



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR MARCH PUBLISHED

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BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR AND FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED IN MARCH COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

IN LINE WITH THE RISE IN HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS, THE BROADER DEFINITIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY RECORDED SOME INCREASES DURING MARCH.

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWED A SLIGHT DECLINE DURING THE MONTH.

TABLE 1 ATTACHED SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR MARCH 1990 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 PRESENTS FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, INCREASED BY 0.6 PER CENT IN MARCH, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.3 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEMAND AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 2.6 PER CENT AND 2.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY DURING MARCH, WHILE TIME DEPOSITS ROSE BY 2.4 PER CENT.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 11.7 PER CENT IN MARCH. THIS WAS LOWER THAN THE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 15.5 PER CENT IN 1989 AND REFLECTED SOME FURTHER SLOWDOWN IN THE GROWTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER INCREASES OF 3.9 PER CENT AND 2.7 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 0.3 PER CENT AND 1.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 24.9 PER CENT.

DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS ROSE BY 0.4 PER CENT AND 10.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN MARCH AND BY 19.7 PER CENT AND 41.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE YEAR.

DEPOSITS WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT IN MARCH BUT FELL BY 16.1 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR.

THE YEAR-ON-YEAR DECLINE REFLECTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF THESE INSTITUTIONS.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1 FELL BY 2.4 PER CENT IN MARCH WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 (ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS) EACH INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT.

IN FEBRUARY, HK\$M1, HK\$M2, AND HK\$M3 DECLINED BY 7.8 PER CENT, 0.8 PER CENT AND 0.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING MARCH, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 2.8 PER CENT, 13.2 PER CENT AND 11.4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 DECLINED BY 4.0 PER CENT DURING MARCH WHILE TOTAL M2 AND M3 GREW BY 0.3 PER CENT AND 0.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN FEBRUARY WERE -6.9 PER CENT, 1.1 PER CENT AND 1.1 PER CENT.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 3.6 PER CENT, 19.0 PER CENT AND 18.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS DECLINED BY 0.5 PER CENT IN MARCH, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 0.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 7.0 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 1.7 PER CENT DURING MARCH WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES DECREASED BY 1.9 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG FELL BY 0.6 PER CENT IN MARCH, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 0.8 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 1.7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 9.5 PER CENT.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 1.9 PER CENT IN MARCH COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 2.5 PER CENT AND 1.3 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 21.6 PER CENT.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG DECREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN MARCH, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 3.9 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 17.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 30.3 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE MERCHANDISING TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 11.7 PER CENT IN MARCH, AFTER DECLINES OF 22.0 PER CENT AND 0.1 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS DECLINED BY 23.6 PER CENT.

IN TERMS OF RELATIVE SHARE, HOWEVER, THESE LOANS ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION OF TOTAL LOANS.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990, TOTAL LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 5.8 PER CENT. OF THESE, LOANS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING ROSE BY 3.9 PER CENT, AFTER A DECLINE OF 2.8 PER CENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 10.4 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE INCREASED BY 4.3 PER CENT, FOLLOWING A DECREASE OF 0.1 PER CENT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS RECORDED A ZERO GROWTH. LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (OTHER THAN AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS) ROSE BY 6.3 PER CENT THIS QUARTER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 13.7 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 42.0 PER CENT.

LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) GREW BY 8.0 PER CENT THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 10.6 PER CENT IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 30.5 PER CENT.

LOANS TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT SECTOR INCREASED BY 5.0 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990, FOLLOWING A DECLINE OF 0.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 20.1 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBERS OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 165 AND 37 RESPECTIVELY WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY THREE TO 196.

NOTES:

- (1) BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1990, "RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS" AND "DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" WERE KNOWN AS "LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" AND "REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES" RESPECTIVELY.
- (2) IN THE TEXT ABOVE, TOTAL HK\$ DEPOSITS, HK\$ TIME DEPOSITS, HK\$m2 AND HK\$m3 HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS. ON THE OTHER HAND, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS AND US\$ DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED TO EXCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS.

"SWAP DEPOSITS" ARE DEPOSITS INVOLVING CUSTOMERS BUYING FOREIGN CURRENCIES (MOSTLY U.S. DOLLARS) IN THE SPOT MARKET AND PLACING THEM AS DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT TO SELL SUCH FOREIGN CURRENCIES (PRINCIPAL PLUS INTEREST) FORWARD IN LINE WITH THE MATURITY OF SUCH DEPOSITS. FOR MOST ANALYTICAL PURPOSES, THEY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - MARCH 1990

(HK\$mn)

	Mar 1990	Earlier months (% change to March 1990)		
		Feb 1990	Dec 1989	Mar 1989
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	82,848	84,842 (-2.4 %)	85,183 (-2.7 %)	80,623 (2.8 %)
Foreign currency	9,739	11,598 (-16.0 %)	9,675 (0.7 %)	8,734 (11.5 %)
Total	92,587	96,441 (-4.0 %)	94,858 (-2.4 %)	89,357 (3.6 %)
M2 - HK\$*	473,225	471,636 (0.3 %)	467,109 (1.3 %)	417,879 (13.2 %)
Foreign currency*	561,833	560,272 (0.3 %)	521,727 (7.7 %)	451,976 (24.3 %)
Total	1,035,058	1,031,908 (0.3 %)	988,836 (4.7 %)	869,855 (19.0 %)
M3 - HK\$*	504,209	502,477 (0.3 %)	497,498 (1.3 %)	452,806 (11.4 %)
Foreign currency*	605,534	600,156 (0.9 %)	562,709 (7.6 %)	486,796 (24.4 %)
Total	1,109,743	1,102,633 (0.6 %)	1,060,207 (4.7 %)	939,603 (18.1 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	39,968	40,537 (-1.4 %)	39,670 (0.8 %)	35,766 (11.7 %)
of which held by public	34,861	35,598 (-2.1 %)	34,192 (2.0 %)	31,005 (12.4 %)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	57,727	60,843 (-5.1 %)	60,666 (-4.8 %)	58,352 (-1.1 %)
Total Savings deposits	190,273	192,478 (-1.1 %)	193,186 (-1.5 %)	163,008 (16.7 %)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	735,871	726,387 (1.3 %)	683,802 (7.6 %)	600,581 (22.5 %)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	40,589	36,871 (10.1 %)	37,399 (8.5 %)	28,760 (41.1 %)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	32,669	32,419 (0.8 %)	32,605 (0.2 %)	38,928 (-16.1 %)
HK\$ deposits*	457,202	454,645 (0.6 %)	450,762 (1.4 %)	409,405 (11.7 %)
US\$ deposits*	261,840	261,143 (0.3 %)	261,966 (0.0 %)	228,362 (14.7 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	338,085	333,209 (1.5 %)	294,929 (14.6 %)	251,861 (34.2 %)
All deposits	1,057,128	1,048,997 (0.8 %)	1,007,658 (4.9 %)	889,628 (18.8 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	63,529	61,734 (2.9 %)	63,122 (0.6 %)	51,301 (23.8 %)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	63,704	64,089 (-0.6 %)	63,562 (0.2 %)	58,199 (9.5 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	9,080	8,126 (11.7 %)	10,427 (-12.9 %)	11,865 (-23.6 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	618,547	606,886 (1.9 %)	584,594 (5.8 %)	508,748 (21.6 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	561,917	569,594 (-1.3 %)	505,396 (11.2 %)	431,204 (30.3 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	90,589	101,382 (-10.6 %)	107,920 (-16.1 %)	77,703 (16.6 %)
Loans in HK\$	556,436	547,319 (1.7 %)	525,239 (5.9 %)	459,563 (21.1 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	787,401	802,758 (-1.9 %)	746,659 (5.5 %)	628,176 (25.3 %)
Total loans and advances	1,343,837	1,350,077 (-0.5 %)	1,271,899 (5.7 %)	1,087,739 (23.5 %)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - MARCH 1990 # +

(HK\$mln)

	Mar 1990	Earlier quarters (% change to March 1990)		
	-----	Dec 1989	Sep 1989	Mar 1989
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Manufacturing	48,062	46,267 (3.9 %)	47,618 (0.9 %)	43,529 (10.4 %)
Transport and transport equipment	37,149	37,174 (-0.1 %)	33,435 (11.1 %)	26,608 (39.6 %)
Building, construction, property development and investment	101,149	96,299 (5.0 %)	96,772 (4.5 %)	84,243 (20.1 %)
Wholesale and retail trade	65,358	62,663 (4.3 %)	62,729 (4.2 %)	65,390 (0.0 %)
Financial concerns *	90,507	85,158 (6.3 %)	74,919 (20.8 %)	63,740 (42.0 %)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	12,660	10,605 (19.4 %)	9,880 (28.1 %)	8,887 (42.5 %)
to purchase other residential property	107,406	99,493 (8.0 %)	89,957 (19.4 %)	82,327 (30.5 %)
other purposes	56,828	55,105 (3.1 %)	52,756 (7.7 %)	50,920 (11.6 %)
Others	99,428	91,830 (8.3 %)	93,414 (6.4 %)	83,103 (19.6 %)
Total	618,547	584,594 (5.8 %)	561,481 (10.2 %)	508,748 (21.6 %)

Starting from December 1988, more detailed statistics on loans to the transport sector, to building, construction, property development and investment and to financial concerns are available. They are published in the Monthly Digest of Statistics from the January 1989 issue onwards.

+ In December 1988, the return for reporting loans for use by sector was revised. As a result of this, some authorized institutions have now more properly classified their loans according to intended usage rather than the business of the loan recipients.

* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions

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FEBRUARY RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1990 COMBINED DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989 WHILST THEIR VOLUME DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THESE FIGURES SUGGEST THAT BOTH CONSUMER DEMAND AND TOURIST SPENDING REMAINED WEAK IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1990.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, FUELS WENT UP BY 20 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME WHILE RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT DOWN BY 1 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES DECREASED BY 13 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 15 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SUPERMARKETS SALES INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME. SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES ROSE BY 10 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 4 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 5 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE THE CORRESPONDING DECREASES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WERE 25 PER CENT AND 29 PER CENT.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1990 WITH FEBRUARY 1989, FUELS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 3 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME IN FEBRUARY 1990 WHILE RETAIL SALES OF FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT DOWN BY 4 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES FELL BY 8 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 10 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 8 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS REMAINED ALMOST UNCHANGED IN SALES VALUE BUT DROPPED BY 2 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME.

/SUPERMARKETS DECREASED

SUPERMARKETS DECREASED BY 4 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 12 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME, WHILE THE CORRESPONDING DECREASES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS WERE 17 PER CENT AND 21 PER CENT.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1990 WITH JANUARY 1990, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY THIS YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES FOR FEBRUARY 1990 DECREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

FUELS WENT DOWN BY 21 PER CENT IN SALES VALUE AND 23 PER CENT IN SALES VOLUME. FOODSTUFFS, ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO DROPPED BY 22 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RETAIL SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES WENT DOWN BY 6 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 9 PER CENT IN VOLUME. CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS DROPPED BY 23 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME.

RETAIL SALES OF OTHER CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME.

ANALYSED BY SELECTED TRADES, SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS ROSE BY 19 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PARTS FELL BY 21 PER CENT IN BOTH SALES VALUE AND SALES VOLUME.

SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED BY 32 PER CENT IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME. SUPERMARKETS SALES DROPPED BY 32 PER CENT IN VALUE AND 33 PER CENT IN VOLUME.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JANUARY 1990 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1990.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1990 (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 RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF FEBRUARY 1990 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JANUARY 1990 AND WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1989, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1990 WITH THE SAME PERIODS IN 1989, ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE FEBRUARY 1990 SURVEY RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 556 5240).

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for February 1990 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$ 8,732million
for January 1990 (Revised Figure) = HK\$10,591million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES
FOR JANUARY 1990 AND FEBRUARY 1990

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	January	February	February 1990 compared with January 1990		February 1990 compared with February 1989		Jan.-Feb. 1990 compared with Jan.-Feb. 1989	
		1990 (Revised figures)	1990 (Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL TRADES									
	Value	189	156	-33	-18	-5	-3	-3	-2
	Volume	144	117	-26	-18	-10	-8	-9	-7
(B) BY MAJOR TRADE GROUPS									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco	Value	175	136	-38	-22	-2	-2	+12	+8
	Volume	134	104	-30	-22	-7	-6	+2	+2
Fuels	Value	121	95	-26	-21	+15	+18	+18	+20
	Volume	115	88	-27	-23	+3	+3	+5	+6
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	242	186	-56	-23	-9	-4	-1	-1
	Volume	173	134	-39	-23	-16	-10	-10	-6
Consumer durables	Value	171	160	-11	-6	-15	-8	-25	-13
	Volume	129	118	-11	-9	-13	-10	-22	-15
Other consumer goods	Value	203	167	-37	-18	-3	-2	-5	-2
	Volume	154	125	-28	-18	-11	-8	-12	-8
(C) BY SELECTED TRADES									
(see note 1 below)									
Supermarkets	Value	238	162	-77	-32	-7	-4	+27	+16
	Volume	178	119	-59	-33	-17	-12	+8	+6
Motor vehicles and parts	Value	261	312	+51	+19	-62	-17	-93	-25
	Volume	168	200	+32	+19	-53	-21	-74	-29
Consumer durables other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	143	114	-29	-21	#	#	-4	-3
	Volume	117	93	-24	-21	-1	-2	-6	-5
Department stores	Value	322	218	-103	-32	+17	+9	+25	+10
	Volume	234	159	-75	-32	+3	+2	+7	+4

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.

2. Figures denoting changes are derived from the unrounded index figures.

3. "#" denotes a figure within ± 0.5 .

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4TH QUARTER CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS RELEASED

* * * * *

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (INCLUDING WORK CARRIED OUT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND AT OTHER MINOR WORK LOCATIONS) IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 AMOUNTED TO \$13,453 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS 6.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989, AND 13.5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE INCREASES OF 13.5 PER CENT IN THE TOTAL VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1988 WAS MOSTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE COST INCREASES, THE REAL GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED WAS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS.

THE INDEX OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WAS 204.2, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1982 BEING TAKEN AS 100.

THE CORRESPONDING INDEXES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1989 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 WERE 192.2 AND 179.8 RESPECTIVELY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WAS \$10,041 MILLION. THIS WAS 2.8 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 12.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988.

APART FROM WORK PERFORMED AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND OTHER MINOR WORK LOCATIONS WAS \$3,412 MILLION, WHICH WAS 17.6 PER CENT AND 17.9 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, \$3,904 MILLION WAS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION).

THIS REPRESENTED INCREASES OF 6.3 PER CENT OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 35.5 PER CENT OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988.

THE REMAINING \$6,136 MILLION WAS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHICH WAS 0.7 PER CENT AND 1.0 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

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WHEN ANALYSED BY END-USE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT A CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WAS \$4,517 MILLION.

THIS WAS 10.0 PER CENT AND 8.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WAS \$1,240 MILLION, REPRESENTING DECREASES OF 6.0 PER CENT AND 10.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988 RESPECTIVELY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1989 WAS \$1,656 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 0.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT AN INCREASE OF 50.0 PER CENT OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1988.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS REFERS TO THE OUTPUT OF THOSE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY TAKE THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY PLAY THE ROLE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS.

HOWEVER, SUB-CONTRACTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR WHOM THEY WORKED.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 4TH QUARTER 1989", WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON SALE AT \$2.50 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER I, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4860.

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1990

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT NORTH AMERICA THIS MONTH
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL VISIT NORTH AMERICA FROM MAY 20 TO 25, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY).

DURING HIS SIX-DAY TOUR, SIR DAVID WILL VISIT NEW YORK, OTTAWA AND TORONTO. IN OTTAWA AND TORONTO, HE WILL MEET CANADIAN MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS.

IN NEW YORK AND TORONTO HE WILL UNDERTAKE TWO SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND WILL BRIEF BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG.

DETAILS OF HIS PROGRAMME ARE BEING FINALISED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS WILL BE SIR DAVID'S THIRD VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE TAKING UP OFFICE AND THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY ANY GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TO OTTAWA.

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INTERNATIONAL BANKING AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN HK
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THERE ARE CLEAR SIGNS OF A CONTINUING CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANKING AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY IN THE PROSPECTS FOR HONG KONG'S FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A GOVERNOR'S SESSION OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK 23RD ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW DELHI, INDIA, MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE RECENT UNCERTAINTIES, HONG KONG CONTINUED ITS GROWTH AS A LEADING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

LAST YEAR, 12 INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES TRADING IN SECURITIES AND COMMODITIES CAME TO HONG KONG, HE SAID.

ELEVEN BANKING LICENCES WERE GRANTED TO OVERSEAS BANKS IN 1989 AND A NUMBER OF MAJOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAD ESTABLISHED REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG IN RECENT MONTHS, HE SAID.

"AS AN OPEN ECONOMY, WE ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES. BUT HISTORY HAS DEMONSTRATED OUR FLEXIBILITY AND RESILIENCE," HE POINTED OUT.

"ALTHOUGH LAST YEAR'S EVENTS IN CHINA HAD THEIR EFFECT, NOTABLY ON OUR PROPERTY AND TOURIST-RELATED SECTORS, THE ECONOMY GENERALLY, AND THE FINANCIAL SECTOR IN PARTICULAR, WITHSTOOD THE IMPACT WELL," HE SAID.

/HE STRESSED

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HE STRESSED THAT THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR REMAINED STABLE EVEN DURING THE DIFFICULT MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE LAST YEAR.

TURNING TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR NENDICK SAID THE BASIC LAW OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR) PROMULGATED LAST MONTH STIPULATED THE BASIC POLICIES OF CHINA REGARDING HONG KONG.

"REFLECTING MOST OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE BASIC LAW PROVIDES FOR THE HIGH DEGREE OF ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY AUTONOMY TO BE ENJOYED BY THE HONG KONG SAR.

"UNDER IT, THE HONG KONG SAR GOVERNMENT WILL, ON ITS OWN, DETERMINE ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL POLICIES.

"THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, AS THE LEGAL TENDER IN THE SAR, WILL CONTINUE TO BE FREELY CONVERTIBLE," HE SAID.

"AGAINST THESE CLEAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE CRUCIAL ELEMENTS THAT HAVE CHARACTERISED OUR SUCCESS OVER THE YEARS," MR NENDICK SAID, NOTING THAT DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE FUTURE HONG KONG PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE ONE OF THOSE ELEMENTS.

MR NENDICK URGED THE GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO SEE HONG KONG FOR THEMSELVES AND HE EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE BANK TO HOLD A FUTURE ANNUAL MEETING IN THE TERRITORY.

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FC APPROVES FUNDS TO RESTRUCTURE PAY SCALES

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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED FUNDS FOR RESTRUCTURING CIVIL SERVICE PAY SCALES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN ITS SECOND REPORT ON 1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF ABOUT \$533 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED IN 1990-91 TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHANGES TO THE MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS), THE TRAINING PAY SCALE (TPS), AND ALSO CHANGES TO THE SALARY SCALES OF ABOUT HALF OF THE 126 INDIVIDUAL GRADES ALREADY REVIEWED BY THE STANDING COMMISSION.

THE CHANGES TO MPS, TPS AND INDIVIDUAL GRADE PAY SCALES WERE ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$567 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT NO PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE IN THE 1990-91 DRAFT ESTIMATES FOR THESE CHANGES. HOWEVER, PROVISION HAD BEEN MADE FOR PAYING TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE TO FIVE GRADES - ANALYST/PROGRAMMER, SOCIAL WORK OFFICER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER AND NURSE.

/THE PROVISION

THE PROVISION FOR THE TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE WOULD BE USED TO OFFSET PART OF THE COST OF CHANGES TO PAY SCALES.

AS A RESULT, SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF ABOUT \$533 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED IN 1990-91 TO MEET THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE. IN ADDITION, SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF UP TO ABOUT \$8 MILLION MIGHT BE REQUIRED FOR DISCRETIONARY GRANT ORGANISATIONS, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS TOLD.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE FULL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THESE CHANGES FOR 1990-91, AFTER BACKDATING TO OCTOBER 1, 1989, WAS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE REGION OF \$851 MILLION, MADE UP OF \$546 MILLION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND \$305 MILLION FOR THE SUBVENTED SECTOR.

THE CHANGES TO THE MPS INCLUDE THE DELETION OF THE BOTTOM FOUR POINTS OF THE EXISTING MPS AND AN EXTENSION OF ITS TOP END FROM ITS PRESENT VALUE OF \$37,170 TO \$38,700.

ANOTHER CHANGE IS A STREAMLINING OF THE SIZE OF THE INCREMENTS ON THE EXISTING MPS BY PROVIDING A MORE REGULAR PATTERN, IN TERMS OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR EACH STEP, THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE SCALE.

AS FOR THE TPS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE NEW BENCHMARK FOR DETERMINING THE ENTRY PAY FOR STUDENT RANKS REQUIRING A SCHOOL CERTIFICATE WAS INCREASED FROM \$2,990 TO \$3,800.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALSO ACCEPTED THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO MODEL SCALE I AND OF CHANGES TO THE PAY BENCHMARKS USED TO SET THE STARTING PAY OF ENTRY RANKS OF A NUMBER OF JUNIOR GRADES ON THE MODEL SCALE I AND THE MPS.

THE ADDITIONAL FULL-YEAR COST OF THESE CHANGES, TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT A FUTURE DATE, IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$405 MILLION, MADE UP OF \$244 MILLION FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND \$161 MILLION FOR THE SUBVENTED SECTOR.

THESE CHANGES INCLUDE THE TRANSFER OF THE SENIOR ARTISAN AND ARTISAN GRADES TO THE MPS, THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LEAVE-EARNING RATES OF THESE GRADES AND ALSO OF WORKMEN I AND II, AS WELL AS CHANGES TO THE PAY BENCHMARKS.

FC APPROVES 1990 CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED THE 1990 CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT OF 15 PER CENT FOR BOTH DIRECTORATE AND NON-DIRECTORATE STAFF.

THE PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR ALL NON-DIRECTORATE STAFF, INCLUDING MAGISTRATES BELOW THE TOP POINT OF THEIR SALARY SCALE AND SPECIAL MAGISTRATES, IS EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1, 1990.

FOR DIRECTORATE AND EQUIVALENT RANKS IN THE DISCIPLINED SERVICES AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND OTHER OFFICERS ON DIRECTORATE EQUIVALENT SALARIES, IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES - 7.5 PER CENT WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 AND THE REMAINING 7.5 PER CENT FROM OCTOBER 1, 1990.

THE PAY ADJUSTMENT WOULD BE APPLIED TO THE NEW MASTER PAY SCALE AND THE NEW TRAINING PAY SCALE RECOMMENDED IN THE SECOND REPORT ON THE 1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW BY THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITION OF SERVICE.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH THE NORMAL PRACTICE WAS FOR THE ANNUAL CIVIL SERVICE PAY ADJUSTMENT TO BE IN LINE WITH THE PAY TREND INDICATORS, LOWER INCREASES MIGHT BE AWARDED FOR ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY REASONS, AS WAS THE CASE IN 1975 AND 1983.

A PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR 1990, BASED CLOSELY ON THE PAY TREND INDICATORS, SAY, 16.5 PER CENT, WOULD TURN THE FORECAST BUDGET SURPLUS OF ABOUT \$700 MILLION FOR THE 1990-91 FINANCIAL YEAR INTO A DEFICIT.

IT WOULD IN TURN INCREASE THE PROJECTED EXPENDITURE IN FUTURE YEARS BY ABOUT \$1 BILLION A YEAR, SO MAKING SUBSTANTIAL FUTURE DEFICITS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO AVOID.

A PAY ADJUSTMENT FOR MORE THAN 15 PER CENT WOULD BE EXCESSIVE HAVING REGARD TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND BUDGETARY CLIMATE AND THE HIGH LEVEL OF INFLATION AND IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

ALTHOUGH, ON THE OTHER HAND, 15 PER CENT WOULD TRIM THE ADJUSTMENT FOR STAFF IN THE UPPER AND MIDDLE BANDS BY UP TO TWO PER CENT, IT WOULD REMAIN WITHIN THE PAY TREND FRAMEWORK BY BEING GENERALLY IN LINE WITH THE PAY TREND INDICATOR FOR THE LOWER BAND OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THAT IS FEBRUARY 1, 1989 TO JANUARY 31, 1990.

THUS, A PAY ADJUSTMENT OF 15 PER CENT WOULD, TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, ENABLE CIVIL SERVANTS TO CATCH UP WITH THE PAY INCREASES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AWARDED TO PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF ABOUT \$4,993 MILLION WOULD BE REQUIRED IN 1990-91.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF ABOUT \$110 MILLION SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, ON APPLICATION, TO DISCRETIONARY SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS IN 1990-91.

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PROPOSALS INVITED FOR SECOND COMMERCIAL RADIO SERVICE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INVITING PARTIES INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING A SECOND COMMERCIAL RADIO SERVICE IN HONG KONG TO SUBMIT THEIR DETAILED PROPOSALS BEFORE AUGUST 31 THIS YEAR.

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WILL BE INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO APPLY FORMALLY FOR A 12-YEAR LICENCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION KITS CONTAINING BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE NOTES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, DURING OFFICE HOURS, AT A COST OF \$205 EACH.

THE SECOND COMMERCIAL RADIO LICENSEE WILL BE GENERALLY REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH APPLY TO THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL RADIO LICENSEE.

THE LICENSEE WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE BROADCASTING SERVICES ON TWO FM CHANNELS AND ONE AM CHANNEL.

IT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BROADCAST A MINIMUM OF EIGHT HOURS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES EACH DAY ON ONE OR BOTH OF ITS FM CHANNELS, AT OR WITHIN TIMES TO BE SPECIFIED IN THE LICENCE CONDITIONS.

THE LICENSEE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE RADIO CODES OF PRACTICE RELATING TO PROGRAMME AND ADVERTISING STANDARDS ALREADY PROMULGATED FOR THE EXISTING COMMERCIAL RADIO SERVICE.

WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE LICENSEE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BROADCAST TOBACCO ADVERTISEMENTS OR ACCEPT SPONSORSHIP RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

IN ADDITION, ADVERTISING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN 4 PM AND 8.30 PM DAILY.

THE LICENSEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH EXISTING STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP TO ENSURE MAJORITY LOCAL OWNERSHIP.

IN SEPTEMBER, THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY WILL START ITS ASSESSMENT OF ALL THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED.

WITHIN THE FOLLOWING THREE MONTHS, THE AUTHORITY WILL BE EXPECTED TO PLACE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR FINAL DECISION.

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1990

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES APPEALS BOARD BILL 1990 GAZETTED
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A BILL SEEKING TO ESTABLISH AN URBAN SERVICES APPEALS BOARD AND A REGIONAL SERVICES APPEALS BOARD TO DETERMINE ALL APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING DECISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES APPEALS BOARD BILL 1990 REPRESENTED A STEP TOWARDS A MORE OPEN SYSTEM OF APPEAL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MOST OF THESE APPEALS, WHICH WERE AT PRESENT MADE TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, WERE HAWKERS' APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING DECISIONS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, BOTH APPELLANTS AND RESPONDENTS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND AND BE REPRESENTED AT THE BOARDS' HEARINGS.

"THE HEARINGS WERE REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED IN PUBLIC EXCEPT UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MOREOVER, THE BOARDS WOULD HAVE TO STATE IN WRITING THE REASONS FOR THEIR DECISIONS.

THE DECISIONS OF THE APPEALS BOARDS WOULD BE FINAL, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE COURT OF LAW FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE BOARDS' PROCEEDINGS.

THE TWO BOARDS WOULD HAVE A COMMON CHAIRMAN TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY IN PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES BETWEEN THE TWO BOARDS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PROPOSED MADE-UP OF THE APPEALS BOARDS WOULD BE SUCH THAT THEIR IMPARTIALITY AND INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE ENSURED.

"AT THE SAME TIME, THE APPEALS BOARDS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAVE REGARD TO ANY MATERIAL STATEMENT OF POLICY MADE BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCILS' AUTHORITY WOULD NOT BE UNDERMINED BY DECISIONS OF THE APPEALS BOARDS," HE SAID.

THE BILL PROVIDED THAT EACH APPEALS BOARD WOULD CONSIST OF THE CHAIRMAN, OR A VICE-CHAIRMAN, TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE RELEVANT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF NON-COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. A QUORUM OF FIVE PERSONS WAS REQUIRED.

THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDS SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR. THEY SHALL BE LEGALLY QUALIFIED PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE. THEY SHALL NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

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CARDOX SYSTEM CLASSIFIED AS EXPLOSIVES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONTROL THE STORAGE, CONVEYANCE AND USE OF THE CARDOX SYSTEM IN THE SAME WAY AS BLASTING EXPLOSIVES.

AN AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT HAS BEEN MADE TO THE DANGEROUS GOODS (CLASSIFICATION) REGULATIONS AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

CARDOX IS A PROPRIETARY SYSTEM FOR USE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVES IN CERTAIN ROCK BREAKING OPERATIONS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

IN VIEW OF ITS POWERFUL EFFECT AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS IN ROCK BLASTING, IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO CLASSIFY AND CONTROL THE SYSTEM AS EXPLOSIVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE.

FROM NOW ON, CONTRACTORS WHO WISH TO MANUFACTURE, STORE, CONVEY AND USE CARDOX SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO APPLY FOR THE APPROPRIATE LICENCE AND PERMIT FROM THE MINES DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE NEW REGULATIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE MINES DIVISION AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FIFTH FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI, OR ON TEL. 733 2371.

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PRIMARY FUNCTION OF FIREMEN TO SERVE COMMUNITY

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FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) REMINDED THAT THEIR PRIMARY FUNCTION WAS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY THAT DEMANDED THEIR TOTAL COMMITMENT.

THE DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR WONG MAN-CHIU, TOLD THE RECRUITS AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE PAT HEUNG FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL: "MY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO ADAPT, ADOPT AND IMPROVE SO THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS RENDER YOUR BEST TO THE COMMUNITY."

SPEAKING TO THE 43 FIREMEN AND 19 AMBULANCEMEN WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR BASIC TRAINING, MR WONG SAID THEIR WORK WOULD AT TIMES BE DANGEROUS AND THAT THEY WOULD EXPERIENCE EXCITEMENT, UNCERTAINTY, CHANGES AND SOMETIMES FRUSTRATION.

"HOWEVER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE TRAINING YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND THE ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT YOU WILL OBTAIN FROM YOUR OFFICERS AND FELLOW COLLEAGUES, EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THESE HURDLES," HE SAID.

MR WONG TOLD THE RECRUITS THAT THEIR TRAINING DID NOT STOP HERE.

/"STARTING NEXT

"STARTING NEXT WEEK, YOU WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT NEW TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT FROM YOUR OFFICERS AND MORE EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES," MR WONG SAID.

HE SAID FIREMEN AND AMBULANCEMEN WERE CALLED UPON NOT ONLY TO PERFORM FIRE-FIGHTING DUTIES, BUT ALSO DURING FLOODING, TYPHOON AND EVERY CONCEIVABLE TYPE OF ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY.

AFTER REVIEWING THE PARADE, MR WONG PRESENTED THE BEST RECRUIT AWARDS TO FIREMAN LEE CHEUK-HUNG AND AMBULANCEMAN CHEUNG CHUNG-YAN.

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SEVEN OVERSTAYERS, ONE II ARRESTED

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IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS ARRESTED SEVEN OVERSTAYERS AND AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM CHINA IN A SERIES OF ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS YESTERDAY (THURSDAY) EVENING.

ALL THE EIGHT ARRESTED PERSONS ARE NATIVES OF FUKIEN. THEY WERE APPREHENDED IN A NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS IN NORTH POINT AND SHAU KEI WAN.

SIX OF THEM, THREE MEN AND THREE WOMEN AGED BETWEEN 20 AND 57, ARE TWO-WAY PERMIT HOLDERS AND HAVE OVERSTAYED IN HONG KONG FOR ABOUT 10 WEEKS TO FIVE MONTHS.

THE REMAINING OVERSTAYER, A FEMALE PRC PASSPORT HOLDER AGED 40, HAS OVERSTAYED HERE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1987.

THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT IS A 32-YEAR OLD WOMAN WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SNEAKED INTO HONG KONG IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

TWO WOMAN LOCAL RESIDENTS, BOTH AGED 34, WERE SUSPECTED TO HAVE AIDED AND ABETTED THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG. THEY ARE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. HE ADDED THAT OVERSTAYERS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY BEING A FINE OF \$5,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

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PO LEUNG KUK'S HOLIDAY CAMP SERVICE PRAISED

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI, TODAY (FRIDAY) COMMENDED PO LEUNG KUK FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION IN PROVIDING HOLIDAY CAMP SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

MR CHUI MADE THE REMARKS DURING A COURTESY CALL BY THE KUK'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS LED BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR VICWOOD CHONG KEE-TING, TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

MR CHUI SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN ABOUT THE KUK'S SUCCESS IN RUNNING THE PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP IN SAI KUNG.

THE CAMP ATTRACTED MORE THAN 123,000 CAMPERS LAST YEAR, WITH AN UTILISATION RATE OF ABOUT 75 PER CENT, THE HIGHEST AMONG NON-GOVERNMENT CAMPS.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE KUK WOULD BE EXPANDING ITS CAMP SERVICE, MR CHUI SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVING EVERY SUPPORT TO THE KUK'S NEW CAMP PROJECT AT TAI TONG, YUEN LONG. A DECISION ON LEASING A 12.59-HECTARE SITE FOR THE 450-BED HOLIDAY CAMP WOULD BE MADE SOON, HE ADDED.

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URGENT TASK FOR KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS

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KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER STRENGTHENING THEIR WORK AT THE GRASSROOT LEVEL AND SETTING A CORRECT WORK TARGET IN ORDER TO FACE UP TO THE CHALLENGES IN THE 1990'S.

"THIS IS THE MOST URGENT TASK FOR KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS IN THE 1990'S," THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TOLD THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG AND KOWLOON KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN MR LEE KWONG-LAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN MR LAI MAN-LOK, SECRETARY MR CHOW YIN-SUM, AND MEMBERS MR NG KONG, MR WONG LUNG-TAK AND MISS CHAN LAI-LING WERE PAYING A COURTESY CALL ON MR LAN.

MR LAN REMINDED THE VISITORS THAT HONG KONG WOULD EXPERIENCE "AN UNPRECEDENTED IMPACT" AND "UNAVOIDABLE CHANGES" THIS DECADE IN ITS ECONOMY, COMMUNITY AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

"I EARNESTLY HOPE THAT KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, WITH THEIR PAST ACHIEVEMENTS AND FINE TRADITION, WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP UP WITH THE TERRITORY'S RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

"I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND HOPE TO SEE THAT THE WORK OF KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS WOULD MAKE AN IMPRESSION IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY," MR LAN TOLD THE VISITORS.

MR LAN NOTED THAT KAIFONG ASSOCIATIONS, AS PIONEERS OF SOCIAL SERVICES, HAD ALREADY MADE A LOT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

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CHILDREN'S DRAWING CONTEST ON SUNDAY

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MORE THAN 1,000 CHILDREN AGED UNDER 13 WILL TAKE PART IN THE 1990 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN DRAWING CONTEST ON SUNDAY (MAY 6).

THE CONTEST WILL BE HELD BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 11.30 AM AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

THE PARTICIPANTS WILL DRAW ON THE THEMES OF "MY HOME TOWN", "THE DAY I LOVE" AND "HAPPY FAMILY".

PRIZES FOR THE WINNERS WILL INCLUDE SCHOLARSHIPS, MEDALS, GIFT COUPONS AND FREE SUBSCRIPTION OF A CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE.

AN OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM WITH YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WONG HON-HO, AND URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR WU MAN-KEUNG, OFFICIATING.

THE CONTEST IS BEING JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, THE URBAN COUNCIL, HARBOUR JAYCEES AND SING TAO LIMITED, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES LIMITED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE 1990 INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN DRAWING CONTEST TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY (MAY 6) BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 11.30 AM AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST. THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM.

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PROPERTY REVIEW 1990 NOW ON SALE

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT'S 1990 PROPERTY REVIEW, AT \$65 PER COPY, IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

A SUMMARY OF THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE REVIEW HAD BEEN RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 8.

THE REVIEW COVERS THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1989 AND PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF SUPPLY, VACANCIES, TAKE-UP, RENTAL AND PURCHASE PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE MAJOR SECTORS OF THE PROPERTY MARKET.

ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE REVIEW MAY BE DIRECTED TO EITHER THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, MR K.S. WONG, ON TEL. 895 7603, OR THE TECHNICAL SECRETARY, MRS M.A. BIRD, ON TEL. 895 7614.

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1990

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SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ON ENERGY STATISTICS

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THE JANUARY 1990 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ENTITLED "ENERGY STATISTICS IN HONG KONG".

ENERGY STATISTICS COLLATED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SINCE 1982.

THE SPECIAL ARTICLE PRESENTS THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND PATTERNS OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF ENERGY FOR THE PERIOD 1979 TO 1988.

IT DEPICTS THE GENERAL ENERGY SCENE, GROWTH IN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS SOME ANALYTICAL STATISTICS ON PRIMARY ENERGY, TRANSFORMED ENERGY AND FINAL ENERGY IN HONG KONG FOR THE 10 YEARS UP TO 1988.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$40 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

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PROPOSED RECLAMATION FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL WORKS AREA

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RECLAIM AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 9,700 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED AT PA TAU KWU, LANTAU ISLAND, TO BE USED AS AN INITIAL WORKS AREA BY THE CONTRACTOR OF KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL 8.

THIS PROPOSED UNDERTAKING IS TO PROCEED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINAL 8. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ARRANGE WITH THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER TO CARRY OUT THE RECLAMATION.

THE RECLAIMED LAND, WHEN FORMED, WILL BE USED AS AN INITIAL WORKS AREA BY THE CONTRACTOR AND A BARGE LOADING AREA TO FACILITATE THE SHIPMENT OF ROCK FILL MATERIALS PRODUCED IN THE BORROW AREA AT PA TAU KWU TO THE TERMINAL SITE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GRANT PERMISSION TO CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY LIMITED FOR THE DREDGING OF A TRENCH AND LAYING OF TWO 11-KILOVOLT SUBMARINE CABLES WITHIN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 11.6 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED BETWEEN TAI KOK TSUI AND STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

/THE CABLES

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1990

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THE CABLES ARE FOR IMPROVING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO STONECUTTERS ISLAND.

THE EXTENTS OF THE AREAS AFFECTED WERE DESCRIBED IN NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORES AND SEABEDS INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE JULY 3 THIS YEAR.

THE NOTICE OF SUCH OBJECTION SHALL DESCRIBE THE INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT OF THE OBJECTOR AND THE MANNER IN WHICH HE ALLEGES HE WILL BE AFFECTED.

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SECTIONS OF LAM KAM ROAD TO BE REBUILT

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL RECONSTRUCT AND WIDEN SECTIONS OF LAM KAM ROAD, IN TAI PO, FROM LAM KAM ROAD INTERCHANGE TO KADOORIE FARM UNDER STAGE II PHASE I OF THE LAM KAM ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE ROAD WOULD BE WIDENED FROM 5.5 METRES TO 7.3 METRES ALONG MOST OF ITS LENGTH AND TO 11 METRES AT A SHORT SECTION.

CONSTRUCTION WILL START IN JULY THIS YEAR AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN 28 MONTHS.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS DESIGNED THE WORKS AND WILL SUPERVISE THEIR CONSTRUCTION.

THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WORK. A TENDER NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES IN SHA TIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT A SECTION (ABOUT 320 METRES IN LENGTH) OF ONE LANE OF THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD NEAR HUNG MUI KUK IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY ON MAY 6 TO 14.

THE CLOSURE IS TO FACILITATE RESURFACING WORK ON THE CARRIAGEWAY.

/ALSO, TO

ALSO, TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF SHA TIN ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * THE INNERMOST LANE OF TOLO HIGHWAY SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN MA LIU SHUI AND SHA TIN RACE COURSE WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).
- * THE INNERMOST LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL AND CITY ONE SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 7) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF TSING YI BRIDGE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TSING YI BRIDGE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC ON SUNDAY (MAY 6) FOR TWO HOURS BEGINNING AT 12.01 AM AND AT 2 PM RESPECTIVELY FOR CARRYING OUT STRUCTURAL MONITORING WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, THE BRIDGE WILL BE REOPENED TO GENERAL TRAFFIC AT 10-MINUTE INTERVALS AND IMMEDIATELY FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES.

APPROPRIATE SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE ON SITE TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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SUSPENSION OF PEAK TRAM SERVICES FOR KENNEDY RD STATION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE WORKS TO CORRECT THE PLATFORM LEVEL, PEAK TRAM SERVICES FOR THE KENNEDY ROAD STATION WILL BE SUSPENDED ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY (MAY 5 AND 6).

SERVICES WILL RESUME TO NORMAL ON MONDAY (MAY 7) AT 7 AM.

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