



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1988

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HEALTHY TURNOUT AT DB ELECTIONS : SIR DAVID

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, DESCRIBED AS A GOOD HEALTHY TURNOUT, THE INCOMING FIGURES AS THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS DREW NEARER THE POLLS CLOSING TIME THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS PRESS CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE MANY FACTORS WHY THE FIGURES MIGHT HAVE CHANGED FROM THE 1985 ELECTIONS.

"I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TREND OF VOTER TURNOUT FOR DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS YET.

"CERTAINLY, I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD REGARD THIS AS A DISAPPOINTING TURNOUT. FOR A DISTRICT ELECTION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD THIS IS STILL A GOOD TURNOUT, AND WE'RE WELL PLEASED," SIR DAVID SAID.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THERE WERE NO REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT THE TURNOUT WAS ANY SORT OF INDICATION OF WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVED ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN HONG KONG.

"THERE ARE A VAST NUMBER OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE MAY OR MAY NOT TURN OUT ON THIS OCCASION.

"THERE ARE A NUMBER OF INCUMBENT CANDIDATES THIS TIME. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF UNCONTESTED SEATS. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF REASONS AND I THINK THE ANALYSIS OF WHY PEOPLE VOTE AND WHY PEOPLE DON'T ARE VERY COMPLICATED AND CAN'T BE REDUCED TO SIMPLISTIC TERMS ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARDS HAD A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN HONG KONG.

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VOTER TURNOUT WAS SATISFACTORY : LIAO

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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, DESCRIBED THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE OF 30.3 PER CENT AS VERY SATISFACTORY WITH MORE THAN 420,000 ELECTORS COMING OUT TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

MR LIAO SAID ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL FIGURE MIGHT BE CONSIDERED LOW COMPARED WITH 1985 ELECTIONS, THE ACTUAL PERCENTAGE IN SOME DISTRICTS WAS HIGH.

"IN SOME OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED AREAS WHERE THE POPULATION HAS INCREASED, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TURNING OUT TO VOTE WAS IN FACT GREATER," HE SAID.

/"THERE ARE .....

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"THERE ARE SOME DISTRICTS WHERE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED ELECTORS IS LARGER, THE ABSOLUTE NUMBER OF ELECTORS TURNING OUT TO CAST THEIR VOTES WAS ALSO LARGER," MR LIAO SAID.

"SO THE DROP IN NUMBERS IS NOT ACROSS THE BOARD," HE ADDED.

MR LIAO SAID THE TURNOUT RATE WAS VERY SATISFACTORY BY ANY STANDARDS.

"IN HONG KONG'S CONTEXT, TO HAVE OVER 420,000 PEOPLE TO VOTE IN A DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION IS VERY SATISFACTORY," HE ADDED.

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#### CHIEF SECRETARY VISITS POLLING STATION

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, VISITED THE POLLING STATION AT WAH FU ESTATE IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AT 6 O'CLOCK THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER TOURING THE POLLING STATION, SIR DAVID SAID IT WAS A BIT EARLY TO COMMENT ON THE RESULT OF THIS YEAR'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE THE OUTCOME BY THE END OF THE EVENING.

HE SAID, "I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD DRAW TOO MANY COMPARISONS, IN ANY EVENT, WITH 1985. THAT WAS THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW STYLE DB ELECTION AND NO PATTERN HAS CLEARLY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

"I DON'T THINK THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ONE ELECTION AND ANOTHER IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN ANY CASE."

REPLYING TO A PRESS QUESTION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID THAT THERE IS NO REASON AT ALL WHY THE WHITE PAPER SHOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THESE ELECTIONS.

"I CERTAINLY DON'T SEE WHY IT SHOULD HAVE DONE AT ALL AND THESE DB ELECTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE WHITE PAPER. ANY CHANGES WHICH ARE MADE TO THE DISTRICT BOARDS DON'T TAKE EFFECT ANYWAY UNTIL 1991," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT IF THE DROP IN THE TURNOUT HAD RESULTED BY THE DECISION NOT TO INTRODUCE DIRECT ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR, SIR DAVID SAID HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT DRAW THAT CONCLUSION.

"I SHOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF THAT HAD HAPPENED. THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DB ELECTIONS AND THE ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," SIR DAVID ADDED.

/HE NOTED .....

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HE NOTED THAT WAH FU WAS AN INTERESTING CONSTITUENCY WITH THREE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC CANDIDATES.

IT PREVIOUSLY HAD THE HIGHEST TURNOUT IN THE URBAN AREA LAST YEAR AND IT WAS RUNNING VERY WELL AGAIN THIS YEAR TOO, SIR DAVID SAID.

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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE, SAYS SDA  
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, APPEALED TO REGISTERED VOTERS TO GO TO THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION POLLING STATIONS AS SOON AS THEY FINISHED WORK TODAY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS BRIEFING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, MR LIAO NOTED THAT EXPERIENCE IN PREVIOUS DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS HELD IN 1982 AND 1985 SHOWED THAT USUALLY THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ELECTORS VOTED IN THE FINAL TWO HOUR OF POLLING.

HE NOTED THAT BY 4.30 PM KWUN WONG, WONG TAI SIN AND YUEN LONG HAD THE LARGEST VOTER TURNOUTS WHILE ISLANDS, SAI KUNG AND NORTH HAD THE HIGHEST TURNOUT RATES.

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SDA VISITS POLLING STATION  
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THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING URGED ALL ELECTORS TO EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHTS BY CASTING THEIR VOTES.

"I HOPE THAT THE VOTER TURNOUT RATE COULD EXCEED 37.5 PER CENT WHICH WAS RECORDED IN THE LAST DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS IN 1985," MR LIAO SAID THIS DURING A VISIT TO A POLLING STATION IN HAPPY VALLEY.

AT 9.30 AM, 45,611 VOTERS HAD CAST THEIR VOTES, REPRESENTING 3.3 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 1,401,690 REGISTERED VOTERS.

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GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DB'S  
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THE DEPUTY CHIEF SECRETARY, MR JOHN CHAN, VISITED THE ELECTION CO-ORDINATION CENTRE AT CNTA HEADQUARTERS EARLIER THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AFTER THE TOUR, MR CHAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE WHAT IT SHOULD HAVE DONE IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CURRENT DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS AND IT WAS UP TO THE VOTERS WHETHER THEY WOULD EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS.

REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF DECISIONS MADE IN THE WHITE PAPER ON THE TURNOUT RATE, MR CHAN SAID THAT THE DECISIONS COULD NOT HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PRESENT DB ELECTIONS.

THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DB'S WHICH FORMED A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR THREE-TIER SYSTEM, HE ADDED.

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ELECTORS URGED TO EXERCISE CIVIC RIGHT BY VOTING  
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REGISTERED VOTERS SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR CIVIC RIGHT BY CASTING THEIR VOTES IN TODAY'S DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO ELECT THOSE WHO CAN REPRESENT THEM, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS BRIEFING THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING, MR CHAU SAID VOTERS' SUPPORT WOULD ENABLE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME TO DEVELOP FURTHER.

HE CALLED ON ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID A LAST MINUTE RUSH IN THE EVENING.

ACCORDING TO MR CHAU, 37,856 VOTERS HAD TURNED OUT AT THE POLLING STATIONS IN THE URBAN AREA DURING THE FIRST THREE HOURS OF POLLING REPRESENTING A TURNOUT RATE OF 4.2 PER CENT.

AMONG THE 10 URBAN DISTRICTS, SOUTHERN DISTRICT HAD THE HIGHEST TURNOUT RATE OF 5.4 PER CENT WHILE KWUN TONG HAD THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT OF 6,984 PEOPLE.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID FOR THE FIRST THREE HOURS, 31,768 ELECTORS HAD TURNED OUT AT THE POLLING STATIONS IN THE AREA, REPRESENTING A TURNOUT RATE OF 6.5 PER CENT.

SAI KUNG HAD THE HIGHEST TURNOUT RATE OF 12.5 PER CENT WHILE KWAI TSING HAD THE HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT OF 5,864.

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HONG KONG WELCOMES JAPAN'S OPENING UP - GOVERNOR

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HONG KONG WELCOMES THE EFFORTS MADE BY JAPAN TO OPEN ITS MARKETS AND RECOGNISES THE NEED TO MAKE EVEN GREATER EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ITS EXPORTS TO JAPAN, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN TOKYO TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE JAPAN-HONG KONG SOCIETY DURING HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN, SIR DAVID SAID ALTHOUGH TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN HAD INCREASED BY 92 PER CENT TO ALMOST 1,700 BILLION YEN BETWEEN 1983 AND 1987, AND HAD GONE UP 32 PER CENT LAST YEAR ALONE, HONG KONG STILL HAD A MASSIVE TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN, TOTALLING A RECORD 973 BILLION YEN IN 1987.

HONG KONG NOW IMPORTED FROM JAPAN MORE THAN SEVEN TIMES AS MUCH AS THE COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM HONG KONG, HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG BELIEVED IN FREE AND OPEN MULTILATERAL TRADE.

HE SAID: "WE RECOGNISE THAT DIFFERENCES IN SIZE, OUTPUT AND NEED MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE A TRADE BALANCE WITH EACH INDIVIDUAL TRADING PARTNER. WE WOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THIS ARTIFICIALLY.

"THERE ARE NO TARIFF OR NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO IMPORTS INTO HONG KONG. WE WELCOME JAPANESE EXPORTS TO HONG KONG, BECAUSE WE VALUE YOUR COUNTRY AS A SOURCE OF SUPPLY OF HIGH QUALITY AND RELIABLE PRODUCTS.

"NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE SIZEABLE TRADE GAP BETWEEN US."

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE GROWTH OF HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN, WHICH HAD GONE UP BY 112 PER CENT, HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING IN PERCENTAGE TERMS.

"THIS IS GOOD NEWS. BUT WE MUST RECOGNISE THAT THE VOLUME FIGURES ARE STILL SMALL," HE NOTED.

"IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT WE WELCOME THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY JAPAN TO OPEN ITS MARKETS FURTHER," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID CITED THE ACTION PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS INTRODUCED BY JAPAN IN MID-1985 AS AN EXAMPLE OF THESE EFFORTS.

"WE HAVE ALSO WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE THE JAPANESE ECONOMY TO ENCOURAGE DOMESTIC DEMAND," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID CONTINUED: "WE BELIEVE THAT A FURTHER REDUCTION OF TARIFF RATES IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE BENEFICIAL BOTH TO THE JAPANESE CONSUMER AND TO JAPAN'S IMAGE AS A LEADING WORLD TRADING NATION.

/ "IF WE .....

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"IF WE ARE ALL TO AVOID A PROTECTIONIST BACKLASH, THESE EFFORTS MUST CONTINUE AND MUST BE SEEN TO BEAR FRUIT."

ON PROMOTION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO JAPAN, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR CAREFUL AND PERSISTENT RESEARCH TO ASSESS WHAT WOULD SELL WELL IN THE JAPANESE MARKET.

"IN ALL THESE AREAS, THE TWO BUSINESS COOPERATION COMMITTEES AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAVE MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS."

IN HIS SPEECH, SIR DAVID GAVE AN ACCOUNT OF HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGES AS A PLACE FOR JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHICAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED THAT HONG KONG WAS COMMITTED TO A FREE MARKET ECONOMY WHICH WAS THE BEST SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID: "INDUSTRIALISTS, LOCAL AND FOREIGN ALIKE, ARE FREE TO IMPORT RAW MATERIALS, SEMI-MANUFACTURES AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT. THERE ARE NO LOCAL CONTENT REQUIREMENTS OR OTHER RESTRICTIONS.

"FREEDOM OF CAPITAL MOVEMENT MEANS THAT THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY IN REPATRIATING EARNINGS. OUR EXPORTS ENJOY MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TREATMENT IN WORLD MARKETS THROUGH OUR MEMBERSHIP OF THE GATT."

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOR INDUSTRY, HONG KONG HAD LESS GOVERNMENTAL INTERFERENCE IN INDUSTRY - FEWER PETTY RULES AND REGULATIONS - THAN ANY OTHER IMPORTANT TRADING ENTITY IN THE WORLD.

"AND WE INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN, SIR DAVID SAID THAT BESIDES BEING HONG KONG'S SECOND LARGEST SUPPLIER, JAPAN WAS ALSO THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT, PROVIDING ABOUT ONE-FIFTH OF HONG KONG'S INVESTMENT.

"A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF OUR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY CONSORTIA WITH STRONG JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT," HE SAID, CITING THE EXAMPLES OF THE SECOND CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL PROJECT.

HONG KONG, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS JAPAN'S FIFTH LARGEST EXPORT MARKET, HE SAID.

"IN 1987 EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN HONG KONG BOUGHT THE EQUIVALENT OF 156,000 YEN IN JAPANESE GOODS. THIS FIGURE IS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN PURCHASES OF JAPANESE GOODS IN OTHER MAJOR MARKETS : IT COMPARES WITH ABOUT 50,000 YEN PER CAPITA IN THE UNITED STATES AND 17,000 YEN IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY."

/SIR DAVID .....

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SIR DAVID NOTED THAT THE TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND JAPAN WERE BECOMING CLOSER EACH YEAR.

"WE WELCOME THE GOODS YOU SELL US AND THE CONFIDENCE THAT YOUR BUSINESSMEN HAVE SHOWN BY INVESTING IN OUR MANUFACTURING AND SERVICES SECTORS.

"GIVEN THE CHANCE, I FEEL SURE THAT HONG KONG WILL PROVE ITSELF TO BE A COMPETITIVE SUPPLIER OF GOODS TO THE JAPANESE MARKET, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE JAPANESE CONSUMER," HE SAID.

TURNING TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE, SIR DAVID SAID THIS ISSUE HAD GREAT SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY FOR PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN HONG KONG, BUT FOR THOSE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO HAD TRADE, INVESTMENT OR OTHER TIES WITH HONG KONG.

HE SAID THAT THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROVIDED THAT, IN ALL THE KEY ASPECTS OF ITS ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, HONG KONG AS A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS IT DID NOW FOR 50 YEARS AFTER 1997, ALTHOUGH SOVEREIGNTY WOULD OF COURSE PASS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

"GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN THE THREE YEARS SINCE IT CAME INTO EFFECT," HE SAID.

THIS INCLUDED THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN TRADE, TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATIONS; AGREEMENT REACHED ON HONG KONG'S SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND THE CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL; AND THE WORK ON NEGOTIATING HONG KONG'S OWN AIR SERVICES AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISHING ITS OWN SHIPPING REGISTER.

THERE WAS ALSO THE AGREEMENT ON A RANGE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS THAT HONG KONG PEOPLE MAY USE UP TO AND AFTER 1997; AND THE WORK PROCEEDING TO ENSURE HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AFTER 1997 IN THE HUNDREDS OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS IN WHICH IT CURRENTLY PARTICIPATED.

"MUCH OF COURSE REMAINS TO BE DONE. A SIGNIFICANT EVENT WILL BE THE PUBLICATION IN MAY OF THE DRAFT BASIC LAW WHICH WILL SET OUT IN DETAIL THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE FUTURE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION," HE SAID.

"BUT A GOOD START HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF SIGNS OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF HONG KONG."

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY HAD MADE A STRONG RECOVERY FROM ITS MODEST PERFORMANCE IN 1982 AND 1983, WHEN UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HONG KONG'S FUTURE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT.

/"WE WERE .....

"WE WERE CERTAINLY NOT EXEMPT FROM THE WORLD STOCK MARKET CRASHES LAST OCTOBER. WE MAY STILL FEEL ITS AFTER EFFECTS THIS YEAR," HE WENT ON.

"NEVERTHELESS IT IS A FACT THAT FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, WE HAVE RECORDED DOUBLE DIGIT GROWTH.

"THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS FINANCING A NUMBER OF LARGE-SCALE CAPITAL PROJECTS, SUCH AS A SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, WHICH CAN ONLY OFFER RETURNS WELL AFTER 1997. THERE IS SUSTAINED INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND MACHINERY AND STRONG DEMAND FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY.

"FOR ITS PART, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS HEAVILY COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE - BUILDING ROADS, EXTENDING OUR CONTAINER PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES AND INVESTING IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES THAT WE WILL NEED TO MEET TOMORROW'S DEMANDS," SIR DAVID SAID.

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WASTE DISPOSAL REGULATIONS TO BE GAZETTED NEXT WEEK

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THE WASTE DISPOSAL (LIVESTOCK WASTE) REGULATIONS 1988 WHICH PRESCRIBE THE CONTROLS ON THE STORAGE, TREATMENT, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF LIVESTOCK WASTE IN CONTROL AREAS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 18.

THE REGULATIONS WERE MADE RECENTLY BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP TO STUDY THE WASTE DISPOSAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 AND THE LIVESTOCK WASTE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, FARMERS AND THE AD HOC GROUP.

"A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AS A RESULT OF THE CONSULTATIONS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE LIVESTOCK FARMERS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOW AGREED TO SET UP DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON ABOUT A DOZEN PRIVATE FARMS TO SHOW FARMERS HOW VARIOUS WASTE TREATMENT METHODS WOULD WORK AND HOW MUCH THEY WOULD COST. A REVIEW WILL BE CONDUCTED AFTER THE PROJECTS ARE IN FULL OPERATION.

"THE REGULATIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FIRST THREE CONTROL AREAS (THE TOLO HARBOUR AND CHANNEL, MUI WO AND ANGLER'S BEACH AREAS) ON JUNE 24 THIS YEAR AS A PILOT SCHEME AND CONTROLS WILL NOT BE EXTENDED FOR THE TIME BEING TO OTHER CONTROL AREAS, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF A REVIEW OF THE DEMONSTRATION SCHEME.

/ "IF NECESSARY .....

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"IF NECESSARY THE REGULATIONS COULD BE AMENDED IN THE LIGHT OF THIS REVIEW," SAID THE SPOKESMAN.

A STEERING GROUP CONSISTING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGCO AD HOC GROUP HAS BEEN SET UP TO SELECT FARMS FOR THE PROJECT AND TO MONITOR PROGRESS.

PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW, IT IS NECESSARY TO DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOURTH CONTROL AREA BY A FEW MONTHS. A NOTICE WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW TO AMEND THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE RIVER INDUS AREA FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1988 TO JANUARY 1, 1989.

"SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ALSO APPROVED THAT LIVESTOCK FARMERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED CAPITAL GRANTS AND LOANS AND WHO SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE TO CEASE BUSINESS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCES," HE SAID.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MR STEPHEN FISHER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT 10 AM IN HIS OFFICE AT ROOM 716, SEVENTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

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#### NEW EQUIPMENT TO DETECT HEPATITIS VIRUS IN SHELLFISH

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WILL SOON RECEIVE NEW EQUIPMENT TO DETECT THE EXISTENCE OF HEPATITIS VIRUS IN SHELLFISH, AND TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT, THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR PAUL HOLMES, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON, MR HOLMES SAID THE EQUIPMENT WAS NEEDED TO CHECK HOW MUCH RISK TO HEALTH THERE WAS IN EATING SHELLFISH WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN POLLUTED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR THIS SEVERAL YEARS AGO, BUT THE TECHNIQUE WAS SO NEW THAT IT HAD ONLY JUST BECOME AVAILABLE.

SO FAR, ONLY SIX LABORATORIES IN THE WORLD HAD USED THIS NEW EQUIPMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REQUIRE SEVERAL WEEKS TO SET UP THE EQUIPMENT, AND THE FIRST RESULTS WERE EXPECTED IN MAY.

/MR HOLMES .....

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MR HOLMES SAID THERE WAS REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT CONTAMINATED SHELLFISH MIGHT BE PARTLY TO BLAME FOR THE SPREAD OF THE PRESENT HEPATITIS OUTBREAK.

SHELLFISH WERE KNOWN TO BE POLLUTED BY SEWAGE AND BACTERIA WHICH CAME FROM SEWAGE WERE OFTEN FOUND IN THEM.

BACTERIA, HE EXPLAINED, WERE VERY MUCH EASIER TO RECOGNISE THAN THE VIRUS WHICH CAUSED HEPATITIS, BUT WHERE ONE WAS KNOWN TO EXIST THE OTHER MIGHT ALSO EXIST.

APART FROM MEASURING HEPATITIS VIRUS, THE NEW EQUIPMENT WOULD ALSO BE USED TO FIND OUT WHETHER SHELLFISH COULD BE CLEANED BY KEEPING THEM FOR SEVERAL WEEKS IN DISINFECTED WATER - A PROCESS KNOWN AS DEPURATION, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAD ADVOCATED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, MR HOLMES SAID.

THERE WOULD ALSO BE OTHER USES FOR THE NEW EQUIPMENT.

MR HOLMES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD INVESTED A LARGE SUM OF MONEY IN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS TO MINIMISE THE RISKS OF POLLUTION AFFECTING SHELLFISH.

HOWEVER, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MUCH MORE WAS NEEDED. HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS WORKING ON NEW SCHEMES WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY REQUIRE THE INVESTMENT OF \$10 BILLION.

EXPLAINING THE MOST RECENT RESULTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE POLLUTION OF BATHING BEACHES, HE SAID THAT THIS YEAR, 37 GAZETTED BEACHES OUT OF A TOTAL OF 42 HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FIT FOR SWIMMING.

LAST YEAR 38 OUT OF 41 WERE RECOMMENDED FIT FOR SWIMMING.

TWO-THIRDS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES BEACHES WERE ON AN IMPROVING TREND, BUT BEACHES ON HONG KONG ISLAND HAD BEEN BECOMING WORSE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS, OWING TO A SHIFT IN POPULATION.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT IS ANALYSING MORE THAN 20,000 QUESTIONNAIRES AS PART OF A STUDY ON THE LINK BETWEEN POLLUTION AND HEALTH RISKS TO SWIMMERS.

THIS STUDY HAS INITIALLY SHOWN THAT THE RISKS ARE COMPARATIVELY LOW. HOWEVER, WHEN THE FINDINGS ARE COMPLETE, THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO DECIDE HOW MUCH RISK IS ACCEPTABLE, ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1988

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PROCESSING OF TAXI TENDERS COMPLETED  
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED PROCESSING THE LATEST TENDERS FOR 168 URBAN TAXI LICENCES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A TOTAL OF 980 TENDERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED WHEN THE OFFER CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 5. "THE HIGHEST TENDER ACCEPTED WAS \$600,889 AND THE LOWEST \$600,882," HE SAID.

THE AVERAGE PREMIUM OF \$600,886 MARKED AN INCREASE OF 0.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THE LAST TENDER EXERCISE IN JULY LAST YEAR.

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS AND THE AMOUNTS OFFERED WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TOMORROW'S GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL DECIDED IN JULY, 1986 THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES WHICH MIGHT BE REGISTERED AND LICENSED AS URBAN TAXIS WOULD REMAIN AT 14,400 UNTIL JULY THIS YEAR.

SINCE THEN, THE ISSUE OF NEW LICENCES FOR URBAN TAXIS HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO 200 PER YEAR. THIS MEASURE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL JULY.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENCES ALLOCATED BY THE END OF LAST YEAR WAS 14,132. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN 14,200 BUT FOR THE FAILURE OF SIX SUCCESSFUL TENDERERS TO PAY THE PREMIUM FOR A TOTAL OF 68 LICENCES IN THE TENDER EXERCISE LAST JULY.

THESE 68 UNALLOCATED LICENCES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT TENDER EXERCISE.

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY RELEASED  
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED TRADE VALUE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1988.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1987, TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY 1988, AT \$67,991 MILLION, GREW BY 37 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 17 PER CENT TO \$16,477 MILLION IN JANUARY 1988 WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 53 PER CENT TO \$18,364 MILLION, BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1988 TO \$34,841 MILLION, WHICH WAS 34 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JANUARY 1987.

/ON THE .....

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BY 41 PER CENT TO \$33,150 MILLION IN JANUARY 1988.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BETWEEN JANUARY 1987 AND JANUARY 1988.

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, BY 46 PER CENT, CHINA BY 44 PER CENT, FRANCE BY 32 PER CENT, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY BY 29 PER CENT, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM BY 19 PER CENT.

A 5 PER CENT GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE USA.

BETWEEN JANUARY 1987 AND JANUARY 1988, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM SWITZERLAND (+107 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+81 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+57 PER CENT), THE USA (+50 PER CENT) AND FRANCE (+45 PER CENT).

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, RE-EXPORTS TO JAPAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TAIWAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 90 PER CENT, 89 PER CENT, 68 PER CENT, 65 PER CENT AND 63 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF BILATERAL TRADE IN ANY SINGLE MONTH, AS THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL MONTHS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATIONS.

IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR WERE USUALLY AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, WHILE THIS YEAR THEY OCCURRED IN MID-FEBRUARY.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT TO \$197,678 MILLION. THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AT \$189,140 MILLION WAS 50 PER CENT HIGHER.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 36 PER CENT.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT TO \$387,582 MILLION.

AS A WHOLE, TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT.

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON. A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1988 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL 1988.

/THE CHANGES .....

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

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COMPARING JANUARY 1988 WITH JANUARY 1987, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES INCLUDED CLOTHING (BY \$595 MILLION OR 12 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$348 MILLION OR 32 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$332 MILLION OR 35 PER CENT); AS WELL AS OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$274 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$16 MILLION OR 11 PER CENT); AS WELL AS VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY \$10 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR  
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COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

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COMPARING JANUARY 1988 WITH JANUARY 1987, INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR SEVERAL CATEGORIES.

THESE WERE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,098 MILLION OR 54 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$661 MILLION OR 56 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$601 MILLION OR 49 PER CENT); AS WELL AS ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY \$593 MILLION OR 104 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY \$14 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT); AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (BY \$8 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY  
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DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY 1988 WITH JANUARY 1987, INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$792 MILLION OR 86 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$680 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY \$576 MILLION OR 36 PER CENT) AND TEXTILES (BY \$507 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN BEVERAGES (BY \$8 MILLION OR 17 PER CENT); AS WELL AS OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY \$7 MILLION OR 20 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR  
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COMMODITY DIVISION.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE AVAILABLE IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE JANUARY 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND MARCH 20, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT \$9.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1988 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY APRIL AT \$17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
U.S.A.	5,595	5,313	283	5
CHINA	2,479	1,726	753	44
F.R. OF GERMANY	1,554	1,202	352	29
U.K.	1,057	891	166	19
JAPAN	749	649	101	16
CANADA	513	458	56	12
NETHERLANDS	376	341	34	10
SINGAPORE	360	247	114	46
FRANCE	339	257	82	32
AUSTRALIA	305	265	40	15

/TABLE 2: .....

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENT- AGE INCREASE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,564	4,969	595	12
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	2,171	2,082	88	4
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,422	1,074	348	32
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,289	957	332	35
TELECOMMUNICATION AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,213	1,142	71	6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,137	1,049	87	8

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
CHINA	10,933	7,868	3,065	39
JAPAN	5,476	4,233	1,243	29
TAIWAN	2,924	2,203	721	33

/U.S.A. ....

U.S.A.	2,655	1,767	888	50
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,648	1,052	596	57
SINGAPORE	1,501	828	673	81
U.K.	1,038	745	293	39
F.R. OF GERMANY	869	657	212	32
SWITZERLAND	631	305	325	107
FRANCE	536	370	166	45

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENT- AGE INCREASE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	3,951	3,442	508	15
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,134	2,037	1,098	54
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2,451	1,909	541	28
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,861	1,293	569	44
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,834	1,173	661	56
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	1,822	1,221	601	49

/TABLE 5: .....

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE (%)
CHINA	5,782	3,790	1,992	53
U.S.A.	3,549	2,545	1,003	39
JAPAN	1,095	576	520	90
TAIWAN	983	602	381	63
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	789	584	205	35
SINGAPORE	648	453	195	43
F.R. OF GERMANY	590	311	278	89
U.K.	365	221	144	65
MACAU	302	215	87	40
AUSTRALIA	291	173	118	68

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1988 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1987 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENT- AGE INCREASE (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,257	1,750	507	29
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	2,183	1,607	576	36
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,710	918	792	86
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	1,655	975	680	70
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,103	677	426	63
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	760	426	333	78

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR  
DECEMBER 1987 RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER 1987, ESTIMATED AT \$8,384 MILLION, WAS 17 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1986 WHILST THEIR VOLUME WAS 8 PER CENT HIGHER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS INCREASE WAS IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH IN RETAIL SALES IN 1987 WHICH INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME AS COMPARED WITH 1986.

ANALYSED BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS, RETAIL SALES OF FUELS INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN VOLUME IN DECEMBER 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1986. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO ROSE BY 17 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS AND "OTHER CONSUMER GOODS" BOTH INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES WENT UP BY 14 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 7 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS, SALES BY DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 33 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 31 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 21 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES INCREASED BY 24 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 17 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

COMPARING THE YEAR 1987 WITH THE PRECEEDING YEAR, FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FUELS WENT UP BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF "OTHER CONSUMER GOODS" AND CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT AND 18 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE AND 13 PER CENT AND 10 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME. CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP BY 15 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 43 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 30 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SALES BY DEPARTMENT STORES AND SUPERMARKETS WENT UP BY 29 PER CENT AND 20 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE AND 21 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME.

/CONSUMER DURABLES .....

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

WHEN COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER 1987, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER 1987 ROSE BY 11 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 17 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FUELS WENT UP BY 12 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

OVER THE SAME MONTH, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS ROSE BY 12 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME. "OTHER CONSUMER GOODS" WENT UP BY 10 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES WENT UP BY 24 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 23 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DROPPED BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR NOVEMBER 1987 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR DECEMBER 1987.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1987 AND DECEMBER 1987 (A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES, (B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS AND (C) BY SELECTED TRADES (WHICH FORM PART OF THE RELEVANT MAJOR TRADE GROUPS), WITH AVERAGE MONTHLY RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF DECEMBER 1987 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR NOVEMBER 1987 AND WITH THOSE FOR DECEMBER 1986 AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE YEAR 1987 WITH THE YEAR 1986 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE DECEMBER 1987 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234941.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for December 1987 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$8,384 million  
for November 1987 (Revised Figure) \* HK\$7,583 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES  
FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1987

(Monthly average of Oct. 84 - Sept. 85 = 100)

Item	Index of retail Sales	November 1987	December 1987	December 1987 compared with November 1987		December 1987 compared with December 1986		Jan. - Dec. 87 compared with Jan. - Dec. 86		
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%	
(A) <u>FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES</u>	Value	135	150	+14	+11	+22	+17	+18	+17	
	Volume	118	129	+11	+10	+9	+8	+10	+9	
(B) <u>BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS</u>										
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	112	134	+22	+20	+19	+17	+11	+11	
	Volume	104	121	+17	+17	+7	+6	+6	+5	
Fuels	Value	94	105	+11	+12	+18	+21	+5	+5	
	Volume	103	114	+11	+11	+12	+12	+4	+4	
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	160	179	+19	+12	+27	+18	+18	+15	
	Volume	132	147	+15	+11	+12	+8	+10	+9	
Consumer durables	Value	137	139	+3	+2	+17	+14	+20	+18	
	Volume	115	117	+3	+2	+8	+7	+10	+10	
Other consumer goods	Value	149	163	+14	+10	+25	+18	+23	+21	
	Volume	127	138	+11	+9	+10	+8	+13	+13	
(C) <u>BY SELECTED TRADES</u>										
Supermarkets	Value	127	159	+31	+24	+31	+24	+23	+20	
	Volume	117	144	+27	+23	+21	+17	+17	+15	
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	201	192	-9	-4	+45	+31	+53	+43	
	Volume	151	144	-7	-5	+25	+21	+32	+30	
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	117	123	+6	+5	+8	+7	+10	+9	
	Volume	103	109	+6	+6	+2	+2	+4	+3	
Department stores	Value	163	211	+48	+29	+52	+33	+31	+29	
	Volume	136	176	+40	+29	+33	+23	+21	+21	

Notes : 1. In order to analyse the sales of certain trades within major trade groups, the value and volume indexes in respect of the following selected trades are compiled :

- "Supermarkets" - a trade in the "Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco" group.
- "Motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts" - a trade in the "Consumer durables" group.
- "Department stores" - a trade in the "Other consumer goods" group.

- Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.
- "\*" denotes change of less than 0.5.