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FULL REPORT ON BCCHK MADE PUBLIC: GOVERNOR

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A FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON ALL THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE CLOSURE OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG, AND IT'S GOING INTO LIQUIDATION WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TOMORROW TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND TO THE PUBLIC, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TONIGHT (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO GO ON LEAVE, SIR DAVID SAID HE HAD ASKED THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TO PREPARE THE REPORT SOME DAYS AGO.

"I'VE NOW RECEIVED THAT REPORT. I'VE STUDIED IT. IT'S A VERY FULL, VERY COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, AND I THINK IT SHOWS WHY THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING TOOK THE DECISIONS HE DID AND THAT THOSE WERE THE RIGHT DECISIONS TO TAKE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME," HE SAID.

"IT GIVES A LOT OF DETAIL, AND I THINK IT IS RIGHT THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD SEE WHAT IS IN THAT REPORT. SO I INTEND TO MAKE THAT REPORT PUBLIC SO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO READ IN GREAT DETAIL WHAT WENT ON AND THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WERE IN THE MIND OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING," HE ADDED.

"I BELIEVE THAT THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSIONER; TWO DECISIONS, ONE TO KEEP THE BANK OPEN ON A SATURDAY MORNING TO TRY TO KEEP THE BANK OPEN IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEPOSITORS.

"AND THEN WHEN THE SITUATION CHANGED AND IT CHANGED VERY MARKEDLY OVER THE WEEKEND, TO CLOSE THE BANK ON THE MONDAY MORNING, AGAIN, IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEPOSITORS. THAT BOTH THOSE DECISIONS WERE CORRECT IN THE CONDITIONS AT THE TIME," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE BANK, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE KEY THING THAT HAPPENED WAS THAT THE MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER OF THE BANK, THAT IS, THE RULING FAMILY OF ABU DHABI REFUSED TO CONFIRM A LETTER OF COMFORT WHICH THEY HAD RECENTLY GIVEN TO THE BANK, AND THAT HAD CHANGED THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE WAS ALSO WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO BCCI AROUND THE REST OF THE WORLD," HE ADDED.

WHEN ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT TO BCCHK, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT IF THERE IS A PURCHASE OF THE BANK THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE LIQUIDATOR, AND THAT IS PERFECTLY ALRIGHT IF THERE A GOOD OFFER COMES IN, THE LIQUIDATOR WILL LOOK AT IT."

"BUT THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT THINK THAT IT IS RIGHT TO USE THE TAXPAYER'S MONEY TO GIVE GUARANTEES TO THE BANK. AND THAT WAS THE SITUATION, IT REMAINS THE SITUATION NOW. IT IS AFTER ALL, THE TAXPAYERS' MONEY THAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS," SIR DAVID SAID.

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CROSS-BORDER TALK FOR MORE WATER SUPPLIES CONTINUING

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, MR Y.N. WU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA FOR MORE ADDITIONAL WATER DURING THE CURRENT SUPPLY PERIOD ARE STILL CONTINUING.

EARLIER, CHINA HAD, DESPITE THEIR OWN DIFFICULTIES, AGREED TO SUPPLY AN EXTRA 70 MILLION CUBIC METRES (MCM) OUT OF THE ADDITIONAL 110 MCM REQUESTED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

MEANWHILE, MR WU SAID THE RAINFALL IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAD SLIGHTLY IMPROVED THE RESERVOIR STORAGE SITUATION.

AS AT 9 AM TODAY, THE STORAGE LEVEL STOOD AT 191.05 MCM OR 32.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 174.08 MCM OR 29.7 PER CENT LAST MONDAY (JULY 22).

HOWEVER, THIS IS STILL A FAR CRY FROM THE 50 PER CENT CAPACITY THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

HE REITERATED THAT HONG KONG STILL NEEDED A VERY SUBSTANTIAL RAINFALL IN THE COMING WEEKS IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE THREAT OF WATER RESTRICTION.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE DEPARTMENT IS CLOSELY MONITORING THE SITUATION AND IS TAKING ALL THE PREPARATORY MEASURES FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF WATER RESTRICTIONS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY.

IN THE EVENT THAT WATER RESTRICTION IS TO BE IMPOSED, MR WU SAID THE PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS.

HE ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 1ST QUARTER OF 1991

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 AMOUNTED TO $15,653 MILLION, WHICH WAS 13.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

THIS IS ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

/COMPARED WITH .....

COMPARED WITH THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990, IT DECREASED BY 7.4%, MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COMPLETION OF A NUMBER OF LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991.

MAIN CONTRACTORS MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS. WHEREAS GENERAL CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS ARE ENGAGED IN SPECIALISED JOB AREAS SUCH AS CONCRETING, SCAFFOLDING, CARPENTRY, PLUMBING AND GAS WORK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT PART OF THE INCREASE OF 13.5% IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE COST INCREASES, THE REAL GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED SHOULD BE SLOWER.

THE INDEX OF GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS 237.6, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FOR 1982 BEING TAKEN AS 100.

THE CORRESPONDING INDEXES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 WERE 256.5 AND 209.4 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, $14,597 MILLION WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS. THIS WAS 5.4% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 14.1% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS WAS $1,057 MILLION, WHICH WAS 28.0% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 5.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

OF THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, $7,584 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PRIVATE SECTOR CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THIS WAS 8.3% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 19.8% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

SOME $3,895 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT PUBLIC SECTOR (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT, MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION) CONSTRUCTION SITES, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 0.1% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT A DECREASE OF 0.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

THE REMAINING $3,117 MILLION WAS RELATED TO NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK AT MINOR WORK LOCATIONS, AND RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES. THIS WAS 4.8% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT 23.1% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

/WHEN ANALYSED .....

WHEN ANALYSED BY END-USE OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS $4,671 MILLION.

THIS REPRESENTED A DECREASE OF 11.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT AN INCREASE OF 12.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS $2,118 MILLION, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 2.6% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT AN INCREASE OF 14.9% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN RESPECT OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS $1,448 MILLION, WHICH WAS 6.8% AND 13.6% LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1990 RESPECTIVELY.

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 (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE 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 STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 1ST QUARTER 1991". THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT $3.00 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, 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. 839 3265.

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SEWERAGE SURVEY IN NORTH AND SOUTH KOWLOON

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A FIVE-MONTH SURVEY TO IDENTIFY THE POLLUTION ASPECTS AND PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE EXISTING SEWERS IN NORTH AND SOUTH KOWLOON AREAS WILL START TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE SURVEY IS PART OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOWLOON SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN CONSULTANCY STUDY COMMISSIONED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TO ASSESS THE INADEQUACY IN THE SEWAGE COLLECTION TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOWLOON AREA.

THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOWLOON SEWERAGE CATCHMENT COVERS TSIM SHA TSUI, HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON CITY AND WONG TAI SIN.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY WILL MONITOR THE FLOW, RAINFALL, POLLUTION, GREASE AND THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE EXISTING SEWERS AND TREATMENT WORKS.

IT WILL IDENTIFY UNSEWERED AREAS AND DISCHARGES OF SEWAGE TO STORM DRAINS OR WATERCOURSES.

ALSO, IT WILL ESTABLISH THE CAUSES OF FREQUENT BLOCKAGES AND PRE-MATURE DETERIORATION OF SEWER PIPES.

APART FROM VISUAL INSPECTION, MODERN TECHNIQUE WILL BE USED IN THE SURVEY SUCH AS CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION, SONAR, RADAR, FLOW LOGGERS, AUTOMATIC RAINGAUGES AND AUTOSAMPLERS.

TO AVOID UNACCEPTABLE DISRUPTION TO VERY HIGH TRAFFIC FLOWS IN THIS DENSELY DEVELOPED AREA, MANY OF THE SURVEYS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AT NIGHT.

THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE SEWERAGE SURVEY WILL BE USED TO CONSTRUCT A COMPUTERISED HYDRAULIC MODEL AND ASSET DATABASE, FROM WHICH A PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTION AND REMEDIAL WORKS WILL BE DERIVED.

THE SURVEY WILL BE CO-ORDINATED BY WATSON HAWKSLEY (H.K.) LTD. LOCAL CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING FREYSSINET INSIGHT, HONG KONG TESTING, MATERIALAB AND HK PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, WITH SPECIALIST INPUT FROM OVERSEAS, WILL BE SEEN WORKING ON KOWLOON'S ALREADY BUSY STREET, IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

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REGULATIONS ON PORT CLEARANCE AND BRIGHT LIGHT FISHING

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THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991 CONCERNING PORT CLEARANCE AND BRIGHT LIGHT FISHING HAVE COME INTO OPERATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MARINE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID: "THESE REGULATIONS WILL EXTEND THE PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF A PORT CLEARANCE FOR DEPARTING VESSELS FROM 48 HOURS TO 72 HOURS.

/"THIS MEANS .....

"THIS MEANS THAT A VESSEL REMAINING IN PORT FOR UP TO 72 HOURS AFTER OBTAINING A PORT CLEARANCE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A FRESH PORT CLEARANCE."

A VESSEL WISHING TO DEPART FROM HONG KONG MUST FIRST OBTAIN A PORT CLEARANCE FROM THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT LOCATED ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THIS PORT CLEARANCE ALSO FACILITATES ENTRY TO THE NEXT PORT OF CALL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE EXTENSION OF THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF PORT CLEARANCE WILL HELP TO REMOVE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ON MONDAY MORNINGS AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER LONG HOLIDAYS.

"THIS SHOULD ASSIST IN PROVIDING A BETTER SERVICE TO THE SHIPPING COMMUNITY."

THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 8.30 AM TO 12.30 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 11.30 AM ON SATURDAYS.

IT IS ALSO OPEN AT SPECIFIED TIMES DURING LONG HOLIDAY PERIODS NOTIFICATION OF WHICH IS PROMULGATED BY MEANS OF A MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THESE REGULATIONS ALSO REMOVED THE LIMIT OF A NUMBER OF BRIGHT LIGHTS THAT COULD BE USED FOR FISHING PURPOSES IN HONG KONG WATERS AND IMPOSED CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXHIBITION OF SUCH LIGHTS.

A BRIGHT LIGHT SHALL BE EXHIBITED NOT LESS THAN TWO METRES BELOW ANY LIGHT EXHIBITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA 1972 AND A BRIGHT LIGHT SHALL BE SO CONSTRUCTED, SHADED, INSTALLED AND USED THAT NO LIGHT EMITTED SHALL BE VISIBLE ABOVE A HORIZONTAL PLANE PASSING THROUGH THE LOWEST EDGE OF THE LIGHT SOURCE.

HOWEVER, EXISTING FISHING VESSELS OF 10 METRES OR LESS IN LENGTH MAY BE PERMITTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE TO EXHIBIT BRIGHT LIGHTS AT A LESSER DISTANCE, BUT IN ANY CASE NOT LESS THAN ONE METRE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BRIGHT LIGHT FISHING WAS SUBJECT TO CONTROL TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH NAVIGATION OF OTHER VESSELS.

THE SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991 WAS GAZETTED LAST FRIDAY (JULY 26).

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CYCLE-TRACK NETWORK EXPANDED
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THE CYCLE-TRACK NETWORK IN NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES, WHICH HAS BEEN A POPULAR RECREATIONAL FEATURE OF THE REGION, WAS FURTHER EXPANDED TODAY (TUESDAY) WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW SECTION OF TRACK BETWEEN TAI PO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND TAI MEI TUK IN TAI PO.

THE OPENING OF THE SIX-KILOMETRE CYCLE-TRACK ALSO MARKED THE CONTINUING EFFORTS OF THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST 10 YEARS IN DEVELOPING THE FACILITY WHICH HAS NOW BUILT UP A 75-KM NETWORK IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO DISTRICTS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT, DR NIP KAM-FAN SAID: "AFTER A DECADE OF CONTINUOUS EXPANSION OF THE CYCLE-TRACK NETWORKS IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO, IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO RIDE ALONG A SEGREGATED CYCLE-TRACK FROM TAI WAI IN SHA TIN TO TAI MEI TUK, WITH THE PROVISION OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES, CYCLE AND BOAT HIRING STALLS, DISTRICT OPEN SPACE AND BARBECUE."

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CYCLE-TRACKS IN THIS DISTRICT SHOWS OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TAI PO NEW TOWN AND TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY FOR THE ROAD USERS, IN PARTICULAR, THE CYCLIST AND THE PEDESTRIANS," HE ADDED.

THE FIRST CYCLE-TRACK IN THE REGION OPENED IN 1981 BETWEEN TAI WAI VILLAGE AND FO TAN INDUSTRIAL AREA IN SHA TIN.

BY VIRTUE OF OPENING THE LATEST SECTION OF CYCLE-TRACK, CYCLISTS CAN NOW RIDE THROUGH A TOTAL DISTANCE OF 22 KILOMETRES OF SEGREGATED CYCLE-TRACK.

AS TAI MEI TUK IS LOCATED ON THE FRINGE OF PAT SIN LENG COUNTRY PARK, THE CYCLE-TRACK WILL ALSO ALLOW READY ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF CYCLISTS FROM SHA TIN AND TAI PO NEW TOWNS AND TAKING IN THE FINE VIEWS OF TOLO HARBOUR ALONG THE WAY.

AT TAI MEI TUK, THERE IS ALSO A LARGE AMENITY AREA WHICH PROVIDES CYCLE AND BOAT HIRING FACILITIES, BARBECUE AND PICNIC AREAS, PARKING SPACES AND A BUS TERMINUS.

THE NEW CYCLE-TRACK WAS CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF THE TING KOK ROAD UPGRADING WORK WHICH COSTS ABOUT $105 MILLION.

APART FROM THE IMPROVEMENT WORK TO THE ROAD ITSELF, IT ALSO INCLUDED DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT, SLOPE STABLISATION AND RECLAMATION WORK.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEW CYCLE-TRACK WILL IMPROVE THE SAFETY FOR THE ROAD USERS CONSIDERABLY.

/HITHERTO TING .....

HITHERTO TING KOK ROAD HAS BEEN KNOWN AS AN ACCIDENT-PRONE BLACKSPOT, INVOLVING A LOT OF CASUALTIES TO CYCLISTS.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR HO YUNG-SANG, HONG KONG CYCLIST ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN, MR LEUNG SIK-WAH, AND TAI PO RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR CHUNG YICK-MING. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE PROJECT MANAGER OF NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR BERNARD LAM AND THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PO PUI-LEUNG.

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DISTRICT OFFICES CONTINUE TO PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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DISTRICT OFFICES WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISE MORE COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR LAN STATED THIS WHEN HE AND THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM RECEIVED OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUB DISTRICT 303 - HONG KONG AND MACAU AT THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION.

MR LAN NOTED THAT THE CLUB HAD LONG BEEN SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ITS VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

HE SAID THE CLUB WAS THE FIRST COMMUNITY ORGANISATION WHICH PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO RESETTLE NON-REFUGEES IN AN INTERNATIONAL HOLDING CENTRE IN VIETNAM.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE CLUB FOR JOINTLY ORGANISING CIVIC EDUCATION FUNCTIONS WITH THE CNTA IN THE PAST YEARS.

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SPECIAL TOPICS REPORT NO. VII

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SUPPLEMENTARY ENQUIRIES ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS ARE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS CONDUCTED ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE AIM OF THE ENQUIRIES IS TO COLLECT SOCIAL DATA REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PLANNING THE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF SOCIETY.

THE JUST-PUBLISHED SPECIAL TOPICS REPORT NO. VII COVERS NINE TOPICS BASED ON ENQUIRIES CONDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990.

/THESE TOPICS .....

THESE TOPICS ARE: HONG KONG RESIDENTS WORKING IN CHINA, EMPLOYED PERSONS ACTIVELY SEEKING OTHER EMPLOYMENT, SICK LEAVE PATTERN AND MATERNITY LEAVE PATTERN OF EMPLOYEES, HOSPITALISATION, DOCTOR CONSULTATION, CIGARETTE SMOKING PATTERN, TOY SAFETY, FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION SERVICE AND AWARENESS OF FAMILY SERVICE CENTRES.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE FACTS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT:

THE PROPORTION OF SMOKERS CONTINUED TO SHOW A DOWNWARD TREND. ABOUT 18% (OR 811,100) OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND ABOVE WERE SMOKERS IN 1990, COMPARED WITH 20% IN 1988, 22% IN 1986 AND 24% IN 1984.

SOME 29% OF MALES AND 3% OF FEMALES WERE DAILY SMOKERS IN 1990.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF CIGARETTES CONSUMED BY DAILY SMOKERS DECREASED FROM 16 PER DAY IN 1982 TO 15 IN 1988 AND 13 IN 1990.

NINETY-TWO PER 1,000 PERSONS HAD CONSULTED A DOCTOR IN A TWO-WEEK PERIOD IN JULY 1990.

THE CONSULTATION RATE WAS HIGHEST FOR CHILDREN AGED BELOW FIVE, AT 214 PER 1,000, AND LOWEST FOR YOUNGSTERS IN THE 15-24 AGE GROUP, AT 57 PER 1,000. THE GREAT MAJORITY LAST CONSULTED A PRACTITIONER OF WESTERN MEDICINE RATHER THAN AN ACUPUNCTURIST, BONE-SETTER OR HERBALIST.

FOR EVERY 1,000 POPULATION, 21 HAD BEEN ADMITTED INTO HOSPITAL DURING A SIX-MONTH PERIOD IN 1989.

THE ELDERLY AGED 65 AND ABOVE HAD THE HIGHEST HOSPITALISATION RATE, FOLLOWED BY CHILDREN AGED UNDER FIVE AND THOSE AGED BETWEEN 55 AND 64.

THE HOSPITALISATION RATE FOR FEMALES WAS 1.4 TIMES THAT FOR MALES.

THE REPORT CONTAINS MANY MORE FINDINGS AND DETAILED TABLES ON THE SUBJECTS CONCERNED.

THE SPECIAL TOPICS REPORT NO. VII IS NOW ON SALE AT $46 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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NEW RULES ON DUTY-FREE CONCESSION RATE FOR FUEL

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED DRIVERS OF CROSS-BORDER GOODS VEHICLES THAT A NEW SET OF REGULATIONS SETTING OUT THE RATE OF DUTY-FREE CONCESSION FOR FUEL IN THE FUEL TANKS OF GOODS VEHICLES ARRIVING FROM CHINA WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON THURSDAY (AUGUST 1).

UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1991, THE RATE OF DUTY-FREE CONCESSION FOR A GOODS VEHICLE WITH CYLINDER CAPACITY BELOW 3,000 CC IS SET AT 100 LITRES, THAT FOR VEHICLES WITH CYLINDER CAPACITY BETWEEN 3,000 CC AND 10,000 CC IS 200 LITRES AND THAT FOR GOODS VEHICLES WITH OVER 10,000 CC CYLINDER CAPACITY, 300 LITRES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE NEW REGULATIONS WERE DESIGNED TO PUT AN END TO AN ABUSE BY SOME DRIVERS OF GOODS VEHICLES WHO BROUGHT IN LARGE QUANTITIES OF DUTY-FREE FUEL FROM CHINA FOR RESALE IN HONG KONG.

AT PRESENT, FUEL IN WHATEVER QUANTITY IN THE FUEL TANKS OF ANY VEHICLES ARRIVING FROM CHINA IS EXEMPT FROM DUTY.

"AS THE RETAIL PRICE OF DIESEL IN HONG KONG IS SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THAT IN CHINA, SOME CROSS-BORDER GOODS VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY DUMP TRUCKS, HAVE BEEN FITTED WITH ENLARGED FUEL TANKS SO AS TO BRING IN LARGE QUANTITIES OF DUTY-FREE DIESEL FOR RESALE IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT REVENUE LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT IS $72 MILLION A YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN SETTING THE RATE OF DUTY-FREE CONCESSION, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY TO ASCERTAIN THE USUAL FUEL TANK CAPACITY OF GOODS VEHICLES.

"FUEL IN THE NORMAL-SIZE FUEL TANKS OF GOODS VEHICLES WILL CONTINUE TO BE EXEMPT FROM DUTY AS THE QUANTITY OF FUEL WILL NOT EXCEED THE DUTY-FREE CONCESSION.

"THE FUEL EXEMPT FROM DUTY IS FOR USE IN THAT VEHICLE ONLY. ANYONE FOUND TO SELL SUCH FUEL IN HONG KONG MAY BE PROSECUTED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

LEAFLETS EXPLAINING THE NEW MEASURES ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO DRIVERS OF GOODS VEHICLES AT CUSTOMS CONTROL POINTS AT MAN KAM TO, SHA TAU KOK AND LOK MA CHAU.

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TWO CITIZENS AWARDED FOR BRAVERY
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THE BRAVE AND PUBLIC-SPIRITED ACTION OF TWO CITIZENS IN RESCUING A WOMAN IN A FIRE PAID OFF TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN THEY EACH RECEIVED THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER'S COMMENDATION AND A CASH AWARD OF $500.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT POKFULAM FIRE STATION, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HONG KONG), MR RAYMOND JOHNSTON, PRAISED MR WONG KAM-KAU AND MR CHUNG KAM-PANG FOR THEIR BRAVERY, UNSELFISHNESS AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP WHICH LED TO THE RESCUE OF THEIR NEIGHBOUR IN A NO. 1 ALARM FIRE IN MAY THIS YEAR.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT ABOUT 11.36 AM ON MAY 21 WHEN MISS TANG PO-SHAN WAS ASLEEP IN THE BEDROOM OF HER FLAT AT YUEN FAIR COURT, ABERDEEN.

SHE WAS AWAKENED BY AN EXPLOSION CAUSED BY THE AIR-CONDITIONER IN HER ROOM AND A FIRE ENSUED. THE BURNING PLASTIC COVER FELL OFF AND SET FIRE TO ARTICLES ON THE BOOKSHELF UNDER THE AIR-CONDITIONER.

WHILE SHE WAS DIALLING 999 TO REPORT THE FIRE, MISS TANG HEARD HER DOOR BELL RINGING. SHE OPENED THE FRONT DOOR AND SAW TWO NEIGHBOURS, MR WONG AND MR CHUNG.

AT THIS TIME, SHE DISCOVERED THAT THE METAL GATE WAS LOCKED FROM INSIDE. THE KEY OF THE GATE WAS LEFT INSIDE THE BEDROOM WHICH WAS ON FIRE.

REALISING THE DANGER, MR WONG AND MR CHUNG FETCHED AN IRON BAR AND A HAMMER AND FORCED OPEN THE GATE AND RESCUED MISS TANG TOGETHER WITH TWO DOGS BEFORE THE FIREMEN ARRIVED.

MR JOHNSTON SAID: "ALTHOUGH THE FIREMEN ARRIVED AT THE SCENE SOON AFTER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN TOO LATE TO SAVE MISS TANG.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SHE OWES HER LIFE TO THE ACTIONS OF THESE TWO MEN," HE SAID.

AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MISS TANG PRESENTED A SILVER PLATE TO EACH OF HER RESCUERS, MR WONG AND MR CHUNG, IN EXPRESSING HER GRATEFULNESS TO THEM.

MISS TANG ALSO PRESENTED A BANNER TO THE FIRE SERVICES DIVISIONAL COMMANDER (WESTERN), MR LIU TIN-CHEE.

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TWO NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TODAY FOR LEGCO ELECTIONS

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TWO NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER WERE RECEIVED TODAY (TUESDAY), BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS SO FAR TO 50.

THEY WERE FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15. NO NOMINATION WAS SUBMITTED FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

SO FAR, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES WERE REGISTERED IN LABOUR, TEACHING, ENGINEERING AND TOURISM WITH EACH RECEIVING TWO NOMINATIONS.

THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS WAS SEVEN FOR NEW TERRITORIES EAST.

THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL END ON AUGUST 12.

THERE ARE 21 SEATS IN THE 20 FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, WITH TWO SEATS FOR THE LABOUR CONSTITUENCY. AS FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS, ALL NINE GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES ARE DOUBLE SEAT.

FOLLOWING ARE THE PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE CANDIDATES WHOSE NOMINATION FORMS WERE RECEIVED TODAY.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY	NAME	SEX	AGE	OCCUPATION	CONTACT TEL. NO.
HONG KONG ISLAND WEST	CHEUNG WAI-SUN, WINNIE	F	39	P.R. CONSULTANT	869 1180
	WONG MAN-CHIU, RONNIE	M	39	COMPANY DIRECTOR	727 6333 340 5509

FOLLOWING IS A STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN OF THE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SO FAR:

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY	ELECTORAL DIVISION	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1. COMMERCIAL	FIRST COMMERCIAL	0
2. COMMERCIAL	SECOND COMMERCIAL	0
3. INDUSTRIAL	FIRST INDUSTRIAL	0
4. INDUSTRIAL	SECOND INDUSTRIAL	0
5. FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICE	FINANCE	0

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6.	FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICE	FINANCIAL SERVICES	1
7.	LABOUR		2
8.	SOCIAL SERVICES		0
9.	MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE	MEDICAL	0
10.	MEDICAL & HEALTH CARE	HEALTH CARE	0
11.	TEACHING		2
12.	LEGAL		0
13.	ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	ENGINEERING	2
14.	ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PLANNING	1
15.	ACCOUNTANCY		1
16.	REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION		1
17.	TOURISM		2
18.	URBAN COUNCIL		1
19.	REGIONAL COUNCIL		0
20.	RURAL		0
		SUB-TOTAL :	13

	GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY	NO. OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
1.	HONG KONG ISLAND EAST	3
2.	HONG KONG ISLAND WEST	4
3.	KOWLOON EAST	4
4.	KOWLOON CENTRAL	5
5.	KOWLOON WEST	5
6.	NEW TERRITORIES EAST	7

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7.	NEW TERRITORIES SOUTH	3
8.	NEW TERRITORIES WEST	2
9.	NEW TERRITORIES NORTH	4
	SUB-TOTAL:	37

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PROVISIONAL DATES FOR 1991/92 LEGCO SESSION

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THE 1991/92 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL OPEN ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, WHEN THE GOVERNOR WILL GIVE HIS ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PROVISIONAL DATES FOR THE COUNCIL'S SITTINGS IN THE NEW SESSION:

* WEDNESDAY	9 OCTOBER 1991	OPENING OF THE 1991/92 SESSION (GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS)
THURSDAY	17 OCTOBER 1991	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	23 OCTOBER 1991	"
* WEDNESDAY THURSDAY	30 OCTOBER 1991 31 OCTOBER 1991	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (MEMBERS OTHER THAN EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY	6 NOVEMBER 1991	DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS (RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION)
WEDNESDAY	13 NOVEMBER 1991	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	20 NOVEMBER 1991	"
WEDNESDAY	27 NOVEMBER 1991	"
WEDNESDAY	4 DECEMBER 1991	"
WEDNESDAY	11 DECEMBER 1991	"
WEDNESDAY	18 DECEMBER 1991	"
	(CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RECESS)	
WEDNESDAY	15 JANUARY 1992	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	22 JANUARY 1992	"

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WEDNESDAY	29 JANUARY 1992	
	(LUNAR NEW YEAR RECESS)	
WEDNESDAY	19 FEBRUARY 1992	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	26 FEBRUARY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	4 MARCH 1992	1ST BUDGET SITTING (FINANCIAL SECRETARY PRESENTS BUDGET)
WEDNESDAY	11 MARCH 1992	REGULAR SITTING
	(SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING THE WEEK FROM 16 TO 21 MARCH 1992)	
* WEDNESDAY THURSDAY	25 MARCH 1992 26 MARCH 1992	2ND BUDGET SITTING (MEMBERS OTHER THAN EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS SPEAK)
WEDNESDAY	1 APRIL 1992	3RD BUDGET SITTING (RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION AND FINAL STAGES OF APPROPRIATION BILL 1992)
WEDNESDAY	8 APRIL 1992	REGULAR SITTING
	(EASTER RECESS)	
WEDNESDAY	29 APRIL 1992	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	6 MAY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	13 MAY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	20 MAY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	27 MAY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	3 JUNE 1992	"
	(QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECESS)	
WEDNESDAY	24 JUNE 1992	REGULAR SITTING
WEDNESDAY	1 JULY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	8 JULY 1992	"
WEDNESDAY	15 JULY 1992	"

* ORDINARY LEGCO BUSINESS WILL NOT BE TRANSACTED AT THESE SITTINGS.

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ADDITIONAL RENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD AN ADDITIONAL FRIDAY MORNING SESSION AT THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, WITH EFFECT FROM FRIDAY (AUGUST 2), TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING PUBLIC DEMAND FOR ADVICE ON RENTAL MATTERS, A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

AT PRESENT, ONE SESSION, MANNED BY A RENT OFFICER, IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

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FIRING PRACTICE IN AUGUST

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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON EIGHT DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE	TIME
AUGUST 7 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 8 PM
AUGUST 8 (THURSDAY)	7.00 AM - 1 PM
AUGUST 13 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 15 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 22 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 23 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 29 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
AUGUST 30 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

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EXCHANGE FUND BILLS TENDER RESULTS --- TUESDAY 30 JULY 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q131
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,095 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 400 MN
AVERAGE ACCEPTED YIELD	6.21 PCT
HIGHEST ACCEPTED YIELD	6.22 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 54 PCT

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND HKEH

NEXT TENDER OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS --- TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 1991

ISSUE NUMBER	Q132	H170
ISSUE DATE	7 AUG 91	7 AUG 91
MATURITY DATE	6 NOV 91	7 FEB 92
TENOR	91 DAYS	184 DAYS*
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 400 + 80 MN	HKD 200 + 60 MN

*REPEAT 184 DAYS

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	$ MILLION
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	29.7.91	540
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	30.7.91	-174
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+234
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.4 *-0.2* 30.7.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		30.7.91	29.7.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	6.03 PCT	6.16 PCT
	1 MONTH	6.04 PCT	6.15 PCT
	3 MONTHS	6.17 PCT	6.22 PCT
	6 MONTHS	6.27 PCT	6.30 PCT
	12 MONTHS	6.55 PCT	6.67 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		4,522 MN	2,780 MN

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