



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1990

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LORD CAITHNESS TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY

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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LORD CAITHNESS, WILL ARRIVE THIS SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 15) FOR A SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT.

DURING THE VISIT, HIS FIRST TO HONG KONG, LORD CAITHNESS WILL BE BRIEFED BY THE GOVERNOR AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON THE TERRITORY'S DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

HE WILL ALSO MEET A CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, CHAIRMEN OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT BOARDS, BUSINESSMEN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS AND CIVIL SERVANTS UNIONS.

LORD CAITHNESS WILL BE GIVEN FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT AT CHEK LAP KOK. HE WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON PORT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WESTERN HARBOUR; DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW TOWNS, PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMMES AND PROGRESS OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

HE WILL SEE FOR HIMSELF WHAT CONDITIONS ARE LIKE AT THE WHITEHEAD VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE DETENTION CENTRE AND VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CENTRE AT PILLAR POINT.

THE MINISTER WILL ALSO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, THE TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE AND THE BANK OF CHINA.

HIS EXTENSIVE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE VISITS TO THE BRITISH TRADE COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE BRITISH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, SINO-BRITISH JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

LORD CAITHNESS WILL MEET THE MEDIA BEFORE RETURNING TO THE UNITED KINGDOM ON SEPTEMBER 20.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

DETAILS OF THE PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR LORD CAITHNESS'S VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.

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PADS FACILITATES ECONOMIC GROWTH

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT AND IS BEGINNING IN EARNEST THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION STAGE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID IN TORONTO ON MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 10).

THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS FOR PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT SHOULD HELP SECURE HONG KONG'S POSITION AS ONE OF THE MAJOR SEA AND AIR TRANSPORT HUBS IN THE REGION, TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL, MRS CHAN SAID.

SPEAKING AT A RECEPTION OF THE METRO TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE SHE SAID: "THIS, IN TURN, WILL FACILITATE GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY WHICH WILL BEST GUARANTEE OUR FUTURE."

SHE POINTED OUT THAT BOTH THE PORT AND AIRPORT WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY NEW AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT NETWORKS.

"WORK HAS NOW STARTED ON ALL THE TRANSPORT PROJECTS. ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAVE EITHER COMMENCED OR ARE BEING PLANNED," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO INVITE EARLY NEXT MONTH INTERNATIONAL BIDS FOR THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING WHICH WOULD PROBABLY COMPRISE TWO BRIDGES.

"THE FIRST OF THESE WOULD BE A SUSPENSION BRIDGE ABOUT 1.4 KILOMETERS, A LITTLE LONGER THAN THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE THE LONGEST SINGLE SPAN SUSPENSION BRIDGE IN THE WORLD," MRS CHAN SAID.

BRIEFING HER AUDIENCE ON THE ROAD LINK, MRS CHAN SAID IT WOULD COMPRISE A 12-KILOMETRE, SIX-LANE EXPRESSWAY FROM THE AIRPORT, ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST OF LANTAU ISLAND AND, BY A SERIES OF MAJOR BRIDGES, TO WESTERN KOWLOON AND ULTIMATELY TO HONG KONG ISLAND.

A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE ROUTE HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND WORK ON DETAILED DESIGNS WOULD START SOON, SHE ADDED.

SHE NOTED THAT THE NEXT STAGE OF THE TRANSPORT PROJECTS WOULD BE A DETAILED FINANCIAL ANALYSIS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT DECIDE WHICH PROJECTS SHOULD BE PRIVATISED AND IN WHAT FORM.

"KEEN COMPETITION FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS EXPECTED AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT A GOOD PACKAGE OF VIABLE TRANSPORT PROJECTS WILL EMERGE," MRS CHAN STRESSED.

SHE URGED COMPANIES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS TO COME UP WITH IMAGINATIVE AND COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS.

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"ON THIS, I KNOW CANADIAN FIRMS ARE JUST AS CAPABLE AS ANYONE ELSE. INDEED THE CANADIAN COMPANY MARSHALL MACKLIN MONAGHAN LIMITED, WHO IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL 3 AT TORONTO AIRPORT, HAVE BEEN ENGAGED WITH HONG KONG FIRM WARDLEY CAPITAL TO UNDERTAKE A FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY FOR THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN TRANSPORT PROJECTS.

"THE EXACT DETAILS AS TO HOW SUCH PROJECTS WILL BE PRIVATISED REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT I ENVISAGE THAT OPEN INVITATION WILL BE MADE BEFORE NEXT YEAR TO PRIVATE SECTOR CONSORTIA, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROJECTS ON THE BASIS OF 'BUILD, OPERATE AND TRANSFER' ARRANGEMENTS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT ONE OF HONG KONG'S KEY STRENGTHS LIES IN THE CONTINUING AND FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES A SOUND, STABLE AND CONSISTENT ENVIRONMENT AND A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK SUPPORTED BY A LOW TAX STRUCTURE.

"THE PRIVATE SECTOR USES ITS ENTREPRENEURIAL, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL SKILLS TO MAKE OPTIMUM USE OF THE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE OFFER," SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF HONG KONG'S PORT INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES HAD BEEN BUILT AND WERE OPERATED BY THE PRIVATE SECTORS IN SUCH A WAY.

"WE INTERFERE WITH THEIR OPERATIONS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. WE INTEND THIS POLICY TO CONTINUE.

"WITH REGARD TO THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL EMERGE, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT WE OPERATE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL OUR PROJECTS AND IN RESPECT OF ALL OUR INVESTORS.

"HISTORICALLY, WE HAVE GIVEN NO SPECIAL INCENTIVES TO EITHER LOCAL OR OVERSEAS CONCERNS. SELECTION IS BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE PROPOSALS," SHE ADDED.

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MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR WAS \$118,230 MILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, 6 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989. ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY STATISTICS ON AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 6 PER CENT AND 17 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

THEIR SHARES IN TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WERE 29 PER CENT, 20 PER CENT AND 17 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING SHARES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989 WERE 29 PER CENT, 20 PER CENT AND 16 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. IN TERMS OF WEIGHT, AIRBORNE IMPORTS AMOUNTED TO 177,220 TONNES, WHILE TOTAL AIRBORNE EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AMOUNTED TO 188,668 TONNES, WHICH WERE 16 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THOSE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1989.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, CANADA, THE U.S.A., JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS AND SWITZERLAND DECREASED BY 20 PER CENT, 14 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT, 7 PER CENT, 6 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE TERMS.

HOWEVER, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TAIWAN AND SINGAPORE, BY 51 PER CENT AND 37 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THAT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAD A MODERATE INCREASE OF 2 PER CENT.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR CLOTHING (BY \$1,079 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT). DECREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$105 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT); AND FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATION THEREOF (BY \$81 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT).

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HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$461 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$356 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$179 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT); AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$66 MILLION OR 50 PER CENT).

DETAILED ANALYSIS BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY. SHOWED THAT MORE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO THE U.S.A. (BY \$472 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT) AND TO SWITZERLAND (BY \$152 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS TO JAPAN (BY \$90 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT); AND FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF TO JAPAN (BY \$78 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE (BY \$330 MILLION OR 52 PER CENT) AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$136 MILLION OR 45 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF TO TAIWAN (BY \$211 MILLION OR 106 PER CENT) AND TO THE U.S.A. (BY \$36 MILLION OR 3 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT TO JAPAN (BY \$76 MILLION OR 171 PER CENT); AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES TO JAPAN (BY \$39 MILLION OR 87 PER CENT).

AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 3.

IMPORTS CARRIED BY AIR FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA (BY 40 PER CENT). THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND, SINGAPORE, ITALY, THE U.S.A., FRANCE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ALSO INCREASED BY 13 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT, 11 PER CENT, 10 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM U.K. DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT. THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM JAPAN AND TAIWAN WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON.

AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 4.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,000 MILLION OR 7 PER CENT); TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$484 MILLION OR 34 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$484 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$345 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS (BY \$363 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT); TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$186 MILLION OR 65 PER CENT); AND PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS (BY \$120 MILLION OR 10 PER CENT).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM THE U.S.A. (BY \$741 MILLION OR 25 PER CENT) AND FROM MALAYSIA (BY \$654 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT); TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES FROM THE U.S.A. (BY \$550 MILLION OR 46 PER CENT) AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM (BY \$4 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT FROM JAPAN (BY \$347 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS FROM THE U.S.A. (BY \$138 MILLION OR 22 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS FROM FINLAND (BY \$132 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT) AND FROM DENMARK (BY \$110 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT); TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES FROM THE U.S.A. (BY \$188 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT); AND PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS FROM JAPAN (BY \$69 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989. THE GROWTH WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG FOR THAILAND (BY 70 PER CENT).

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND (BY 38 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY 37 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (BY 29 PER CENT), TAIWAN (BY 24 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (BY 19 PER CENT) AND THE U.S.A. (BY 17 PER CENT).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 6.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$984 MILLION OR 13 PER CENT); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$935 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$861 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT); AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$609 MILLION OR 37 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$158 MILLION OR 5 PER CENT); CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (BY \$82 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT); AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$51 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT).

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ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF TO TAIWAN (BY \$776 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT) AND TO SINGAPORE (BY \$391 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES TO JAPAN (BY \$407 MILLION OR 66 PER CENT) AND TO THAILAND (BY \$337 MILLION OR 97 PER CENT); CLOTHING TO THE U.S.A. (BY \$315 MILLION OR 19 PER CENT); AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO THE NETHERLANDS (BY \$137 MILLION OR 442 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO KUWAIT (BY \$182 MILLION OR 96 PER CENT) AND TO JAPAN (BY \$59 MILLION OR 9 PER CENT); CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS TO JAPAN (BY \$62 MILLION OR 71 PER CENT); AND GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE PARTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$25 MILLION OR 57 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, JUNE 1990" NOW AVAILABLE AT \$27 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE. ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 823 4915.

TABLE 1 : AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	10,902	11,738	- 836	- 7
JAPAN	3,009	3,228	- 219	- 7
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,727	2,664	+ 62	+ 2
SINGAPORE	1,725	1,260	+ 465	+ 37
U.K.	1,405	1,746	- 341	- 20
TAIWAN	1,105	732	+ 373	+ 51
SWITZERLAND	760	803	- 43	- 5
FRANCE	751	703	+ 49	+ 7
CANADA	742	866	- 124	- 14
NETHERLANDS	693	735	- 42	- 6

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2: AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,807	9,886	-1,079	- 11
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	6,103	6,109	- 6	*
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	4,238	3,777	+ 461	+ 12
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,528	3,172	+ 356	+ 11
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	3,114	3,219	- 105	- 3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,262	1,083	+ 179	+ 17
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	295	259	+ 37	+ 14
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	223	242	- 18	- 8
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	197	131	+ 66	+ 50
FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF	189	269	- 81	- 30

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3 : AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	11,945	10,803	+1,142	+ 11
JAPAN	11,744	11,757	- 13	*
SWITZERLAND	4,135	3,665	+ 469	+ 13
ITALY	2,745	2,481	+ 264	+ 11
SINGAPORE	2,730	2,459	+ 271	+ 11
TAIWAN	2,567	2,571	- 4	*
MALAYSIA	2,500	1,790	+ 710	+ 40
FRANCE	2,103	1,909	+ 194	+ 10
U.K.	2,047	2,200	- 153	- 7
F.R. OF GERMANY	2,026	1,939	+ 87	+ 4

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 4: AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	15,159	14,159	+1,000	+ 7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	8,948	8,930	+ 18	*
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	7,872	7,646	+ 227	+ 3

/OFFICE MACHINES

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OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	3,973	3,790	+ 183	+ 5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	3,373	3,028	+ 345	+ 11
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,999	2,515	+ 484	+ 19
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2,207	1,909	+ 299	+ 16
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	1,910	1,427	+ 484	+ 34
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,767	1,561	+ 207	+ 13
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	1,040	1,159	- 120	- 10

* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 5 : AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
U.S.A.	5,536	4,731	+ 805	+ 17
TAIWAN	4,864	3,913	+ 951	+ 24
JAPAN	3,400	3,017	+ 383	+ 13
SINGAPORE	2,851	2,205	+ 646	+ 29

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REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,407	2,030	+ 377	+ 19
CHINA	1,553	1,638	- 85	- 5
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,498	1,096	+ 402	+ 37
THAILAND	1,076	634	+ 442	+ 70
U.K.	704	701	+ 4	+ 1
SWITZERLAND	616	446	+ 170	+ 38

TABLE 6: AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-JUN 1990 (HKD MN.)	JAN-JUN 1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	8,428	7,444	+ 984	+ 13
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,981	3,121	+ 861	+ 28
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,837	2,902	+ 935	+ 32
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,935	3,092	- 158	- 5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	2,274	1,665	+ 609	+ 37
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,990	1,484	+ 506	+ 34
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,261	1,206	+ 55	+ 5

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TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,115	925	+ 189	+ 20
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	664	524	+ 140	+ 27
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	566	454	+ 112	+ 25

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FORENSIC WORK A CAREER FOR TSUI

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WORKING ON CORPSES AND BITS AND PIECES OF NASTY ORGANIC MATERIALS, TO MOST PEOPLE, IS AN OBNOXIOUS AND UNBEARABLE EXPERIENCE.

BUT TO 36-YEAR-OLD TSUI PUI, IT IS A CAREER.

TO UNDERTAKE A JOB LIKE THIS NEEDS MORE THAN JUST A MIND FOR IT. IT ALSO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT.

MR TSUI, A FORENSIC SCIENTIST, HAS BOTH.

"THE JOB IS BOTH EXCITING AND CHALLENGING. IT HELPS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE," MR TSUI, A SENIOR CHEMIST OF THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY, SAID.

A CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE IN CAUSES CELEBRES IS AN EXTRA BONUS, BUT HAVING A PART TO PLAY IN UPHOLDING THE COURSE OF JUSTICE IS THE DRIVING FORCE FOR MR TSUI AND HIS COLLEAGUES WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

"THIS SENTIMENT HAS BEEN MAINTAINED OVER THE YEARS, WITH ITS SHARE OF UPS-AND-DOWNS," MR TSUI SAID.

IT GRATIFIES HIM TO SEE CRIMINALS CONVICTED ON EVIDENCES BASED ON THEIR LABORATORY FINDINGS.

MR TSUI IS ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HIS FAMILY WHICH PASSED HIM ON THIS CAREER.

HE DESCRIBED THE WORK OF THE LAB AS A BATTLE AGAINST CRIMINALS WHILE RECOGNISING THAT IT WAS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO WIN.

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BUT THE RECENT INTRODUCTION OF THE DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA) PROFILING TECHNIQUE IN HONG KONG HAS OPENED NEW DIMENSIONS TO THEIR FORENSIC WORK.

MR TSUI HAS RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED HEAD OF A NEW DNA PROFILING SECTION UNDER THE FORENSIC DIVISION OF THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

DNA PROFILING HAS BEEN HAILED AS A "REVOLUTIONARY" CRIME DETECTION TECHNIQUE IN THE WORLD WHICH CAN VIRTUALLY AND POSITIVELY IDENTIFY A PERSON FROM ANY SCRAP OF BODY FLUIDS OR SUBSTANCES IN A CRIME CASE.

DNA PROFILING MADE ITS DEBUT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1985 AND IS NOW INCREASINGLY GAINING ACCEPTANCE IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. HONG KONG, ALONG WITH MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES, ARE BEGINNING TO MAKE A START.

"THE NEW TECHNIQUE IS A CONFIDENCE-BOOSTER TO OUR WORK," HE SAID.

MR TSUI HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY FOR NIGH ON 12 YEARS SINCE HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA IN THE UNITED STATES.

LIKE HIS COLLEAGUES, HE HAS SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS, DAY AND NIGHT, IN THE LABORATORY HARROWING ON BLOOD STAINS, SEMEN, BODY FLUIDS AND SCRAPS IN ATTEMPTS TO TRACK DOWN CRIMINALS.

WORKING IRREGULAR HOURS AND ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY, LIFE TO THEM IS A LONG HARD SLOG. BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN DRAB.

"I HAVE A RECORD OF COLLECTING FORENSIC EVIDENCES LIKE BLOOD STAINS AT FOUR DIFFERENT CRIME SCENES DURING AN OVERNIGHT SHIFT," HE SAID.

RECALLING HIS FIRST ENCOUNTER OF A DEAD BODY, MR TSUI SAID: "I WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED BUT STILL, I FOUND IT A BIT UNEASY."

BUT NOW HE FOUND THEM NOTHING BUT STIFFENED BODIES WITH FOUL SMELL.

MR TSUI IS BUSY WORKING FOR THE NITTY-GRITTY ASPECTS OF THE SET UP OF THE NEW DNA LABORATORY.

BEFORE THE APPLICATION OF THIS AVANT-GARDE CRIME-BUSTING TECHNIQUE IN HONG KONG, THE SECTION HAS TO TEST A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BLOOD SAMPLES TO GATHER RELEVANT DATA FOR THE LOCAL CHINESE POPULATION.

MR TSUI DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A SEPARATE DATABASE FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE TO HELP DETECT VIOLENT CRIMES AMONG THEM.

HE RECKONS THAT HONG KONG MIGHT WELL BE THE FIRST TERRITORY TO DRAW UP A LARGE-SCALE DATABASE ON SOUTHERN CHINESE PEOPLE.

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"IT IS WORTHWHILE TO BRING IN THE TECHNOLOGY HERE AS IT WOULD ENHANCE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND ADD A NEW DIMENSION TO FORENSIC WORK," HE SAID.

DNA IS A THREE-FOOT-LONG CHEMICAL TIGHTLY WOUND INSIDE VIRTUALLY EVERY CELL OF THE HUMAN BODY, INCLUDING CELLS IN BLOOD, SEMEN, HAIR AND SKIN SCRAPPING.

IT CARRIES GENETIC INFORMATION WHICH VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON. INVESTIGATORS USING DNA TECHNOLOGY FIND IT USEFUL IN CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS, ESPECIALLY SEX CRIMES WHERE BODY FLUIDS ARE INVOLVED.

"DNA TEST HAS A GREATER IMPACT ON SEMEN STAIN ANALYSIS THAN BLOOD STAIN ANALYSIS BECAUSE UNLIKE THE TRADITIONAL BLOOD-GROUPING TEST, IT CAN PREFERENTIALLY DETECT CHARACTERISTICS PERTAINING TO BODY FLUIDS OF A SEX CRIME OFFENDER WITHOUT BEING INTERFERED BY THOSE OF THE VICTIM.

"DNA TESTING RESULTS OBTAINED FROM DIFFERENT RAPE CASES CAN BE COMPARED, TO DETERMINE IF THEY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY DIFFERENT PERSONS OR THE SAME ONE."

"THIS WOULD, IN TURN, DETERMINE THE SIZE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND THE NUMBER OF DETECTIVES TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE CASES, THUS ALLOWING POLICE MANPOWER TO BE DEPLOYED MORE EFFICIENTLY," MR TSUI SAID.

HE HAS SPENT SIX MONTHS AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY GETTING HIMSELF ACQUAINTED WITH MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TECHNIQUES AND VISITING THE METROPOLITAN POLICE'S RESEARCH HEADQUARTERS IN LONDON TO GET FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS FIELD.

ALTHOUGH THE DNA TEST HAS AN EDGE OVER THE CONVENTIONAL BLOOD-GROUPING METHOD, MR TSUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY HAS NO PLAN TO REPLACE THE BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES SECTION (BSS) BY THE DNA PROFILING SECTION.

MORE THAN 600 CASES OF OFFENCE AGAINST PERSON ARE HANDLED BY THE BSS EVERY YEAR. OF WHICH, ABOUT 200 ARE SEX-RELATED AND CAN BE POTENTIALLY HANDLED BY THE DNA SECTION. BLOODSTAIN EVIDENCE, OF COURSE, CAN ALSO BENEFIT FROM DNA ANALYSIS.

MR TSUI SAID THE SECTION WILL EXERCISE DISCRETION IN CHOOSING CASES FOR ANALYSIS, DEPENDING ON THE GRAVITY OF INDIVIDUAL CRIMINAL CASES.

"THE TWO SECTIONS, WHILE USING DIFFERENT METHODS, ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO EACH OTHER," HE SAID.

MR TSUI POINTED OUT THAT THE CONVENTIONAL BLOOD GROUPING TEST RESULTS SOMETIMES CARRIED LESS WEIGHT IN COURT BECAUSE OF ITS LOW DISCRIMINATION RATE, RANGING FROM 0.5 TO THREE PER 100 PERSONS.

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DISCRIMINATION RATE IS EVEN LOWER IN RAPE CASES AS IT IS OFTEN UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH VICTIM'S BLOOD GROUP SUBSTANCES IN HER VIRGINAL SECRETIONS FROM THE BLOOD GROUP SUBSTANCES IN A SUSPECT'S SEMEN, WHEN THE TWO SOURCES OF MATERIALS ARE MIXED.

SINCE DNA FROM TWO INDIVIDUALS, EXCEPT IDENTICAL TWINS, WILL NOT BREAK DOWN INTO PRECISELY THE SAME PATTERN, MR TSUI SAID VIRTUALLY EVERYONE CAN BE DISTINGUISHED BY DNA, AS FINGERPRINTS.

ALTHOUGH A DNA TEST TAKES ABOUT 18 DAYS TO COMPLETE, WHICH IS SIX TIMES MORE THAN THAT OF THE TRADITIONAL BLOOD TEST, HE STILL CONSIDERED IT WORTHWHILE.

BUT THE DNA TEST IS NOT WITHOUT PROBLEMS.

IN THE UNITED STATES, SEVERAL CASES HAVE COLLAPSED BECAUSE THE DNA EVIDENCE WAS RULED TO BE FAULTY.

ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THE OBJECTIVITY IN INTERPRETING THE TEST RESULTS. SINCE THE TEST RESULTS RELY HEAVILY ON VISUAL INTERPRETATION, IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCE IN OPINIONS AMONG THE PROFESSIONALS.

HOWEVER, HELP IS ON THE WAY, WITH THE USE OF VIDEO-IMAGING TECHNIQUES.

MR TSUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY IS TAKING A CAUTIOUS APPROACH, WAITING FOR A CONSENSUS AMONG THE FORENSIC COMMUNITY FOR THE STANDARDISATION OF THE DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES INVOLVED.

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AUGUST 1990 THE HOTTEST MONTH RECORDED

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AUGUST 1990 WILL BE REMEMBERED AS THE HOTTEST MONTH AND THE DRIEST AUGUST EVER EXPERIENCED IN HONG KONG, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (TUESDAY).

AT AROUND 12.30 PM ON AUGUST 18, THE TEMPERATURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ROSE TO 36.1 DEGREES, EQUALLING THE RECORD SET 90 YEARS AGO.

WITH A DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 31.9 DEGREES AND A DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 30.1 DEGREES, AUGUST 18, 1990 WAS THE HOTTEST DAY ON RECORD. THE DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURE EXCEEDED THE 31.4 DEGREES REGISTERED ON AUGUST 25, 1931 BY HALF A DEGREE WHILE THE DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE EXCEEDED THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 29.2 DEGREES SET THREE YEARS AGO ON JUNE 26, 1987 AND JULY 21, 1987 BY NEARLY ONE DEGREE.

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OTHER NEW RECORDS FOR AUGUST ESTABLISHED IN THE MONTH INCLUDED THE HIGHEST MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 29.5 DEGREES, THE HIGHEST MONTHLY MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 27.4 DEGREES, AS WELL AS THE LOWEST-EVER MONTHLY MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF 75 PER CENT.

FURTHERMORE, THE MONTHLY MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 32.1 DEGREES WAS THE SECOND HIGHEST FOR AUGUST.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, RAINFALL WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF HOT AND DRY ANOMALIES. THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF 150.1 MILLIMETRES WAS THE 10TH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR AUGUST AND REPRESENTED JUST OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE AUGUST NORMAL OF 413.4 MILLIMETRES.

RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 1,499.3 MILLIMETRES, WHICH WAS 13 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 1,723.1 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE WEATHER ON THE FIRST THREE DAYS OF AUGUST WAS CLOUDY AND UNSETTLED AS A RESULT OF THE MOIST SOUTHWESTERLIES IN THE WAKE OF SEVERE TROPICAL STORM TASHA.

MOST OF THE HEAVY SHOWERS OCCURRED IN THE LATTER PART OF THE NIGHT AND WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME SQUALLY THUNDERSTORMS. BY EARLY MORNING ON AUGUST 3, OVER 100 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL HAD FALLEN.

THE AMOUNT OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE GRADUALLY INCREASED OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS AND A SPELL OF MAINLY FINE AND VERY HOT WEATHER SET IN. SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS DEVELOPED IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG ON AUGUST 11 AND 13, AND ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 16 A MAJOR OUTBREAK OF THUNDERY ACTIVITY AFFECTED LOCAL AREAS.

THE ASSOCIATED SQUALL LINE PASSED RAPIDLY THROUGH THE TERRITORY BUT DID NOT BRING MUCH RAIN. HOWEVER, SEVERE SQUALLS OF 68 AND 83 KILOMETRES PER HOUR WERE RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY AND WAGLAN ISLAND RESPECTIVELY.

THE TEMPERATURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY PLUMMETED BY ABOUT SIX DEGREES IN AN HOUR DURING THE PASSAGE OF THE SQUALL LINE. THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 25.0 DEGREES REGISTERED DURING THE EVENT WAS THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH.

FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE DAYS COMMENCING AUGUST 17, THE DAILY MEAN SEA-LEVEL PRESSURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY STAYED UNDER 1,000 HPA (HECTOPASCAL) AS THE TERRITORY CAME UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF TYPHOON YANCY OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC.

THE RESULTANT NORTHWESTERLY AIRSTREAM, WHICH BROUGHT RELATIVELY DRY AIR OF CONTINENTAL ORIGIN, PERSISTED FOR NEARLY A WEEK.

CONDITIONS WERE GENERALLY FINE DURING THE EARLY PART OF THIS PERIOD. IT WAS VERY HOT AND HAZY ON AUGUST 17, AND THE TEMPERATURE STAYED ABOUT 30 DEGREES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE INTENSE HEAT BUILT UP FURTHER THE FOLLOWING DAY, AND THE TEMPERATURE REACHED THE RECORD HIGH OF 36.1 DEGREES SHORTLY AFTER NOON.

/WITH YANCY

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WITH YANCY MOVING ACROSS NORTHERN TAIWAN AND SUBSEQUENTLY HOVERING OVER THE COAST OF FUJIAN BETWEEN AUGUST 20 AND 22, CLOUDY WEATHER SPREAD ACROSS SOUTHERN CHINA.

THE CLOUDS FINALLY BROKE ON AUGUST 23, GIVING RISE TO PERIODS OF SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY. THE REMNANT OF YANCY DRIFTED WESTWARDS ALONG THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG THAT EVENING AND BROUGHT SOME LIGHT RAIN TO THE TERRITORY.

GENERALLY FINE WEATHER THEN PREVAILED FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS APART FROM SOME LIGHT SHOWERS IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 25 AND OFFSHORE THUNDERSTORMS EARLY ON AUGUST 26.

MEANWHILE, SEVERE TROPICAL STORM BECKY SWEEP ACROSS NORTHERN LUZON AND INTENSIFIED TO A TYPHOON OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY AS THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED ON AUGUST 27.

WINDS BECAME GENERALLY STRONG THE NEXT DAY AND SQUALLY SHOWERS BUFFETED THE TERRITORY. THE WIND AND SHOWERS EASED OFF ON AUGUST 29 AS BECKY PASSED BY TO THE SOUTH OF HAINAN.

THE WEATHER IMPROVED FURTHER FOLLOWING THE DISSIPATION OF BECKY AND FINE CONDITIONS PREVAILED ON THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH.

EIGHT TROPICAL CYCLONES, OF WHICH SIX FORMED WITHIN THE MONTH, OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DUE TO WINDY CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH BECKY ON AUGUST 28. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE IN EFFECT ON AUGUST 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 16, 18, AND 26. FLOOD WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON AUGUST 2 AND 3.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
TYPHOON	1	AUGUST 27 6 AM	AUGUST 28 5 AM
BECKY	3	AUGUST 28 5 AM	AUGUST 28 8.10 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	205.8 HOURS ; 0.2 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	17.11 MJ/SQ METRE ; 0.61 MJ/SQ METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	150.1 MM ; 263.3 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	67 PER CENT ; 1 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	75 PER CENT ; 8 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL

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MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	32.1 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	29.5 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	27.4 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	1.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	24.6 DEGREES ; CELSIUS	0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	156.1 MM ;	5.1 MM BELOW NORMAL

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WATER SUPPLIES CENTRALISED WORKSHOP TO OPEN SOON
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THE MAINTENANCE OF WATERWORKS WILL BE STREAMLINED WITH THE OPENING OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT'S MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, KOWLOON ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 14).

OCCUPYING AN AREA OF ABOUT 16,900 SQUARE METRES, THE WORKSHOP WILL HANDLE THE MAINTENANCE OF ALL WATERWORKS HEAVY MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL PLANTS INSTALLED IN THE TERRITORY.

IT WILL HOUSE UNDER ITS ROOF FACILITIES NOW BEING PROVIDED AT WATERWORKS DEPOTS AT BULLOCK LANE, WAN CHAI AND ARGYLE STREET, MONG KOK, THE METER SHOP AT YAU TONG AND THE TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL MOTOR WORKSHOP AT LOK ON PAI DESALTER.

"WITH THE INCREASE IN WATER CONSUMPTION, A LARGE SCALE IMPROVEMENT WAS REQUIRED TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND OF MAINTENANCE SERVICES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IN ADDITION, A GREAT PROPORTION OF WATERWORKS INSTALLATIONS WAS LOCATED IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH RENDERED THE TRANSPORT OF HEAVY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT ACROSS THE HARBOUR FOR OVERHAUL INCONVENIENT AND COSTLY."

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPOT AREA AT BULLOCK LANE HAD BEEN FULLY UTILISED AND THAT ANY REDEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE EXISTING BOUNDARY WOULD CREATE UNACCEPTABLE DISTURBANCE TO THE DAILY OPERATION OF THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM.

IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED THAT A CENTRALISED MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP BE SET UP IN KOWLOON, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/ON COMMISSIONING

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ON COMMISSIONING OF THE WORKSHOP, THE FACILITIES WILL BE ADEQUATE TO MEET THE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT OF ALL WATERWORKS ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL INSTALLATIONS UP TO THE MID-1990S.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKSHOP AT 11 AM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 14).

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CEREMONY.

A COACH (AZ8570) TAKING MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WORKSHOP WILL LEAVE MIDDLE ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI (NEAR KOWLOON HOTEL) AT 9.45 AM.

CSD SCOUTS TO STAGE 'BEATING RETREAT'

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A GROUP OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (CSD) SCOUTS WILL DEMONSTRATE THEIR MUSIC TALENT AND MAGNIFICENT MARCHING DISPLAY IN TWO "BEATING RETREAT" PERFORMANCES TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14) NIGHTS AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM.

THE EVENT, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CSD AND THE HONG KONG ISLAND 221ST SCOUT GROUP, IS A FUND-RAISING EVENT FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE "BEATING RETREAT" PERFORMANCES HAD BEEN OVERWHELMING AND ALL ADMISSION TICKETS HAD BEEN SOLD OUT.

"WE ARE VERY IMPRESSED BY SUCH GOOD RESPONSE WHICH SHOWS THAT SCOUTING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAVE WON PUBLIC RECOGNITION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES FORMED AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TRAINING CENTRE INMATES, HE SAID.

"IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH SCOUTING MOVEMENT, THE INMATES CAN DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIALS, CULTIVATE THEIR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND TO APPRECIATE THE MEANING OF DISCIPLINE AND TEAM WORK SPIRIT," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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THE MAIN PERFORMERS OF THE "BEATING RETREAT" BELONG TO THE 221ST HONG KONG ISLAND 221ST SCOUT GROUP, WHICH WAS SET UP BY THE CSD IN 1986.

THE GROUP HAS TAKEN PART IN VARIOUS SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, INCLUDING CLEANING WORK IN COUNTRY PARKS, GRASS CUTTING AND MAINTENANCE WORK IN CAMP SITES, AND SERVICES FOR THE AGED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

A PREVIEW OF "BEATING RETREAT", SPECIALLY ARRANGED FOR THE PRESS, WILL BE HELD AT 4 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH STADIUM, OI KWAN ROAD, WAN CHAI.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PREVIEW AND TAKE PICTURES OF THE SPECTACULAR PERFORMANCE.

ACTING SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (YOUNG OFFENDERS), MR TAM KAM-CHUNG, THE PRESIDENT OF THE 221ST HONG KONG ISLAND SCOUT GROUP, MR LAU HON-WAH, AND THE GROUP'S CHAIRMAN, MR HERMAN HUI, WILL BE PRESENT TO BRIEF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES ON SCOUTING ACTIVITIES ORGANISED FOR TRAINING CENTRE INMATES.

MEMBERS OF THE SCOUT GROUP WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR PRESS INTERVIEWS ON THEIR PREPARATIONS FOR THE EVENT.

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SCHOOLS REMINDED TO FILL UP SECONDARY SIX VACANCIES
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED A CIRCULAR LETTER TO PRINCIPALS OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS REMINDING THEM TO FILL AS MANY SECONDARY SIX VACANCIES AS POSSIBLE WITH STUDENTS POSSESSING SUITABLE ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS IS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT MORE SECONDARY FIVE LEAVERS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE WITH SIXTH FORM STUDIES WITHIN THE OVERALL PROVISION AS RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT NO. 2.

ACCORDING TO A HEADCOUNT DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER BY DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS OPERATING SECONDARY SIX CLASSES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WERE ABOUT 2,300 VACANCIES, OR 13 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PROVISION.

OF THE VACANCIES, 1,600 ARE IN ARTS CLASSES AND 700 IN SCIENCE CLASSES.

"A LIST OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORM VACANCIES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT ALL DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES AS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY)," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"INTENDING SECONDARY SIX APPLICANTS, AFTER CONSULTING THE LIST, MAY APPLY TO THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS DIRECT.

"FOR THE FUTURE, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE ISSUE OF A SET OF DETAILED GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS REGARDING ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO SIXTH FORM CLASSES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO BE HELD AT THE SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE LECTURE HALL ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 13), BEGINNING AT 8 PM.

FIVE SPEAKERS FROM RELATED FIELDS WILL TALK ON VARIOUS HOUSING MANAGEMENT TOPICS.

THE HEAD OF THE DISTRICT'S BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM, HOUSING MANAGER MR LEE CHI-SHING WILL SPEAK ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF RESIDENTS' ORGANISATION AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE.

A BUILDING SURVEYORS JOINT COUNCIL MEMBER, MR BENSON WONG, WILL EXPLAIN THE ROLE OF AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY BUILDING SURVEYORS IN MAJOR RENOVATION WORKS FOR PRIVATE BUILDINGS.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, MRS CECELIA SHACKLETON, IS EXPECTED TO TALK ABOUT TENDERING PROCEDURES FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKS.

TWO ENGINEERS FROM THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY WILL SPEAK ON THE REPAIR OF COMMON ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND THE SAFETY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO FACILITIES OF MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDING OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN DISTRICT. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ADMISSION TO THE SEMINAR IS FREE. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 852 3488.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN BUILDING MANAGEMENT SEMINAR WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM ON THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 13) IN THE LECTURE HALL, FIFTH FLOOR, SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, 345 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

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