



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1993

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1993

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A BIG DEAL TO REACH AGREEMENT IN TALKS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT IT MATTERED THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT, BUT NOT ANY AGREEMENT, IN THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE WANT A GOOD AGREEMENT, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE WORKING SO HARD ABOUT AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE WORKING SO CONSTRUCTIVELY FOR."

"I THINK IT WOULD BE A BIG DEAL IF WE DIDN'T REACH AN AGREEMENT IN THE TALKS," HE SAID.

"I THINK EVERYBODY IN HONG KONG THINKS IT WOULD BE A BIG DEAL IF WE DIDN'T REACH AN AGREEMENT IN THE TALKS.

"THAT'S WHY WE ARE TRYING ON OUR SIDE SO VERY HARD TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE WE THINK THAT IT'S A BIG DEAL TO REACH AGREEMENT ABOUT THE SMOOTH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

"SO WE'LL GO ON TRYING AS HARD AS WE CAN TO ACHIEVE A BIG DEAL BECAUSE I THINK THAT'S WHAT IT WOULD BE.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE RECENT ACCUSATION ON HIM FOR CREATING OBSTACLES, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT ALL THE OPINION POLLS AND ALL THE ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE OF THINGS ONE HEARD SUGGESTED THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAD CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

"SO I HOPE WE CAN PUSH THESE SORTS OF CRITICISMS TO ONE SIDE AND STICK TO THE ARGUMENT AND THE ARGUMENT IS THAT WE WANT FAIR ELECTIONS HERE IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE RULE OF LAW, IN ORDER TO PREVENT CORRUPTION SIPPING INTO OUR OWN COMMUNITY."

WHEN ASKED WHY THE BRITISH DID NOT AGREE TO SEPARATE THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS, THE GOVERNOR EXPLAINED THAT AT THE MOMENT, THINGS WERE BEING CUT VERY FINE AS IT WAS.

"YOU WOULDN'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING AT ALL BY TRYING TO SEPARATE THE DB (DISTRICT BOARD) ELECTIONS AND THE MC (MUNICIPAL COUNCIL) ELECTIONS FROM THE LEGCO (LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL) ELECTIONS.

"WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TO HAVE OUR LEGISLATION FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN PLACE BY THE END OF JULY," HE SAID.

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DATE FIXED FOR 14TH ROUND OF ELECTION TALKS

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"THE BRITISH SIDE AND THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE AGREED THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, SIR ROBIN MCLAREN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, MR JIANG ENZHU, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WILL HOLD THEIR FOURTEENTH ROUND OF TALKS IN BEIJING ON 20 AND 21 OCTOBER 1993 ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA."

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NEW INITIATIVES TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON SAID THE ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS WOULD PROVIDE NEW IMPETUS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CREATE A BETTER AND CLEANER ENVIRONMENT IN HONG KONG.

MR EASON SAID: "THE INITIATIVES WILL ENABLE US TO TURN OUR ATTENTION FROM PROVIDING BADLY-NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES FOR WASTE DISPOSAL AND SEWAGE TREATMENT TO POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

"ONE OF OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE YEAR AHEAD IS TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP AMONG THE GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY TO CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FUND WITH AN INITIAL CAPITAL INJECTION OF \$50 MILLION FROM THE GOVERNMENT WILL HELP STRENGTHEN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH.

"THE FUND WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE A HEADSTART IN IMPROVING THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT FOR FINANCING ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION."

IT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND WORTHWHILE PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY AND GREEN GROUPS.

ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO CLEAN UP THE COUNTRYSIDE, MR EASON SAID: "THE APPROACH WOULD ENABLE US TO POOL OUR RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH THE PROLIFERATION OF UNDESIRABLE LAND USES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHERE PLOTS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WERE CONVERTED INTO OPEN STORAGE FOR CONTAINER BOXES, CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND CAR DUMPS."

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TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM OF LAND, PLANNING AND ENGINEERING STAFF WILL SOON BE SET UP. IT WILL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTORATE OFFICER OF THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE TASK FORCE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING AREAS WHERE TOUGHER ENFORCEMENT ACTION IS REQUIRED, UNDERTAKING IN-SITU IMPROVEMENT WORKS, AND FINDING NEW SITES FOR RELOCATING SOME OF THE EXISTING OPEN STORAGE AREAS ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE TOWN PLANNING (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE IN 1991.

THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE WILL BE MONITORED BY A COMMITTEE WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM INTERESTED PARTIES.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT PRESENT ABOUT 550 HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND WERE CONVERTED INTO OPEN STORAGE AREAS BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE IN 1991.

ANOTHER 150 HECTARES OF LAND WERE CONVERTED AFTER THE 1991 ENACTMENT DATE. THEY ARE CONSIDERED AS "UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT" WHERE ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE REQUIRED.

INITIALLY, THE TASK FORCE WILL DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN NORTHWEST NT WHERE THE PROLIFERATION OF UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IS MORE SERIOUS.

ON THE GREEN MANAGERS SCHEME, MR EASON SAID: "THE SCHEME IS AN EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT GREEN HOUSEKEEPING EXERCISE TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND BUSINESS IN OUR CAMPAIGNS TO REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND TO ENCOURAGE WASTE RECYCLING.

"BY URGING THESE ORGANISATIONS TO APPOINT THEIR OWN GREEN MANAGERS, WE HOPE THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN WITHIN AN ORGANISATION WILL BE BETTER CO-ORDINATED AND PROPERLY SUSTAINED."

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY APPOINTING GREEN MANAGERS IN ALL PARTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

"WE WILL ALSO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF BUSINESS HOW THEY WILL BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME AS GOOD GREEN HOUSEKEEPING WILL CUT COST AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY," MR EASON SAID.

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GOVT PROMOTES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF BUILDINGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY BUILDINGS, MR EASON SAID SUCH IMPACT COULD BE MINIMISED THROUGH PROMOTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CHOICE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD STARTED A NUMBER OF PILOT ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT OF ENERGY MANAGERS AND ENERGY AUDITING FOR REVENUE TOWER AND IMMIGRATION TOWER.

"THE RESULTS OF THESE SCHEMES WILL BE USED TO GUIDE US IN EXTENDING THEM TO OTHER PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

MR EASON SAID THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAD IDENTIFIED COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AS A MAJOR AREA FOR ACTION.

ADVISORY NOTES ON GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES HAD BEEN PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALERT THESE BUILDINGS' USERS AND MANAGERS TO THE HUGE POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY SAVING THROUGH SIMPLE NO-COST MEASURES, HE SAID.

SIMILAR NOTES ON ENERGY AUDITING WERE BEING PREPARED AND THE COMMITTEE WAS LOOKING INTO THE LAYING DOWN OF COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING ENERGY CODES.

TO PROMOTE THE DESIGN OF ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LAUNCH AN AWARD SCHEME IN EARLY 1994, HE ADDED.

ON PROMOTING THE USE OF ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD REQUIRED BIDDERS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR TO PROPOSE ALTERNATIVES TO HARDWOOD FOR SITE HOARDING, FALSE WORK AND SHORING OF TRENCHES AND PITS.

A TECHNICAL CIRCULAR ON THE USE OF PULVERISED FUEL ASH (PFA) IN STRUCTURAL CONCRETE HAD ALSO BEEN ISSUED TO ENCOURAGE ENGINEERS, ARCHITECTS AND CONSULTANTS TO CONSIDER THE USE OF PFA AS A CEMENT REPLACEMENT MATERIAL.

MR EASON NOTED THE INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE AT LANDFILLS WAS A MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.

MUCH OF THIS WASTE COULD BE USED AS FILL MATERIAL FOR RECLAMATION IF PROPERLY SORTED, HE SAID, ADDING THAT DISPOSING ALL OF IT AT LANDFILLS WAS A WASTE OF LANDFILL RESOURCES AND WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SHORTAGE OF LANDFILL CAPACITY.

TO ENCOURAGE PROPER SORTING AND RECYCLING, THE GOVERNMENT HAD RELAXED THE CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING CONSTRUCTION WASTE AT PUBLIC DUMPS AND WOULD PROVIDE MORE DUMPING SITES.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A PRIVATELY OPERATED INTERMEDIATE SORTING SITE TO HELP WASTE PRODUCERS WHO HAD DIFFICULTY IN ON-SITE WASTE SORTING.

CHARGES WOULD ALSO BE INTRODUCED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF PRIVATELY COLLECTED WASTE AT LANDFILLS AS AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE FOR WASTE PRODUCERS TO MINIMISE WASTE AND INVEST IN SORTING PROCEDURES.

FOOD TESTED TO ENSURE PUBLIC HYGIENE
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONDUCTS A FOOD SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME AND TAKES FOOD SAMPLES FOR TEST REGULARLY TO ENSURE THAT FOOD SUPPLIED TO THE COMMUNITY IS WHOLESOME, UNADULTERATED, UNCONTAMINATED, PROPERLY LABELLED AND OF NUTRITIOUS QUALITY.

IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, THE HYGIENE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN 6,774 FOOD SAMPLES FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

TEST REPORTS REVEALED THAT 6,708 SAMPLES WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 66 OR 0.97 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

THE RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION SHOWED THAT OUT OF THE 2,589 SAMPLES TAKEN, 2,479 WERE SATISFACTORY WHILE 110 OR 4.2 PER CENT WERE UNSATISFACTORY.

MAJORITY OF THE UNSATISFACTORY CASES INCLUDED HIGH BACTERIAL COUNT IN SHELLFISH, FISH FOR EATEN RAW AND MEAT PRODUCTS.

OTHERS WERE MAINLY SEAFOOD CONTAINING HIGHER LEVEL OF HEAVY METAL AND FOOD CONTAINING NON-PERMITTED FOOD ADDITIVES.

THE UNSATISFACTORY EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS WERE ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO IMPROPER HANDLING AND STORAGE OF THESE FOODS IN RETAIL OUTLETS.

FOLLOWING SOME REPORTED FOOD POISONING CASES DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF CORAL FISH, SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FOR BIOTOXIN TEST BUT NEGATIVE RESULTS WERE FOUND SO FAR.

THE DIVISION CARRIED OUT 45 PROSECUTIONS AND ISSUED 41 WARNING LETTERS.

ON THE CHECKING OF LABELS FOR PREPACKAGED FOOD, THE DIVISION CHECKED 3,452 LABELS, ISSUED 51 WARNING LETTERS AND EXECUTED SEVEN PROSECUTIONS.

IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE DIVISION INSPECTED 1,690,678 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED MEAT AND 2,986,950 KILOGRAMS OF IMPORTED POULTRY IN 1,019 INSPECTIONS.

DURING THE MONTHS, A TOTAL OF 300,195 KILOGRAMS OF FOOD WERE FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND DESTROYED.

FIFTY INCIDENTS OF FOOD POISONING WERE REPORTED DURING THE PERIOD WITH 297 PERSONS AFFECTED.

INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT 33 WERE DOMESTIC OUTBREAKS AND 14 WERE FOOD-PREMISES OUTBREAKS.

THE PLACE OF CONSUMPTION OF ANOTHER TWO INCIDENTS WAS UNKNOWN WHILE THE LAST CASE WAS AN IMPORTED ONE.

THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS WERE PESTICIDE CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, CONTAMINATION OF FOOD BY FOOD-HANDLER, IMPROPER STORAGE AND INADEQUATE COOKING.

CONSULTATION STARTS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION BILLS

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS STARTED ITS CONSULTATION ON THREE BILLS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND IT HOPES THAT COMMENTS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS BY EARLY DECEMBER, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TO DETAIL THE PROPOSALS ON CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS.

MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO INTRODUCE THE BILLS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF NEXT YEAR.

CONSULTATION PAPERS ON THE SALE OF GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL, THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES (IMPLIED TERMS) BILL AND THE UNCONSCIONABLE CONTRACTS BILL WERE SENT OUT LAST SATURDAY TO PROFESSIONAL BODIES, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TRANSPORT COMPANIES, FOR COMMENT.

MR CHAU ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY COMPLETED CONSULTATION ON ANOTHER PIECE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION, THE CONSUMER GOODS SAFETY BILL, AND WAS NOW FINALISING THE DRAFT FOR INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"UPON ENACTMENT, THESE BILLS TOGETHER WILL HELP ENHANCE THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS BY REDRESSING THE DISPARITY IN ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND RESOURCES BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL CONSUMER AND THE BIG SELLER," MR CHAU SAID.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSUMER GOODS SAFETY BILL WAS TO IMPOSE A DUTY ON SUPPLIERS OF CONSUMER GOODS TO ENSURE THAT THE GOODS THEY SUPPLIED IN HONG KONG WERE SAFE.

"THE SALE OF GOODS (AMENDMENT) BILL SEEKS TO STIPULATE CLEARLY THAT A SELLER OF GOODS HAS THE DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THE GOODS HE SOLD ARE OF MERCHANTABLE QUALITY AND THAT A BUYER HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT DEFECTIVE GOODS UNLESS HE HAD HAD A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE GOODS," HE SAID.

THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES (IMPLIED TERMS) BILL WOULD REQUIRE A SUPPLIER OF SERVICES TO CARRY OUT HIS SERVICE WITH REASONABLE CARE AND SKILL AND WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, HE NOTED.

THE FOURTH BILL, THE UNCONSCIONABLE CONTRACTS BILL, SEEKS TO EMPOWER THE COURT TO STRIKE DOWN AND REWRITE UNCONSCIONABLE TERMS IN CONSUMER CONTRACTS FOR SALE OF GOODS AND SUPPLY OF SERVICES, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THESE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES, MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GOING TO ALLOCATE \$10 MILLION TO THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO ENABLE IT TO ESTABLISH A CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE ACTION FUND.

IN THIS CONNECTION, \$1 MILLION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL TO COMMISSION LEGAL CONSULTANCIES TO DRAW UP THE MODE OF OPERATION OF THE FUND AND TO STUDY OTHER RELATED CONSUMER MATTERS.

FURTHERMORE, THE COUNCIL WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$3.5 MILLION FOR IT TO CONTINUE WITH ITS SECTOR-SPECIFIC STUDIES IN COMPETITION, HE ADDED.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

THIS MONTH, THE MEASURED CONCENTRATIONS SHOWED SOME INTERESTING VARIATIONS.

DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE MONTH, AIR WAS DRIFTING IN FROM THE NORTH BUT THE WINDSPEEDS WERE LOW. THERE WAS LITTLE RAIN AND PLENTY OF SUNSHINE. THESE CONDITIONS CAUSED POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS TO INCREASE AT ALL SITES.

ON SEPTEMBER 1, TSP LEVELS IN MONG KOK WERE ABOUT 80 PER CENT OF THE 260 UG/M³ 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE.

ON SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, THE 24-HOUR NO₂ LEVELS AT THE STREET-LEVEL SITE IN MONG KOK HAD EXCEEDED THE 24-HOUR AQO OF 150 UG/M³.

THE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES ALLOW ONE EXCEEDANCE OF THE 24-HOUR LIMIT PER YEAR, THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR THIS YEAR INCLUDING THE TWO REPORTED HERE.

FROM A ROOFTOP MEASUREMENT SITE IN CENTRAL/WESTERN, NO₂ LEVELS ALMOST REACHED THE 24-HOUR AQO VALUE ON SEPTEMBER 3.

THERE WAS ALSO A PEAK IN POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 11 AND 15, AGAIN MOSTLY THE RESULT OF LOW WINDSPEEDS ALLOWING LOCALLY EMITTED POLLUTANTS TO ACCUMULATE.

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IN MONG KOK, TSP CONCENTRATION ALMOST REACHED THE 24-HOUR LIMIT ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND NO2 LEVELS ALMOST REACHED THE 24-HOUR AQO LIMIT ON SEPTEMBER 14.

LOW WINDSPEEDS ON SEPTEMBER 28 AND 29 ALSO ALLOWED POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS TO RISE. LEVELS IN MONG KOK WERE CLOSE TO THE 24-HOUR LIMIT ON SEPTEMBER 28.

SEPTEMBER SAW THE PASSAGE OF TWO TYPHOONS; "BECKY" ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND "DOT" BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 24 AND 26.

ON SEPTEMBER 17, POLLUTANT CONCENTRATIONS DIPPED AT ALL SITES AS BECKY' BROUGHT IN CLEANER AIR AND THE RAIN WASHED OUT SOME OF THE POLLUTANTS. THE EFFECT WAS SIMILAR DURING THE PASSAGE OF 'DOT' BUT NOT SO MARKED.

THE REASON FOR THIS WITH REGARDS TO NO2 CONCENTRATIONS IS THOUGHT TO BE BECAUSE THERE WAS STILL SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC DURING MUCH OF THE STORM PASSAGE.

FINALLY, IN MONG KOK, SO2 CONCENTRATIONS FOR THE MONTH WERE ABOUT HALF THE LEVELS DURING THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS DISCUSSED HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO2 MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS.

NO2 IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION.

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO2. VEHICLE EXHAUST IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES. OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

EPD CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT EIGHT STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRY CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LEUNG ON TEL 594 6401.

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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR AUGUST

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR AUGUST 1993.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1993, AT \$72,903 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 20% OVER AUGUST 1992, WHEREAS THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AT \$19,627 MILLION DECREASED BY 5.8%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS : CHINA (+35%), SINGAPORE (+28%), CANADA (+27%), GERMANY (+23%), THE UNITED STATES (+22%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+19%), FRANCE (+17%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+16%) AND JAPAN (+11%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 17%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WAS \$525,195 MILLION, BEING 22% HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS : CHINA (+36%), SINGAPORE (+27%), GERMANY (+23%), THE UNITED STATES (+23%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+22%), FRANCE (+20%), JAPAN (+16%), CANADA (+15%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+9.0%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 17%.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$13,624 MILLION OR 149%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$10,531 MILLION OR 32%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$10,111 MILLION OR 31%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$8,911 MILLION OR 40%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$8,806 MILLION OR 15%); CLOTHING (BY \$7,234 MILLION OR 15%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$1,553 MILLION OR 3.5%).

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1993, AT \$19,627 MILLION, FELL BY 5.8% OVER AUGUST 1992.

/DECREASES WERE

DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO JAPAN (-17%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-12%), GERMANY (-12%), THE UNITED STATES (-7.5%), CANADA (-5.9%), FRANCE (-4.8%) AND TAIWAN (-0.7%). BUT INCREASES OF 3.1%, 2.7% AND 1.6% IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE TO THE NETHERLANDS, SINGAPORE AND CHINA RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE AND CHINA INCREASED BY 12% AND 6.6% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR DESTINATIONS : THE UNITED KINGDOM (-14%), JAPAN (-12%), FRANCE (-11%), THE UNITED STATES (-8.2%), CANADA (-7.8%), TAIWAN (-7.0%), GERMANY (-6.4%) AND THE NETHERLANDS (-5.5%).

FOR ALL DESTINATIONS TAKEN TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$144,178 MILLION, DECREASED BY 3.3% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,954 MILLION OR 15%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$836 MILLION OR 10%); AND MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$320 MILLION OR 15%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$3,064 MILLION OR 6.4%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$1,745 MILLION OR 13%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,676 MILLION OR 14%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$1,409 MILLION OR 9.7%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN AUGUST 1993 WAS \$93,034 MILLION, INCREASING BY 17% OVER THAT IN AUGUST 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING AUGUST 1993 WITH AUGUST 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS : SINGAPORE (+38%), MALAYSIA (+31%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+22%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+22%), ITALY (+20%), CHINA (+18%), THE UNITED STATES (+18%), GERMANY (+14%), TAIWAN (+12%) AND JAPAN (+11%).

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED : MALAYSIA (+26%), SINGAPORE (+22%), GERMANY (+21%), ITALY (+20%), THE UNITED STATES (+20%), JAPAN (+15%), CHINA (+14%), TAIWAN (+11%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+10%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+10%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WAS \$698,451 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 15% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$20,260 MILLION OR 112%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$13,998 MILLION OR 24%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$10,737 MILLION OR 23%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$7,608 MILLION OR 38%); CLOTHING (BY \$6,458 MILLION OR 13%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$6,334 MILLION OR 14%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$1,862 MILLION OR 2.8%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR AUGUST 1993 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE AUGUST 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN AUGUST 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$68.50 A COPY AROUND 18 OCTOBER 1993.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO. 582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	23,226	+ 35.2	178,201	+ 36.2
UNITED STATES	17,990	+ 21.8	113,782	+ 22.9
JAPAN	3,903	+ 10.8	26,623	+ 16.0
GERMANY	3,431	+ 23.1	25,394	+ 23.4
UNITED KINGDOM	2,336	+ 15.8	14,920	+ 22.3
TAIWAN	1,737	- 17.2	14,452	- 17.2
SINGAPORE	1,332	+ 27.5	10,981	+ 26.6
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,221	+ 18.8	9,824	+ 9.0
FRANCE	1,111	+ 16.7	8,554	+ 20.0
CANADA	1,266	+ 26.7	8,333	+ 15.5

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	11,346	+ 16.6	67,885	+ 14.9
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,662	+ 12.1	56,598	+ 14.7

/TEXTILE YARN,

TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,713	+ 3.3	45,552	+ 3.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	6,189	+ 29.6	43,571	+ 31.9
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,037	+ 29.8	42,893	+ 30.8
FOOTWEAR	4,537	+ 31.5	31,344	+ 39.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,112	+ 30.0	22,987	+ 22.0
ROAD VEHICLES	2,859	+ 87.9	22,767	+149.0
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,352	+ 31.0	17,673	+ 33.1
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,447	+ 19.6	17,565	+ 11.9

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,444	+ 1.6	41,997	+ 6.6
UNITED STATES	5,540	- 7.5	36,847	- 8.2
GERMANY	1,292	- 11.9	9,322	- 6.4
SINGAPORE	940	+ 2.7	7,337	+ 12.2
UNITED KINGDOM	1,052	- 12.1	6,942	- 14.2

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JAPAN	824	- 17.4	6,451	- 11.7
TAIWAN	507	- 0.7	3,839	- 7.0
CANADA	460	- 5.9	3,115	- 7.8
NETHERLANDS	397	+ 3.1	3,036	- 5.5
FRANCE	262	- 4.8	1,841	- 11.2

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,200	- 5.0	44,682	- 6.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,862	+ 3.4	14,631	+ 15.4
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,806	- 3.2	13,090	- 9.7
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,231	- 26.9	11,230	- 13.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,246	- 11.7	10,841	- 4.1
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,306	- 17.1	10,459	- 13.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,123	+ 7.6	9,087	+ 10.1

MANUFACTURES OF METALS	395	- 1.9	3,046	- 4.8
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	304	+ 13.2	2,413	+ 15.3
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	277	- 0.5	2,331	+ 1.2

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	36,971	+ 18.2	255,094	+ 13.6
JAPAN	14,481	+ 11.5	119,620	+ 15.1
TAIWAN	8,010	+ 12.1	61,651	+ 10.5
UNITED STATES	7,441	+ 17.9	53,077	+ 20.0
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,987	+ 22.4	32,183	+ 10.5
SINGAPORE	3,955	+ 38.4	30,289	+ 22.0
GERMANY	2,022	+ 14.4	16,694	+ 21.3
UNITED KINGDOM	1,889	+ 22.2	13,812	+ 10.2
ITALY	1,780	+ 20.2	11,419	+ 20.2
MALAYSIA	1,366	+ 30.8	10,323	+ 26.0

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	AUG 93 OVER AUG 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-AUG 1993 (HKD MN.)	JAN-AUG 93 OVER JAN-AUG 92 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	10,124	+ 29.6	73,440	+ 23.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,767	- 0.8	65,547	- 2.8
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	8,834	+ 44.1	57,131	+ 23.1
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	8,437	+ 7.9	56,631	+ 12.9
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	7,850	+ 20.8	51,470	+ 14.0
ROAD VEHICLES	4,111	+ 53.6	38,378	+111.8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,853	+ 7.9	31,196	+ 6.1
FOOTWEAR	4,111	+ 43.1	27,510	+ 38.2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,868	+ 5.6	23,024	+ 5.8
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	2,461	+ 2.6	22,759	+ 18.6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1993

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ADEQUATE FIRE PROVISION IMPORTANT TO NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT

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ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY PROVISION IS CRUCIAL TO ANY NEW TOWN DEVELOPMENT, THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF MA ON SHAN FIRE STATION, AMBULANCE DEPOT AND AMBULANCE TRAINING SCHOOL, MR LAM POINTED OUT THAT THE BUSTLING TOWNSHIP OF MA ON SHAN, WITH A POPULATION OF 120,000 HAD AN AVERAGE OF 50 FIRE CALLS AND 955 AMBULANCE CALLS EACH MONTH.

"THE NEW FIRE STATION AND AMBULANCE DEPOT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO PROTECT THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT FOUR FIRE APPLIANCES AND EIGHT AMBULANCES COULD QUICKLY BE DESPATCHED TO ATTEND FIRES AND EMERGENCY CALLS IN THE AREA.

TURNING TO THE AMBULANCE TRAINING SCHOOL, HE SAID THE LONG-AWAITED INSTITUTION PROVIDED AN "EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENT" FOR TRAINEES TO LEARN THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO BECOME FIRST-CLASS AMBULANCE PERSONNEL.

THE SCHOOL, BUILT AT A COST OF \$48.6 MILLION, OCCUPIES THE TOP FOUR FLOORS OF A SIX-STORY BUILDING.

IT HAS FIVE CLASSROOMS, FOUR SYNDICATE ROOMS, A LIBRARY, A GYMNASIUM, BARRACKS AND A 102-SEAT LECTURE HALL.

SEVENTEEN AMBULANCE PERSONNEL WHO HAD COMPLETED THEIR PARAMEDIC TRAINING IN THE SCHOOL WERE DEPLOYED TO MAN THREE PARAMEDIC AMBULANCES ON A TRIAL BASIS.

ANOTHER 24 WILL RECEIVE SUCH TRAINING AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND THAT THE EVENTUAL AIM IS TO TRAIN ENOUGH STAFF TO MAN 33 PARAMEDIC AMBULANCES, MR LAM SAID.

HE THANKED ALL THOSE WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECTS FOR BRINGING THEM TO FRUITION IN THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG FIRE SERVICES.

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GOOD STANDARDS OF ENGLISH NEEDED

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HONG KONG NEEDS GOOD STANDARDS OF ENGLISH IN ORDER TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AS A LEADING BUSINESS CENTRE IN ASIA, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

IN THIS RESPECT, MR WONG SAID, THE BRITISH COUNCIL HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING IN HONG KONG.

/UNDER THE

UNDER THE UNITED KINGDOM IMMERSION PROGRAMME, 62 TEACHER TRAINEES FROM THE FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION THIS SUMMER ATTENDED A SIX-WEEK LANGUAGE IMMERSION COURSE.

NINETEEN LECTURERS FROM THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ATTENDED A FOUR-WEEK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OR A THREE-WEEK INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A WELCOME BACK RECEPTION WAS HELD FOR THE PARTICIPANTS, HOSTED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND ATTENDED ALSO BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD.

ON THE PROGRAMME, MR WONG SAID: "I AM SURE THAT OUR STUDENTS WILL, IN DUE COURSE, BENEFIT FROM THE IMPROVED QUALITY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING.

"WE ALL KNOW THAT HONG KONG IS AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD. WE MUST BRING UP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE COMPETENT IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH."

CHINESE LANGUAGE SKILLS WERE AN OBVIOUS REQUIREMENT OWING TO THE CHANGING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE WITH CHINESE ECONOMY, MR WONG SAID.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TOO, FOR THE REASON THAT IT IS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE, AND WILL REMAIN SO AFTER 1997, HE ADDED.

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AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR MARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 16) AT 9.30 AM AT THE LECTURE HALL, SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE, FIFTH FLOOR, URBAN COUNCIL SHEUNG WAN COMPLEX AT 345 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

A TOTAL OF 50 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

FK9968	FK218	FH833	FK663
FL127	CL211	FJ3318	AU3332
*FJ6886	*3188	*FP9	*FH1
AV8001	FK1622	AS165	FK630
FK109	AB748	FK911	AH3222
FL3332	FK338	FJ9969	FL1386
FJ1128	FJ9663	FK2202	FK365
*FK11	*EE17	*DL888	*FN777
FJ1618	FK2282	FK6863	BW962
FL203	FL135	FJ7239	FK1132
XX3375	FK3129	*CM21	FK524
AF1963	FK7770	HK5857	*FS500
FL702	FK5386		

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A VEHICLE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED, WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 204TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME

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FIFTY-FIVE VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS RETURNED TO VIETNAM TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE 14TH FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES ON THESE FLIGHTS TO 735.

THE GROUP COMPRISES 26 MEN, 15 WOMEN, 10 BOYS AND 4 GIRLS FROM THE HIGH ISLAND, NEI KWU CHAU AND CHI MA WAN (UPPER) DETENTION CENTRES.

MOST OF THE 55 RETURNEES ARRIVED IN HONG KONG IN 1988 AND 1989, AND HAVE ALL BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

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RATES FOR LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR

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RATEPAYERS ARE REMINDED THAT RATES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 30.

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE BY POST ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING SERVICES, P O BOX 8000, G P O, HONG KONG OR IN PERSON AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, IMMIGRATION TOWER, FIRST FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- * THE CENTRAL SUB-TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), SECOND FLOOR, 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, HONG KONG;

- * THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, MAX SHARE CENTRE, FIRST FLOOR, 373 KING'S ROAD, HONG KONG;
- * THE SAI WAN HO SUB-TREASURY, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG;
- * THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON;
- * THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, KOWLOON;
- * THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, TAI PO, NORTH, YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN OR KWAI TSING.

DEMAND NOTES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER 1993 HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR DEMAND NOTES SHOULD BRING ALONG RATES DEMAND NOTES FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER TO ANY OF THE TREASURY COLLECTION OFFICES LISTED ABOVE, AND DUPLICATE RATES DEMAND NOTES WILL BE ISSUED TO THEM.

PAYMENT CAN THEN BE MADE AT ANY OF THESE OFFICES. IF THE RATEPAYERS CANNOT PRODUCE RATES DEMAND NOTES FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER, THEY SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY NOON ON OCTOBER 30, UNLESS SO PAID, RATEPAYERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF 5 PER CENT. A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE LEVIED ON THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT (INCLUDING THE 5 PER CENT SURCHARGE) WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD STILL BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING 'PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY' IS SHOWN IN THE DEMAND NOTE.

IN THAT CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON OCTOBER 30. RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE. HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSE OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES (UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT).

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO SETTLE PAYMENT BY POST USING CHEQUES OR CASHIER ORDERS, OR CALL AT THE OFFICES EARLY.

HOWEVER, THE MOST CONVENIENT METHOD FOR PAYMENT OF RATES IS AUTOPAY.

APPLICATIONS FOR AUTOPAY ARE OBTAINABLE FROM TREASURY COLLECTION OFFICES, DISTRICT OFFICES AND ALL MAJOR BANKS IN HONG KONG OR BY TELEPHONING 829 5019.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	12 OCTOBER 93	12 OCTOBER 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q341	H375
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD2,690 MN	HKD1,780 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,000 MN	HKD400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.69 PCT	2.84 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.71 PCT	2.85 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 33 PCT	ABOUT 100 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.72 PCT	2.88 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 18 OCTOBER 1993 -

TENDER DATE	19 OCTOBER 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q342
ISSUE DATE	20 OCTOBER 93
MATURITY DATE	19 JANUARY 94
TENOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,000 + 200 MN

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,260
REVERSAL OF LAF	+740
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+435
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,435
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.2 *+0.0* 12.10.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.44 PCT	13 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.58	3.17
1 MONTH	2.52 PCT	16 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.86	3.35
3 MONTHS	2.66 PCT	19 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.26	3.61
6 MONTHS	2.81 PCT	22 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.66	3.72
12 MONTHS	3.10 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,597 MN

CLOSED OCTOBER 12, 1993

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