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TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1993

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IMPLEMENTATION FOR SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THE IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT FOR THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME TO HELP MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES THAT ARE NEITHER ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING NOR ABLE TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, EMPHASISED THAT THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME IN BOTH THE LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM WOULD NOT AFFECT THE EXISTING PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME AS RESOURCES FOR THE SCHEME WOULD BE ADDITIONAL.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE SCHEME TAKING AWAY ANYTHING FROM PEOPLE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR OR ARE ALREADY ENJOYING PUBLIC HOUSING," HE SAID.

ON THE LONG-TERM SCHEME, WHICH IS THE MAIN SCHEME, MR EASON SAID LAND WOULD BE GRANTED TO THE HOUSING SOCIETY AT A CONCESSIONARY PREMIUM TO BUILD FLATS FOR SALE TO THE SANDWICH CLASS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

SIX SITES HAVE BEEN EARMARKED UNDER THE 1993/94 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR THE LONG-TERM SCHEME.

"IT IS OUR INTENTION TO GRANT THESE SITES TO THE HOUSING SOCIETY DURING THIS YEAR TO PRODUCE ABOUT 5,000 FLATS TO BE COMPLETED FOR SALE BY 1996/97. WE ARE ALSO HOPEFUL THAT SOME OF THE FIRST FLATS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AS EARLY AS 1995," MR EASON SAID.

TO PROTECT GOVERNMENT'S SUBSIDY AND TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATIVE PURCHASES, MR EASON SAID RESALE RESTRICTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE APPLICABLE TO THE HOUSING SOCIETY'S FLATS-FOR-SALE SCHEME WOULD BE IMPOSED.

THE DETAILED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE LONG-TERM SCHEME CAN ONLY BE FINALISED NEARER THE TIME WHEN THE FLATS ARE READY FOR SALE.

"THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGING INCOME LEVELS AND PREVAILING MARKET CONDITIONS.

"BROADLY, HOWEVER, THE TARGET GROUP WILL BE THOSE FAMILIES WITH INCOME ABOVE THE UPPER LIMIT OF THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND YET UNABLE TO AFFORD PRIVATE SECTOR FLATS OF AN APPROPRIATE SIZE AND STANDARD," HE SAID.

ON THE SHORT-TERM SCHEME, MR EASON SAID A LOW-INTEREST LOAN FUND USING THE PROPOSED \$2 BILLION WOULD BE SET UP TO PROVIDE BENEFICIARIES WITH A ONE-OFF LOAN UPFRONT AS PART OF THE DOWNPAYMENT.

"THIS PREFERRED OPTION HAS BEEN ARRIVED AT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE MANY VIEWS EXPRESSED ON HOW BEST TO USE THE \$2 BILLION," HE SAID.

/"IN ADDITION,

"IN ADDITION, MANY FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS FIND THE SUBSTANTIAL DOWNPAYMENT, RATHER THAN THE MORTGAGE REPAYMENT, TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM.

"AS THE INTEREST ELEMENT USUALLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE GREATER PROPORTION OF MORTGAGE REPAYMENT IN THE FIRST YEARS, IT IS MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO PROVIDE THE SUBSIDY UPFRONT SO THAT THE MORTGAGE REPAYMENT REQUIRED CAN BE REDUCED."

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A LOW-INTEREST LOAN OF 20% OF THE SALE PRICE OF A FLAT AND UP TO A LIMIT OF \$500,000.

THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY PURCHASED BY THE BENEFICIARY SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$3 MILLION AND THE PROPERTY SHOULD BE LESS THAN 10 YEARS OLD SO THAT THE BENEFICIARY MAY OBTAIN A MORTGAGE ON A REASONABLE PROPORTION OF THE PURCHASE PRICE.

THE REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN, IN 120 EQUAL INSTALMENTS WITH AN ANNUAL INTEREST OF 2%, WILL ONLY BEGIN IN THE FOURTH YEAR WHEN THE BENEFICIARY'S FINANCIAL POSITION HAS IMPROVED.

TO AVOID CREATING A SUDDEN SURGE OF SIGNIFICANT DEMAND IN THE PROPERTY MARKET WHICH COULD WELL INFLATE PRICES, MR EASON SAID THE FIRST BATCH OF BENEFICIARIES WOULD NUMBER ABOUT 1,000.

"BUT WE WILL REVIEW THE TIMING AND NUMBER OF THE SECOND BATCH BY TAKING ACCOUNT RESULTS OF THE FIRST BATCH," HE SAID.

THE MAIN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING LOAN ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * THE APPLICANT MUST HAVE HAD AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS CONTINUOUS RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG;
- * TOTAL FAMILY INCOME MUST BE WITHIN THE RANGE OF \$20,001 - \$40,000 PER MONTH;
- * EACH APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST THREE FAMILY MEMBERS, PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO MARRIED COUPLE AND SINGLE PARENT (IN THAT ORDER) WHO HAVE TWO OR MORE CHILDREN;
- * EACH APPLICANT MAY ONLY SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION;
- * ALL PERSONS INCLUDED IN AN APPLICATION MUST NOT HAVE ANY DOMESTIC PROPERTY REGISTERED IN THEIR NAMES IN HONG KONG WITHIN THE 24-MONTH PERIOD IMMEDIATELY BEFORE AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED;
- * THE APPLICANT AND HIS FAMILY MUST BE LIVING IN PRIVATE DOMESTIC ACCOMMODATION;
- * RESALE OF A FLAT WITHIN THE FIRST THREE YEARS WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED UPON REPAYMENT OF THE LOAN IN FULL PLUS ANY GAIN IN PROPERTY VALUE.

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TO ENABLE THE SHORT-TERM SCHEME TO BENEFIT MORE FAMILIES WITH LOWER INCOME WITHIN THE SANDWICH CLASS, 75% OF THE 1,000 QUOTA WILL BE ALLOTTED TO THOSE WITH MONTHLY INCOME FROM \$20,001 TO \$30,000 AND 25% TO THOSE WITHIN THE INCOME BRACKET \$30,001 TO \$40,000.

MR EASON SAID A LOAN AGREEMENT WOULD BE ENTERED BETWEEN THE HOUSING SOCIETY AND THE BENEFICIARY IN THE FORM OF A SECOND MORTGAGE IN FAVOUR OF THE SOCIETY TO PROTECT THE SUBSIDY.

"THE HOUSING SOCIETY WILL INVITE AND PROCESS APPLICATIONS SOON AFTER WE HAVE OBTAINED THE NECESSARY FUNDING APPROVAL FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

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AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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THE EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM ON JUNE 10 (THURSDAY).

MEMBERS WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON INTERIM FUNDING FOR THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, FIRST FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAIN WING (NEW ANNEX).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS ARE REQUESTED TO RESERVE A SEAT BY TELEPHONING MS LEUNG WING-CHONG ON 829 6745 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

AS SEATS ARE LIMITED, BOOKINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING.

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COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BILL NOT ON EXCO AGENDA

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL BILL WAS NOT ON THE AGENDA OF TODAY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT LEGISLATION WAS BEING DRAFTED ON THE BASIS OF THE SINO-BRITISH AGREEMENT ON THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL AND THAT THIS WORK WOULD TAKE SOME MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

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SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS NOW PART OF A BUILDING

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SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS ARE NOW CLASSIFIED AS THE "COMMON PARTS" OF A BUILDING UNDER THE RECENTLY ENACTED MULTI-STOREY BUILDING (OWNERS CORPORATIONS) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993, ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, DR ANDREW MALONE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, DR MALONE POINTED OUT THAT THE INCLUSION OF SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS IN THE DEFINITION OF "COMMON PARTS" CONTAINED IN THE ORDINANCE REPRESENTED ANOTHER INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE (GEO) TO IMPROVE SLOPE SAFETY IN THE TERRITORY.

"IT IS NOW ABSOLUTELY CLEAR FROM THE ORDINANCE THAT THE OWNERS' CORPORATION IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS IN A STATE OF GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION.

"NOW THE PROPERTY MANAGERS WILL FIND THEMSELVES IN A BETTER POSITION TO PERSUADE THE PRIVATE OWNERS TO PAY FOR THE MAINTENANCE WORKS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO OTHER INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE GEO SINCE LAST YEAR'S RAINSTORMS, DR MALONE POINTED OUT THAT TWO FURTHER IDEAS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE FIRST IS TO INCLUDE A SLOPE MAINTENANCE CLAUSE, MODELLED ON THE PRESENT BUILDING MAINTENANCE CLAUSE, IN THE DEED OF MUTUAL CONVENANT.

"THIS CLAUSE WILL STATE THE NEED FOR THE OWNERS TO MAINTAIN THEIR SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS. IT WILL ALSO GIVE THE BUILDING MANAGERS THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES ON THE OWNERS' BEHALF," HE SAID.

THE SECOND IS TO INCLUDE A SHORT NOTE IN THE DEVELOPER'S SALES BROCHURE, SPELLING OUT THE MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS OF THE OWNERS.

/"FLAT OWNERS

"FLAT OWNERS SEEING THIS WOULD NOT BE IN ANY DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE TO KEEP THEIR SLOPES SAFE," HE NOTED.

DR MALONE CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO CONSIDER SUGGESTING OTHER WAYS TO DRIVE HOME THE NEED FOR SLOPE MAINTENANCE, AND PROVIDING FEEDBACK TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THEIR WORK ON SLOPE MAINTENANCE.

EARLIER, DR MALONE SAID PROPERTY MANAGERS PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE SAFETY OF SLOPES WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY.

"THE PROPERTY MANAGERS HAVE TWO IMPORTANT JOBS TO DO ON SLOPE SAFETY - TO ENSURE THE SLOPES WITHIN THEIR PROPERTIES ARE INSPECTED ANNUALLY AND TO SEE THAT NECESSARY MAINTENANCE WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT," HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, SOME PROPERTY MANAGERS ARE FACED WITH THE DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING PRIVATE FLAT OWNERS TO PAY FOR SLOPE MAINTENANCE WORKS, HE SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ACTION TO PUT THIS RIGHT THROUGH A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN," HE POINTED OUT.

THE CAMPAIGN IS DRIVING HOME THROUGH VARIOUS MEDIA THE MESSAGES: SLOPES CAN BECOME DANGEROUS IF MAINTENANCE IS NEGLECTED, AND PRIVATE FLAT OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SLOPES.

HE STRESSED THAT THE CAMPAIGN WAS AIMED AT FLAT OWNERS, SOME OF WHOM TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF ALL SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS, INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN PRIVATE PROPERTY.

IN CONCLUSION, DR MALONE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ITS SENSE OF PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GEO AND THE ASSOCIATION IN THE FUTURE.

"WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN GETTING OWNERS TO KEEP THEIR SLOPES SAFE. BUT WITH THE HELP OF THE ASSOCIATION A VERY GOOD START HAS BEEN MADE," HE NOTED.

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GOVT DETERMINED TO SOLVE TRAFFIC PROBLEM
IN CONTAINER PORT AREA

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GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED ARE AWARE OF THE TRAFFIC SITUATION IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT/NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALAN LUI, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THEY ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE INCREASING TRAFFIC DEMAND, HE SAID.

/THE INFRASTRUCTURE

THE INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDES ROADS, CONTAINER BACK-UP LAND AND PARKING AREAS.

NECESSARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION.

MR LUI SAID SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES HAD BEEN USED TO IMPROVE THE ROAD SYSTEM IN KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT AREA IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO KWAI CHUNG ROAD SOUTH AND THE CONTAINER PORT ROAD PROJECT IN MID-1992, THERE ARE A TOTAL OF SEVEN TRAFFIC LANES IN EACH DIRECTION ALONG THE KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD CORRIDOR TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONAL ACCESS ROADS CONNECTING TO THE CONTAINER PORT AREA.

"TRAFFIC HAS SINCE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED AND THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD NETWORK IS CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING THE NORMAL TRAFFIC DEMAND."

"HOWEVER, PROBLEMS MAY STILL ARISE WHEN THERE IS A SUDDEN UPSURGE OF CONTAINER ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY AN REOPENING AFTER THE OCCASIONAL CLOSURE OF THE TERMINALS DUE TO TYPHOONS OR MALFUNCTIONING OF ANY OF THE CONTAINER TERMINALS," HE SAID.

MR LUI POINTED OUT THAT A CONTINGENCY PLAN WAS ADOPTED IN 1991 TO DEAL WITH SUCH PROBLEMS.

THE PLAN INCLUDES AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM WHICH REQUIRES CONTAINER OPERATORS TO INFORM TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE IN ADVANCE OF ANY EXPECTED UNUSUAL UPSURGE IN CONTAINER ACTIVITIES.

THERE IS ALSO AN EMERGENCY HOLDING AREA WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 150 CONTAINER VEHICLES TO RELIEVE CONGESTION.

ALSO INCLUDED ARE A SERIES OF TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENT LEVELS OF CONGESTION IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE POLICE CONTROL OF SELECTED ROUNDABOUTS, BANNING OF RIGHT-TURNS AND TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS.

QUICK AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS THROUGH THE MEDIA ARE ALSO PART OF THE PLAN.

"THE PLAN HAS SO FAR PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN CONTAINING OR RESOLVING THE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE CONTAINER PORT," HE SAID.

MR LUI SAID ON JUNE 4, THE CONTAINER TERMINAL (OPERATION) LIAISON GROUP WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM TERMINAL OPERATORS, VARIOUS CONTAINER TRADE UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS MET TO REVIEW THE SERIOUS TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA THAT OCCURRED ON MAY 25.

IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AGREED AT THE MEETING ARE:

- * BOTH THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS LTD (HIT) AND THE SEALAND ORIENT LTD (SEALAND) WILL OPERATE AN APPOINTMENT SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE MODERN TERMINALS LTD (MTL) BY THE END OF JUNE TO REGULATE PEAK-PERIOD TRAFFIC,

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- * THE TERMINAL OPERATORS REAFFIRM THAT THEY WILL OPEN UP VACANT LAND WITHIN THEIR SITE AREAS FOR VEHICLE WAITING, WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE ABOUT 800 CONTAINER VEHICLES DURING AN EMERGENCY,
- * WITH ADDITIONAL LAND NEAR THE CONTAINER TERMINALS TO BE AVAILABLE IN AUGUST, THE OPERATORS WILL REVIEW THE PRESENT TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVISION OF VEHICLE WAITING SPACE WITHIN THEIR SITE WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING VEHICLES QUEUING ON PUBLIC ROADS,
- * POLICE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ENHANCE MANPOWER DEPLOYMENT IN THE CONTAINER PORT AREA IF SITUATION WARRANTS, AND
- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONTAINER TERMINAL (OPERATION) LIAISON GROUP MEETING IN FUTURE WHENEVER NECESSARY. THE AIM IS TO INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE CO-ORDINATION OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS.

WHILE THE ENHANCED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION WILL BE HELPFUL, FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS LIE IN THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR CONTAINER BACK-UP AND PARKING FACILITIES.

WITH CONCERTED EFFORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, ADDITIONAL LAND OF ABOUT 18.4 HECTARES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THESE FACILITIES NEAR THE EXISTING CONTAINER TERMINALS IN AUGUST FROM THE CONTAINER TERMINAL NO.8 DEVELOPMENT AND THE NORTH KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

IT IS INTENDED TO USE 14 HECTARES OF THE LAND FOR CONTAINER STORAGE, 1.8 HECTARES FOR CONTAINER REPAIR AND 2.6 HECTARES FOR CONTAINER VEHICLE PARK.

SUCH SPACES WILL BE INCREASED TO 19 HECTARES, 3.3 HECTARES AND 6.3 HECTARES RESPECTIVELY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

WITH SUCH PROVISIONS, THE PRESENT SHORTFALL OF CONTAINER BACK-UP FACILITIES, ARISING FROM THE LOSS OF SOME SITES TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROUTE 3 KWAI CHUNG SECTION, WILL BE LARGELY REDUCED.

MR LUI EMPHASISED THAT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL CONTINUE TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE ROAD NETWORK, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATION IN THE KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER PORT, IN VIEW OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMY.

HOWEVER, THE INTEREST OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WILL ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, AND THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGH REGULAR REVIEWS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.

HE APPEALED TO THE CONTAINER TERMINAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTAINER VEHICLE OPERATORS/DRIVERS TO BE PATIENT PENDING THE PROVISION OF MORE BACK-UP FACILITIES IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, AND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED SO AS TO ACHIEVE THE OPTIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE FACILITIES.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 26%, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 20%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 19% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE ABOUT THE SAME WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1.1%. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 1.5%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDICES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.8% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING MARCH 1993 ALONE AND COMPARING WITH MARCH 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 1.9% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 24%.

THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 20%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 19%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS DECREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.3% AND 0.4% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 1.2%.

COMPARING MARCH 1993 WITH MARCH 1992, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+19%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+15%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+15%); AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+11%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR FOOTWEAR (-57%); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-37%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE PRICE OF FOOTWEAR RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 8.0%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-11%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-7.0%).

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 8.1% IN MARCH 1993 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1992.

/CONSIDERABLE INCREASES

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SWINE AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; AND WHEAT AND FLOUR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 22%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 12% IN MARCH 1993 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND IRON AND STEEL. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF INEDIBLE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; AND MAN-MADE FIBRES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 42% IN VOLUME IN MARCH 1993 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1992. AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 27%.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

COMPARING MARCH 1993 WITH MARCH 1992, THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 7.9% AND 3.3% RESPECTIVELY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; CONSUMER GOODS; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 3.9%, 1.1% AND 0.7% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING MARCH 1993 WITH MARCH 1992, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS AND FUELS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 47% AND 42% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT OF CONSUMER GOODS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES REGISTERED INCREASES OF 23% AND 18% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 12%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS; CAPITAL GOODS AND CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 2.7%, 1.8% AND 0.7% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 3.8% AND 1.9% RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS OF THE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE AROUND JUNE 10 AT \$8.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MAR 1993 WITH MAR 1992			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1993 WITH JAN-MAR 1992		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-0.7	1.3	-2.1	-10.8	2.6	-13.1
TEXTILE FABRICS	11.2	-3.1	14.6	14.9	-1.2	16.4
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-2.1	-7.0	5.3	2.3	-5.9	8.8
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-36.7	-0.2	-36.6	-18.0	2.6	-20.1
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-23.9	-10.6	-15.0	-8.4	-9.7	1.3
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	13.5	-1.2	14.9	26.5	-2.3	29.4
FOOTWEAR	-53.8	8.0	-57.3	-41.4	7.3	-45.3

/METAL MANUFACTURES

METAL MANUFACTURES	7.3	-3.2	10.8	3.6	-2.9	6.6
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	16.7	-2.2	19.3	13.8	-3.4	17.8
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-1.9	0.1	-2.0	-10.8	-0.8	-10.0
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-9.6	-2.3	-7.4	-34.9	-2.1	-33.5
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-26.6	-4.8	-22.8	-24.1	-3.5	-21.3
ALL COMMODITIES	1.7	-0.3	1.9	*	0.1	-0.1

* LESS THAN 0.05%

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1993 WITH MAR 1992			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1993 WITH JAN-MAR 1992		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	7.4	-0.7	8.1	6.6	-0.4	7.0
CONSUMER GOODS	20.5	-1.1	21.8	16.7	-0.9	17.7
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	7.9	-3.9	12.2	12.3	-4.3	17.4
FUELS	53.2	7.9	42.1	33.8	4.8	27.6
CAPITAL GOODS	31.7	3.3	27.4	33.6	2.1	30.8
ALL COMMODITIES	17.5	-1.2	19.0	17.8	-1.5	19.5

/TABLE 3 :

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1993 WITH MAR 1992			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1993 WITH JAN-MAR 1992		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-13.6	-1.9	-12.0	1.9	-1.8	3.8
CONSUMER GOODS	23.9	0.7	23.1	20.5	-0.2	20.8
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	13.4	-3.8	17.9	19.2	-3.9	24.2
FUELS	45.9	2.7	42.0	43.2	0.1	43.1
CAPITAL GOODS	50.0	1.8	47.3	53.5	1.5	51.2
ALL COMMODITIES	23.9	-0.4	24.5	24.8	-1.1	26.1

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INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING A WAY TO GO GREEN

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GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED CONSULTANTS HAVE FOUND THAT THERE IS MUCH POTENTIAL FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION THROUGH INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, WHEN SPEAKING AT THE SECOND ANNUAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENT WEEK ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR FUNG SAID THE CONSULTANTS, COMMISSIONED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, FOUND THAT THERE WERE WAYS FORWARD WHICH COULD CREATE "WIN-WIN" SITUATIONS.

"THERE CAN BE BENEFITS FROM CHANGING PROCESSES TO MINIMISE WASTE AND SAVE MATERIALS; THERE CAN BE PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY GAINS; THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROFIT FROM CHANGING CONSUMER PREFERENCES; AND THERE IS A WHOLE NEW MARKET IN ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE FOR FIRMS TO COMPETE IN," HE SAID.

/MR FUNG

MR FUNG SAID THE CONSULTANTS HAD ALSO FOUND THAT INDUSTRIAL UPGRADING WAS VITAL IF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR WAS TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN.

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS PRESENTED WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION IN WAYS THAT COULD ALSO PROMOTE A LONGER-TERM INDUSTRIAL FUTURE.

"THE ISSUE IS NOT SIMPLY ONE OF COMPLIANCE, BUT ONE OF SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETITIVE HIGH VALUE-ADDED MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN HONG KONG.

"THE OVERALL AIM IS TO WORK TOWARDS MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURED EXPORTS IN BOTH REGIONAL AND WORLD MARKETS," HE SAID.

MR FUNG SAID THE CONSULTANTS WERE ALSO ASKED TO CONSIDER THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRY AND ASSESS HOW THIS SUPPORT MIGHT BE ENHANCED OR IMPROVED TO HELP INDUSTRY REMAIN COMPETITIVE, WHILST COMPLYING WITH NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL MEASURES.

"IT CONSIDERS HOW BOTH GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD RESPOND TO THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT WILL ENHANCE INDUSTRY'S COMPETITIVENESS IN WORLD MARKETS," HE SAID.

MR FUNG SAID THE STUDY HAD MADE A VERY COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE EXISTING SUPPORT MECHANISMS AND HOW THEY MIGHT BE IMPROVED OR ENHANCED.

"THESE RANGE FROM IMPROVING THE ACCESSIBILITY TO AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND CONTROL TO THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE AWARENESS OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES AND GENERALLY AWARENESS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AT ALL LEVELS IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES.

"THE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE ENHANCING THE LEVEL OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ENCOURAGING LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL COMPANIES AND MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND USING SUITABLE PREMISES FOR POLLUTING INDUSTRIES," HE SAID.

MR FUNG POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE CONSULTANCY STUDY THAT THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ACCEPTED BY INDUSTRY.

"THEY, AFTER ALL, ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BENEFIT FROM THEM.

"THIS IS WHY, OVER THE SUMMER, WE WILL BE EMBARKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION EXERCISE, CULMINATING WITH CONSULTATION WITH THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN THE AUTUMN.

"SUBJECT TO THEIR ADVICE, OUR AIM IS TO TAKE FIRM STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS," HE SAID.

STATISTICAL PROFILE ON YOUTHS RELEASED

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YOUTH POPULATION IN HONG KONG FELL FROM 1.45 MILLION IN 1986 TO 1.25 MILLION IN 1991 WHILE THE TOTAL POPULATION IN THE TERRITORY HAD INCREASED OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

THE DOWNWARD TREND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE, ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT EDITION OF "YOUTH IN HONG KONG - A STATISTICAL PROFILE 1992" COMPILED BY THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH.

THE FINDINGS OF THE STATISTICAL PROFILE WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE CONVENOR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UPDATING OF THE "YOUTH IN HONG KONG - A STATISTICAL PROFILE 1988", MR MAK HOI-WAH AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR MAK SAID THE PUBLICATION INCLUDED A NUMBER OF MAJOR SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS DATA FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE STATISTICAL PROFILE 1992 SHOWED THAT THERE ARE SLIGHTLY MORE MEN THAN WOMEN IN 1991, BUT THE GAP IN NUMBER IS SMALLER THAN THAT IN 1986.

"IT IS ALSO WORTH TO NOTE THAT THE TREND OF LATE MARRIAGE CONTINUES," MR MAK ADDED.

STATISTICS ALSO SHOWED THAT THE YOUTH POPULATION WAS GENERALLY IN GOOD HEALTH.

ACCORDING TO A SURVEY IN 1990, YOUNG PEOPLE HAD A LOWER MEDICAL CONSULTATION RATE THAN PEOPLE IN OTHER AGE GROUPS.

HOWEVER, MR MAK POINTED OUT THAT A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH IN 1990 INDICATED THAT NEARLY HALF OF ALL YOUNG MEN AND ONE THIRD OF WOMEN HAVE TRIED SMOKING BY THE AGE OF 16.

THERE WAS AN INCREASE OF 14.8 PER CENT OF NEWLY REPORTED DRUG ABUSERS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 WHEN COMPARED WITH 1990.

HE SAID: "THE MOST COMMON AGE GROUP FOR INITIAL DRUG ABUSE REMAINED BETWEEN THE AGE OF 15 AND 24.

HEROIN, CANNABIS AND COUGH MEDICINE ARE THE MOST COMMON DRUGS USED. ABUSE OF COUGH MEDICINE BY NEWLY REPORTED DRUG ABUSERS HAS GROWN FROM FIVE PER CENT IN 1988 TO 22.7 PER CENT IN 1991.

AS TO THE NUMBER OF SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY SCHOOL CHILDREN REPORTED TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MR MAK SAID THE FIGURE HAD REMAINED STABLE FROM 1987 TO 1991 WITH AN INCREASE RECORDED IN 1992.

NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS ROSE TO 67 IN 1992 AMONG WHICH THERE WERE 21 CASES OF FATALITIES.

/MR MAK

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MR MAK ALSO SAID THE LEVEL OF FORMAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT HAD CONTINUED TO RISE IN RECENT YEARS.

THE MOST DRAMATIC INCREASE IS IN THE PROPORTION OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

THIS CHARACTERISTIC IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE CONTINUOUS DROP IN THE LABOUR PARTICIPATION RATES OF YOUTHS.

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGE OF 15 AND 24 ACCOUNTED FOR 17.5 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LABOUR FORCE IN 1991.

ON LEISURE ACTIVITIES, A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1991 FOUND THAT MOST OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WATCHED TELEVISION.

OTHER POPULAR ACTIVITIES INCLUDED SHOPPING, SPORTS ACTIVITIES, CHATTING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND KARAOKE SINGING.

MANY ALSO PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY COMMUNITY OR YOUTH CENTRES.

ANOTHER STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1991 INDICATED THAT HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS HAD VISITED THESE CENTRES IN THE PAST.

BUT ONLY 23 PER CENT OF THEM PARTICIPATED IN VOLUNTARY WORK.

ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, THE TURNOUT RATE OF REGISTERED YOUNG VOTERS (AGED BETWEEN 21 AND 25) IN THE 1991 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WAS HIGHER THAN THAT IN OTHER AGE GROUPS.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE VOTER REGISTRATION RATE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WAS STILL RELATIVELY LOW," HE SAID.

AS TO CRIME RELATED ISSUES, MR MAK SAID SHOP-THEFT REMAINED THE MOST COMMON CRIME IN 1991.

ON SEX, A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION IN 1991 SHOWED THAT NEARLY 60 PER CENT OF BOTH THE BOYS AND GIRLS HAD THEIR FIRST DATE BEFORE THE AGE OF 15.

ACCORDING TO THE SAME SURVEY, 2.8 PER CENT OF THE YOUTHS HAD EXPERIENCED SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WHILE DATING.

THE STATISTICAL PROFILE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1974 AND SUBSEQUENTLY UPDATED IN 1988.

IT CONTAINS COMPREHENSIVE DATA AND ANALYTICAL INFORMATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC, EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

MR MAK SAID: "IT SERVES AS A USEFUL GUIDE TO POLICY-MAKERS, SERVICE PLANNERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THAT OF COURSE, INCLUDES YOUNG PEOPLE THEMSELVES."

COPIES WILL BE SENT TO YOUTH-RELATED ORGANISATIONS AND RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THEIR REFERENCE.

/THE STATISTICAL

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THE STATISTICAL PROFILE IS NOW ON SALE AT HK\$52 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, SAID THE RESPONSE OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH WAS VERY ENCOURAGING.

SO FAR, 205 ORGANISATIONS AND 60 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BECOME SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CHARTER.

MORE THAN 26,500 COPIES OF THE CHARTER HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS.

"WE ARE ANTICIPATING MORE COMMUNITY SUPPORT TO HELP IMPLEMENT THIS MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT ON OUR YOUTHS," MR LI SAID.

COPIES OF THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. FOR ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL 835 1929.

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TROPICAL CYCLONE AND STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL STATIONS

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AS THE TAI PO KAU MARINE POLICE BASE IS NO LONGER OPERATIONAL, TROPICAL CYCLONE AND STRONG MONSOON WARNING SIGNALS WILL CEASE TO BE DISPLAYED THERE FROM NEXT TUESDAY (JUNE 15).

HOWEVER, VISUAL SIGNALS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE FOLLOWING NINE STATIONS:

ABERDEEN MARINE OFFICE,
CHEUNG CHAU METEOROLOGICAL STATION,
LAU FAU SHAN POLICE STATION,
SAI KUNG POLICE STATION,
SHA TAU KOK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS,
SHAU KEI WAN MARINE OFFICE,
STANLEY POLICE STATION,
TAI LAM SMALL BOAT UNIT HEADQUARTERS, AND
TAI O POLICE STATION.

INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF TROPICAL CYCLONE AND STRONG MONSOON WARNING SIGNALS WHEN HOISTED, THE WEATHER AND PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE, IS BROADCAST FREQUENTLY BY RADIO AND TELEVISION.

ADDITIONALLY, THE PUBLIC CAN OBTAIN THE INFORMATION BY CALLING 835 1473 OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OR THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY'S DIAL-A-WEATHER RECORDED CHINESE WEATHER SERVICE ON 369 2200 AND RECORDED ENGLISH WEATHER SERVICE ON 369 0066.

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES ANNOUNCED
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD FROM JUNE 12 TO 14 (SATURDAY TO MONDAY).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WOULD BE NO HOLIDAY OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE ON JUNE 12 (SATURDAY), WHICH IS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE QUEEN.

HOWEVER, EIGHT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL BE OPEN ON JUNE 13, WHICH IS A SUNDAY, AND JUNE 14, WHICH IS THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.

THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KNG ISLAND; THE KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND YAUMATEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON THE TWO DAYS.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE THREE DAYS OF HOLIDAY.

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CLINIC TO PROVIDE LIMITED SERVICE
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT DUE TO ELECTRICITY SUSPENSION, LIMITED SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED AT THE SHAM SHUI PO PUBLIC DISPENSARY IN YEE KUK STREET BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 10).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO GO TO NEARBY CLINICS SUCH AS THE NAM SHAN HEALTH CENTRE, SHEK KIP MEI HEALTH CENTRE AND CHEUNG SHA WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC FOR ASSISTANCE.

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SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON CITY
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN KOWLOON CITY WILL TURN OFF FROM 9.30 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 10) TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT MA TAU WAI ROAD, SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD, KWEI CHOW STREET, YUK YAT STREET AND CHI KIANG STREET.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
* * * * *

TENDER DATE	8 JUNE 93	8 JUNE 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q323	H366
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD3,955 MN	HKD2,250 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,000 MN	HKD400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.10 PCT	3.37 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.10 PCT	3.38 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 64 PCT	ABOUT 3 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.12 PCT	3.41 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 14 JUNE 1993 -

TENDER DATE	15 JUNE 93	15 JUNE 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q324	Y390
ISSUE DATE	16 JUNE 93	16 JUNE 93
MATURITY DATE	15 SEPT 93	15 DEC 93
TENDOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,000 + 200 MN	HKD300 + 90 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,320
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,480
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,985
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	815
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 111.9 * -0.1* 8.6.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.35 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.69	3.81
1 MONTH	2.69 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.94	3.98
3 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.96	4.20
6 MONTHS	3.34 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.96	4.36
12 MONTHS	3.62 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,073 MN

CLOSED JUNE 8, 1993

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