



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR HOPEFUL OF AN AGREEMENT ON MONDAY

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON ALTHOUGH THE DEFENCE LAND ISSUE WAS COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT, HE HOPED THAT AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED ON MONDAY.

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER OPENING THE PAMELA YUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL, MR PATTEN SAID: "WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DEFENCE ESTATE FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. THAT IS AN INDICATION OF HOW DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX THE ISSUES ARE.

"I THINK THAT IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WORKING EXTREMELY HARD OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO TRY TO PUT AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

"BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WORKING IMAGINATIVELY AND I THINK WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SINCERITY BECAUSE A GOOD SETTLEMENT IS GREATLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, AND THE USE OF SURPLUS LAND HERE IN HONG KONG."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE EXPERTS NEEDED A BIT MORE TIME TO TRY TO PUT THE FINAL PIECES IN PLACE.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO SO AND VERY MUCH HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET AN AGREEMENT ON MONDAY," HE ADDED.

ASKED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE CIVIL SERVANTS' PENSION SCHEME, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I THINK \$7 BILLION IS A VERY CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION AND I THINK THE COMMUNITY RECOGNISES THAT.

NOTING THAT ALL THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING IS UNDERPINNING WHAT IS ALREADY A PROMISE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, MR PATTEN SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE COMMUNITY EXPECTED THE FUTURE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION GOVERNMENT TO BREAK ITS WORDS TO HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS.

"IT WON'T. THE FUTURE OF THEIR PENSION IS ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED BUT BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME RESIDUAL ANXIETIES, WE AGREED TO PUT SOME EXTRA MONEY ON THE SIDE," HE SAID.

"I AM CONVINCED, I AM SURE EVERYBODY IS CONVINCED, THAT MONEY WON'T BE NEEDED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE WILL HONOUR ITS COMMITMENTS."

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TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER OPENING THE PAMELA YOUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON:

GOVERNOR : I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO OFFICIATE THE OPENING OF THIS SPLENDID HOSPITAL, WITH LADY YOUDE. I KNOW THAT EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG REMEMBERS LADY YOUDE WITH GREAT AFFECTION. I AM DELIGHTED THAT THIS SPLENDID NEW ADDITION TO HEALTH CARE IN HONG KONG IS GOING TO CARRY HER NAME. IT REALLY IS AN EXCELLENT HOSPITAL. IT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULT MANAGEMENT JOB IN THE HEALTH SERVICE NOW. A HOSPITAL AS LARGE AS THIS, WITH AS MANY RESOURCES AND AS MANY MEN AND WOMEN WORKING IN IT, NEEDS A GREAT DEAL OF MANAGING. BUT THE TEAM HERE IS EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE AND I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL DO AN EXCELLENT JOB IN PROVIDING BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR THIS PART OF HONG KONG.

QUESTION : SINCE THE CHAIRMAN OF HEUNG YEE KUK HAS FILED A WRIT TO THE SUPREME COURT, DO YOU THINK YOU WILL SIGN THE BILL, THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND (EXEMPTION) (AMENDMENT) BILL, WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGCO YESTERDAY ?

GOVERNOR : YES.

QUESTION : YOU WON'T DEFER YOUR APPROVAL, THE SIGNATURE TO THE BILL ?

GOVERNOR : I OBVIOUSLY WANT TO CONSULT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FIRST AND I'LL TAKE LEGAL ADVICE. BUT IT'S OBVIOUSLY OUR INTENTION TO SEE THE LEGISLATIVE WISHES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PASS ONTO THE STATUTORY BOOK.

QUESTION : SINCE THE JLG HAS GIVEN MORE TIME FOR THE DEFENCE EXPERTS TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION, DOES IT INDICATE THAT THEY ARE DELEGATED SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT COMING UP ON MONDAY ?

GOVERNOR : WE'VE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DEFENCE ESTATE FOR ABOUT SEVEN YEARS. THAT IS AN INDICATION OF HOW DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX THE ISSUES ARE. I THINK THAT IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WORKING EXTREMELY HARD OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO TRY TO PUT AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WORKING IMAGINATIVELY AND I THINK WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SINCERITY BECAUSE A GOOD SETTLEMENT IS GREATLY IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, AND THE USE OF SURPLUS LAND HERE IN HONG KONG. IT IS COMPLICATED. IT IS DIFFICULT. THE EXPERTS NEEDED A BIT MORE TIME TO TRY TO PUT THE FINAL PIECES IN PLACE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEY'LL BE ABLE TO DO SO AND VERY MUCH HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET AN AGREEMENT ON MONDAY. I THINK THAT'S GENUINELY WHAT BOTH SIDES WANT TO SEE. NO QUESTION ABOUT BOTH SIDES BEING COMMITTED TO AN AGREEMENT. BUT I REPEAT IT IS COMPLICATED AND WE ARE NOT QUITE THERE YET. BUT I HOPE WE WILL BE THERE ON MONDAY AND WHEN WE DO GET THERE, WE'LL OBVIOUSLY HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO BE GRATEFUL FOR TO THE NEGOTIATORS ON BOTH SIDES WHO'VE BEEN DOING SUCH A DIFFICULT JOB.

/QUESTION:

QUESTION : IF THERE IS GOING TO BE A DEFENCE LAND AGREEMENT, CAN YOU AND THE ADMINISTRATION GUARANTEE THERE ARE APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENCE INSTALLATION AND THE MILITARY INSTALLATION FOR THE PLA IN LEGCO ?

GOVERNOR : AS YOU KNOW, ANY AGREEMENT WHICH INVOLVES FUNDING WILL HAVE TO GO AND DISCUSS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUESTION : DO YOU THINK THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD CLAIM SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THOSE DEMONSTRATIONS, RIOTS OR CONFUSION STAGED BY THE PEOPLE COMING FROM HEUNG YEE KUK ?

GOVERNOR : NO, THAT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE PART, NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN HONG KONG, PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE PEACEFULLY TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN PEACEFULLY WITHIN THE LAW. I ALWAYS DEFEND THAT RIGHT. EQUALLY I HOPE PEOPLE, WHEN THEY EXERCISE THAT RIGHT, WILL DO SO CALMLY AND PEACEFULLY.

QUESTION : THE CHINESE SIDE ATTACKS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FOR ONLY PUTTING ABOUT \$ 7 BILLION INTO THE CIVIL SERVANTS' PENSION SCHEME. ARE YOU GOING TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IN ORDER TO

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GOVERNOR : I THINK \$7 BILLION IS A VERY CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION AND I THINK THE COMMUNITY RECOGNISES THAT. OF COURSE, ALL THAT WE ARE DOING IS UNDERPINNING WHAT IS ALREADY A PROMISE IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW. SO I DON'T THINK THAT THE COMMUNITY EXPECTS THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT TO BREAK ITS WORDS TO HONG KONG CIVIL SERVANTS. IT WON'T. THE FUTURE OF THEIR PENSION IS ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEED BUT BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME RESIDUAL ANXIETIES, WE AGREED TO PUT SOME EXTRA MONEY ON THE SIDE. I AM CONVINCED, I AM SURE EVERYBODY IS CONVINCED, THAT MONEY WON'T BE NEEDED BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE WILL HONOUR ITS COMMITMENTS. THANKS VERY MUCH.

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NEW HOSPITAL SERVES EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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THE OPENING OF THE PAMELA YOUDE NETHERSOLE EASTERN HOSPITAL IN CHAI WAN IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR MEDICAL CARE IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

OFFICIATING AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY, MR PATTEN SAID: "IT IS THE FIRST HOSPITAL COMMISSIONED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY SINCE ITS INDEPENDENT OPERATION IN DECEMBER 1991."

"AND IT WILL PUT INTO PRACTICE A NUMBER OF NEW IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE," HE SAID.

THE HOSPITAL WILL PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN ALL MAJOR CLINICAL SPECIALTIES, ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND SPECIALIST OUT-PATIENT SERVICES TO SERVE THE GROWING POPULATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

THE LATEST INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WILL BE APPLIED TO IMPROVE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION. A CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF HOUSEKEEPING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENHANCE COST-EFFECTIVENESS.

"THE OPENING OF THIS HOSPITAL IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS," MR PATTEN SAID.

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HK DEBT MARKET MAKES SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY
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SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY IS BEING MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEBT MARKET IN HONG KONG, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

BOOSTED BY FAVOURABLE MARKET CONDITIONS, HE SAID, THE NUMBER OF DEBT SECURITIES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG INCREASED FOUR TIMES IN 1993 WHILE FUNDS RAISED TOTALLED \$190 BILLION, REPRESENTING A REMARKABLE INCREASE OF 41 TIMES.

SIR HAMISH WAS SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HE NOTED THAT IN TERMS OF PATTERN OF ISSUERS, THE RELATIVE SHARE OF SUPRANATIONALS IN ISSUE ACTIVITY HAD RISEN TO 27 PER CENT IN 1993, MUCH HIGHER THAN THE FIVE PER CENT IN 1991.

HE ADDED THAT MANY OF THESE AGENCIES ENJOYED TRIPLE A CREDIT RATINGS, WHILE THE REST OF THE MARKET WAS SHARED BY BANKING INSTITUTIONS, CORPORATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

"THE STRONG PRESENCE OF SUPRANATIONALS INDICATES THE GROWING RECOGNITION OF HONG KONG AS ONE OF THE MAJOR FUND-RAISING CENTRES IN THE WORLD," HE SAID.

IN TERMS OF MATURITY PROFILE, HE SAID, THERE WAS ALSO A TREND TOWARDS THE ISSUE OF LONGER TERM PAPER.

PAPER WITH MATURITY OF SEVEN YEARS OR MORE ACCOUNTED FOR 43 PER CENT OF PAPER ISSUED IN 1993, COMPARED WITH FOUR PER CENT IN 1991.

SIR HAMISH SAID THIS ILLUSTRATED THE GROWING MATURITY OF THE MARKET AND REFLECTED CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DENOMINATED ASSETS WELL BEYOND 1997.

RECOGNISING THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT BORROWING NORMALLY HELPED ESTABLISH THE BENCHMARK FOR PRIVATE SECTOR BORROWERS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INTRODUCED EXCHANGE FUND PAPER OF LONGER MATURITY WITH A VIEW TO BUILDING UP A BENCHMARK YIELD CURVE.

"WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING PUSHING THE BENCHMARK YIELD FURTHER TO THE FIVE-YEAR RANGE, A DECISION WHICH WOULD BE MADE TOWARDS THE LATTER PART OF THIS YEAR WHEN MARKET PERCEPTION OF THE '1997 RISK' BECOMES CLEARER ON THE LAUNCH OF THE JULY ISSUE OF THREE-YEAR EXCHANGE FUND NOTES, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND WITH A REPAYMENT DATE BEYOND JUNE 1997," HE SAID.

ON PROVIDING AN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARKET, SIR HAMISH POINTED OUT THAT THE STOCK EXCHANGE HAD INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES RECENTLY TO ENCOURAGE LISTINGS OF DEBT INSTRUMENTS ON THE EXCHANGE.

BESIDES WORKING WITH THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE MARKET PRACTITIONERS TO CONSIDER MEANS TO DEVELOP THE MARKET, THE GOVERNMENT HAD THROUGH THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY BEEN PROVIDING A CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEM FOR EXCHANGE FUND PAPER RUN BY THE CENTRAL MONEYMARKETS UNIT (CMU) SINCE MARCH 1990, HE SAID.

THE CMU HAS SINCE JANUARY 31 THIS YEAR EXTENDED A SIMILAR CLEARING AND CUSTODIAN SERVICE TO HONG KONG DOLLAR PAPER ISSUED BY PARTIES OTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT.

SIR HAMISH ADDED THAT BEYOND THE CMU SERVICE, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO LOOKING AT VARIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO THE PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY MAKE DELIVERY AGAINST PAYMENT POSSIBLE AND THEREBY GREATLY REDUCING SETTLEMENT RISKS.

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JLG ADJOURN TODAY

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IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE DEFENCE LANDS EXPERTS TO COMPLETE THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAVE DECIDED TO ADJOURN THEIR MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY). THE MEETING WILL RESUME ON MONDAY (JUNE 27). THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WILL, AS ANNOUNCED, MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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WHITEHEAD REPORT DEFENDED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) REJECTED CRITICISMS BY FIVE UNITED STATES-BASED PRESSURE GROUPS OF THE WHITEHEAD REPORT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONCERN, THE GOVERNOR ASKED TWO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (JPS) TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH AND ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE EVENTS AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE ON APRIL 7.

THEY INTERVIEWED 265 VIETNAMESE WITNESSES, ABOUT 100 OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AS WELL AS UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS.

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THEY ALSO EXAMINED ALL THE RELEVANT OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS, SAW VIDEO RECORDINGS OF THE OPERATION AND CONSIDERED SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE REPORT OF THE INQUIRY WAS PUBLISHED IN FULL ON JUNE 15. ON THE SAME DAY, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED ALL OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

"THIS WAS A VERY THOROUGH AND AUTHORITATIVE REPORT. IT IS VERY HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANY OBJECTIVE READER COULD DISMISS IT AS A 'WHITEWASH'," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE TWO JPS CONCLUDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH WAS APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT A NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE WERE ASSAULTED DURING THE OPERATION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN ITS RESPONSE TO THE REPORT THAT IT FINDS THIS A "SERIOUS AND DISTURBING FINDING".

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS NEARING COMPLETION AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS WOULD THEN CONSIDER THE CASE FOR BRINGING CHARGES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE CASE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST OFFICERS INVOLVED.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEPTED THE REPORT WITHOUT RESERVATION AND HAD MOVED QUICKLY TO ACT ON THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE IS BOTH UNFAIR AND UNTRUE.

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AIRPORT PROJECTS IMPORTANT TO HK-CHINA LINK

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THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID IN SPAIN YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME HAD BECOME THE HEART OF AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY UNDERPINNING THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF THE TERRITORY AND ITS POSITION AS THE PRINCIPAL GATEWAY TO CHINA.

ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL SUPER PROJECTS CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA, MR BLAKE DESCRIBED THE CORE PROJECTS AS ONE OF THE BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES OF A COMPLETELY INTEGRATED NATURE ATTEMPTED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR MANY YEARS, HONG KONG HAS BEEN AN AVIATION CENTRE AND SHIPPING CENTRE FOR THE EAST ASIA REGION, BUT IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA, IT HAS HAD TO DEVELOP OTHER TYPES OF TRANSPORT LINKS - ROAD, RAIL, RIVER TRAFFIC AND REGIONAL AVIATION LINKS.

MANY OF THE CORE PROJECTS UNDER THE AIRPORT PROGRAMME WOULD SERVE THE PURPOSE.

/FURTHERMORE, MR

FURTHERMORE, MR BLAKE SAID, FUTURE RAILWAY SYSTEMS PROPOSED IN THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT STUDY SHOULD HELP SECURE HONG KONG'S STRATEGIC ROLE AS A PORT, TRADE AND BUSINESS CENTRE IN THE REGION.

A NEW FREIGHT RAIL LINE FROM CHINA BORDER TO HONG KONG'S PORT IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSALS, HE SAID.

MR BLAKE SAID THERE WAS ALSO PLAN TO BUILD ROUTE-3, A DUAL THREE-LANE HIGHWAY IN THE WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES LINKING THE BORDER WITH CHINA AND OPEN IN 1998.

THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE WILL BE AN INTEGRATED RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM, THAT MATCHES DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA, AND BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS OF ACCESS INTO THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT IN THE TERRITORIES, HE SAID.

IN HIS SPEECH, MR BLAKE ALSO GAVE BRIEF ACCOUNTS OF HONG KONG'S 10 AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS AND THEIR PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COST CONTROL.

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HK OFFERS WIDE RANGE OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS

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A WIDE RANGE OF OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR OVERSEAS INVESTORS INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THE ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES IN HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SHE WAS ADDRESSING A SEMINAR ON "HONG KONG'S OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRENCH MANUFACTURERS" AT THE BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS (BNP) WORKSHOP IN PARIS DURING THE SECOND LEG OF HER EUROPEAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION VISIT THIS MONTH.

MISS YUE SAID IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR, FRENCH INVESTORS MIGHT CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SUCCESSFUL DIVISION OF LABOUR BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

"THEY CAN LOCATE THE LOW VALUE-ADDED, LABOUR- AND LAND-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN CHINA, AND CONTROL THESE OPERATIONS FROM HONG KONG TO CAPITALISE ON THE WELL-DEVELOPED FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION FACILITIES THAT EXIST IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

"FRENCH ENTREPRENEURS MAY ALSO CONSIDER MAKING THE MOST OF THE EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND HIGH QUALITY HUMAN RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG BY UNDERTAKING THE MORE SKILL- AND KNOWLEDGE-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES IN THE TERRITORY," SHE ADDED.

BEING STRATEGICALLY SITUATED AT THE HUB OF ASIA-PACIFIC, HONG KONG IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT LOCATION FOR FRENCH INVESTORS WHO WISH TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE HUGE MARKET OPPORTUNITIES OF THE REGION AS A RESULT OF ITS GROWING AFFLUENCE.

"TO ILLUSTRATE, 11 OF HONG KONG'S TOP 20 TRADING PARTNERS ARE FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"IN 1993, HONG KONG'S TOTAL TRADE WITH ECONOMIES IN THE REGION GREW BY 13 PER CENT. IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994 ALONE, THERE WAS ANOTHER 10 PER CENT TO 11 PER CENT GROWTH," MISS YUE SAID.

THE ACCUMULATION OF MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW AND CONTACTS WITH EMERGING MARKETS IN ASIA MAKES HONG KONG AN EXCELLENT LAUNCH-PAD FOR THESE MARKETS.

THIS HAD BEEN RECOGNISED BY MANY MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT SOME 1,500 OVERSEAS COMPANIES HAD SET UP REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND REPRESENTATIONAL OFFICES IN HONG KONG, MISS YUE SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT SUBSTANTIAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ALSO EXISTED IN THE STARTLING GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE.

"IN THE LAST DECADE, TOTAL RE-EXPORT TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA GREW BY NINE-FOLD, FROM US\$3.6 BILLION TO US\$35.2 BILLION.

"LAST YEAR, HONG KONG RE-EXPORTED GOODS VALUED AT US\$14.3 BILLION FROM CHINA TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, AND GOODS VALUED AT US\$3.7 BILLION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO CHINA," MISS YUE SAID.

THIS WAS AMPLE REFLECTION OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA AND THE WINDOW FOR CHINA TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, SHE SAID.

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TRADE SANCTIONS IMPAIR FREE TRADE - D-G OF TRADE
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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE TRADE AND DENOUNCED THE USE OF TRADE SANCTIONS AS A LEVER FOR IMPROVING LABOUR RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

HE HAILED FREE TRADE AS "THE MOST EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC ENGINE OF GROWTH THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE," AND WARNED THAT "WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVATION, TRADE SANCTIONS, LIKE SAND IN A GEARBOX, IMPAIR THE EFFICIENCY OF THAT MACHINE."

MR MILLER WAS SPEAKING HIS THOUGHTS ON THE WAY FORWARD IN MULTILATERAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS LINKING TRADE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, AND TRADE AND COMPETITION POLICIES, IN AN ADDRESS TO THE HONG KONG - CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN TORONTO.

UNDERLINING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FREE TRADE - "THE FREE MARKET WORKING INTERNATIONALLY" AS HE TERMED IT, HE SPOKE STRONGLY AGAINST THE USE OF TRADE SANCTIONS FOR NON-TRADE ENDS AND SAID HONG KONG SHARED VIEWS RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY THE CANADIAN TRADE MINISTER, MR ROY MACLAREN.

MR MACLAREN HAD SAID: "IT ALWAYS STRIKES ME AS PARADOXICAL THAT IN ANY DISCUSSION ON FREE TRADE, THAT WHENEVER LABOUR AND ENVIRONMENT COME UP, IMMEDIATELY YOU GO TO TRADE SANCTIONS - HARDLY COMPATIBLE WITH A FREER TRADE ARRANGEMENT."

MR MILLER TOLD THE LUNCHEON MEETING THAT "WE IN HONG KONG COULD NOT AGREE MORE WITH THESE SENTIMENTS, ARDENT ADVOCATES THOUGH WE ARE OF BOTH LABOUR RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION."

HE RECALLED THAT HONG KONG HAD LOBBIED AGAINST THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S LINKING CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION TRADING STATUS WITH IMPROVEMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, SIMPLY BECAUSE SUCH SANCTIONS WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. LINKAGES IN OTHER AREAS WERE JUST AS LIKELY TO FAIL.

"WHILE TRADE SANCTIONS ARE OFTEN SEIZED ON AS A SEEMINGLY CONVENIENT LEVER BY ADVOCATES OF A VARIETY OF NON-TRADE REFORMS, GENERALLY SPEAKING THEY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD," HE SAID.

"TRADE SANCTIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE LABOUR CONDITIONS, INSTEAD THEY WOULD HURT MOST THOSE THEY AIMED TO HELP."

"TRADE SANCTIONS WILL NOT HELP TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT, THOSE ALREADY IN PLACE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INCALCULABLE DAMAGE."

SPEAKING ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, MR MILLER POINTED OUT THAT FREE TRADE WAS ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY.

"JUST AS FREE MARKET FORCES OPERATING INTERNALLY ENSURE THE BEST USE OF RESOURCES WITHIN A COUNTRY, SO FREE TRADE INTERNATIONALLY ENSURES THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER GLOBALLY," HE EXPLAINED.

"BY ENSURING THE MOST EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES ON A GLOBAL SCALE, FREE TRADE HELPS TO CONSERVE THEM.

"ALL BARRIERS TO TRADE, ALL SUBSIDIES, ALL PROTECTIONIST DEVICES ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY INTERFERE WITH THIS GLOBALLY EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES."

IN THIS CONTEXT, MR MILLER HIGHLIGHTED THE EXTRAORDINARILY HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OF CURRENT DISTORTIONS TO WORLD TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CAUSED BY MASSIVE SUBSIDIES AND OTHER PROTECTIONIST DEVICES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, SUBSIDIES ENCOURAGED THE USE OF MARGINAL LAND WHICH WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE FARMED AND WHICH REQUIRED EXCESSIVE USE OF FERTILISERS AND PESTICIDES.

"TRADE POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES NEED NOT BE INCOMPATIBLE. FREE TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE OBJECTIVES.

"INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT TRADE SANCTIONS AS A WAY OF ENFORCING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS INTERNATIONALLY, WE SHOULD BE SEEKING OUT AND ELIMINATING ALL THE EXISTING PROTECTIONIST TRADE MEASURES WHICH WASTE RESOURCES AND DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT."

TURNING TO COMPETITION POLICY, MR MILLER SAID TRADE RESTRAINTS TOO OFTEN RESULTED FROM CLOSED-DOOR DEALS WITH VESTED INTERESTS.

"THESE DISENFRANCHISE CONSUMERS, REDUCING THEIR FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND FORCING THEM TO PAY MORE," HE SAID.

"DISCUSSIONS IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND ELSEWHERE ARE BEGINNING TO TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON THESE ISSUES AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN COMPETITION POLICY AND ANTI-DUMPING.

"THE TRICK WILL BE TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE CONSUMER. IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY, NATIONAL INTERESTS AND BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE ONLY IDENTICAL WHEN, AND TO THE EXTENT THAT, THEY WORK TOWARDS THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMON MAN AND WOMAN."

MR MILLER SAID THE CLOSING YEARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY HAD SEEN THE TRIUMPH OF THE MARKET OVER CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMICS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

"THE CHALLENGE AS WE ENTER THE NEW MILLENNIUM IS TO ENSURE THAT THE MARKET TRIUMPHS INTERNATIONALLY AS WELL, IN THE VICTORY OF FREE TRADE OVER MANAGED TRADE," HE SAID.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE RATES

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMES THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY DR STEWART MACPHERSON OF THE CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG ON THE ADEQUACY OF SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE RATES IN HONG KONG. WE WILL EXAMINE VERY CAREFULLY THE DETAILS OF ITS FINDINGS WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

"THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME PROVIDES A SAFETY NET FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

"THE CSSA RATES ARE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW TO ENSURE THAT THOSE IN NEED ARE GIVEN THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. WE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESEARCH FINDINGS IN OUR REVIEW.

"THE CSSA RATES HAVE INCREASED BY ALMOST 15 TIMES OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES WHILE THE RATE OF INFLATION AS MEASURED BY CPI(A) HAS GONE UP BY ONLY SIX TIMES DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

"WE HAVE ALSO MORE THAN DOUBLED OUR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS FROM \$2.6 BILLION FIVE YEARS AGO TO \$6 BILLION IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR."

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SEWAGE SERVICES BILL TO BE GAZETTED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED THAT LEGISLATION BE MADE TO ENABLE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SEWAGE CHARGING SCHEME TO HELP RECOVER THE OPERATING COSTS OF SEWAGE SERVICES.

THE SEWAGE SERVICE BILL, WHICH ENABLES THE INTRODUCTION OF A SEWAGE CHARGE AND A TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE ON THE SEWAGE SERVICE USERS, WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 6.

IN LINE WITH THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THOSE WHO ARE CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SEWERAGE AND WHO USE SEWAGE SERVICES SHOULD PAY FOR THE SERVICES THEY USE.

TO ENABLE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SEWAGE SERVICE COSTS AMONG USERS, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO CHARGING ELEMENTS IN THE SEWAGE CHARGE - A FIXED CHARGE AND A VARIABLE CHARGE.

THE FIXED CHARGE IS TO RECOVER THE COST FOR THE PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM. IT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE CONSUMER CATEGORY AND THE WATER METER SIZE RELEVANT TO THE SERVICE USER.

THE VARIABLE CHARGE, WHICH IS TO RECOVER THE COST OF PROVIDING SEWAGE TREATMENT, WILL BE CALCULATED ACCORDING TO THE USER'S WATER CONSUMPTION.

TO PROVIDE AN INCENTIVE FOR USERS TO USE LESS WATER, THE BILL PROPOSES THAT LOW-USER HOUSEHOLDS - WHO CONSUME 13 CUBIC METRES OF WATER OR LESS IN A FOUR-MONTH BILLING PERIOD - SHOULD BE EXEMPTED FROM THE SEWAGE CHARGES AS THEY ARE UNDER THE PRESENT WATER TARIFF.

ABOUT 17 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS EXEMPTION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT OF THE REMAINING HOUSEHOLDS, ABOUT 50 PER CENT WILL PAY SEWAGE CHARGES OF LESS THAN \$15 A MONTH, AND 30 PER CENT BETWEEN \$16 AND \$30 A MONTH.

TO MINIMISE THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED CHARGING SCHEME, THE SEWAGE CHARGE WILL BE INCORPORATED, BUT SEPARATELY ITEMISED, IN A WATER BILL TO BE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES.

IN ADDITION TO A SEWAGE CHARGE, THE MORE POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGES OR TRADE EFFLUENT WILL BE SUBJECT TO A TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE.

THE SURCHARGE WILL REFLECT THE ADDITIONAL COST OF PROVIDING TREATMENT FOR TRADE EFFLUENT WITH A STRENGTH ABOVE THAT OF DOMESTIC SEWAGE.

THE TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE WILL BE BILLED SEPARATELY FROM THE SEWAGE CHARGE AND WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE TREASURY THROUGH STANDARD GOVERNMENT BILLING PROCEDURES.

THE SEWAGE SERVICES BILL ALSO SETS OUT PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENT AND UNPAID CHARGES.

IF A SEWAGE CHARGE IS NOT PAID WITHIN A PERIOD SPECIFIED IN A PAYMENT NOTICE, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES MAY EXERCISE HIS POWERS UNDER THE WATERWORKS ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A PENALTY OF FIVE PER CENT OF THE UNPAID CHARGE AND MAY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY, CUT OFF THE WATER SUPPLY SHOULD SUCH CHARGE REMAIN UNPAID.

FOR AN UNPAID TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE, A PENALTY MAY BE LEVIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TO BE MADE UNDER THE BILL.

THE BILL ALSO INCLUDES PROVISIONS ENABLING A SERVICE USER TO APPLY TO THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR A REVIEW OF FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT THE LEVEL OF CHARGES.

THESE FACTORS MAY INCLUDE AN ERROR IN WATER CONSUMPTION, THE STRENGTH OF A TRADE EFFLUENT OR THE VOLUME OF DISCHARGE USED IN DETERMINING THE CHARGE.

AN APPLICANT MAY ALSO APPEAL TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL BOARD AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY.

THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SEWAGE CHARGE AND THE TRADE EFFLUENT SURCHARGE AND THE CALCULATIONS OF THE CHARGING RATES WILL BE SET OUT IN THE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION TO BE MADE UNDER THE SEWAGE SERVICES BILL.

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PLANS TO IMPROVE STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN WEST KOWLOON BY FURTHER IMPROVING THE STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ENGAGED A CONSULTANCY TO CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING ANY DEFICIENCIES OF THE EXISTING DRAINAGE SYSTEMS OF WEST KOWLOON.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES (OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE), MR SIH NAM-SEN, SIGNED A CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT ON THE STUDY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MAUNSELL CONSULTANTS ASIA LIMITED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

MR SIH SAID THE WEST KOWLOON STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT STUDY WOULD COVER THE AREA EXTENDING FROM TSIM SHA TSUI IN THE SOUTH, ALONG THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE PENINSULA, TO CHEUNG SHA WAN IN THE NORTH.

"THE FIRM IS COMMISSIONED TO DEVELOP A DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN AND AN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME FOR THE REQUIRED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS BY OCTOBER 1995.

"DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF THE PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN STAGES IN 1996 FOR COMPLETION IN 2003," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT WEST KOWLOON WAS A MAJOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREA WITH A POPULATION OF ABOUT 734,000, MR SIH SAID THE AREA WAS HOWEVER LOW-LYING AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING.

IMPORTANT TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND TRUNK ROADS, SUCH AS THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY, NATHAN ROAD, FERRY STREET, ARE LOCATED IN THIS AREA.

"ON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, THE RESIDENTS AND ROAD USERS IN WEST KOWLOON WOULD BE FURTHER PROTECTED FROM FLOODING," MR SIH SAID.

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RESULTS OF 1992 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

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THE GROSS OUTPUT PERFORMED BY MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN 1992 AMOUNTED TO \$331.2 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 2.2% OVER 1991.

NET OF TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE, THE GROSS SURPLUS OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO 11.6% OF THE GROSS OUTPUT IN 1992. THIS WAS 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE OF 10.5% FOR 1991.

THE VALUE ADDED, WHICH IS A MEASURE OF THE SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, AMOUNTED TO \$97.4 BILLION IN 1992. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 5.1% OVER 1991.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE 1992 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FROM APRIL 1993 TO EARLY 1994.

ALL VALUE FIGURES IN THIS PRESS RELEASE ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICES. THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES. CAUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS.

IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE SHARE OF GROSS OUTPUT, THE OPERATING EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO 88.4% IN 1992. THIS COMPRISED 16.4% FOR COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES; 61.3% FOR CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND INDUSTRIAL WORK/SERVICES; AND 10.7% FOR OTHER EXPENSES.

COMPARED WITH 1991, THESE PERCENTAGES REMAINED GENERALLY UNCHANGED EXCEPT THAT THE PERCENTAGE SHARE FOR CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES AND INDUSTRIAL WORK/SERVICES DECREASED BY 1.4 PERCENTAGE POINTS WHILE THAT FOR OTHER EXPENSES INCREASED BY 0.3 PERCENTAGE POINT.

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THE VALUE ADDED CONTENT OF THE GROSS OUTPUT PERFORMED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO 29.4%, COMPRISING MAINLY 16.4% FOR COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND 11.6% FOR GROSS SURPLUS.

COMPARED WITH 1991, THE FORMER PROPORTION REMAINED UNCHANGED WHILE THE LATTER INCREASED BY 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS.

THE SURVEY RESULTS ALSO SHOWED THAT THERE WERE SOME 41,700 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING IN 1992.

IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED, THE FIVE LARGEST BROAD INDUSTRY GROUPS IN 1992 WERE 1. BASIC METALS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, ACCOUNTING FOR 21.4% OF THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; 2. WEARING APPAREL, 20.1%; 3. TEXTILES, 15.2%; 4. ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, 12.7%; AND 5. PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING, 10.7%.

MODERATE INCREASES IN VALUE ADDED IN 1992 WERE RECORDED IN THE PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRY (+10.0%) AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (+8.1%). HOWEVER, MODERATE DECREASES WERE SHOWN IN THE CHEMICAL, RUBBER AND NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (-9.6%) AND THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY (-7.9%).

THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, ANALYSED BY BROAD INDUSTRY GROUP, ARE SHOWN IN THE ANNEXED TABLE.

APART FROM MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS, THE SURVEY ALSO ENUMERATED ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN I. MINING AND QUARRYING; AND II. SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 1992 SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE JUNE 1994 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DETAILS OF THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A FULL REPORT AVAILABLE IN AUGUST 1994.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING STATISTICS ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3246.

/Summary results

Summary results of the 1992 Survey of Industrial Production
analysed by broad manufacturing industry group

Broad industry group	Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Compensation of employees (\$ Mn)	Consumption of materials, supplies & industrial work/services (\$ Mn)	Other expenses (\$ Mn)	Gross surplus (net of "textile export quota transfer receipts") (\$ Mn)	Gross output (\$ Mn)	Value added (\$ Mn)
Food, beverages and tobacco	805 (-6)	26 158 (-4)	2,918 (5)	9,770 (8)	3,005 (10)	4,205 (3)	19,898 (7)	7,093 (2)
Wearing apparel, except knitwear and footwear	6 516 (-12)	169 412 (-10)	13,130 (*)	39,940 (1)	7,687 (9)	4,359 (22)	65,116 (3)	19,540 (6)
Leather, wood and cork products	1 812 (-9)	10 659 (-18)	773 (-9)	2,731 (-7)	524 (-4)	404 (-1)	4,432 (-7)	1,200 (-7)
Textiles (including knitting)	4 606 (-2)	89 280 (-10)	8,503 (*)	33,027 (-7)	5,576 (-2)	5,103 (26)	52,209 (-3)	14,800 (6)
Paper products, printing and publishing	6 381 (-2)	52 504 (-6)	5,290 (4)	14,160 (7)	3,290 (9)	4,759 (17)	27,498 (8)	10,399 (10)
Chemicals, rubber & non-metallic mineral products	1 003 (-11)	12 244 (-9)	1,433 (5)	6,894 (-8)	1,623 (10)	1,351 (-15)	11,300 (-5)	2,939 (-10)
Plastic products	3 511 (-7)	32 608 (-16)	2,797 (-3)	9,187 (-2)	1,968 (2)	1,912 (-9)	15,865 (-3)	4,824 (-8)
Basic metals, fabricated metal products, machinery & equipment	13 695 (-1)	125 734 (-4)	12,027 (9)	46,402 (1)	6,688 (12)	8,495 (5)	73,612 (3)	20,892 (7)
Electrical & electronic products	794 (-15)	51 019 (-17)	5,348 (*)	32,043 (3)	4,172 (*)	6,546 (23)	48,110 (5)	12,396 (8)
Other manufacturing industries	2 582 (-5)	22 738 (-4)	2,087 (3)	8,860 (*)	1,055 (-4)	1,200 (39)	13,202 (3)	3,361 (11)
All manufacturing industries	41 706 (-5)	592 354 (-9)	54,307 (2)	203,015 (*)	35,589 (6)	38,333 (12)	331,243 (2)	97,445 (5)

Notes : (1) Individual entries may not add up exactly to the respective totals due to rounding.

(2) Figures in brackets represent percentage changes in 1992 over 1991.

(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product.

(4) The "Number of person engaged" are 'full-year equivalent' figures, i.e. for an establishment which operated for only part of 1992, the number of persons engaged as at the end of the quarters during which the establishment operated are summed up and divided by 4.

* Changes within +/- 0.5%

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES
SURVEY FOR APRIL RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN APRIL 1994, ESTIMATED AT \$15.2 BILLION, INCREASED BY 15% WHEN COMPARED WITH APRIL 1993, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 8% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN APRIL 94 OVER APRIL 93 WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A STRONG GROWTH IN SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR (41% IN VALUE AND 29% IN VOLUME), AND SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES (15% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME).

SALES OF FUELS AND SALES IN SUPERMARKETS BOTH INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY 10% IN VALUE. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE INCREASES WERE 8% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY. SALES OF JEWELLERY AND WATCHES ALSO INCREASED BY 10% IN VALUE BUT RECORDED NO CHANGE IN VOLUME.

MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, BY 9% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME; SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS, BY 7% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME; SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES, BY 4% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 17% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1994, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN APRIL 1994 DECREASED BY 4% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR MARCH 1994 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR APRIL 1994.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN MARCH AND APRIL 1994 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE APRIL 1994 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR MARCH 1994 AND THOSE FOR APRIL 1993, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO APRIL OF 1994 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE APRIL 1994 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$3.00 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for April 1994 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,213.8 million
for March 1994 (Revised Figure) = HK\$15,838.5 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR MARCH 1994 AND APRIL 1994

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Type of Outlet	Index of Retail Sales	March 1994	April 1994	April 1994 compared with March 1994		April 1994 compared with April 1993		Jan.-Apr.1994 compared with Jan.-Apr.1993	
				(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	168.7	162.0	-6.7	-3.9	+20.7	+14.7	+25.0	+17.1
	Volume	138.7	129.1	-9.6	-6.9	+9.3	+7.7	+13.7	+10.9
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	129.4	128.7	-0.7	-0.6	+8.0	+6.6	+9.9	+8.2
	Volume	100.8	102.5	+1.7	+1.7	+4.2	+4.2	+5.3	+5.5
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	151.4	141.9	-9.5	-6.3	+13.4	+10.4	+19.9	+14.9
	Volume	110.7	102.4	-8.2	-7.4	+3.3	+3.3	+8.7	+8.3
Fuels	Value	136.3	146.9	+10.6	+7.8	+13.6	+10.2	+1.3	+1.0
	Volume	98.0	105.6	+7.6	+7.7	+7.5	+7.6	-1.5	-1.6
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	219.1	236.5	+17.5	+8.0	+68.5	+40.7	+60.5	+33.6
	Volume	171.8	166.5	-5.4	-3.1	+37.8	+29.3	+36.1	+24.7
Consumer durable goods	Value	187.2	169.7	-17.5	-9.3	+8.8	+5.4	+17.7	+10.7
	Volume	159.1	144.5	-14.6	-9.2	+2.5	+1.7	+10.0	+6.9
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	176.2	147.0	-29.3	-16.6	+11.8	+8.7	+5.2	+2.9
	Volume	130.7	108.6	-22.1	-16.9	+2.0	+1.9	-6.8	-4.7
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	195.1	186.2	-8.9	-4.6	+6.6	+3.7	+26.8	+17.3
	Volume	179.7	170.5	-9.1	-5.1	+2.8	+1.7	+22.1	+15.1
Department stores	Value	139.1	135.1	-4.0	-2.9	+17.7	+15.0	+17.5	+12.8
	Volume	110.3	99.7	-10.7	-9.7	+6.6	+7.1	+7.4	+6.5
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	186.4	156.1	-30.3	-16.3	+14.7	+10.4	+30.1	+21.1
	Volume	178.9	148.1	-30.8	-17.2	+0.2	+0.1	+13.6	+9.0
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	176.1	178.7	+2.6	+1.5	+28.6	+19.1	+35.2	+24.0
	Volume	141.6	142.6	+1.0	+0.7	+18.5	+14.9	+24.6	+20.1

NOTE : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1994

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RESULTS OF THE 1992 SURVEY OF VARIOUS SERVICE INDUSTRIES RELEASED
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THE BUSINESS SERVICES, COMMUNICATION AND INSURANCE INDUSTRIES REGISTERED SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN 1992.

COMPARED WITH 1991, THE BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, THAT IS TOTAL RECEIPTS WENT UP BY 23%, 22% AND 20% IN VALUE TERMS FOR THE THREE SERVICE INDUSTRIES RESPECTIVELY.

THE STORAGE INDUSTRY ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 12% IN THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OVER 1991. A MILD INCREASE OF 3% WAS REGISTERED IN THE FINANCING (EXCEPT BANKING) INDUSTRY.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE 1992 SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED FROM JUNE 1993 TO EARLY 1994.

ALL VALUE FIGURES HERE ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICE TERMS. PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES. CAUTION SHOULD THEREFORE BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE SURVEY RESULTS.

IN 1992, THERE WERE 15,500 ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN THE BUSINESS SERVICES INDUSTRY, AN INCREASE OF 18% OVER 1991.

THE INDUSTRY INCLUDES LEGAL, ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, DATA PROCESSING, ADVERTISING AND MARKETING FIRMS AND COMPANIES PROVIDING MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES SUCH AS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTANCY, EMPLOYMENT, SECRETARIAL, TECHNICAL AND MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT RENTAL SERVICES.

TOTAL RECEIPTS GENERATED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO \$48.3 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 23% OVER 1991.

THE GROSS SURPLUS OF THE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 20.3% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, A DROP OF 2.0 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE OF THE INDUSTRY (COMPRISING COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES, OPERATING EXPENSES AND VALUE OF PURCHASES OF GOODS FOR SALE) AMOUNTED TO 79.7% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS. THIS WAS 2.0 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS, WHICH IS A MEASURE OF THE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, GREW BY 20% FROM \$19.0 BILLION IN 1991 TO \$22.9 BILLION IN 1992.

IT CONSTITUTED 47.4% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND WAS 1.3 PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

/IN THE

IN THE COMMUNICATION INDUSTRY, THERE WERE SOME 470 ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN 1992, AN INCREASE OF 12% OVER 1991. THESE INCLUDE TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, COURIER AND RADIO-PAGING COMPANIES.

TOTAL RECEIPTS GENERATED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO \$26.1 BILLION, WHICH WAS 22% HIGHER THAN 1991.

THE GROSS SURPLUS OF THE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 41.6% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, A DECREASE OF 1.1 PERCENTAGE POINT FROM THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS WAS \$15.5 BILLION IN 1992, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 22% OVER 1991. IT ACCOUNTED FOR 59.5% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, AND WAS 0.2 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, WHICH INCLUDES GENERAL INSURERS, LIFE INSURERS AND INSURANCE AGENTS, THERE WERE SOME 1,850 ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN 1992, A DECREASE OF 4% UNDER 1991.

THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY GENERATED \$28.6 BILLION OF TOTAL RECEIPTS IN 1992, AN INCREASE OF 20% OVER 1991.

IN THE FINANCING (EXCEPT BANKING) INDUSTRY, THERE WERE 3,800 ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING IN 1992.

THIS INDUSTRY COMPRISES LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANIES, CREDIT INSTITUTIONS, FINANCE LEASING, PAWNSHOPS, INVESTMENT AND HOLDING COMPANIES, SECURITIES, FUTURES AND GOLD BULLION BROKERS AND DEALERS, MONEY CHANGERS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BROKERS AND DEALERS.

THE SURVEY DID NOT INCLUDE BANKING INSTITUTIONS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES WHICH WERE SEPARATELY COVERED UNDER THE 1992 SURVEY OF BANKS, DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF FOREIGN BANKS.

THE RESULTS OF THE LATTER SURVEY WERE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1994 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS.

THE FINANCIAL (EXCEPT BANKING) INDUSTRY GENERATED \$70.2 BILLION OF TOTAL RECEIPTS, A SMALL INCREASE OF 3% OVER 1991.

THE GROSS SURPLUS OF THE FINANCING (EXCEPT BANKING) INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 57.2% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS. COMPARED WITH 1991, THIS WAS 3.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER.

THE OPERATING EXPENDITURE OF THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ACCOUNTED FOR 42.8% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, A DECREASE OF 3.1 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED CALCULATED FOR THE INDUSTRY, WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE THAT OF INVESTMENT AND HOLDING COMPANIES OWING TO THE SPECIAL FEATURES OF THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS, INCREASED BY 35% TO \$7.5 BILLION IN 1992.

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IT ACCOUNTED FOR 10.7% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND WAS 2.6 PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

IN THE STORAGE INDUSTRY, THERE WERE 240 ESTABLISHMENTS IN OPERATION IN 1992, AN INCREASE OF 10% OVER 1991. THE TOTAL RECEIPTS GENERATED BY THESE ESTABLISHMENTS AMOUNTED TO \$3.7 BILLION, AN INCREASE OF 12% OVER 1991.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INDUSTRY'S GROSS SURPLUS ACCOUNTED FOR 13.2% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS IN 1992, A DROP OF 4.9 PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE OPERATING EXPENDITURE OF THE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTED FOR 86.8% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS. COMPARED WITH 1991, THIS WAS HIGHER BY 4.9 PERCENTAGE POINTS.

THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THE STORAGE INDUSTRY INCREASED BY 9% TO \$1.4 BILLION IN 1992. IT ACCOUNTED FOR 37.0% OF THE TOTAL RECEIPTS, AND WAS 1.0 PERCENTAGE POINT LOWER THAN THE FIGURE FOR 1991.

THE ATTACHED TABLE COMPARES SOME SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS BY MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP BETWEEN 1991 AND 1992.

SUMMARY STATISTICS FOR THE 1992 SURVEY OF STORAGE, COMMUNICATION, FINANCING, INSURANCE, AND BUSINESS SERVICES WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE JUNE 1994 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MORE DETAILED RESULTS TOGETHER WITH THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY WILL BE GIVEN IN A FULL SURVEY REPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN AUGUST.

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUSINESS SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1244.

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Comparison of selected principal statistics for all establishments in the Storage, Communication, Financing, Insurance and Business Services Industries between 1991 and 1992

Industry		Number of establishments	Number of persons engaged	Number of employees	Compen-	Operating	Value of	Business	Value	Gross
					sation of		of goods	receipts		
					employees	expenses	for sale	and other		
								income		
					\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.	\$Mn.
Storage	1992	244	5 616	5 611	673.4	2,541.2	-	3,702.4	1,369.1	487.8
	1991	222	5 055	4 998	531.1	2,175.4	-	3,303.9	1,255.3	597.5
	% change	(+10)	(+11)	(+12)	(+27)	(+17)	-	(+12)	(+9)	(-18)
Communication	1992	472	31 078	30 584	4,820.7	9,119.4	1,326.9	26,137.7	15,544.7	10,870.6
	1991	422	26 324	25 623	3,614.8	7,528.5	1,134.7	21,432.9	12,710.9	9,154.9
	% change	(+12)	(+18)	(+19)	(+33)	(+21)	(+17)	(+22)	(+22)	(+19)
Financing (except banking)	1992	3 807	38 267	36 998	9,288.2	20,755.2	-	70,190.0	7,518.7	40,146.6
	1991	3 723	37 859	36 491	7,791.0	23,643.2	-	68,418.9	5,563.5	36,984.7
	% change	(+2)	(+1)	(+1)	(+19)	(-12)	-	(+3)	(+35)	(+9)
Business Services	1992	15 544	110 476	98 874	14,097.5	23,234.9	1,178.6	48,293.7	22,914.6	9,782.7
	1991	13 207	97 615	86 522	11,267.7	17,984.4	1,140.7	39,110.5	19,030.4	8,717.7
	% change	(+18)	(+13)	(+14)	(+25)	(+29)	(+3)	(+23)	(+20)	(+12)
Insurance	1992	1 850	24 045	22 954	4,431.4	2,689.1	-	28,617.9	-	-
	1991	1 929	23 201	22 291	3,729.3	2,409.8	-	23,906.1	-	-
	% change	(-4)	(+4)	(+3)	(+19)	(+12)	-	(+20)	-	-

Notes : (1) In the financing (except banking) industry, value added was not compiled for investment and holding companies owing to the special features of their business operations. Hence, total value added calculated for the industry did not include that of investment and holding companies.

(2) In the insurance industry, both value added and gross surplus were not compiled.

(3) Percentage change figures are derived from unrounded figures.

(4) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector/industry to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "1992 Survey of Storage, Communication, Financing, Insurance and Business Services" Report.

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EIGHT MORE HIV INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED
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SIX MEN AND TWO WOMEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS BRINGS THE NUMBER OF HIV INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 450.

TWO NEW AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 105 WITH 67 DEATHS REPORTED.

OF THE 450 HIV INFECTED, 170 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH HOMOSEXUAL OR BISEXUAL SEX AND 166 THROUGH HETEROSEXUAL SEX, 11 WERE INJECTING DRUG USERS AND 65 ACQUIRED THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 38, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 325,712 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR AIDS.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,420,904 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 30 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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TALK ABOUT AIDS OPENLY AND POSITIVELY
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PEOPLE SHOULD TALK ABOUT AIDS OPENLY AND DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE IN A POSITIVE MANNER.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH THE 1994/95 AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS (CEPAIDS), MS CARLYE TSUI, SAID THIS WAS THE MAIN THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

MANY PEOPLE WILL NOT TALK ABOUT AIDS BECAUSE THEY THINK IT IS SEX RELATED OR IS CONNECTED WITH SEXUAL PROMISCUITY. THIS HAS CREATED AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE LONG-TERM EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME ON AIDS.

TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM, THE CEPAIDS HAS DECIDED THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN IS TO OF MOTIVATE MORE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS AIDS AND ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIETY IN A POSITIVE MANNER.

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"AS THE PUBLIC DEVELOPS THE RIGHT ATTITUDE TOWARDS AIDS, THEY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS FROM INFECTION." SAID MS TSUI.

THE SLOGAN FOR THIS YEAR'S AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, "AIDS: THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE LESS THE RISK", HAS CLEARLY DISPLAYED AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

"WE HOPE THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL START FROM THE FAMILY, IN WHICH PARENTS CAN TAKE THE LEAD TO GUIDE THEIR CHILDREN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AIDS," SHE ADDED.

MR TSUI SAID THERE SHOULD BE OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON AIDS BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE, PARTNERS, FRIENDS AS WELL AS COLLEAGUES, IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY HAD DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES.

PUBLICITY MATERIALS FOR THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY THE ADVERTISING AGENCY MCCANN-ERICKSON (HK) LTD., INCLUDED TWO TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST (TV APIS) AND THREE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS, TWO POSTERS AND A LEAFLET.

"WE NEED TO TAKE THE AIDS ISSUE TO THE BASIC UNIT OF THE SOCIETY, THAT IS THE FAMILY AND TO FURTHER FOCUS OUR COMMUNICATION, WE BRING THE SUBJECT CLOSER TO HOUSEWIVER--THE HEALTH WATCHERS OF FAMILIES," SAID THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MCCANN-ERICKSON, MR DAVID CHAN, TALKING ABOUT THE CREATIVE IDEAS BEHIND THE PUBLICITY MATERIALS.

MCCANN-ERICKSON WAS APPOINTED FOR THE SECOND TIME TO DESIGN THE AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW CAMPAIGN WAS STRATEGICALLY RIGHT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT AIDS, PARTICULARLY IN THEIR FAMILIES, SO AS TO ACHIEVE BETTER KNOWLEDGE, GREATER CONCERN, A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND EVENTUALLY, BETTER PREVENTION OF AIDS.

MS TSUI ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE NEW STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY CEPAIDS TO FURTHER ENHANCE ITS EFFORTS TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF AIDS.

TO STRENGTHEN DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, CEPAIDS WILL STRIVE TO COORDINATE ALL EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMMES ON AIDS ORGANISED IN THE TERRITORY, SHE SAID. TO ACHIEVE THAT, NEW MEMBERS INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION AND AIDS CONCERN WERE INVITED TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE.

"THE PURPOSE IS TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AND LIAISON AMONG ORGANISATIONS TO ENSURE A MORE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES. MOST IMPORTANT, MEMBERS CAN MAKE SUGGESTIONS OR EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MAJOR AIDS ISSUES." SHE ADDED.

TO PLAN FUTURE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY STRATEGIES, MS TSUI SAID A NEW SUB-COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND EVALUATION WAS SET UP IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING FIVE WORKING GROUPS.

"THE SUB-COMMITTEE IS ORGANISING AND CONDUCTING A SURVEY TO EVALUATE EXISTING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN SCHOOLS. IT IS ALSO PLANNING A SURVEY IN SEPTEMBER TO ASSESS THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AIDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

"THE FINDINGS FOR THE SURVEY WILL BE **MOST** USEFUL BECAUSE THESE WILL BE USED BY COMMITTEE IN PLANNING FUTURE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY STRATEGIES," SHE ADDED.

TURNING TO ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR, MS TSUI SAID WITH MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, CEPAIDS WOULD ORGANISE A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES IN THE 'AIDS FORTNIGHT 1994', SCHEDULED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 20 AND DECEMBER 4, TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF AIDS.

A KICK-OFF CEREMONY AT THE PIAZZA OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TO BE HELD IN THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 20, WILL INCLUDE A CARNIVAL WITH GAME STALLS, PERFORMANCES AND VARIETY SHOWS TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM FAMILY MEMBERS.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BI-WEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS WERE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E COLI DATA OBTAINED BY EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH WHICH HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

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"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN OR REGIONAL COUNCILS IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, FOUR GAZETTED BEACHES - NAMELY ANGLERS', CASTLE PEAK, OLD CAFETERIA AND ROCKY BAY, ARE CLOSED TO SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BEACHES HAS BEEN MADE BY THE REGIONAL AND URBAN COUNCILS ON THE BASIS OF RECENT BEACH WATER QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM AT THESE BEACHES. THEY ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

/THE GRADES

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THE GRADES OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 9.6.94)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 23.6.94)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	2	2
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	2
REPULSE BAY	2	2
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	2	2
TURTLE COVE	1	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	2	2
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	2	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	2
BUTTERFLY	3	3
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	2
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

/ISLANDS DISTRICT

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ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	3	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	2	2
SILVERMINE BAY	2	2
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	X	X
APPROACH	3	3
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	3	3
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

CHEUNG SHA LOWER FROM "3" TO "2"; MIDDLE BAY, TURTLE COVE AND
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH FROM "1" TO "2".

ALL OF THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION
OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT ACTING PRINCIPAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER MR K F TANG ON TEL 835 1234.

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ENVIRONMENT ADVISERS VISIT AIRPORT PROJECT AREAS

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MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT (ACE) SPENT THE WHOLE MORNING TODAY (THURSDAY) TO UPDATE THEMSELVES WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, MR JOHN BURRETT, THE PARTY FIRST ARRIVED BY LAUNCH AT THE CENTRAL WATERFRONT WHERE THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE THE EASTERN SEAWALL OF THE CENTRAL RECLAMATION PHASE I WHICH HAD ALREADY EMERGED ABOVE THE SEA LEVEL.

THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE WEST KOWLOON WATERFRONT AND WERE TOLD THAT OVER 73 PER CENT OF RECLAMATION WORKS IN THE AREA HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT WORKS WERE PROGRESSING WELL ON THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY.

THE PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO TSING YI AND MA WAN CHANNEL WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE LATEST PROGRESS OF ROUTE 3, INCLUDING THE RECENT BROKEN-THROUGH CHEUNG CHING TUNNEL AND THE COMMENCEMENT OF BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ACROSS THE RAMBLER CHANNEL.

MEMBERS WERE SHOWN THE KEY ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE DESIGN OF ACP PROJECTS.

THE CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARE BEING CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND SUITABLE MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO REDUCE SUCH IMPACTS TO A MINIMUM.

THEY WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE TWO ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICES.

MEMBERS ALSO HAD A CLOSE LOOK AT THE TSING MA BRIDGE SITE AND THE TWO TEMPORARY FOOTBRIDGES WHICH WERE BEING BUILT BETWEEN THE TWIN 206 METRES HIGH TOWERS.

THIS WAS THEN FOLLOWED BY A TOUR ALONG THE NORTH LANTAU COAST TO SEE THE PHYSICAL WORKS BEING CARRIED OUT FOR THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY AND THE TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT.

AT THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, MEMBERS SAW THAT 730 HECTARES OF LAND, OVER 60 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL TO BE FORMED, HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

THEY ALSO SAW THE EXCAVATIONS FOR THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING WHERE WORK ON THE FOUNDATIONS IS STARTING AND WHERE THE AUTOMATED PEOPLE MOVER AND BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEMS WILL BE INSTALLED.

HOTLINE ON ILLEGAL SALE OF DRUGS

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS SET UP A TELEPHONE HOTLINE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO REPORT ANY MATTERS RELATED TO ILLEGAL SALE OF DRUGS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE HOTLINE - 572 2068 - WAS OPERATIONAL FROM TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE HOTLINE WOULD BE MANNED BY STAFF DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AFTER OFFICE HOURS, INFORMATION PROVIDED WOULD BE RECORDED FOR FURTHER ACTION, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WOULD BE TREATED WITH THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT PLANNED TO LAUNCH A COMPUTERISED TELEPHONE HOTLINE LATER TO PROVIDE DRUG INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC SO AS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER USE OF DRUGS.

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FINAL FLING AT STANLEY FORT

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THE GATES OF STANLEY FORT WILL BE THROWN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE LAST TIME ON SUNDAY (JUNE 26) WHEN THE BLACK WATCH STAGE THEIR "FINAL FLING" BEFORE LEAVING HONG KONG.

THIS WILL BE THE BLACK WATCH'S FINALE IN THE TERRITORY AND PROMISES TO BE AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF SCOTTISH CULTURE.

TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPEN DAY, THE REGIMENT WILL STAGE THEIR ANNUAL PIPING AND BUGLING COMPETITION TOGETHER WITH AN OPEN PIPING COMPETITION FOR ALL HONG KONG PIPERS.

INVITED BANDS WILL PERFORM FOR THE CROWDS AND THERE WILL BE A DISPLAY OF DANCING BY THE HONG KONG HIGHLANDERS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH CEILIDH TO ACCOMPANY THE DAY'S EVENTS.

ON THE MILITARY SIDE, THE GRENADIER COMPANY WILL STAGE A DRILL DISPLAY. ON THE SPORTS SIDE, AN INTER-COMPANY TUG-OF-WAR CONTEST WILL PROVIDE THE THRILLS.

TOGETHER WITH SOUVENIR AND FOOD STALLS, THE BLACK WATCH'S FAREWELL TO STANLEY FORT AND HONG KONG WILL BE A DAY TO BE REMEMBERED.

THE GATES OPEN AT 2 PM AND THE ENTERTAINMENT CONTINUES NON-STOP UNTIL 7.45 PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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ADVICE ON DONATIONS TO CHARITY

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ADVISED THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT ALL FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES HELD IN PUBLIC PLACES REQUIRED A PRIOR PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SUCH PERMITS WERE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 4(17) OF THE SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE.

"THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE WOULD EXAMINE THE STANDING OF THE ORGANISATIONS, THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES AND THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING SUCH AN EVENT BEFORE THE PERMIT IS ISSUED," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE HONG KONG PUBLIC WERE VERY GENEROUS IN GIVING TO CHARITIES. TO FACILITATE SUCH DONATIONS TO GENUINE CHARITIES, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO SAFEGUARD THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

HE ADDED THAT PERMITS WERE ISSUED WITH THE CONDITIONS THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS HAD TO BE PURELY VOLUNTARY AND THAT NO PRESSURE WAS TO BE IMPOSED ON ANY PERSON EITHER TO SUBSCRIBE OR TO COLLECT SUBSCRIPTION OR TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY OTHER WAY.

WHERE THE MONEY DONATED WAS TO BE SPENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE ORGANISER SHOULD INFORM THE PUBLIC WHERE THE PROCEEDS WOULD GO AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE BY PUBLISHING THE INFORMATION IN AT LEAST ONE LOCAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AND ONE CHINESE-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE LAST DAY SPECIFIED IN THE PERMIT.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN CALL THE SUBJECT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT ON 892 5319 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR THE HOTLINE 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE'S 866 8123 IN CASE OF DOUBT.

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TWGH DIRECTORS VISIT SWD

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THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS (TWGH) TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, AND DISCUSSED WITH HIM THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES OF THE GROUP.

MR STRACHAN COMMENDED THE TWGH FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AND ASSURED THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THEIR PLANS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF TWGH, MRS DEBORAH KWAN, SAID HER GROUP WOULD NOT ONLY UPGRADE EXISTING SERVICES BUT ALSO EXPAND ITS SCOPE OF SERVICE TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"IN VIEW OF THE INMENSE NEEDS FOR ELDERLY AND REHABILITATION SERVICES IN HONG KONG, WE WILL PUT MORE ATTENTION AND EFFORTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE TWO SERVICE AREAS IN FUTURE," MRS KWAN SAID.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1994

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS TOMORROW

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9399.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,468	0930	-168
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,495	1000	-118
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-73
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-73	1200	-73
LAF TODAY	+100	1500	-73
		1600	-73
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER		TWI 123.8 *+0.1*	23.6.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.44	17 MONTHS	2511	4.15	97.87	5.82
1 MONTH	4.26	23 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.27	6.29
3 MONTHS	4.30	28 MONTHS	3610	4.20	94.97	6.65
6 MONTHS	4.73	31 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.07	6.81
12 MONTHS	5.37	34 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.27	6.94

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 25,752 MN

CLOSED 23 JUNE 1994

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