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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

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CONTRACT SIGNED FOR HUNG HOM DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SIGNED A \$33.8 MILLION CONTRACT FOR IMPROVING THE STORMWATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN HUNG HOM.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED AT A CEREMONY BY THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PROJECTS AND DEVELOPMENT), MR CHUNG KWOK-LEUNG, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTRACTOR, LEADER CIVIL ENGINEERING CORPORATION LIMITED.

THE WORKS UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL COMPRISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABOUT 1,200 METRES OF STORMWATER DRAINS WITH SIZES RANGING FROM 1,500MM TO 2,100MM IN DIAMETER, AS WELL AS THE REINSTATEMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROADS AFFECTED BY THE WORKS.

THE DRAIN WILL START FROM THE JUNCTION OF GASCOIGNE ROAD AND JORDAN ROAD AND ROUTE ALONG JORDAN ROAD, CHI WO STREET, CHEONG LOK STREET, NING PO STREET, WOOSUNG STREET AND BACK TO JORDAN ROAD ACROSS CANTON ROAD TO THE JORDAN ROAD FERRY PIER.

MR CHUNG NOTED THAT THE WORKS WOULD BEGIN AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAY, AND THAT THE EXISTING OVERLOADED DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN HUNG HOM AREA WOULD BE RELIEVED AND THE RISK OF FLOODING REDUCED WHEN THEY ARE COMPLETED IN JULY 1995.

"THE STORMWATER DRAIN WILL DIVERT THE STORMWATER COLLECTED IN KING'S PARK CATCHMENT AREA FROM THE EXISTING HUNG HOM DRAINAGE SYSTEM TO A NEW OUTFALL NEAR JORDAN ROAD FERRY PIER," HE SAID.

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BETTER SERVICES FOR LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

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THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE THAT WILL IMPROVE SERVICES FOR RATEPAYERS, LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

FROM NOW ON, A RATEPAYER WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE RATEABLE VALUE OF A NEW PROPERTY WITHIN 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE WHEN THE RATES FIRST BECOME PAYABLE.

"WE EXPECT TO MEET THIS TARGET IN 85 PER CENT OF CASES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RATEABLE VALUES OF ALL PROPERTIES WERE UPDATED EVERY THREE YEARS TO MAINTAIN A FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF THE RATES BURDEN.

THE TASK INVOLVES MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION ASSESSMENTS.

"THAT MEANS IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE LONGER TO ASSESS NEW PROPERTIES IN THE YEAR WHEN SUCH A REVALUATION TAKES PLACE."

THE NEXT SUCH EXERCISE IS NOW UNDER WAY AND WILL TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 1 NEXT YEAR.

"IT WILL INVOLVE MUCH OF OUR DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCES IN THE COMING TWO YEARS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID WITH THE GROWING PACE OF CONSTRUCTION, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES HAD TO BE ASSESSED TO RATES EACH YEAR.

"THIS IS A BIG TASK AFFECTING A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE," HE SAID.

ON SERVICES FOR LANDLORDS AND TENANTS, THE DEPARTMENT PROMISED TO ISSUE A RENT INCREASE CERTIFICATE WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF AN APPLICATION.

ALSO, IT PLEDGED TO ENDORSE A NOTICE OF NEW LETTING OR RENEWAL WITHIN ONE MONTH OF AN APPLICATION.

"SIMPLE ENQUIRIES WOULD BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY. BUT MORE COMPLICATED ENQUIRIES AND DISPUTES REQUIRING MEDIATION BETWEEN LANDLORDS AND TENANTS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE CASE OFFICER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT'S RENT OFFICERS ALSO ATTEND CERTAIN DISTRICT OFFICES AT SET TIMES EACH WEEK TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND TO HELP IN RESOLVING DISPUTES.

DETAILS OF THE VISITS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S RENT CONTROL DIVISION ON TELEPHONE 805 7666.

THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICER (CSO) IF THEY WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICES COVERED BY THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE.

"IF ANYONE DOES NOT KNOW WHO TO APPROACH ON A PARTICULAR MATTER, HE IS ALSO WELCOME TO CONTACT THE CSO. HE WILL ARRANGE FOR THE APPROPRIATE OFFICER TO CONTACT HIM," HE SAID.

ALL SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS MAY ALSO BE PUT TO THE CSO ON TELEPHONE 805 7666.

"SHOULD ANYONE BE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY IN WHICH ANY REPRESENTATION IS HANDLED, HE MAY ALSO WRITE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION DIRECT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE MONITORED INTERNALLY. THE COMMISSIONER WILL PUBLISH HIS FINDINGS EVERY YEAR," HE ADDED.

A BOOKLET DESCRIBING THE PLEDGE IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S ENQUIRY COUNTER ON THE 17TH FLOOR, HENNESSY CENTRE, 500 HENNESSY ROAD AND ALSO FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

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FSD TO HIVE OFF NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT IT WOULD TRANSFER ITS NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY UNDER A PHASED PROGRAMME STARTING FROM OCTOBER 1 THIS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE BETTER USE OF ITS RESOURCES AND TO FOCUS ON ITS PRIMARY ROLE AS THE PROVIDER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES.

THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, WAS CONSIDERED AS WASTEFUL AND INEFFICIENT SINCE A NON-EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE DID NOT REQUIRE THE HIGHLY TRAINED STAFF, THE SPECIALISED VEHICLES AND THE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT PROVIDED TO THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR RUNNING EMERGENCY SERVICES.

HE SAID AFTER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE RELEVANT PARTIES, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY HAD AGREED THAT A NON-EMERGENCY SERVICE WOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER ITS MANAGEMENT PROVISIONALLY IN ONE REGION AS A START, WITH A VIEW TO EXTENDING THE SERVICE TO OTHER REGIONS LATER.

THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WOULD PHASE OUT THE EXISTING SERVICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND FROM OCTOBER 1 FOLLOWED BY KOWLOON ON JANUARY 1, NEXT YEAR AND THE NEW TERRITORIES ON APRIL 1, 1995, HE SAID.

UNTIL THEN, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD HELP TO MAINTAIN THE SERVICE TO AVOID ANY UNDUE DISRUPTION TO PATIENT CARE.

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES SOUGHT
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE TWO UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN A BUILDING IN MONG KOK, KOWLOON, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED IN THE CORRIDORS ON THE FOURTH AND THIRD FLOORS OF KWONG WING BUILDING AT 18 SHANTUNG STREET AND 301-311 FERRY STREET.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 3 UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1993

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND THE BROADER DEFINITIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY INCREASED IN FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY.

HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO INCREASED DURING THE MONTH.

LEGAL TENDER NOTES AND COINS

INFLUENCED BY THE HIGH COMPARISON BASE IN JANUARY DUE TO THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, LEGAL TENDER NOTES AND COINS HELD BY THE NON-BANK PUBLIC DECREASED BY 10.5% IN FEBRUARY 1993, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 5.5% AND 17.2% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THEY INCREASED BY 17.9%.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 1.2% IN FEBRUARY 1993 FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.6% AND 1.3% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, TIME DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 4% WHILE DEMAND DEPOSITS AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 4.6% AND 0.9% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 17.5%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 0.1% IN FEBRUARY 1993, AFTER INCREASES OF 0.5% AND 3.8% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 0.6% WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 0.9%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 8.8%.

IN FEBRUARY 1993, DEPOSITS IN ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 0.7% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DROPPED BY 2.6% AND 0.5% RESPECTIVELY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 13.6% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 7.2% AND 17.2% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1 DECREASED BY 7.1% WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 0.3% AND 0.2% RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY 1993, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 3.5%, 2.4% AND 2.4% IN JANUARY 1993. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 19.2%, 17.8% AND 17.3% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 DECREASED BY 7.8% WHILE BOTH TOTAL M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 0.2% EACH IN FEBRUARY 1993. THESE COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 4.7%, 3.1% AND 3.1% RESPECTIVELY IN JANUARY 1993. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 16.7%, 13.6% AND 12.5% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 3.6% IN FEBRUARY 1993, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.3% AND 0.5% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE LOANS, HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS INCREASED BY 1.2% WHILE FOREIGN CURRENCY LOANS INCREASED BY 4.8%. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 12.8% AND 13.8% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 0.3% IN FEBRUARY 1993, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.5% AND 2.5% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 12.4%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 1.3% IN FEBRUARY 1993, FOLLOWING A DECREASE OF 0.04% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND AN INCREASE OF 1.5% IN JANUARY 1993. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 12.4%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 5.4% IN FEBRUARY 1993, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 0.4% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND A DECREASE OF 0.3% IN JANUARY 1993. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 14.6%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG INCREASED BY 1.4% DURING FEBRUARY 1993, AFTER INCREASES OF 0.5% AND 1.2% IN DECEMBER 1992 AND JANUARY 1993 RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 2.3%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 161, 56 AND 146 RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - FEBRUARY 1993

	Feb 1993	Earlier months (% change to Feb 1993)			(HK\$mn)
		Jan 1993	Nov 1992	Feb 1992	
Money Supply					
M1 - HK\$	134,093	144,303 (-7.1)	134,847 (-0.6)	112,491 (19.2)	
Foreign currency	15,970	18,495 (-13.7)	17,866 (-10.6)	16,074 (-0.6)	
Total	150,063	162,798 (-7.8)	152,713 (-1.7)	128,565 (16.7)	
M2 - HK\$*	746,473	744,538 (0.3)	714,330 (4.5)	633,684 (17.8)	
Foreign currency*	823,706	821,976 (0.2)	783,957 (5.1)	748,230 (10.1)	
Total	1,570,180	1,566,514 (0.2)	1,498,286 (4.8)	1,381,913 (13.6)	
M3 - HK\$*	769,810	768,082 (0.2)	736,637 (4.5)	656,528 (17.3)	
Foreign currency*	857,264	855,577 (0.2)	819,174 (4.6)	789,571 (8.6)	
Total	1,627,075	1,623,659 (0.2)	1,555,811 (4.6)	1,446,099 (12.5)	
Notes and coins in circulation	62,575	70,341 (-11.0)	57,051 (9.7)	53,150 (17.7)	
of which held by public	54,761	61,171 (-10.5)	49,467 (10.7)	46,430 (17.9)	
Total Deposits					
Total Demand deposits	95,302	101,627 (-6.2)	103,246 (-7.7)	82,135 (16.0)	
Total Savings deposits	357,353	356,436 (0.3)	351,547 (1.7)	316,471 (12.9)	
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	1,045,570	1,029,652 (1.5)	977,571 (7.0)	919,744 (13.7)	
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	35,866	36,821 (-2.6)	36,556 (-1.9)	38,664 (-7.2)	
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	18,523	18,617 (-0.5)	19,031 (-2.7)	22,372 (-17.2)	
HK\$ deposits*	701,314	692,941 (1.2)	673,295 (4.2)	596,800 (17.5)	
US\$ deposits*	417,691	420,363 (-0.6)	378,418 (10.4)	316,976 (31.8)	
Other foreign currency deposits*	433,609	429,848 (0.9)	436,238 (-0.6)	465,610 (-6.9)	
All deposits	1,552,614	1,543,152 (0.6)	1,487,952 (4.3)	1,379,386 (12.6)	
Foreign currency swap deposits	60,976	59,783 (2.0)	54,650 (11.6)	40,067 (52.2)	
Total Loans and advances					
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	91,780	91,514 (0.3)	87,976 (4.3)	81,632 (12.4)	
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	12,200	12,026 (1.4)	11,823 (3.2)	11,926 (2.3)	
Other loans for use in H.K.	935,875	923,694 (1.3)	910,269 (2.8)	832,311 (12.4)	
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,491,999	1,415,836 (5.4)	1,415,574 (5.4)	1,301,457 (14.6)	
Other loans where the place of use is not known	38,717	38,102 (1.6)	37,498 (3.2)	38,036 (1.8)	
Loans in HK\$	833,744	823,506 (1.2)	806,376 (3.4)	739,186 (12.8)	
Loans in foreign currencies	1,736,827	1,657,665 (4.8)	1,656,765 (4.8)	1,526,177 (13.8)	
Total loans and advances	2,570,571	2,481,171 (3.6)	2,463,141 (4.4)	2,265,362 (13.5)	

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar foreign currency swap deposits.

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

PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES SURVEY FOR JANUARY

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY, ESTIMATED AT \$15.8 BILLION, INCREASED BY 11% WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT IN JANUARY LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 5% IN VOLUME.

STRONG GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR THE SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, AND SALES IN SUPERMARKETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES. THIS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE INCREASED CONSUMER SPENDING BEFORE THE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL.

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN JANUARY 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, BY 33% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME.

SALES IN SUPERMARKETS ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 28% IN VALUE AND 20% IN VOLUME; WHEREAS SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES WENT UP BY 16% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME. THE SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO WENT UP BY 20% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES OF JEWELLERY AND WATCHES, BY 10% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME; AND SALES OF FUELS, BY 6% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS DROPPED BY 5% IN VOLUME, DESPITE AN INCREASE IN VALUE BY 4%. SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE OF 16% IN VALUE AND 20% IN VOLUME, AFTER HAVING RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PAST YEAR.

COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY 1993 INCREASED BY 1% BOTH IN VALUE AND IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE JANUARY 1993 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL: 802 1258).

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/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for January 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,758.9 million
 for December 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$15,635.8 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR December 1992 AND January 1993

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	December 1992	January 1993	January 1993 compared with December 1992		January 1993 compared with January 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS							
	Value	166.5	167.8	+1.3	+0.8	+16.4	+10.9
	Volume	143.8	145.0	+1.2	+0.9	+7.4	+5.4
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET							
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	130.9	134.5	+3.6	+2.7	+4.7	+3.7
	Volume	111.6	104.7	-7.0	-6.2	-5.3	-4.8
Supermarkets	Value	140.3	160.2	+19.9	+14.2	+35.1	+28.0
	Volume	112.4	128.0	+15.6	+13.8	+21.0	+19.6
Fuels	Value	155.1	139.8	-15.3	-9.9	+8.4	+6.4
	Volume	117.2	105.9	-11.3	-9.7	+2.9	+2.8
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	212.9	246.6	+33.7	+15.8	+60.8	+32.7
	Volume	167.4	204.0	+36.6	+21.9	+37.5	+22.5
Consumer durable goods *	Value	166.8	160.2	-6.7	-4.0	+2.0	+1.3
	Volume	147.8	143.1	-4.6	-3.1	-1.4	-0.9
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	192.6	165.2	-27.4	-14.2	-30.8	-15.7
	Volume	158.7	135.8	-22.9	-14.4	-34.7	-20.4
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	148.1	156.5	+8.3	+5.6	+25.8	+19.7
	Volume	139.9	148.5	+8.6	+6.1	+22.8	+18.1
Department stores	Value	170.2	188.3	+18.1	+10.6	+25.8	+15.9
	Volume	137.9	158.4	+20.4	+14.8	+11.6	+7.9
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	162.3	149.6	-12.7	-7.8	+13.3	+9.8
	Volume	172.0	158.8	-13.2	-7.7	+15.5	+10.8
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	186.5	158.3	-28.2	-15.1	-7.8	-4.7
	Volume	157.9	133.8	-24.1	-15.2	-15.8	-10.6

NOTE : * This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

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"GREEN LEAP" FORWARD IN WAN CHAI

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THE GREENING CAMPAIGN IN WAN CHAI IS TO GAIN FURTHER IMPETUS WITH A PROPERTY DEVELOPER'S DECISION TO INCLUDE BLOOMS AND TREES IN ITS RESIDENTIAL PROJECT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE "GREEN LEAP" FORWARD FOR ILLUMINATION TERRACE IN TAI HANG ROAD WAS A VERY WELCOME ONE.

TO MARK THIS "FIRST", A TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY - A JOINT EFFORT BY THE DISTRICT'S "GREENING FOR THE CHEST" ORGANISING COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE - WILL BE STAGED AT 11.30 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN; WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR LEE MING-KWAI; COMMUNITY CHEST CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, MR YU KAM-KEE AND NEW WORLD DEVELOPMENT CO LTD MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR CHENG KA-SHUN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

THE GUESTS WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, AREA COMMITTEES AND FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FOR ANOTHER TREE PLANTING EVENT AT WAN CHAI SPORTS GROUND IN THE AFTERNOON TO RAISE FUND FOR CHARITY.

MORE THAN 120 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS WILL PLANT SOME 25 "PHEONIX ROEBELENII" TREES THERE.

THE PROJECT, IN ITS SECOND YEAR, IS SPONSORED BY THE SHELL BETTER ENVIRONMENT AWARDS SCHEME.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TWO PLANTING EVENTS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY AT ILLUMINATION TERRACE, 5-7 TAI HANG ROAD (OPPOSITE NEW METHOD COLLEGE) WILL BEGIN AT 11.30 AM WHILE THAT IN WAN CHAI SPORTS GROUND WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM.

TRANSPORT AND LUNCHES WILL BE PROVIDED. THOSE INTRESTED ARE REQUESTED TO CALL INFORMATION OFFICER, MS CLAUDIA YEUNG ON TEL 835 1440 BEFORE 10.30 AM TOMORROW, FOR RESERVATION.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

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SHORT-TERM TENANCY INVITED FOR GOLF DRIVING RANGES

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON A PIECE OF LAND AT HEADLAND OF WATERFALL BAY, OFF VICTORIA ROAD IN POKFULAM AS GOLF DRIVING RANGES.

THE SITE MEASURED ABOUT 42,500 SQUARE METRES. IT WAS PREVIOUSLY USED FOR TEMPORARY STORAGE PURPOSES AND IS ULTIMATELY INTENDED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

HOWEVER, ITS ATTRACTIVE SURROUNDINGS WILL MAKE AN IDEAL SPOT FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

COMPRISING THREE LARGE AND PREDOMINANTLY LEVEL PLATFORM AREAS OVERLOOKING THE SEA AT WATERFALL BAY, THE SITE IS ACCESSIBLE FROM VICTORIA ROAD BY WAY OF A TRACK WHICH WILL BE IMPROVED TO ACCEPTABLE VEHICULAR ACCESS STANDARDS BY THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATOR.

THE TENANCY IS FOR FOUR YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY.

THE SUCCESSFUL TENDERER WILL BE REQUIRED TO OPEN THE GOLF DRIVING RANGES AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC ON A FEE-PAYING BASIS AT ALL TIME DURING THE HOURS OF OPERATION.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 23.

TENDER FORM, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT, THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, HONG KONG SOUTH, 20TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

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DUTCH CAPTAIN PRAISED FOR SEA RESCUE EFFORTS

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR ALLAN PYRKE, TODAY (THURSDAY) PRAISED THE DUTCH CAPTAIN OF A HONG KONG REGISTERED DREDGER FOR HIS BRAVERY AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL IN THE RESCUE OF 16 CHINESE FISHERMEN IN POOR WEATHER IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

AT A CEREMONY IN THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE (MRCC), MR PYRKE PRESENTED A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE TO CAPTAIN LEO DREWES OF THE 5,679 TONNE DREDGER "KAI HONG".

"CAPTAIN DREWES HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF IN THE SUCCESSFUL RESCUE OF ALL 16 CREW MEMBERS FROM A CHINESE FISHING VESSEL IN APPALLING CONDITIONS. HE SETS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL OF A MERCHANT NAVY OFFICER," MR PYRKE SAID.

/ "HE PLACED

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"HE PLACED HIS CREW, HIS SHIP AND HIMSELF AT RISK TO UPHOLD THE TRADITION OF THE SEA. OUR MRCC HAS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCTING SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS OVER A WIDE AREA OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. IT RELIES ON SUCH BRAVE MEN AS CAPTAIN DREWES AND HIS CREW.

"IT IS HOPED THAT HIS EXAMPLE WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO EMULATE HIS PROFESSIONAL SKILL WHEN DUTY CALLS," HE SAID.

ABOUT 10.30 AM ON DECEMBER 25 LAST YEAR THE MRCC RECEIVED A DISTRESS MESSAGE THAT A CHINESE FISHING VESSEL WAS IN DANGER OF SINKING AFTER HER ENGINE ROOM WAS FLOODED 178 MILES SOUTH OF WAGLAN ISLAND.

THE MRCC PROMPTLY NOTIFIED SHIPS IN THE AREA TO HELP AND SENT A FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO THE SCENE TO SEARCH FOR THE FISHERMEN.

TWO SHIPS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, INCLUDING "KAI HONG", RESPONDED TO THE APPEAL AND SPED TO THE SCENE TO HELP. "KAI HONG" ARRIVED THERE AT ABOUT 2 PM.

THE RESCUE OPERATION FACED GREAT DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE INCLEMENT WEATHER. HOWEVER, BY 5 PM "KAI HONG" SUCCESSFULLY RESCUED ALL 16 CREW MEMBERS FROM THE WATER-LOGGED FISHING VESSEL WHICH SANK SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

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. MARINE OFFICES REMAIN OPEN IN CHING MING AND EASTER

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DAILY DURING CHING MING FESTIVAL (APRIL 5) AND THE EASTER HOLIDAYS (APRIL 9 TO 12).

THE WORKING AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING, TSUEN WAN AND RAMBLER CHANNEL.

THE SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (CENTRAL REGION) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR LO KWOK-TAI, SAID: "IN ADDITION, THE TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT WILL ALSO BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DURING THE HOLIDAYS."

DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL REMAIN OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY, AND THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 10 PM DAILY.

ON APRIL 4, 9 AND 11, THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE IN ROOM 314 ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE HARBOUR BUILDING AT 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO FACILITATE ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE FOR SHIPS ONLY.

AS FOR THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IN ROOM 318 AT THE HARBOUR BUILDING, IT WILL BE OPEN ON APRIL 4 AND 11 FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO HANDLE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS NORMALLY ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

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OUT-PATIENT CLINICS TO CLOSE ON CHING MING FESTIVAL
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE NO HOLIDAY AND EVENING GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE ON APRIL 5 (MONDAY) WHICH IS THE CHING MING FESTIVAL.

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141 VIETNAMESE RESETTLED LAST MONTH
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A TOTAL OF 141 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES LEFT HONG KONG FOR RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS LAST MONTH (MARCH).

OF THOSE WHO LEFT FOR OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT, 10 DEPARTED FOR AUSTRALIA, 18 FOR CANADA, 17 FOR FINLAND, FIVE FOR FRANCE, SIX FOR THE NETHERLANDS, 37 FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND 18 FOR USA.

MEANWHILE, A TOTAL OF 30 REFUGEES LEFT FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSIT CENTRE IN THE PHILIPPINES TO AWAIT RESETTLEMENT OVERSEAS.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,820
REVERSAL OF LAF	+330
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.3 *-0.1* 1.4.93

/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	2.96 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.43	3.31
1 MONTH	2.80 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.21	3.50
3 MONTHS	2.87 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.52	3.68
6 MONTHS	3.06 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.58	3.90
12 MONTHS	3.33 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 14,069MN

CLOSED 1 APRIL 1993

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