



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

MONDAY, JULY 8, 1991

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REDUCE INT'L TRADE BARRIERS: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER ORGANISATIONS TO PUT THEIR WEIGHT BEHIND THE IDEA OF REDUCING TRADING BARRIERS BENEFITTING THE CONSUMER AND GETTING A GOOD OUTCOME TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE 13TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF CONSUMERS UNIONS (IOCU), SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD AFFECT THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM FOR YEARS TO COME.

"THAT MEANS WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE CAN GET THE GOODS THEY WANT AT THE BEST POSSIBLE PRICE OR WHETHER THE CONSUMER PAYS AN ARTIFICIALLY HIGH PRICE TO PROTECT THE SPECIAL INTERESTS OF ONE OR OTHER GROUP OF MANUFACTURERS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG BELIEVED IN FREE TRADE AND BELIEVED IT WAS GOOD FOR THE CONSUMER AND DID NO HARM EITHER TO THE ENERGETIC AND INNOVATIVE MANUFACTURER.

"IT IS HARD TO FIND A PLACE MORE COMPETITIVE THAN HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT BUSINESSES HERE HAD NO PROTECTION FROM IMPORTS.

"LOCAL GOODS AND SERVICES COMPETE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH THOSE FROM OVERSEAS. BUSINESSES SUCCEED BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF THE CUSTOMER; BY RESPONDING QUICKLY TO CHANGES IN FASHION; BY OFFERING PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT, WHEN THEY WANT IT, THE WAY THEY WANT IT, AT A PRICE THEY ARE PREPARED TO PAY.

"THAT IS WHAT FREE TRADE HAS MEANT FOR THE HONG KONG CONSUMER," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG'S CONSUMER COUNCIL HAD DONE A GREAT DEAL SINCE IT WAS SET UP IN 1974.

"MOST IMPORTANT, IT IS RESPECTED AND ACCESSIBLE. IT HAS ESTABLISHED A NETWORK OF CONSUMER ADVISORY CENTRES.

"BUSINESSES TAKE THE COUNCIL'S CRITICISMS SERIOUSLY; CONSUMERS WELCOME ITS ADVICE; AND THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS ITS VIEWS WHEN PREPARING LEGISLATION ON CONSUMER PROTECTION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR TOLD THE CONFERENCE THAT HONG KONG ALREADY HAD LEGISLATION DEALING WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CONSUMER ISSUES AND MORE WOULD FOLLOW.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE LIMITS TO THE EXTENT LEGISLATION ALONE COULD PROTECT THE CONSUMER.

/"PUBLIC EDUCATION .....

"PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT THE NEED TO SELECT CAREFULLY WHEN BUYING, AND ABOUT CONSUMER RIGHTS, IS IMPORTANT TOO.

"OUR CONSUMER COUNCIL WORKS HARD TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS IN HONG KONG. CONFERENCES LIKE THIS HELP TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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CS CLARIFIES IMPORTED LABOUR NUMBERS  
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THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF LABOUR THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT NEED TO IMPORT IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE ABOUT 2,000, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (MONDAY) MORNING.

TALKING ON THE RTHK RADIO-3'S "HONG KONG TODAY" PROGRAMME, SIR DAVID SAID THERE HAD BEEN A BIT OF CONFUSION OVER THE WEEKEND AS TO THE NUMBERS OF IMPORTED LABOUR RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION, AS THERE WOULD BE A LOT OF PLANT AND MACHINERY INVOLVED, EARTH MOVING AND DREDGING AND SO ON, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT MIGHT NEED TO IMPORT IN THOSE FIRST TWO YEARS WOULD BE ABOUT 2,000.

"WHEN THE AIRPORT IS IN FULL SWING AND WE'RE CONSTRUCTING THE BUILDINGS THEMSELVES AND SO ON, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER WE MIGHT NEED THEN WOULD BE AROUND ABOUT 20,000," SIR DAVID SAID.

BUT HE SAID IT WOULD BE ABOUT THREE TO FOUR YEARS DOWN THE TRACK AT THE VERY EARLIEST.

"WE HAVEN'T YET IN ANY CASE MADE A DECISION ABOUT HOW MANY WILL BE NEEDED IN EACH PARTICULAR YEAR," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO DECIDE.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO MAKE A DECISION WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO ON THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED LABOUR NEEDED IN THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT PART OF THE ASSESSMENT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING NOW WAS TO SEE WHETHER HONG KONG DID NEED TO BRING IN MORE LABOUR FROM ABROAD.

THERE WERE EARLY INDICATIONS THAT THERE WERE CONSIDERABLE SHORTAGES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PARTICULARLY, HE SAID.

WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AIRPORT, NOT ONLY WOULD THE AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PICK UP, BUT ALSO CONSTRUCTION IN THE REST OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR WHICH HAD BEEN A BIT FLAT AWAITING A DECISION ON THE AIRPORT, AND THE WHOLE LABOUR SITUATION WAS LIKELY TO BE A BIT TIGHT, HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID EMPHASISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CAREFUL IN THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED LABOUR.

"WE ONLY BRING IN PEOPLE WHERE THERE ARE SHORTAGES IDENTIFIED. WE DO NOT BRING IN LARGE NUMBERS," HE STRESSED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THOSE WHO CAME IN WERE UNDER VERY STRICT CONTROL IN TERMS OF THE WAGES PAID AND UNDER PROPER IMMIGRATION CONTROL ON TWO-YEAR CONTRACTS.

"THEY'RE PAID THE MEDIAN WAGE FOR THE JOB, WHICH IS A GOOD WAGE. THEY HAVE TO BE LOOKED AFTER IN TERMS OF HOUSING BENEFITS AND SO ON," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE REASSURED THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF BRINGING IN CHEAP LABOUR WHICH WOULD UNDERCUT THE COST OF LABOUR IN HONG KONG.

NOR SHOULD THERE BE A WORRY ABOUT WHERE THESE IMPORTED LABOUR WOULD STAY BECAUSE THE EMPLOYERS HAD TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION AND HAD TO SATISFY THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY COULD PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION, HE ADDED.

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ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE INTEREST OF DEPOSITORS -- FS

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THE ACTIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IN RESPECT OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED ARE IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEPOSITORS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

"THE SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL. MY MAIN CONCERN OF COURSE HAS BEEN THE PROTECTION OF ASSETS. SO WE HAVE TO TAKE STEPS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE ASSETS OF THE BANK HERE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES LOBBY, SIR PIERS SAID HE HAS REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND WOULD BE REVIEWING IT FURTHER TOMORROW. "WE ARE GOING TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION WE SHOULD TAKE AND WE WILL ISSUE A FURTHER REPORT."

"BUT AS I SAY WE HAVE TAKEN FAIRLY SWIFT ACTION SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO PROTECT DEPOSITORS. IN OTHER WORDS, TO MAKE SURE THE ASSETS ARE THERE AND THEY DO NOT DISAPPEAR FROM OUT OF OUR JURISDICTION," HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS HAD BEEN INCONSISTENT, SIR PIERS SAID NOT AT ALL.

"THE FIRST POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS YOU DON'T CLOSE A BANK UNLESS YOU FEEL IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. ON SATURDAY, WE DID NOT CONSIDER IT WAS NECESSARY.

/"WE THEN .....

"WE THEN SOUGHT CERTAIN ASSURANCES FROM ABU DHARBI. THOSE ASSURANCES WERE NOT FORTHCOMING, AND SO WE FELT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO STOP THE BANK FROM OPENING TODAY."

ASKED IF MISLEADING MESSAGES HAD BEEN SENT TO DEPOSITORS, SIR PIERS SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO.

"WE HAD CERTAIN INFORMATION ON SATURDAY THAT SATISFIED US THAT THE BANK COULD OPEN QUITE SAFELY."

HE SAID THE BANK, A LOCAL SUBSIDIARY OF BCCI, HAD BEEN UNDER SUPERVISION HERE AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT COULD NOT MEET ITS LIABILITIES AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR CLOSING IT ON SATURDAY.

"THE SITUATION OVER THE WEEKEND HAD CHANGED IN THAT WE WERE NOT GIVEN CERTAIN ASSURANCES THAT WE REQUIRED AND THEREFORE ON MONDAY (TODAY) WE FELT THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE TO PREVENT THE BANK FROM OPENING," HE SAID.

RECOGNISING THE PUBLIC'S WISH TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION, SIR PIERS SAID HOPEFULLY HE HIMSELF OR THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE MORE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER TOMORROW.

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BANK SUSPENDED TO PROTECT ASSETS

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THE DECISION TO SUSPEND THE OPERATIONS OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG LIMITED (BCCHK) WAS TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD THE ASSETS OF THE BANK.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, MR. DAVID CARSE SAID THE DECISION TO DRAW THE LINE AT THIS POINT AND TO SUSPEND THE BANK'S OPERATIONS WAS "THE FAIREST THING TO ALL CONCERNED".

"WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT WE HAVE ASKED THE BANK NOT TO OPEN ITS DOORS TODAY AND WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY FROZEN THE DEPOSITS WHICH ARE HELD WITHIN IT."

"IN DOING SO, WE FOLLOWED THE SORT OF ACTION WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN BY OTHER SUPERVISORS AROUND THE WORLD," HE SAID.

EXPLAINING WHY THE DECISION HAD TO BE TAKEN AT THIS POINT, MR. CARSE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE BANK IS STILL BASICALLY SOUND, DOUBTS HAVE ARISEN OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT ITS FUTURE VIABILITY FOR TWO REASONS.

"ONE IS THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A CLEAR ASSURANCE FROM THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT THAT IT STANDS BEHIND THE OPERATIONS OF THE BANK.

/"THE SECOND .....

"THE SECOND THING IS THAT IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE BANK COULD BE AFFECTED BY UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT ITS FUTURE AND ABOUT ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REST OF THE BCC GROUP.

"TO QUOTE ONE EXAMPLE, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE CREDIT CARD COMPANY, VISA INTERNATIONAL, HAS BLOCKED CREDIT CARDS ISSUED BY BCCHK SO THAT THOSE CREDIT CARDS ARE NO LONGER VALID.

"WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT FOR THE BANK'S BASIC TRADE-FINANCE BUSINESS IT IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES GETTING BANK COUNTER-PARTIES TO TAKE ITS NAME. AND THAT IS THE BASIC BUSINESS OF THE BANK.

"SO WE FACE THE SITUATION WHERE IF WE ALLOW THE SITUATION TO CONTINUE, THE BANK MIGHT RUN INTO LOSSES AND THE ASSETS OF THE BANK WOULD BE IMPAIRED," HE SAID.

MR. CARSE POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER OBVIOUSLY RELEVANT FACTOR WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THE BANK HAD GOT THROUGH SATURDAY WITHOUT UNDUE DIFFICULTIES, THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF A DISORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS FROM THE MARKET WHEN THE BANK OPENED TODAY.

"SO IN THE LIGHT OF THAT, BOTH FROM THE PROSPECTS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A DISORDERLY WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS, THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME DEPOSITORS WILL GET THE MONEY BACK IN FULL WHEREAS THOSE WHO LEFT THE MONEY IN THE BANK WILL NOT, WE DECIDED THAT THE BEST THING, THE FAIREST THING TO ALL CONCERNED WAS TO DRAW THE LINE AT THIS POINT AND TO SUSPEND THE OPERATIONS OF THE BANK."

MR. CARSE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE MATTER IN CONTEXT SO THAT THE PUBLIC WERE AWARE OF THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND THE TIME-TABLE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THIS DECISION.

"I THINK THE FIRST THING TO BE AWARE OF IS THAT THE HONG KONG BANKING COMMISSION, ALONG WITH OTHER SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY IN ENGLAND AND IN LUXEMBOURG AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR SOME TIME TO CONSIDER THE AFFAIRS OF THE BCC GROUP IN WHAT HAS BEEN KNOWN AS A COLLEGE OF SUPERVISORS AND THAT COLLEGE HAS BEEN CONSIDERING PLANS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE BCCI GROUP IN A WAY WHICH WOULD LEAVE THREE SEPARATE BANKS, ONE BASED IN HONG KONG, ONE BASED IN ENGLAND AND ONE BASED IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, EACH OF THEM BEING OWNED BY THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT.

"THOSE PLANS WERE WELL-ADVANCED AND WERE DUE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE SUPERVISORS BY THE END OF JUNE. WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY IS THAT WE WERE SUMMONED TO AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE COLLEGE OF SUPERVISORS IN LONDON LAST WEEKEND AND MY CONSULTANT HERE JOHN ASPDEN WENT OFF TO LONDON LAST WEEKEND AND ATTENDED A MEETING ON TUESDAY.

"WE RECEIVED THE RESULTS OF THAT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY WHICH INDICATED THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS WHICH WE WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF IN THE BCCI GROUP. BUT AS FAR AS WE KNEW AT THAT STAGE, THEY DID NOT AFFECT THE HONG KONG OPERATION.

"SO ON WEDNESDAY WE BEGAN PREPARING CONTINGENCY PLANS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM AND ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS WE DID WAS TO PUT IN A TEAM OF BANK EXAMINERS TO LOOK AT THE BANK AND THEY BEGAN WORK ON THURSDAY.

/"BY FRIDAY, .....

"BY FRIDAY, WE WERE EXPECTING AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON OVER THE WEEKEND WHICH WE THOUGHT WOULD AFFECT THE MARKETS IN HONG KONG AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES ON MONDAY. LATE ON FRIDAY AT 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING (HK TIME) WE WERE TOLD THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS GOING TO BE MADE IN LONDON AT 8 O'CLOCK THAT EVENING AND ALSO IN LUXEMBOURG.

"THIS MEANT THAT WE HAD TO BRING FORWARD OUR OWN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT BCCHK BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO TALK TO THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHAT OUR PLANS WERE IN RELATION TO THE HONG KONG OPERATIONS HERE.

"OUR CONCERN AT THAT TIME WAS TO TRY AND KEEP THE BANK OPEN IF WE COULD. OUR PERCEPTION WAS THAT WE WERE DEALING WITH A BANK WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED THE SUSPECTED FRAUD WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED ELSEWHERE IN THE BCC GROUP. WE CONSIDERED IT TO BE A SOUND AND VIABLE BANK WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE PROBLEMS OF THE REST OF THE GROUP AND SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO SURVIVE. THAT WAS BECAUSE WE FELT IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF DEPOSITORS. SO WE TOOK THE VIEW AT THAT STAGE THAT WE WOULD NOT CLOSE THE BANK ON SATURDAY AND WE ALLOWED IT TO OPEN.

ASKED ABOUT THE BANK'S FUTURE, MR. CARSE SAID: "WE ARE LOOKING AT VARIOUS OPTIONS. AS I SAY ONE OPTION IS TO TRY AND MAKE PROGRESS WITH THE ABU DHABI SHAREHOLDERS. BUT I DON'T WANT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES OF SECURING THAT AGREEMENT AND THEN REOPENING THE BANK. I DON'T WANT TO HOLD OUT ANY FALSE HOPES IN THAT RESPECT."

"ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS WHETHER A BUYER FOR THE BANK MIGHT EMERGE. WE ARE AWARE OF VARIOUS INTERESTED PARTIES, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE ARE TALKING ABOUT DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY BUYER HAS GOT TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE BANK BEFORE BUYING IT. SO AGAIN I DON'T WANT TO HOLD OUT FALSE HOPES IN THAT AREA."

MR. CARSE ADDED THAT FOR THIS OPTION, THE COMMISSION WOULD ACT AS MIDDLEMAN. "PEOPLE HAVE COME TO US AND EXPRESSED INTEREST. WE HAVE TRIED TO PASS ON THAT INTEREST TO THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT SO THAT THEY ARE AWARE THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF A SALE. BUT THAT DECISION RESTS WITH THEM AT THE MOMENT. TECHNICALLY THE POSITION IS THAT THE HONG KONG OPERATIONS OF BCC ARE OWNED BY A HOLDING COMPANY IN LUXEMBOURG, BCC(HOLDINGS), WHICH IS 77 PER CENT OWNED BY THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT."

"AND I HAVE TO SAY THAT WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MIGHT BE OBLIGED TO PLACE THE BANK IN LIQUIDATION," MR. CARSE SAID OF THE THIRD OPTION.

ASKED WHEN WOULD A DECISION BE MADE, HE SAID: "WE WILL BE EXAMINING THE SITUATION ON A DAY BY DAY BASIS. WE CAN'T REALLY SAY WHEN A DECISION WILL BE REACHED EXCEPT THAT WE WILL TRY TO DO SO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

MR. CARSE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD MADE NO USE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND IN THIS CASE. "NO MONEY HAS BEEN LENT BY THE EXCHANGE FUND TO BCCHK. AND THERE ARE NO PLANS TO USE THE EXCHANGE FUND TO ACQUIRE BCCHK."

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ASKED ABOUT THE PLEDGE LAST FRIDAY, MR. CARSE SAID: "WHAT WE ACTUALLY SAID WAS THAT THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD, IF NECESSARY, PLACE FUNDS WITH THE BANK ON NORMAL COMMERCIAL TERMS. NOW THE NEED FOR THAT DID NOT ARISE ON SATURDAY. BUT YOU MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LIQUIDITY SUPPORT AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CAPITAL. THE STATEMENT IN THE PRESS RELEASE REFERRED TO THE PROVISION OF LIQUIDITY SUPPORT. WE STRESSED THAT IT WAS TO BE ON NORMAL COMMERCIAL TERMS. IN NO SENSE HAS THE EXCHANGE FUND GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING THAT IT WOULD PROP UP THE BANK."

HE ADDED THAT THE PROMISE NO LONGER APPLIED IN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES SINCE THE BANK IS IN SUSPENSION AND NOT CONDUCTING ANY BUSINESS.

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## PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 4%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 25% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 17% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 21% IN VOLUME.

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

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 3%. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECREASED BY 1%.

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

COMPARING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1991 WITH APRIL 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 8%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 33%. TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 24%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 27%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 2%.

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

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+36%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+24%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+21%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+18%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+10%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+8%); AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+5%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN FOOTWEAR (-39%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-18%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-6%); CLOTHING (-1%); AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-1%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990. THESE INCLUDED FOOTWEAR (+5%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+4%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+4%); CLOTHING (+3%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+3%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+3%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+3%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+2%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+2%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+2%); AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+1%).

HOWEVER, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS DECREASED BY 1%.

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

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 26% IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990. IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; TEA AND COFFEE; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; FRUIT; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS, OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS; VEGETABLES; AND SWINE.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SUGAR; LIVE POULTRY; AND MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 29%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; FOOTWEAR; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; WATCHES; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; AND CLOTHING.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 23% IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR MAN-MADE FIBRES; COTTON YARN AND THREAD; CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; RAW COTTON; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; WATCH AND CLOCK MOVEMENTS, CASES AND PARTS; AND IRON AND STEEL.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND SO ON, EXCEPT GLASS; AND BASE METALS OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 23% IN VOLUME IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 41% IN APRIL 1991 OVER APRIL 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY.

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

COMPARING APRIL 1991 WITH APRIL 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+4%); CAPITAL GOODS (+4%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); FOODSTUFFS (+2%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%).

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

COMPARING APRIL 1991 WITH APRIL 1990, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES: FOODSTUFFS (+50%); CAPITAL GOODS (+36%); CONSUMER GOODS (+34%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+30%). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FUELS DECREASED BY 28%.

THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN APRIL 1991 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990: FUELS (+17%); FOODSTUFFS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+2%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+1%); AND CAPITAL GOODS (+1%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND JULY 15 AT \$4 PER COPY.

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

/TABLE 1: .....

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING APR 1991 WITH APR 1990			COMPARING JAN-APR 1991 WITH JAN-APR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	2	3	-1	6	3	3
TEXTILE FABRICS	11	3	8	2	3	-1
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	24	3	21	-1	3	-3
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-5	2	-6	-22	1	-23
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-15	4	-18	-15	4	-19
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	35	-1	36	39	-1	40
FOOTWEAR	-36	5	-39	-29	6	-33
METAL MANUFACTURES	23	4	18	7	4	3
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	2	3	-1	13	*	13
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	25	1	24	9	*	9
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	7	2	5	-15	2	-17
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	12	2	10	5	1	4
ALL COMMODITIES	11	2	8	6	2	4

\* LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 2: .....

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1991 WITH APR 1990			COMPARING JAN-APR 1991 WITH JAN-APR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	29	2	26	16	3	12
CONSUMER GOODS	32	3	29	27	3	23
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	25	2	23	22	2	20
FUELS	-20	4	-23	46	29	13
CAPITAL GOODS	47	4	41	27	4	21
ALL COMMODITIES	30	2	27	25	3	21

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1991 WITH APR 1990			COMPARING JAN-APR 1991 WITH JAN-APR 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	55	3	50	22	3	18
CONSUMER GOODS	36	2	34	35	3	31
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	31	1	30	20	1	18
FUELS	-15	17	-28	-3	37	-29
CAPITAL GOODS	37	1	36	26	1	25
ALL COMMODITIES	35	1	33	28	2	25

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NEW TOWN PLANNING SYSTEM FAIR AND OPEN

\* \* \* \* \*

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE INCREASING INVOLVEMENT IN A NEW TOWN PLANNING SYSTEM WHICH IS FAIR AND OPEN, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR BARNES INTRODUCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS.

SUCH COMMENTS SHOULD REACH THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS ON NOVEMBER 30 THIS YEAR.

ALSO ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE WERE THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MR ROBERT UPTON, AND THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER (DISTRICT), DR K.S. PUN.

THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT CONTAINS A FULL DISCUSSION OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TOWN PLANNING PROCESS.

"THE MAIN OBJECTIVES BEHIND OUR PROPOSALS ARE TO ESTABLISH MORE STREAMLINED AND FAIRER PROCEDURES FOR THE WHOLE PLANNING PROCESS, TO GET GREATER PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROCESS, TO GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND TO ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL," MR BARNES SAID.

"VERY MUCH OF THE SYSTEM REMAINS AS BEFORE. IT IS STILL ESSENTIALLY A SYSTEM OF PREPARATION OF ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT PERMISSION PLANS AND A SYSTEM OF GRANTING AND REFUSING PERMISSIONS UNDER THEM.

"THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD NOW CALLED THE PLANNING BOARD, AS IT DEALS WITH RURAL PLANS TOO REMAINS CENTRAL IN THE PROCESS, WITH THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL AS FINAL APPROVING AUTHORITY," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD:

- \* PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS ON PLANS AND PLANNING CHARGES TO THE BOARD;
- \* ESTABLISH A SEPARATE APPEAL BOARD AND EXTEND ITS FUNCTION TO HEARING OBJECTIONS TO DRAFT PLANS REFERRED TO IT BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL; AND
- \* PROVIDE POWERS OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL, THAT IS THE CONTROL OF THE CONTENT, RATHER THAN THE SAFE CONSTRUCTION, OF DEVELOPMENT ARE TRANSFERRED FROM THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE TO THE PLANNING ORDINANCE.

TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER DEVELOPMENT CONTROL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED THE ISSUE OF PLANNING CERTIFICATES, THE EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED DEVELOPMENTS TO AREAS COVERED BY OZPS AND A NEW CONCEPT KNOWN AS "AMORTISATION", TO DEAL WITH NON-CONFORMING USES.

/AMORTISATION IS .....

AMORTISATION IS THE COMPULSORY TERMINATION, WITHOUT COMPENSATION, OF NON-CONFORMING USES AT THE END OF A SPECIFIED PERIOD.

NON-CONFORMING USES ARE USES WHICH DO NOT CONFORM TO THE STATUTORY PLAN BUT ARE NEVERTHELESS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION OF THE PLAN, SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND VEHICLE REPAIR GARAGES ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

IN ORDER TO MEET GROWING PUBLIC ASPIRATIONS FOR A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE AND BETTER ENVIRONMENT, SPECIAL CONTROL MEASURES IN THREE AREAS, NAMELY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE, AND CIVIC DESIGN, HAVE ALSO BEEN PROPOSED.

TURNING TO THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION, MR. BARNES NOTED THAT THIS WAS RECOGNISED AS THE MOST COMPLICATED AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE IN THE WHOLE REVIEW. IT HAS ALSO ATTRACTED MUCH PUBLIC ATTENTION OVER THE PAST MONTHS.

"BECAUSE OF THE STRONG AND VARIED VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO INCLUDE ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION AND BETTERMENT IN THE DOCUMENT.

"INSTEAD, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WITH A PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES AS PART OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE ORDINANCE.

"THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE CHAIRED BY MR JOHN TODD WITH JUDGE CRUDEN AS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN."

MR. TODD WAS FORMERLY SECRETARY FOR HOUSING BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN 1986, WHILE JUDGE CRUDEN HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL SINCE 1981.

OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL; MR. H.M.G. FORSGATE, PROFESSOR ANTHONY WALKER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURVEYING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (HKU); A SENIOR LECTURER IN THE LAW FACULTY OF THE HKU; MR. ALBERT CHEN HUNG-YEE, A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, MR. SELWYN MAR; QUEEN'S COUNSEL, MR. RONNY WONG; AND THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF WING LUNG BANK, MR. PATRICK WU PO-KONG.

THE TASK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS TO EXAMINE BOTH THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR PLANNING RESTRICTIONS AND PLANNING BLIGHT CAUSED BY THE ZONING OF LAND AND THE QUESTION OF WHETHER AND WHAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD RECOUP BY WAY OF A BETTERMENT CHARGE FROM INCREASES IN VALUE CREATED BY PLANNING ENHANCEMENT.

IT WILL WORK CONCURRENTLY WITH THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE AND WILL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AT THE END OF ITS DELIBERATION.

ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO PUT SUBMISSIONS TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OR TO REQUEST HEARINGS SHOULD DIRECT THEM TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, SEVENTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO, ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG.

MEANWHILE, TO ASSIST THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN ITS DELIBERATION, A PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS HAS BEEN SET UP, WHOSE TASKS WILL BE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED AND ADVISE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THEIR AREAS OF INTEREST AS INVITED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE NEW TERRITORIES HEUNG YEE KUK, REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION, HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS, HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS, THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE BAR ASSOCIATION, TO JOIN THE PANEL OF EXPERT ADVISERS.

"THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THESE ORGANISATIONS WILL HAVE READY ACCESS TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO INITIATE DISCUSSION ON SPECIFIC ISSUES WITH THE PANEL MEMBER ORGANISATIONS," MR. BARNES SAID.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY THE PUBLIC AT THE VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICES OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, PLANNING DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, AND THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING.

MR BARNES URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SUBMIT THEIR COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT TO THE TOWN PLANNING ORDINANCE REVIEW UNIT, PLANNING DEPARTMENT, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG BEFORE THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD.

"ALL VIEWS SUBMITTED WILL BE CONSIDERED, TOGETHER WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, BEFORE DRAWING UP THE FINAL PROPOSALS.

"WE EXPECT TO PUT OUR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN EARLY 1992, AFTER WHICH DRAFTING OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, WHICH WILL TAKE THE WHOLE OF 1992, WILL FOLLOW.

"I HOPE THE BILL WILL BE READY FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY EARLY 1993," MR BARNES SAID.

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SUMMARY RESULTS OF 1989 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES  
\* \* \* \* \*

A TOTAL OF 35,638 TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENTS WERE IN OPERATION DURING THE WHOLE OR PART OF 1989, VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS IN 1988, ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE 1989 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THEY ENGAGED, IN TOTAL, 160,195 PERSONS, AN INCREASE OF 5% OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

IN 1989, THESE ESTABLISHMENTS GENERATED \$114,578 MILLION OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AND SPENT \$14,115 MILLION ON COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND \$87,814 MILLION ON OPERATING EXPENSES.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1988, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME INCREASED BY 18%; COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES BY 24%; AND OPERATING EXPENSES BY 22%.

ALL VALUE FIGURES IN THIS PRESS RELEASE ARE EXPRESSED IN CURRENT PRICE TERMS. PERCENTAGE CHANGES DERIVED FROM THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN ADJUSTED FOR PRICE INCREASES.

THE SECTOR'S VALUE ADDED GREW BY 8% TO \$30,882 MILLION IN 1989, FROM \$28,535 MILLION IN 1988. VALUE ADDED IS A MEASURE OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF AN ECONOMIC SECTOR TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRANSPORT GROUP, THE SURVEY INDICATED THAT, IN 1989, "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT", SUCH AS ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN AIR FREIGHT/SHIPPING FORWARDING, PACKING AND CRATING GOODS FOR TRANSPORTATION, AND TRAVEL AGENTS AND SHIPBROKERS, HAD THE LARGEST SHARE OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AT \$53,784 MILLION OR 47% OF THE SECTOR TOTAL.

"AIR TRANSPORT" TOOK UP 17%; "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" ACCOUNTED FOR ANOTHER 15%; "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" 9%; "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" 5%; "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" 4%; "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" 2%; AND "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" 1%.

"AIR TRANSPORT" AND "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" CONTRIBUTED 28% AND 23%, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE TOTAL VALUE ADDED OF THE SECTOR.

THE SECTOR'S REMAINING VALUE-ADDED WAS CONTRIBUTED BY "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" (16%); "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (11%); "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (10%); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" (6%); "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" (4%); AND "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" (2%).

/WHEN COMPARED .....

WHEN COMPARED WITH 1988, "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" SHOWED THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME (25%); FOLLOWED BY "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (24%); "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" (20%); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" (20%); "AIR TRANSPORT" (17%); "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" (10%); "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" (9%) AND "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (4%).

IN TERMS OF VALUE ADDED, "INLAND WATER TRANSPORT" RECORDED THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER 1988 (35%); FOLLOWED BY "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT" (27%); "SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT" (24%); "LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT" (15%); "SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT" (11%); "LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT" (4%); AND "AIR TRANSPORT" (2%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, "OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT" SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE IN VALUE-ADDED OVER 1988.

THE 1989 SURVEY WAS ONE IN A SERIES OF ANNUAL SURVEYS CONDUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING THE STRUCTURE AND OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, AND UPDATING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF HONG KONG.

DATA COLLECTED IN THE SURVEY INCLUDED TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, FLOOR AREA, NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES, OPERATING EXPENSES, BUSINESS RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME, AND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY, TOGETHER WITH TABLES SHOWING THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR, CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR GROUP AND ANALYSED BY VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, ARE INCLUDED IN THE "1989 SURVEY OF TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES" REPORT.

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE NEXT MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRANSPORT AND SERVICES STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 802 1266).

COMPARISON OF SELECTED PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS  
IN THE TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES SECTOR BETWEEN 1988 AND 1989

MAJOR GROUP		NUMBER OF ESTABLISH- MENTS	NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	COMPENSA- TION OF	OPERATING	BUSINESS	GROSS	VALUE
					EMPLOYEES	EXPENSES	RECEIPTS AND OTHER INCOME	ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS	ADDED
					\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.	\$ Mn.
LAND PASSENGER TRANSPORT	1989	19 095	47 072	28 741	2,630	5,350	10,427	3,872	7,118
	1988	19 664	46 748	28 026	2,186	4,774	9,524	2,735	6,170
	% change	-3	+1	+3	+20	+12	+9	+42	+15
LAND FREIGHT TRANSPORT	1989	11 020	29 741	18 288	1,271	3,245	5,694	538	3,079
	1988	10 919	31 067	20 286	1,156	3,289	5,498	647	2,946
	% change	+1	-4	-10	+10	-1	+4	-17	+4
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO LAND TRANSPORT	1989	87	2 032	1 998	126	639	1,153	20	530
	1988	78	1 594	1 548	92	486	923	13	419
	% change	+12	+27	+29	+37	+32	+25	+54	+27
OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER TRANSPORT	1989	402	16 549	16 536	2,235	12,627	17,618	2,104	5,039
	1988	379	15 176	15 151	1,772	10,909	15,986	1,461	5,058
	% change	+6	+9	+9	+26	+16	+10	+44	*
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT	1989	666	6 747	5 902	492	1,154	2,227	195	1,110
	1988	661	6 517	5 753	421	1,071	1,853	455	825
	% change	+1	+4	+3	+17	+8	+20	-57	+35
SUPPORTING SERVICES TO WATER TRANSPORT	1989	1 605	10 133	8 191	818	2,729	4,200	368	1,818
	1988	1 376	8 517	7 068	613	2,382	3,514	359	1,466
	% change	+17	+19	+16	+33	+15	+20	+2	+24
AIR TRANSPORT	1989	54	15 359	15 359	3,953	11,866	19,475	2,485	8,621
	1988	53	13 090	13 090	3,127	9,064	16,716	2,126	8,432
	% change	+2	+17	+17	+26	+31	+17	+17	+2
SERVICES INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORT	1989	2 710	32 563	31 551	2,589	50,203	53,784	547	3,568
	1988	2 402	30 023	28 730	2,049	39,989	43,201	923	3,219
	% change	+13	+8	+10	+26	+26	+24	-41	+11
ALL TRANSPORT GROUPS	1989	35 638	160 195	126 565	14,115	87,814	114,578	10,129	30,882
	1988	35 531	152 733	119 652	11,416	71,963	97,215	8,720	28,535
	% change	*	+5	+6	+24	+22	+18	+16	+8
GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT SERVICES	1989	3	1 175	1 175	249	363	1,985	150	1,605
	1988	3	1 254	1 254	219	337	1,927	204	1,290
	% change	0	-6	-6	+13	+8	+3	-26	+24

Notes : (1) Figures denoting changes are derived from unrounded figures.

(2) Individual items may not add up to the corresponding total due to rounding.

(3) Value added is a measure of the contribution of an economic sector to Hong Kong's Gross Domestic Product. The definition can be found in the "1989 Survey of Transport and Related Services" report.

(4) \* denotes % change less than  $\pm 0.5\%$ .

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MORE SUPPORT FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT NEEDED: STUDY FINDS

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THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD EXPAND SUPPORT FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, BUILDING ON THE EXISTING FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CAPABILITY IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR.

THIS WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BASED ON A CONSULTANCY STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE COMMITTEE AND ADVICE FROM THE TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, THE INSTITUTES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL AND THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY) TO ANNOUNCE THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, PROFESSOR C.K. POON, SAID THE COMMITTEE ALSO FELT THAT POLICY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AS A WHOLE.

"THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE CO-ORDINATION OF EFFORTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT IMPOSED," HE SAID.

PROF POON SAID BIOTECHNOLOGY WAS PARTICULARLY SUITED TO HONG KONG BECAUSE IT DID NOT REQUIRE EXTENSIVE LAND USE OR LARGE CAPITAL INVESTMENT.

HE SAID FOOD, CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINES, WASTE TREATMENT AND BIOLOGICAL INSTRUMENTATION WERE IDENTIFIED AS MARKET NICHES SUITED TO HONG KONG.

HOWEVER, PROF POON SAID ONE MAJOR HURDLE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CURRENTLY WAS THE LIMITED DEGREE OF ACTIVITY OR INTEREST IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS OF HONG KONG.

HE SAID SEVERAL INITIATIVES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE BIOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, ONE OF WHICH WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY.

ELABORATING ON THIS PROPOSAL, PROF POON SAID: "THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD ADVISE THE ADMINISTRATION ON A REGULAR BASIS AND OFFER ADVICE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY-RELATED ISSUES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON REQUEST.

"THIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD FORM A PART OF THE OVERALL MACHINERY FOR ADVISING GOVERNMENT ON TECHNOLOGY MATTERS," HE SAID.

PROF POON SAID THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND THE BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER ENCOURAGING THE FORMATION OF A BIOTECHNOLOGY SOCIETY.

PROF POON SAID THE SOCIETY WOULD HELP TO FOSTER CO-OPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND INDUSTRIALISTS ENGAGED IN BIOTECHNOLOGY.

/IN ADDITION, .....

IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE THE WIDER USE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY.

"THIS WOULD STIMULATE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND COULD PROVIDE SUCCESS STORIES WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY TO INVEST IN THIS FIELD," PROF POON SAID.

THE COMMITTEE'S ADVICE HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR CONSIDERATION.

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LATEST FIGURE OF WINDING-UPS AND PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES

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THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THERE WERE 166 NEW COMPULSORY WINDING-UPS AND 139 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES OF 142 AND 93 LAST YEAR.

MR GLEESON SAID IT COULD BE SEEN, THEREFORE, THE RATE OF TOTAL NEW INSOLVENCIES HAD INCREASED BY 29.79 PER CENT WHICH WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE UPWARD TREND SINCE LAST YEAR.

BUT HE ADDED THAT IT IS STILL BELOW THE RECORD NUMBER OF 397 NEW INSOLVENCIES FOR THE JANUARY - JUNE PERIOD OF 1985.

THE BUSINESSES MAINLY AFFECTED BY BANKRUPTCIES AND COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS INCLUDED GARMENT AND KNITTING MANUFACTURING, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, COMPANY DIRECTORS GIVING PERSONAL GUARANTEES, FINANCIAL INVESTMENT, RESTAURANTS AND CANTEENS, AS WELL AS DYEING AND WASHING.

PETITIONS WERE FILED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID (43 PER CENT), TRADE CREDITORS (36 PER CENT), BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (19 PER CENT) AND OTHERS (2 PER CENT).

MORE COMPLICATED OR SIGNIFICANT INSOLVENCIES DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WERE WORLDS OF WONDER INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, P.L. HONG TRADING LIMITED, PHILIPP & LION FAR EAST LIMITED, GRANT UNION INSURANCE LTD., MAGSEC INVESTMENT (FAR EAST) LTD. AND CHOCOLATE PRODUCTS (HK) LIMITED.

TOTAL DIVIDENDS DECLARED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$63.68 MILLION IN 122 INSOLVENCIES, AS AGAINST \$38.99 MILLION IN 122 INSOLVENCIES FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE INSOLVENCY CASES BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT THE END OF JUNE THIS YEAR WAS 1,670, BEING 936 COMPULSORY WINDING-UPS AND 734 PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AT THE END OF JUNE THIS YEAR TOTALLED \$1,473 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 74.32 PER CENT AS AGAINST \$845 MILLION AT THE END OF JUNE LAST YEAR. THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER ALSO ADMINISTERED A SUM OF US\$8.2 MILLION TOGETHER WITH A JOINT OVERSEAS LIQUIDATOR.

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APPLICATION OPENS FOR EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME

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THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE WHICH PROTECTS THE FULL ENTITLEMENT OF WORKERS INJURED OR KILLED AT WORK CAME INTO OPERATION ON JULY 1.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED EMPLOYEES MAY BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THEIR COMPENSATION ENTITLEMENT, INCLUDING COMMON LAW AWARDS, IN DEFAULT CASES ARISING OUT OF THE EMPLOYER'S FAILURE TO INSURE THEM OR FROM THE INSURER'S INSOLVENCY.

"PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE IN ALL SUCH CASES FROM THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE FUND IN RESPECT OF WORK INJURIES SUSTAINED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"HOWEVER, APPLICANTS MUST PROVE THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY EXHAUSTED ALL LEGAL AND FINANCIALLY VIABLE CHANNELS OF RECOVERY BEFORE THEY APPLY FOR PAYMENT FROM THE FUND," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE ORDINANCE ALSO PROTECTS EMPLOYERS WHO HAVE PAID A LEVY OF ONE PER CENT OF EACH EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIUM AS REQUIRED UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES ORDINANCE WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON JULY 1 LAST YEAR.

"THEY MAY BE INDEMNIFIED BY THE FUND IN RESPECT OF THEIR LIABILITY FOR EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION SHOULD THEIR INSURER BECOME INSOLVENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ANY PERSON WHO HAS A CLAIM UNDER THE ORDINANCE MAY NOW APPLY TO THE EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ASSISTANCE FUND BOARD THROUGH THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES CAN ALSO BE MADE TO THE DIVISION ON TEL. 852 4821.

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AWARDS FOR HONG KONG AIRPORT FILM

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THE FILM "GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE", COMMISSIONED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE PROPOSED NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, HAS WON TOP AWARDS AT THREE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS.

THE LATEST TROPHY WAS THE KEIZAI KOHO CENTER PRIZE, AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING FOREIGN PRODUCTION AT THE FOURTH JAPAN INDUSTRIAL-CULTURAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL EARLIER THIS MONTH, WHEN "GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE" COMPETED AGAINST 202 OTHER PRODUCTIONS.

/AN EARLIER .....

AN EARLIER AWARD WAS THE "GOLD CAMERA", ACHIEVED WHEN THE FILM WON FIRST PLACE FOR CORPORATE SPONSORED PUBLIC ISSUES AND CONCERNS AT THE 1991 U.S. INDUSTRIAL FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL HELD IN CHICAGO.

ANOTHER WAS THE SILVER AWARD GARNERED FROM AMONG 3,150 ENTRIES, SUBMITTED BY 47 COUNTRIES, FOR THE HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN MAY 1991.

THE FILM EXPLAINS WHY THE PRESENT KAI TAK AIRPORT IS UNABLE TO COPE WITH FURTHER EXPANSION AND MAKES USE OF SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER GRAPHICS TO ILLUSTRATE HOW THE CHEK LAP KOK PROJECT WILL CATER TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE NEEDS.

THE COMPUTER ANIMATION IS EMPLOYED TO DEPICT THE AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND LAYOUT AND TO SHOW HOW HIGH-SPEED RAIL AND ROAD LINKS WILL CONVEY PASSENGERS VIA THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND THE THIRD HARBOUR CROSSING INTO THE HEART OF THE RECLAIMED CENTRAL WATERFRONT.

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LEGCO DEBATES ON CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND, NEW AIRPORT  
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK NINE QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 12 BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 10).

OF THE 12 BILLS, A PRIVATE BILL -- THE ELECTORAL PROVISIONS (PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 -- WILL BE INTRODUCED BY THE HON MARTIN LEE FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON IT WILL BE ADJOURNED.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER 11 BILLS WILL BE RESUMED AND EACH IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1991, WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, DENTISTS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, MEDICAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, GRANTHAM SCHOLARSHIPS FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, BREWIN TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, SIR ROBERT BLACK TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND LI PO CHUN CHARITABLE TRUST FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT WILL MOVE TWO MOTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE FIXED PENALTY (CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS) ORDINANCE RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ORDINANCE.

THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG WILL MOVE A MOTION ON CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND. THE MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RE-EXAMINE THE SETTING UP OF A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND OR OTHER FORMS OF COMPULSORY RETIREMENT SCHEMES IN ORDER THAT WORKERS IN HONG KONG ARE PROVIDED WITH COMPREHENSIVE RETIREMENT PROTECTION."

THE HON MARTIN LEE WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE NEW AIRPORT. THE MOTION READS: "THAT THIS COUNCIL WELCOMES THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE NEW AIRPORT; AND AT THE SAME TIME, REAFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO HAVE THE SOLE AND ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL DECISIONS ON ALL AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG OTHER THAN DEFENCE OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHETHER THEY STRADDLE 1997 OR NOT."

THE HON ALLEN LEE WILL MOVE A MOTION TO AMEND THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, PROFESSOR THE HON C.K. POON WILL SPEAK ON THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1990/91.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERIES BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS APPLICATION REMINDER

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED STUDENTS WISHING TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MAINRE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO MAKE THEIR APPLICATIONS EARLY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THERE IS ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO FOR THE APPLICATIONS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDIES BEFORE THE DEADLINE ON JULY 15. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED."

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 12TH FLOOR OF CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, AND FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES LIAISON OFFICES.

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MARINE FISH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AIM AT HELPING PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SERVE THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES INDUSTRIES OR RELATED TRADES ON COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES, AND ALSO THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIES WHO WISH TO PURSUE FURTHER TRAINING.

ANOTHER AIM OF THE FUNDS IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN OF FARMING AND FISHING FAMILIES TO COMPLETE THEIR TERTIARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLING.

THE AWARDS WILL BE TENABLE AT ANY UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC, BAPTIST COLLEGE, ANY ACCEPTABLE OVERSEAS INSTITUTION AND ANY SECONDARY SCHOOL IN HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION SHOULD BE HONG KONG RESIDENTS UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE. THEY SHOULD STUDY COURSES ON AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, MARINE SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY OR ANY APPLIED SCIENCE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL AGRICULTURE OR FISHERIES INDUSTRIES AND RELATED TRADES.

/MEANWHILE, APPLICATIONS .....

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MEANWHILE, APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO OPEN TO CHILDREN OF FARMING AND FISHING FAMILIES WHO ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COMPLETE FORM 4 TO 7.

"APPLICATIONS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 14," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE FUNDS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 733 2249 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

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CYC MEMBERS ON OVERSEAS TOURS

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FORTY-THREE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL LEAVE FOR CALIFORNIA AND SINGAPORE ON SATURDAY (JULY 13) ON OVERSEAS TOURS, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE IN THIS YEAR'S MERIT AWARD SCHEME.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAW'S FOUNDATION, MR RAYMOND LAW KA-KUI, WILL OFFICIATE AT A FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JULY 11).

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MARINA ROOM I, THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY, AT 3.30 PM ON THURSDAY.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 28.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 168.414 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 285.166 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 48.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, JULY 8, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	6.7.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	8.7.91	+31
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-31
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 114.2 \*-0.1\* 8.7.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	8.7.91	5.7.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	6.32 PCT	6.43 PCT
1 MONTH	6.38 PCT	6.37 PCT
3 MONTHS	6.44 PCT	6.33 PCT
6 MONTHS	6.44 PCT	6.34 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.80 PCT	6.84 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	3,784 MN	5,330 MN

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