



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ADEQUATE RESERVES AND PRUDENT MANAGEMENT VITAL TO SUCCESS

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HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL STRATEGY IS ROBUST ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE ANY IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE GULF CRISIS AND TO MEET THE TERRITORY'S NEEDS OVER THE MEDIUM TO LONG TERM, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

IN A LUNCHEON SPEECH TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC BANKERS CLUB, SIR PIERS SAID THAT HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS WOULD ENABLE THE COMMUNITY TO WEATHER THE PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY WITH GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INTACT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR GUIDING PRINCIPLE IN PLANNING PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MUST BE TO ENSURE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT EXPENDITURE WAS CONTAINED BY ECONOMIC GROWTH RATHER THAN ALLOWED TO RUN AHEAD OF SUCH GROWTH.

AVERAGED BETWEEN 16 PER CENT AND 18 PER CENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, OUR PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE WAS BIG ENOUGH FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN MANAGING IT TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S OVERALL PROSPERITY.

"IN PLANNING OUR EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY, WE SHOULD ALSO RECOGNISE THAT WE MUST NOT ABSORB MORE THAN OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE LABOUR FORCE IF OUR ECONOMY IS TO CONTINUE TO GROW.

"ACCORDINGLY, IN RECENT YEARS WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN A TIGHTER CONTROL OVER THE GROWTH RATE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"ANOTHER BUDGETARY GUIDELINE WE HAVE SET OURSELVES IS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN RESERVES AT ADEQUATE LEVELS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT "ADEQUATE" WAS SOMETHING HE DISCUSSED IN HIS BUDGET SPEECH LAST YEAR.

"WHAT WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE IS A REASONABLE SURPLUS TAKING A NUMBER OF YEARS TOGETHER. THIS IN TURN REQUIRES A CONSISTENT REVENUE POLICY."

HE POINTED OUT THAT COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURE FORECASTS, THE FORECASTING AND CONTROL OF REVENUE WAS "FAR MORE HAZARDOUS".

"ONCE EXPENDITURE CEILINGS HAVE BEEN AGREED AND EXPRESSED IN BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, THESE ALLOCATIONS AND THUS THE CEILING CAN BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED. BUT REVENUE CANNOT BE CONTROLLED IN THE SAME WAY," HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS THE GOVERNMENT HAD ESTABLISHED SOME BROAD BUDGETARY GUIDELINES PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO THOSE AREAS OF REVENUE WHERE IT HAD SOME MEASURE OF CONTROL.

"FOR EXAMPLE, WE SEEK TO MAINTAIN THE REAL YIELD FROM FEES AND CHARGES, AND WE REGULARLY REVIEW THE VARIOUS TAX THRESHOLDS SO AS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION.

"REVENUE FROM FEES AND CHARGES NOW DOES KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION AND CAN THUS BE ESTIMATED WITH SOME CONFIDENCE.

"WE ALSO ENDEAVOUR TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO MAJOR SHIFT IN THE TAX BURDEN EXCEPT AS A DELIBERATE ACT OF POLICY," HE SAID.

THE BULK OF TOTAL REVENUE WAS, HOWEVER, INTERNAL REVENUE (OR TAXES), AND THE YIELD WAS GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE ACTUAL PERFORMANCE OF THE ECONOMY, HE SAID.

"IT IS NOT EASY TO FORECAST REVENUE YIELDS FROM TAXATION BECAUSE THE PERFORMANCE OF A SMALL AND OPEN ECONOMY SUCH AS THAT OF HONG KONG TENDS TO BE VOLATILE.

"BUT WE ARE CONTINUING TO REFINE OUR FORECASTING SYSTEMS AND WE ARE CERTAINLY GETTING BETTER," HE SAID.

IN RELATION TO BUDGETARY STRATEGY, SIR PIERS SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL WAS THE MEDIUM RANGE FORECAST -- A COMPUTERISED MODELLING SYSTEM LOOKING AHEAD FOR FIVE YEARS.

"IN A NUTSHELL, WHAT WE DO THROUGH THE MEDIUM RANGE FORECAST IS TO KEEP A RECORD OF WHAT WE ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO BY WAY OF ESTABLISHED LEVELS OF SERVICE; THE GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR THOSE SERVICES; AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF EARLIER DECISIONS.

"THE BUDGET STRATEGY DETERMINES THE TOTAL ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND KNOWN COMMITMENTS IS AVAILABLE FOR NEW ACTIVITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN EXISTING ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT AS THE ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE IN THE FORECAST PERIOD IS RELATED TO AND LIMITED BY ASSUMED ECONOMIC GROWTH, IT IS INDEPENDENT OF REVENUE AVAILABILITY.

"IT FOLLOWS THAT IF REVENUE LEVELS PROJECTED ACCORDING TO CURRENT FISCAL POLICY CAN FUND THAT LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE AND PRODUCE BIGGER THAN NEEDED BUDGET SURPLUSES, THE LOGICAL RESPONSE IS NOT TO INCREASE EXPENDITURE BUT EITHER TO TOP UP OUR RESERVES TO MEET ANTICIPATED FUTURE COMMITMENT, OR TO REDUCE TAXATION.

"IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE HAVE FORTUNATELY BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE BOTH," SIR PIERS ADDED.

EARLIER, SIR PIERS OUTLINED THE CHANGES IN BUDGETARY PLANNING OVER THE YEARS AND POINTED OUT THAT IN THE LATTER PART OF THE 1970'S, THERE WAS A DELIBERATE POLICY TO ALLOW THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR TO INCREASE OVER TIME IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY.

"INDEED, THE GUIDELINE RATE OF GROWTH OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE WAS SET ABOVE THE TREND GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE EFFECT OF THE RECESSION IN THE MID-1970'S.

"AS A RESULT, THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR INCREASED BY RATHER MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OVER THE DECADE. WHILE THE INCREASE WAS WITHIN THE CAPACITY OF HONG KONG'S ENLARGED AND MORE SOPHISTICATED ECONOMY, IT DID LEAD TO VERY HIGH RATES OF GROWTH IN THE LATE 1970'S, WHICH SPILLED OVER INTO THE EARLY 1980'S," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS SAID THE PERSISTENTLY HIGH RATES OF GROWTH BECAME A MATTER OF CONCERN AND MATTERS CAME TO A HEAD WHEN, IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982-83, REVENUE DROPPED PRECIPITOUSLY AS A RESULT OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE REAL ESTATE MARKET.

"IT BECAME APPARENT, WITH HINDSIGHT, THAT WE HAD BECOME OVER-RELIANT ON BUOYANT REVENUES, IN PARTICULAR INCOME FROM LAND SALES.

"TWO THINGS BECAME CLEAR: FIRST, THAT FIRM RESTRAINTS HAD TO BE PLACED ON THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, AND SECOND, THAT OUR PLANNING AND FORECASTING TECHNIQUES HAD TO BE IMPROVED."

SIR PIERS SAID IN THE FIRST AREA, THE GOVERNMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL.

"GROWTH RATES OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT EXPENDITURE, WHICH HAD BEEN AS HIGH AS ALMOST 18 PER CENT IN 1980-81, FELL TO 3.6 PER CENT IN 1983-84 AND 0.1 PER CENT IN 1984-85.

"AS REGARDS PLANNING AND FORECASTING, IT WAS CLEAR THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW THE BUDGETARY GUIDELINES THAT HAD IN GENERAL SERVED US WELL IN THE PAST", HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MOST OBVIOUS NEED WAS FOR A SYSTEM OF FORWARD PLANNING OR ROLLING FORECASTS TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SPENDING REQUIREMENTS WERE IDENTIFIED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT LEVELS OF EXPENDITURE COULD BE MAINTAINED WITHOUT MAKING AN UNACCEPTABLE CLAIM ON THE RESOURCES OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMY.

SIR PIERS SAID IN A TIGHTER BUDGETARY POSITION, IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO DO MORE, IT MUST INTRODUCE NEW DISCIPLINES TO ENSURE THAT WHAT WAS BEING SPENT WAS APPROPRIATE AND PROPERLY DIRECTED.

"WE MUST ALSO BE READY TO CHANGE OUR SPENDING PRIORITIES WHERE THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT RESOURCES COULD BE PUT TO BETTER USE THAN AT PRESENT.

"THIS MUST BE THE NEXT STAGE OF IMPROVEMENT TO OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM, AND WE ARE GRADUALLY INTRODUCING THIS WIDER APPROACH INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCES BY WAY OF A PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMME," HE NOTED.

ON THE FINANCING OF LARGE PROJECTS, SIR PIERS EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF FINANCIAL STRENGTH.

"WE HAVE AN EXCITING PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE LYING BEFORE US. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE WILL BE SEEKING INVESTMENT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND WE MAY WELL BE TAPPING THE FINANCIAL MARKETS.

"MONEY IN THE BANK TOGETHER WITH SOUND FISCAL POLICIES BASED ON PRUDENCE IS, I BELIEVE, A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS," HE ADDED.

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1990 RELEASED
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1990, ESTIMATED AT \$9,792 MILLION, INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1989 WHILE THEIR VOLUME INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (SUNDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES REFER TO CHANGES IN THE VALUES OF RETAIL SALES AFTER DISCOUNTING ESTIMATED CHANGES IN PRICES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED FOR THE PURPOSE ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORY OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

COMPARING WITH NOVEMBER 1989, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 18 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 21 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 16 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE SUPERMARKETS ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VOLUME.

FUELS WENT UP BY 22 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

/ANALYSED BY

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, RETAIL SALES OF SUPERMARKETS INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 13 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

DEPARTMENT STORES SALES ROSE BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH OCTOBER 1990, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER 1990 REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DECREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME, WHILE THAT OF FUELS DROPPED BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS WENT UP BY 3 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 1 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN VOLUME. RETAIL SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WENT UP BY 4 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE SUPERMARKET SALES DROPPED BY 6 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR OCTOBER 1990 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1990.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1990 AND NOVEMBER 1990 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF NOVEMBER 1990 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR OCTOBER 1990 AND WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1989, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF NOVEMBER 1990 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 802 1258).

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for November 1990 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$9,792 million
 for October 1990 (Revised Figure) = HK\$9,750 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR OCTOBER 1990 AND NOVEMBER 1990

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	October	November	November 1990 compared with October 1990		November 1990 compared with November 1989		Jan.-Nov. 1990 compared with Jan.-Nov. 1989	
		1990	1990	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)						
	Value	174	175	+1	#	+17	+11	+11	+7
	Volume	124	123	-1	-1	+3	+3	+1	#
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	177	168	-9	-5	+14	+9	+18	+12
	Volume	130	124	-6	-4	+3	+2	+6	+6
Fuels	Value	173	151	-22	-13	+34	+29	+25	+22
	Volume	126	107	-18	-15	-7	-6	+2	+1
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	184	193	+10	+5	+12	+7	+9	+5
	Volume	121	122	+1	+1	-2	-2	-3	-3
Consumer durables	Value	168	174	+5	+3	+26	+18	+15	+10
	Volume	120	123	+3	+2	+13	+12	+6	+5
Other consumer goods	Value	173	178	+5	+3	+13	+8	+4	+2
	Volume	124	126	+2	+1	+2	+2	-5	-3
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	200	188	-12	-6	+17	+10	+29	+16
	Volume	138	129	-9	-6	#	#	+9	+6
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	287	298	+12	+4	+35	+13	+18	+6
	Volume	174	179	+5	+3	+8	+5	-2	-1
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts,	Value	132	135	+3	+3	+24	+21	+14	+13
	Volume	104	105	+2	+2	+14	+16	+8	+9
Department stores	Value	237	258	+21	+9	+38	+17	+27	+13
	Volume	159	166	+8	+5	+13	+8	+7	+5

NOTES : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades WITHIN major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

- "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
- "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

3. "#" denotes a figure within ± 0.5 .

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KEEN RESPONSE TO AO RECRUITMENT FROM OVERSEAS
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THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS APPLICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE RESPONSE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, DURING WHICH THE GOVERNMENT EXPANDED ITS RECRUITMENT DRIVE TO MORE COUNTRIES.

"ALTHOUGH THE RECRUITMENT OF EXPATRIATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS CEASED IN 1985, WE CONTINUED TO RECRUIT HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO WERE LIVING IN THE UK," MR WIGGHAM EXPLAINED.

"OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT WAS EXTENDED TO CANADA AND THE USA IN 1988 AND TO AUSTRALIA IN 1990," HE ADDED.

THE ANNUAL TARGET NUMBER FOR RECRUITMENT IS ARRIVED AT HAVING REGARD TO THE VACANCY SITUATION AND A PROJECTION OF MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSTS INVOLVED, WHICH ARE FILLED LOCALLY AS WELL AS FROM OVERSEAS, IS NORMALLY BETWEEN 25 AND 35 EACH YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF OVERSEAS APPLICATIONS ROSE FROM 291 IN 1988/89 TO 387 IN 1989/90 AND TO 631 IN 1990/91, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 33 PER CENT AND 63 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

FOLLOWING EXAMINATIONS AND INTERVIEWS, APPOINTMENTS WERE OFFERED TO SEVEN OVERSEAS CANDIDATES IN 1988/89 AND 11 IN 1989/90, IN ADDITION TO 22 AND 24 CANDIDATES WHO APPLIED LOCALLY.

THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE FOR 1990/91 IS UNDERWAY AND MR WIGGHAM SAID HE EXPECTED ANOTHER HIGH RATE OF ACCEPTANCE.

OF THE 631 OVERSEAS APPLICATIONS IN THE CURRENT YEAR, 240 WERE FROM THE USA, 159 FROM THE UK, 151 FROM CANADA AND 81 FROM AUSTRALIA.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE BIGGEST INCREASES WERE SEEN IN APPLICATIONS FROM NORTH AMERICA. THE NUMBER FROM THE USA GREW FROM 79 IN 1988/89 TO 110 IN 1989/90 AND 240 IN 1990/91, RISING BY 39 PER CENT AND 118 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER FROM CANADA ROSE FROM 58 TO 112 AND 151, REPRESENTING INCREASES OF 93 PER CENT AND 35 PER CENT.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE APPLICANTS SHOWS A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FRESH GRADUATES FROM THESE TWO COUNTRIES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, FROM 14 TO 48 IN THE CASE OF THE USA AND FROM 11 TO 41 IN THE CASE OF CANADA.

/"THE OVERALL

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"THE OVERALL RESULTS OF OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING AND WE HAVE HAD NO PROBLEM MEETING OUR TARGETS," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

HE SAID THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS FROM THE USA AND CANADA WAS DUE LARGELY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S VIGOROUS PROGRAMME OF PUBLICITY IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

THIS INCLUDED ADVERTISEMENTS IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, THE ISSUE OF LETTERS WITH APPLICATION FORMS TO ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENT ORGANISATIONS BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF THE ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE CAREER BOOKLETS TO THESE BODIES.

IN ADDITION, AN ANNUAL PUBLICITY EXERCISE IS UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT BOARD IN EACH OF THESE TWO COUNTRIES, INVOLVING PRESS INTERVIEWS AND BRIEFINGS, APPEARANCES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION AND MEETINGS WITH STUDENT GROUPS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS PERSONNEL OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS.

MR WIGGHAM SAID INFORMATION ON RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES WAS ALSO SPREAD BY WORD OF MOUTH.

"WE GATHER THAT SOME APPOINTEES ENCOURAGED THEIR FRIENDS TO APPLY IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS AND THIS IS EVIDENCED BY THE MUTUAL FRIENDS AMONGST THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES APPOINTED IN DIFFERENT BATCHES IN THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS," HE NOTED.

TO WIDEN THE CATCHMENT AREA FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO INCREASED THE NUMBER OF EXAMINATION CENTRES IN THE USA AND CANADA FROM THREE TO FIVE.

"THE KEEN RESPONSE FROM HONG KONG RESIDENTS WISHING TO RETURN FROM OVERSEAS IS A GOOD SIGN, FOR BOTH THE CIVIL SERVICE AND HONG KONG, AND WE WILL CONTINUE IN OUR EFFORTS AND TO EXPLORE FURTHER WAYS AND MEANS TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM," MR WIGGHAM SAID.

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COURSES TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS LABOUR RELATIONS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL RUN 12 IDENTICAL COURSES ON LABOUR RELATIONS BETWEEN MARCH AND AUGUST TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS STAFF-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS.

THE COURSES, EACH COMPRISING EIGHT TWO-AND-A-QUARTER-HOUR SESSIONS, ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE EMPLOYERS, MANAGEMENT STAFF, TRADE UNION OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES WITH A COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF LABOUR LEGISLATION AND WAYS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND TOOLS.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO STUDY AT LENGTH VARIOUS PROVISIONS, UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT, CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG, AND EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCES.

/OTHER SUBJECTS

OTHER SUBJECTS TO BE DEALT WITH INCLUDE LABOUR RELATIONS IN HONG KONG, EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS, GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES, DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND PREVENTION AS WELL AS PREPARATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS.

THE COURSES WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE, LEADING TO THE AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE ON COMPLETION.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS, WITH PRIORITY GIVEN TO APPLICANTS SPONSORED BY EMPLOYERS OR TRADE UNIONS. THE FEE FOR EACH COURSE IS \$350.

DETAILS OF THE COURSES AND ENROLMENT LEAFLETS ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE 16TH FLOOR OF THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK BUILDING, 160 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, AND FROM ALL LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE BRANCH OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 834 9311.

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TREE AND PLANT CUTTING IS ILLEGAL
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THE PUBLIC WERE TODAY (SUNDAY) WARNED NOT TO CUT ANY TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR DECORATIVE USE DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD.

THE COUNTRY PARKS PROTECTION OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR LAI CHING-WAI, EXPLAINED THAT CUTTING TREES OR PLANTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE IS AN OFFENCE UNDER THE FORESTS AND COUNTRYSIDE ORDINANCE.

"CONTRAVENTION OF THE ORDINANCE MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

"ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC IS BECOMING MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVING THE COUNTRYSIDE ENVIRONMENT, TWO PEOPLE WERE PROSECUTED LAST YEAR FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF PROTECTED PLANTS," HE SAID.

MR LAI SAID WILD FLOWERS AND TREES ARE BEST APPRECIATED IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT AND SHOULD NOT BE PICKED OR CUT.

HE APPEALED FOR PUBLIC CO-OPERATION TO REPORT ANY SUCH ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES TO THE NEAREST COUNTRY PARK MANAGEMENT CENTRE.

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NEW IDENTITY CARDS FOR WOMEN BORN IN 1929-34

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WOMEN BORN IN 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933 AND 1934 ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS FROM TOMORROW (MONDAY) TO MARCH 28.

WOMEN OF THE ABOVE AGE GROUP SHOULD CALL AT ANY ONE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES DURING THIS PERIOD.

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM, MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAY.

ALL OFFICES ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

APPLICANTS MAY ALSO MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICES OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI
TEL. NO. 574 7070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR,
77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK
TEL. NO. 755 3669

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR,
393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI
TEL. NO. 723 2424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
29-37 TSUEN FU STREET
TEL. NO. 498 0117

SHA TIN : SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR,
CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE,
11-17, SHA TIN CENTRE STREET
TEL. NO. 605 9108

YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR,
31 HOP YICK ROAD
TEL. NO. 477 1543

TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,
CHI LOK FA YUEN
TEL. NO. 458 0646

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR,
82-84 SAN FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI
TEL. NO. 672 7191

/"APPLICANTS NORMALLY

"APPLICANTS NORMALLY NEED TO BRING ALONG THEIR EXISTING IDENTITY CARDS IF THEIR CARDS WERE FIRST REGISTERED NOT LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO AND BEAR THE *** SYMBOL," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"HOWEVER, IF THE APPLICANT'S IDENTITY CARD WAS FIRST REGISTERED LESS THAN SEVEN YEARS AGO OR DOES NOT HAVE THE *** SYMBOL, SHE IS REQUIRED TO FURNISH MORE PERSONAL PROOFS.

"IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING HER EXISTING IDENTITY CARD, SHE MUST PRODUCE HER TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING (IF ANY) - HONG KONG BIRTH CERTIFICATE, HONG KONG NATURALISATION CERTIFICATE OR HONG KONG REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

"IN SOME CASES, APPLICANTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEIR CLAIM TO HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY WILL BE ADVISED INDIVIDUALLY."

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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BIG CROWD AT FIGHT CRIME CONCERT

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THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL AND CONCERT TOOK PLACE AT FU SHIN ESTATE SQUARE THIS (SUNDAY) AFTERNOON, ATTRACTING MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE.

THE EVENT WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TAI PO DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC), THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN), THE HOUSING AUTHORITY AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG TO SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME AND ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE.

FIVE POP SINGERS PERFORMED AT THE CONCERT WHICH WAS BROADCAST LIVE BY RTHK.

THE CARNIVAL INCLUDED A PUPPET SHOW, A MAGIC SHOW AND STALL GAMES. THERE WERE ALSO THE ROBOTCOP AND A FIGHT CRIME AND HOME SECURITY EXHIBITION.

THE EVENT CONCLUDED A SERIES OF PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DFCC ON THE SUBJECTS OF JUVENILE CRIME, PARENTAL CARE, HOME SECURITY AND ANTI-NARCOTICS.

TODAY'S OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE MEMBER, MR JUSTIN WONG; ACAN CHAIRMAN, DR GERALD CHOA; ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MISS WINDY KWOK; TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR THOMAS YIU; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG; AND POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LEUNG FUNG-SHUN.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1991

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MONG KOK TO LAUNCH YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION

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A YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION TO DRAW RESIDENTS' ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE WILL BE LAUNCHED IN MONG KOK TOMORROW (MONDAY).

THE OPERATION, TO BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL FEBRUARY 14, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE 1990/91 MONG KOK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WITH SPONSORSHIP OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

IT AIMS TO HELP LOCAL RESIDENTS DISPOSE OF REFUSE BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

TEMPORARY ON-STREET REFUSE COLLECTION POINTS WILL BE SET UP AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

A LAUNCHING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE MONG KOK ROAD PLAYGROUND AT THE JUNCTION OF SHANGHAI STREET AND MONG KOK ROAD AT 10 AM TOMORROW.

A PRIZE PRESENTATION FOR THE "STREET CLEANLINESS COMPETITION", "BUILDING CLEANING COMPETITION" AND "BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION" WILL ALSO BE HELD DURING THE CEREMONY.

OFFICIATING GUESTS WILL INCLUDE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI; URBAN COUNCILLORS MR CHAN KWOK-MING AND HO FEI-CHI, 1990/91 MONG KOK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR YIM KWOK-ON; URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT KOWLOON NORTH SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, MR TANG PING-TAO, AND MONG KOK DISTRICT HYGIENE SUPERINTENDENT, MR LEUNG LAI-MING; AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VINCENT FUNG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE MONG KOK DISTRICT YEAR-END CLEAN-UP OPERATION TO BE HELD AT 10 AM TOMORROW (MONDAY) AT THE MONG KOK ROAD PLAYGROUND AT THE JUNCTION OF SHANGHAI STREET AND MONG KOK ROAD.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1991.

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EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ON CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDINGS

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WINNING ENTRIES IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION FEATURING BUILDINGS WITH UNIQUE DESIGNS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE'S EXHIBITION HALL FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 5 TO 9).

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 7 PM DAILY EXCEPT ON SATURDAY WHEN IT WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

AMONG THE 100 ENTRIES, MAN MO TEMPLE, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, THE HONGKONG BANK HEADQUARTERS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG CAMPUS WERE THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' FAVOURITE SUBJECTS.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE MID-LEVELS WEST AREA COMMITTEE, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY AND THE URBAN COUNCIL, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE EXHIBITION WILL ALSO BE STAGED AT THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY FONG SHUE CHUEN AMENITIES CENTRE BETWEEN MARCH 5 AND 9, FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM DAILY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3486 OR 852 3499.

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