



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1994

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LEGCO'S CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) HAS PROVISIONALLY DETERMINED THE BOUNDARIES OF THE 20 GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS IN 1995 AND ARE INVITING PUBLIC VIEWS.

THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION WILL START TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND CLOSE ON AUGUST 27. THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE BEC PROPOSES TO DEMARCATATE FOUR CONSTITUENCIES ON HONG KONG ISLAND, SEVEN IN KOWLOON AND NINE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (THURSDAY) ON THE BOUNDARY DELINEATION AND THE LAUNCHING OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION, THE BEC CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID THE COMMISSION WAS FACED WITH TWO MAIN DIFFICULTIES WHEN DRAWING UP THE BOUNDARIES:

- * STRIKING A FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN THE CONSIDERATIONS OF COMMUNITY IDENTITIES AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL TIES AGAINST THE STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE POPULATION QUOTA; AND
- * DELINEATION OF THE LEGCO CONSTITUENCIES WITHIN THE STRAIT-JACKET OF THE FIXED NUMBER OF 20 CONSTITUENCIES.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE LEGCO ELECTION, BEING THE HIGHEST OF THE THREE-TIER REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE ON A LARGE REGIONAL BASIS, UNLIKE THE LOCALISED DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

THE POPULATION QUOTA FOR A LEGCO CONSTITUENCY IS ABOUT 300,000, 17 TIMES LARGER THAN THAT OF A DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCY AND THREE TIMES OF THAT FOR A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY.

"IN VIEW OF THE LARGE SIZE OF THE CONSTITUENCY, BY AREA AND BY POPULATION, MIXING OF COMMUNITIES WILL BE INEVITABLE. COMMUNITY IDENTITY CONSIDERATIONS ARE LESS DISTINCT AND OF LESS IMPORTANCE IN THE DELINEATION OF LEGCO CONSTITUENCIES," MR JUSTICE WOO SAID.

"EACH LEGCO CONSTITUENCY IS FORMED BY GROUPING A NUMBER OF DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES TOGETHER.

"COHESIVENESS OF A LARGER NUMBER OF PEOPLE OR COMMUNITIES IS BOUND TO BE WEAKER. IT IS INEVITABLE THAT HETEROGENEITY OF COMMUNITIES WILL RESULT," HE ADDED.

IN ORDER TO RESPECT COMMUNITY IDENTITIES AND PRESERVE LOCAL TIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, A LEGCO CONSTITUENCY AREA WILL ONLY CONSIST OF DISTINCT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES FROM NOT MORE THAN TWO DISTRICTS.

THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE COMMISSION WAS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT ONLY ADJOINING DISTRICTS SHOULD BE COMBINED TO FORM A CONSTITUENCY, NOT ONLY TO ALLEVIATE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY DISTANCE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE COMMUNITIES OF NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS WOULD LIKELY HAVE CLOSER TIES THAN THOSE SEPERATED BY SEA OR LARGE LAND MASSES.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE COMMISSION ANTICIPATED THAT COMBINING DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES FROM TWO DIFFERENT DISTRICTS TO FORM A LEGCO CONSTITUENCY WOULD MEET THE OPPOSITION FROM RESIDENTS OF BOTH DISTRICTS, BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES RESIDENTS FROM TWO DISTINCT DISTRICTS.

POLITICIANS OF THE DISTRICTS CONCERNED WOULD ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RAISE STRONG OBJECTIONS, FOR SUCH A NEW LEGCO CONSTITUENCY MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THEIR POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

"MATTERS RELATING TO MAINTAINING POLITICAL INFLUENCE OR ADVANTAGE ARE NOT ONLY IRRELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION, BUT THE COMMISSION SHOULD AVOID EVEN GIVING ANY SEMBLANCE OF FAVOURING ANY ONE POLITICIAN OR POLITICAL PARTY AS AGAINST OTHERS," MR JUSTICE WOO SAID.

HE ELABORATED ON THE DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED IN THE DEMARCATION EXERCISE WHERE THE POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE DISTRICTS WAS UNEVEN.

FOR INSTANCE, IN THE CASE OF HONG KONG ISLAND, THERE WAS A CONCENTRATION OF POPULATION IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT, ARGUABLY JUSTIFYING TWO CONSTITUENCIES ON ITS OWN.

HOWEVER, IF TWO CONSTITUENCIES WERE ALLOCATED TO THE DISTRICT, THERE WOULD ONLY BE TWO CONSTITUENCIES LEFT TO BE SHARED AMONG THE OTHER THREE DISTRICTS - CENTRAL AND WESTERN, WAN CHAI AND SOUTHERN.

CARVING UP AT LEAST ONE OF THESE DISTRICTS WOULD BE UNAVOIDABLE, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DECIDE WHICH DISTRICT SHOULD BE SPLIT.

MR JUSTICE WOO SAID ANY DECISION MIGHT VERY WELL BE ARBITRARY, NOT SUPPORT BY LOGIC.

DURING THE ONE-MONTH PUBLIC CONSULTATION, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN INSPECT THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY MAPS DURING OFFICE HOURS AT OVER 400 LOCATIONS:

- * THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE;
- * THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS;
- * ALL THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THEIR SUB-OFFICES;
- * THE ESTATE OFFICES OF ALL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES;
- * ALL POST OFFICES;
- * ALL URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL LIBRARIES; AND
- * THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE.

THE CHAIRMAN ENCOURAGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO LET THE COMMISSION HAVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

NOT ONLY THOSE WHO HAD DISSENTING VIEWS SHOULD MAKE KNOWN THEIR OPINIONS, THOSE WHO WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD ALSO LET THE COMMISSION KNOW, SO THAT THE COMMISSION MIGHT TAKE A WELL CONSIDERED AND BALANCED DECISION ON THE MATTER BEFORE FINALISING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

THOSE WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD SEND THEIR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON 10TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

REPRESENTATIONS MADE AFTER AUGUST 27 OR ANONYMOUS REPRESENTATIVES WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

DURING AUGUST 13 TO 19, THE COMMISSION WILL MEET, BY APPOINTMENT, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO MAKE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AT THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE AT THE 10TH FLOOR OF HARBOUR CENTRE. APPOINTMENTS MAY BE MADE ON TEL 827 7144.

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ANOTHER ACP CONTRACT AWARDED

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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS APPROVED THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT UNDER THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) TO BUILD THREE RADAR AND NAVIGATIONAL AID STATIONS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE CONTRACT, VALUED AT \$74.2 MILLION, WILL BE AWARDED TO REALTY CHENG AND PARTNERS CONSTRUCTION LIMITED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE COMPANY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING A TWO-STOREY RADAR STATION AT SHA CHAU AND TWO NAVIGATIONAL AID STATIONS AT LUNG KWU CHAU AND SIU MO TO.

ALL THREE STATIONS WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY FACILITIES AND HELIPADS FOR ACCESS.

WORK WILL COMMENCE NEXT MONTH FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1996.

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED SO FAR TO 59, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF \$50.6 BILLION.

THESE INCLUDE 46 CONTRACTS WORTH OVER \$32.8 BILLION AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, 11 CONTRACTS WORTH OVER \$11.5 BILLION AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, A \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, AND A \$0.6 BILLION AIRPORT RAILWAY IMMERSED TUBE CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

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MORE LAND SUPPLY IN THE PIPELINE

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ABOUT 186.6 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE FORMED AROUND GREEN ISLAND BETWEEN 1995 AND 2000, ACCORDING TO A FEASIBILITY STUDY.

THE RECLAMATION WILL EXTEND WESTWARDS FROM THE EXISTING SHEK TONG TSUI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA AND INCORPORATES BOTH GREEN ISLAND AND LITTLE GREEN ISLAND.

THE DETAILED STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF THE GREEN ISLAND RECLAMATION WAS COMMISSIONED IN MAY 1988 BY THE THEN URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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OVE ARUP AND PARTNERS TOGETHER WITH PETER Y S PUN AND ASSOCIATION UNDERTOOK THE STUDY TO PLAN A COMPREHENSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND TO CONFIRM THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSALS.

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE STUDY WAS COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1993.

A PAPER ON THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY WAS PRESENTED TO THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD TODAY (THURSDAY).

EXPLAINING THE STUDY RESULTS, TDD'S HONG KONG ISLAND AND ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ACTING SENIOR ENGINEER MR CHAU SAU-MING SAID THE NEW RECLAMATION WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR A LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT ACCOMMODATING A TARGET POPULATION OF 103,465.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RECOMMENDED OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RODP) HAD EVOLVED FROM THE WIDER OBJECTIVES OF METROPLAN, THE NEED TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY LINKS AND THE REQUIREMENT TO RELOCATE SOME OF THE EXISTING WATER-FRONT USERS ONTO THE NEW RECLAMATION.

"ACCORDING TO THE RODP, 53.41 HECTARES OF THE RECLAIMED LAND WILL BE USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSE, 21.6 HECTARES FOR GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY USE, 28.3 HECTARES FOR INDUSTRY AND OTHER USES, 18.78 HECTARES FOR URBAN FRINGE PARK USE AND 37.9 HECTARES FOR ROAD, PAVEMENTS, PLANTING PURPOSES," MR CHAU SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE RODP ROAD NETWORK HAD BEEN DICTATED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF ROUTE 7 (SAI YING PUN TO KENNEDY TOWN); BELCHER BAY LINK; ROUTE 7 (KENNEDY TOWN TO ABERDEEN), AND GREEN ISLAND LINK.

"THE HIGHWAY NETWORK CONSISTS OF ROUTE 7 AND THE GREEN ISLAND LINK.

"INTERCHANGES BETWEEN THESE TWO ROUTES AND THE NEW RECLAMATION AREA PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE LOCAL ROAD NETWORK.

"ROUTE 7 WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON AN ELEVATED STRUCTURE TO PROVIDE LINKS BETWEEN EXISTING KENNEDY TOWN AND THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREA WHILE THE GREEN ISLAND LINK IS BROUGHT INTO A TUNNEL TO MINIMISE ITS IMPACT ON THE NEW DEVELOPMENT," MR CHAU SAID.

ON LOCAL ROAD NETWORK, MR CHAU SAID AN EAST-WEST PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR WOULD SERVE THE RECLAMATION AND TWO DISTRICT DISTRIBUTORS ACT AS NORTH-SOUTH CONNECTIONS.

"IT IS PROPOSED THAT PART OF THE PRIMARY DISTRIBUTOR WILL BE IN TUNNEL TO MAXIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND LAND VALUES," HE ADDED.

REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT DEMANDS, THE STUDY PROPOSED THAT THEY BE MET BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR), TRAM, FRANCHISED BUSES, AND GREEN MINI-BUSES.

THE MTR RESERVE FROM SHEUNG WAN TO KENNEDY TOWN SHOULD BE RETAINED.

LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS POINT TO BENEFITS FOR COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT IF THE MTR EXTENSION TO KENNEDY TOWN WERE TO PROCEED.

/THE OPPORTUNITIES

THE OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE MAXIMISED IF THE STATION WERE TO BE RELOCATED FROM FORBES STREET TO THE SITE VACATED BY THE WHOLESALE MARKET AND ABATTOIR.

THE TRAM NETWORK SHOULD BE EXTENDED ONTO THE RECLAMATION, ALONG THE NEW WATERFRONT, TO A TERMINUS NEAR THE URBAN FRINGE PARK.

NEW FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES TO FOUR DESTINATION AREAS ARE PROPOSED, THEY ARE: CROSS HARBOUR, CENTRAL AND EASTERN, POK FU LAM AND SOUTHERN, AND LOCAL WITHIN WESTERN.

GREEN MINI-BUSES SHOULD BE USED ONLY TO FILL IN GAPS IN THE FRANCHISED BUS NETWORKS ON THE RECLAMATION.

MEANWHILE, MR CHAU NOTED THAT THE RECLAMATION WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR URBAN RENEWAL IN KENNEDY TOWN AS DEVELOPMENT ON THE NEW RECLAMATION WOULD FACILITATE AND ENCOURAGE UPGRADING.

"OPTIONS FOR THE MTR AND A STATION LOCATION IN KENNEDY TOWN WILL BE AN IMPORTANT CATALYST FOR URBAN RENEWAL.

"THE BELCHER BAY AREA WILL PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SHORTFALLS IN GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION AND COMMUNITY AND OPEN SPACE PROVISION IN KENNEDY TOWN.

"SITES RELEASED BY THE REPROVISIONING OF THE WHOLESALE MARKET, THE ABATTOIR, INCINERATOR, GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY AND OTHER WATERFRONT ACTIVITIES WILL STIMULATE THE POTENTIAL FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA.

AT THE SAME TIME, SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WILL BE ACHIEVED BY THE RELOCATION OF THESE SOURCES OF NUISANCE.

SHORT AND LONG TERM AMENDMENTS WILL HELP INTEGRATE KENNEDY TOWN WITH THE NEW RECLAMATION AND ITS URBAN COMMUNITY.

RECLAMATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES COMMENCING NEXT YEAR.

THE TOTAL COST FOR THE RECLAMATION, DRAINAGE AND ROAD NETWORK, EXCLUDING THE GREEN ISLAND LINK IS ESTIMATED AT \$7,250 MILLION AT 1991 COSTS.

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CLOSE WATCH ON U.S. PROPOSALS TO CHANGE
ORIGIN RULES FOR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH AND CLOSELY MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RECENT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO CHANGE U.S. RULES OF ORIGIN FOR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING GOODS, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"WE NEED TO ASSESS VERY CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL TO THE U.S. AND OUR RIGHTS UNDER THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

/AMENDMENTS WERE

AMENDMENTS WERE RECENTLY PUT FORWARD IN THE U.S. CONGRESS TO THE DRAFT IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE U.S. RULES OF ORIGIN FOR TEXTILES AND APPAREL GOODS.

IF ADOPTED, THE PROPOSALS WOULD MEAN A BREAK WITH CURRENT U.S. PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE. FOR MOST TEXTILE PRODUCTS, THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WOULD BE DETERMINED BY WHERE THE GOODS ARE ASSEMBLED, IN CONTRAST TO THE EXISTING RULES WHICH USE CUTTING OF FABRIC AS THE MAIN DETERMINANT OF ORIGIN.

MR MILLER SAID: "THIS IS CHANGING THE RULES AFTER THE GAME HAS STARTED; IT WILL QUITE CLEARLY DISRUPT TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY CUTTING ACROSS ESTABLISHED COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS."

"CHANGING TO ASSEMBLY AS ORIGIN-CONFERRING WOULD DISRUPT TRADE PATTERNS AND FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT," HE SAID.

"WHAT WE FIND DISAPPOINTING IS THAT WHILE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN, THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE EXPLICIT SUPPORT OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS."

"HONG KONG HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE U.S. ITS SERIOUS CONCERN WITH SUCH A UNILATERAL MOVE, AND OUR WASHINGTON OFFICE HAS APPROACHED RELEVANT U.S. OFFICIALS FOR THIS PURPOSE."

MOST RECENTLY, HE ADDED, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, AND THE HONG KONG COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC AND TRADE AFFAIRS, USA, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, HAVE WRITTEN SEPARATELY TO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE U.S. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

"THEY HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO THE MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE U.S. AS WELL AS OUR RIGHTS UNDER THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS, AND HAVE URGED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ITS POSITION ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS," HE SAID.

MR MILLER SAID THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS WERE CONSIDERED BY MANY COMMENTATORS IN THE U.S. AS A DISGUISE FOR PROTECTIONISM, AND IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT MAJOR U.S. TEXTILE TRADING PARTNERS, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA AND ASEAN COUNTRIES, HAD ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE DEVELOPMENT.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS, IF ADOPTED, WOULD DEPART FROM THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE U.S. IN AT LEAST THREE WAYS.

"FIRST, THEY WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING; SECONDLY, THEY WOULD ALTER A KEY PART OF THE PACKAGE ON WHICH THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING WAS BASED," HE EXPLAINED.

"THIRDLY, THEY WOULD FLY IN THE FACE OF AN UNDERTAKING BY ALL PARTIES IN THE MARRAKESH DECLARATION TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING NEW TRADE RESTRICTING OR DISTORTING MEASURES IN ADVANCE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION."

ADOPTED IN 1985, THE EXISTING U.S. ORIGIN RULES PROVIDE THAT CUTTING OF FABRIC IS THE ORIGIN-CONFERRING PROCESS FOR APPAREL OTHER THAN KNIT-TO-SHAPE GARMENTS.

/THESE RULES

THESE RULES HAVE BEEN THE BASIS OF HONG KONG-U.S. TRADE IN THE RELEVANT PRODUCTS OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, AND THE BASIS OF TWO SUCCESSIVE BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S.

BOTH THE 1986 PROTOCOL OF EXTENSION OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT AND THE URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT ON TEXTILE AND CLOTHING PROVIDE FOR CONSULTATIONS AND EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE EVENT OF CHANGES WHICH AFFECT THE ABILITY OF A PARTICIPANT TO BENEFIT FULLY FROM A BILATERAL AGREEMENT OR DISRUPT TRADE.

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NO NECESSARY FOUNDATION FOR REVIEW
OF SENTENCE IN MANSLAUGHTER CASE

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IN RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF SENTENCE IN RESPECT OF A CASE IN WHICH THE DEFENDANT WAS SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR MANSLAUGHTER, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS DECIDED THAT THE NECESSARY FOUNDATION DOES NOT EXIST TO ENABLE HIM TO SEEK A REVIEW OF THE SENTENCE IMPOSED, A LEGAL DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

WHILE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD THE GREATEST POSSIBLE SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILY OF THE VICTIM IN THE CASE OVER THE TRAGIC BEREAVEMENT THEY HAD SUFFERED, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION HAD ONLY BEEN REACHED AFTER THE MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND A FULL EXAMINATION OF THE CASE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DEFENDANT IN THE CASE WAS NOT CONVICTED OF MURDER, BUT OF THE LESSER OFFENCE OF MANSLAUGHTER.

HE SAID: "THE JURY, BY THEIR VERDICT, EXPRESSLY FOUND THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO KILL, AND THUS NO PREMEDITATION.

"THAT WAS THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION WITH WHICH THE JUDGE WAS CONFRONTED, AND IT WAS AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND THAT THE JUDGE PASSED A SENTENCE OF SIX YEARS' IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

"IN SENTENCING THE DEFENDANT, THE JUDGE COULD NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT WAS DONE TO THE BODY AFTER DEATH; THAT WAS NOT PUNISHABLE IN LAW," HE STRESSED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS SATISFIED THAT THE JUDGE, IN ARRIVING AT THE SENTENCE HE DID, WAS FULLY AWARE OF ALL THE RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE TRAGIC CASE TURNED ON ITS OWN FACTS, AS DID MOST MANSLAUGHTER CASES, AND IT SET NO PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SENTENCING WAS A FUNCTION OF THE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY AND THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL COULD ONLY SEEK A REVIEW OF SENTENCE IF THAT SENTENCE WAS MANIFESTLY INADEQUATE OR WRONG IN PRINCIPLE.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SENTENCE IMPOSED IN THE CASE WAS WITHIN THE PROPER RANGE FOR A CASE OF THIS TYPE, HE NOTED.

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BCCHK ANNOUNCES SIXTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS

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THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AND LIQUIDATOR OF BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION), MR ROBIN HEARDER, TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED A SIXTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS OF THREE PER CENT OF THEIR ADMITTED CLAIMS.

THE THREE PER CENT ANNOUNCED TODAY IS THE SIXTH DIVIDEND TO CREDITORS OWED MORE THAN \$100,000 AND BRINGS DIVIDENDS DECLARED TO 70 PER CENT. CREDITORS OWED \$100,000 OR LESS HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL FOLLOWING A SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER, 1992.

CHEQUES WILL BE DESPATCHED FROM TOMORROW (JULY 29) AND ALL SHOULD HAVE BEEN BE SENT BY AUGUST 5.

THIS WILL BE THE FOURTH DIVIDEND PAYMENT OVER THE PERIOD OF THE LAST NINE MONTHS. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MR HEARDER'S ESTIMATED TIMETABLE OF DIVIDEND PAYMENTS EVERY THREE MONTHS, SUBJECT TO THE TIMING OF ASSET REALISATIONS AND THE RESOLUTION OF SIGNIFICANT CLAIMS.

IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST DIVIDEND PAYMENT IN APRIL THIS YEAR, THE JOINT SPECIAL MANAGERS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DEFENDING A NUMBER OF MAJOR CLAIMS MADE BY CREDITORS, IN PARTICULAR:

- * A MAJOR CREDITOR HAS WITHDRAWN ITS CLAIM THAT A U.S.\$10 MILLION DEPOSIT HELD BY BCCHK WAS HELD ON TRUST. AS A RESULT OF THE CREDITOR ACCEPTING ITS POSITION AS AN UNSECURED CREDITOR, BCCHK WAS ABLE TO RELEASE THE PROVISION RELATING TO THE CLAIM.
- * IN WINNING TWO COURT OF APPEAL ACTIONS IN WHICH THE APPELLANT CREDITOR SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH THE RIGHT OF SET-OFF OF DEPOSITS HELD BY BCCHK IN THE NAME OF ONE ENTITY WITH MONIES OWED BY A SEPARATE BUT RELATED ENTITY. THE COURTS RULED THAT THE CLAIMANTS HAD NO RIGHT OF SET-OFF. THE CLAIMANTS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY MAY APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN WHICH CASE IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MATTER WILL NOT BE FINALISED UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

RECOVERIES IN THE PERIOD WERE HEALTHY - CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 30, 1994 TOTALLED \$196 MILLION. MAJOR RECOVERIES IN THE PERIOD INCLUDED THE FIRST INTERIM DIVIDEND OF 35 PER CENT RECEIVED FROM BCCI FINANCE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (\$51 MILLION) AND MAJOR SETTLEMENTS FROM TWO DEBTOR BANKS IN BANGLADESH TOTTALLING \$66 MILLION.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

MR A R HEARDER	867 2426
MR N P ETCHES	826 7236
MR G C K TAM	826 7259
JOINT SPECIAL MANAGERS	

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CONSULTANTS TO STUDY RIVER TRADE

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THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (PDB) TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A \$1.45 MILLION CONSULTANCY CONTRACT TO OBTAIN ACCURATE STATISTICS ON CARGO MOVEMENTS BETWEEN PEARL RIVER PORTS AND HONG KONG.

THE CONSULTANTS, MARKETING DECISION RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY (MDR), WILL START WORK NEXT MONDAY (AUGUST 1) AND ARE DUE TO COMPLETE THE STUDY BY MAY 31, 1995.

PDB SECRETARY TONY CLARK SAID THE FIGURES COMPILED WOULD BE A VITAL PART OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR RIVER TRADE FACILITIES.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS RIVER TRADE HAS GROWN RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

TOTAL CARGO THROUGHPUT INCREASED BY 56 PER CENT IN 1992 AND 30 PER CENT LAST YEAR. MORE SIGNIFICANT WAS THE GROWTH IN RIVER CONTAINER TRADE; 41 PER CENT IN 1993 AND 54 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

NEW RIVER TRADE FACILITIES ARE NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE GROWTH. MR CLARK POINTED OUT THAT DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICS WERE ESSENTIAL IN DEVISING SHORT TO LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SUCH FACILITIES.

PRESENTLY, THE ONLY FIGURES AVAILABLE ARE THE INWARD AND OUTWARD TOTAL OF RIVER CARGO IN TONNES AND THE RIVER CONTAINER THROUGHPUT.

THESE DO NOT MEET PLANNING NEEDS FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RIVER TRADE WHICH DEMAND DIFFERENT FACILITIES SUCH AS PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, FEEDER BERTHS AND RIVER TRADE TERMINALS.

TO PLAN THESE REQUIRES ACCURATE FIGURES ON SHIPMENT TYPE, COMMODITIES, CARGO TYPE AND PORT OF LOADING AND DISCHARGE.

MEMBERS OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AND ITS VARIOUS COMMITTEES, HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO SET UP A RIVER CARGO STATISTICS SYSTEM AS PRICE AND COMPREHENSIVE AS THAT OPERATING FOR OCEAN CARGO.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONSULTANCY WILL BE USED TO SET UP SUCH A SYSTEM.

AS PART OF ITS PLANS TO COPE WITH GROWING RIVER TRADE THE GOVERNMENT WILL, LATER THIS YEAR, CALL TENDERS FOR THE BUILDING AND OPERATING OF HONG KONG'S FIRST DEDICATED RIVER TRADE TERMINAL (RTT). THIS WILL BE BUILT AT TUEN MUN AND THE FIRST BERTH SHOULD BE OPERATING SOMETIME IN 1997.

BASED ON AVAILABLE STATISTICS THE PDB ESTIMATES THAT THE 20.7 MILLION TONNES OF FREIGHT CARRIED BY RIVER IN 1993 WILL DOUBLE BY 2001 AND QUADRUPLE BY 2011.

IF THE RTT DOES NOT BEGIN OPERATING THE HONG KONG ECONOMY WILL LOSE \$13.3 BILLION BETWEEN 1997 AND 2011. IT WILL MEAN THAT 7.4 MILLION 20-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS (TEUS) OF CONTAINERISED FREIGHT AND 15.2 MILLION TONNES OF BREAK-BULK CARGO DOES NOT MOVE THROUGH THE PORT.

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THERE IS ALSO A GROWING NEED FOR DEDICATED CONTAINER HANDLING FACILITIES FOR RIVER TRADE. ALTHOUGH CONTAINERISATION ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 10 PER CENT OF RIVER CARGOES IN 1991 THE PROPORTION INCREASED TO 20 PER CENT IN 1993. PRESENT FORECASTS SHOW IT WILL REACH 41 PER CENT BY 2011.

RIVER CARGO HANDLING FACILITIES, MAINLY PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS, ARE EXPECTED TO REACH CAPACITY BY 1996.

MORE ACCURATE STATISTICS WILL PERMIT MORE DETAILED PLANNING OF FUTURE FACILITIES.

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PENSION SCHEME THE BEST OPTION

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS LOUISE WONG, TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME PROPOSAL HAD THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AFFORDABLE, RESPONSIBLE, PRACTICAL AND COMPASSIONATE.

SPEAKING TO A GROUP OF ELDERLY PEOPLE AT THE LOK MAN ALICE KWOK INTEGRATED SERVICES CENTRE OF DIOCESAN WELFARE COUNCIL, SHE SAID WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES AT JUST 1.5 PER CENT OF ASSESSABLE INCOME LOCAL RESIDENTS WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO DRAW A PENSION AT \$2,300 PER MONTH ON REACHING 65 YEARS OF AGE.

COMMENTING ON A PROPOSAL TO RESORT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME TO HELP THE NEEDY ELDERLY, SHE SAID THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT THE ELDERLY PERSONS WOULD PREFER THE DIGNITY OF HAVING A NON-MEANS-TESTED PENSION RATHER THAN RELYING ON A SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME.

"AS TO THE ALTERNATIVE OF INCREASING OLD AGE ALLOWANCE TO \$2,300 PER MONTH FOR THE ENTIRE ELDERLY POPULATION, THIS WILL IMPOSE A SERIOUS TAX BURDEN ON OUR WAGE EARNERS AND MAY BE SOMETHING WHICH THE ELDERLY WOULD NOT HAVE WISHED."

"ON THE OTHER HAND, SETTING UP A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME WILL NOT HELP THE PRESENT GENERATION OF 590,000 ELDERLY PEOPLE, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM HAVE RETIRED AND HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME. IT WILL NOT BENEFIT THE LARGE NUMBER OF HOUSEWIVES.

"THE OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME, THEREFORE, REMAINS THE BEST OPTION," MRS WONG STRESSED.

SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PLEDGED MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SCHEME BY AGREEING TO PLOUGH BACK ALL THE SAVINGS IN EXISTING OLD AGE BENEFITS AT \$3.6 BILLION IN 1994, AND BY CONTRIBUTING AS AN EMPLOYER, AT A COST OF ABOUT \$1.2 BILLION IN 1994.

TOGETHER WITH THE \$10 BILLION CASH INJECTION AS A START-UP FUND, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALREADY BE MEETING MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE SCHEME, MRS WONG EXPLAINED.

SHE INVITED MEMBERS TO GIVE THE VIEWS ON THE SCHEME IN THE CONSULTATION PERIOD BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE 1994

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BOTH RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS CONTINUED TO RECORD SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN JUNE 1994 OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1993, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWING A MODERATE INCREASE.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS, AT \$80.3 BILLION IN JUNE 1994, WAS \$13.3 BILLION OR 20% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$1.2 BILLION OR 6.4% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$19.7 BILLION IN JUNE.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$14.4 BILLION OR 17% TO \$100.0 BILLION IN JUNE 1994. MEANWHILE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$21.5 BILLION OR 24% TO \$110.8 BILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN JUNE 1994 WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$10.8 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 9.7% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED. THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$3.7 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, IN JUNE 1993.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1994, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 10% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. AMONGST THIS, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 14%, WHILE THAT OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL BY 4.3%.

SUPPORTED LARGELY BY THE CONTINUED EXPANSION IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 13%.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1994, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$45.8 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 8.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED.

THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$27.8 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993.

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES OF 1994, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS, HAVING MODERATED SINCE THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT PICK-UP IN JUNE.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS ALSO RETURNED TO MODERATE INCREASE, AFTER HAVING DECLINED FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE MONTHS.

MEANWHILE, RETAINED IMPORTS IN JUNE 1994 PICKED UP FURTHER TO SHOW A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 31% OVER JUNE 1993.

FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1994, RETAINED IMPORTS WAS 12% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER. THIS SUGGESTS THAT DOMESTIC DEMAND SHOULD REMAIN ROBUST, WHILE EXTERNAL DEMAND IS LIKELY TO IMPROVE FURTHER IN THE COMING MONTHS.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE 1994, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-AUGUST.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE 1994

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$19,688 million
Re-exports :	\$80,300 million
Total Exports :	\$99,988 million
Imports :	\$110,753 million
Trade balance :	-\$10,765 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Apr 94 to	Apr 93 to	Change	
	Jun 94	Jun 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	53,999	54,473	-474	-0.9
(% of Total Exports)	(18.9%)	(21.3%)		
Re-exports	231,028	201,591	+29,437	+14.6
Total Exports	285,028	256,064	+28,964	+11.3
Imports	316,943	273,672	+43,271	+15.8
Trade balance	-31,916	-17,608	-14,307	

Same month last year	June	June	Change	
	1994	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,688	18,509	+1,179	+6.4
(% of Total Exports)	(19.7%)	(21.6%)		
Re-exports	80,300	67,041	+13,258	+19.8
Total Exports	99,988	85,551	+14,437	+16.9
Imports	110,753	89,295	+21,458	+24.0
Trade balance	-10,765	-3,744	-7,021	

Last month	June	May	Change	
	1994	1994	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,688	17,705	+1,983	+11.2
(% of Total Exports)	(19.7%)	(18.9%)		
Re-exports	80,300	75,909	+4,390	+5.8
Total Exports	99,988	93,615	+6,373	+6.8
Imports	110,753	104,297	+6,456	+6.2
Trade balance	-10,765	-10,683	-83	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Jun	Jan-Jun	Change	
	1994	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	98,743	103,182	-4,439	-4.3
(% of Total Exports)	(18.7%)	(21.5%)		
Re-exports	428,285	375,789	+52,496	+14.0
Total Exports	527,028	478,971	+48,057	+10.0
Imports	572,863	506,726	+66,137	+13.1
Trade balance	-45,835	-27,755	-18,080	

Last 12 months	Jul 93 to	Jul 92 to	Change	
	Jun 94	Jun 93	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	218,588	230,364	-11,776	-5.1
(% of Total Exports)	(20.0%)	(23.3%)		
Re-exports	875,720	757,387	+118,333	+15.6
Total Exports	1,094,307	987,751	+106,557	+10.8
Imports	1,138,734	1,019,375	+119,359	+11.7
Trade balance	-44,427	-31,624	-12,803	

28 July 1994

CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1994

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COMPUTERISING SPEEDPOST SERVICES

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THE ACCEPTANCE AND ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE WILL BE COMPUTERISED WITH EFFECT FROM NEXT MONDAY (AUGUST 1), THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY.

"SPEEDPOST IS A PREMIUM POSTAL SERVICE WHICH PROVIDES A SPEEDY AND RELIABLE SERVICE FOR TRANSFERRING DOCUMENTS, SAMPLES AND MERCHANDISE OVERSEAS," MR PAGLIARI SAID.

"THE COMPUTERISED SPEEDPOST ACCEPTANCE SYSTEM WILL STREAMLINE ITS ACCEPTANCE OPERATION, ACCOUNTING, ENQUIRY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, SO THAT CUSTOMERS CAN ENJOY SPEEDIER SERVICES IN POSTING ITEMS, ENQUIRY AND SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

"IT REPRESENTS PART OF THE POST OFFICE'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE POSTAL SERVICE WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYING A VITAL PART IN HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM CONSISTS OF A HOST COMPUTER LINKED TO THE TERMINALS PROVIDED AT THE 37 SPEEDPOST ACCEPTANCE OFFICES, THE SPEEDPOST PICK-UP CENTRES AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL MAIL CENTRE, THE AIR MAIL CENTRE WHICH DESPATCHES SPEEDPOST ITEMS TO OVERSEAS COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THE ACCOUNTING DIVISION AT THE POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS.

ALL POSTING DATA WILL BE IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED BY THE SYSTEM WHEN SPEEDPOST ITEMS ARE ACCEPTED AND PROCESSED AT ANY TERMINAL.

SPEEDPOST DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE MANUALLY PREPARED AT PRESENT WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY PRODUCED BY THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM, WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SPEEDPOST SERVICE.

STARTING FROM AUGUST 1, 1994, SPEEDPOST CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE POST OFFICE WILL BE ABLE TO TENDER SPEEDPOST ITEMS FOR POSTING AT ANY OF THE 37 SPEEDPOST ACCEPTANCE OFFICES, INSTEAD OF BEING LIMITED TO ONLY ONE OR TWO DESIGNATED OFFICES AS UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

THESE CUSTOMERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED NEW SPEEDPOST AUTHORITY CARDS BEARING NEW AGREEMENT NUMBERS AND BAR CODE LABELS TO BE AFFIXED ON SPEEDPOST ITEMS FOR CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION PURPOSE.

THEY ARE REMINDED TO USE THEIR NEW AGREEMENT NUMBERS AND NEW SPEEDPOST AUTHORITY CARDS FOR THEIR PICK-UP ORDERS AND POSTINGS AT COUNTER WITH EFFECT FROM THAT DATE.

BAR-CODE LABELS BEARING THEIR NEW AGREEMENT NUMBERS SHOULD BE AFFIXED ON EVERY SPEEDPOST ITEM THEY POST.

OTHER CUSTOMERS WHO DO NOT HAVE AGREEMENTS WITH THE POST OFFICE WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A POSTING DOCKET (FORM POS 481 OR POS 481A) WHEN POSTING THEIR SPEEDPOST ITEMS OVER THE COUNTER.

THIS FORM IS OBTAINABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT ANY OF THE 37 SPEEDPOST ACCEPTANCE OFFICES.

/IT CONSISTS

IT CONSISTS OF TWO PAGES WHICH ARE CARBONATED. IT WILL BE MACHINE-PRINTED WITH FULL DETAILS OF POSTING UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPEEDPOST ITEM AND THE UNDERCOPY WILL BE RETURNED TO THE CUSTOMER FOR RETENTION AS A CERTIFICATE OF POSTING.

CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE ANY ENQUIRY ON THE REVISED POSTING ARRANGEMENTS AND INDEED ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO SPEEDPOST MAY CONTACT THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE ON TEL 9221 2277.

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REPORT ON REGULATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS TO BE PUBLISHED
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THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REGULATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS HELD ITS NINTH MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY) TO FINALISE ITS DRAFT REPORT WHICH IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS' TIME.

THE REPORT, TO BE PUBLISHED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AND THE PAMPHLET CONTAINING THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC WITH A VIEW TO CANVASSING PUBLIC OPINION ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO REGULATE REAL ESTATE AGENTS.

IN THE LIGHT OF VIEWS COLLECTED DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE, THE WORKING GROUP WILL THEN FINALISE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ITS FINAL REPORT.

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NO OBJECTION TO GAS PIPELINE THROUGH COUNTRY PARK
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THE COUNTRY PARKS BOARD (CPB) DECIDED AT A MEETING ON TUESDAY (JULY 26) THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF ALTERNATIVES AND IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY, NOT TO OBJECT A PROPOSAL BY THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY LIMITED TO LAY AN UNDERGROUND GAS PIPELINE ACROSS THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK.

THE DECISION WAS REACHED AFTER DETAILED DELIBERATION INCLUDING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES, MITIGATION MEASURES AND THE COMMUNITY NEED AT LARGE. HOWEVER, ONE CPB MEMBER HAD RESERVATION ON THE PROPSAL.

THE PROPOSAL WAS FIRST PRESENTED TO THE BOARD IN 1992. IT HAD SINCE BEEN CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY BY MEMBERS OF THE CPB AND ITS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. SEVERAL SITE VISITS WERE CONDUCTED AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION WAS ALSO CARRIED OUT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CPB SAID THE PROJECT WOULD LINK THE EXISTING GAS PIPELINE ON ROUTE TWISK TO LANTAU TO FACILITATE THE SUPPLY OF TOWN GAS TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ROUTING AND CONSTRUCTION APPROACH HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE TO WOODLAND AND LANDSCAPE, AND THAT ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS WILL BE EMPLOYED TO MONITOR THE WORK.

THE CPB ALSO RECOMMENDED TO IMPOSE A WIDE RANGE OF CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ENHANCEMENT PLANTING, LANDSCAPE RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION OF FOREST TRACK AND MITIGATION MEASURES TO MINIMISE DISTURBANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE COMPANY HAD TO RESTORE THE WHOLE ROUTE OF THE PIPELINE TO A HIKING TRAIL FOR PUBLIC USE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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MOST OF THE BLOCKED ROADS RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC

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MOST OF THE ROADS WHICH HAVE BEEN EITHER COMPLETELY OR PARTIALLY CLOSED DUE TO FLOODING OR LANDSLIP DURING THE TORRENTIAL RAIN IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID MORE THAN 300 INCIDENTS HAD BEEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S EMERGENCY CO-ORDINATION CENTRE SINCE JULY 22.

OVER 80 PER CENT OF THESE CASES WERE CLEARED AND ROAD TRAFFIC HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL GRADUALLY.

SOME OF THE CASES ARE MORE COMPLICATED AND IT WOULD TAKE A BIT MORE TIME BEFORE THE ROADS CAN BE RE-OPENED.

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, A LANDSLIP OCCURED AT MAGAZINE GAP ROAD NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH MAY ROAD. AS A RESULT, ONE LANE HAS TO BE CLOSED FOR A FEW WEEKS TO ENABLE REMEDIAL WORK TO PROCEED. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED.

A KUNG NGAM ROAD FRONTING MING WAH DAI HA IN SHAU KEI WAN IS BLOCKED BY LANDSLIP. ACCESS TO PREMISES ALONG A KUNG NGAM ROAD CAN BE MADE FROM EITHER CHAI WAN ROAD OR SHAU KEI WAN MAIN STREET. REPAIR WORK IS IN PROGRESS AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ROAD WOULD BE RE-OPENED TO ONE-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON AUGUST 3 AND RESUME NORMAL TWO-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC IN MID-AUGUST.

SOUTH BOUND OF REPULSE BAY ROAD NEAR HOUSE NO.36 HAS BEEN CLOSED AS A RESULT OF LANDSLIP. TEMPORARY SLOPE PROTECTION WORK WAS IN PROGRESS AND THE ROAD WOULD BE RE-OPENED TO NORMAL TWO-LANE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TOMORROW.

IN KOWLOON, HAU MAN STREET IN HO MAN TIN WILL HAVE ONE LANE TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS FOR REMEDIAL WORKS.

CONSTRUCTION OF SAFETY FENCE AT SAU MAU PING ROAD JUNCTION OF SAU MAU PATH IS IN PROGRESS. IT IS EXPECTED TWO LANES WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC AFTER THE SAFETY FENCE HAS BEEN ERECTED IN ABOUT FOUR DAYS.

THE DOWNHILL CARRIAGEWAY OF NEW CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD IS AFFECTED BY LANDSLIP. ONLY THE FAST LANE IS OPENED TO TRAFFIC AND REMEDIAL WORK IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A FEW WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, SAI SHA ROAD IN KEI LENG HA, SAI KUNG, IS EXPECTED TO BE FULLY RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO. AT PRESENT, ONE LANE IS OPENED FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

ON CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR MILESTONE 10, ONE LANE HAS BEEN RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, AND ONE LANE NEAR MILESTONE 14-1/2 IS EXPECTED TO RE-OPEN EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.

ON LANTAU ISLAND, ONE LANE OF KEUNG SHAN ROAD NEAR NGONG PING ROAD IS RE-OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN THE MORNING OF TODAY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE ROAD WILL BE FULLY RE-OPENED IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

ON SOUTH LANTAU ROAD NEAR CHEUNG SHA, ONE LANE IS OPENED TO TRAFFIC. CLEARANCE OF DEBRIS AT REMAINING LANE IS IN PROGRESS AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

GARMENT TRADER FINED FOR
FALSE DECLARATION ON EXPORT NOTIFICATION

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTED A GARMENT TRADER FOR MAKING FALSE DECLARATION ON EXPORT NOTIFICATION.

THE HEAD OF CUSTOMS TRADE CONTROLS, MR Y Y LEUNG, TODAY REMINDED TEXTILES TRADERS NOT TO ABUSE THE TEXTILES TRADERS REGISTRATION SCHEME (TTRS).

THE TTRS, INTRODUCED IN 1993, PROVIDES A CONVENIENT ALTERNATIVE TO TRADERS IN IMPORTING AND EXPORTING TEXTILES.

NOTIFICATIONS IN PLACE OF LICENCES CAN BE USED TO COVER ALL TEXTILES IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES WITHOUT QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON HONG KONG.

TRADERS REGISTERED UNDER THE TTRS ARE ONLY REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FULL AND CORRECT PARTICULARS OF THE CONSIGNMENTS ON THE NOTIFICATIONS AND THEN SUBMIT THEM TO THE TRADE DEPARTMENT THROUGH CARRIERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTING THE GOODS.

THE DEFENDANT, SHINE CREATION GARMENTS LIMITED, WAS FINED \$6,178 AT TSUEN WAN MAGISTRACY TODAY FOR MAKING FALSE DECLARATION ON AN EXPORT NOTIFICATION WHICH COVERS 528 MEN'S COTTON SHIRTS.

THE SHIRTS, VALUED AT \$20,000, WAS ARRANGED TO BE CUT AND SEWN IN CHINA BUT WAS LATER EXPORTED BY THE DEFENDANT UNDER COVER OF AN EXPORT NOTIFICATION ON WHICH THE DEFENDANT FALSELY DECLARED ITSELF TO BE THE MANUFACTURER OF THE SHIRTS AND THE GOODS WERE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN.

MR LEUNG ALSO SAID THAT PREVIOUS DEFENDANTS' NOTIFICATION FRAUD HAD RECEIVED MUCH HEAVIER PENALTIES.

EARLIER THIS YEAR, A GARMENT FACTORY WAS FINED \$40,000 FOR FALSELY DECLARED THE ORIGIN OF 2,300 BABIES' COTTON BIB AND BRACE ON AN EXPORT NOTIFICATION. ANOTHER COMPANY WAS ALSO FINED \$15,000 FOR MAKING FALSE DECLARATION ON IMPORT NOTIFICATION OF 6,804 SQUARE METRES OF FABRIC INTENDED TO BE RE-EXPORTED TO TAIWAN AS IMPORTED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

MR LEUNG ADDED THAT THE CUSTOMS WAS TAKING VIGILANT ACTION ON NOTIFICATION CHECKING AND THEIR EFFORT HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE COURTS.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OTHER REGION) OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, MR JOHN TSANG, SAID: "THE CONVENIENCE OF THE TTRS SHOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS A RELAXATION OF CONTROL.

"DEPENDING ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE OFFENCE, CONVICTED TEXTILES TRADERS ARE LIABLE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WHICH MAY TAKE THE FORM OF DEREGISTRATION FROM THE SCHEME AND POSSIBLY DENIAL OF LICENSING FACILITIES, IN ADDITION TO THE PROSECUTION ACTION INSTITUTED AGAINST THEM."

SEMINAR TO PROMOTE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED

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MORE THAN 60 EMPLOYERS, PERSONNEL MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS EXCHANGED THEIR VIEWS ON WAYS TO ENHANCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED IN THE RETAIL INDUSTRY DURING A SEMINAR HELD THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

"THE SEMINAR, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION (SPD) AND THE RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION LIMITED, AIMED AT INCREASING PARTICIPANTS' UNDERSTANDING ON THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED, " THE SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MRS JENNIE CHOR, SAID.

NOTING THAT THE SHIFTING OF INDUSTRIAL WORK PROCESSES TO CHINA HAD CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR THE DISABLED IN FINDING JOBS, MRS CHOR SAID: "WE HOPE THAT THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN DIFFERENT TRADES, WE CAN FIND MORE JOBS FOR THE DISABLED."

AT THE SEMINAR, GUEST SPEAKERS MS VIVIAN HO, COUNSELLOR OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, AND MRS MARIAN CHEUNG, SUPERVISOR OF THE REHABILITATION DIVISION OF ST JAMES' SETTLEMENT, GAVE TALKS ON THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DEAF AND DUMB AND THAT OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED RESPECTIVELY.

MEANWHILE, MS JEANNY LUKE, TRAINING CONSULTANT OF WING ON DEPARTMENT STORES (HONG KONG) LIMITED, AND MS SANDRA NG, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND LOSS PREVENTION OF J W MARRIOTT HOTEL HONG KONG, SHARED THEIR WORKING EXPERIENCE WITH DISABLED COLLEAGUES WITH OTHER EMPLOYERS.

"BOTH MS LUKE AND MS NG ARE OF THE SAME VIEW THAT DISABLED WORKERS ARE GENERALLY DEDICATED AND RESPONSIBLE, AND THEY ARE COMPETENT TO PERFORM THE DUTIES IF EMPLOYERS FIND THEM A SUITABLE JOB," MRS CHOR SAID.

DURING THE SEMINAR, A NUMBER OF HEARING IMPAIRED, VISUALLY IMPAIRED AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED EMPLOYEES ALSO SHARED THEIR FEELINGS AND WORKING EXPERIENCE TO HELP PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK TO THE DISABLED.

VIDEOS DESCRIBING THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED WERE PRESENTED TO PARTICIPANTS AND A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY ON EMPLOYERS' VIEWS WAS CONDUCTED AT THE SEMINAR TO HELP SPD IN FURTHER ENHANCING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED IN THE RETAIL INDUSTRY.

SHE ALSO URGED EMPLOYERS IN ALL TRADES TO EXPLORE SUITABLE JOB VACANCIES FOR THE DISABLED SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE GOOD USE OF THEIR POTENTIALS AND TALENTS.

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LONG SERVING MARKETING STAFF RETIRE

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THIRTEEN STAFF MEMBERS OF THE FISH AND VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATIONS (F/VMO), WHO HAVE AMONG THEMSELVES CHALKED UP A TOTAL OF 293 YEARS OF SERVICE, RETIRED TODAY (THURSDAY).

NINE OF THEM ARE FROM THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (FMO) AND THE REST FROM THE THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION (VMO). THEY HAVE SERVED AN AVERAGE OF OVER 22 YEARS EACH.

TWO FMO STAFF MEMBERS AND ONE VMO EMPLOYEE HAVE EACH SERVED FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS. THE VMO STAFF, MR SO CHI-KEI, HAS SERVED 42 YEARS IN THE ORGANISATION.

AT A CEREMONY HELD AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN WHOLESALE VEGETABLE MARKET, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, PRESENTED THEM WITH SOUVENIRS AND PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR LOYALTY AND SUPPORT OVER THE YEARS.

"THEIR HARD WORK AND DEVOTION TO THE JOB HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF BOTH ORGANISATIONS," DR LEE SAID.

"THEIR FINE PERFORMANCE IN THEIR WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE, INDEED, SET GOOD EXAMPLES TO OTHER COLLEAGUES OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS," HE ADDED.

AT THE CEREMONY, DR LEE ALSO PRESENTED A CHEQUE FOR \$2,000 AND A COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE TO A VMO EMPLOYEE, MR WAN CHAN-WAH, IN RECOGNITION FOR HIS MERITORIOUS SUGGESTIONS UNDER THE F/VMO STAFF SUGGESTIONS SCHEME.

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IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AWARDED LONG SERVICE INSIGNIA

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SIXTEEN MEMBERS OF THE IMMIGRATION SERVICE WERE AWARDED THE LONG SERVICE INSIGNIA.

TO MARK THE OCCASION, A PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICIATED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, MR JOHN YEUNG HIN-CHUNG, TODAY (JULY 28).

CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR STEPHEN HUNG KWOK-WAH WAS AWARDED THE SECOND CLASP TO HIS MEDAL FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.

PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER MR MAK KWAI-YUN AND 14 OTHERS WERE EACH PRESENTED THE FIRST CLASP SIGNIFYING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE.

AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR YEUNG SAID THE AWARD OF THE HONG KONG SERVICES MEDAL WAS TO HONOUR THOSE WHO HAD RENDERED LONG AND MERITORIOUS SERVICE AS MEMBERS OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

HE ALSO CONGRATULATED ALL RECIPIENTS AND THANKED THEM FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF LOYAL AND DEDICATED SERVICE.

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1994

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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	2,874	0930	-1,298
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,095	1000	-1,149
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-1,119
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-1,119	1200	-1,119
LAF TODAY	+1,340	1500	-1,119
		1600	-1,119
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 122.7	**+0.0*	28.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.10	16 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.11	5.73
1 MONTH	3.75	22 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.31	6.25
3 MONTHS	4.20	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.42	6.73
6 MONTHS	4.62	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.46	6.88
12 MONTHS	5.33	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.16	7.01

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 60,082 MN

CLOSED 28 JULY 1994

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