



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1988

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MORE WATER FROM CHINA
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HONG KONG HAS ENTERED INTO AGREEMENT WITH CHINA TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL SUPPLY OF WATER OVER THE PERIOD FROM 1989/1990 UP TO 1994/95.

FOR THE CURRENT YEAR (1988-89), CHINA HAS ALSO AGREED TO SUPPLY AN ADDITIONAL 180,000 CUBIC METRES OF WATER DAILY FOR MAY TO SEPTEMBER ON TOP OF THE ANNUAL SUPPLY OF 430 MILLION CUBIC METRES. DURING THIS PERIOD, CHINA MAY INCREASE THE ADDITIONAL SUPPLY TO 280,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLY AS NOW AGREED FOR THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD AND THEIR RESPECTIVE PRICES ARE:-

YEAR	AMOUNT (MILLION CUBIC METRES)	PRICE (HK DOLLAR/CUBIC METRE)
1988-89	430	1.112
1989-90	500	1.201
1990-91	535	1.297
1991-92	570	-
1992-93	600	-
1993-94	630	-
1994-95	660	-

(PRICES FROM THE YEAR 1991-92 ONWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVIEW)

THE SUPPLY FROM CHINA STARTS FLOWING EVERY YEAR FROM MAY 1 TO THE END OF FEBRUARY THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

SUPPLY LAPSES EACH MARCH AND APRIL TO ENABLE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS TO THE SUPPLY SYSTEM BY BOTH SIDES.

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GOVERNOR GIVES ASSURANCE ON HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE GREAT CARE TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS ARE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED ON THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY THROUGH THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH GIVEN BY THE ASSOCIATION OF PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, SIR DAVID SAID THE PLANNING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS STILL AT A PRELIMINARY STAGE.

"THERE ARE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH THE ADVICE OF THE PROVISIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL NEED TO BE SOUGHT," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT WHICH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MIGHT HAVE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD A LONG-STANDING GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH TUNG WAH AND WILL, AS ALWAYS, CONTINUE TO GIVE THE SUPPORT WHICH TUNG WAH NEEDS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID FROM AN ORGANISATION WITH THE TRADITIONAL OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING FREE MEDICAL SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY, THE TUNG WAH GROUP HAD DIVERSIFIED ITS ACTIVITIES TO LOOK AFTER THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THE ELDERLY AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES.

"SUCCESSIVE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE GROUP IN THE PAST DECADES HAVE PUT GREAT EFFORTS INTO THIS EXPANSION," HE SAID.

IT HAD BEEN A PRAISEWORTHY EFFORT AND THE TUNG WAH GROUP HAD EARNED THE RESPECT OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"I AM SURE THAT THE TUNG WAH GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ITS ENDEAVOURS AND WILL PROVIDE MORE AND BETTER SERVICES TO MEET THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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SGD OUTLINES REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

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THE EVIDENCE OF THE PAST THREE YEARS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE IS WORKING, THE SECRETARY FOR GENERAL DUTIES, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID IN THE UNITED STATES ON MONDAY.

"MEASURES WHICH ARE VITAL TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN LINE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION," MR WIGGHAM SAID AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BOTH THE CHINESE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WERE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THIS PROGRESS, AND IT WAS ALSO CLEAR THAT DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN INVESTORS WERE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, HE SAID IN AN ADDRESS ENTITLED "COUNTDOWN TO 1997--AN INSIDER'S VIEWS".

FOR EXAMPLE, THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMY WAS FLOURISHING, ITS REGIONAL BUSINESS ROLE WAS EXPANDING, AND THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE OF HONG KONG AND CHINA CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE FACTORS FORMED ONE MAIN REASON WHY HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE, MR WIGGHAM SAID.

THE OTHER MAIN REASON LAY IN THE FACT THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED-- IN PARTICULAR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT--HAD A STRONG INTEREST IN MAKING THE JOINT DECLARATION WORK.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE AGREEMENT ON THE JOINT DECLARATION, CHINA HAD MADE ENORMOUS CAPITAL AND OTHER INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG.

"IN ADDITION, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT HONG KONG CAN MAKE AN ENORMOUS AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THEIR OVER-RIDING ECONOMIC GOALS - AND THAT HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO MAKE THIS CONTRIBUTION DEPENDS ON ITS MAINTENANCE OF ITS CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND OF THE CONFIDENCE OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE AND OF FOREIGN INVESTORS," HE SAID.

"FROM MY EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, I KNOW HOW COMMITTED THEY ARE TO MAINTAINING THE VALUE OF THEIR HUGE FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG."

ON WHAT HAD BEEN DONE SO FAR IN IMPLEMENTING THE JOINT DECLARATION, MR WIGGHAM REFERRED IN PARTICULAR TO THE PROVISION FOR MAINTENANCE OF HONG KONG'S OWN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

/HOW HONG KONG

HOW HONG KONG HAD BECOME A CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) AND WAS NOW ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL.

FURTHER, IN CONSIDERING THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AFFECTING HONG KONG, THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, REACHING AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN SOME 11 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

MR WIGGHAM ALSO REFERRED TO THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE BASIC LAW, WHICH HONG KONG PEOPLE HAD A PART IN PREPARING AND ON WHICH PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE NOW SOUGHT.

HE SAID THE DRAFTING AND REVISION OF THIS MINI-CONSTITUTION FOR HONG KONG AFTER THE CHANGE OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 WOULD BE A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS, LEADING TO ITS FINAL PROMULGATION IN 1990.

DESCRIBING HONG KONG TODAY AS "A THRIVING, POLITICALLY STABLE REGIONAL CENTRE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION", MR WIGGHAM ALSO OUTLINED THE UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF MAJOR NEW PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS THAT WERE IN HAND IN HONG KONG - MANY OF THEM WITH A PAY-BACK DATE EXTENDING WELL BEYOND 1997.

"THE PUBLIC PROJECTS - TOTALLING WELL OVER ONE BILLION U.S. DOLLARS - INCLUDE A NEW UNIVERSITY, A NEW LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM, NEW HOSPITALS, A ROAD TUNNEL LINKING TWO LARGE TOWNS AND A NEW CULTURAL COMPLEX," HE SAID.

"THE PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR - TOTALLING WELL OVER THREE BILLION U.S. DOLLARS - INCLUDE A SECOND CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL, A SECOND TUNNEL THROUGH KOWLOON PEAK, TWO NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS, TWO NEW BANK HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS AND A MASSIVE URBAN PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME."

MR WIGGHAM NOTED THAT BOSTON HAD LONG-STANDING LINKS WITH HONG KONG AS WELL AS WITH CHINA, FOR WHICH HONG KONG TODAY SERVED AS A GATEWAY FOR MANY MAJOR U.S. CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

EXPRESSING PLEASURE THAT A HONG KONG ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN BOSTON, HE OBSERVED THAT ONLY ONE YEAR AGO THERE WAS A SOLITARY SUCH ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES--IN SAN FRANCISCO.

"IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, FIVE NEW HONG KONG ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO AND SEATTLE - AS WELL AS HERE IN BOSTON.

"THIS REFLECTS THE ENORMOUS RECENT GROWTH OF U.S. INTERESTS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

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10 QUESTIONS AND 10 BILLS BEFORE LEGCO
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TEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED AND 10 BILLS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

SIX OF THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) BILL 1988, THE NOISE CONTROL BILL 1988, THE TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988 AND THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL BILL 1988.

THE OTHER FOUR BILLS ARE DUE TO BE GIVEN A SECOND READING, AND THEN GO FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND THIRD READING.

THESE ARE THE SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988, AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1988.

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STUDENT WORK PROGRAMME A SUCCESS
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THIS YEAR'S WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR MORE THAN 1,100 STUDENTS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND ITS SUCCESS BODES WELL FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMES.

FORTY-FIVE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WAN CHAI, EASTERN, KWUN TONG, WONG TAI SIN AND MONG KOK SENT STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENT ORGANISED BY THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT LAST MONTH.

THE MONTH-LONG EVENT INCLUDED GROUP VISITS TO 30 ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

THEY COVERED BANKS, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANIES, NEWSPAPERS, HOTELS, TELEVISION STATIONS AND TRAINING CENTRES OF DISCIPLINARY FORCES.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROGRAMME WAS WELL RECEIVED BY BOTH CAREER TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.

/"FEEDBACK FROM

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"FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS INDICATES THAT THE PROGRAMME HAS FULLY MET ITS OBJECTIVE OF INTRODUCING STUDENTS TO ACTUAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH SUCH VISITS AND OBSERVING PEOPLE AT WORK IN VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS," HE SAID.

"THROUGH SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP A MORE REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FINDING JOBS BEST SUITED TO THEIR ABILITIES AND INTERESTS."

IN VIEW OF THE FAVOURABLE RESPONSE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE CONTENT AS WELL AS TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF THE PROGRAMME IN THE COMING SCHOOL YEAR.

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CONTROLS AIMED AT FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS

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GOVERNMENT IMPOSES LICENSING CONTROLS ON THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF CERTAIN ARTICLES IN ORDER TO FULFILL HONG KONG'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS, OR FOR HEALTH, SAFETY OR SECURITY REASONS, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR ALAN LAI SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG FOOD COUNCIL, MR LAI SAID THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ENFORCES SUCH CONTROLS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE AND THE RESERVED COMMODITIES ORDINANCE.

"ACCORDING TO THE RESERVED COMMODITIES ORDINANCE, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RICE, FROZEN OR CHILDREN MEAT/POULTRY IN AND OUT OF HONG KONG MUST BE COVERED BY VALID IMPORT/EXPORT LICENCES ISSUED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, EXCEPT PERSONAL EFFECTS OF AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING 15 KILOGRAMS," HE ADDED.

"THE AIM OF THE CONTROL MEASURES IS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC.

"UNDER THE RICE CONTROL SCHEME, FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY REGISTERED RICE STOCKHOLDERS MAY IMPORT RICE. THE SCHEME HAS BEEN IN FORCE SINCE JANUARY 1955 TO ENSURE REGULAR AND ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF RICE TO CONSUMERS AT REASONABLY STABLE PRICES.

/"A STOCK

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"A STOCK OF ABOUT 57,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE IS KEPT IN RESERVE AT ALL TIMES IN HONG KONG, ENOUGH FOR TWO MONTHS' CONSUMPTION BY THE POPULATION," MR LAI SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE QUANTITY OF RICE IMPORTS IS SUBJECT TO CONTROL, MR LAI STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO CONTROL AT ALL ON THEIR SOURCE OF SUPPLY AND TYPES OF RICE TO BE IMPORTED.

"THIS HELPS MAINTAIN AN OPEN MARKET FOR FAIR COMMERCIAL COMPETITION WHILST PROVIDING MULTIPLE CHOICES FOR THE CONSUMERS," HE EXPLAINED.

"RICE ON SALE IN HONG KONG IS IMPORTED MAINLY FROM THAILAND, CHINA AND AUSTRALIA, BUT WITH HONG KONG PEOPLE EATING NOTABLY LESS RICE IN RECENT YEARS, THE CONSUMPTION OF RICE PER CAPITA HAS DROPPED FROM 120 KGS PER YEAR IN 1961 TO 61 LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

REGARDING THE CONTROL ON FROZEN AND CHILDREN MEAT/POULTRY, MR LAI SAID IT IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WITH DETAILED INFORMATION ON SUCH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, AND TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT AT CRISIS SITUATIONS TO TAKE NECESSARY CONTROL ACTIONS TO CONTINUE SUCH SUPPLIES TO THE POPULATION.

"CHINA HAS BEEN THE LEADING SUPPLIER OF FROZEN MEAT OVER THE DECADE, WHILE THE USA IS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF FROZEN POULTRY," MR LAI SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PROCESSED AND MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS ARE AT PRESENT UNDER EXPORT LICENSING CONTROL BY THE DEPARTMENT, BUT THERE IS NO CONTROL ON THEIR IMPORTS.

"CONTROL WAS IMPOSED ONLY AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS ON THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF SUCH FOODSTUFFS FROM OVERSEAS IMPORTERS IN 1973 AND ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING HONG KONG'S GOOD IMAGE AMONGST ITS TRADING PARTNERS," HE SAID.

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MEETING TO DISCUSS SPORTS CONSULTANCY REPORT

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MEMBERS OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY (JUNE 9) TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE CONSULTANCY REPORT ON SPORT IN HONG KONG FORWARDED BY THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH.

MR NICHOLAS FRY, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FROM THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BRANCH, WILL BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE REPORT.

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A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS WILL ALSO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING. THEY ARE: THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1988/89, THE FINANCIAL POSITION AND PROGRESS OF DB SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM ON THURSDAY (JUNE 9) IN THE SHA TIN DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME
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THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO DISCUSS A PROPOSED MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME FOR 1988/89.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF SETTING UP AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES TO EDUCATE KWUN TONG RESIDENTS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATED SERVICES FOR THE MENTALLY ILL.

THE LONG TERM GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME IS TO DEVELOP IN THE COMMUNITY A CARING SPIRIT FOR THE MENTALLY ILL AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (JUNE 8) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET.

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BOE MEMBERS VISIT HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL

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NINE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (BOE) TODAY (TUESDAY) VISITED THE HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL AT STANLEY TO SEE TRAINING FACILITIES PROVIDED IN SEAMANSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP FOR YOUNG MEN.

THE BOE MEMBERS, LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR CHAN YING-LUN, MISS BOW SUI-MAY, MR TAM MAN-KWAN, MR TIMOTHY HA, MR ERIC LI, PROFESSOR BRAIN COOKE, DR JOHN CHEN, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING AND MR DOMINIC WONG, WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES), MR LUCAS CHAN, AND THE BOE SECRETARY, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, MISS ROSE LAU.

THE BOE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATED SOME 510 BOYS, AGED BETWEEN 14 1/2 AND 17 1/2, WHO CAME FROM DEPRIVED HOMES AND WHO WERE CONSIDERED TO BE NEGLECTED OR SOCIALLY DEPRIVED.

THE BOYS WERE PROVIDED WITH SCHOOLING FROM PRIMARY 6 UP TO SECONDARY 3 LEVEL AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT ON SHIPS.

THE VISITORS ALSO NOTED THAT A VARIETY OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, MOSTLY RELATED TO SEAMANSHIP AND PHYSICAL TRAINING WERE ORGANISED AFTER SCHOOL AND ON SATURDAYS. THESE INCLUDED TRAINING IN FIRE FIGHTING AND LIFE SAVING.

THE SCHOOL OFFERED ACADEMIC SUBJECTS SUCH AS CHINESE, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, GEOGRAPHY AND INTEGRATED SCIENCE TO THE BOYS AND THE ORDINARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM WAS FOLLOWED AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE.

ALL PUPILS ATTENDED SEAMANSHIP TRAINING IN THE FIRST YEAR AND WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE EITHER SEAMANSHIP OR STEWARDSHIP TRAINING IN THE SECOND YEAR.

THE SEAMANSHIP TRAINING CURRICULUM LEADS TO THE EFFICIENT DECK AND CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

THE COURSE CONTENT IS BASED ON THE DEMANDS OF SHIPPING COMPANIES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE USE OF ENGLISH WHICH IS THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ON SHIPS.

THE BOE MEMBERS ALSO LEARNED THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSISTED IN TRAINING THE BOYS BY GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE BEFORE JOINING THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH
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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 11 PER CENT AND 40 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 25 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING 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 3 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

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 MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 30 PER CENT. HENCE, TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT. DURING THE SAME PERIODS OF COMPARISON, BOTH THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT. PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT.

CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME 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 EACH OF THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE USUALLY AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH OCCURRED IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR MARCH 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

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AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN MARCH 1988 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-43 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-35 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-29 PER CENT); CLOTHING (-29 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-20 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (-10 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-8 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-7 PER CENT).

NEVERTHELESS, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+44 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+39 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+13 PER CENT); AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+3 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MARCH 1988 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

THESE INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+8 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+8 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+5 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+5 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+5 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+4 PER CENT); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+4 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (+4 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+3 PER CENT); AND DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+1 PER CENT). HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WAS RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-2 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MARCH 1988 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN WHEAT AND FLOUR; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; VEGETABLES; AND TEA AND COFFEE.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 17 PER CENT. THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; WATCHES; AND HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

/THE IMPORT

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 14 PER CENT IN MARCH 1988 COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND SO ON; EXCEPT GLASS; PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS; THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS; AND BASE METALS, EXCLUDING IRON AND STEEL.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR COTTON YARN AND THREAD; RAW COTTON; AND MAN-MADE FIBRES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN MARCH 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 27 PER CENT IN MARCH 1988 OVER MARCH 1987. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN MARCH 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, RANGING FROM 3 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 7 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1988 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN MARCH 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, RANGING FROM 21 PER CENT FOR CONSUMER GOODS TO 49 PER CENT FOR FUELS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT IN MARCH 1988 WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987. THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS ROSE BY 1 PER CENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE MARCH 1988 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND JUNE 14 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 5-8234918).

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP.

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1988 WITH JAN-MAR 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-25	5	-29	8	5	3
TEXTILE FABRICS	-6	5	-10	7	5	2
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-26	4	-29	-9	6	-15
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-14	8	-20	4	6	-2
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-41	4	-43	-26	5	-29
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	41	-2	44	38	-1	40
FOOTWEAR	-5	4	-8	11	5	6
METAL MANUFACTURES	8	5	3	28	6	22
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	50	8	39	56	9	43
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	16	3	13	33	3	29
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-32	3	-35	-8	4	-12
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-6	1	-7	9	2	8
ALL COMMODITIES	-3	3	-6	15	3	11

NOTES FOR TABLES 1 TO 3:

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES TAKEN TO MORE DECIMAL PLACES THAN THOSE IN THE PUBLICATION "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS". THEY MAY THEREFORE DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES TO BE COMPUTED DIRECTLY FROM THE FIGURES TO BE PUBLISHED.

/TABLE 2:

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1988 WITH JAN-MAR 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	15	3	11	16	3	13
CONSUMER GOODS	20	3	17	32	3	28
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	20	6	14	24	6	17
FUELS	-15	1	-16	3	4	-1
CAPITAL GOODS	36	7	27	31	7	22
ALL COMMODITIES	21	5	16	26	5	20

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MARCH 1988 WITH MARCH 1987			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1988 WITH JAN-MAR 1987		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	28	1	27	34	1	33
CONSUMER GOODS	23	2	21	44	2	41
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	43	5	36	48	5	41
FUELS	42	-5	49	5	1	4
CAPITAL GOODS	45	3	41	44	2	41
ALL COMMODITIES	34	3	30	45	3	40

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WATER CUT IN LAM TIN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN LAM TIN WILL BE TURNED OFF ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 8) FROM 11 P.M. TO 6 A.M. THE NEXT DAY FOR LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT BLOCKS NO. 1 TO 14, LAM TIN ESTATE, INCLUDING LAM TIN GOVERNMENT CLINIC.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN POK FU LAM
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THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN POK FU LAM WILL BE DESIGNATED AS 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 10):

- * A 120-METRE STRETCH ALONG THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF POK FU LAM ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH SASSOON ROAD.
- * A 42-METRE LONG ROAD SECTION ON THE EASTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF SASSOON ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH POK FU LAM ROAD.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY PUBLIC LIGHT BUS RESTRICTED ZONES ON POK FU LAM ROAD AND SASSOON ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CHANGES IN FANLING
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TO FACILITATE THE REPAIR OF WATER MAINS, THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN FANLING FROM 9.30 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY:

- * THE SHEUNG SHUI-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF ROAD D5 BETWEEN ITS JUNCTIONS WITH CHEUNG WAH ESTATE ACCESS ROAD AND FANLING PLAYGROUND ROAD (ROAD L2) WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
- * TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED VIA FANLING KCR STATION FORECOURT. AT THE SAME TIME, KMB ROUTES NO. 70, 70K, 70X, 73, 73A, 77K AND 78K WILL ALSO BE RE-ROUTED VIA FANLING KCR STATION BUS TERMINUS.
- * NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM CHEUNG WAH ESTATE ACCESS ROAD ONTO ROAD D5.

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