



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ELECTIONS BILL WILL NOT BE GAZETTED TOMORROW
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD A SPECIAL MEETING EARLIER TODAY.

THE MEETING CONSIDERED THE TIMING OF THE PRESENTATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF A BILL DEALING WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994-95 ELECTIONS. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED THE BILL EARLIER IN THE MONTH.

THE GOVERNOR, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED NOT TO GAZETTE THE BILL TOMORROW.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED: "THE GOVERNOR AND THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS MADE IT CLEAR YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT POSTPONEMENT BEYOND THE END OF FEBRUARY COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF THERE WERE GOOD REASONS FOR DOING SO. THESE WOULD HAVE TO BE REASONS WHICH WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY. THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEREFORE MAKE A STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS."

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FINAL REPORT ON LAN KWAI FONG PUBLISHED
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) PUBLISHED THE FINAL REPORT PREPARED BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY OF HIS INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THE DEATHS OF 21 PEOPLE IN LAN KWAI FONG IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE REPORT CONTAINS 10 MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING PROCEDURES AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EVENTS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO ATTRACT LARGE CROWDS AS WELL AS THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE POLICE AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES.

THE REPORT ALSO EMPHASISES THE NEED TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON CROWD SAFETY.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD STUDY THE REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WOULD BE DONE TO PREVENT THE REPETITION OF ANY TRAGEDY SUCH AS THE LAN KWAI FONG INCIDENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY GRATEFUL TO MR JUSTICE BOKHARY FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT HE HAD PUT INTO THE INQUIRY.

"HE HAS WORKED VERY EFFECTIVELY TO COMPLETE THIS DIFFICULT TASK SO QUICKLY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN HELPING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE TRAGEDY AND THE FORMULATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT.

COPIES OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AT PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF DISTRICT OFFICES FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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POLICE COMMISSIONER RECEIVES BOKHARY REPORT
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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, TODAY (THURSDAY) CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY ON THE LAN KWAI FONG DISASTER.

MR LI NOTED THAT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE INTERIM REPORT, A HIGH-LEVEL TEAM HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO CARRY OUT A WIDE-RANGING STUDY OF POLICE CROWD CONTROL OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

HIS STUDY TEAM WAS ALREADY WELL ADVANCED WITH ITS STUDY IN HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER (MR BRIAN WIGLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS) WOULD SHORTLY BE VISITING THE UNITED KINGDOM TO EXAMINE CROWD CONTROL PROCEDURES THERE.

MR LI ADDED THAT THE FINAL REPORT BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY WOULD NOW BE EXAMINED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT ANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH APPLIED TO THE POLICE, AND TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES AS APPROPRIATE.

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SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS EXPECTED TO GROW
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THE SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN 1993 IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 40 PER CENT TO 37,000 UNITS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE RATE IN 1992.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND AND BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LBAC), MR CHENG HON-KWAN, AT THE END OF TODAY'S LBAC MEETING.

MR CHENG SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS INFORMED AT TODAY'S MEETING THAT RESIDENTIAL PRICES THIS YEAR WERE LIKELY TO SOFTEN FURTHER DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS.

BUT, PRICES WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY STABLE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR WITH STEADY GROWTH RETURNING LATER IN THE YEAR SHOULD THE CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED.

ON OFFICE ACCOMMODATION, MR CHENG SAID THE DEMAND WAS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WITH VACANCY RATES IMPROVING, BUT SECONDARY LOCATIONS WERE EXPECTED TO EXPERIENCE HIGH VACANCY LEVELS DUE TO OVER-SUPPLY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

HE SAID THE SUPPLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, PARTICULARLY THE OLDER CONVENTIONAL FACTORY/GODOWN ACCOMMODATION, WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN STABLE.

"STRONG DEMAND WILL CONTINUE FOR 'HI-TECH' QUALITY INDUSTRIAL ACCOMMODATION WITH A HIGH PROPORTION OF OFFICE USE," MR CHENG SAID.

MR CHENG EXPECTED THAT THE OVERALL PROPERTY MARKET WAS EXPECTED TO CONSOLIDATE IN THE SHORT TERM AND REMAIN RELATIVELY FIRM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

REVIEWING THE PROPERTY MARKET IN 1992, MR CHENG SAID BUYERS IN GENERAL HAD BEEN MORE CAUTIOUS IN RECENT MONTHS OWING TO THE CONTINUING UNCERTAINTIES ON THE NEW AIRPORT FINANCING, U.S. TRADE-RELATED ISSUES, AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN HONG KONG.

"IT IS LIKELY THAT BUYERS WILL CONTINUE TO ACT CAUTIOUSLY UNTIL THESE MATTERS ARE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED," HE SAID.

HE SAID LAND OFFICE STATISTICS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1992 CONTINUED TO INDICATE A MARKED DROP IN THE NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS TO PURCHASE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES OF 7.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS WHILE THE AVERAGE DROP FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN THE URBAN AREA WAS 25.9 PER CENT.

IN VALUE TERMS DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WAS A DROP OF 9.4 PER CENT IN THE URBAN AREA BUT A MARGINAL INCREASE OF 3.9 PER CENT IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, HE SAID.

MR CHENG SAID DEMAND WAS STILL EVIDENT FOR RESIDENTIAL FLATS IN THE SMALL-MEDIUM RANGE AND THE LUXURY RESIDENTIAL SECTOR CONTINUED TO PERFORM WELL.

WHILE THE OFFICE SECTOR, STILL FACED WITH A PROJECTED OVER-SUPPLY, REMAINED ACTIVE ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY STABLE, HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR HAD SEEN BUOYANT GROWTH PARTICULARLY FOR HIGH QUALITY INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS CATERING FOR A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF OFFICE USE.

"OVERALL, THE PROPERTY MARKET GENERALLY CONSOLIDATED AND STABILISED DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1992," MR CHENG SAID.

THE NUMBER OF NEWLY COMPLETED UNITS FELL BELOW THE AVERAGE OF 33,700 TAKEN OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS TO AN ESTIMATED 26,200 UNITS.

THE PROVISIONAL VACANCY AND TAKE-UP RATES FOR THIS YEAR WERE ESTIMATED TO BE 34,000 UNITS AND 22,700 UNITS RESPECTIVELY, HE ADDED.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE LBAC ALSO NOTED THE PROGRESS OF SEVERAL STUDIES RELATED TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WHICH ARE CONDUCTED BY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND ENDORSED THE BUILDING AUTHORITY'S PROPOSALS TO AMEND AND UPDATE THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

THE MEETING ALSO DECIDED TO SET UP AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE TWO SUBMISSIONS FROM THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ON "DEVELOPMENT PROCESSING MECHANISM IN HONG KONG" AND "PROCESSING OF SUBMISSIONS UNDER LEASE" IN DETAIL.

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ALL EDUCATION COMMISSION REPORT V RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A PACKAGE OF MEASURES RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 5 (ECR5) FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT WITH THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE PACKAGE, THE WHOLE OF ECR5 COULD NOW BE IMPLEMENTED AS QUICKLY AS RESOURCES ALLOW.

LAST OCTOBER, THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED A START IN SEPTEMBER 1993 ON SOME MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN ECR5.

"THESE INCLUDE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS IN EACH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PLANNING FOR THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, A REDUCTION IN CLASS SIZES BY FIVE PLACES, AND AN INCREASE IN KINDERGARTEN FEE REMISSION FUNDING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE APPROVED PACKAGE COVERS ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF ECR5, AS WELL AS AN ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION - FOR A SCHOOL LIBRARY IN EACH PRIMARY SCHOOL - MADE BY THE COMMISSION IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS."

PUBLISHED IN JUNE 1992, ECR5 FOCUSES ON THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND HIGHLIGHTS THREE AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS:

- * IMPROVING THE SCHOOL WORKING ENVIRONMENT;
- * PROVIDING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF GRADUATE POSTS FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS; AND
- * CREATING AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION TO TAKE OVER THE WORK OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AND INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION.

FUNDING HAS ALREADY BEEN EARMARKED FOR MOST OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOL WORKING ENVIRONMENT, AND ITEMS NOT YET FUNDED ARE THOSE WITH A STARTING DATE IN 1994/95 AND BEYOND.

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WOULD BID FOR FUNDS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE POLICY GOAL OF GRADUATE POSTS FOR UP TO 35 PER CENT OF PRIMARY TEACHERS BY 2007, THE GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK ADVICE FROM THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ON APPROPRIATE RANKS AND PAY SCALES.

MEANWHILE, TO ENSURE THAT DEGREE COURSES FOR PRIMARY TEACHERS CAN BE LAUNCHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE A COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANT OF \$10 MILLION THIS YEAR.

"WE SHALL INVITE BIDS FOR THE GRANT AS SOON AS THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS ENDORSES THE TERMS OF THE GRANT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WE INTEND TO APPOINT THE COMMITTEE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS."

AS REGARDS THE PROPOSED INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, THE SPOKESMAN REVEALED THAT PLANNING HAD ALREADY BEGUN, WITH THE APPOINTMENT LAST MONTH OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO SET UP THE INSTITUTE BY OCTOBER 1994.

THE ECR5 ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A COUNCIL ON PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN EDUCATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE TEACHER PROFESSIONALISM AND THAT A REVIEW BE CARRIED OUT IN FIVE YEARS' TIME TO ASSESS WHETHER A STATUTORY GOVERNING BODY FOR THE PROFESSION SHOULD BE CREATED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO SET UP THE COUNCIL THIS YEAR.

"HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT A MEANINGFUL REVIEW SHOULD BE FEASIBLE WITHIN THREE YEARS RATHER THAN FIVE, AND SO SHALL WORK TOWARDS A REVIEW IN 1996," HE ADDED.

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Annex A

EDUCATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHICH
THE GOVERNOR HAS ANNOUNCED AN EARLY START

Item -----	Funds earmarked to 1996-97 (\$mn) -----
(1) The provision of additional teachers to schools to enable more attention to the needs of the individual child -	614
- up to three more posts in each bisessional primary school (one a year from September 1993) to bring the teacher:class ratio from 1.2 per class to 1.3 per class (ECR5 paras 2.70-71);	
- one more nongraduate post in each secondary school from September 1994, and a second such post in 1995 in schools with more than 30 classes (para 2.66).	
(2) A reduction in class sizes by five places (to 35 for standard classes and 30 for activity approach classes) starting in September 1993 with Primary 1 and extending it to higher levels a year at a time (para 2.81).	449
(3) The appointment of Provisional Governing Council for the proposed Institute of Education; and upgrading teacher education (para 6.48)	13 443
(4) The provision of a grant to encourage tertiary institutions to develop self-funding degree courses for serving primary school teachers (para 4.29).	10
(5) An increase in funding for the kindergarten fee remission scheme, so that after five years this scheme can operate on the same points system as the senior secondary fee remission scheme (para 3.26).	37

Annex B

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOL WORKING ENVIRONMENT
FOR WHICH FUNDING HAS BEEN EARMARKED TO 1996-97

Funding has already been earmarked for the following measures, recommended in ECR5, to improve the working environment in schools:

- (a) developing a systematic induction programme for new teachers (ECR5, paras 2.6-2.8);
- (b) improving home-school co-operation (paras 2.18-19);
- (c) providing schools affected by noise above 65 dB(A) with noise abatement measures (para 2.39);
- (d) examining the case for a slightly larger site area for new schools, to provide a play space of 2 square metres per student (para 2.46);
- (e) bringing clerical support in aided primary schools fully in line with that in Government primary schools (para 2.47);
- (f) developing a computer database and network of curriculum resources (para 2.53);
- (g) improving procedures for revising school grants, to ensure that provision for maintenance is adequate and real values are preserved over time (paras 2.56, 2.59);
- (h) raising the teacher:class ratio in whole day primary schools to 1.5 teachers per class, once the 1.3 ratio in bisessional schools is fully phased in (para 2.70);
- (i) raising the bisessional primary school senior teacher ratio, over five years, from one Assistant Master/Mistress (AM) to every four classes, to one AM for every three classes (para 2.72);
- (j) upgrading two Graduate Master/Mistress (GM) posts in each standard secondary school to senior GM rank (para 3.8).

* Recurrent funding earmarked;
Capital funding not yet earmarked.

Annex C

ITEMS FOR WHICH FUNDING HAS NOT YET BEEN EARMARKED

Funding has not yet been earmarked for the following measures recommended in ECR5 -

- (a) bringing all schools as far as possible up to the latest standard of provision in respect of classrooms and special rooms, if necessary by reprovisioning the school into a modern building (para 2.36);
- (b) providing additional non-teaching rooms for staff and student activities (para 2.45).
- (c) capital funding for campus development of the Institute of Education.

Funding has also not yet been earmarked for the following additional recommendation made by the Commission in the light of comments during the public consultation on ECR5 -

- (d) providing primary schools, where possible, with a school library/resource centre.

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APPROPRIATION BILL 1993

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COMMENTING ON TODAY'S (THURSDAY) PRESS REPORTS ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID: "A HEAD FOR HEAD COMPARISON OF THE APPROVED ESTIMATE FOR 1992/93 WITH THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1993/94 CAN BE MISLEADING."

"THIS IS BECAUSE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR 1993/94 ARE GENERALLY BASED ON 1992 PRICES, WHEREAS THE APPROVED (OR ORIGINAL) ESTIMATES WERE GENERALLY BASED ON 1991 PRICES AND DO NOT REFLECT EITHER SALARY ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED DURING 1992 OR ANY SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN APPROVED AS A RESULT OF CHANGING DEMAND OR IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICES."

HE EXPLAINED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 40 OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE CLERK TO LEGCO CIRCULATED THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993 TO ALL MEMBERS OF LEGCO YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS IS IN LINE WITH NORMAL PRACTICE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF BILLS TO LEGCO, HE NOTED.

MR YEUNG WILL GIVE A FULL BRIEFING TO LEGCO TOMORROW (FRIDAY). AT THE SAME TIME THE SUPPORTING VOLUMES GIVING DETAILS OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1993/94 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

THE BRIEFING WILL BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE GIVEN BY MR YEUNG WILL BE HELD AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM, FIFTH FLOOR, BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, CENTRAL AT 4 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SUPPORTING VOLUMES GIVING THE DETAILS OF THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1993/94 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE READING FROM 2 PM TOMORROW.

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TOLLS FOR THREE GOVT TUNNELS DROP

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TOLLS FOR VEHICLES USING THE ABERDEEN, SHING MUN AND TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNELS WILL BE DECREASED BY \$1 WITH EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THIS MEANS TOLLS AT THE ABERDEEN AND SHING MUN TUNNELS WILL BE LOWERED FROM \$6 TO \$5, WHILE THAT OF TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL WILL GO DOWN FROM \$4 TO \$3.

ALL \$4 AND \$6 PRE-PAID GOVERNMENT TUNNEL TICKETS MAY BE EXCHANGED FOR \$3 AND \$5 TICKETS AT ALL WILSON CARPARK OFFICES FROM TODAY (THURSDAY) FOR A PERIOD OF 28 DAYS.

THESE TICKETS MAY CONTINUE TO BE USED AT GOVERNMENT TUNNELS AND APPROPRIATE CHANGES WILL BE GIVEN.

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SMOOTH RETURN OF VIETNAMESE WELCOMED

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE SMOOTH REPATRIATION OF 60 VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME (ORP).

"WE HAVE RETURNED A TOTAL OF 456 NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM UNDER THE ORP AND THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF PERSECUTION OR DISCRIMINATION.

"TODAY'S FLIGHT WAS LARGELY UNEVENTFUL AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN REGULAR ORP FLIGHTS TO SUPPLEMENT THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME," HE SAID.

TODAY'S GROUP OF 60 NON-REFUGEES WERE ALL NORTHERNERS COMPRISING 25 MEN, 14 WOMEN, 10 BOYS AND 11 GIRLS.

OF THEM, 50 DEPARTED NEI KWU CHAU DETENTION CENTRE EARLY TODAY FOR THEIR FLIGHT. THE REMAINING 10 WERE CRIMINAL OFFENDERS BEING DEPORTED TO VIETNAM. ALL HAD BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

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REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS TO BE INTRODUCED
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL INTRODUCE LATER IN THE YEAR A REGISTRATION SCHEME WHICH AIMS TO TIGHTEN THE CONTROLS ON TEXTILES AND GARMENT PRODUCTS PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG ON A THROUGH BILL OF LADING, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

MR CHAU WAS SPEAKING TO THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS.

HE SAID TO COUNTER THE RISING TIDE OF ALLEGATIONS BY IMPORTING COUNTRIES OF ILLEGAL TRANSHIPMENT, OPPORTUNITY WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN TO RATIONALISE THE EXISTING LICENSING SYSTEM BY REPLACING PRIOR LICENSING OF TEXTILES IMPORTS AND EXPORTS WITH POST-SHIPMENT NOTIFICATIONS EXCEPT FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RESTRAINED MARKETS.

ON HONG KONG/U.S. TRADE, MR CHAU SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL ISSUES THAT REQUIRED SPECIAL ATTENTION.

"THE U.S. CONCERN ABOUT ILLEGAL TRANSHIPMENT IS ON THE RISE. TO PREVENT QUOTA CUTBACKS, WE MUST ALL ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN THE CREDIBILITY AND INTEGRITY OF OUR TEXTILES CONTROL SYSTEM."

MR CHAU SAID THIS YEAR'S BATTLE FOR MFN RENEWAL WAS GOING TO BE A TOUGH ONE, AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE INTRODUCED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS.

"THE ROAD AHEAD IS STILL WROUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR HARD WORK AND CLOSE CO-OPERATION ON ALL FRONTS," HE SAID.

MOVING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, MR CHAU SAID WHILE CHANGES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE REMOVAL OF REGIONAL RESTRAINTS AND SUBLIMITS IN THE EC PROMISED NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND HORIZONS, BETTER MARKET ACCESS FOR HONG KONG COULD ONLY BE SECURED IF WE WERE AT LEAST ONE STEP AHEAD OF OUR COMPETITORS.

ACCORDING TO CONSULTANTS COMMISSIONED BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE GARMENT INDUSTRY MUST CONTINUE TO UPGRADE ITS MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY AND PROVIDE MORE DESIGNING, MERCHANDISING, SOURCING AND QUALITY CONTROL SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS IN ORDER TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE, MR CHAU SAID.

"GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY'S SEARCH FOR APPROPRIATE NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGH VARIOUS AGENCIES, NOTABLY THE CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION CENTRE AND THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL," HE SAID.

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COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF GOODS VEHICLES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED DETAILS OF COMPULSORY INSPECTION OF GOODS VEHICLES.

ALL LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT BETWEEN 1.9 TONNES AND 5.5 TONNES WHICH ARE ONE-YEAR-OLD OR OVER REQUIRING A NEW LICENCE STARTING ON OR AFTER JUNE 1 MUST BE INSPECTED AT A DESIGNATED VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE AND TO OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE OF ROADWORTHINESS.

THIS REQUIREMENT ALSO APPLIES TO MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES, HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES WITH A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 5.5 TONNES AND MANUFACTURED BEFORE 1989.

THE CERTIFICATE IS ONLY VALID FOR RELICENSING DURING THE FOUR MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

ENQUIRIES ON EXAMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS FOR GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES HAVING A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT EXCEEDING 1.9 TONNES BUT NOT MORE THAN 16 TONNES SHOULD BE MADE AT THE NEW KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE, 8 TSUI HING STREET, KOWLOON BAY, KOWLOON. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 751 8862.

FOR GOODS VEHICLES AND SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES HAVING A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT GREATER THAN 16 TONNES, ENQUIRIES ON EXAMINATION AND APPOINTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE AT THE KOWLOON BAY VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTRE, 2 CHEUNG YIP STREET, KOWLOON BAY, KOWLOON. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 759 7573.

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CONTRACTORS URGED TO ENSURE CAISSON WORKERS' SAFETY

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CONSTRUCTION SITE CONTRACTORS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CAISSON WORKERS, LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR YIP WAI-HUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

MR YIP MADE THE APPEAL FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A THREE-DAY PROMOTION CAMPAIGN DURING WHICH FACTORY INSPECTORS AND EMPLOYEES' TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES VISITED CONSTRUCTION SITES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY TO PROMOTE SAFETY AWARENESS AMONG CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS ENGAGED IN CAISSON WORKS.

DURING THE VISITS, FACTORY INSPECTORS ADVISED CONTRACTORS TO EXERCISE STRICT SUPERVISION TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SUB- CONTRACTORS COMPLY WITH LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN THEIR DAILY WORK.

"THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE HAZARDS, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION, AND NECESSARY SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR WORKERS.

/"MEANWHILE, TRADE

"MEANWHILE, TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES URGED CAISSON WORKERS TO OBSERVE AND COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, INCLUDING THE USE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR CAISSON WORKS," MR YIP SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT EMPLOYERS WHO FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE SAFETY PROVISIONS WERE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT WHILE THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR AN OFFENDING EMPLOYEE WAS A FINE OF \$10,000.

THE SAFETY PROMOTION CAMPAIGN IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, FACTORY INSPECTORS ALSO DISTRIBUTED TO WORKERS FREE SAFETY GUIDES AND RESPIRATORS FOR PREVENTING INHALATION OF HARMFUL DUST.

"FACTORY INSPECTORS ARE ALWAYS READY TO GIVE ADVICE ON SAFETY IN CAISSON WORKS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE ON 852 3555.

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SATURDAY DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

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THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO THE NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME IS ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 27), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN URGED APPLICANTS TO RETURN THEIR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING FIVE ADDRESSES:

- * ROOM G02, LUI KEE EDUCATION SERVICES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, ROOM 601, HARBOUR BUILDING, SIXTH FLOOR, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG;
- * YAU TSIM DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, SEVENTH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON;
- * YUEN LONG DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND TAI KIU MARKET, FOURTH FLOOR, 2 KIU LOK SQUARE, YUEN LONG; AND
- * SHA TIN DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICE, THIRD FLOOR, KCRC HOUSE, SHA TIN.

APPLICANTS CAN ALSO MAKE APPOINTMENTS TO HAND IN THEIR APPLICATIONS BY CALLING 892 6635, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OVER 1,100 SETS OF NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED SINCE FEBRUARY 5.

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200 CALLS A DAY AT AUTOMATIC ENQUIRY SERVICE

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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE, WHICH IS ON A FOUR-MONTH TRIAL RUN, RECEIVED AN AVERAGE OF 200 CALLS A DAY SINCE ITS LAUNCH ON FEBRUARY 15.

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO USED THE SERVICE ON TEL 891 0088 FROM FEBRUARY 15 TO YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 24) WAS 1,893, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SERVICE INCLUDES FAX INFORMATION AND CALL TRANSFERS. REQUESTS FOR FAX MESSAGES TOTALLED 155 AND FOR CALL TRANSFERS, 259.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE SERVICE WAS BEING TESTED TO ITS LIMIT TO SCREEN OUT ANY FAULTS IN THE COMPUTERISED SYSTEM.

"FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS FOR INSTANCE, WE FOUND THAT THE CLOCK DEVICE WAS OUT OF KILTER AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC REQUIRING CALL TRANSFERS FOUND THEMSELVES BEING TOLD TO CALL BACK DURING OFFICE HOURS WHEN IN FACT IT WAS WITHIN THAT PERIOD," HE SAID.

BECAUSE OF THIS, HE SAID, THE FIGURES FOR CALL TRANSFERS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HIGHER.

BUT THIS GREMLIN HAD BEEN EXORCISED, HE ADDED.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO LOOKING INTO ENHANCING THE 'FLESH-AND-BLOOD' SIDE WHICH FORMS A VITAL PART OF THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID ONE COMPLAINT WAS RECEIVED VIA A LOCAL NEWSPAPER ON A STUDENT WHO REQUIRED STUDENT GUIDANCE SERVICE.

"MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN REST ASSURED THAT WE WILL CONSTANTLY MONITOR AND RECTIFY ALL SITUATIONS," HE SAID.

NEW ITEMS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICE.

"WE HAVE, FOR INSTANCE, UPDATED THE INFORMATION OF THE NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME TO ALERT POTENTIAL APPLICANTS OF THE FEBRUARY 27 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.

"WE WILL ALSO INCLUDE MORE FAX INFORMATION SUCH AS THE SCHOOL LIST OF ALL TYPES OF SCHOOLS IN THE 19 DISTRICTS AND VACANCIES FOR PART-TIME ADULT EDUCATION COURSE LECTURERS," HE ADDED.

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GURKHA DRIVERS CELEBRATE ROYAL SEAL

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THE BRITISH ARMY'S ONLY GURKHA TRANSPORT REGIMENT WILL CELEBRATE THE GRANTING OF "ROYAL" STATUS WITH A RE-BADGING PARADE AT ITS KOWLOON BARRACKS ON SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 27).

HM THE QUEEN APPROVED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR THAT THE GURKHA TRANSPORT REGIMENT SHOULD BE KNOWN AS "THE QUEEN'S OWN GURKHA TRANSPORT REGIMENT".

THE HONOUR WILL BE MARKED AT SATURDAY'S PARADE BY THE PRESENTATION BY COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES, MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN FOLEY, OF CAP BADGES BEARING THE NEW TITLE TO 15 RECRUITS WHO WILL ALSO BE TAKING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AT A CEREMONY CALLED KASAM KHANE.

THE EVENING ALSO FEATURES A DISPLAY BY "MOTORISED" LION DANCE TEAMS AND A DRIVE-PAST OF REGIMENTAL VEHICLES, INCLUDING THE SARACEN ARMoured VEHICLES WHICH WILL BE ON PARADE FOR THE LAST TIME.

THE REGIMENT GOES BACK TO 1965 AND IT IS NOW COMPOSED OF BRITISH, GURKHA AND LOCAL CHINESE SOLDIERS.

ITS MAIN ROLE IS THE PROVISION OF GARRISON TRANSPORT, BUT IT ALSO WORKS IN CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF BRITISH FORCES ON EXERCISE IN HONG KONG AND OVERSEAS AND OPERATES A MARITIME TROOP.

RECENTLY SOLDIERS FROM THE REGIMENT SERVED IN THE GULF DURING OPERATION GRANBY AND WITH THE UN IN CYPRUS.

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NOTE:

FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PHOTOGRAPH AND FILM THE RE-BADGING PARADE.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE AUSTIN ROAD ENTRANCE TO GUN CLUB HILL BARRACKS, KOWLOON, BEFORE 6.15 PM. JSPRS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

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SOCIAL STATISTICS REPORT ON SALE

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A REPORT CONTAINING FINDINGS ON NINE SOCIAL TOPICS OF THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT FROM OCTOBER 1990 TO SEPTEMBER 1991 IS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE NINE TOPICS ARE:

- * RADIO AUDIENCESHIP;
- * ATTENDING CULTURAL PERFORMANCES;
- * KIDNEY DONATION;
- * DENTAL CONSULTATION;
- * HOSPITALISATION;
- * MEDICAL BENEFITS PROVIDED BY EMPLOYER/COMPANY AND MEDICAL INSURANCE;
- * DOMESTIC HELPERS;
- * INSTALLATION AND USE OF ANTI-THEFT DEVICE IN MOTOR VEHICLES;
AND
- * HONG KONG RESIDENTS MARRIED IN CHINA

THE "SPECIAL TOPICS REPORT NO. VIII" IS NOW ON SALE AT \$43 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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CYC SPECTACULAR ON SATURDAY

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COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR WILL AUGMENT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SERIES OF PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS TO ENHANCE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE AMONG STUDENTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) A CYC CARNIVAL AND TELEVISION SPECTACULAR WOULD BE HELD IN THE KOWLOON PARK PIAZZA ON SATURDAY TO MARK ITS 15TH ANNIVERSARY.

"A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR CYC MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IT IS HOPED THAT THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION, THE MESSAGE OF 'POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIFE' WILL BE EFFECTIVELY DRIVEN HOME," HE ADDED.

/APART FROM

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APART FROM THE CARNIVAL AND TV SPECTACULAR, MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES PLANNED ARE AN ANTI-SMOKING RALLY, POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION, AND A HUGE POSTER TO BE DESIGNED AND PUT TOGETHER BY CYC MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY 94".

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED ON DISTRICT LEVEL.

GAME STALLS WILL BE SET UP IN THE CARNIVAL AND POPULAR ARTISTES WILL PROVIDE ENTERTAINMENT. THE TV SPECTACULAR WILL BE RECORDED AND SHOWN ON TVB JADE AT 1.45 PM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 7.

THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR CHU PUI-HING, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT PUI KIU MIDDLE SCHOOL

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THREE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS LED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRINCIPAL EDUCATION OFFICER (HONG KONG), MR DAVID PUN WANG-KEUNG, VISITED PUI KIU MIDDLE SCHOOL AT NORTH POINT TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE THREE MEMBERS WERE MR CHAN KIN-HUNG, MS SANSAN CHING TEH-CHI AND MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK.

THE GROUP WAS MET BY THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MR TSANG YOK-SING.

MEMBERS WERE TOLD THE SCHOOL, WHICH JOINED THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME IN SEPTEMBER 1991, WAS FOUNDED IN 1946 AND THAT ITS PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1958.

THE 24-CLASSROOM SCHOOL ALSO HAS AN AUDITORIUM, A GYMNASIUM, A TENNIS COURT, SWIMMING POOL, DANCE STUDIO, A COMPUTER AND LANGUAGE LABORATORY, AND A CANTEEN FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS.

THE SCHOOL ALSO HAS AIR-CONDITIONED BOARDING FACILITIES FOR 220 STUDENTS. THE ANNUAL BOARDING FEE IS \$9,000, THE BOE MEMBERS WERE TOLD.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF SUN POH SHING FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,620
REVERSAL OF LAF	+530
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-320
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,830
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.0	**+0.2* 25.2.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.40 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.57	3.37
1 MONTH	2.60 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.37	3.45
3 MONTHS	2.84 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.68	3.64
6 MONTHS	2.98 PCT	24 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.70	3.88
12 MONTHS	3.30 PCT					
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 15,250 MN						
CLOSED 25 FEBRUARY 1993						

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