



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

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FOURTH QUARTER SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS RELEASED

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IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, 4,670 SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 28.7 MILLION NET REGISTERED TONS (NRT) ARRIVED HONG KONG, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 64 (OR 1%) IN NUMBER AND OF 1.0 MILLION NRT (OR 4%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989.

THIS IS CONTAINED IN THE "HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1990" PUBLISHED TODAY (SATURDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) INCREASED BY 10% OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989.

WHEN ANALYSED BY SHIP TYPE, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF CONTAINER VESSELS (+172), CONVENTIONAL CARGO VESSELS (+75) AND DRY BULK CARRIERS (+54).

WHEN ANALYSED BY FLAG OF VESSELS, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SHIPS REGISTERED IN LIBERIA (+37), DENMARK AND GREENLAND (+29) AND SOUTH KOREA (+14), WHILE MAJOR DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE REGISTERED IN CHINA (-30), JAPAN (-28) AND PANAMA (-20).

THE NUMBER OF INCOMING SHIPS WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 10,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS DECREASED BY 78 WHILST THE NUMBER OF THOSE WITH A LARGER CAPACITY INCREASED BY 142.

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, THERE WERE 4,657 OUTGOING SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 28.8 MILLION NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 49 (OR 1%) IN NUMBER AND OF 0.9 MILLION NRT (OR 3%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS (ESTIMATED FROM A SAMPLE OF MANIFEST CONSIGNMENTS) ROSE BY 1%. ABOUT 69% OF THE DEPARTING SHIPS STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, 85% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WAS IMPORTS AND 15% WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO. OF THE CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, 63% WAS EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AND 37% WAS TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS IN TONNAGE TERMS WERE JAPAN (16%), CHINA (16%), SINGAPORE (15%), AUSTRALIA (9%), TAIWAN (9%), SOUTH AFRICA (8%) AND THE USA (6%), WHILE THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS WERE THE USA (20%), TAIWAN (16%), CHINA (7%), SINGAPORE (6%), JAPAN (6%) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (6%).

TRANSHIPMENT CARGO WAS MAINLY LOADED IN CHINA (34%) AND THE USA (13%), AND WAS MAINLY DISCHARGED ALSO IN CHINA (14%) AND THE USA (12%).

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COMPARING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA (+101%), INDONESIA (+34%), CHINA (+33%), JAPAN (+28%) AND TAIWAN (+13%); WHILE MAJOR DECREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA (-29%) AND SINGAPORE (-18%).

AS A WHOLE, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS ROSE BY 10%. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN CARGO TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL (+73%), COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES (+34%) AND ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS (+25%); WHILE MAJOR DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF CEMENT AND CEMENT CLINKER (-24%) AND PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (-23%).

COMPARING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) INCREASED BY 2%.

MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+63%), TAIWAN (+43%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+39%), SOUTH KOREA (+23%), JAPAN (+19%) AND THAILAND (+17%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO CHINA (-59%).

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF FOOTWEAR (+51%), CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED (+34%) AND TOYS (+20%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (-59%).

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE IMPORTS AND INWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 39% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WAS CONTAINERISED CARGO. OF THOSE LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE EXPORTS AND OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 82% WAS CONTAINERISED CARGO.

IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 33% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS. IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE PROPORTION OF SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM (95%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (90%), THE USA (88%), TAIWAN (83%), SOUTH KOREA (74%) AND THE NETHERLANDS (71%).

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE IMPORTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 ROSE BY 21% OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989. AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR, IN TONNAGE TERMS, 98% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, 94% OF PAPER, PAPERBOARD AND ARTICLES OF PAPER PULP, OF PAPER OR OF PAPERBOARD, 88% OF TEXTILES OF MIXED MATERIALS OR OTHER MATERIALS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED AND 87% OF OTHER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC APPLIANCES AND PARTS.

FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 77% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE. IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR ALL SEABORNE EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE NETHERLANDS, ALMOST ALL TO THE USA, AND A LARGE PROPORTION TO AUSTRALIA (97%), JAPAN (93%) AND THE PHILIPPINES (92%).

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THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE EXPORTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 ROSE BY 16% OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989.

SEABORNE EXPORTS OF SOME PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES WERE ALL OR NEARLY ALL CONTAINERISED. THESE INCLUDED COTTON GARMENTS; FOOTWEAR; TOYS; GARMENTS OF MIXED MATERIALS OR OTHER MATERIALS, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED; COTTON TEXTILES; MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED AND PLASTIC MANUFACTURES, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED.

AS FROM THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY REFER TO THE UNIFIED GERMANY WHICH CONSISTS OF THE PREVIOUS "FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY" AND "GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC".

IN THE ABOVE ANALYSIS, STATISTICS OF THE PREVIOUS FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ARE ADDED TOGETHER TO ENSURE COMPARABILITY WITH THE CURRENT FIGURES.

SHIPPING STATISTICS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIPMASTERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS ARE COMPILED FROM OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

BECAUSE OF RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, A SAMPLE OF ALL CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE MANIFESTS IS USED FOR COMPILING PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS ON SHIPPING, PORT AND CARGO STATISTICS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 ARE CONTAINED IN THE "HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1990", WHICH IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT CENTRE, CENTRAL AT \$26.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4887.

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ROBUST FINANCE STRATEGY PREPARES HK FOR FUTURE

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HONG KONG CAN FACE THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, TOLD THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) AT ITS 24TH ANNUAL MEETING IN VANCOUVER, CANADA YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).

SIR PIERS SAID HONG KONG'S STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC FINANCE HAS BEEN FORMULATED TO ENSURE THAT IT IS ROBUST ENOUGH NOT ONLY TO ACCOMMODATE WORLD UNCERTAINTIES BUT ALSO TO MEET HONG KONG'S COMMITMENTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

"WITH A SMALL ECONOMY WHICH IS HIGHLY EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED AND THUS EXTREMELY SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLUCTUATIONS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND WITH LITTLE WE CAN DO TO ALTER THE COURSE OF EXTERNAL EVENTS, WE ARE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS THAT THE PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF OUR FINANCES IS ALWAYS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE, PARTICULARLY DURING A PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY SUCH AS THE ONE WE ARE FACING AT THE PRESENT TIME," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT FUNDAMENTAL TO HONG KONG'S BUDGETARY STRATEGY IS THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SHOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY AS MEASURED BY THE GROWTH RATE OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP).

"IT IS, OF COURSE, NOT PRACTICABLE TO KEEP THE TWO GROWTH RATES PRECISELY IN LINE WITH EACH OTHER, NOR IS IT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO DO SO.

"NEVERTHELESS, OUR AIM IS TO CONTROL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, PARTICULARLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, SO THAT, OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND THE GROWTH RATE OF GDP REMAIN CLOSE TOGETHER.

"OUR EXPENDITURE PLANNING IS, THEREFORE, BASED ON TRENDS, AND NOT ON YEAR TO YEAR FLUCTUATIONS IN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. IN THIS WAY, OUR EXPENDITURE PROGRAMMES CAN BE SENSIBLY MANAGED WITHOUT SUFFERING UNDULY FROM A STOP-GO CYCLE," HE SAID.

FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE, EXPENDITURE IS DETERMINED BY WHAT THE ECONOMY CAN AFFORD AND NOT SOLELY BY THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE HAVE AVAILABLE, SIR PIERS SAID.

"THEREFORE, SOMETIMES IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO ADD TO OUR RESERVES, AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN RECENT YEARS; AT OTHER TIMES, IT WILL BE APPROPRIATE TO DRAW ON THE RESERVES TO SOME EXTENT," HE ADDED.

ANOTHER BUDGETARY GUIDELINE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET FOR ITSELF IS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN FISCAL RESERVES AT ADEQUATE LEVELS.

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

/"GENERALLY, WE

"GENERALLY, WE AIM TO ADJUST RATES OF DUTY, FEES AND CHARGES TO MAINTAIN THEIR REAL YIELD, AND PERIODICALLY WE REVIEW TAX THRESHOLD IN THE LIGHT OF INFLATION.

"WE ALSO SEEK TO MAINTAIN RECURRENT REVENUE AT LEVELS WHICH WILL COVER OUR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, PRODUCE A SURPLUS SUFFICIENT TO FINANCE AT LEAST HALF OF OUR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, AND ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN OUR RESERVES AT AN ADEQUATE LEVEL.

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH CAPITAL MARKETS CAN PLAY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS TO DEVELOP HONG KONG'S CAPITAL MARKET.

"FOLLOWING AN IN-DEPTH REVIEW OF THE QUESTION OF WHETHER NON-RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RAISE HONG KONG DOLLAR-DENOMINATED DEBT IN OUR CAPITAL MARKET, WE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY 1989 THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH ISSUES PROVIDED THAT THEY MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF OUR INVESTOR PROTECTION LEGISLATION IN THE SAME WAY AS THOSE BY DOMESTIC BORROWERS," HE SAID.

INTEREST WITHHOLDING TAX ON HONG KONG DOLLAR-DENOMINATED CAPITAL MARKET INSTRUMENTS WAS COMPLETELY ABOLISHED WITH EFFECT FROM THE YEAR OF ASSESSMENT COMMENCING APRIL 1, 1989.

"A PROGRAMME FOR THE ISSUE OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS WAS LAUNCHED IN MARCH 1990, AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON A PROGRAMME OF GOVERNMENT BONDS, TO START HOPEFULLY IN AUTUMN THIS YEAR, WITH ISSUES OF TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE-YEAR MATURITIES.

"IT WOULD CERTAINLY ADD A FURTHER IMPETUS IF FURTHER HIGHLY-RATED BORROWERS OF INTERNATIONAL STANDING CAME TO BORROW IN OUR MARKET," SIR PIERS SAID.

THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (IBRD) LAUNCHED ITS FIRST ISSUE OF HONG KONG DOLLAR-DENOMINATED BONDS IN HONG KONG IN MAY 1989 AND HAS MADE TWO MORE ISSUES SINCE THEN.

THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION ALSO HAS PLANS TO MAKE AN ISSUE IN HONG KONG THIS YEAR.

"SUCH BOND ISSUES HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BY THE HONG KONG MARKET, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SHORTAGE OF COUNTERPARTIES TO SWAP THE LOCAL CURRENCY INTO A FOREIGN CURRENCY NEEDED BY THE ISSUER.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD WELCOME THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK CONSIDERING EXTENDING ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE REGION'S CAPITAL MARKET BY ISSUING ITS TRIPLE-A RATED BONDS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

ON THE ADB'S OPERATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR, SIR PIERS SAID IT IS HEARTENING TO NOTE THAT THE BANK'S NET POSITIVE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES ROSE BY 67 PER CENT TO SOME \$1.5 BILLION.

/"I APPLAUD

"I APPLAUD THE EXCELLENT EFFORTS MADE BY THE BANK IN FACILITATING LOAN DISBURSEMENTS, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS PROJECT AND PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATION, CLOSER CO-ORDINATION WITH BORROWERS THROUGH ITS RESIDENT OFFICES, CONDUCT OF SEMINARS AIMED AT FAMILIARISING BORROWERS WITH PROCUREMENT AND DISBURSEMENT PROCEDURES AND MORE SYSTEMATIC ORGANISATION OF THE BANK'S PROJECT REVIEWS AND COUNTRY DISBURSEMENT MISSIONS," HE SAID.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY THEN EXTENDED A WARM WELCOME TO ALL THE DELEGATIONS OF THE BANK MEMBERS AND FRIENDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY TO THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ADB BOARD OF GOVERNORS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG IN MAY 1992.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THOSE OF YOU ATTENDING THE MEETING WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR YOURSELVES THE DYNAMISM OF HONG KONG.

"YOU WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO SEE THE RESULTS OF THE GREAT EFFORTS MADE BY THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO DEVELOP THE TERRITORY INTO ONE OF TODAY'S LEADING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRES," HE SAID.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1990 PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT

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THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1990 TO PARLIAMENT WILL BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 1) FOLLOWING ITS PRESENTATION TO PARLIAMENT YESTERDAY (APRIL 27 LONDON TIME).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AGREED IN 1985 DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON THE HONG KONG BILL, TO PRODUCE ANNUAL REPORTS ON HONG KONG AND TO LAY THEM BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

"THE PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES OF REPORTS IS TO KEEP PARLIAMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG."

HE SAID THE REPORT, THE SIXTH IN THE SERIES, CONTAINED A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE MAIN EVENTS IN HONG KONG DURING THE YEAR 1990.

IT COVERS VISITS TO HONG KONG BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH CHINA, AND THE ISSUES OF EMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY.

IT ALSO COVERS MATTERS CONCERNING REFUGEES AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM, CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS, THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND LAW AND ORDER.

COPIES OF BOTH THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE VERSIONS OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC STARTING MONDAY (APRIL 29) FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES SECTION OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL.

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MARINE DEPT STATEMENT ON SHIPS OPERATING ON EXCURSION VOYAGES
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THE FOLLOWING IS ISSUED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (SATURDAY) IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONCERNING PASSENGER SHIPS OPERATING ON EXCURSION VOYAGES FROM HONG KONG WITHOUT CALLING AT ANY OTHER PORT:

THE OPERATOR OF M.V. "MACMOSA" HAS NOTIFIED THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE THAT THE SHIP WILL CEASE TO OPERATE SUCH EXCURSION VOYAGES.

HOWEVER, THE OPERATOR OF M.V. "ORIENT PRINCESS" HAS GIVEN FORMAL NOTIFICATION THAT HE WOULD SEEK A JUDICIAL REVIEW ON THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEY OF THE VESSEL, BUT HAS AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR THE APPROPRIATE MANNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT SAID ALTHOUGH M.V. "ORIENT PRINCESS" HAS BEEN GIVEN UNTIL TOMORROW (APRIL 28) TO COMPLY WITH SURVEY AND MANNING REQUIREMENTS, NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THIS LEGAL ACTION.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS DISAPPOINTED THAT AN ACTION AIMED AT ASSURING THE SAFETY OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS WHO ARE THE MAJOR PATRONS OF SUCH EXCURSION VOYAGES HAS AGAIN BEEN DELAYED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS KEENLY AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD AND WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER.

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ON THE DECLINE
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THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN RELATION TO VEHICLES ON THE ROADS HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR ALBERT LAM, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION'S ROAD SAFETY PATROLS ANNUAL REVIEW AT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STADIUM THIS MORNING, MR LAM SAID THERE WERE 43 ACCIDENTS PER 1,000 LICENSED VEHICLES IN 1990, COMPARED WITH 64 ACCIDENTS IN 1981.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE DECLINING AVERAGE ACCIDENT RATE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, HE STRESSED.

MR LAM SAID ROAD SAFETY HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TRANSPORT POLICY.

"EVERY YEAR, THROUGH IMPROVING ROAD DESIGN, AMENDING ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION, AND EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS NOT ONLY TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS BUT ALSO TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ROAD SAFETY," HE SAID.

/MR LAM

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MR LAM ADDED THAT A NEW PIECE OF LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE USE OF EXPRESSWAYS WAS UNDER PREPARATION.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ROAD SAFETY ASSOCIATION'S ENDEAVOURS IN PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY THROUGH THE SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY PATROLS.

HE NOTED THAT THESE PATROLS WERE FIRST SET UP IN 1963 WITH 48 MEMBERS. THEY NOW HAVE 12,000 MEMBERS WITH SERVICES EXTENDING TO KINDERGARTENS AND THE ELDERLY.

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RS APPEALS FOR SUPPORT IN ELECTIONS

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (SATURDAY) CALLED ON VOTERS TO CAST THEIR VOTE IN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

SPEAKING AT THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE'S MAINLAND AREA OFFICERS' MESS BALL THIS EVENING, MR LAN SAID THE 32 PER CENT VOTER TURNOUT RATE ACHIEVED IN THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS WAS SATISFACTORY.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT WHETHER THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY OPERATED LARGELY DEPENDED ON THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC.

MR LAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, WHICH FORMULATE THE TERRITORY'S MUNICIPAL POLICIES SUCH AS ON ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE, AND PROVIDE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, WERE CLOSELY RELATED WITH OUR DAILY LIVES.

"THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO CAST YOUR BALLOTS ON MAY 5 TO ELECT THE MOST SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

EARLIER, MR LAN PRAISED THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE FOR PROVIDING VARIOUS SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY.

"MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE ARE ALWAYS READY TO SERVE THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS DURING EMERGENCIES SUCH AS FIRES AND LANDSLIPS," HE SAID.

HE ENCOURAGED MEMBERS OF THE BRIGADE TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR GOOD WORK AND HOPED THAT OTHER ORGANISATIONS WOULD LOOK TO IT AS A ROLE MODEL.

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PILOT HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM PUTS INTO SERVICE
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LIVE RUN OF THE PILOT HOSPITAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (HIS) STARTED IN PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL EARLIER THIS MONTH TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE AND SERVICE TO PATIENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SATURDAY) THAT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE PILOT HIS IS TO PROVIDE BETTER PATIENT CARE THROUGH MORE RAPID ACCESS TO PATIENT INFORMATION FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, AND THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF PROFESSIONAL TIME AND HOSPITAL RESOURCES.

THE PILOT HIS COMPRISES FOUR APPLICATION MODULES: AN IN-PATIENT ADMISSION, DISCHARGE AND TRANSFER SYSTEM (ADT); AN OUT-PATIENT REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING SYSTEM FOR SPECIALIST CLINIC (OP); A LABORATORY INFORMATION SYSTEM (LAB); AND A NURSING WARD-LABORATORY RESULT-REPORTING SYSTEM (LRR).

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ADT SYSTEM CAPTURES AND STORES UPDATED CLINICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PATIENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR PATIENT ADMISSIONS, AND ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCES.

THE SYSTEM ALSO AUTOMATES AND STREAMLINES THE VARIOUS NURSING AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES.

THE OP SYSTEM PROCESSES AND SCHEDULES PATIENT APPOINTMENTS AT THE SPECIALIST CLINIC, WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING PATIENT INCONVENIENCE.

THE LAB SYSTEM ALLOWS THE LABORATORY TO VALIDATE SPECIMENS, AUTOMATE WORKING SCHEDULING, REPORT TEST RESULTS AND PERFORM STATISTICAL ANALYSES.

TEST RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED MORE QUICKLY TO ENABLE A DOCTOR TO DIAGNOSE A CASE EARLIER AND GIVE PROMPT TREATMENT, WITH A POTENTIAL OF SHORTENING PATIENT STAY.

THE LRR SYSTEM ALLOWS MEDICAL AND NURSING STAFF AT THE WARDS TO MONITOR LABORATORY TESTS AND TO OBTAIN THE RESULTS OF THE TESTS. THE SAME FUNCTIONS CAN BE PERFORMED AT THE SPECIALIST CLINIC.

THE ADT STARTED LIVE RUN ON APRIL 1, AND THE OP WILL BE PUT INTO OPERATION IN AUGUST. THE LAB AND LRR WILL BE BROUGHT INTO SERVICE LATER THIS YEAR.

"THE ADT IS OPERATING SMOOTHLY AND HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE TIME REQUIRED FOR SEARCHING PATIENTS' DATA AND LOCATION.

"AFTER THE LIVE RUN OF THE ADT ON APRIL 1, IT TAKES LESS THAN ONE MINUTE FOR AN ENQUIRER TO CHECK WHETHER A PATIENT HAS BEEN ADMITTED AND TO WHICH WARD A PATIENT HAS BEEN SENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/POST-IMPLEMENTATION

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POST-IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATION WILL TAKE PLACE SIX MONTHS AFTER THE LIVE RUN OF THE TOTAL SYSTEM.

THE PILOT PROJECT COSTS OVER \$30 MILLION AND MORE THAN 1,500 HOSPITAL STAFF, INCLUDING NURSES, WARD STEWARDS AND CLERICAL OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO USE THE SYSTEM.

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SERVICES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED TO IMPROVE

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ABOUT 4,000 ADDITIONAL PLACES FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AS A RESULT OF SPECIAL ATTEMPTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SERVICES FOR THEM, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE KOWLOON UNION CHURCH WAI JI PO LAM HOSTEL AND DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE AT PO LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O, MRS GOODSTADT POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASED PROVISION WOULD GREATLY REDUCE THE CURRENT SHORTFALL.

"FURTHERMORE, TO ENSURE THAT THE SERVICES WILL MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE DISABLED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP A WORKING PARTY TO DRAW UP A GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION," SHE ADDED.

ON THE WORK OF DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES, MRS GOODSTADT SAID MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE OF THE SEVERE GRADE, COULD BENEFIT FROM TRAINING AND COULD MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING BETTER FUNCTIONING AND LEADING A MORE INDEPENDENT LIFE.

REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE REQUIRED THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS HAD TO WORK TOGETHER TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING THE DISABLED WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE KOWLOON UNION CHURCH WAS AMONG THE FIRST AGENCIES TO START SERVICE FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, MRS GOODSTADT COMMENDED THE CHURCH FOR BEING MOST RECEPTIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED AND FOR ITS DEDICATION TOWARDS PROVIDING THEM CARE AND TRAINING.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1991

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BRIEFING SESSIONS ON ADOPTION WELL RECEIVED

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MORE THAN 50 COUPLES WHO ARE KEEN ON KNOWING MORE ABOUT ADOPTION ATTENDED A BRIEFING SESSION AT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S LADY TRENCH TRAINING CENTRE THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT QUITE A LARGE NUMBER OF PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING WARDS OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE," A DISTRICT OFFICER OF THE SWD, MRS LESLIE HUNG, SAID.

SHE SAID IN VIEW OF THE GOOD RESPONSE FROM THE APPLICANTS, THE ADOPTION UNIT HAD TO HOLD MORE BRIEFING SESSIONS.

"THIS TIME, WE HAVE ALSO CHANGED THE VENUE TO OUR TRAINING CENTRE WHERE WE CAN BRIEF AS MANY AS 51 COUPLES ON THE GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS OF MEANING AND COMMITMENT OF ADOPTION," MRS HUNG ADDED.

THE APPLICANTS COULD ACQUIRE BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SERVICE THROUGH DISCUSSIONS, SHE NOTED.

"IT IS HOPED THAT OUR EFFORTS WOULD AUGUR WELL IN HELPING ABANDONED CHILDREN ON OUR ADOPTION LIST TO LEAD A NORMAL FAMILY LIFE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE," SHE SAID.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN WESTERN DISTRICT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (APRIL 29) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE PREMISES TO BE AFFECTED ARE 2-54 AND 60 POK FU LAM ROAD, 5-131 AND 2-116 FIRST STREET, 1-121B AND 2-118 SECOND STREET, 1-127B AND 2-106 THIRD STREET, 3-119 AND 2B-126 HIGH STREET, 5-45 AND 24-36 WESTERN STREET, 46-50 AND 27-51 CENTRE STREET, 23A-43 AND 36-42 EASTERN STREET, AND 18-27 HING HON ROAD.

PREMISES IN SAI WA LANE, WESTERN GARDEN, YU PO LANE, NG FUK LANE, FUK SAU LANE, SHEUNG FUNG LANE, TAK SING LANE, DAVID LANE, UN FUK LANE, UI ON LANE, KWOK HING LANE, YU LOK LANE, CHEUNG ON LANE, LEUNG I FONG, UN SHING LANE, WEST END TERRACE AND WESTERN DENTAL CLINIC WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE -----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	26.4.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	27.4.91	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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