



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1989

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GOVERNOR PRESENTS INSIGNIA TO 78

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INSIGNIA FOR 78 PEOPLE WERE PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, AT A CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE THIS (MONDAY) EVENING.

SIXTY-SEVEN RECIPIENTS WERE DECORATED BY THE QUEEN FOR SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC, WHILE 11 WERE AWARDED THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF INSIGNIA RECIPIENTS:

DBE

THE HON DAME LYDIA DUNN

CMG

THE HON JEREMY FELL MATHEWS

CBE

DR HO KAM-FAI

MR HU FA-KUANG

MR LI KA-SHING

OBE

PROFESSOR DAFYDD MEURIG EMRYS EVANS

PROFESSOR MA CHUNG HO-KEI

DR NIP KAM-FAN

THE HON POON WING-CHEUNG, PETER

OBE (HON)

THE HON HUI YIN-FAT

ISO

MR DEREK HOGAN

/MBE

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MBE

MR CHAN CHEUK-SANG

MR HUI CHUN-KEUNG

MR LEE SAI-HEI

MR NG CHO-YI

BEM

MR CHAN FOOK-TIM

MR CHAN LAU

MR FUNG YUEN-SUM, JIMMY

MR HO PING-CHU

MR LAU WING-KAN

MR LEE TIM-SANG

MR LEE KAM-LUN

MR LI HING

MR LUI TAK-KAI

MR MA CHUNG

MR NG MAU-FAI, JOSEPH

MISS LOLA O'HOY

MR TAM WAI-CHEONG

MR TSE KWOK-FU

MR WONG KUI

BEM (MILITARY DIVISION)

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 MIU KEI CHAN

STAFF SERGEANT NEIL WARD PORTER

SERGEANT RAMESHBAHADUR GURUNG

FLIGHT SERGEANT EDWARD VINCENT LAU

/QPM

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QPM

MR CHAN KANG-PO, WILLIAM

QFSM

MR WOO KWAN-KUEN

CPM

ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE

MR DENIS LESLIE SHACKLETON

MR THOMAS THOMSON

MR MATTHEW VINCENT WALSH

MR DONALD ELLIS GRIFFITHS

MR JUSTIN CUNNINGHAM

MR CHAN TIT-KIN

MR PETER JAMES THOMPSON

MR COLIN MALCOLM BAKER

MR CHEUNG FOOK-LEUNG

MR LI TUNG

MR ROBERT THOMAS SULLIVAN

MR LEUNG PAK-SHING

MR LIP CHUNG-WAI

FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MR HSU KING-PING

MR YUEN KAM-CHI

MR LEUNG KOON-TUNG

MR LEUNG KWONG-LING

/BADGE OF

BADGE OF HONOUR

MR CHAN CHEE-YUM
MR CHAN SUEN
MR CHEN KWONG
MR CHENG HOI-CHUEN
MR CHENG PEK-HENG
MR CHU SAI-HEI
MR FONG PUI-SHEUNG, DAVID
MR KUT SING-KUNG
MR LAM YIM
MR LO YAN-SHING
MR MAK WAN-MING
MR TENG CHONG-TAI
MR YUEN PAK-YING

GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATIONS

MR PANG CHO-HO, PETER
MR TSE KWOK-PUI
MR CHAN YUET-MING, THOMAS
MR LAU CHIU
MR JOHN ASHWORTH
MR LEE MUI-LAM
MR CHAN SHUI-LUN
MR BUTT WING-KEUNG
MR KWOK MAN-WAI
MR PETER GREGORY
MR CHEUNG WAH-PONG

/ORDER OF

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ORDER OF ST JOHN

COMMANDER BROTHER

DR GEORGE CHOA

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MODERNISING HK'S TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL BASE THROUGH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BENEFITS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLIED INCREASINGLY TO THE MODERNISATION OF HONG KONG'S TRADING AND INDUSTRIAL BASE, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE GREATER USE OF COMPUTERS WITHIN ITS OWN RANKS IN THE 1990S, SAID THE GOVERNOR WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE 1989 AT THE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

"WE ARE EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF COMPUTERISED TRADE DOCUMENTATION AND OF A SYSTEM OF ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE TRADING COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE NOTED THAT STUDIES IN EUROPE AND AMERICA HAD ESTIMATED THAT THE COSTS OF DOCUMENTATION AND PROCESSING TAKE UP SOME FIVE TO 10 PER CENT OF ANY TRADE TRANSACTION.

"THE REDUCTION OF THIS COST BY THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE WOULD HAVE A GREAT IMPACT ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF OUR TRADING SECTOR," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ALSO HAD AN IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR MANUFACTURERS, REDUCING THEIR COSTS AND MAXIMISING THEIR EFFECTIVE USE OF MANPOWER.

"IT LIES AT THE CORE OF A WIDE VARIETY OF AUTOMATION SYSTEMS WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED FUNDS FOR THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO DEVELOP.

"EXAMPLES INCLUDE COMPUTERISED PATTERN-MAKING-AND-GRADING SYSTEMS FOR THE GARMENTS INDUSTRY, AND AUTOMATIC TESTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT EFFORTS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TO ENCOURAGE GREATER USE OF COMPUTERS IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE 1990S.

/"BUT, LIKE

"BUT, LIKE MANY OTHER ORGANISATIONS, THIS HAS TENDED TO BE ON A PROJECT BY PROJECT BASIS, WITHOUT LOOKING AT OVERALL NEEDS AND WITH INADEQUATE STANDARDISATION," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THE 1990S WOULD BE GIVEN MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKING OUT THEIR OWN NEEDS AND MANAGING THEIR OWN RESOURCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.

"THEY WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO LOOK ON COMPUTERISATION AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS, RATHER THAN JUST AS A LABOUR - OR PAPER-SAVING DEVICE.

"WE SHALL BE STRENGTHENING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HELPING DEPARTMENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR COMPUTERISATION PLANS.

"IN THIS WAY WE CAN TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT DEPARTMENTS GET THE FULL BENEFITS, IN TERMS OF EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF SERVICE, FROM THE NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE 90S," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT MANY NOW IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY AS BUSINESS DECISION MAKERS HAD NO CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT COMPUTERS AS PART OF THEIR FORMAL EDUCATION.

"THEY HAVE NEEDED TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO LEARN HOW TO USE THE NEW TECHNIQUES AVAILABLE TO THEM. THIS IS TRUE OF FIRMS AS IT IS OF INDIVIDUALS."

SIR DAVID BELIEVED THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WOULD BE MUCH LESS OF A PROBLEM IN THE 90S.

"A RECENT REVIEW OF THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG BY MARKET ANALYSTS PREDICTS THAT THE INDUSTRY'S EARNINGS IN THE 90S WILL COME MOSTLY FROM USERS REPLACING OLDER SYSTEMS WITH NEWER, UP-TO-DATE, EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE, OR FROM USERS EXPANDING THEIR BUSINESSES AND REQUIRING LARGER SYSTEMS.

"IN BOTH CASES CUSTOMERS WILL BE FAR MORE SOPHISTICATED - THEY WILL HAVE GONE THROUGH THE INITIAL COMPUTERISATION PROCESS. THEY WILL BE SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE THEIR ORGANISATIONS MORE COMPETITIVE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID HIS CONFIDENCE WAS REINFORCED BY THE RAPID STRIDES NOW BEING MADE IN THE FIELD OF FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSIFICATION MADE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE END OF THE 1970S THAT TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SHOULD BE PROMOTED AT ALL LEVELS, COMPUTER LITERACY COURSES HAD BEEN INTRODUCED INTO JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSES; AND COMPUTER STUDIES WERE PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF SENIOR SECONDARY CLASSES.

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"SINCE 1982 THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED OVER 3,500 MICROCOMPUTERS AS TEACHING AIDS IN PUBLIC SECTOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

"IN THE 1990S STUDENTS WILL BE AS FAMILIAR WITH COMPUTERS WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL AS THEIR GRANDPARENTS WERE WITH THE ABACUS," THE GOVERNOR REMARKED.

SIMILARLY, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT IN POST-SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COURSES HAD BEEN STRUCTURED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF ESTIMATED MANPOWER NEEDS.

"THIS YEAR OUR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WILL HAVE NEARLY 22,000 GRADUATES WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN SOME EXPOSURE TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

"OF THESE, ABOUT 800 WILL HAVE SPECIALISED IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE SUBJECT," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IN JULY, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC WOULD INTRODUCE A NEW POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA COURSE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO EQUIP GRADUATES FROM DISCIPLINES OTHER THAN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS FOR MAKING FULL USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

THE GOVERNOR CONGRATULATED THE HONG KONG COMPUTER SOCIETY, THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF INFORMATION PROCESSING SOCIETIES, THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SUPPORTED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FOR ORGANISING THE CONFERENCE.

"THEIR INITIATIVE HAS SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING TOGETHER A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERTS AND PROMINENT SPEAKERS TO EXPLORE THE WAY FORWARD IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THROUGH THE 90S AND BEYOND.

"I AM SURE THAT, AS A RESULT, THIS CONFERENCE WILL DO MUCH TO BOOST HONG KONG'S IMAGE AS A DYNAMIC CENTRE, WILLING TO LEARN AND ADAPT AND DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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AUTOMATION COULD HELP LABOUR PROBLEMS: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OUR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY THINK MORE ABOUT AUTOMATION WHICH COULD BE A GREAT HELP IN DEALING WITH THE LABOUR SHORTAGE.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) MORNING, SIR DAVID SAID: "ANYTHING WHICH CAN HELP IMPROVE THE STANDARDS THAT WE HAVE TECHNOLOGICALLY, CAN HELP WITH THE LABOUR SHORTAGE PROBLEM AND AT THE SAME TIME IT HELPS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF OUR GOODS. AUTOMATION DOES HELP US CERTAINLY.

"A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE ON THIS. THERE IS PROBABLY MORE WORK THAT CAN BE DONE AS WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY WHEN IT COMES ON STREAM."

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ARRIVAL OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT WAS A SERIOUS AND CONTINUING PROBLEM.

"WE HAVE GOT TO TAKE THE RIGHT MEASURES TO DEAL WITH IT. WE NOW HAVE THE BASIS IN SCREENING. WE NOW HAVE TO WORK TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE BOTH WHO ARE SCREENED AS REFUGEES AND THOSE WHO ARE SCREENED AS NOT BEING REFUGEES.

"IT REQUIRES A LOT OF WORK AND A LOT OF INTERNATIONAL EFFORT," SIR DAVID ADDED.

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SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS

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HONG KONG'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS HAVE SOARED OVER THE PAST YEARS, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN.

"IMPORTS OF IT PRODUCTS EXCLUDING SOFTWARE AMOUNTED TO ALMOST \$17 BILLION LAST YEAR, REPRESENTING A 42 PER CENT INCREASE OVER 1987.

"THE TYPES OF PRODUCTS IMPORTED RANGE FROM SOPHISTICATED MAINFRAME COMPUTERS TO COMPUTER PERIPHERALS," HE SAID.

"OUR EXPORTS OF IT PRODUCTS, INCLUDING PERSONAL COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, DISK DRIVES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, GROSSED \$16 BILLION IN 1988, AN INCREASE OF MORE THAN 50 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR," HE ADDED.

/MR CHAN

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MR CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT THE COMPUTER '89 EXHIBITION AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

THE SERVICE SECTOR WAS ALREADY AN AVID USER OF IT PRODUCTS, BUT THERE WAS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AS WELL IN APPLICATIONS SUCH AS COMPUTER-AIDED PRODUCT DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING, MR CHAN SAID.

"NONETHELESS, THE PENETRATION OF IT INTO INDUSTRY IS AS YET LIMITED, AND THERE IS PLENTY OF SCOPE FOR GROWTH," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF IT AND PROVIDES EXTENSIVE FUNDING TO THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO HELP IT PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO MANUFACTURERS, AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP LOCAL APPLICATIONS OF IT BETTER SUITED TO HONG KONG'S CONDITIONS.

IN THE THREE YEARS FROM 1986-87 TO 1988-89, THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED \$50 MILLION TO THE HKPC TO DEVELOP CONSULTANCY, BUREAU AND TRAINING SERVICES TO INDUSTRY IN THE FIELDS OF COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING.

INVESTMENT IS CONTINUING AND THE COUNCIL IS ESTABLISHING, IN ADDITION TO ITS EXISTING MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATIONS LABORATORY, A SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY AND A RADIO FREQUENCY AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS LABORATORY WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO OPEN THIS SUMMER.

MR CHAN SAID THAT THE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS HAD LED TO A SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE IN THE FIELD.

"THERE ARE NO QUICK OR EASY SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM, BUT PAST INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S EDP TRAINING CENTRE IN 1986 ARE NOW BEARING FRUIT.

"STEPS ARE ALSO BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT TODAY'S STUDENTS ACQUIRE THE COMPUTER LITERACY THEY WILL NEED WHEN THEY ENTER THE WORKPLACE," SAID MR CHAN.

HONG KONG'S OPENNESS TO NEW IDEAS, THE VIBRANCY OF ITS ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MEANT THE TERRITORY HAD ROOM FOR SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH, BOTH IN IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, HE ADDED.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY RELEASED

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 2 PER CENT AND 36 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1988, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 19 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) REMAINED UNCHANGED.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IN ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH. IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1989 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 43 PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, A GROWTH OF 26 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN VOLUME TERMS. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 28 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1989 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1988, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 45 PER CENT, GIVING AN INCREASE OF 26 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 26 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

/THE CHANGES

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR JANUARY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN JANUARY 1989 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-45 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-30 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-16 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-15 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-5 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-3 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (-1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, THESE DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE MORE THAN OFFSET BY INCREASES RECORDED IN METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+51 PER CENT); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+38 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+17 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (+10 PER CENT); AND TEXTILE FABRICS (+8 PER CENT).

PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN JANUARY 1989 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988.

THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+11 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+8 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+2 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+1 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+1 PER CENT); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-3 PER CENT) AND TEXTILE FABRICS (-3 PER CENT). DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF CLOTHING; TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD; AND FOOTWEAR REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JANUARY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN JANUARY 1989 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RICE, CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; AND VEGETABLES. HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND TEA AND COFFEE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT. THE COMMODITY ITEMS WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES INCLUDED RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS; FOOTWEAR; AND HOUSEHOLD TAPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES.

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS REGISTERED FOR CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE BY 22 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1989 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988.

THE MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SILK FABRICS; SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; AND COTTON YARN AND THREAD. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; AND CLAY AND REFRACTORY CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND SO ON, EXCEPT GLASS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN JANUARY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 33 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1989 OVER JANUARY 1988. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY OTHER THAN TEXTILE AND ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND OFFICE MACHINES.

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT AND TEXTILE MACHINERY.

COMPARING JANUARY 1989 WITH JANUARY 1988, IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES BY 5 PER CENT, CONSUMER GOODS BY 5 PER CENT, CAPITAL GOODS BY 4 PER CENT, AND FOODSTUFFS BY 3 PER CENT. HOWEVER, PRICES OF IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR JANUARY 1989 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JANUARY 1989 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988, WITH THE PERCENTAGE INCREASES RANGING FROM 30 PER CENT FOR RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES TO 55 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 8 PER CENT IN JANUARY 1988 COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1988. RE-EXPORT PRICES OF CAPITAL GOODS ROSE BY 7 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS AND CONSUMER GOODS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT AND 3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DROPPED BY 7 PER CENT.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE JANUARY 1989 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AROUND APRIL 15 AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

/ENQUIRIES REGARDING

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

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JANUARY 1989 WITH JANUARY 1988		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%
CLOTHING	-1	*	-1
TEXTILE FABRICS	5	-3	8
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	16	*	17
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-13	4	-16
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-45	1	-45
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	34	-3	38
FOOTWEAR	-5	*	-5
METAL MANUFACTURES	23	11	10
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	53	1	51
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-1	2	-3
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-14	1	-15
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-24	8	-30
ALL COMMODITIES	5	2	2

* INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JANUARY 1989 WITH JANUARY 1988		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	26	3	22
CONSUMER GOODS	32	5	26
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	28	5	22
FUELS	17	-1	18
CAPITAL GOODS	38	4	33
ALL COMMODITIES	30	4	25

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JANUARY 1989 WITH JANUARY 1988		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	43	5	36
CONSUMER GOODS	39	3	35
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	40	8	30
FUELS	39	-7	50
CAPITAL GOODS	67	7	55
ALL COMMODITIES	43	5	36

SPECIAL ARTICLE ON SALARY STATISTICS

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THE JANUARY 1989 ISSUE OF THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS CONTAINS A SPECIAL REVIEW ARTICLE ENTITLED "SALARY STATISTICS OF MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES".

THIS ARTICLE DESCRIBES THE METHODOLOGY USED AND SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE ANNUAL SURVEY OF SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES (EXCLUDING TOP MANAGEMENT) WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SINCE 1984.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY IS TO COMPILE INDEXES TO MEASURE CHANGES IN SALARY RATES OF MIDDLE-LEVEL MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OVER TIME.

THE ARTICLE CONTAINS STATISTICS ON MOVEMENTS OF THE SALARY INDEXES BY ECONOMIC SECTOR AS WELL AS BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP FOR JUNE 1984 TO JUNE 1988, AND ALSO INFORMATION ON THE FRINGE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYEES FOR JUNE 1988.

ACCORDING TO THE FINDINGS, THE NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (A) IN JUNE 1988, MEASURING AVERAGE SALARY LEVELS FOR MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, INCREASED BY 12.9 PER CENT OVER JUNE 1987.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE OVERALL NOMINAL SALARY INDEX (B) IN JUNE 1988, WHICH MEASURES CHANGES IN SALARY LEVELS FOR THOSE MANAGERIAL AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WHO REMAIN IN THE SAME OCCUPATION AND IN THE SAME COMPANY IN BOTH 1987 AND 1988, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 17.2 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1987.

IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT BOTH THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, AND THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE SECTOR SHOWED A RELATIVELY HIGHER PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN SALARY INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1984 TO JUNE 1988.

THE HONG KONG MONTHLY DIGEST OF STATISTICS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$34 PER COPY. PURCHASES MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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MID-TERM REVIEW OF URUGUAY ROUND CONCLUDES

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THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE, MR MICHAEL SZE, SAID HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVES WERE PLEASED THAT THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE URUGUAY ROUND HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD FROM APRIL 5 TO 8 IN GENEVA.

/MR SZE

MR SZE SAID THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE WAS TASKED BY TRADE MINISTERS LAST DECEMBER IN MONTREAL TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES REMAINING IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND SAFEGUARDS.

"THE BREAKING OF THE LOG-JAM ON ALL FOUR SUBJECTS AT THIS MEETING WILL ENABLE THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD, WHICH IS MOST ENCOURAGING," HE SAID.

ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, MR SZE SAID: "WE ARE GLAD THAT WE NOW HAVE AN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIS FOR FURTHER MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

"IT IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES, BUT IT CONTAINS ELEMENTS WHICH IN OUR VIEW WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROCESS OF BRINGING BACK THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING SECTOR UNDER GATT RULES AND DISCIPLINES AND LIBERALISING THE TEXTILE TRADE."

MR SZE SAID THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW WAS TWO-FOLD.

"FIRSTLY, THE REVIEW HAS LAID OUT THE ROAD-MAPS FOR THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE REMAINDER OF THE URUGUAY ROUND.

"SECONDLY, IT HAS DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY PARTICIPANTS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND TO THE PRESERVATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM UNDER THE GATT TO COMBAT GROWING PROTECTIONISM AND TO REDUCE TENSION IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS.

"THIS IS REFLECTED IN PARTICULAR BY THE AGREEMENTS ON SAFEGUARDS AND ON TRADE-RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS".

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SWAC MEMBERS ON FIELD VISITS

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MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED A NUMBER OF WELFARE FACILITIES PROVIDING FAMILY AND CHILD CARE SERVICES.

LED BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MRS ROSANNA TAM, SWAC MEMBERS FIRST VISITED THE SALVATION ARMY WAN CHAI CRECHE IN WOOD ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THEY WERE BRIEFED BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ALFRED CHUI, ON OVERALL SERVICES ON DAY CRECHES WHICH PROVIDED DAY CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED BELOW TWO WHOSE PARENTS WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE CARE FOR THEM DURING THE DAY.

/THEY WERE

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THEY WERE TOLD THAT PROGRAMMES PROVIDED IN DAY CRECHES WERE GEARED TOWARDS THE NORMAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN. OTHER THAN PHYSICAL CARE, EMPHASIS WAS ALSO PAID TO GIVING THEM INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND STIMULATION.

MR CHUI EXPLAINED THAT THE CURRENT POLICY WAS TO PROVIDE SUBVENTED DAY CRECHE SERVICE ONLY TO FAMILIES WITH SOCIAL NEEDS AND LIMITED INCOME SUCH AS CHILDREN FROM SINGLE-PARENTS, OR BROKEN FAMILIES, CHILDREN WITH CHRONICALLY ILL PARENTS, AND CHILDREN WHO WERE THEMSELVES IN NEED OF CARE.

MR CHUI THEN ACCOMPANIED SWAC MEMBERS TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS' NG SHEUNG LAN MEMORIAL DAY NURSERY IN THE VICINITY.

SWAC MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE SERVICES OF DAY NURSERIES OFFERED TO CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN TWO AND SIX.

ACTIVITIES IN DAY NURSERIES WERE ORGANISED WITH THE AIM OF DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL GROWTH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS, MR CHUI EXPLAINED.

HE ALSO BRIEFED THEM ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AIMS TO ATTAIN ADEQUATE PROVISION OF NURSERY PLACES TO MEET SOCIETY NEEDS; TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF AIDED NURSERY PLACES TOGETHER WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED.

BESIDES HELPING NON-PROFIT-MAKING DAY NURSERIES, MR CHUI SAID, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ASSISTED LOW INCOME FAMILIES THROUGH THE FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME.

AT THEIR NEXT STOP, SWAC MEMBERS WERE ALSO ABLE TO SEE THE WORK OF THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE OPERATED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN TUNG SUN COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

FAMILY AND CHILD CARE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THESE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES, AND AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 60 OUTLETS OF WHICH 30 FAMILY SERVICES CENTRES ARE OPERATED BY THE SWD IN 13 DISTRICTS.

REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON SERVICES FOR NEEDY FAMILIES, NURSERIES AND CRECHES WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE SWAC AND WELFARE AGENCIES LATER THIS MONTH.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY (HEALTH AND WELFARE), MR THOMAS WONG, ALSO ACCOMPANIED SWAC MEMBERS WHO INCLUDED MR ROBERT GAFF, DR LAM KUI-CHUN AND MR PAUL YONG, ON THEIR VISIT.

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MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1989

NEW WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE OPENS

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THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, TODAY (MONDAY) PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IN BRINGING ABOUT THE SURPRISING AND EXCITING CHANGES IN WAN CHAI.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW PREMISES OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, MR LAN NOTED THAT THE DISTRICT HAD EVOLVED FROM A PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT INTO ONE FULL OF ACTIVE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN RECENT YEARS.

REFERRING TO THE PUBLIC ENQUIRIES SERVICE CENTRES SET UP BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, MR LAN SAID THEY PROVIDED A VARIETY OF SERVICES AND HELPED THE GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN ITS COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY, THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN, SAID THE LOCATION OF THE NEW OFFICE PREMISES IN SOUTHOEN CENTRE WOULD MAKE IT MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE TO OFFER ITS SERVICES TO RESIDENTS.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WAS FOLLOWED BY A LION DANCE AND A TEA RECEPTION.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER, MR MICHAEL PREW, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL BODIES IN WAN CHAI.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OPERATION IN TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

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AN ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT BY A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS THIS (MONDAY) MORNING AT AN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING IN KWOK SHUI ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

THE NEWLY SET UP TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (IBMCC) HAS SELECTED A TOTAL OF SIX INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT FOR CARRYING OUT IMPROVEMENT WORK.

THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM SHIU, WHO HEADS THE TSUEN WAN IBMCC SAID TODAY'S OPERATION WAS TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF SELF-MANAGEMENT AMONG INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS.

/"THROUGH THE

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"THROUGH THE JOINT EFFORTS OF DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, WE WOULD LIKE TO IMPRESS UPON OWNERS CORPORATIONS THE COMMITTEE'S TO UPGRADE THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS AND THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF NEARBY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TAKING PART IN TODAY'S OPERATION WERE THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE, AND THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, FIRE SERVICES, REGIONAL SERVICES LABOUR DEPARTMENTS.

SITE INSPECTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT TO SEE THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND THE LEAKAGE PROBLEM. DEPARTMENT STAFF ALSO INSPECTED THE AIR POLLUTION PROBLEM, DISCHARGE OF TRADE EFFLUENTS, FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATION AND FIRE ESCAPE ROUTES.

JUNK AND ABANDONED ARTICLES WERE REMOVED FROM THE BUILDING.

"TODAY'S OPERATION WENT ON SMOOTHLY AND I HOPE OWNERS CORPORATIONS OF OTHER INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT WILL EFFECT IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIRS WHENEVER NECESSARY SO AS TO ALLEVIATE POLLUTION PROBLEM," MR SHIU SAID.

"OTHERWISE, DEPARTMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION MAY BE CALLED FOR."

"I AM SURE THAT WITH THE CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS IN TSUEN WAN CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE ADDED.

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CLOSE WATCH ON TUNNEL PROJECT

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THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE IS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL TO ENSURE THAT CONSTRUCTION WORKS DO NOT AFFECT THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT OF THE 20,000 RESIDENTS AT DIAMOND HILL SQUATTER AREAS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE TUNNEL HAD INEVITABLY CREATED SOME DRAINAGE AND NOISE NUISANCES TO RESIDENTS IN NEARBY AREAS.

"HOWEVER, WITH THE CO-OPERATION AMONG THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE DISTRICT BOARD, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE CONSORTIUM BUILDING THE TUNNEL, THESE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY," HE NOTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT ALL COMPLAINTS KNOWN TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE OVER NUISANCES CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKS WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED FOR NECESSARY ACTION.

/IN CASES

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IN CASES WHERE EMERGENCY REPAIRS WERE REQUIRED, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE WORK.

HE SAID AN EXAMPLE OF DISTRICT BOARD FUNDED PROJECTS WAS THE RECENT ACTION TAKEN ON CHOKAGE AND FLOODING OF A DRAINAGE AT TAI HOM NORTH VILLAGE WHICH CAUSED INCONVENIENCE AND HYGIENE PROBLEMS TO RESIDENTS.

"BECAUSE OF THE URGENT NATURE OF THE PROBLEM, THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAD TO ARRANGE FOR DB FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

"WITH THE USE OF DB FUNDS, A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR WAS HIRED TO CARRY OUT URGENT IMPROVEMENT WORKS," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN THE CASE WHERE DRAIN CHOKAGE OCCURRED NEAR THE WORK SITE OF THE TUNNEL, THE DISTRICT OFFICE WOULD ASK THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND THE CONSORTIUM TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.

"IF THE CHOKAGE IS CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION WORKS, THE CONSORTIUM WILL HAVE TO IMPROVE THE DRAINAGE IMMEDIATELY."

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREAS INCLUDED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LANDSCAPED EARTH EMBANKMENT TO REDUCE THE NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY TRAFFIC AND THE TUNNEL WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID RESIDENTS HAD AT ONE TIME EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF THE EMBANKMENT.

"THEIR WORRY WAS ALLEVIATED AFTER EXPLANATIONS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE EMBANKMENT BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSORTIUM AND GOVERNMENT WERE GIVEN TO RESIDENTS' REPRESENTATIVES AT A MEETING ARRANGED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

"THE CONSORTIUM HAS ALSO AGREED TO PUT UP INSULATING DOORS AT ENTRANCES TO THE TUNNEL DURING BLASTINGS TO MINIMIZE NOISE AND VIBRATIONS CAUSED BY THE EXPLOSIONS," HE SAID.

TO FACILITATE ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, A SECTION OF LUEN YEE ROAD INSIDE THE CLEARANCE AREA WAS PRESERVED AND KEPT OPEN FOR USE BY RESIDENTS AND VEHICLES.

"THE CONSORTIUM ALSO WIDENED AND RESURFACED SOME OF THE FOOTPATHS ADJACENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RESIDENTS.

"ADDITIONAL STREET-LIGHTS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT TSUI WAN ROAD BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT. SIMILAR FACILITIES ARE BEING INSTALLED AT LANE 19TH, LUEN YEE ROAD, CHING STREET AND TSING WAH ROAD," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DISTRICT OFFICE HAD, THROUGH THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, REQUESTED THE CONSORTIUM TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STREET-LIGHTS ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE RESIDENTS.

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CSD OPENS TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT CENTRE

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THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS SET UP ANOTHER TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT CENTRE AT THE SHOPPING ARCADE OF LOK FU PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE TO FACILITATE ENERGETIC YOUNG PEOPLE IN EAST KOWLOON AREA TO APPLY TO JOIN AS OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS.

THE FIRST CENTRE HAS BEEN SET UP AT THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE AT TAI HO ROAD, TSUEN WAN, LAST MONTH.

"THE TWO CENTRES ARE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR RECRUITMENT EXERCISE BEING LAUNCHED FROM MARCH TO THE END OF THE YEAR," A CSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE INITIAL TARGET THIS YEAR WAS TO RECRUIT MORE THAN 800 OFFICERS AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS II TO FILL VACANCIES.

"THE RESPONSE SO FAR HAS BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING AND WE HAVE RECEIVED OVER 450 APPLICATIONS LAST MONTH," HE ADDED.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO SET UP MORE RECRUITMENT CENTRES AT VARIOUS SHOPPING ARCADES IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT CAN APPLY AT THE NEW RECRUITMENT CENTRES OR AT THE CENTRAL RECRUITMENT CENTRE AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 23RD FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-275951.

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1989 HK YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

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YOUNG MUSIC LOVERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN A HOLIDAY PROGRAMME WHICH WILL PROVIDE INTENSIVE MUSIC TRAINING IN A SUMMER CAMP ATMOSPHERE.

THE 1989 HONG KONG YOUTH MUSIC CAMP, ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB, WILL BE HELD AT THE LEI YUE MUN PARK FROM JULY 15 TO 29.

"PROMISING YOUNG MUSICIANS WILL BE RECRUITED BOTH LOCALLY AND FROM OVERSEAS TO TAKE PART IN THE CAMP, TO HELP FOSTER INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSIC," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MUSIC OFFICE SAID.

/RENOWNED MUSICIANS

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RENOWNED MUSICIANS WILL BE INVITED TO CONDUCT MASTERCLASSES, WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS.

THE PROGRAMME ALSO INCLUDES FILM SHOWS AND MUSIC APPRECIATION. RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED.

REHEARSALS WILL BE HELD TO PREPARE THE CAMPERS FOR A FINALE CONCERT TO BE HELD AT THE NEW HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON JULY 29.

ALTOGETHER FIVE ORCHESTRAS AND TWO BANDS WILL BE ORGANISED.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE AS ON JULY 14 THIS YEAR AND BE ABLE TO PLAY AT LEAST ONE CHINESE OR WESTERN ORCHESTRAL OR BAND INSTRUMENT. ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE WILL BE AN ADVANTAGE.

FEES INCLUSIVE OF TUITION, THREE MEALS A DAY AND ACCOMMODATION ARE \$460 FOR MEMBERS OF THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WHO WILL STAY THROUGHOUT THE CAMP PERIOD.

THE FEES FOR THOSE WHO JOIN THE TWO BANDS, THE STRINGS AND THE CHINESE ORCHESTRAS AND STAY FOR EIGHT DAYS ARE ONLY \$230.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL MUSIC CENTRES OF THE MUSIC OFFICE. THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 24.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 5-8235314 OR 3-7149255.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 33.8 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 197.847 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 225.323 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 38.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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WATER SUSPENSION IN THREE AREAS
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 12) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT AN AREA BOUNDED BY BEECH STREET, LIME STREET, FIR STREET, TONG MI ROAD, TUNG CHAU STREET, BEDFORD ROAD, LARCH STREET, PINE STREET AND FUK TSUN STREET.

ALSO, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9.30 AM TO 11.30 PM THE SAME DAY TO FACILITATE INSPECTION OF THE MAIN SLUICE VALVE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN WONG TAI SIN WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 13) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE NIGHT LEAKAGE TEST.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT CHEUNG YAN HOUSE, BLOCKS 1 TO 12, 14 AND 15, UPPER WONG TAI SIN ESTATE AND WONG TAI SIN MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY STATION.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN WAN CHAI
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN WAN CHAI ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 12) AND FRIDAY (APRIL 14) FOR ROAD RESURFACING WORKS.

THE LEFT-TURN FROM EASTBOUND LOCKHART ROAD TO CANAL ROAD WEST WILL BE BANNED FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON WEDNESDAY.

EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON LOCKHART ROAD HEADING FOR JAFFE ROAD BETWEEN CANAL ROAD EAST AND PERCIVAL STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PERCIVAL STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD AND CANAL ROAD EAST.

MEANWHILE, FROM 8 AM TO 6 PM ON FRIDAY, THE LEFT-TURN FROM CANAL ROAD EAST TO EASTBOUND LOCKHART ROAD WILL ALSO BE BANNED.

TRAFFIC ON CANAL ROAD EAST AND JAFFE ROAD HEADING FOR EASTBOUND LOCKHART ROAD BETWEEN CANAL ROAD EAST AND PERCIVAL STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PERCIVAL STREET, GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD AND MARSH ROAD.

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