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Transcript of Governor's media session

Following is the transcript of the remarks made to the media by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after attending the ExCo meeting this (Tuesday) afternoon:

Governor: I'm very pleased with President Clinton's decision yesterday on MFN. It's an important decision for Hong Kong. But of course there's still a long way to go. I think as you know President Clinton made it clear to me when I saw him a couple of weeks ago that the administration remained committed to unconditional renewal of MFN. But of course it's now for Congress to make its views clear. I trust that the lobbying that we've done in the Senate and the House of Representatives will have some impact on that debate. I'm delighted that the American Chamber of Commerce has been working so hard on Hong Kong's behalf in the United States, and you've probably heard that the leaders of the Amcham group referring to the helpful visit which I paid to Washington a couple of weeks ago and before that which Martin Lee paid to Washington. So, so far so good, but still some way to go.

Question: (on letter from the chambers of commerce)

Governor: The letter which is placed in advertisements in some newspapers this morning is I understand an open letter to the Prime Minister, and I'm sure the Prime Minister will be replying in due course and I obviously wouldn't want to say anything before that. I think the only point I would add is these organisations having got involved in politics, I imagine people are going to be looking for their views on lots of issues like the protection of human rights, the independence of the judiciary, the political neutrality of the civil service, the development of democracy in Hong Kong, I guess all those issues are going to be put to them. But as far as the letter is concerned, I think I'll wait for the Prime Minister's reply.

Questions: (follow-up)

Governor: I've said what my view is on the issue at the moment. You can ask the question in different ways, but you'll get the same courteous, well-mannered, gentlemanly but reasonably forthright reply.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: I think on the same day that letters are being written on related subjects, my reaction is probably demotically come off it. We've made our position absolutely clear on the Legislative Council and on threats to dismantle it, and I don't think anybody should be in any doubt about that. But I don't think that either of the attacks made on the government from one side or the other are either fair or well judged.

Question: There are reports saying that Mrs Anson Chan will go to Zuhai to meet Jiang Zemin at the end of this week. Can you confirm the report? Governor: No.

Question: Are you denying the report?

Governor: I haven't seen the report. Had I seen it, it would have surprised me because it's not true.

Question: (inaudible)

Governor: We've had a discussion on sewage charges.

Question: What was the outcome?

Governor: I'm sure you will learn that in due course.

Question: Governor, with regard to the comments from the business community...

Governor: You get the same answer.

Question: I'm going to ask you in a slightly different way...

Governor: Well, you get the same answer.

Question: The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce has just issued a statement urging the Government to give some thought to the provisional legislature. Do you think that is a change of ... in the business community?

Governor: I've heard them say that before. There is no question of us doing anything which would undermine the lawfully constituted Legislative Council and I am bound to say I think if they have said that it will come as a very considerable surprise to all those who voted in the Legislative Council Elections in record numbers about 60 per cent of whom, most likely more, I think, supported the Democratic Party.

Question: Has ExCo approved the sewage charges?

Governor: I'm sure you will be told in a very short order what the answer to that question is.

Question: Do you think those comments on the provisional legislature that undermined confidence..

Governor: I was interested in what Mr Raymond Chan, the Secretary of State for, I think, Asian Affairs in the Canadian Government said about threats to dismantle the legislature and the effect which he thought that would have on, inevitably on confidence, not least business confidence in the territory. I thought that was a very sensible observation on his part. You will also recall that a few weeks ago, Margaret Thatcher said, and I think she was right, that the problem about these threats to dismantle the legislature is that they raise questions inevitably about China's intentions in other areas.

Question: Any comments on the..

Governor: What I will say to you is that I think everybody in Hong Kong signs up to the polluter pays principle. But sometimes rather curiously when it actually comes to the polluter paying even very modest amounts, people oppose it. We are putting in place a first class sewage treatment strategy which will clean up the waters around our shores. In the first place which will reduce the pollution load in Victoria harbour by 70 per cent. That's important for our environment. It's a significant step forward in making Hong Kong a more decent city to live in. It costs money. A scheme like that doesn't, to borrow a phrase, fall off a tree, we have got to pay for it and if it's not paid for by a sensible system of charges, it has to be paid for out of general taxation. so I think polluter pays is very sensible and I think polluter pays actually not only helps to deter pollution but also helps to give us the costs, to deal with the costs to clear pollution up.

End

Governor's reply to James Tien on provisional legislature

* * * * *

Following is the text of the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's reply to the Chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Mr James Tien, on provisional legislature today (Tuesday):

Thank you for your letter of 17 May setting out the Chamber's views on the provisional legislature.

The corporate position of the British Government and the Hong Kong Government on the provisional legislature is clear. Let me, for the record, restate it once more. The current Legislative Council has been elected openly, fairly and by a record number of voters. These electoral arrangements are fully compatible with both the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. We see neither the justification nor the need for a replacement or provisional legislature. If the Chinese Government were to set up such a legislature, it would be for them to explain to the community why such action is justified, how it is consistent with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law and how it is conducive to a successful transition.

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have made our position abundantly clear to Chinese leaders. I have explained our position on numerous occasions, including as recently as 18 April before the Legislative Council. I have also stressed that the Hong Kong Government is fully committed to continue to work with the current Legislative Council, which has a clear and legitimate mandate, and which is the only legally constituted legislature in Hong Kong.

It follows that the Hong Kong Government will not offer any assistance in relation to the provisional legislature. However, we are committed to co-operate with the Preparatory Committee and the Chief Executive (Designate) in other areas where both sides have identified common ground and on the basis of our three established parameters.

I have read with interest the transcript of Director Lu Ping's remarks made to your Chamber. I would like to make just one comment. Under the Joint Declaration, the British Government is responsible for administering Hong Kong until 30 June 1997 and the Chinese Government will co-operate in this regard. In the months ahead, we will continue to discharge our duties vigorously, conscientiously and in the best interests of Hong Kong. And we will not accept either a shadow government or a second centre of power.

End

Sewage charge increase proposed

* * * * *

The Government today (Tuesday) announced its intention to increase the sewage charge by \$0.18 per cubic metre to \$1.38 per cubic metre and to increase the trade effluent surcharge by the same proportion.

The increases will come into effect on August 1, seven months later than the original target date of January 1. Hence the need to make an adjustment to the increases originally forecast in November 1994 in order to allow for the inflation in the interim.

Even after the proposed increase, about 16 per cent of domestic households will still not be required to pay any sewage charge. A further 61 per cent will pay only \$1 to \$2.50 more per month.

The sewage charge allowance already payable to low-income families under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme will be increased to take account of the proposed increase.

In announcing the increases, a government spokesman explained that cleaning up the environment is essential to the health and quality of life of everyone in Hong Kong and hence it is in everyone's best interests. This is a major task and has a cost which must be met.

The spokesman also pointed out that the Stonecutters Island treatment plant now under construction and six related sewerage master plans in Tsuen Wan, Kowloon, Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O would improve significantly the water quality in the harbour.

When the Stonecutters Island plant comes into operation in 1997, about 70 per cent of the pollutants currently discharged into Victoria Harbour will be diverted away and treated, leading to a daily removal of about 1,000 tons of sludge, currently dumped into the harbour.

The Stanley Secondary Treatment Plant is now in operation. This together with the Hong Kong Island South Sewerage Master Plan, now nearing completion, will bring great improvements to water quality on the south side of Hong Kong Island and make beaches there clean and healthy for bathers.

Other major projects include the Tolo Harbour Sewerage Master Plan and the Port Shelter Sewerage Master Plan which, when completed, will substantially improve the water quality of these major water-based recreational areas.

The spokesman said: "These and other sewerage infrastructure projects due to come on stream over the next few years will inevitably increase operating costs because much larger volumes of sewage and other wastewaters will be diverted and treated to a higher standards."

The increase proposed is required to meet rising operating costs as additional sewage treatment facilities come on stream to clean up and protect our environment by tackling the serious water pollution problem that currently exists in Hong Kong.

The proposed increase is in line with the Polluter Pays Principle which was accepted by the Legislative Council in December 1993.

The spokesman said: "In order to minimise the levels of increases necessary, the Administration proposes to waive the requirement for the Sewage Charge Trading Fund (SSTF) to take account of the depreciation of its assets in determining the charges."

He noted that the measure will reduce by \$1,160 million the amount of revenue required in the five years from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

As a further measure to ease the burden on the public, SSTF is not required to produce any return on the \$20 billion capital investment being made by the Government in sewage infrastructure.

"Thus users will only be charged as much as is necessary to recoup the costs of operating the sewage services provided by the SSTF," said the spokesman.

He noted that every effort had been made by the Drainage Services Department to contain operating costs. Staffing levels have been critically examined. Automation and energy saving equipment have been put in place to optimise efficiency and where appropriate, certain activities including maintenance and disposal have been contracted out.

He also noted that the latest expenditure projections were generally in line with those contained in the brief given to the Legislative Council in November 1994.

"However, experience gained in the first year's operation of the Trading Fund shows that we are unable to achieve the revenue forecast in late 1994 due largely to the fact that the data base used in working out the charges was incomplete before the scheme was introduced.

"The reduction in the levels of pollutants discharged which has been brought about by the declaration of water control zones has also contributed to the reduction in revenue," he said.

Based on the updated information available, the plan for future increases necessary for the SSTF to break even, in terms of recouping its operating costs by 1999/2000 has been revised as follows:

- * From \$1.38 to \$1.86 per cubic metre with effect from April 1, 1997;
- * From \$1.86 to \$2.52 per cubic metre with effect from April 1, 1998; and
- * From \$2.52 to \$3.22 per cubic metre with effect from April 1, 1999.

The spokesman said: "These rates of increases are for indicative purposes only. They include allowance for inflation. The exact rates to be proposed each year will depend on a number of factors, including the actual performance of the SSTF, the budgets for each of the financial years concerned and the inflation rates. Once breakeven has been achieved, the levels of future increases will begin to reduce.

"By world standards, our sewage charges have been set at a very low initial level. Even after the series of increases have been implemented, the charges will only come to about one third to one half of the water charges for domestic users."

The proposed increase for this year has been approved by the Governor-in-Council and the amending regulations to give legislative effect to the increase will soon be introduced into the Legislative Council.

End

STI welcomes renewal of China's MFN status

* * * * *

The Secretary for Trade and Industry, Miss Denise Yue, welcomed President Clinton's decision to renew unconditionally China's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status for another year.

"President Clinton's decision to renew China's MFN status without attaching conditions is good news for Hong Kong. We are grateful to know that the President has taken Hong Kong's interests into account," she said.

"The United States and China are Hong Kong's two largest trading partners and good relations between them are a vital factor in our long-term success."

Yesterday, President Clinton announced his decision in a speech at the Pacific Basin Economic Council meeting. Under US law, he still has to submit his decision formally to Congress by June 3. Congress may pass a joint resolution disapproving the President's decision. This would have to be done within 60 days after July 3, the day when China's current MFN trading status expires. If Congress did pass such a resolution, the President would have 10 working days to veto the resolution, and Congress would have 15 legislative days to override the President's veto.

"We look forward to President Clinton's formal submission of his decision to Congress. We will continue with our lobbying efforts and keep Congress informed of Hong Kong's position, so as to enable Congress to take our interests into account when it deliberates on the matter," Miss Yue said.

End

FS speaks to service providers in Bangkok

* * * * *

The Financial Secretary, Mr Donald Tsang, is in Bangkok today (Tuesday) to begin the third leg of his Southeast Asia trip.

Speaking at the business seminar organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in Bangkok, Mr Tsang said the service providers in Thailand and Hong Kong could forge effective alliances with each other in exploring regional business opportunities.

"The bilateral trade between Thailand and Hong Kong has grown rapidly in recent years. It reached \$33.6 billion or Baht 107.5 billion in 1995, representing an increase of 24 per cent over 1994."

"Hong Kong is the third largest source of foreign investment in Thailand. Hong Kong's direct investment in Thailand totalled \$15.5 billion (Baht 49.7 billion) from 1985 to 1994. In the other direction, Thai companies have invested a total of \$2 billion (Baht 6.4 billion) in Hong Kong over the same period," Mr Tsang said.

Thailand is Hong Kong's largest supplier of rice, accounting for 77 per cent of our total consumption in 1995. It is also one of the favourite destinations of Hong Kong tourists.

"Since stepping up its liberalisation policies in 1987, Thailand has recorded spectacular economic performance with an average growth of 8.2 per cent a year. Heavy investment in infrastructure will be a key to sustaining this impressive growth rate," Mr Tsang said.

Mr Tsang left Singapore for Bangkok yesterday. Today he met with the Minister of Finance of Thailand, Dr Surakiat Sathirathai, and the Governor of Bank of Thailand, Mr Vijit Supinit, and discussed matters of mutual interest.

While in Bangkok, he will meet local politicians and businessmen over luncheons and dinners, and brief the media on his trip and the latest situation in Hong Kong.

Mr Tsang will call on Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Amnuey Viravan, tomorrow afternoon. He will depart for London in the same evening to continue with his duty visit in the United Kingdom.

End

Schools advised to keep pupils' health records

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Schools are advised to keep records on pupils' health problems for the reference of teachers, especially those teaching physical education or organising extra-curricular activities.

A Principal Education Officer of the Education Department, Mr Tam Chun-kit, said: "Parents are encouraged to report to schools any medical history of their wards which might affect their participation in physical education lessons or other extra-curricular activities.

"Schools should issue a circular letter to parents to solicit their co-operation in reporting medical history of their children."

Mr Tam stressed that reporting of medical history of pupils by parents should be entirely on voluntary basis.

"School should ensure that such information should be strictly for school use only and not be divulged to other parties without the consent of the parents concern," he added.

Parents are also encouraged to enrol their children in the Student Health Service run by the Department of Health.

"Though the service only offers a general health assessment to pupils and not physical fitness assessment, it may refer pupils with known or suspected medical conditions to the public or private specialists for detailed assessment if indicated," Mr Tam said.

He noted that in general the appropriateness of physical activity should only be a concern in pupils with cardiovascular diseases, respiratory diseases, epilepsy, anaemia and diabetes mellitus.

"Medical certificate from the attending physician on the appropriate level of physical activity should be obtained from pupils suffering from these diseases as far as possible.

"Even if the pupils are no longer followed up for their conditions, they should be advised to seek medical advice and certification from their private practitioners or specialist clinics they previously attended," he said.

School heads and teachers are also reminded to be alert to the physical conditions of their pupils, in particular those with known history of diseases. Pupils should not be asked to do excessive physical exercises; and any pupil feeling sick should be asked to take a rest.

Since accidents and injuries are not uncommon in schools and school related activities, teachers, especially physical education teachers, are encouraged to attend first-aid training courses.

"The prompt resuscitation measures could be life-saving before the emergency services are available," Mr Tam said.

End

New Government Flying Service Controller appointed

* * * * *

The Government announced today (Tuesday) that Mr Brian Butt Yiu-ming, will succeed Mr C B Cluer as Controller, Government Flying Service, on August 1. Mr Cluer will proceed on end-of-agreement leave on that date having served the Government for over three years.

Following are the brief biographical notes on Messrs Butt and Cluer:

Mr Brian Butt Yiu-ming

Aged 41, Mr Butt joined the Hong Kong Civil Service in May 1978 as an Inspector of Police in the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. In April 1986, he was appointed as a Pilot in the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force (renamed as Government Flying Service in 1993).

He was promoted to his present rank of Chief Pilot in January 1993. Mr Butt is presently undergoing training in the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, and will return to Hong Kong in June 1996.

Mr C B Cluer

Aged 58, Mr Cluer joined the Hong Kong Civil Service in April 1993 as Controller, Government Flying Service.

End

Role of recycling stressed

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Recycling plays an important role in the new Waste Reduction Strategy currently under consultation, the Director of Environmental Protection, Mr Robert Law, said today (Tuesday).

Addressing the general assembly of the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) Convention, Mr Law said the increase in quantity of waste produced by a community correlated directly with the increase in gross domestic product (GDP). In Hong Kong, more than 20,000 tonnes of waste are produced every day, which are disposed of at three of the world's largest hi-tech landfills.

But these landfills would be exhausted in about 15 years, unless we adopted a new approach, Mr Law said.

The Waste Reduction Strategy includes proposals to minimise the amount of waste produced at source, and proposals for more efficient bulk waste reduction, such as the use of hi-tech waste-to-power incineration facilities.

"But recycling is a key element of the strategy. At present, we recover 38 per cent of municipal waste for recycling either here in Hong Kong, or overseas," Mr Law said.

In 1995, Hong Kong exported 1.6 million tonnes of waste for recycling and earned \$3 billion in the process.

Noting that currently only eight per cent of the waste in the domestic waste sector were recovered, Mr Law said much more could and should be done to increase the recovery rates for recyclable materials.

Other than the physical constraints of Hong Kong's living conditions which partly accounted for the relatively poor performance in this area, Mr Law said the economics must be right in the first place to encourage and sustain the recycling business.

"We must, therefore, as part of our overall strategy, examine the various economic factors at play to see how greater impetus can be given to the recycling business," Mr Law said.

And one of the most effective ways, he said, would be to ensure that all costs associated with waste disposal were properly internalised.

There would be little incentive for waste minimisation or for additional recycling until those producing waste for disposal at landfills were properly charged for the costs involved in dealing with their wastes, he said.

End

Value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in March

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The value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand for local production in March 1996 decreased by 3% over a year earlier, according to the provisional results of a monthly survey released today (Tuesday) by the Census and Statistics Department.

Comparing March 1996 with March 1995, increases in the value of orders were registered in the fabricated metal products industry (+11%) and the electrical products industry (+3%).

On the other hand, decreases in the value of orders were recorded in the plastic products industry (-10%), the textiles industry (-9%), the wearing apparel industry (-3%), the printing and publishing industry (-2%) and the electronic products industry (-1%).

Compared with February 1996, and bearing in mind that this comparison may be affected by seasonal factors, the value of manufacturers' orders-on-hand in March 1996 increased by 5%.

The Monthly Survey of Orders-on-hand covers a sample of some 300 manufacturing firms engaging 50 or more workers.

Manufacturers' orders-on-hand refer to orders and parts of orders received earlier by manufacturers for local production which remain unfilled as at the end of the reference month.

Orders received by traders not engaged in production are included if such orders are further placed to manufacturers for production locally. However, orders placed to manufacturing firms for production in China and other places outside Hong Kong are not included in this series of orders-on-hand statistics.

A spokesman of the department said caution should be exercised in interpreting the manufacturers' orders-on-hand figures in a single month. Instead, the trend movement of the series as displayed over a wider span of time points should be looked at.

The survey report for March 1996, at \$7 a copy, is now on sale at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, Queensway, and at the Census and Statistics Department Publications Unit, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai.

Enquiries about the survey results may be made to the Industrial Production Statistics Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6441.

The following table shows the year-on-year percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in different manufacturing industries.

	Percentage changes in the value of orders-on-hand in	
	February 1996 over February 1995 (Revised)	March 1996 over March 1995 (Provisional)
All industries covered in the survey	+1	-3
* Wearing apparel	-3	-3
* Textiles	-8	-9
* Electronic products	+5	-1
* Electrical products	+8	+3
* Fabricated metal products	+25	+11
* Plastic products	-3	-10
* Printing and publishing	-4	-2

End

120 VMs depart on orderly repatriation flight

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A group of 120 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) returned by air to Hanoi, Vietnam today (Tuesday) on the 37th flight under the Orderly Repatriation Programme (ORP). All of the returnees, comprising 55 men, 29 women, 19 boys and 17 girls, are from North Vietnam.

The majority of them arrived in Hong Kong in 1989, with the remaining in 1990 and 1995.

The group brought to 2,884 the total number repatriated on ORP flights since November 1991.

End

Monitors' report submitted to CS

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The monitors appointed to observe the Orderly Repatriation Programme operation this (Tuesday) morning have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary.

The two monitors came from two non-governmental organisations. They were Mr Tai Kie-ying from Christian Action and Mr Christopher Stokes from Medecins Sans Frontieres.

End

Tips for summer job seekers

* * * * *

Students looking for summer jobs are advised to watch out for employment traps and familiarise themselves with basic labour and industrial safety laws for their own protection.

Senior Labour Officer (Employment Services), Mr Sam Lam, today (Tuesday) offered six tips to avoid falling into employment traps :

- * Be careful of dubious recruitment advertisements, especially those which require no skill or academic qualifications but promise a high pay;

- * During a job interview, be alert of whether the offer is genuine;
- * Avoid accepting jobs with possible immoral implications and which infringe the law;
- * Be careful when signing any contract;
- * Consider carefully before accepting any demand from the employer on monetary guarantee, or payment of cash either for training purposes or purchasing goods;
- * In case of doubt or problems, consult parents, careers teachers or appropriate authorities immediately.

He said that copies of a booklet on employment traps produced by the Labour Department's Local Employment Service (LES) can be obtained at all LES offices.

Senior Labour Officer (Labour Relations Promotion), Mrs Ada Leung, said summer workers were also entitled to all the benefits and protection under the Employment Ordinance if they worked under a continuous contract.

"An employee who works continuously 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 is regarded as working under a continuous contract," she explained.

Mrs Leung also reminded summer job seekers to note the restrictions governing the employment age, working hours and types of jobs which children could not do under the Employment of Children Regulations.

"While no children under 13 could be employed in any job or trade, children between 13 and 15 are only allowed to be employed in non-industrial undertakings under special conditions," she said.

"Those who are employed in industrial establishments and are between 15 and 18 years of age should note the employment conditions laid down in the Women and Young Persons (Industry) Regulations."

Copies of a booklet giving details of the employment restrictions and the labour law for summer job seekers have been distributed to all secondary schools earlier this year. They are also obtainable at all the branch offices of the Labour Relations Service, LES, and the two careers centres of the department.

The department has also produced a video on the rights and obligations of an employee under a contract of employment. Summer job seekers interested in the video can approach the two Careers Centres and the LES Office in Mong Kok.

Noting that most of the industrial accidents involving summer workers were related to the operation of machinery, fall of person and handling of hot or corrosive substances, Superintendent of Factory Inspectors (Training), Mr Yam Kwong-lun, urged students to stay away from these potentially dangerous jobs.

"Jobs which require the operation of wood-working machinery, the handling of chemicals, toxic substances or fire-related processes are not suitable for summer job students as they have no proper training," he said.

Young persons under 18 years of age are not allowed to operate any lifting appliances driven by mechanical power or give signals to the driver of the appliance. They are also prohibited from cleaning any dangerous part of machinery in notifiable workplaces.

Moreover, the law forbids untrained young persons to work on construction sites.

"Students who want to work in catering establishments should exercise extra care to avoid work injuries as they might be required to use sharp knives or hot cooking equipment on a potentially slippery floor," Mr Yam added.

End

Feature articles in statistical digest

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Two feature articles entitled "The Specification Price Survey of Imports and Exports" and "Hospitalisation" are published in the May 1996 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics.

The specification price survey of imports and exports for selected commodity items has been conducted by the Census and Statistics Department since August 1982.

Price data collected from the survey are used to compile specification price indices for selected commodity items. These specification price indices are incorporated into the Unit Value Index system of trade statistics to improve the precision and reliability of the measurement of price movements in external trade.

The article "The Specification Price Survey of Imports and Exports" introduces some recent developments in the compilation of the specification price indices for imports and exports and provides an analysis of the price movements of selected commodity items covered in the survey.

The article "Hospitalisation" was written in view of the rising public demand for hospital services in recent years as reflected in the increased number of Hong Kong residents having stayed in hospitals.

The article presents the characteristics of in-patients based on the findings of a statistical enquiry on "Hospitalisation" conducted during April to August 1995.

Analysis was made on the age, sex, activity status, industry, occupation and monthly household income of these in-patients. Information on number of admissions in the half year prior to the enquiry, type and location of hospital of their last admission and whether charges were covered by medical insurance or subsidised by employer was also presented.

The May 1996 issue of the Hong Kong Monthly Digest of Statistics is now on sale at \$50 a copy. It contains the most up-to-date information on Hong Kong's situation regarding economic growth, the labour market, inflation and many other social and economic issues.

Purchase of this publication can be made at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong.

The publication is also available for sale at the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong. Regular subscription can also be arranged with the Publications (Sales) Office of the Information Services Department on 2598 8194.

End

73 convicted pollution cases in April

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A total of 73 convictions were made in the courts last month (April) for breaching anti-pollution legislation enforced by the Environmental Protection Department.

Among them, 32 were convictions made under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance, 18 under the Noise Control Ordinance, 10 under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, 11 under the Waste Disposal Ordinance and two under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance.

The fines ranged from \$1,000 to \$142,000. Hong Kong Paper Mills Ltd was fined \$142,000 for discharging polluted matter in the Deep Bay Water Control Zone.

End

Hotel operator fined for making illegal alterations

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The operator of the Century Hotel in Wan Chai was fined \$15,000 in Eastern Magistracy today (Tuesday) after pleading guilty to changing the layout of the premises without prior approval from the Home Affairs Department's Licensing Authority.

The court heard that when officers of the Licensing Authority inspected the hotel at 238, Jaffe Road on July 6 last year, they found it had made alterations and additions to four areas without the Authority's prior approval, thereby contravening its licensing conditions and potentially endangering the safety of guests.

The operator was subsequently charged under section 21 of the Hotel and Guesthouse Accommodation Ordinance.

A spokesman for the department reminded hotel operators that they should observe the conditions stipulated in their licences and that the Government takes a serious view of cases in which the safety of guests is put at risk.

Enforcement action will continue to be taken to ensure all hotels meet the fire and building safety standards, he said.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority tender results

Tender date	21 May 96	21 May 96
Paper on offer	EF bills	EF bills
Issue number	Q621	H665
Issue date	22 May 96	22 May 96
Maturity date	21 Aug 96	20 Nov 96
Coupon	-	-
Amount applied	HK\$7,400 MN	HK\$4,060 MN
Amount allotted	HK\$1,500 MN	HK\$800 MN
Average yield accepted	5.13 PCT	5.22 PCT
Highest yield accepted	5.13 PCT	5.23 PCT
Pro rata ratio	About 95 PCT	About 20 PCT
Average tender yield	5.15 PCT	5.24 PCT

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Tenders to be held in the week beginning May 27, 1996 -

Tender date	27 May 96	28 May 96
Paper on offer	EF notes	EF bills
Issue number	7305	Q622
Issue date	28 May 96	29 May 96
Maturity date	28 May 2003	28 Aug 96
Tenor	7 years	91 days
Amount on offer	HK\$500+100 MN	HK D1,500+300 MN
Coupon	7.6 PCT	

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,961	0930	Nil
Closing balance in the account	1,941	1000	Nil
Change attributable to :		1100	Nil
Money market activity	Nil	1200	+4
LAF today	-20	1500	+4
		1600	Nil

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.0 *+0.0* 21.5.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.07	2 years	2805	6.30	100.53	6.10
1 month	5.06	3 years	3904	6.30	99.58	6.56
3 months	5.15	5 years	5103	6.75	98.56	7.23
6 months	5.24	7 years	7302	6.02	92.26	7.64
12 months	5.57	5 years	M502	7.30	99.93	7.45

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$8,766 million

Closed May 21, 1996

End