



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991

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BEST INSURANCE FOR GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS

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THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTIONS (ILC'S) IN HONG KONG IS THE BEST INSURANCE FOR GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AFTER 1997.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, SAID THIS WHEN ADDRESSING THE HONG KONG SECTION OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

HE SAID THE FRAMEWORK PROVIDED BY ILC'S HAD ENABLED HONG KONG TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE BODY OF LABOUR LEGISLATION.

"THIS BODY OF LEGISLATION IS CONTINUING TO EVOLVE AND WILL STEADILY IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF HONG KONG'S WORKFORCE UP TO THE STANDARDS LAID DOWN BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)," MR CHEN NOTED.

"AT PRESENT, 47 ILC'S ARE APPLIED TO HONG KONG, WITH 29 APPLIED IN FULL AND 18 WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS," HE SAID.

MOST OF THESE CONVENTIONS ARE GIVEN EFFECT IN HONG KONG BY THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE "WHICH INCLUDES PROVISIONS ON THE RIGHTS AND BENEFITS FOR WORKERS RELATING TO REST DAYS, STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, ANNUAL LEAVE WITH PAY, SICK LEAVE AND SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, MATERNITY LEAVE WITH PAY, SEVERANCE PAYMENT ON REDUNDANCY, LONG SERVICE PAYMENT, AND PROTECTION AGAINST ANTI-UNION DISCRIMINATION".

MR CHEN NOTED THAT THE MIGRATION FOR EMPLOYMENT CONVENTION (REVISED) 1949, WHICH LAYS DOWN THE PRINCIPLE OF TREATING FOREIGN WORKERS NO LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THEIR LOCAL COUNTERPARTS, WAS APPLIED WITHOUT MODIFICATION TO HONG KONG.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEMES WAS BASED ON THE SPIRIT OF THIS CONVENTION.

"BY ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF THIS CONVENTION, NOT ONLY ARE WE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S GOOD REPUTATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR FRONT, BUT ALSO ENSURE AMICABLE LABOUR RELATIONS AT HOME WITH BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL WORKERS, SINCE THIS PRINCIPLE ENSURES THAT LOCAL WORKERS' INTERESTS ARE ALSO PROTECTED," MR CHEN SAID.

"THIS IS INDEED AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING SOCIAL HARMONY AND STABILITY AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE TO ENSURE THAT FOREIGN WORKERS IMPORTED UNDER THE 1989 AND 1990 SCHEMES ARE PAID THE PRESCRIBED WAGES WITHOUT UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS," HE STRESSED.

MR CHEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO CONSIDERED TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION, THAT IS DIALOGUES AMONG EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT, TO BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN ENHANCING GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS.

/"THE PROVISIONS

"THE PROVISIONS OF THE TRIPARTITE CONSULTATION (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS) CONVENTION ARE IMPLEMENTED IN HONG KONG THROUGH THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES AND THE GOVERNMENT AND ADVISES THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR ON MATTERS RELATING TO LABOUR," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE APPLICATION OF ILC'S AND HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE, MR CHEN SAID HONG KONG'S VERY STRONG POSITION IN TERMS OF LABOUR STANDARDS AND GOOD TRACK RECORD IN THE AREAS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS PROVIDED A FIRM BASIS ON WHICH IT COULD EFFECTIVELY DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST CRITICISMS OF UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

"THE FACT THAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN APPLYING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT ILC'S IS A STRONG REBUTTAL AGAINST OFTEN-REPEATED ALLEGATIONS BY SOME OF OUR TRADING PARTNERS THAT HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVENESS DERIVES FROM EXPLOITATION OF ITS WORKERS," MR CHEN ADDED.

"THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS, THROUGH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP, REACHED AN AGREEMENT, IN 1987 FOR THE CONTINUED APPLICATION, AFTER 1997, OF ALL ILC'S NOW IN FORCE IN HONG KONG, AND THIS HAS BEEN AFFIRMED IN THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION PROMULGATED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN APRIL 1990.

"THIS AFFIRMATION WILL ENHANCE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE INTERNATIONAL STATUS WITH REGARD TO THE LABOUR STANDARDS AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A STRONG POSITION FOR HONG KONG IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS," HE SAID.

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HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN OCTOBER 1991, AT \$141,676 MILLION, GREW BY 11% IN VALUE AS COMPARED WITH OCTOBER 1990, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN OCTOBER 1991 RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 4% TO \$21,296 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 22% TO \$51,098 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 13% TO \$72,394 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 10% TO \$69,282 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991, AT \$1,249,637 MILLION, INCREASED BY 20% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

/OVER THE

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2% TO \$188,289 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 29% TO \$430,054 MILLION.

THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 19% TO \$618,344 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22% TO \$631,293 MILLION.

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

COMPARING OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS DECREASED BY 22%, 19%, 18%, 17% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY. THAT TO THE USA DECREASED BY 2%.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA AND CANADA INCREASED BY 12% AND 8% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND CHINA, BY 18%, 15% AND 14% RESPECTIVELY. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TAIWAN INCREASED BY 9%, 7%, 6% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE USA AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 9%, 8% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,443 MILLION OR 4%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,107 MILLION OR 16%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,853 MILLION OR 13%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$437 MILLION OR 3%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$1,636 MILLION OR 8%), AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,643 MILLION OR 10%).

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

COMPARING OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN, BY 17%, 12%, 12% AND 11% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE FROM THE USA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED BY 6%, 3% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND AND SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 17% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SINGAPORE, JAPAN, CHINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 29%, 26%, 26%, 25%, 24% AND 19% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE USA AND ITALY INCREASED BY 12%, 11% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND DECREASED BY 5%.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$13,216 MILLION OR 25%); TEXTILES (BY \$12,544 MILLION OR 20%); CLOTHING (BY \$9,573 MILLION OR 22%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$9,451 MILLION OR 24%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$747 MILLION OR 16%), AND CORK AND WOOD MANUFACTURES (BY \$264 MILLION OR 8%).

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

COMPARING OCTOBER 1991 WITH OCTOBER 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE USA, FRANCE AND CHINA, BY 42%, 38%, 28% AND 25% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE TO TAIWAN, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED BY 11%, 11%, 10%, 4% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 2%.

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, CHINA, CANADA, THE USA, JAPAN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY 50%, 43%, 37%, 25%, 22%, 21% AND 20% RESPECTIVELY. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED BY 15% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE DECREASED BY 6%.

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

COMPARING JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$12,060 MILLION OR 26%); CLOTHING (BY \$12,001 MILLION OR 31%); TEXTILES (BY \$9,167 MILLION OR 24%); AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$8,078 MILLION OR 75%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$298 MILLION OR 9%), AND METALLIFEROUS ORES AND METAL SCRAP (BY \$76 MILLION OR 12%).

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 OCTOBER 1991 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY JANUARY 1992.

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

THE OCTOBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN OCTOBER 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND DECEMBER 18, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$33.50 PER COPY.

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

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
USA	6,734	- 2	50,364	- 8
CHINA	5,114	+ 12	44,041	+ 14
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,293	- 22	15,961	+ 15
UK	1,111	- 19	11,277	+ 6
JAPAN	1,075	- 17	9,686	- 2
SINGAPORE	822	*	7,345	+ 18
TAIWAN	514	*	4,889	+ 4

/NETHERLANDS

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NETHERLANDS	351	- 16	4,352	+ 9
CANADA	481	+ 8	4,077	- 9
FRANCE	274	- 18	3,054	+ 7

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,043	- 2	60,707	+ 4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	2,443	- 3	19,933	- 8
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,716	+ 9	15,934	+ 13
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,720	- 30	15,641	- 10
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,739	+ 10	15,116	+ 16
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,533	- 5	14,324	+ 3

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
CHINA	27,584	+ 17	236,492	+ 24

/JAPAN

JAPAN	11,590	+ 11	103,309	+ 25
TAIWAN	6,471	+ 12	60,325	+ 29
USA	4,615	+ 6	48,037	+ 11
REP OF KOREA	2,735	+ 12	28,655	+ 26
SINGAPORE	2,710	- 16	26,025	+ 26
UK	1,354	+ 3	13,574	+ 19
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,487	+ 1	13,443	+ 12
ITALY	1,056	*	9,438	+ 5
SWITZERLAND	890	- 17	8,698	- 5

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,976	+ 5	76,473	+ 20
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	7,207	+ 19	65,178	+ 25
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,295	+ 12	53,354	+ 22
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,779	+ 20	49,071	+ 24
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	5,717	+ 25	44,864	+ 19

/PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,577	- 5	31,000	+ 12
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TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
CHINA	13,733	+ 25	122,434	+ 37
USA	12,206	+ 38	88,736	+ 22
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,647	+ 4	26,311	+ 50
JAPAN	3,015	+ 11	23,419	+ 21
TAIWAN	2,232	+ 11	19,923	+ 15
REP OF KOREA	1,210	+ 4	12,222	+ 13
UK	1,506	+ 10	11,801	+ 20
SINGAPORE	1,113	- 2	9,791	- 6
FRANCE	822	+ 28	7,413	+ 43
CANADA	831	+ 42	6,910	+ 25

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	OCT 91 OVER OCT 90 (%)	JAN-OCT 1991 (HKD MN.)	JAN-OCT 91 OVER JAN-OCT 90 (%)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,466	+ 46	57,847	+ 26
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,789	+ 17	50,960	+ 31
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,089	+ 8	47,059	+ 24

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,678	+ 17	36,273	+ 25
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	4,054	+ 18	35,247	+ 15
FOOTWEAR	2,157	+ 69	18,918	+ 75

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NOVEMBER DRIER AND COOLER THAN NORMAL

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UNDER THE DOMINANCE OF A SERIES OF CONTINENTAL ANTICYCLONES, LAST MONTH'S MEAN PRESSURE OF 1,019.5 HECTOPASCAL WAS THE EIGHTH HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (THURSDAY).

AS A RESULT, THE NORTHEAST MONSOON WAS RATHER ACTIVE AND NOVEMBER 1991 WAS ON THE WHOLE COOLER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL.

THE MONTHLY RAINFALL OF 2.7 MILLIMETRES WAS ONLY ABOUT EIGHT PER CENT OF THE NOVEMBER NORMAL OF 35.1 MILLIMETRES.

THE RAINFALL TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 1,627.3 MILLIMETRES, 26 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 2,187.0 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER ON NOVEMBER 1 WAS FINE WITH MODERATE EASTERLY WINDS. WINDS TURNED LIGHT FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AND THERE WERE CLOUDY PERIODS IN THE DAYTIME.

THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED ON NOVEMBER 4 AND BECAME STRONG OFFSHORE DURING THE NIGHT. THE WINDY CONDITIONS CONTINUED INTO THE NEXT DAY AS FINE WEATHER PERSISTED.

THE EASTERLIES SUBSIDED ON NOVEMBER 6 AND TURNED LIGHT TO MODERATE FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE LED TO INCREASINGLY WARM WEATHER. THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27 DEGREES ON NOVEMBER 8 WAS THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH.

HOWEVER, THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY AN APPRECIABLY COOLER SPELL AS AN ACTIVE NORTHEAST MONSOON SET IN THAT EVENING.

THE FRESHENING WINDS BROUGHT SOME LIGHT RAIN DURING THE NIGHT AND CLOUDIER WEATHER THE NEXT DAY.

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A NORTHERLY REPLENISHMENT OF THE WINTER MONSOON, WHICH ARRIVED EARLY ON NOVEMBER 10, RETREATED MOMENTARILY DURING THE DAY BEFORE FINALLY BECOMING ESTABLISHED THAT NIGHT.

THE DRY CONTINENTAL AIR MASS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTHERLIES ENSURED FINE AND VERY DRY CONDITIONS FOR THE NEXT FIVE DAYS.

THE DAILY MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY STAYED BELOW 50 PER CENT DURING THE PERIOD AS A FURTHER REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHERLIES ARRIVED ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 13. THE EXTREMELY DRY CONDITIONS AND THE BLUSTERY WINDS ABETTED THE SPREADING OF HILL FIRES.

MOISTER CONDITIONS RETURNED ON NOVEMBER 16 AFTER WINDS HAD TURNED EASTERLY THE PREVIOUS DAY. WINDS WERE FRESH AT FIRST BEFORE GRADUALLY MODERATING OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDIER ON NOVEMBER 19 AS THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED AGAIN.

AFTER SOME SUNNY INTERVALS ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 20, LIGHT RAIN BECAME MORE FREQUENT LATER IN THE DAY AND PERSISTED INTO THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

EVEN THOUGH THE RAIN THEN EASED OFF, THE CLOUDS REMAINED AND DID NOT BREAK UNTIL THE EASTERLIES MODERATED ON NOVEMBER 22.

A LULL IN THE NORTHEAST MONSOON LED TO A MUCH WARMER DAY ON NOVEMBER 23. THE WEATHER BECAME CLOUDY AND COOLER AS A STRONG EASTERLY SURGE ARRIVED EARLY NEXT DAY.

LIGHT RAIN STARTED ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 24 AND LASTED TILL THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 26, DURING WHICH TIME THE EASTERLIES WERE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY A FRESH NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM.

EVEN COOLER AIR ARRIVED FROM THE INLAND REGION OF GUANGDONG AND THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED PROGRESSIVELY TO THE MONTH'S LOWEST OF 15.8 DEGREES IN THE EARLY HOURS OF NOVEMBER 26.

THE SAME MINIMUM WAS ATTAINED EARLY ON NOVEMBER 28 AS THE CLEARING SKY ALLOWED MORE EFFECTIVE NIGHT-TIME COOLING.

HOWEVER, THE FINE WEATHER TURNED OUT TO BE RATHER SHORT-LIVED AS CLOUDS RETURNED ON NOVEMBER 29.

A WEAK NORTHEAST MONSOON MAINTAINED THE CLOUDY WEATHER WHICH PERSISTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

THERE WERE SIX TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, BUT NONE HAD ANY DIRECT IMPACT ON THE WEATHER IN HONG KONG.

OF THE THREE TROPICAL CYCLONES THAT ENTERED THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, THE PRESENCE OF SETH AND WILDA ENHANCED THE NORTHEAST MONSOON OVER THE COASTAL WATERS OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

/DURING THE

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DURING THE MONTH, NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 2-4, 10, 11, AND 16-18, WHEREAS THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN FORCE ON NOVEMBER 1 AND 11-16.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 4 5 PM	NOVEMBER 5 9.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 5 10.30 PM	NOVEMBER 6 1.15 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	NOVEMBER 24 7.55 AM	NOVEMBER 25 7.30 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	177.4 HOURS ; 4.1 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	12.59 MJ/SQ. M ; 0.80 MJ/SQ. M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	2.7 MM ; 32.4 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	51 PER CENT ; 2 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	68 PER CENT ; 1 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	23.3 DEGREES ; 0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	21.0 DEGREES ; 0.4 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	18.9 DEGREES ; 0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	14.4 DEGREES ; 0.8 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	98.9 MM ; 30.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

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\$2 MILLION AID FOR PHILIPPINES TYPHOON VICTIMS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED \$2 MILLION TO WORLD VISION TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF A TYPHOON WHICH HIT THE PHILIPPINES LAST MONTH, LEAVING 7,000 PEOPLE DEAD OR MISSING, 120,000 HOMELESS, AND THOUSANDS IN DANGER OF FAMINE AND EPIDEMIC.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) WORLD VISION WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF ITS TRACK RECORD IN PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE. THE AGENCY IS ALREADY OPERATING A SPECIAL RELIEF PROGRAMME IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE TYPHOON VICTIMS.

"HONG KONG'S CONTRIBUTION IS EXPECTED TO BENEFIT 22,000 PEOPLE FROM 3,700 FAMILIES IN THE AFFECTED AREA," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE CONTRIBUTION WILL BE USED ENTIRELY ON RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FOR VICTIMS OF THE TYPHOON, INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF SHELTERS, EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS, AS WELL AS SOIL AND RIVER BANK PROTECTION WORKS TO HELP PREVENT FUTURE FLOODING IN THE DISASTER AREA.

"THE MONEY WILL NOT BE USED TO MEET THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OR STAFF EXPENDITURE OF THE RELIEF AGENCY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE RELIEF PROJECT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED HELP TO THE TYPHOON VICTIMS AND IS WORTHY OF SUPPORT BY HONG KONG.

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\$33M CONTRACT SIGNED FOR 15 POLICE LAUNCHES

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$33 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE BUILDING OF 15 MARINE POLICE LAUNCHES BY THE ETOSHA HOLDINGS PTY LIMITED OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (GOVERNMENT FLEET), MR PETER CRISP, SIGNED THE CONTRACT WITH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ETOSHA HOLDINGS PTY LIMITED, MR TONY MITCHELL, AT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN HARBOUR BUILDING, PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ALSO PRESENT WERE THE AUSTRALIAN CONSUL-GENERAL IN HONG KONG, MR GEOFF BENTLEY; THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MR ALFRED CROUCHER; THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE, MR MICHAEL PAGLIARI; AND THE DIRECTOR OF ETOSHA HOLDINGS PTY LIMITED, MR ROB BOWRA.

MR CRISP SAID: "THE 15 POLICE LAUNCHES COMPRISE 11 TEN-METRE FAST INSHORE PATROL AND FOUR 12-METRE LOGISTIC LAUNCHES CAPABLE OF SPEED UP TO 35 KNOTS.

"THEY WILL BE BUILT TO SPECIFICATIONS PRODUCED BY THE MARINE POLICE AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP SO THAT THEY WILL MEET THEIR USER'S REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS BEING EASY TO MAINTAIN.

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"WHEN THEY ARE DELIVERED STARTING IN AUGUST NEXT YEAR, THEY WILL ENHANCE MARINE POLICE CAPABILITY IN SUCH AREAS AS ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS AND ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS, CASUALTY EVACUATION AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT."

THE LAST THREE LAUNCHES UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL BE DELIVERED IN APRIL 1993.

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PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST FOOD-BORNE DISEASES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED TO ADOPT PROPER FOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES WHEN HAVING HOTPOT IN WINTER.

MAKING THE APPEAL, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR MAHOMMED BIN ALI, REMINDED RESIDENTS ABOUT FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS FOOD POISONING AND HEPATITIS A.

"FOOD ESTABLISHMENT STAFF SHOULD ALWAYS OBSERVE HYGIENE PRACTICES IN PREPARING FOOD FOR HOTPOTS," DR ALI SAID.

"CUSTOMERS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE FOOD IS ADEQUATELY COOKED BEFORE CONSUMPTION."

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD ALSO OBSERVE GOOD HYGIENE PRACTICES WHEN PREPARING HOTPOTS AT HOME.

DR ALI REMINDED THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

FOR SHELLFISH

- * USE ONLY WHOLESOME AND PREFERABLY LIVE ONES;
- * REMOVE THE GRIT AND DIRT WITH A BRUSH AND WASH THOROUGHLY;
- * DISCARD THE INTESTINES AND OTHER DUBIOUS OR INEDIBLE PARTS SUCH AS SHELLS;
- * COOK THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION; AND
- * KEEP UNDER REFRIGERATION IF NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION.

FOR VEGETABLES

- * DO NOT BUY THOSE WITH AN OBVIOUS STRANGE SMELL;
- * TEAR OFF AND DISCARD THE LEAVES AT THE PERIPHERY;
- * WASH WELL AND DIP IN CLEAN WATER FOR SOME TIME; AND

/* COOK THOROUGHLY

* COOK THOROUGHLY.

"WHOLESOME RAW MATERIALS, PROPER WASHING AND HANDLING, AND THOROUGH COOKING ARE THE BEST MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES AND THESE HYGIENE PRACTICES SHOULD BE ADOPTED AT ALL TIMES," DR ALL SAID.

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INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO MOVE TO WAN CHAI

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WILL BE MOVING IN PHASES FROM ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT WINDSOR HOUSE TO PURPOSE-BUILT GOVERNMENT-OWNED OFFICES AT WANCHAI TOWER 3 DURING THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 14 (SATURDAY) TO DECEMBER 29 (SUNDAY).

WANCHAI TOWER 3 IS LOCATED AT 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI (NEXT TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT). THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT WILL OCCUPY SOME 33 FLOORS OF THIS BUILDING FROM FIRST FLOOR UPWARDS.

THE MOVE WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY AND PROVIDE TAXPAYERS WITH BETTER SERVICES.

DURING THE PERIOD, CALLERS ARE ADVISED TO TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THEY WILL BE CALLING AT THE CORRECT SECTION.

THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF OFFICES AT WINDSOR HOUSE ARE 894 5098 AND 894 5099, WHILE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF NEW OFFICES AT WANCHAI TOWER 3 IS 594 0888.

ALL SERVICES WILL OPERATE FROM WANCHAI TOWER 3 STARTING FROM DECEMBER 30 (MONDAY).

FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO MAY WISH TO MAKE ENQUIRIES ON SALARIES TAX, THE RE-LOCATION DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FILE NO. PREFIX -----	WINDSOR HOUSE -----	RE-LOCATION DATE -----	NEW LOCATION IN WANCHAI TOWER 3 -----
2A	9/F	DECEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY)	27/F
2B	10/F	DECEMBER 17 (TUESDAY)	26/F
2C	11/F	DECEMBER 20 (FRIDAY)	25/F
2D	12/F	DECEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY)	24/F

2E	13/F	DECEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)	23/F
2F	14/F	DECEMBER 27 (FRIDAY)	22/F
2G	27/F	DECEMBER 19 (THURSDAY)	21/F
2H	7/F	DECEMBER 17 (TUESDAY)	20/F

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NOVEMBER AIR QUALITY REPORT RELEASED

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

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

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 NO₂ LEVEL IN NOVEMBER WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN OCTOBER, ALTHOUGH NO MEASUREMENT EXCEEDED THE DAILY NOR HOURLY AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES OF NO₂ ANYWHERE.

DUST LEVELS (TSP AND RSP) IN THE AIR IN NOVEMBER WERE ALSO HIGHER THAN IN OCTOBER.

AS HONG KONG GETS INTO WINTER MONTHS, THERE IS A TREND OF RISING NITROGEN DIOXIDE AND DUST LEVELS.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE DRY ATMOSPHERIC CONDITION AND THE LESS EFFICIENT DISPERSION ABILITY IN WINTER GENERALLY CAUSED POLLUTANT LEVELS TO RISE.

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, AND THE ATMOSPHERIC AND OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT AIR QUALITY.

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

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

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

HIGH LEVELS OF 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.

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SHA SEES DEVELOPMENTS ON OUTLYING ISLANDS.
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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, VISITED CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LAMMA AND LANTAU ISLANDS TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SEE THEIR LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD, MR SUEN SAILED TO CHEUNG CHAU WHICH, WITH A POPULATION OF 20,000, IS THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED ISLAND IN THE DISTRICT.

MR SUEN TOURED THE SITE OF A LOCAL OPEN SPACE AT TAI SHEK HAU WHERE A ROLLER-SKATING RINK, A BASKETBALL COURT, FOUR TENNIS COURTS, A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND A SITTING-OUT AREA ARE BEING BUILT.

HE ALSO LEARNED THAT A \$170 MILLION PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE ROADS AND DRAINS IN THE OLD TOWN AREA IS IN THE PIPELINE.

THE SECRETARY THEN DEPARTED FOR LANTAU ISLAND WHERE HE VISITED TUNG CHUNG AND MUI WO. HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE PLANS FOR FUTURE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENTS AT LOOKOUT POINTS IN NEARBY TAI PO VILLAGE AND TUNG CHUNG FORT.

/AT MUI

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AT MUI WO, MR SUEN TOURED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MARKET COMPLEX, AND ITS ADJACENT AREA WHERE A TOWN SQUARE AND A LOCAL OPEN SPACE WILL BE BUILT.

MR SUEN THEN TOURED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE ON PENG CHAU. THE \$140 MILLION PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1994 AND IT WILL ACCOMMODATE OVER 1,300 PEOPLE.

BEFORE WINDING UP HIS VISIT, MR SUEN ALSO WENT TO YUNG SHUE WAN ON LAMMA ISLAND TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF VILLAGE HOUSES THERE.

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FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS ALSO ENTITLED TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT

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ALL EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, WITH FIVE YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER ARE ENTITLED TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT ON DISMISSAL.

IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES MADE IN THIS CONNECTION, A CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER, MR YEUNG CHI-KIN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) ORDINANCE, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON NOVEMBER 29, APPLIED TO ALL EMPLOYEES ON A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT.

"A CONTINUOUS CONTRACT IS ONE UNDER WHICH AN EMPLOYEE HAS WORKED FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR FOUR WEEKS OR MORE, PRIOR TO A GIVEN DATE, FOR AT LEAST 18 HOURS IN EACH OF THE FOUR WEEKS," MR YEUNG EXPLAINED.

"THE ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE REQUIRED LENGTH OF SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN LONG SERVICE PAYMENT BY HIS EMPLOYER UPON DISMISSAL FOR REASONS OTHER THAN SUMMARY DISMISSAL OR REDUNDANCY," HE SAID, ADDING THAT EMPLOYEES AGED 65 OR ABOVE AND WITH 10 YEARS' SERVICE ARE ENTITLED TO THE PAYMENT ON RETIREMENT.

MR YEUNG SAID LONG SERVICE PAYMENT IS CALCULATED AT TWO-THIRDS OF AN EMPLOYEE'S LAST FULL MONTH'S WAGES FOR EVERY COMPLETE YEAR OF SERVICE, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES.

"HOWEVER, AN EMPLOYEE'S ACTUAL BENEFIT DEPENDS ON HIS AGE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE," HE STRESSED.

"FOR INSTANCE, AN EMPLOYEE AGED BELOW 41 AND WITH FIVE YEARS' SERVICE SHOULD BE GIVEN 50 PER CENT OF HIS FULL ENTITLEMENT WHILE ANOTHER EMPLOYEE AGED 42 AND WITH EIGHT YEARS' SERVICE WILL RECEIVE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT IN FULL," HE EXPLAINED.

/DETAILS OF

DETAILS OF THE PAYMENT SCHEME ARE SET OUT IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

AGE OF EMPLOYEE	YEARS OF SERVICE AND % ENTITLEMENT					
	5	6	7	8	9	10 OR ABOVE
BELOW 41	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
41	50%	60%	70%	80%	100%	100%
42	50%	60%	70%	100%	100%	100%
43	50%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%
44	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
45 OR OVER	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ENQUIRIES ON THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME CAN BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE OR ON TEL. 815 5066.

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GUANGDONG OFFICIALS VISIT TUEN MUN

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A DELEGATION OF SIX OFFICIALS FROM THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PLANNING COMMISSION, LED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION, MR LUO CHENGFA, VISITED TUEN MUN THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

WELCOMING THE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID SUCH VISITS WOULD HELP TO FOSTER BETTER COMMUNICATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF GUANGDONG AND HONG KONG.

MR LAM POINTED OUT THAT TUEN MUN, BEING ONE OF THE NINE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, WAS AN IMPORTANT NEW TOWN IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE REGION.

"THE DISTRICT HAS DEVELOPED FROM A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH 30,000 PEOPLE IN THE EARLY '70'S, TO THE PRESENT WELL DEVELOPED NEW TOWN WITH 400,000 RESIDENTS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE '90'S," HE SAID.

/HE ALSO

HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT DISTRICT OFFICERS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CO-ORDINATING THE WORK OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT.

THE DELEGATION WAS GIVEN A CONDUCTED TOUR OF TUEN MUN BY THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG.

FROM THE ROOFTOP OF AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, THE VISITORS HAD A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE DISTRICT, AND RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND TOWN PLANNING CONCEPTS OF TUEN MUN FROM THE SENIOR TOWN PLANNER (TUEN MUN), MR CHAK KAI-CHEE.

THEY ALSO VISITED AREA 38, A NARROW STRIP OF LAND ALONG THE WESTERN COAST OF THE NEW TOWN, WHERE A SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL AREA WITH DEEP WATER ANCHORAGE FACILITIES HAS BEEN PLANNED.

THE GUANGDONG VISITING OFFICIALS THEN PROCEEDED TO LEUNG KING ESTATE WHERE THEY WERE SHOWN THE MULTIFARIOUS COMMUNAL FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE.

THE TOUR CONCLUDED WITH A VISIT TO THE TUEN MUN CULTURAL SQUARE WHERE LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

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20 RECEIVE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION

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THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF 180 PEOPLE FROM THE SEA OFF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST IN APPALLING CONDITIONS AT NIGHT BY CAPTAIN FOO CHIU-HUNG AND HIS CREW OF M.V. "GREAT NANCY" IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE CONDUCT AND SKILL OF HONG KONG SEAFARERS.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID THIS AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS TODAY (THURSDAY).

CAPTAIN FOO AND SIX OF HIS OFFICERS, ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS, WERE AMONG 20 RECIPIENTS WHO RESCUED A TOTAL OF 191 PEOPLE FROM THE SEA.

MR MILLER SAID: "WE IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT DO RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONDUCT OF OFFICERS AND CREWS ON SHIPS REGISTERED UNDER THE NEW HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER AND OF HONG KONG SEAFARERS IN GENERAL.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG REGISTER HAS LED TO A DECISION TO EXTEND FROM THIS (1991) YEAR ONWARDS THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S AWARDS TO COVER ACTS OF BRAVERY OUTSIDE HONG KONG WATERS BY HONG KONG SEAFARERS SERVING IN ANY VESSEL AND CREW MEMBERS OF HONG KONG-REGISTERED SHIPS."

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF 11 PEOPLE FROM THE WATERS OF HONG KONG, MR MILLER PRAISED THE 13 RECIPIENTS FOR HAVING ACTED ABOVE THE NORMAL CALL OF DUTY AND CONGRATULATED THEM FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND PUBLIC SPIRITEDNESS.

CAPTAIN FOO, WHO IS NOW SAILING THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL AND HEADING FOR HOUSTON IN THE UNITED STATES, SAID OVER THE TELEPHONE : "I WAS MERELY UPHOLDING THE TRADITIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AT SEA IN ASSISTING ALL THOSE IN PERIL.

"I AM HONOURED TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST RECIPIENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION FOR ACTS OF BRAVERY OUTSIDE HONG KONG WATERS."

THE 61-YEAR-OLD CAPTAIN RECALLED THAT IT WAS SHORTLY BEFORE 10 PM ON AUGUST 3 THIS YEAR WHEN HIS PANAMANIAN-REGISTERED BULK CARRIER "GREAT NANCY" RECEIVED A DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM THE GREEK PASSENGER LINER M.V. "OCEANOS" OFF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAST.

"I PROMPTLY RESPONDED TO THE DISTRESS CALL AND MY SHIP WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE AT THE SCENE.

"I TOOK COMMAND OF THE RESCUE IN BOISTEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS WITH STRONG GALE FORCE WINDS AND SIX-METRE HIGH WAVES.

"MY CREW STARTED THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK OF HEAVING ON BOARD BY HAND PASSENGERS FROM THE FIRST LIFEBOAT BECAUSE THE PASSENGERS WERE UNABLE TO CLIMB ONTO LADDERS ON THE SIDE OF THE SHIP. THEY CONTINUED TO PICK UP SURVIVORS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

"WHEN WE WERE ORDERED BY THE SEARCH AND RESCUE AUTHORITY TO PROCEED TO DURBAN TO DISEMBARK SURVIVORS, MY CREW HAD PICKED UP 180 PEOPLE COMPRISING THREE BABIES, 11 CHILDREN, 46 WOMEN, 35 MEN AND 85 CREW OF THE PASSENGER LINER," CAPTAIN FOO SAID.

THE OTHER SIX OFFICERS OF M.V. "GREAT NANCY" ARE CHIEF OFFICER MR WONG HOY-LEUNG, CHIEF ENGINEER MR TSUI YAN-TIN, SECOND OFFICER MR LEE MAN-SAU, SECOND ENGINEER MR KAM WING-KEUNG, THIRD ENGINEER MR NGAI CHING-FUI AND ELECTRICAL OFFICER MR YIP SHUNG-LAM.

RECEIVING THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR WAS MS HO MEI-LING WHO RESCUED A YOUNG MAN ONE MILE EAST OF SIU A CHAU IN THE SOUTHWESTERN WATERS OF HONG KONG ON APRIL 6 THIS YEAR.

A CABIN ATTENDANT OF THE FAR EAST HYDROFOIL COMPANY LIMITED, MS HO SAVED A DROWNING WOMAN NEAR SHEK KWU CHAU IN MARCH LAST YEAR.

OTHER RECIPIENTS ARE TWO CITIZENS, MR STEPHEN CARROLL AND MR HOWARD G. TATE, AND FOUR STAFF MEMBERS OF THE STAR FERRY COMPANY LIMITED, MESSRS KWOK KAN, LEUNG YUN-SING, KWOK WING-CHOI AND TANG CHI-WAI.

/ALSO RECEIVING

ALSO RECEIVING THE COMMENDATION ARE POLICE CONSTABLES CHAN WAI-HUNG, CHENG CHI-FAI, CHAU SUN, CHENG TAK-MING, YU LAP-MAN AND CHAN SAI-LEUNG.

THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S COMMENDATION HAS A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 30 YEARS AND WAS LIMITED TO INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN HONG KONG WATERS.

HOWEVER, CREW MEMBERS OF OCEAN-GOING SHIPS REGISTERED UNDER THE OLD HONG KONG REGISTER WERE ELIGIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF OTHER SIMILAR AWARD SCHEMES OPERATED BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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\$296 MILLION CONTRACT FOR QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL EXTENSION AWARDED
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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) AWARDED A \$296 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE STAGE III EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF DICKSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED, WHICH WON THE CONTRACT.

THE WORKS UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS TO THE EXISTING BLOCK B OF THE HOSPITAL WHICH IS MADE UP OF THREE LINKED BUILDINGS - A MAIN H-SHAPED BUILDING COMPRISING A, B, C, D AND E WINGS, A SEVEN-STORY OPERATING THEATRE BUILDING AT THE REAR AND A THREE-STORY RADIOLOGY BUILDING AT THE FRONT.

THE CONVERSION INVOLVES THE DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT OF THE MAJORITY OF INTERNAL PARTITIONS, SANITARY FITTINGS AND BUILDING SERVICES TO BRING THE BUILDING UP TO MODERN STANDARDS.

NEW OPERATING THEATRE FLOORS AND A NEW FLOOR AT THE RADIOLOGY BLOCK WILL ALSO BE ADDED.

THE PROJECT ALSO PROVIDES FOR ENHANCEMENT OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF AN ADDITIONAL COMPUTER ASSISTED TOMOGRAPHY SCANNER, A MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING MACHINE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEDICAL FACILITIES SUCH AS A NEUROSURGERY UNIT AND IMPROVED OPERATING THEATRES.

WORKS UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN FOUR STAGES, AND WILL TAKE 29 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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CUSTOMS SEIZE DUTIABLE CIGARETTES

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OFFICERS OF CUSTOMS LAND ENFORCEMENT PATROL TEAM ARRESTED NINE PERSONS AND SEIZED 36,980 DUTIABLE CIGARETTES IN YUEN LONG EARLY TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE PEOPLE ARRESTED -- FIVE WOMEN AND FOUR MEN -- WERE OPERATORS OF MOBILE CIGARETTE STALLS AT TAI TONG ROAD MARKET, YUEN LONG.

THE TOTAL RETAIL VALUE OF THE SEIZED GOODS WAS \$30,235, WITH A DUTY POTENTIAL OF ABOUT \$17,750.

AGED FROM 55 TO 81, THE ARRESTED PEOPLE WILL BE CHARGED LATER TODAY WITH POSSESSING DUTIABLE GOODS.

THEY WILL BE RELEASED ON BAIL RANGING FROM \$100 TO \$5,000 AND WILL APPEAR IN TUEN MUN MAGISTRACY ON JANUARY 2 AND 3.

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FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL IN WAI CHAI

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A FUN-FILLED CARNIVAL PROVIDING FREE ENTERTAINMENT AND ADVICE ON HOME SECURITY DURING THE WINTER MONTHS WILL BE HELD THIS SATURDAY (DECEMBER 14) AT THE SOUTHOEN PLAYGROUND IN WAI CHAI.

THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

IT WILL FEATURE MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES, TAEKWONDO DEMONSTRATION, MAGIC SHOWS, CYCLING DISPLAYS, POP SONGS AND A LUCKY DRAW.

THERE WILL ALSO BE AN EXHIBITION ON HOME SECURITY DEVICES AND STALL GAMES PUBLICISING FIGHT CRIME MESSAGES, FROM 1.30 PM TO 5.30 PM.

COUPONS FOR THE LUCKY DRAW AND STALL GAMES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD, WAI CHAI. THEY WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

A FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER, MRS MIRIAM LAU; WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; AND THE DISTRICT'S POLICE COMMANDER, MR LAM KIN WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 2 PM.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 14) AT THE SOUTHOEN PLAYGROUND.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	11.12.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	12.12.91	+29
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-29
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.3 *-0.3* 12.12.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.42 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.76	5.35
1 MONTH	3.96 PCT					
3 MONTHS	3.96 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.07 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.60 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 3,934 MN, BONDS 25 MN

CLOSED 12 DECEMBER 1991

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