



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1993

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GOVERNOR'S CONDITION IS GOOD

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THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE SPOKESMAN, MR MIKE HANSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, HAS SPENT A COMFORTABLE NIGHT AT THE QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL AND THAT HIS CONDITION HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS GOOD BY THE MEDICAL TEAM.

MR PATTEN SLEPT WELL LAST NIGHT AND IS EATING A NORMAL DIET. HE WILL REMAIN IN HOSPITAL FOR TODAY AND IS LIKELY TO RETURN HOME TOMORROW TO CONTINUE HIS CONVALESCENCE.

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WSD SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CHLORINE LEAKAGE

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AN INTERIM REPORT ON THE CHLORINE LEAKAGE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED AT THE SHEUNG SHUI TREATMENT WORKS ON JANUARY 25 REVEALED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS ONLY A MINOR ONE WHICH DID NOT AFFECT THE NEARBY RESIDENTS AND THE OPERATION OF THE PLANT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THE INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY A MINOR DEFECT IN THE CONNECTION POINT BETWEEN THE FEEDING PIPE AND THE CHLORINE STORAGE DRUM, LEADING TO THE LEAKAGE OF ABOUT TWO KILOGRAMS OF CHLORINE.

"HOWEVER, ALL THE LEAKED GAS WAS CONFINED TO THE CHLORINE ROOM," THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SHEUNG SHUI TREATMENT WORKS WAS MANNED BY EXPERIENCED TECHNICIANS ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

HE SAID THE CHLORINE LEAK DETECTION AND ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLED AT THE PLANT WAS AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERED WHEN THE LEAKAGE HAPPENED.

"EQUIPPED WITH OXYGEN BREATHING MASKS AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, STAFF ON DUTY IMMEDIATELY CLOSED THE VALVE OF THE CHLORINE STORAGE DRUM TO PREVENT MORE CHLORINE FROM LEAKING OUT.

"OUR STAFF'S ADEQUATE PREPARATION AND EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING CHLORINE LEAKAGE WAS DEMONSTRATED IN THIS PROMPT ACTION," HE NOTED.

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAD ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS BY A CONSULTANT'S ENGAGED TO REVIEW THE METHOD AND SAFETY MEASURES OF CHLORINE STORAGE AT THE SHEUNG SHUI TREATMENT WORKS.

THESE INCLUDED STEPPING UP PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AT THE CHLORINE STORAGE AREA AT THE PLANT AND INTRODUCING A SET OF STRINGENT INTERNAL GUIDELINES ON THE DAILY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TREATMENT WORKS.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT STAFF RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CHLORINE SYSTEM HAD ALSO UNDERGONE VIGOROUS TRAINING.

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"THEREFORE, OUR STAFF WERE ABLE TO PUT THE INCIDENT UNDER CONTROL EFFICIENTLY TO PREVENT THE NEARBY RESIDENTS FROM BEING AFFECTED," HE NOTED.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A CHLORINE ABSORPTION TOWER SYSTEM WAS BEING INSTALLED AT THE PLANT TO FURTHER ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE NEARBY RESIDENTS AND WORKS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

ITS FUNCTION IS TO ABSORB LEAKED CHLORINE AND TO NEUTRALISE IT WITH SODIUM HYDROXIDE WITHIN THE ABSORPTION TOWER UNTIL THE CHLORINE CONTENT IN THE AMBIENT AIR DROPS TO SAFE LEVEL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE SAFETY MEASURES AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PLANT, AND WOULD REDUCE THE CHLORINE STORAGE TO LESS THAN HALF OF THE CHLORINE ROOM STORAGE CAPACITY BEFORE INSTALLATION OF THE SYSTEM WAS COMPLETED.

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO ENGAGED A CONSULTANT TO CARRY OUT A HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF SEVEN OTHER TREATMENT WORKS.

INSTALLATION OF CHLORINE ABSORPTION TOWERS IN THOSE TREATMENT WORKS IS IN PROGRESS FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WHILE OTHER SAFETY MEASURES HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED.

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SRC MEETS RTHK REPRESENTATIVES OVER CORPORATISATION

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, TODAY (THURSDAY) MET FIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RTHK PROGRAMME STAFF UNION TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF CORPORATISATION OF THE STATION.

THE TALKS WERE CONDUCTED IN A FRIENDLY, FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AND THERE WAS A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, MR SO SAID.

AT THE MEETING, MR SO EXPLAINED TO THE RTHK REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION DID COMPLICATE THE ISSUE AND NOW WAS NOT THE MOST OPPORTUNE TIME TO TAKE THE ISSUE FURTHER.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVED THAT CORPORATISATION WAS STILL THE BEST OPTION FOR RTHK.

MR SO CONFIRMED THAT THE MATTER WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT YET IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.

DURING THE MEETING, MR SO ALSO NOTED THE CONCERN OF THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT RTHK HAD NOT BEEN RECRUITING DEPARTMENTAL STAFF FOR THE PAST YEAR IN ANTICIPATION OF CORPORATISATION.

IN THIS RESPECT, MR SO SAID A REVIEW ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND HE WAS ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER CONVERTING SOME OF THE DEPARTMENTAL CONTRACT STAFF INTO DEPARTMENTAL GRADE WITHIN THIS CALENDAR YEAR.

/ANOTHER TOPIC

ANOTHER TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS RENEWAL OF STAFF CONTRACTS.

MR SO SAID HE WAS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOW PREPARED TO RENEW STAFF CONTRACTS FOR THE NORMAL PERIOD AND ON NORMAL TERMS, SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CIVIL SERVICE PROCEDURES, WHEN THEY COME UP FOR CONSIDERATION.

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PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR NEW INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
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THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (PGC) TO PREPARE FOR THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW UNITARY INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (HKIE) AS AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION UNDER ITS OWN ORDINANCE.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE WAS RECOMMENDED BY THE EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ITS REPORT NO. 5.

THE INSTITUTE WILL COMPRISE THREE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE, AND THE INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION (ILE) WHICH ARE CURRENTLY RUN BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PGC IS:

CHAIRMAN: SIMON IP, JP

MEMBERS: MR JAMES TIEN PEI-CHUN, OBE, JP

DR TSE KA-KUI

DR JAMES WONG SAI-WING, JP

DR THOMAS LEUNG KWOK-FAI

PROFESSOR LEE NGOK

DR JOHN CLARK

MRS JANE WONG LEE CHEE-YAN

MR GREGORY LAM SHU-WING

OFFICIALS: SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE

SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE

/SECRETARY

SECRETARY: A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PGC ARE:

- * TO PREPARE FOR FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE AS AN INDEPENDENT INSTITUTION UNDER ITS OWN ORDINANCE;
- * TO ARRANGE FOR SEPARATION OF THE COLLEGES AND ILE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE;
- * TO PROPOSE AN ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FOR THE INSTITUTE;
- * TO PROPOSE A STAFF STRUCTURE, SALARY SCALES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE;
- * TO PREPARE DRAFT DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INSTITUTE'S ORDINANCE;
- * TO DRAW UP, WITH THE HELP OF OUTSIDE EXPERT ADVICE AS NECESSARY, A STRATEGY FOR UPGRADING THE COLLEGES/ILE;
- * TO PREPARE A FORECAST OF THE INSTITUTE'S RESOURCE NEEDS DURING THE UPGRADING PHASE;
- * TO REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT AS OFTEN AS MAY BE REQUIRED; AND
- * TO CARRY OUT ANY EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS AS DIRECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

MR CHAN SAID THE MAIN PURPOSE OF SETTING UP THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION WAS TO GIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC AUTONOMY TO THE COLLEGES AND THE ILE IN THE SAME WAY AS ALL THE OTHER POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG.

"NORMS COMPARABLE TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS WILL BE DRAWN UP FOR THE INSTITUTE TO PROVIDE SUB-DEGREE AND SOME DEGREE COURSES WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT," HE SAID.

"THE CAMPUS WILL BE REORGANISED AND MODERNISED TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE FACILITIES FOR TEACHER TRAINING.

"THE INSTITUTE WILL THEN UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF TRAINING PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS."

MR CHAN ADDED THAT QUALIFIED EXISTING STAFF WOULD BE GIVEN THE OPTION, DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, TO REMAIN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OR TO SERVE THE INSTITUTE UNDER NEW NON-CIVIL SERVICE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THESE CHANGES CAN BE ACHIEVED MORE EFFECTIVELY IF THE INSTITUTE HAS THE ADDED FLEXIBILITY OF AN AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATION, HE SAID.

MR SIMON IP, COMMENTING ON HIS APPOINTMENT, SAID HE WAS HONOURED TO BE APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE PGC AND THAT HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO COMPLETE THE SETTING UP OF THE INSTITUTE BY OCTOBER 1994.

/BY THAT

BY THAT TIME HE EXPECTED A NEW DIRECTOR AND SENIOR STAFF TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AND TO BE READY TO TAKE OVER FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHER TRAINING UNDER A NEW ORDINANCE.

"THIS IS A VERY CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENT," MR IP SAID, "BUT I HAVE A FIRST-CLASS TEAM OF EXPERTS WORKING WITH ME AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN FINISH THE WORK BY THE AUTUMN OF NEXT YEAR."

"THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS PROJECT IS THE UPGRADING OF THE COLLEGES SO THAT THEY CAN PROVIDE BETTER TRAINING FOR TEACHERS.

"I SEE THIS AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

"OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE AND THEY DESERVE AN IMPROVED SCHOOL SYSTEM. THE PGC WILL PLAY ITS PART IN PROVIDING IT," HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

ANY QUERIES ABOUT THIS PRESS RELEASE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE PGC, MR PHILIP MACKLEY ON TEL 537 2347 OR BY FAX 868 5916

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DO CALLS FOR VIEWS ON REFORM PACKAGE

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THE PUBLIC SHOULD COME UP WITH BROADER VIEWS ON THE GOVERNOR'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS, KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICER, MR WILLIAM YAP, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S SPRING RECEPTION, MR YAP SAID THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE MORE CLEARLY KNOWN IF VIEWS WERE MORE ACTIVELY EXPRESSED.

"THIS WILL ENABLE THE FORMULATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE WHICH WILL BE FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG; AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG, ALSO URGED LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE GOVERNOR'S REFORM PACKAGE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICE'S SPRING RECEPTIONS.

MR YOUNG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS HAPPY THAT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE ENGAGED IN VIGOROUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE REFORMS.

HE ALSO SAID THE PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE THE DISTRICT BOARDS' ROLE IN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION WAS IN LINE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

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TERTIARY STUDENTS URGED TO GIVE VIEWS ON REFORMS

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EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY, TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON TERTIARY STUDENTS TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL REFORM PACKAGE.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WELL-EDUCATED YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM EXERCISE, TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE 10TH INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE SHUE YAN COLLEGE STUDENTS' UNION, MR BARCLAY SAID THERE HAD BEEN WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS, HE ADDED, WOULD SHORTLY BE DISCUSSED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HE EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED.

"IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL EXPRESS ITS VIEWS TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL PACKAGE REFLECTS ACCURATELY THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF RETAIL SALES
SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1992 RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1992, ESTIMATED AT \$13.3 BILLION, INCREASED BY 14% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1991, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES REFLECTED A CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND TOURISTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 9% IN VOLUME TERMS.

STRONG GROWTH WAS SEEN IN THE SPENDING ON MOTOR VEHICLES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, FUELS AND JEWELLERY.

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED THE LARGEST YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN NOVEMBER, BY 26% IN VALUE AND 19% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS WENT UP MARKEDLY BY 24% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME. THE STRONG GROWTH WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SALE CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED BY SOME MAJOR OUTLETS IN RECENT MONTHS.

SALES OF FUELS ALSO INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 17% IN VALUE AND 10% IN VOLUME.

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SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS ROSE BY 15% IN VALUE AND 19% IN VOLUME. THE LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS A RESULT OF THE FALL IN THE PRICES OF JEWELLERY ITEMS.

SALES IN BOTH DEPARTMENT STORES AND SUPERMARKETS REGISTERED A 7% INCREASE IN VALUE BUT A 1% DECREASE IN VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS RECORDED A 2% INCREASE IN VALUE AND A 1% DECREASE IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 18% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH OCTOBER 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN NOVEMBER 1992 DECREASED BY 1% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEMBER 1992 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 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 NO.: 802 1258).

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/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for November 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$13,323.2 million
for October 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$13,489.8 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR OCTOBER 1992 AND NOVEMBER 1992

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	October 1992	November 1992	November 1992 compared with October 1992		November 1992 compared with November 1991		Jan-Nov 1992 compared with Jan-Nov 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	143.6	141.9	-1.8	-1.2	+17.7	+14.2	+21.3	+18.1
	Volume	124.8	121.9	-2.9	-2.3	+10.3	+9.2	+13.3	+12.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	121.2	125.3	+4.1	+3.3	+2.7	+2.2	+4.5	+3.9
	Volume	101.5	107.3	+5.8	+5.7	-1.1	-1.0	-2.9	-2.8
Supermarkets	Value	124.5	117.5	-7.0	-5.6	+7.7	+7.0	+11.5	+10.0
	Volume	100.2	93.8	-6.3	-6.3	-0.7	-0.7	+1.7	+1.7
Fuels	Value	162.4	139.2	-23.1	-14.3	+20.3	+17.1	+14.1	+11.5
	Volume	124.7	105.2	-19.6	-15.7	+9.1	+9.5	+4.3	+4.2
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	159.9	168.8	+8.9	+5.6	+32.7	+24.1	+30.3	+25.1
	Volume	130.5	131.2	+0.6	+0.5	+15.5	+13.4	+15.4	+13.8
Consumer durable goods *	Value	162.4	156.8	-5.6	-3.5	+24.1	+18.2	+37.5	+30.1
	Volume	145.6	138.9	-6.7	-4.6	+16.8	+13.8	+29.2	+25.1
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	182.8	194.2	+11.4	+6.2	+39.8	+25.7	+66.8	+53.4
	Volume	152.9	161.0	+8.2	+5.3	+25.2	+18.6	+50.2	+44.8
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	147.7	129.7	-17.9	-12.1	+12.8	+11.0	+16.2	+13.1
	Volume	140.4	122.8	-17.5	-12.5	+10.8	+9.6	+14.0	+11.7
Department stores	Value	129.9	133.8	+3.9	+3.0	+9.1	+7.3	+16.6	+14.9
	Volume	107.5	106.7	-0.7	-0.7	-0.9	-0.8	+5.8	+5.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	135.7	129.5	-6.2	-4.6	+17.1	+15.2	+20.7	+18.0
	Volume	140.5	136.2	-4.3	-3.1	+21.6	+18.9	+25.6	+22.5
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	157.7	157.4	-0.3	-0.2	+27.3	+21.0	+23.5	+19.2
	Volume	134.2	133.5	-0.7	-0.5	+16.3	+13.9	+11.8	+10.3

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

SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS
FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 1992

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IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, 6,868 SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 34.5 MILLION NET REGISTERED TONS (NRT) ARRIVED HONG KONG, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1,349 (OR 24%) IN NUMBER AND OF 3.2 MILLION NRT (OR 10%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

THIS INFORMATION IS CONTAINED IN THE "HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT, JULY - SEPTEMBER 1992" PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED IN HONG KONG FROM INCOMING SHIPS WAS 15.1 MILLION TONNES, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

ANALYSING INCOMING SHIPS BY SHIP TYPE, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SEMI-CONTAINER VESSELS (+369), CONTAINER VESSELS (+344), CONVENTIONAL CARGO VESSELS (+77) AND DRY BULK CARRIERS (+60).

ANALYSING INCOMING SHIPS BY FLAG, MAJOR INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE NUMBER OF SHIPS REGISTERED IN CHINA (+390), PANAMA (+344), TAIWAN (+83) AND LIBERIA (+75).

THE NUMBER OF INCOMING SHIPS WITH A CAPACITY OF LESS THAN 10,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS INCREASED BY 1,009 WHILE THE NUMBER OF THOSE WITH A LARGER CAPACITY INCREASED BY 340.

IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, THERE WERE 6,844 OUTGOING SHIPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 34.4 MILLION NRT, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1,313 (OR 24%) IN NUMBER AND OF 3.3 MILLION NRT (OR 11%) IN CAPACITY OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS WAS 6.8 MILLION TONNES, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 6%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF OUTGOING SHIPS BY SHIP TYPE, FLAG, AND CAPACITY WERE ABOUT THE SAME AS THOSE RECORDED FOR INCOMING SHIPS, AS ABOUT 70% OF THE DEPARTING SHIPS STAYED IN HONG KONG FOR LESS THAN TWO DAYS.

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, 87% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE SEABORNE IMPORTS AND 13% WERE SEABORNE TRANSHIPMENT CARGO. OF THE CARGO LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, 68% WERE SEABORNE EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AND 32% WERE SEABORNE TRANSHIPMENT CARGO.

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF LOADING FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS WERE JAPAN (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 14% IN TONNAGE TERMS), SINGAPORE (13%), THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (12%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (9%), TAIWAN (9%), CHINA (9%) AND THE USA (7%); WHILE THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DISCHARGE FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS WERE THE USA (WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR 25% IN TONNAGE TERMS), CHINA (16%), TAIWAN (11%), JAPAN (4%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (4%), SINGAPORE (4%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (3%).

SEABORNE TRANSHIPMENT CARGO WAS MAINLY LOADED IN CHINA (32%), TAIWAN (13%) AND THE USA (11%), AND WAS MAINLY DISCHARGED IN CHINA (18%) AND THE USA (16%).

COMPARING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA (+83%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+63%), THE NETHERLANDS (+60%) AND INDONESIA (+29%); WHILE MAJOR DECREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA (-50%), THE U S A (-19%) AND CHINA (-19%). AS A WHOLE, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE IMPORTS ROSE BY 1%.

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF MACHINERY (+59%), OTHER CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS (+34%) AND IRON AND STEEL (+16%); WHILE MAJOR DECREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE IMPORTS OF COAL, COKE AND BRIQUETTES (-4%) AND PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (-2%).

COMPARING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 WITH THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991, THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF SEABORNE EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS) INCREASED BY 9%.

MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO VIETNAM (+33%), THE NETHERLANDS (+32%), THE USA (+26%), AUSTRALIA (+16%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+13%); WHILE MAJOR DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS TO JAPAN (-10%), CHINA (-8%) AND SINGAPORE (-7%).

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, MAJOR INCREASES IN TONNAGE WERE NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF PLASTIC MANUFACTURES (+66%), TOYS (+29%), MACHINERY (+28%) AND OTHER MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (+17%); WHILE A MAJOR DECREASE WAS NOTED FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND RELATED MATERIALS (-9%).

OF THE CARGO DISCHARGED FROM INCOMING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE IMPORTS AND SEABORNE INWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 42% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE WERE CONTAINERISED CARGO. OF THOSE LOADED ONTO OUTGOING SHIPS, INCLUDING SEABORNE EXPORTS AND SEABORNE OUTWARD TRANSHIPMENT, 83% WERE CONTAINERISED CARGO.

THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE IMPORTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 ROSE BY 9% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

IN TERMS OF TONNAGE, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 35% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS. IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR A LARGE PROPORTION OF SEABORNE IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (87%), TAIWAN (82%), THE NETHERLANDS (77%) AND THE USA (77%).

AMONG THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR, IN TONNAGE TERMS, 99% OF SEABORNE IMPORTS OF ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, 95% OF PAPER, PAPERBOARD AND ARTICLES THEREOF, 95% OF TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS, AND 94% OF OTHER MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL.

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THE TOTAL TONNAGE OF CONTAINERISED SEABORNE EXPORTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 ROSE BY 14% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991.

FOR SEABORNE EXPORTS, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR 76% IN TERMS OF TONNAGE. IN PARTICULAR, CONTAINERISED CARGO ACCOUNTED FOR ALL SEABORNE EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA; AND ALMOST ALL TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE USA AND JAPAN.

SEABORNE EXPORTS OF SOME PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES WERE ALL OR NEARLY ALL CONTAINERISED. THESE INCLUDED TOYS; ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES; OTHER MANUFACTURED ARTICLES; OTHER MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL AND MACHINERY.

SHIPPING STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ARE COMPILED PRIMARILY FROM GENERAL DECLARATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT BY SHIP MASTERS OR AUTHORISED SHIPPING AGENTS AND COVER ALL OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ENTERING AND LEAVING HONG KONG, EXCLUDING YACHTS AND PLEASURE CRAFT.

CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS ARE COMPILED FROM A SAMPLE OF CONSIGNMENTS LISTED IN THE OCEAN CARGO MANIFESTS SUPPLIED BY SHIPPING COMPANIES OR AGENTS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT. THE SAMPLING METHOD IS DESCRIBED IN THE EXPLANATORY NOTES OF THE REPORT.

MORE DETAILS ON SHIPPING AND CARGO STATISTICS OF OCEAN-GOING VESSELS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992 ARE CONTAINED IN THE 'HONG KONG SHIPPING STATISTICS REPORT, JULY - SEPTEMBER 1992'.

THIS REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT \$36.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON STATISTICS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND SHIPPING STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4887.

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EXPEDITIOUS TEXTILE EXPORT LICENSING SERVICE

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TEXTILE EXPORTERS FACING UNFORESEEN URGENCY TO OBTAIN EXPORT LICENCES ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE USE OF AN EXPEDITIOUS SERVICE OPERATED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT.

IN A NOTICE TO EXPORTERS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY), TRADERS ARE TOLD THAT TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS CAN BE PROCESSED AND BE READY FOR ISSUE WITHIN 24 HOURS, BARRING ANY INTERVENING HOLIDAYS.

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HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT SAID REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITIOUS ISSUE WOULD ONLY BE ENTERTAINED IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE APPLICANT, FOR ACCEPTABLE REASONS, COULD NOT WAIT FOR THE NORMAL TWO CLEAR WORKING DAYS FOR THE ISSUE OF TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES.

"AS A GENERAL RULE, NOT MORE THAN FIVE REQUESTS FOR THIS SERVICE FROM EACH COMPANY WILL BE ENTERTAINED DURING ANY ONE MONTH.

"AND THIS SERVICE MAY BE SUSPENDED IN RESPECT OF APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND TO HAVE MADE USE OF THE SERVICE MORE FREQUENTLY THAN IS CONSIDERED REASONABLE," HE ADDED.

ALL REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITIOUS LICENSING SERVICE HAVE TO BE MADE ON A SPECIAL REQUEST FORM AVAILABLE AT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT AND SUPPORTED BY DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING UNFORESEEN URGENCY.

EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH A REQUEST MAY BE ENTERTAINED INCLUDE CASES WHERE THERE ARE LAST MINUTE CHANGES TO THE SHIPMENT DATE REQUIRED BY THE BUYER; WHERE A LICENCE HAS BEEN LOST IN A NATURAL DISASTER, OR WHERE THERE HAS BEEN UNFORESEEN DELAY IN THE DEPARTURE DATE OF THE VESSEL BEYOND THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF A LICENCE.

A TOTAL OF 372,095 TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES TO THE UNITED STATES MARKET WAS ISSUED LAST YEAR, OUT OF WHICH 1.5 PER CENT WERE PROCESSED UNDER THE EXPEDITIOUS SERVICE.

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136,000 STUDENTS TAKE PART IN CAREERS QUIZ

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WINNERS OF THE CAREERS QUIZ '93 WHICH ATTRACTED A RECORD NUMBER OF 136,220 STUDENTS FROM 285 SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES AT A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD IN EARLY MARCH.

THE CAREERS QUIZ IS ORGANISED BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THE QUIZ AIMS AT AROUSING STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING A SUITABLE CAREER AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO SEEK INFORMATION ON CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES.

"THE CAREERS QUIZ IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO'93 WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE FROM FEBRUARY 18 TO 21," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER MRS CLARE SIU SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE EXPOSITION, ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR THE SECOND TIME, WILL FEATURE MORE THAN 183 EXHIBITORS FROM A WIDE RANGE OF TRADES, INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AS WELL AS LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTES," SHE SAID.

"THE CAS WILL ALSO ARRANGE A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES DURING THE EXPOSITION, INCLUDING CAREERS TALKS BY PROFESSIONALS, VIDEO SHOWS AND STUDENT GROUP VISITS," MRS SIU ADDED.

IN THIS YEAR'S QUIZ, THE THREE WINNING SCHOOLS IN FORM 3, 4 AND 5 SECTIONS ARE STFA LEUNG KAU KUI COLLEGE, CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE S C CHAN MEMORIAL COLLEGE AND KOWLOON TRUE LIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL RESPECTIVELY.

THEY AND THE TWO RUNNERS-UP OF EACH SECTION WILL BE AWARDED A TROPHY.

THE HIGHEST-SCORING STUDENT IN THE THREE SECTIONS ARE WONG CHI-LING OF KOWLOON TRUE LIGHT MIDDLE SCHOOL (FORM 3), YEUNG WING-SHUN OF CMA PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL (FORM 4) AND TAM KWOK-LEUNG OF STFA TAM PAK YU COLLEGE (FORM 5).

THEY WILL EACH BE AWARDED A PERSONAL COMPUTER AND THE THREE RUNNERS-UP OF EACH SECTION WILL EACH BE AWARDED A LANGUAGE SET.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN EACH SECTION WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES AND SOUVENIRS.

ALL THE PRIZES ARE SPONSORED BY THE PHILIPS HONG KONG LIMITED.

"ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ QUESTIONS WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO '93. PARTICIPATING STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE EXHIBITION AND CHECK THE CORRECT ANSWERS."

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY

OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON THURSDAY,
(FEBRUARY 4) UP TO 4.30 PM

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MORNING

- 1. HEARING IN "OPEN SESSION" AT COURT NO. 10 IN THE SUPREME COURT BY MR JUSTICE BOKHARY.

[NOTE: REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS APPEARING IN THE ABOVE HEARING INCLUDED MR K Y TSANG, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND MR C C CHEUNG, CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER FROM FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND DR K K LAI, SENIOR EXECUTIVE MANAGER (PROFESSIONAL SERVICES) FROM HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.]

AFTERNOON

- 2. DISCUSSION WITH DR LEONG CHE-HUNG.
- 3. STUDYING VERBATIM REPORTS OF THE PREVIOUS HEARINGS.
- 4. CORRESPONDENCE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 115.1 *+0.1*	4.2.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.17 PCT	12 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.62	3.92
1 MONTH	3.38 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	101.61	4.24
3 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.81	4.55
6 MONTHS	3.38 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.625	99.81	4.79
12 MONTHS	3.96 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 21,485 MN

CLOSED 4 FEBRUARY 1993

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