance	-29,638	-21,793	-7,845	

26 August 1993  
CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 10 -

INDUSTRY BRIEFED ON FILM CENSORSHIP ORDINANCE

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OFFICIALS OF THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY (TELA) HAVE MET REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FILM AND VIDEO INDUSTRY TO DISCUSS THE OPERATION OF THE FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, WHICH WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 14, NEXT YEAR, AFTER A GRACE PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO ALLOW THE FILM AND VIDEO INDUSTRY SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW STATUTORY REQUIRMENTS.

MEMBERS OF THE MOTION PICTURES INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG VIDEO INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING FILM AND VIDEO DISTRIBUTORS AND VIDEO SHOP OPERATORS ATTENDED THE BRIEFING WHICH WAS HELD YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR TELA SAID: "UNDER THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, WHEN A FILM IS APPROVED FOR EXHIBITION BY THE FILM CENSORSHIP AUTHORITY, THE FILM IS DEEMED TO BE APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FORM OF VIDEOTAPE AND LASERDISC.

"PUBLICATION OF A VIDEOTAPE OR LASERDISC OF A CATEGORY 3 FILM TO A MINOR IS AN OFFENCE AND THE MAXIMUM PENALTY ON CONVICTION IS A FINE OF \$200,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR 12 MONTHS.

"A CIRCULAR LETTER HAS BEEN ISSUED BY TELA TO ALL FILM DISTRIBUTORS AND VIDEO SHOP, OPERATORS EXPLAINING THE PROVISIONS IN THE NEW LEGISLATION."

TO PUBLICISE THIS NEW SCHEME FOR CONTROLLING VIDEOTAPES AND LASERDICS, A TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST (API) WILL ALSO BE SCREENED.

"LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOOLS AND POSTERS WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL VIDEO SHOPS FOR DISPLAY.

"GUIDELINES ON PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY VIDEO SHOP OPERATORS TO AVOID VIOLATION OF THE LEGISLATION WILL ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL VIDEO SHOPS AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE HONG KONG VIDEO INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE EMPHASISED THAT STRICT ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST ANY CONTRAVENTION OF THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE WILL START PROMPTLY ON JANUARY 14, 1994.

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LAND REGISTRY COMMITTED TO IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

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THE LAND REGISTRY HAS EMBARKED ON A NUMBER OF EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS, ACCORDING TO THE LAND REGISTRAR, MR KENNETH PANG.

THESE INCLUDE THE MICROFILMING AND COMPUTERISATION PROJECTS FOR EIGHT NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICT LAND REGISTRIES.

MR PANG WAS SPEAKING AT A Y'S MEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENT PLANS OF THE LAND REGISTRY, ITS TRADING FUND SCHEME AND PERFORMANCE PLEDGES TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE MICROFILMING PROJECT WOULD START IN DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND THE COMPUTERISATION PROJECT IN MID-1994.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT CAPITAL PROJECT, MR PANG SAID, WAS TO PROVIDE CUSTOMERS WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO THE REGISTRY'S COMPUTERISED LAND REGISTER.

"THIS WILL ENABLE CUSTOMERS TO MAKE ON-LINE SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS THROUGH COMPUTER TERMINALS AT THEIR OWN OFFICES. THIS NEW SERVICE IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE SECOND HALF OF NEXT YEAR," HE SAID.

THE LAND REGISTRY IS ONE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OPERATING ON A TRADING FUND - A FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENT DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES.

"THE REGISTRY IS REQUIRED TO FINANCE ITS LIABILITIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES OUT OF THE INCOME RECEIVED FROM THE PROVISION OF SERVICES WHICH IS CREDITED TO THE TRADING FUND RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

"IT IS EXPECTED TO BE SELF-FINANCING, TO BE ABLE TO BALANCE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, AND TO PROVIDE A REASONABLE RETURN ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

"IT IS ALLOWED TO ESTABLISH RESERVES OUT OF SURPLUS SO AS TO INVEST IN EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS SUCH AS COMPUTERISATION AND OFFICE AUTOMATION," HE SAID.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE START OF THE TRADING FUND, THE REGISTRY HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, SETTING OUT IN SPECIFIC TERMS ITS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS OF SERVICES TO ITS CUSTOMERS.

"OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, WE HAVE PROCESSED 630,000 LAND DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION, AND DEALT WITH 3.8 MILLION SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS.

"IN OTHER WORDS, FOR EACH WORKING DAY, WE HAVE TO REGISTER 2,300 DEEDS AND HANDLE 14,000 SEARCHES."

NOTWITHSTANDING THE EVER-INCREASING WORKLOAD, THE REGISTRY HAS PLEDGED TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION OF LAND DOCUMENTS WITHIN FIVE WEEKS AND TO PROVIDE COMPUTER-PRINTOUTS OR COPIES OF LAND RECORDS WITHIN 30 MINUTES, HE SAID.

ISSUE OF LIGHT BUS DRIVING INSTRUCTOR LICENCES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL SHORTLY INVITE APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUS DRIVING INSTRUCTOR LICENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THIS EXERCISE COMPRISED TWO PHASES, WITH PHASE I STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 1.

"UNDER THIS PHASE, THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN ENGAGED IN PROVIDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUS DRIVING INSTRUCTION WILL BE INVITED BY LETTERS TO APPLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1991, A TOTAL OF 126 PROSPECTIVE DRIVING INSTRUCTORS WERE FOUND PRACTISING. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN THEIR DULY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT BY REGISTERED POST BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15 THIS YEAR.

"OPPORTUNITY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUS DRIVING LICENCES. DETAILS OF PHASE II OF THE PROGRAMME WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOME TIME IN APRIL 1994," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IF THE INITIAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS TURNS OUT TO BE VERY LARGE, THE APPLICANTS MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR TURN TO BE PROCESSED," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS MUST HOLD A VALID DRIVING LICENCE TO DRIVE THE CLASS OF VEHICLE IN RESPECT OF WHICH THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR A DRIVING INSTRUCTOR'S LICENCE IS MADE, AND HAVE HELD SUCH A DRIVING LICENCE FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS.

APPLICANTS MUST ALSO HAVE GOOD DRIVING SKILL, BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION AND DRIVING INSTRUCTION RULES.

THEY MUST NOT BE CONVICTED OF ANY SERIOUS OFFENCES, NAMELY CAUSING DEATH BY RECKLESS DRIVING OR DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRINK OR DRUGS, DURING THE FIVE YEARS PRECEDING THEIR APPLICATIONS.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIT FOR A WRITTEN TEST, ATTEND AN INTERVIEW FOLLOWED BY A ROAD TEST.

ALL THREE PARTS OF THE TEST MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THREE YEARS. IRRESPECTIVE OF WHICH PART OF THE TEST, A CANDIDATE WHO HAS FAILED FOR THREE TIMES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR FURTHER TEST.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO INVITATION TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD WOULD BE TREATED AS GIVING UP THEIR RIGHT TO APPLY.

THE MOVE TO LICENSE DRIVING INSTRUCTORS FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES IS TO PAVE WAY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN BY LICENSED DRIVING INSTRUCTORS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 13 -

CLOSING DATE FOR LOGO CONTEST DRAWS NEAR

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ENTRIES FOR THE LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION "HERITAGE IN GRAPHICS" ORGANISED BY THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WILL CLOSE NEXT TUESDAY (AUGUST 31).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) MORE THAN 170 ENTRIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE COMPETITION.

THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST WAS SET UP UNDER THE LAW IN LATE 1992 WITH AIMS TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE HONG KONG'S HERITAGE.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE COMPETITION WILL AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS NEW BODY FOR HERITAGE PRESERVATION.

THE COMPETITION IS A TERRITORY-WIDE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PARTICIPANTS MAY SUBMIT ANY NUMBER OF ENTRIES.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE ARTWORK OF A4-SIZE PAPER, SUITABLE FOR USE ON LETTERHEADS, STATIONERY, HOARDING, TIES AND BADGES, AND SO ON.

THERE SHOULD BE TWO VERSIONS OF DESIGN IN ALL ENTRIES, ONE IN BLACK AND WHITE AND THE OTHER IN COLOUR(S).

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER WITH COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS TO THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, 136 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON BY THE CLOSING DATE.

THE ENTRY FORM SHOULD BE PLACED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE STUCK TO THE BACK OF THE ENTRY.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE JUDGED IN TWO STAGES.

FOR STAGE I, A PANEL COMPRISING THREE EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF DESIGN WILL SHORTLIST THE ENTRIES DOWN TO FIVE FINALISTS.

FOR STAGE II, A PANEL COMPRISING TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE BOARD AND COUNCIL OF THE LORD WILSON HERITAGE TRUST PLUS THE CHAIRMAN OF STAGE I WILL SELECT A WINNER AMONG THE FIVE SHORTLISTED DESIGNS, WHICH MAY BE USED AS THE LOGO OF THE TRUST.

THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION WILL RECEIVE \$5,000 IN CASH AND A CERTIFICATE.

THERE WILL ALSO BE FOUR MERIT PRIZES EACH OF \$1,000 IN CASH AND A CERTIFICATE AS WELL.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE, DISTRICT OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 721 2326.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 14 -

CARGO AREAS REMAIN OPEN DURING HOLIDAYS

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WOULD REMAIN OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM ON THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THIS SATURDAY (AUGUST 28) AND MONDAY (AUGUST 30).

THE WORKING AREAS ARE AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING, TSUEN WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT WILL ALSO BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM ON THE TWO DAYS.

"DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL REMAIN OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY, AND THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 10 PM DAILY."

ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 29), THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE IN ROOM 314 ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING AT 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO FACILITATE ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE FOR SHIPS ONLY.

AS FOR THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IN ROOM 318 IN HARBOUR BUILDING, IT WILL BE OPEN ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 29) FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO HANDLE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS NORMALLY ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

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BEACH WATER GRADES

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS WAS USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN DISEASES OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

/THE GRADING .....

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATER IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS:

- \* GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- \* GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- \* GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- \* GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTE. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 16 -

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.8.93)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 26.8.93)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	3
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	3
MIDDLE BAY	2	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	3	3
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	2	2
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	4	3
BUTTERFLY	3	4
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	2
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

/ISLANDS DISTRICT .....

## ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	3	3
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	2	2
SILVERMINE BAY	2	3
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	2	2

## TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	4	4
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	4	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING  
\* NON-GAZETTED BEACH

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

KADOORIE FROM "4" TO "3"; CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH FROM "1" TO "2"; BIG WAVE BAY, HAIRPIN AND SILVERMINE BAY FROM "2" TO "3"; BUTTERFLY FROM "3" TO "4".

ALL OF THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THE BEACHES. THE GENERAL DETERIORATION AT BIG WAVE BAY, HAIRPIN, SILVERMINE BAY AND BUTTERFLY BEACHES IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFALL WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE BEACH HINTERLAND TO BE FLUSHED INTO THE SEA WATER.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MR K F TANG, ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER ON TEL 835 1234.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1993

- 18 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \*

	\$ MILLION
	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,200
REVERSAL OF LAF	-200
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+380
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,380
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.5 *+0.1* 26.8.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.73 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.44	3.44
1 MONTH	2.76 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.66	3.61
3 MONTHS	2.81 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	4.75	99.77	3.92
6 MONTHS	3.02 PCT	24 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.99	4.14
12 MONTHS	3.27 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,471 MN

CLOSED 26 AUGUST 1993

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