



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1992

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MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1992

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, AT \$135,045 MILLION, INCREASED BY 49% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 22% TO \$17,490 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 57% TO \$49,381 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 46% TO \$66,871 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 1992. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 51% TO \$68,175 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1992, AT \$244,128 MILLION, INCREASED BY 16% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6% TO \$31,655 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 25% TO \$88,389 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 15% TO \$120,044 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 17% TO \$124,084 MILLION.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

IN PARTICULAR, TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY AS WELL AS THOSE FOR JANUARY ARE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1991, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE, AT \$229,178 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS WAS UP BY 28% TO \$552,748 MILLION.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 18% TO \$781,926 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20% TO \$797,396 MILLION. THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE INCREASED BY 19% TO \$1,579,322 MILLION.

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

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1992 WITH FEBRUARY 1991, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, CANADA, U.S.A., SINGAPORE AND JAPAN, BY 64%, 47%, 31%, 26% AND 25% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, TAIWAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM DECREASED BY 24%, 5%, 5% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

/COMPARING THE

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA AND CHINA INCREASED BY 13% AND 9% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THAT TO U.S.A. RECORDED LITTLE CHANGE.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TAIWAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE DECREASED BY 33%, 21%, 18%, 13% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE TO SINGAPORE AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 6% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRIC CURRENT (BY \$112 MILLION OR 96%); MANUFACTURES OF METALS (BY \$103 MILLION OR 16%); MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$99 MILLION OR 29%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$49 MILLION OR 2%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILES (BY \$366 MILLION OR 16%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$361 MILLION OR 12%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$344 MILLION OR 12%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$328 MILLION OR 11%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$194 MILLION OR 2%).

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

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1992 WITH FEBRUARY 1991, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TAIWAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, CHINA, JAPAN, ITALY AND U.S.A. INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 79%, 72%, 61%, 55%, 51%, 46% AND 44% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM SWITZERLAND, SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED BY 27%, 15% AND 15% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, ITALY, CHINA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TAIWAN, BY 30%, 27%, 21%, 21%, 17% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND U.S.A. INCREASED BY 6% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE AND SWITZERLAND DECREASED BY 7% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$2,428 MILLION OR 35%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$2,106 MILLION OR 97%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,804 MILLION OR 22%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,036 MILLION OR 19%); CLOTHING (BY \$1,804 MILLION OR 20%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$165 MILLION OR 1%).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (BY \$1,131 MILLION OR 36%); AND OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$889 MILLION OR 76%).

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

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1992 WITH FEBRUARY 1991, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, CANADA AND U.S.A., BY 94%, 78% AND 73% RESPECTIVELY.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO FRANCE, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TAIWAN INCREASED BY 45%, 41%, 38%, 37%, 37% AND 11% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DECREASED BY 4%.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CANADA, U.S.A., CHINA AND FRANCE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 47%, 37%, 36% AND 30% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, JAPAN AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 21%, 19% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED BY 13%, 10% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$3,217 MILLION OR 39%); CLOTHING (BY \$1,985 MILLION OR 20%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,754 MILLION OR 70%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$1,544 MILLION OR 44%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$322 MILLION OR 5%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$921 MILLION OR 57%); AND BEVERAGES (BY \$151 MILLION OR 39%).

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

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

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1992 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY MAY.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE FEBRUARY 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND APRIL 24, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AT \$52 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG ON TEL. 842 8802 AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 4915.

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
U.S.A.	4,689	+ 31	8,260	*
CHINA	3,946	+ 64	7,242	+ 9
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,264	- 24	2,420	- 33
U.K.	995	- 2	1,826	- 18
JAPAN	907	+ 25	1,651	- 1
SINGAPORE	737	+ 26	1,357	- 6
CANADA	482	+ 47	869	+ 13
NETHERLANDS	440	- 5	847	- 13
TAIWAN	419	- 5	787	- 21
FRANCE	274	*	538	- 12

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,073	+ 19	11,016	- 2
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,693	+ 29	3,190	+ 2
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,568	+ 27	2,669	- 11
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,389	+ 12	2,574	- 12
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,353	+ 14	2,471	- 12
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,313	+ 36	1,976	- 16

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
CHINA	23,478	+ 55	46,131	+ 21
JAPAN	12,404	+ 51	21,632	+ 27
TAIWAN	6,243	+ 72	10,702	+ 16
U.S.A.	4,971	+ 44	8,908	+ 2
REP OF KOREA	3,323	+ 61	5,698	+ 17

SINGAPORE	2,675	+ 15	5,044	- 7
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,705	+ 79	2,896	+ 30
U.K.	1,602	+ 15	2,853	+ 6
ITALY	1,101	+ 46	1,839	+ 21
SWITZERLAND	1,188	+ 27	1,738	- 2

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,841	+ 43	11,664	+ 6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,563	+ 70	11,171	+ 1
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,594	+ 50	10,873	+ 20
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,062	+ 42	9,921	+ 22
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,925	+ 72	9,271	+ 35
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,464	+ 41	6,424	+ 19

/TABLE 5

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
CHINA	14,341	+ 94	25,096	+ 36
U.S.A.	10,234	+ 73	18,579	+ 37
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,663	- 4	5,130	- 10
JAPAN	2,859	+ 41	5,083	+ 19
TAIWAN	1,992	+ 11	3,314	- 13
U.K.	1,230	+ 37	2,366	+ 21
REP OF KOREA	1,228	+ 37	1,955	- 2
SINGAPORE	1,028	+ 38	1,868	+ 10
CANADA	911	+ 78	1,655	+ 47
FRANCE	881	+ 45	1,622	+ 30

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	FEB 92 OVER FEB 91 (%)	JAN-FEB 1992 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 92 OVER JAN-FEB 91 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,515	+ 44	11,731	+ 20
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,193	+ 73	11,402	+ 39
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,976	+ 80	7,171	+ 5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,102	+ 21	6,673	+ 16
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,635	+ 49	6,368	+ 12
FOOTWEAR	3,327	+ 118	5,024	+ 44

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STATEMENT ON PROPOSED SHA LO TUNG GOLF COURSE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO CONTEST THE JUDICIAL REVIEW PROCEEDINGS LODGED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (CHARITY) LIMITED OVER THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY'S APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 10 OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GOLF COURSE AT SHA LO TUNG, PART OF WHICH WAS WITHIN THE PAK SIN LENG COUNTRY PARK.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THAT APPROVAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BASED ON SECTION 10 OF THE COUNTRY PARKS ORDINANCE WHICH ONLY APPLIES TO PROPOSED COUNTRY PARK AREAS.

AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT FALLS WITHIN THE COUNTRY PARK, SECTION 10 DOES NOT APPLY AND THE APPROVAL IS THEREFORE TECHNICALLY INCORRECT.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE CONSENTS TO AN ORDER TO QUASH THE APPROVAL GRANTED BY THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY TO THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER/TAI PO. BUT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT BE FURTHER PROCESSED.

THE DECISION OF THE COURT SIMPLY RELATES TO THE APPLICATION OF THE APPROPRIATE SECTION IN THE ORDINANCE COVERING THE APPROVAL.

THE DEVELOPER WILL BE INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW AND ADVISED THAT IF HE WISHES TO PROCEED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SEEK LEGAL ADVICE ON HOW IT SHOULD BE PROCESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT A FULL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR MARCH RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR MARCH THIS YEAR.

THIS IS THE NINTH MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS AS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

FOR THIS MARCH RELEASE, HOWEVER, NO DATA IS AVAILABLE FOR THE CENTRAL/WESTERN STATION WHERE ALL MONITORING ACTIVITIES HAVE TEMPORARILY BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO CONSTRUCTION WORK TAKING PLACE AT THE STATION.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂) AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂) WHICH ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY ROUND THE CLOCK, AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE SAMPLED FOR 24 HOURS EVERY SIX DAYS.

/THE GENERAL

THE GENERAL SULPHUR DIOXIDE LEVEL WAS SATISFACTORY, WHILE THE NITROGEN DIOXIDE LEVEL CONSIDERABLE HIGH, ALTHOUGH NOT EXCEEDING THE HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES.

DUST LEVELS AT BOTH STATIONS WERE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGH, PARTICULARLY AT THE MONG KOK STATION WHERE THE PERSISTENTLY ELEVATED RESULTS OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE EXCEEDED THE RELEVANT ANNUAL AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR TSP AND RSP.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE GENERAL AIR QUALITY LEVELS TO WHICH THEY MIGHT BE EXPOSED.

THESE AIR POLLUTANTS MAINLY COME FROM COMBUSTION OF FUEL IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND MOTOR VEHICLES ENGINES.

TSP AND RSP ARE ALSO GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND SOME MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

THE DAILY HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES OF SO₂ AND NO₂, TSP AND RSP ARE 350, 150, 260 AND 180 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METER RESPECTIVELY.

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

HIGH LEVELS OF SO₂ CAUSE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS, REDUCE LUNG FUNCTION AND INCREASE MORTALITY RATE.

NO₂ CAUSES RESPIRATORY IRRITATION, INCREASES SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RESPIRATORY INFECTION AND IMPAIRS LUNG DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

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

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

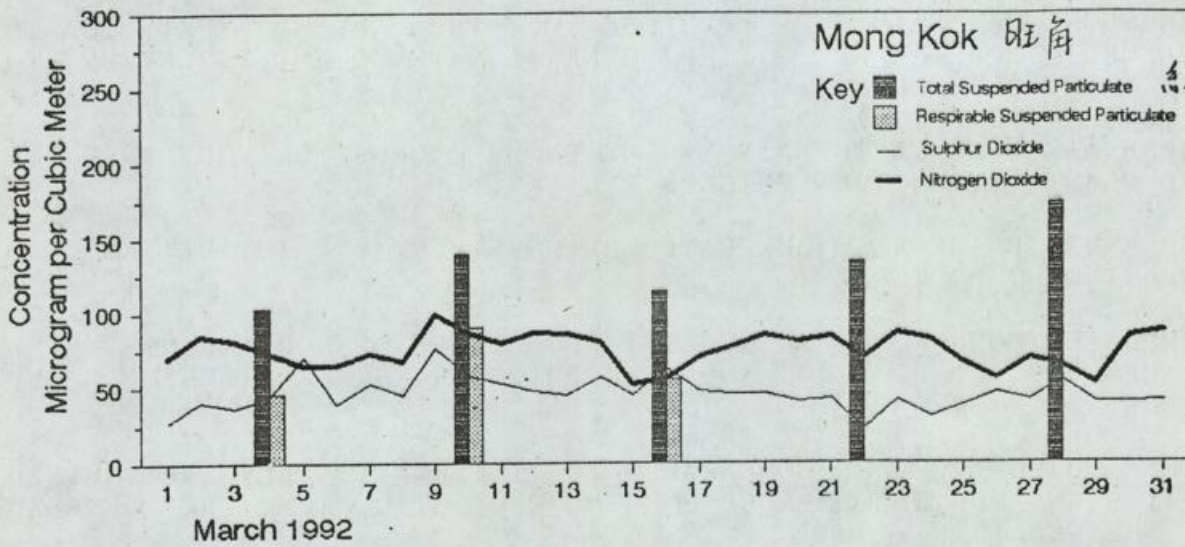
NOTE TO EDITORS :

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

/HONG KONG

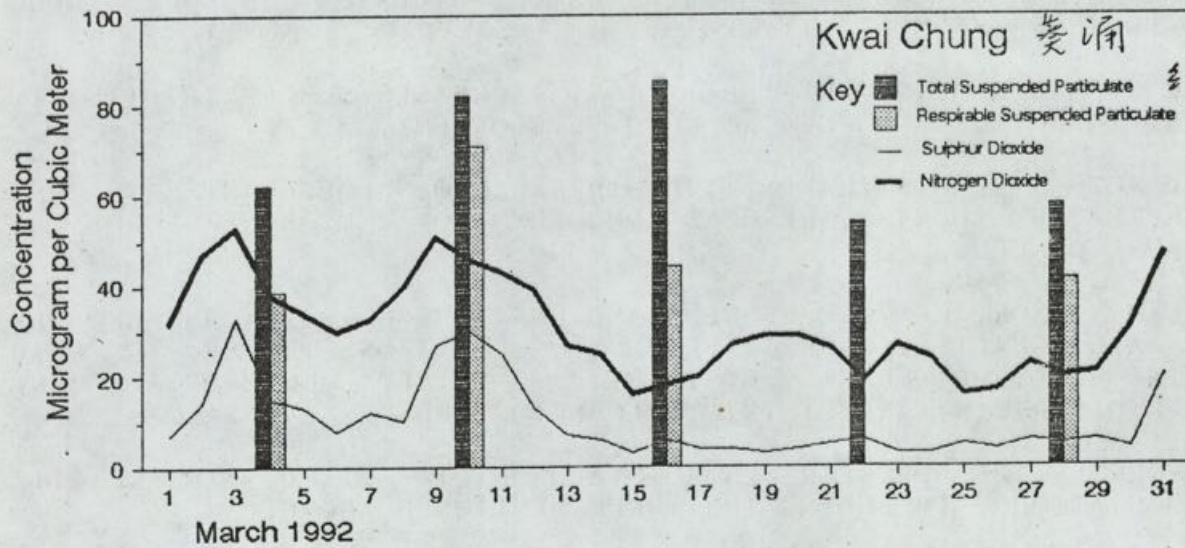
一九九二年三月份空氣質素報告 Hong Kong Air Quality Report for March 1992

(微克/立方米)



總懸浮粒子
可吸入懸浮粒子
二氧化硫
二氧化氮

(微克/立方米)



總懸浮粒子
可吸入懸浮粒子
二氧化硫
二氧化氮

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DAMP WEATHER CONTINUES IN MARCH

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THE DAMP AND WET WEATHER OF FEBRUARY CONTINUED INTO MARCH, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

CLOUDS AND MIST WERE PREVALENT AS MOISTURE CONVERGED UPON THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS.

TOTAL DURATION OF SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH, WHICH AMOUNTED TO 37.6 HOURS ONLY, WAS LESS THAN 40 PER CENT OF NORMAL AND RANKED THE NINTH LOWEST SINCE 1884.

THE MONTHLY MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY WAS AS HIGH AS 90 PER CENT, MAKING IT THE MOST HUMID MARCH SINCE 1978.

RAINFALL WAS AGAIN PLENTIFUL, WITH THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF 242.4 MILLIMETRES OVER THREE-AND-A-HALF TIMES THE MARCH NORMAL OF 66.9 MILLIMETRES.

HALF OF THE MONTH'S RAIN FELL ON MARCH 3, THE SECOND WETTEST MARCH DAY ON RECORD.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO 425.2 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST ON RECORD AND OVER THREE TIMES THE NORMAL OF 138.3 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE ONLY OTHER OCCASION WITH AN EVEN WETTER FIRST QUARTER WAS THE RECORD-BREAKING 745.3 MILLIMETRES IN 1983.

INCIDENTALLY, THE RAINY SPRINGS OF 1983 AND 1992 BOTH OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN PHENOMENON KNOWN AS EL NINO WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE EASTERN EQUATORIAL PACIFIC.

RAIN AND MIST ON MARCH 1 SET THE THEME FOR THE MONTH'S WEATHER. ALTHOUGH RAIN BECAME LESS THE NEXT DAY, VISIBILITY WAS WORSE AS A RESULT OF THICKENING FOG THAT SPREAD INSIDE THE HARBOUR.

THE APPROACH OF A COLD FRONT FROM GUANGDONG LED TO INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE WEATHER, BRINGING ABOUT A HEAVY DOWNPOUR OVER THE TERRITORY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 3.

IN THE AFTERMATH, TEMPERATURES ROSE BY A COUPLE OF DEGREES JUST BEFORE DAYBREAK AS WARM MARITIME AIR PUSHED MOMENTARILY INTO THE COASTAL AREAS.

HOWEVER, WINDS SOON FRESHENED FROM THE EAST LATER THAT DAY AND EVENTUALLY BECAME FRESH TO STRONG NORTHERLY AFTER THE COLD FRONT FROM THE NORTH PASSED THROUGH ON MARCH 4.

AS A RESULT OF THE RAINY WEATHER, SEVERAL INCIDENTS OF MUDSLIPS, BOULDER FALL AND TOPPLED TREES WERE REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

/WHILE RAIN

WHILE RAIN TURNED LIGHT, THE WEATHER BECAME PROGRESSIVELY COLDER OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AS THE NORTHERLY WINDS PERSISTED.

THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 9.7 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 6 WAS THE LOWEST RECORDED THIS MONTH.

WHILE THE WEATHER REMAINED COLD AND CLOUDY WITH LIGHT RAIN ON MARCH 7 AND 8, TEMPERATURES WERE RISING SLOWLY.

AS THE NORTHERLY WINDS SUBSIDED FURTHER, THE WARMING TREND CONTINUED FOR THE NEXT EIGHT DAYS, CULMINATING IN THE MONTH'S HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OF 25.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ON MARCH 16.

THE SUNNIEST DAY OF THE MONTH OCCURRED ON MARCH 14 WHEN WINDS TURNED SOUTHEASTERLY.

OTHERWISE, CONDITIONS DURING THE PERIOD WERE GENERALLY MISTY WITH OFFSHORE FOG PATCHES, PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT AND IN THE MORNING.

POOR VISIBILITY AFFECTED SEA TRAFFIC ON MARCH 16 AND JETFOIL SERVICES TO MACAU WERE DELAYED.

AFTER ANOTHER FOGGY MORNING ON MARCH 17, EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED LATER THAT DAY AND BECAME STRONG OFFSHORE IN THE EVENING.

THE WEATHER TURNED COOLER WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN. WITH THE MODERATION OF THE EASTERLIES, PERIODS OF SUNSHINE EMERGED ON MARCH 19.

WHILE SOME SUNNY INTERVALS RECURRED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS, MIST PATCHES AND OFFSHORE FOG ALSO RETURNED.

ANOTHER EASTERLY REPLENISHMENT LATER ON MARCH 21 CHECKED THE WARMING PROCESS. WINDS WERE STILL STRONG IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 22, BUT SOON SUBSIDED AND TURNED SOUTHEASTERLY THE NEXT DAY.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF MOIST MARITIME AIR BROUGHT WIDESPREAD MIST AND FOG ON MARCH 24.

VISIBILITY DETERIORATED FURTHER THE NEXT DAY AS INSHORE AREAS WERE ALSO EXTENSIVELY AFFECTED BY THE FOGGY WEATHER.

TEMPERATURES ROSE PROGRESSIVELY AND AGAIN REACHED 25.5 DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 26, EQUALLING THAT RECORDED ON MARCH 16.

BUT THE WEATHER DETERIORATED UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE. TEMPERATURES PLUNGED BY ABOUT NINE DEGREES CELSIUS IN THE URBAN AREAS IN LATER MORNING AS WINDS SET IN FROM THE NORTHWESTERN QUADRANT.

RAIN BECAME HEAVY AND THERE WERE SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON.

RAIN WAS NOT AS HEAVY ON MARCH 27 AND 28 BUT THERE REMAINED OCCASIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY.

A PREVAILING NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT APPRECIABLY COOLER CONDITIONS AND THE COOLING TREND CONTINUED TILL MARCH 29.

SOME SUNNY PERIODS APPEARED ON MARCH 30 AND WINDS TURNED EASTERLY BEFORE VEERING FURTHER TO SOUTHEASTERLY THE NEXT DAY.

THE INFLUX OF MOISTURE LED TO A HIGHLY SATURATED ATMOSPHERE. APART FROM THE HANGING MIST AND THICK DRIZZLE, SOME THUNDERSTORMS ALSO OCCURRED IN THE AFTERNOON.

THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA WERE FREE FROM TROPICAL CYCLONES IN MARCH.

THIRTEEN AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER.

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE IN EFFECT ON MARCH 4, 26-29 AND 31. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON MARCH 3 AND 26.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 8. THE GAS HEATER ALERT WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 5-9.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
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WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAR 5 8.45 AM	MAR 5 10.45 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAR 17 10.05 PM	MAR 18 4.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	MAR 21 11.15 PM	MAR 22 11.30 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	37.6 HOURS ; 58.8 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	6.94 MJ/SQ.M. ; 4.30 MJ/SQ.M. BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	242.4 MM ; 175.5 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	92 % ; 16 % MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	90 % ; 9 % HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	20.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.2 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	18.0 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.5 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	16.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	16.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	39.8 MM ; 52.4 MM BELOW NORMAL

FEW DAYS MORE TO GIVE VIEWS ON CHINESE MEDICINE
* * * * *

THE WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE MEDICINE TODAY (MONDAY) URGED THE PUBLIC AND PRACTITIONERS OF CHINESE MEDICINE TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS INTERIM REPORT PUBLISHED IN MID-JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY, MR PETER KWOK, SAID: "IT IS ONLY DAYS FROM APRIL 16 WHEN THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS. THE WORKING PARTY WILL SHORTLY BE RECONVENING TO EXAMINE ALL VIEWS CAREFULLY AND TO CONSIDER FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT."

"SO FAR, MORE THAN 120 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. OF THESE, OVER 20 WERE FROM PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE REST FROM INDIVIDUALS. THE WORKING PARTY HAS ALSO MONITORED COMMENTS THROUGH THE MEDIA.

"WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THESE VIEWS BUT MORE WOULD BE WELCOME," MR KWOK SAID.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE INTERIM REPORT INCLUDE THE REGISTRATION FOR TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS TO ENSURE PATIENTS OF PROPER STANDARDS AND TO RECOGNISE THE ROLE OF PRACTITIONERS IN HONG KONG'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

THE WORKING PARTY ALSO ADVOCATES THE PROMULGATION OF A LIST OF POTENT AND TOXIC HERBS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THEIR PROPER USE.

"THE WORKING PARTY APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE AND ITS PRACTITIONERS IN HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE," MR KWOK SAID.

VIEWS IN WRITING SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING PARTY AT P.O. BOX 13282, HONG KONG, BEFORE THURSDAY (APRIL 16), HE ADDED.

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REMINDER FOR RATEPAYERS
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RATEPAYERS SHOULD BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES FOR RATES FOR THE QUARTER - APRIL TO JUNE - WHICH ARE DEMANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATING ORDINANCE.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE MAY BRING A DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER AND MAKE PAYMENT AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, WANCHAI TOWER II, FIRST FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;

- * THE CENTRAL SUB-TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET (SIDE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IN ICE HOUSE STREET), HONG KONG;
- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG;
- * THE SAI WAN HO SUB-TREASURY, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON; AND
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE AND CANNOT PRODUCE A DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER SHOULD INQUIRE AT ONCE AT THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, WANCHAI TOWER II, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON APRIL 30 AND UNLESS SO PAID MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE RATING ORDINANCE.

A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE) THAT REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING "PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY" IS SHOWN IN THE NOTE, IN WHICH CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON APRIL 30.

THUS, RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 30 OF THE ORDINANCE.

HOWEVER, UNDER SECTIONS 30 (1A) AND (2A), NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES (UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT).

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1992

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A BUILDING AT YAU MA TEI SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF 8-14 BOWRING STREET.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 24 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (MONDAY).

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

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO CUT OFF IN TSUEN WAN & KWAI CHUNG
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SUPPLY OF SALT WATER TO TSUEN WAN AND KWAI CHUNG DISTRICTS WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 15) TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES IN THE TWO DISTRICTS INCLUDING SHEUNG KWAI CHUNG, HA KWAI CHUNG AND THE CONTAINER TERMINALS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 44.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 262.037 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 150.101 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 25.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	11.4.92	1,200
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	13.4.92	-698*
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+198
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED -500 MN
* OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED -198 MN

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.7 *+0.0* 13.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.06 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.88	5.07
1 MONTH	3.85 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	99.96	5.59
3 MONTHS	3.80 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.88 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.42 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,753 MN

CLOSED 13 APRIL 1992

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