



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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JOINT EFFORTS NEEDED FOR A GREENER PEARL RIVER DELTA: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) CAUTIONED THAT THE PEARL RIVER DELTA, ONE OF THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD, MIGHT END UP AS A HUMAN WASTELAND IF POLLUTION CONTINUED.

"IF WE CARRY ON AS WE ARE, WE'LL FETCH UP TURNING OUR ECONOMIC OASIS INTO AN ENVIRONMENT AND ULTIMATELY A HUMAN WASTELAND OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY 'WASTE WATER'," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLLUTION CONTROL WORKSHOP AT THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS.

HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR GUANGDONG, HONG KONG AND MACAU TO WORK TOGETHER TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD WATER QUALITY AND TO PREVENT POLLUTION THAT DRIFTED FROM ONE JURISDICTION TO ANOTHER, OBLIVIOUS OF THE BUREAUCRATIC BOUNDARIES.

"WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN SO MANY AREAS, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN RESEARCH, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN SETTING STANDARDS, WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER IN MONITORING.

"ABOVE ALL, WE NEED TO EXCHANGE OUR IDEAS AND TO EXCHANGE OUR INFORMATION AND I THINK WE'RE STARTING TO DO THAT ALREADY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE LINKS BETWEEN GUANGDONG, HONG KONG AND MACAU AND THE JOINT HONG KONG/GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP ARE A VERY SOLID BASIS FOR THE WORK, HE SAID.

AND THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A GREENER AND CLEANER PEARL RIVER DELTA.

"SO I DO HOPE THAT WHAT WE DO IN THIS REGION CAN NOT ONLY BE A LESSON FOR THE WORLD ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF OPEN ECONOMIES AND FREE TRADE BUT CAN ALSO BE A SIGNAL TO THE REST OF THE WORLD ABOUT HOW CO-OPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS CAN AVOID SOME OF THE POLLUTION WHICH HAS DISFIGURED THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN THE LAST FEW YEARS."

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ANY TALKS WITH CHINA ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WELCOMED

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THE HONG KONG AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ARE HAPPY TO HAVE TALKS WITH CHINA ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AT ANY TIME, IN ANY PLACE, AND WITHOUT ANY PRE-CONDITIONS, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER OPENING THE CAREER EXPO '93, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THAT'S A POINT THAT I MADE ABUNDANTLY PLAIN FOR EXAMPLE LAST OCTOBER WHEN I ADDRESSED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

"I'M SORRY THAT I CAN'T SAY MORE THAN THAT AT THIS STAGE. I REALISE THAT IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING FOR YOU, I REALISE THAT IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING FOR THE COMMUNITY, THOUGH I THINK THAT YOU PROBABLY RECOGNISE AND THE COMMUNITY PROBABLY RECOGNISES THAT WE DO HAVE TO BE DISCREET AT THIS STAGE.

"FROM MY POINT OF VIEW THE SOONER WE'RE ABLE TO MAKE A FURTHER STATEMENT THE BETTER BUT FOR THE TIME BEING I REPEAT WHAT I SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE TALKS AT ANY TIME WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS."

ASKED ABOUT A REPORT IN LONDON THAT HONG KONG WAS EXCLUDED FROM ANY RENEWED TALK, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE STORY WAS DENIED BY LONDON TODAY AND WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF IT APPEARING ON A LOCAL RADIO STATION BY A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IN EXPLICIT AND AUTHORITATIVE TERMS.

"BUT I REPEAT THAT UNFORTUNATELY UNTIL WE'RE ABLE TO MAKE A FURTHER STATEMENT, THOSE SORT OF RIDICULOUS RUMOURS WILL CIRCULATE, RUMOURS WHICH I DON'T THINK ANYBODY SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY," HE SAID.

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HK WILL BE INVOLVED IN ANY ELECTION TALKS

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THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION CO-ORDINATOR, MR MIKE HANSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER TO REPORTS THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY TALKS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95 ELECTIONS.

MR HANSON SAID WE WERE NOT IN THE POSITION TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT WHETHER THERE WOULD OR THERE WOULD NOT BE TALKS.

"BUT, IF THERE ARE TO BE TALKS, HONG KONG WILL BE FULLY INVOLVED AT EVERY STAGE AND THIS MEANS DIRECT PARTICIPATION," HE ADDED.

MR HANSON SAID THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95 ELECTION MUST COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES OUTLINED

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) OUTLINED THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HONG KONG CAN BE VERY PROUD OF ITS LONG TRADITION OF NINE-YEAR FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION, THE GOVERNOR SAID AT THE OPENING OF THE EDUCATION AND CAREER EXPO '93 HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

"NOW WE'RE FOCUSING ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THIS EDUCATION," HE SAID.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS EMBARKING ON CURRICULUM REFORM, INTRODUCING BETTER TEACHING AND BETTER TEACHER/PUPIL RATIOS, AND SETTING ATTAINMENT TARGETS AND RELATED ASSESSMENTS.

"THESE WILL ALL IMPROVE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS," HE SAID.

AT THE TERTIARY LEVEL, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PLACES AVAILABLE WOULD BE EXPANDED SO THAT FROM 1994/95 NEARLY ONE-QUARTER OF HONG KONG'S YOUNGSTERS COULD GO ON FOR FURTHER STUDY.

ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION, HE SAID IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, TWO NEW TECHNICAL COLLEGES WOULD TAKE IN THEIR FIRST STUDENTS AND GIVE THEM THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS OF THIS FAST-CHANGING SOCIETY.

THE GOVERNOR CONGRATULATED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR ORGANISING THE EXHIBITION WHICH HELPS OFFER CAREER GUIDANCE TO SCHOOL LEAVERS.

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PAA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA QUESTIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY IS A MATTER FOR THE AUTHORITY'S BOARD.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE PAA BOARD DECISION, AND IT IS CONFIDENT THAT DR HANK TOWNSEND WILL MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. DR TOWNSEND HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME FOR THREE YEARS AS CONSULTANT PROJECT MANAGER IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE.

THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO COMPLETING THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE BY 1997, IN LINE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

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CORPORATISATION THE BEST OPTION FOR RTHK

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT REMARKS ON RTHK CORPORATISATION MADE BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, AT THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING'S LEGCO RECREATION AND CULTURE PANEL MEETING, MR SO WISHED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT CORPORATISATION WAS THE BEST OPTION FOR RTHK.

HOWEVER, THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION DOES COMPLICATE THIS ISSUE, HE SAID.

AS THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, MR SO HAS INFORMED THE LEGCO PANEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO CORPORATISE RTHK.

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ORDERS, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS
FIGURES FOR DECEMBER RELEASED

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THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND FOR THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS INCREASED BY 3% IN DECEMBER 1992 OVER ONE YEAR AGO, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ORDERS POSITION IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IMPROVED FAIRLY SIGNIFICANTLY. MODERATE INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY DECREASED MODERATELY AND IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY DECREASED SLIGHTLY.

COMPARED WITH ONE MONTH AGO, ORDERS FOR THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED INCREASED BY 1% IN DECEMBER 1992. ORDERS IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY INCREASED MODERATELY.

SOME INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES. THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES REPORTED LITTLE CHANGE IN ORDERS.

THE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND IT REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS DECREASED BY 12% IN DECEMBER 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER. THIS DECLINE IS IN LINE WITH THE RECENT TREND OF RELOCATING PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO SOUTH CHINA.

COMPARED WITH A MONTH EARLIER, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED DECREASED BY 1% IN DECEMBER 1992.

IN DECEMBER 1992, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 24% IN MONEY TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1991.

THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE ISSUE OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY IN DECEMBER BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR, WHICH FELL IN JANUARY 1993. THE LAST LUNAR NEW YEAR FELL IN FEBRUARY 1992 AND HENCE MUCH FEWER MANUFACTURERS EFFECTED THESE PAYMENTS IN DECEMBER 1991.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN DECEMBER 1992 INCREASED BY 25% IN MONEY TERMS, MAINLY DUE TO THE ISSUE OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED MODERATELY IN DECEMBER 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR BEFORE, AND DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH A MONTH BEFORE.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THESE COMPANIES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER BOTH THE PRECEDING YEAR AND THE PRECEDING MONTH.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SERVICES SECTOR, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER 1992 OVER A YEAR AGO, BUT REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THESE COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PRECEDING YEAR. COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THERE WAS VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE, PARTICULARLY IN THE BANKING SECTOR, DUE TO THE ISSUE OF YEAR-END BONUSES AND DOUBLE-PAY.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SERVICE SECTORS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE SECTORS.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 1992 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 805 6441.

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1992	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
		NOV 92	DEC 91
	(MONTHS)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	4.50	+1	+3
WEARING APPAREL	4.74	+1	-1
TEXTILES	2.19	+1	-7
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	2.84	+8	+5
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.67	*	+10
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.77	*	+7
OTHERS	3.94	*	*

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED AS AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1992	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	NOV 92	DEC 91
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	-1	-12
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	+4
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-17
TEXTILES	-2	-21
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	-2	-9
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-3	-11
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-1	-16
OTHERS	*	*
CONSTRUCTION #	-1	-4
SERVICES	*	+2
BANKS	*	-1
HOTELS	*	*
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	+3
OTHERS	*	+4

/*CHANGES WITHIN

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

NOTE : OWING TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS		
	AVERAGE AS IN DECEMBER 1992	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	(HK\$)	NOV 92 (%)	DEC 91 (%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	9,982	+25	+24
FOOD AND DRINKS	10,212	+22	+6
WEARING APPAREL	7,499	+24	+18
TEXTILES	8,426	+20	+17
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	8,741	+10	+11
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	11,723	+53	+31
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	10,747	+29	+32
OTHERS	12,008	+21	+23
CONSTRUCTION #	12,005	+11	+12
SERVICES	18,655	+49	+12
BANKS	19,949	+71	+12
HOTELS	9,898	+24	+13
PUBLIC UTILITIES	17,135	+35	+12
OTHERS	21,009	+49	+12

/*PER CAPITA

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :

UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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STATISTICS ON TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA,
THIRD QUARTER 1992

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IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, 54% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 76% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 48% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 71% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 81% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 WERE 57% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 77% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 49% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 68% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 76% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA).

IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1992, 54% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 75% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 48% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 71% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 79% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991 WERE 57% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 77% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 49% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 66% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 73% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA).

THE DECREASES IN THE PROPORTION OF EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AS RECORDED IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1992 REFLECT THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FOR MEETING DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA, VIZ. EXPORTS TO CHINA NOT DESTINED FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, INCREASED AT A FASTER PACE THAN OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE DURING THE PERIOD.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE SUSTAINED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA FOR IMPORTED GOODS.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA INITIATED BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS & STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY AS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 TO DISTINGUISH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS BEEN EXTENDED AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

STARTING FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS FURTHER BEEN EXTENDED SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) WHICH ARE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1992 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, \$37,536 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 20% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 10% TO \$11,981 MILLION AND BY 26% TO \$25,556 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 25% TO \$67,718 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$87,138 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 37%.

IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1992, \$103,398 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 25% OVER JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 11% TO \$32,303 MILLION AND 33% TO \$71,094 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 32% TO \$181,110 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$216,844 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 42%.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE RE-EXPORTS OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IN INTERPRETING THE STATISTICS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VALUE AND PROPORTION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN (EXCEPT TO CHINA) INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GOODS INSTEAD OF JUST THE VALUE ADDED CONTRIBUTED BY OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, AND IMPORTS FROM CHINA) AS WELL AS HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA IS SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, ARE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE.

THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, HOWEVER, FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ABOVE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE".

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE IN END FEBRUARY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT \$52 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 5037.

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ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA,
3RD QUARTER AND JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1992

	3rd qtr. 1992 (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over 3rd qtr. 1991 (%)	Jan.-Sep. 1992 (HKD Mn.)	Percentage change over Jan.-Sep. 1991 (%)
<u>Total trade value * :</u>				
Total exports to China	69,377	+25.7	191,433	+31.2
Domestic exports to China	15,738	+10.9	43,146	+14.2
Re-exports to China	53,639	+30.9	148,287	+37.1
Imports from China	95,178	+20.0	255,517	+23.0
Re-exports of China origin (except to China)	107,630	+28.2	275,630	+31.2

Estimated value involving outward processing in China :

Total exports to China	37,536	+20.4	103,398	+25.1
Domestic exports to China	11,981	+ 9.6	32,303	+10.7
Re-exports to China	25,556	+26.2	71,094	+33.0
Imports from China	67,718	+25.2	181,110	+32.0
Re-exports of China origin (except to China)	87,138	+37.2	216,844	+41.8

Estimated proportion involving outward processing in China :

	3rd qtr. 1992 (%)	3rd qtr. 1991 (%)	Jan.-Sep. 1992 (%)	Jan.-Sep. 1991 (%)
Total exports to China	54.1	56.5	54.0	56.6
Domestic exports to China	76.1	77.0	74.9	77.3
Re-exports to China	47.6	49.4	47.9	49.4
Imports from China	71.1	68.2	70.9	66.0
Re-exports of China origin (except to China)	81.0	75.6	78.7	72.8

* The value excludes commodities and transactions not classified according to kind.

CONTRACTS FOR REDUCING FLOODING RISK SIGNED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED TWO CONTRACTS TOTALLING ABOUT \$24.3 MILLION FOR WORKS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FLOODING IN KOWLOON CITY AND TUEN MUN AREAS.

THE CONTRACTS WERE SIGNED AT A CEREMONY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR CHUNG KWOK-LEUNG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONTRACTORS, SEQUENCE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND CHEUNG KEE FUNG CHEUNG CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED.

ONE OF THE CONTRACTS, VALUED AT \$21.15 MILLION, IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORMWATER DRAINS IN KOWLOON CITY TO RELIEVE THE EXISTING OVERLOADED DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN THE AREA.

IT INVOLVES THE BUILDING OF ABOUT 240 METRES OF TWIN-PIPELINE AND 40 METRES OF TWIN-CELL BOX CULVERT ALONG LOK SIN ROAD FROM SA PO ROAD TO CHOI HUNG ROAD NULLAH.

MR CHUNG SAID THE STORMWATER DRAIN WOULD DIVERT THE STORMWATER COLLECTED IN KOWLOON WALLED CITY AND PART OF LOK FU ESTATE FROM THE EXISTING STORMWATER SYSTEM TO CHOI HUNG ROAD NULLAH.

THE WORKS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) FOR COMPLETION IN DECEMBER NEXT YEAR.

"WHEN THE WORKS ARE COMPLETED, THE RISK OF FLOODING IN KOWLOON CITY AREA WILL BE REDUCED," MR CHUNG SAID.

THE OTHER \$3.15 MILLION-CONTRACT IS FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN CHING CHUNG KOON FLOOD WATER PUMPING STATION IN TUEN MUN.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-STOREY BUILDING TO HOUSE A STANDBY DIESEL GENERATOR WHICH WILL PROVIDE BACKUP ELECTRICAL POWER TO THE FLOOD WATER PUMPING STATION IN CASES OF POWER FAILURE DURING HEAVY RAINSTORM.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INVOLVES THE PROVISION OF A VEHICULAR ACCESS AND THE ASSOCIATED FOUNDATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

WORKS OF THIS CONTRACT BEGAN EARLIER THIS WEEK AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

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ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INSURANCE INDUSTRY

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THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN THE BURGEONING ECONOMIES OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION ARE ENORMOUS, AND BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HONG KONG'S SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS, COMPANIES BASED HERE ARE WELL PLACED TO SERVE A WIDER MARKET, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR TAM WING-PONG, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE HONG KONG FEDERATION OF INSURERS, MR TAM SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE FEDERATION HAD TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ESTABLISHING CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CHINA.

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"THROUGH SUCH CONTACTS WILL DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING, CO-OPERATION AND, ULTIMATELY, WIDER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES," HE ADDED.

HE NOTED THAT THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAD FACED SEVERAL CHALLENGES IN RECENT YEARS, AS NEW AREAS OF RISK HAD EMERGED.

"IN PARTICULAR, THE RISE IN BOTH THE VOLUME AND THE AMOUNT OF CLAIMS FOR EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION HAS BROUGHT UNDERWRITING LOSSES FOR MANY COMPANIES IN THIS CATEGORY OF INSURANCE.

"COMPANIES BALANCE SHEETS HAVE ALSO BEEN AFFECTED BY THE ESCALATION OF MOTOR THEFTS AND THE CONSEQUENT INCREASES IN MOTOR INSURANCE PREMIA HAVE NOT BEEN WELCOMED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC," HE SAID.

"I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE POLICE CONSIDER THIS TO BE A PRIORITY ISSUE AND ARE DOING EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO COMBAT THESE THEFTS.

"THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR THE OFFENCE OF TAKING A CONVEYANCE WITHOUT AUTHORITY SHOULD SERVE AS A POWERFUL DETERRENT," MR TAM SAID.

THE POLICE AND OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALSO ACTIVE IN COMBATING THE CROSS-BORDER SMUGGLING OF CARS AND OTHER HIGH-VALUE GOODS AND IN SEEKING THE RETURN OF STOLEN PROPERTY, HE SAID.

"THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS ALSO PLAYING ITS PART BY ENCOURAGING POLICY HOLDERS TO TAKE GREATER PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE THEFT OF THEIR VEHICLES," HE SAID.

ON A MORE POSITIVE NOTE, HE SAID GIVEN HONG KONG'S DEVELOPED STATUS AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE AND THE PREVAILING OPTIMISM OVER ITS ECONOMY, THE LOCAL INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAD GOOD PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH.

IN TERMS OF GROSS PREMIUM INCOME, GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT FROM \$9 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$11 BILLION IN 1991.

TURNING TO LIFE INSURANCE, MR TAM SAID THE MARKET HAD ALSO BEEN DEVELOPING RAPIDLY.

IN 1991, THE GROSS PREMIUM INCOME IN RESPECT OF LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS REACHED \$7.3 BILLION.

"SUCH BUSINESS MAY EXPECT CONTINUED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH, BEARING IN MIND THAT ONLY A SMALL SECTOR OF THE LOCAL POPULATION HAS YET TAKEN OUT LIFE INSURANCE AND THERE IS INCREASING AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO INSURE," HE SAID.

ON THE LONG-AWAITED OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES ORDINANCE, MR TAM SAID THERE WERE ESTIMATED TO BE SOME 22,000 RETIREMENT SCHEMES OF DIFFERENT TYPES, COVERING ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE WORK FORCE.

/"THE GOVERNMENT

"THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE EVERY WORKER PROVIDED WITH SOME FORM OF INCOME FOR HIS RETIREMENT, AND PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY-WIDE RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEME HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION," HE STRESSED.

HE BELIEVED THAT INSURANCE COMPANIES HAD A VALUABLE ROLE TO PLAY IN RETIREMENT SCHEME MANAGEMENT.

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CONSULTATION ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW ENDS SOON
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THE PUBLIC ARE REMINDED THAT THE FOUR-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD ON THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW WILL END ON FEBRUARY 28.

PEOPLE WHO WISH TO SEND IN THEIR VIEWS ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER SHOULD DO SO BEFORE THE DEADLINE.

THE DOCUMENT COVERS THREE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE TAXI POLICY, NAMELY THE LICENSING SYSTEM, FARE POLICY AND QUALITY OF SERVICE.

"SO FAR, A TOTAL OF 95 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND 287 TELEPHONE CALLS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED," A TAC SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THESE VIEWS AND THOSE COMING IN BY THE DEADLINE DATE WILL BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY BEFORE THE TAC MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT AND A LEAFLET CONTAINING THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE PROPOSALS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND LICENSING OFFICES/PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

VIEWS SHOULD BE FORWARDED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ALSO MAKE USE OF THE TAC HOTLINE (882 4411) TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS.

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MEXICO INITIATES ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION
ON BRASS PADLOCKS
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THE MEXICAN MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAS INITIATED AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION INTO IMPORTS OF BRASS PADLOCKS ORIGINATING FROM CHINA AND IMPORTED FROM HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND THE USA.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON LOCAL COMPANIES WHICH MAY HAVE A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES.

"REPORTS, DATA AND ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE EVIDENCE CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE SUBMISSION AND SENT DIRECT TO THE DIRECCION GENERAL DE PRACTICAS COMMERCIALES INTERNACIONALES IN MEXICO," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE PRODUCTS UNDER INVESTIGATION ARE CLASSIFIABLE UNDER TARIFF CLASSIFICATION NO. 8301.10.01 OF TARIFFS FOR GENERAL IMPORT DUTIES.

ACCORDING TO HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS, HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TO MEXICO OF PADLOCKS (UNDER HARMONISED SYSTEM CODE NO. 83011000) ORIGINATING FROM CHINA AMOUNTED TO HK\$6.3 MILLION IN 1991 AND HK\$19.0 MILLION IN JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1992.

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED FIVE ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS AGAINST PRODUCTS OF HONG KONG ORIGIN AND RE-EXPORT GOODS OF HONG KONG IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON CANDLES, ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS LIGHT SERIES AND TABLEWARE/KITCHENWARE FROM CHINA.

A REVIEW ON THE FINAL RESOLUTION ON ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF DENIM FROM HONG KONG IS BEING CARRIED OUT WHILE INVESTIGATION AGAINST WOVEN FABRICS OF COTTON FROM HONG KONG WAS EVENTUALLY TERMINATED LAST DECEMBER.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT REASSURED THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT IT ALWAYS MONITORED CLOSELY DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING ANTI-DUMPING ACTIONS AGAINST HONG KONG TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE UNFAIRLY TREATED.

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189 CAUGHT IN OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS RECENTLY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 189 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 35 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE REMAINING 154 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 8,190 PERSONS AND 1,065 VEHICLES WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 2,491 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 9,012 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

TWELVE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTION A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO A YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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CHINESE HARBOUR SUPERINTENDENCY VISIT A SUCCESS

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (THURSDAY) DESCRIBED AS "MOST SUCCESSFUL" A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY A DELEGATION FROM THE BUREAU OF HARBOUR SUPERINTENDENCY OF CHINA AND CHINA MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE CENTRE.

THE EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION IS HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF HARBOUR SUPERINTENDENCY IN BEIJING, CAPTAIN LIN YUNAI.

MR MILLER SAID: "THIS VISIT CONFIRMS THE EXCELLENT AND LONG-STANDING CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND HONG KONG ON MARITIME MATTERS."

"DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS, PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS HAVE HAD A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PRACTICAL PORT OPERATIONS AND MARITIME SAFETY MATTERS."

THE CHINESE DELEGATION HAD A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE PLANS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

/VIEWS WERE

VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED AND EXPERIENCE SHARED ON A VARIETY OF MARITIME MATTERS INCLUDING:

- * OPERATION OF SMALL SHIPS TRADING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE CHINA COAST INCLUDING THE PEARL RIVER DELTA AND GUANGDONG;
- * CO-ORDINATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM; AND
- * TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION OF SENIOR MERCHANT NAVY OFFICERS TRAINED IN CHINA TO MAN OCEAN-GOING SHIPS REGISTERED IN HONG KONG.

ACCOMPANIED BY MR MILLER, THE DELEGATION ALSO VISITED THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S SEAMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE IN TAI LAM CHUNG, NEW TERRITORIES AND WENT ON HELICOPTER AND HARBOUR TOURS TO VIEW PORT FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE DELEGATION ALSO INCLUDES OFFICIALS FROM THE BUREAU OF HARBOUR SUPERINTENDENCY IN GUANGDONG AND GUANGXI.

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TROPICAL CYCLONE SIGNALS NOT SHOWN AT TAMAR

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THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT DAY AND NIGHT SIGNALS WOULD NO LONGER BE DISPLAYED AT THE TROPICAL CYCLONE AND STRONG MONSOON WARNING SIGNAL STATION AT HMS TAMAR WITH EFFECT FROM MARCH 1.

HOWEVER, VISUAL SIGNALS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE REMAINING 11 SIGNAL STATIONS AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- ABERDEEN MARINE OFFICE,
- CHEUNG CHAU AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGICAL STATION,
- LAU FAU SHAN POLICE STATION,
- SAI KUNG POLICE STATION,
- SHA TAU KOK SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS,
- SHAU KEI WAN MARINE OFFICE,
- STANLEY POLICE STATION,
- TAI LAM SMALL BOAT UNIT,
- TAI O POLICE STATION,
- TAI PO KAU MARINE POLICE OPERATIONAL BASE, AND
- YAU MA TEI PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA.

AS SIGNAL STATIONS CONVEY LITTLE INFORMATION AND ARE OFTEN OBSCURED BY HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS OR DURING ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LISTEN TO RADIO OR WATCH TELEVISION FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON TROPICAL CYCLONES AND STRONG MONSOON.

INFORMATION ON TROPICAL CYCLONES AND SIGNAL STATUS CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS ON TEL 835 1473.

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CAREER EXPO '93 WELL RECEIVED

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TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WORKING ADULTS FLOCKED TO THE EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO '93 TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES LATEST INFORMATION ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDY AND ON CAREER CHOICES.

DURING THE VISIT TO VARIOUS EDUCATION AND CAREERS BOOTHS, THEY OBTAINED DETAILS OF TRAINING COURSES AND JOBS.

THE ACTIVITY, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (TDC) AND THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

OTHER OFFICIATING GUESTS INCLUDED THE TDC CHAIRMAN, DR VICTOR FUNG AND THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN.

AFTER THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR PATTEN, ACCOMPANIED BY DR FUNG AND MR CHAN, VISITED SOME OF THE EXHIBITION BOOTHS AND CHATTED TO EXHIBITORS.

THE FOUR-DAY EXPO, FEATURING MORE THAN 180 EXHIBITORS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTES, IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 9.30 AM TO 7 PM UNTIL SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 21) ON LEVEL 7 OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE. ADMISSION IS FREE.

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SEMINAR ON BUILDING SAFETY

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RESIDENTS IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SEMINAR ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF BUILDINGS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE SEMINAR, ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE, WILL ALSO BE OPEN TO OFFICE-BEARERS OF ALL MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND OWNERS' CORPORATIONS. ADMISSION IS FREE.

A BUILDING SURVEYOR FROM THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR IP KWONG-CHI, WILL BRIEF PARTICIPANTS ON SURVEYING DEFECTS IN BUILDINGS.

HE WILL ALSO EXPLAIN THE LEGAL PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE AND CLOSURE ORDERS OF BUILDINGS.

IN PARTICULAR, MR IP WILL TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MAINTENANCE OF, AND REPAIRS TO, BUILDINGS AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS IN THIS RESPECT.

AN OFFICIAL FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, MRS CHAN WONG YUK-SEE, WILL SPEAK ON THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE RELATING TO MAC AND OC OPERATIONS.

/SHE WILL

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SHE WILL ALSO EXPLAIN HOW THE ORDINANCE APPLIES TO RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS.

THE SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN CENTRE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR.

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

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OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON THURSDAY
(FEBRUARY 18) UP TO 4.30 PM

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1. WRITING FINAL REPORT.
2. VISIT TO POSSIBLE SITES TO BE USED AS UPPER-LEVEL POLICE COMMAND AND OBSERVATION POSTS IN LAN KWAI FONG IN FUTURE.
3. CORRESPONDENCE.

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MINI-EXHIBITION TO PROMOTE DISABLED EMPLOYMENT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL MOUNT A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT WHAMPOA GARDEN IN HUNG HOM AS PART OF ITS CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED.

THE EXHIBITION WILL PRESENT THE DEPARTMENT'S FREE PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR THE DISABLED AND FREE RECRUITMENT SERVICE FOR EMPLOYERS, ITS PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING DIABLED EMPLOYEES BEING ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT KINDS OF JOBS.

"THE EVENT AIMS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF THE DISABLED AND TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYERS TO HIRE MORE DISABLED WORKERS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT), MR TANG KONG-KIN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES FROM VISITORS AND TO DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS," HE SAID.

/"THEY WILL

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"THEY WILL ALSO RECORD VACANCY INFORMATION FROM INTERESTED EMPLOYERS AND PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS FOR FURTHER CONTACTS," MR TANG ADDED.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 11 AM TO 6 PM UNTIL SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 21) AT THE FIRST BASEMENT, BAUHINIA PLAZA, SITE 11, WHAMPOA GARDEN.

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157 RETURN TO VIETNAM
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A GROUP OF 157 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 52 MEN, 44 WOMEN, 37 BOYS AND 24 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 143RD BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 533 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 26,845 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	4,950
REVERSAL OF LAF	-2,800
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-85
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,065
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.6 *+0.2*	18.2.93

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.01 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.28	3.64
1 MONTH	3.02 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	5.50	100.92	3.77
3 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.08	4.01
6 MONTHS	3.13 PCT	24 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.09	4.22
12 MONTHS	3.44 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,886 MN

CLOSED 18 FEBRUARY 1993

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