



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1991

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GOVT ENCOURAGES MAXIMUM PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN AIRPORT PROJECTS: CS
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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AIMING FOR THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE DEPARTING FOR A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO JAPAN, SIR DAVID SAID THE AIRPORT PROJECT WAS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECT BEING UNDERTAKEN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND HE THOUGHT IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYBODY WHO COULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE PROJECT KNEW ALL ABOUT IT.

HE SAID THERE WERE MANY WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT.

"THEY CAN HELP WITH THE CONTRACTS BY BUILDING SOME OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS: THE BRIDGE, THE ROAD, THE AIRPORT AND SO ON. AND ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE PROJECTS ARE NOT JUST THE BUILDING OF THEM, BUT ALSO THE SERVICES WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM; COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERS, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS AND SO ON.

"PEOPLE CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE BY UNDERTAKING ONE OF THE BUILD-OPERATE-AND-TRANSFER PROJECTS SUCH AS THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING," HE SAID.

"THEY CAN PARTICIPATE BY PROVIDING DEBT, LOANS TO EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, OR TO THE RAILWAY. AND SO THERE ARE A VAST NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH PEOPLE CAN PARTICIPATE, THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN PARTICIPATE," SIR DAVID ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THIS WAS A VERY EXCITING TIME FOR THE PROJECT: "BECAUSE HAVING PLANNED IT FOR SO LONG, WE'RE NOW TESTING THE REAL PRIVATE SECTOR INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT."

SIR DAVID SAID HIS TRIP TO JAPAN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MAKING AND MR RICHARD ALLEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, WOULD GO TO LONDON NEXT WEEK.

"I'M GOING TO LONDON IN OCTOBER, AND I'M SURE THERE WILL BE OTHERS, WE ARE NOT SIMPLY SINGLING OUT JAPAN," SIR DAVID SAID.

"BUT JAPAN IS A VERY IMPORTANT PLACE FOR US, IN PARTICULAR IN FINANCIAL TERMS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN JAPAN WILL HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY, AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING THERE FIRSTLY," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD A VERY INTERESTING PROGRAMME: "I'M NOT ONLY SEEING BANKERS AND CONSTRUCTORS AND THE CONSORTIUM, I'M ALSO SEEING THREE MINISTRIES: THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AND THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. AND CLEARLY ALL THOSE WE NEED THEIR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT."

"IN ADDITION, I'M SEEING PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN HONG KONG. SO IT SHOULD BE A BUSY WEEK; WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT," HE ADDED.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE RELEASED
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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 25% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 16% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 3%. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECREASED BY 0.3%.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1991 WITH JUNE 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 2%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 12%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 20%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 2%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+17%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+13%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+13%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+5%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN FOOTWEAR (-31%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-26%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-26%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-23%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-4%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-3%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-1%); AND CLOTHING (-1%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990. THESE INCLUDED TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+7%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+5%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+4%); CLOTHING (+4%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+3%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3%); FOOTWEAR (+3%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+3%); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+1%).

/HOWEVER, DECREASES

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-2%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-2%); AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-1%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 10% IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990. IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; RICE; SWINE; AND CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR. DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND LIVE POULTRY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 14%. COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED FOOTWEAR; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 23% IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR MAN-MADE FIBRES; YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS; AND PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SILK FABRICS; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; AND CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND SO ON, EXCEPT GLASS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 58% IN VOLUME IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 26% IN JUNE 1991 OVER JUNE 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TEXTILE MACHINERY; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY. HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN IMPORT VOLUME OF OTHER INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY (OTHER THAN TEXTILE MACHINERY AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY).

COMPARING JUNE 1991 WITH JUNE 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+8%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); CAPITAL GOODS (+2%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%); AND FOODSTUFFS (+2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JUNE 1991 WITH JUNE 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES: FUELS (+26%); CONSUMER GOODS (+23%); CAPITAL GOODS (+21%); FOODSTUFFS (+21%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+18%).

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JUNE 1991 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990: FUELS (+8%); FOODSTUFFS (+4%); CAPITAL GOODS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AROUND SEPTEMBER 13 AT \$4 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 823 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JUN 1991 WITH JUN 1990			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1991 WITH JAN-JUN 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	3	4	-1	5	3	1
TEXTILE FABRICS	3	4	-1	3	3	*
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	*	3	-3	3	3	*
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-26	1	-26	-22	1	-23
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	8	3	5	-7	4	-11
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	15	-2	17	26	-1	28
FOOTWEAR	-28	3	-31	-27	5	-31
METAL MANUFACTURES	17	3	13	9	4	5
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-27	-2	-26	7	*	7
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-24	-1	-23	1	*	1
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	21	7	13	-7	3	-10

DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	2	5	-4	3	2	1
ALL COMMODITIES	*	2	-2	4	2	2

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1991 WITH JUN 1990			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1991 WITH JAN-JUN 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	12	2	10	14	3	11
CONSUMER GOODS	17	3	14	24	3	20
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	25	2	23	23	2	21
FUELS	70	8	58	34	21	10
CAPITAL GOODS	28	2	26	24	4	20
ALL COMMODITIES	22	2	20	23	3	20

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1991 WITH JUN 1990			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1991 WITH JAN-JUN 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	26	4	21	23	3	19
CONSUMER GOODS	26	3	23	32	2	29
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	20	1	18	21	1	20
FUELS	36	8	26	8	23	-12
CAPITAL GOODS	24	3	21	28	2	26
ALL COMMODITIES	24	2	21	27	2	25

TAC DISCUSSES KWAI CHUNG CONGESTION PROBLEM
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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TODAY (MONDAY) REVIEWED THE SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN KWAI CHUNG EXPERIENCED ON AUGUST 16 AND WAS BRIEFED ON A FURTHER REPORT ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY NATHAN ROAD PEAK HOUR CONGESTION PROBLEM.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN KWAI CHUNG ON AUGUST 16 WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO A LANDSLIDE IN CASTLE PEAK ROAD, A BACKLOG OF CONTAINER TRUCKS AT THE CONTAINER TERMINALS AS A RESULT OF TYPHOON FRED, AND THE HEAVY RAIN COUPLED WITH 27 ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE AREA WHICH SLOWED DOWN TRAFFIC.

WHILE IMMEDIATELY ACTIVATING ITS EMERGENCY TRANSPORT CONTROL UNIT TO MONITOR TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE KWAI CHUNG AREA, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT LIAISED WITH THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TO OPEN UP THE CLOSED SECTIONS OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AS WELL AS ORGANISED SPECIAL MTR, KOWLOON MOTOR BUS COMPANY FEEDER BUS AND FERRY SERVICES TO PROVIDE RELIEF TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF THE AUGUST 16 INCIDENT, TAC NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENT WORKS ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CONTAINER PORT ROAD HAVE ALREADY BEEN IN PROGRESS SINCE 1989 AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-1992.

THE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF AN EXTRA LANE IN EACH DIRECTION ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD, A DUAL TWO-LANE SLIP ROAD LINKING CHING CHEUNG ROAD DIRECTLY WITH CONTAINER PORT ROAD, AND SEPARATE FLYOVERS TO ELIMINATE WEAVING MOVEMENTS ALONG KWAI CHUNG ROAD.

MEANWHILE, SINGLE SOLID WHITE LINES WILL BE MARKED ON SOME SECTIONS OF CONTAINER PORT ROAD TO AVOID CONTAINER TRUCKS JUMPING QUEUES AND THUS BLOCKING THE TRAFFIC FLOW.

THE OPENING OF ROUTE 3 WHICH LINKS THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY TO THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING BY 1997 IS ALSO LIKELY TO RELIEVE CONGESTION ALONG THE KWAI CHUNG ROAD CORRIDOR.

TAC CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT TERMINAL OPERATORS BE ASKED TO REVIEW THEIR OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO AVOID PRECIPITATING A MAJOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION INCIDENT.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT A MEETING HAD RECENTLY BEEN HELD AMONG GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WITH THE OPERATORS TO DISCUSS MEASURES THAT COULD BE TAKEN TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF THE AUGUST 16 INCIDENT.

MEASURES AGREED AT THE MEETING INCLUDE:

- * AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM TO ALERT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE OF ANY ANTICIPATED UPSURGE IN CONTAINER TRAFFIC,
- * A PIECE OF TWO-HECTRE LAND TO BE PROVIDED FOR PARKING LORRIES DURING AN EMERGENCY,
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE WILL ENSURE THAT THE DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES OF THE CONTAINER PORTS ARE PROPERLY UTILISED,

- * A GOVERNMENT/CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP TO DISCUSS AND CO-ORDINATE ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF CONTAINER TERMINALS ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND
- * THE OPERATORS TO BE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGN AN APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR HANDLING CONTAINER ACTIVITIES.

THE ABOVE MEASURES WILL BE PURSUED AT A FURTHER INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEETING INVOLVING ALL THE TERMINAL OPERATORS LATER IN THE MONTH.

TAC ALSO CONSIDERED THAT CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN TERMINAL OPERATORS AND THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY WOULD HELP TO PROVIDE THE OPERATORS WITH UP-TO-DATE WEATHER INFORMATION FOR PLANNING THEIR OPERATIONS AHEAD AND FORMULATING CONTINGENCY MEASURES.

ON THE CONGESTION PROBLEM OF THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR, TAC WAS TOLD THAT ALTOGETHER NINE NEW BUS ROUTES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE MAY THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE COMMUTERS WHO MAY USE THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR WITH ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT SERVICES DURING THE PEAK HOURS.

ACCORDING TO SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES IN JUNE AND JULY, ROUTES 300 AND 301 HAVE EXTRACTED ABOUT 2,400 PASSENGERS FROM THE MTR BETWEEN 7.45 AM AND 9 AM ON AN AVERAGE WORKING DAY.

TAC ALSO NOTED THAT THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS PLANNING FOR A NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT STUDY (NACOPTS) TO EXAMINE THE NEED FOR AND PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ALONG THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR UP TO THE COMPLETION OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

NACOPTS WILL LOOK AT THE PLANNING OF ROAD-BASED PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND FERRY SERVICES TO HELP RELIEVE DEMAND ON THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE POTENTIAL GROWTH IN TRAVEL DEMAND, AND THE RELIEF MEASURES LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY THE MTRC.

THE STUDY IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE LATER THIS MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS' TIME.

AT THE MEETING, TAC WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE AWARD OF FRANCHISE TO CITYBUS LIMITED FOR A BUS SERVICE BETWEEN MACDONNELL ROAD AND CENTRAL.

TAC ALSO NOTED THE CONSUMER COUNCIL'S RECENT SUGGESTION OF CLOSER MONITORING AND CONSULTATION OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, INCLUDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHEME OF CONTROL. THE VIEWS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN GREATER DETAIL BY THE TAC PROBABLY AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

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REVISED TERMS FOR DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME

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TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR THOSE EXPRESSED BY THE AIDED SCHOOLS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL REVISE THE TERMS FOR THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME (DSS) FOR SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 1992, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"WHILE AIDED SCHOOLS WELCOMED THE FREEDOM AND FLEXIBILITY THAT THE DSS OFFERS, THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO FORGO THE SECURITY OF THEIR AIDED STATUS TO MAKE THE UNCERTAIN LEAP INTO THE PRIVATE SCHOOL SECTOR," HE SAID.

UNDER THE REVISED TERMS, AN AIDED SCHOOL JOINING THE DSS IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE, FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS, THE SAME SUBSIDY AS IT DOES NOW UNDER THE CODE OF AID.

IT WILL, FOR THE SAME PERIOD, REMAIN UNDER THE CODE OF AID FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF ITS SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

HOWEVER, THE SCHOOL CAN OTHERWISE OPERATE AS A DSS SCHOOL. IT CAN CHOOSE ITS OWN DSS STUDENTS, CHARGE FEES UP TO CERTAIN LEVEL IN ADDITION TO STANDARD FEES WITHOUT THE DSS SUBSIDY BEING REDUCED, AND DEVISE ITS OWN CURRICULA.

THE FEES IT COLLECTED CAN BE USED TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS OR TO ACCUMULATE CAPITAL. THIS WILL PROVIDE SECURITY.

AT THE END OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, THE SCHOOL WILL REVERT TO THE TERMS APPLICABLE TO ALL DSS SCHOOLS AND WILL RECEIVE SUBSIDY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BANDING SYSTEM.

AIDED SCHOOLS OPERATING BELOW THE AVERAGE UNIT COST OF AN AIDED PLACE WILL BE OFFERED THE OPTION OF RECEIVING SUBSIDY AT AN AVERAGE COST ON JOINING THE DSS.

"AS THE REVISED TERMS LARGELY ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF AIDED SCHOOLS, OTHER DSS SCHOOLS WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO THE SAME TERMS AS THEY ARE NOT ORIGINALLY UNDER THE CODE OF AID," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND THE DSS IS TO PROVIDE GREATER FREEDOM OF CHOICE FOR HONG KONG FAMILIES IN THE TYPE OF SCHOOLING AVAILABLE FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

"THIS GREATER FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED IF AIDED SCHOOLS DO NOT FORM A PART OF THE DSS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT MAY TAKE BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME SCHOOL FIVE TO 10 YEARS TO IMPROVE BEFORE THEY CAN JOIN THE DSS AND THOSE WHICH HAVE ALREADY JOINED THE SCHEME DO NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVES TO THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

NINE SCHOOLS, INCLUDING FOUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS, ARE NOW OPERATING UNDER THE DSS.

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'SOUTHERN DISTRICT IN PERSPECTIVE' CONTEST
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YOUTH CENTRES, SCHOOLS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ENTER TEAMS IN A DISTRICT AFFAIRS STUDY CONTEST ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT'S COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE "SOUTHERN DISTRICT IN PERSPECTIVE" CASE STUDY CONTEST IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' INTEREST AND KNOWLEDGE IN DISTRICT MATTERS.

PEOPLE AGED 15 OR ABOVE WHO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN THE DISTRICT ARE ALSO WELCOME TO FORM TEAMS, EACH COMPRISING AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS, FOR THE COMPETITION.

CONTESTANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT A RESEARCH PROJECT ON A SPECIFIC ISSUE RELATED TO THE DISTRICT, SUCH AS HOUSING, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT, EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL AMENITIES, ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAMMES.

BASED ON THEIR STUDY OUTLINES AND PERFORMANCE IN AN INTERVIEW, A TOTAL OF 10 TEAMS WILL BE SELECTED BY AN ADJUDICATING PANEL FOR THE FINALS.

THE FINALISTS WILL EACH BE GIVEN A GRANT OF \$500 FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THEIR FINDINGS AT AN OPEN SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 23.

THE PRESENTATION CAN BE IN THE FORM OF A SLIDE SHOW OR AN EXHIBITION, CARTOON STRIPS, AUDIO RECORDING AND OTHER FORMATS.

THE TOP THREE WINNING TEAMS AND THE OTHER FINALISTS WILL BE AWARDED ATTRACTIVE PRIZES.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE CONTEST ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF ABERDEEN CENTRE AND ITS SUB-OFFICE ON THE 23RD FLOOR, ABBA COMMERCIAL BUILDING, ABERDEEN MAIN ROAD.

THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS SEPTEMBER 18. ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 552 1006.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 44.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 259.648 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 306.773 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 52.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN KWUN TONG
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KWUN TONG, KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 11) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ELEGANCE ROAD, KWUN TONG ROAD, TING FU STREET, TING ON STREET, TING YIP STREET AND TING YU SQUARE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	7.9.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.9.91	+167
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-167
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.6 *-0.1* 9.9.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	9.9.91	6.9.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	5.01 PCT	5.17 PCT
1 MONTH	5.00 PCT	5.11 PCT
3 MONTHS	5.22 PCT	5.32 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.67 PCT	5.78 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.24 PCT	6.35 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	7,590 MN	5,785 MN

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