



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1991

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LORD CAITHNESS VISITS VM DETENTION CENTRE
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THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, LORD CAITHNESS, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED THE SEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE FOR VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS (VM'S).

ACCOMPANIED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, AND THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, LORD CAITHNESS TRAVELLED TO SEK KONG BY HELICOPTER.

ON ARRIVAL, HE WAS MET BY THE POLICE REGIONAL COMMANDER OF THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION, MR TOBY EMMET; POLICE SUPERINTENDENT OF SEK KONG DETENTION CENTRE, MR GRAEME SUTHERLAND; AND DEPUTY OF MISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), MS CATHERINE BERTRAND.

LORD CAITHNESS THEN TOURED THE CENTRE. HE FIRST WENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION BLOCK WHERE HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE CAMP AND LATEST DEVELOPMENTS THERE BY MR SUTHERLAND.

MANAGED BY THE POLICE, THE CENTRE IS PROVIDED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES BY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNHCR.

LORD CAITHNESS LEARNT THAT CURRENTLY, SEK KONG ACCOMMODATES ABOUT 7,500 VM'S, MORE THAN ONE THIRD OF WHOM ARE CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OLD. ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION ARE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WHILE THE REST ARE NORTHERNERS.

LORD CAITHNESS LATER VISITED THE KINDERGARTEN, THE SCHOOL COMPOUND, THE FACTORY AND DORMITORIES OF THE CAMP.

HE WAS TOLD THAT ABOUT 400 VIETNAMESE ARE AT PRESENT EMPLOYED BY THE MANAGEMENT IN A VARIETY OF SERVICES WHILE SOME ARE EMPLOYED AS HELPERS BY VARIOUS VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE UNHCR.

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FRIENDLY AND USEFUL MEETING ON AIRPORT WITH LU : GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID HIS VISIT TODAY (THURSDAY) TO SHENZHEN WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO MEET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL, MR LU PING, AND TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT HOW TO CARRY FORWARD THE WORK CONNECTED WITH THE AIRPORT WHICH IS LAID OUT IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN FROM SHENZHEN, SIR DAVID SAID: "I WOULD DESCRIBE IT AS A FRIENDLY MEETING AND AS A USEFUL MEETING AND CERTAINLY ALL THE POINTS I WANTED TO GET ACROSS, I GOT ACROSS."

/"SO WHAT

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"SO WHAT WE DID WAS GO THROUGH SOME OF THE MATTERS IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND I EXPLAINED TO HIM, FOR INSTANCE, WHAT MY THINKING WAS ON THE SETTING UP OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE; WHAT MY THINKING WAS ON THE SETTING UP OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO REPLACE THE PRESENT PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE TIMING OF THAT; AND ALSO THE QUESTION OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WHICH COMES UNDER THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP," HE SAID.

"SO WE WERE ABLE TO GO THROUGH THOSE THINGS AND TOUCH ON ONE OR TWO OTHER SUBJECTS AND IT WAS A WAY OF DOING IT IN AN INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID ALTHOUGH TODAY'S MEETING WAS A ONE-OFF THING, HE WOULD BE HAVING REGULAR MEETINGS WITH MR LU PING, AS SET OUT IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

"IT WAS A CHANCE FOR ME TO EXPLAIN THINKING ON, FOR INSTANCE, THE SORT OF GENERAL APPROACH TO THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, THAT IT SHOULD BE A BODY WHICH BROUGHT IN DIFFERENT SORTS OF EXPERTISE, AND BROUGHT IN DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW SO THAT PEOPLE COULD REFLECT THOSE POINTS OF VIEW," SIR DAVID SAID.

"BUT NOT TOO LARGE, YOU DON'T WANT SOMETHING WHICH IS SO LARGE THAT IT'S NOT EASY TO MANAGE AND IT SPENDS ITS WHOLE TIME TALKING WITH DIVERSE VIEWS, BECAUSE ONE POINT ABOUT THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IS THAT IT IS TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS CONNECTED TO THE AIRPORT, BUT NOT TO HOLD UP THE AIRPORT PROJECT. AND THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT IT," HE ADDED.

ASKED IF CHINA SHOULD HAVE A MAJOR SAY IN PUTTING FORWARD ITS OWN NAMES FOR THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, HE SAID: "I WILL TELL THE CHINESE SIDE WHO I AM THINKING OF APPOINTING AND I WILL LISTEN TO IDEAS THAT THEY HAVE GOT BEFORE MAKING THE ACTUAL DECISION IN THE END. THE DECISION IN THE END ON WHO TO APPOINT IS MINE, BUT I'M QUITE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO IDEAS."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE HOPED THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED.

"I HOPE, INCIDENTALLY THAT THAT COMMITTEE WILL ALSO GIVE US, YET ANOTHER CHANCE TO TRY TO EXPLAIN TO PEOPLE WHAT THE WHOLE PROJECT IS ABOUT.

"ONE OF THE THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO DO NOW IS TO MAKE MORE EFFORTS TO GET OUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE WHOLE PROJECT. WE ARE GOING TO, FOR INSTANCE, BE SETTING UP A READING ROOM SO THAT ALL THE MASS OF DOCUMENTS, CONSULTATIVE REPORTS AND SO ON, ARE THERE AVAILABLE FOR ANYBODY TO READ," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WAS CRUCIAL BECAUSE IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE INVOLVED IN BUILDING THE AIRPORT.

"THAT'S WHAT WE WANT TO SET UP BY LET'S SAY, ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR. IT NEEDS LEGISLATION SO I CAN'T BE PRECISE, IT DEPENDS HOW LONG THE LEGISLATION TAKES TO GET THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE UNDER THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP HAD VERY SPECIFIC AND LIMITED TASKS AS LAID OUT IN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

"THERE ARE ALREADY EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT WHAT SORT OF A GROUP IT SHOULD BE, AND I WAS EXPLAINING TO MR LU PING, OUR THINKING ABOUT THAT; THAT IT SHOULD BE A SMALLISH SIZE GROUP ON WHICH THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WHO HAD THE RIGHT SORT OF SPECIALIST EXPERTISE," HE SAID.

"BUT ALSO THAT IT SHOULD BE A FLEXIBLE SORT OF ORGANISATION, SO IF THEY NEEDED TO ADD EXPERTS ON TO IT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SO JUST LIKE THE JLG DOES," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE CHINESE WERE SUPPORTIVE OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT: "THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN THAT. NO CHANGE AT ALL IN THAT, QUITE THE CONTRARY; QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY DO SUPPORT IT; QUITE CLEAR THAT THEY WANT IT TO BE GOT ON WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE ALSO TOUCHED ON OTHER ISSUES WHEN HE MET WITH MR LU, SUCH AS VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS ARRIVING HERE; THE PROBLEM OF PEOPLE COMING THROUGH CHINA, THROUGH GUANGXI AND GUANGDONG; AND THE QUESTION OF CO-OPERATION ON POLICE MATTERS.

"I SAID THAT I WAS VERY KEEN TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN GUANGDONG TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL, CROSS-BORDER CRIMES, SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS AND SO ON," SIR DAVID SAID.

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TALKS ON MFA EXTENSION

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, WILL LEAVE FOR GENEVA THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING FOR THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE EXTENSION OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT (MFA).

THE MFA WILL EXPIRE ON JULY 31. SIGNATORIES NEED TO DECIDE BEFORE THEN ITS FUTURE.

AN EXTENSION OF THE ARRANGEMENT IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS A BRIDGING DEVICE PENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENT ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

"DESPITE CONTINUOUS DISCUSSIONS SINCE MAY, EXPORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE TERMS FOR EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT," MR FOOTMAN SAID.

"THERE WILL BE TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN THE DAYS AHEAD, BUT I AM REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A BALANCED DECISION CAN BE REACHED BY THE END OF JULY," HE ADDED.

/IN PARALLEL

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IN PARALLEL TO THE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS, PARTICIPANTS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING NEXT WEEK OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TNC) WHICH OVERSEES PROGRESS OF THE ROUND.

MR FOOTMAN SAID THE TNC MEETING, TO BE HELD ON JULY 30, WOULD BE THE FIRST GATHERING OF ALL THE URUGUAY ROUND PARTICIPANTS AFTER THE LONDON G-7 ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

"IT WILL TAKE STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTS AND CONSIDER THE WAY FORWARD.

"I WILL EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO SEE HOW THEY SEE TIMING OF THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS AND WHETHER THEY CAN BE CONCLUDED IN 1991," MR FOOTMAN SAID.

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NOMINATIONS FOR LEGCO ELECTIONS STARTS MONDAY
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NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY (JULY 29) AND WILL LAST FOR TWO WEEKS UNTIL AUGUST 12, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, AND THE DIRECT ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 15.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR SUEN SAID THE POLLING HOURS WILL BE FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM FOR ALL FUNCTIONAL OR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES, EXCEPT THE URBAN COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY, REGIONAL COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY AND THE RURAL CONSTITUENCY IN VIEW OF THEIR SMALL SIZE.

MR SUEN SAID NOMINATION FORMS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, AND CANDIDATES OR THEIR PROPOSER OR SECONDER COULD HAND IN THE COMPLETED FORMS TO THE RETURNING OFFICER OR ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICERS FOR THE CONSTITUENCY DURING OFFICE HOURS ON ANY WORKING DAY, EXCLUDING SATURDAYS.

HE CALLED ON INTENDING CANDIDATES NOT TO LEAVE THEIR NOMINATIONS TO THE LAST MINUTE AS THERE MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TIME LEFT TO MAKE ANY RECTIFICATION BEFORE THE CLOSE OF NOMINATION IF A MISTAKE WAS DISCOVERED.

ON PUBLICITY ARRANGEMENTS, THE SECRETARY SAID A MASSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN GEARED MAINLY TO MOTIVATING THE ELECTORATE TO TAKE PART IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WAS BEING HELD.

/"THE PUBLICITY

"THE PUBLICITY PROGRAMME WILL COVER ALL STAGES OF THE ELECTIONS FROM NOW UP TO SEPTEMBER, USING A WIDE VARIETY OF FORMS OF PRESENTATION AS WELL AS ALL SOURCES OF MEDIA AS FAR AS IS PRACTICABLE," HE ADDED.

MR SUEN SAID MAJOR NEW ELECTORAL MEASURES WOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED FOR THE FAIR AND ORDERLY CONDUCT OF THE SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS. THESE WOULD COVER CANVASSING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE POLLING STATIONS, BANNER CONTROL SCHEME, AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED.

MR SUEN SAID CANVASSING ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE POLLING STATIONS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO STRICTER CONTROL, WITH THE CLEAR DELINEATION OF BUFFER ZONES AND PASSAGES FOR VOTERS OUTSIDE THE PROBLEMATIC POLLING STATIONS.

"INSIDE THESE BUFFER ZONES, ONLY A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF CAMPAIGNING AIDES, OTHER THAN THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR ELECTION AGENTS, WILL BE ALLOWED TO CANVASS FOR VOTES," HE SAID.

"POLICE PRESENCE AT THESE STATIONS WILL ALSO BE INCREASED," HE ADDED.

ON THE DISPLAY OF BANNERS, MR SUEN SAID SPOTS IN KEY AREAS WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO CANDIDATES AFTER THE CLOSE OF NOMINATION. BEFORE THEN THERE WOULD BE A SANITISATION PERIOD, AND ALL DISPLAYS IN KEY AREAS WOULD BE REMOVED BEFORE MONDAY.

AS FOR ELECTION RELATED PUBLICITY MATERIALS IN NON KEY AREAS, PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES COULD APPLY TO THE DISTRICT LAND OFFICERS FOR PERMISSION TO DISPLAY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THOSE WITHOUT PERMISSION WOULD BE REMOVED.

MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FACILITATE PHYSICALLY DISABLED ELECTORS TO CAST THEIR VOTES IN SEPTEMBER.

"PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED VOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A POLLING STATION WHICH PRESENTS THEM WITH AN ACCESS PROBLEM CAN CALL OUR HOTLINE, 827 1122 FOR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE TO SWITCH THEM TO ANOTHER NEARBY POLLING STATION WHICH CAN BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THEM.

"VOTERS CONCERNED CAN CALL UP EITHER BEFORE THE ELECTION OR ON ELECTION DAY ITSELF TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS," HE SAID.

ON THE COUNTING OF VOTES, MR SUEN SAID COUNTING MACHINES WOULD BE USED TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE COUNTING PROCESS AND TO IMPROVE ITS RELIABILITY.

IMPROVEMENTS HAD ALSO BEEN MADE TO THE POLL CARD TO MAKE IT MORE USER FRIENDLY, MR SUEN SAID. IT HAS BEEN REDESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT THE DESIGNATED POLLING STATION WHERE AN ELECTOR IS TO VOTE AND TO CARRY THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT ANY REGISTERED ELECTOR COULD ALSO VOTE AT THE DESIGNATED POLLING STATION ON PRODUCTION OF HIS/HER IDENTITY CARD.

STRESSING THAT THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAD A CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE, MR SUEN CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO GIVE THEIR ARDENT SUPPORT FOR THIS HISTORICAL EVENT.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1991

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WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED A MARGINAL DECREASE IN JUNE, RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE MARKEDLY, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS RECORDED AN EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT GROWTH.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$18,812 MILLION IN JUNE, WAS \$33 MILLION OR 0.2% LOWER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE MARKEDLY, BY \$8,119 MILLION OR 23.7% TO \$42,315 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$8,086 MILLION OR 15.2% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$61,127 MILLION IN JUNE.

MEANWHILE, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$11,571 MILLION OR 22.2% TO \$63,592 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$2,465 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.9% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JUNE 1991.

THIS COMPARES WITH A SURPLUS OF \$1,020 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN JUNE 1990.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, AT \$104,925 MILLION, INCREASED BY \$4,387 MILLION OR 4.4% OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$50,016 MILLION OR 27.3% TO \$233,113 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR, AT \$338,038 MILLION, WAS THUS \$54,403 MILLION OR 19.2% HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR.

MEANWHILE, IMPORTS GREW BY \$67,388 MILLION OR 23.1% TO \$359,221 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$21,183 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.9% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

THE DEFICIT RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 WAS \$8,198 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.8% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW MUCH FASTER THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED FURTHER, FROM 65% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1990 TO 69% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

/THERE WAS

THERE WAS A SUSTAINED GROWTH IN RETAINED IMPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, AT 18% IN VALUE TERMS OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

ALTHOUGH THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A LARGER VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT, IT SHOULD LEAD TO A BETTER PERFORMANCE FOR THE ECONOMY IN TERMS OF DOMESTIC DEMAND AND POSSIBLY ALSO DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE 1991:

TRADE FIGURES FOR JUNE, 1991

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS :	\$18,812 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS :	\$42,315 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS :	\$61,127 MILLION	
	IMPORTS :	\$63,592 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE :	\$2,465 MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	APR 91 TO	APR 90 TO	INCREASE/DECREASE	
	JUN 91	JUN 90	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	56,425	54,078	2,347	4.3
RE-EXPORTS	128,753	99,948	28,805	28.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	185,178	154,026	31,152	20.2
IMPORTS	196,546	159,152	37,394	23.5
TRADE BALANCE	-11,368	-5,126	-6,242	.

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JUNE	JUNE	INCREASE/DECREASE	
	1991	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,812	18,845	-33	-0.2
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.8%)	(35.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	42,315	34,196	8,119	23.7
TOTAL EXPORTS	61,127	53,041	8,086	15.2
IMPORTS	63,592	52,021	11,571	22.2
TRADE BALANCE	-2,465	1,020	-3,485	

LAST MONTH	JUNE	MAY	INCREASE/DECREASE	
	1991	1991	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,812	19,431	-619	-3.2
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(30.8%)	(30.2%)		
RE-EXPORTS	42,315	44,924	-2,609	-5.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	61,127	64,355	-3,228	-5.0
IMPORTS	63,592	67,138	-3,546	-5.3
TRADE BALANCE	-2,465	-2,783	318	

CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-JUN 1991	JAN-JUN 1990	INCREASE/DECREASE	
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS (% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	104,925 (31.0%)	100,538 (35.4%)	4,387	4.4
RE-EXPORTS	233,113	183,097	50,016	27.3
TOTAL EXPORTS	338,038	283,635	54,403	19.2
IMPORTS	359,221	291,833	67,388	23.1
TRADE BALANCE	-21,183	-8,198	-12,985	

LAST 12 MONTHS	JUL 90 TO JUN 91	JUL 89 TO JUN 90	INCREASE/DECREASE	
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.	%
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	230,262	222,585	7,677	3.4
RE-EXPORTS	464,015	368,406	95,609	26.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	694,277	590,991	103,286	17.5
IMPORTS	709,919	577,991	131,928	22.8
TRADE BALANCE	-15,642	13,000	-28,642	

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WAGE INDEXES FOR MARCH 1991
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THE OVERALL NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR MARCH 1991 WAS 11.6 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MARCH 1990 AND 5.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1990, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE OVERALL REAL WAGE INDEX FOR MARCH 1991 WAS 1.2 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN MARCH 1990 AND 1.3 PER CENT LOWER THAN IN SEPTEMBER 1990.

WHILE THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX MEASURES CHANGES IN WAGE RATES IN MONEY TERMS, THE REAL WAGE INDEX, WHICH IS OBTAINED BY DEFLATING THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), MEASURES CHANGES IN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE WAGES RECEIVED.

WHEN COMPARED WITH MARCH 1990, THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX SHOWED THE FASTEST YEAR-ON-YEAR RATE OF INCREASE IN THE TRANSPORT SERVICES (15.3%), FOLLOWED BY BUSINESS SERVICES (14.4%), MANUFACTURING (11.6%), PERSONAL SERVICES (10.8%), AND WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (9.5%).

WHEN COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1990, THE LARGEST INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE BUSINESS SERVICES (6.6%), FOLLOWED BY WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS (5.9%), MANUFACTURING (5.7%), PERSONAL SERVICES (4.8%) AND TRANSPORT SERVICES (4.5%).

/THE WAGE

THE WAGE INDEXES ARE DERIVED FROM THE RESULTS OF THE HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY COVERS BOTH MANUAL AND NON-MANUAL WORKERS (EXCLUDING EMPLOYEES AT ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS) IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN FIVE MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS. THE BASE PERIOD OF THE WAGE INDEX IS MARCH 1982.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DREW ATTENTION TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE INDEXES AND THE INDEXES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WHICH ARE PUBLISHED AT QUARTERLY INTERVALS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WAGE RATES PROVIDE A MEASURE OF THE UNIT PRICE OF LABOUR, PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS A MEASURE OF PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

WAGE RATES REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF REMUNERATION FOR NORMAL HOURS OF WORK, AND ARE DEFINED TO INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AND SALARIES, COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE, MEAL BENEFITS, COMMISSION AND TIPS, GOOD ATTENDANCE BONUS AND NIGHT SHIFT ALLOWANCE, YEAR-END BONUS AND OTHER GUARANTEED AND REGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCES.

TOTAL PAYROLL IS THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT CASH PAYMENT THAT EMPLOYEES RECEIVE FROM EMPLOYERS, AND THEREFORE ALSO INCLUDES OVERTIME PAY AND OTHER NON-GUARANTEED AND IRREGULAR BONUSES AND ALLOWANCE.

HENCE, STATISTICS ON PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED TEND TO BE SENSITIVE TO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF HOURS ACTUALLY WORKED, THE TIMING OF THE PAYMENT OF BONUSES AND BACK-PAY, AND THE COMPOSITION OF THE LABOUR FORCE.

AS A RESULT, MOVEMENTS IN WAGES RATES DO NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM WITH THOSE IN PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THE SURVEY FINDINGS ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ON HALF-YEARLY SURVEY OF WAGES, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS STATISTICS VOL. I, MARCH 1991 WHICH WILL BE ON SALE SHORTLY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE.

THE VOL. II ISSUE OF THE REPORT CONTAINING DETAILED OCCUPATIONAL STATISTICS, SUCH AS WAGE RATES, NUMBER OF NORMAL HOURS OF WORK AND NUMBER OF STANDARD WORKING DAYS IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN MID AUGUST 1991.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WAGE INDEXES, PLEASE CONTACT THE WAGES AND LABOUR COSTS STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4744 OR 823 4747.

THE NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE INDEXES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1990 TO MARCH 1991 FOR SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 1 AND TABLE 2 RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE NOMINAL WAGE INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ARE GIVEN IN TABLE 3.

TABLE 1: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1990	SEPT. 1990	MAR. 1991	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ SEPT. 1990	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ MAR. 1990
MANUFACTURING	192.2	202.8	214.4	+5.7	+11.6
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	194.3	200.9	212.7	+5.9	+9.5
TRANSPORT SERVICES	229.9	253.5	265.0	+4.5	+15.3
BUSINESS SERVICES	235.4	252.7	269.3	+6.6	+14.4
PERSONAL SERVICES	224.4	237.2	248.6	+4.8	+10.8
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	199.1	210.3	222.2	+5.7	+11.6

TABLE 2: REAL WAGE INDEXES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS

SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1990	SEPT. 1990	MAR. 1991	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ SEPT. 1990	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ MAR. 1990
MANUFACTURING	111.2	111.2	109.9	-1.2	-1.2
WHOLESALE/RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	112.5	110.2	109.0	-1.1	-3.1
TRANSPORT SERVICES	133.0	139.1	135.8	-2.4	+2.1
BUSINESS SERVICES	136.2	138.6	138.0	-0.4	+1.3
PERSONAL SERVICES	129.9	130.1	127.4	-2.1	-1.9
ALL SECTORS ABOVE	115.2	115.3	113.8	-1.3	-1.2

TABLE 3: NOMINAL WAGE INDEXES FOR MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN THE
MANUFACTURING SECTOR

SELECTED MAJOR INDUSTRIES	INDEXES (MARCH 1982 = 100)				
	MAR. 1990	SEPT. 1990	MAR. 1991	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ SEPT. 1990	% CHANGE MAR. 1991/ MAR. 1990
GARMENTS	160.9	171.5	178.8	+4.3	+11.1
GLOVES	191.0	203.8	205.4	+0.8	+7.5
HANDBAGS	192.2	205.5	214.8	+4.5	+11.8
COTTON SPINNING/WEAVING	210.7	216.9	232.6	+7.2	+10.4
KNITTING	175.0	182.4	187.9	+3.0	+7.4
BLEACHING AND DYEING	207.7	218.0	230.0	+5.5	+10.7
PRINTING	238.5	267.2	280.0	+4.8	+17.4
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	184.1	190.1	208.6	+9.7	+13.3
METAL PRODUCTS	201.7	212.8	222.3	+4.5	+10.2
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	244.4	256.4	268.3	+4.6	+9.8
ELECTRONICS	228.4	241.1	261.6	+8.5	+14.5
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	243.4	245.2	256.8	+4.7	+5.5
MANUFACTURING	192.2	202.8	214.4	+5.7	+11.6

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METROPLAN BRINGS IMPROVEMENT TO ENVIRONMENT
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METROPLAN PROPOSALS WOULD RESULT IN GREAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE METROPOLITAN ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE DECENTRALISATION OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AND THE REDUCTION OR BUFFERING OF INDUSTRIAL/RESIDENTIAL INTERFACES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE TOPPING OUT CEREMONY OF KWAI CHUNG INTERNATIONAL CARGO CENTRE, WHICH HAS LAID CLAIM AS BEING THE TALLEST WAREHOUSE IN THE WORLD AT 31 STOREYS, MR WONG SAID FUTURE INDUSTRIES WOULD BE DECENTRALISED CLOSE TO THE PORT AND AIRPORT IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE HARBOUR.

/HE SAID

HE SAID THE CARGO CENTRE, WHOSE HEIGHT WILL EARN ITSELF AN ENTRY IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS, WAS STRATEGICALLY LOCATED NEAR THE NEW CONTAINER TERMINALS AT STONECUTTERS, TSING YI AND LANTAU ISLAND AND THE FUTURE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT.

"IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE INVESTORS OF THIS CARGO CENTRE DO NOT ONLY HAVE EYES ON THE PRESENT DEMANDS OF HONG KONG, BUT ALSO HAVE VERY GOOD FORESIGHT ABOUT WHAT THE CITY NEEDS AND WHERE THESE NEEDS LIE," HE SAID.

MR WONG ALSO NOTED THAT HONG KONG IS THE WORLD'S 11TH LARGEST TRADING ECONOMY.

"IT IS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AS WELL AS A REGIONAL CENTRE OF TRADE, MANUFACTURING, FINANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS. A RAPIDLY GROWING AMOUNT OF TRADE INCLUDING TRANSHIPMENT AND OUTWARD PROCESSING IS HANDLED HERE.

"THE PORT OF HONG KONG HANDLED 5.04 MILLION TEU'S (20-FEET EQUIVALENT UNITS) OF CONTAINERISED CARGO IN 1990.

"AS SUCH WELL-EQUIPPED WAREHOUSES WITH MODERN CARGO-HANDLING FACILITIES, LIKE THE KWAI CHUNG INTERNATIONAL CARGO CENTRE, WILL PROVIDE THE MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUED SUCCESS AS A WORLD TRADING ECONOMY," MR WONG ADDED.

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PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF MOON ON SATURDAY

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IF WEATHER PERMITS, A PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON WILL BE OBSERVABLE IN HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (JULY 27).

DETAILS OF THE ECLIPSE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	HONG KONG TIME	AZIMUTH DIRECTION	ELEVATION (DEGREES)
	-----	-----	-----
MOONRISE	6.48 PM (FRIDAY)	EAST-SOUTHEAST	0
MOON ENTERS PENUMBRA	0.48 AM (SATURDAY)	SOUTH	49
MIDDLE OF ECLIPSE	2.08 AM	SOUTH-SOUTHWEST	43
MOON LEAVES PENUMBRA	3.28 AM	SOUTHWEST	31
MOONSET	6.05 AM	WEST-SOUTHWEST	0

THE ECLIPSE WOULD BEST BE OBSERVED IN PLACES WITH NO OBSTRUCTION OF SIGHT TO THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST.

THE NEXT LUNAR ECLIPSE OBSERVABLE IN HONG KONG WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL DECEMBER 21 THIS YEAR.

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1991

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SHA HOSTS RECEPTION FOR VISITING CHINESE MAYORS

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR ALBERT LAM, TODAY (THURSDAY) ASKED A DELEGATION OF CHINESE MAYORS TO PASS ON THE GOOD WISHES AND A MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN CHINA.

HE NOTED THAT PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG HAD, ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE, BEEN ACTIVELY MOUNTING FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES TO HELP THE FLOOD VICTIMS.

MR LAM WAS HOSTING A COCKTAIL RECEPTION AT COLVIN HOUSE FOR A DELEGATION OF ABOUT 40 CHINESE MAYORS AND VICE MAYORS LED BY THE VICE MAYOR OF GUANGZHOU, MR WU LIANG.

THE VISITING DELEGATION IS IN HONG KONG TO ATTEND A SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN CITY CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT FROM JULY 21 TO 28.

DURING THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG, THE DELEGATION HAS BEEN VISITING PUBLIC CORPORATIONS, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS MUNICIPAL FACILITIES.

TODAY'S RECEPTION WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND GUESTS FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL, REGIONAL COUNCIL, HEUNG YEE KUK AND THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILD CARE SCHEME URGED

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PARENTS IN THE SAME NEIGHBOURHOOD ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE TURNS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY CARE FOR NEEDY CHILDREN.

THE PLEA WAS MADE TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR ANTHONY CHAN, WHEN ADDRESSING A JOINT GRADUATION CEREMONY OF DAY NURSERIES OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AT SHA TIN CITY HALL.

"APART FROM MAKING USE OF THE SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE, PARENTS CONCERNED SHOULD CONSIDER RUNNING A NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILD CARE SCHEME, PARENTS IN THE SAME NEIGHBOURHOOD TO TAKE TURNS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY CARE FOR CHILDREN.

"I THINK ALL OF YOU WILL SHARE A VIEW THAT IT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN CHILDREN," MR CHAN ADDED.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAD EXPANDED ITS OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES BY INCREASING THE PLACES AT 50 GOVERNMENT-AIDED NURSERIES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, AIMING AT ELIMINATING THE RISK OF HAVING YOUNG CHILDREN LEFT UNATTENDED AT HOME.

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"FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN, I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO CALL ON PARENTS TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE SERVICES, INSTEAD OF LEAVING THEIR CHILDREN ALONE AT HOME, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE," HE STRESSED.

HE NOTED THAT CHILD CARE SERVICES HAD TO BE EXPANDED CONTINUOUSLY TO COPE WITH THE NEEDS AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES, AS WELL AS WORKING MOTHERS.

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FIVE DISTRICT OFFICES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FREE LEGAL ADVICE
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FREE LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME, JOINTLY RUN BY THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) AND THE HONG KONG LAW SOCIETY (HKLS), WILL ONLY BE PROVIDED IN FIVE DISTRICT OFFICE CENTRES AS FROM NEXT WEDNESDAY (JULY 31).

A CNTA SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A MORE EFFECTIVE ALLOCATION OF VOLUNTEER LAWYERS AND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD AGREED TO REDUCE THE PRESENT NUMBER OF FREE LEGAL ADVICE CENTRES AT DISTRICT OFFICES, FROM EIGHT TO FIVE, AS REQUESTED BY THE HKLS.

"THE FIVE NEW CENTRES ARE AT WAN CHAI, SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN, YAU TSIM AND KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICES.

"THE OTHER CENTRES AT PRESENT PROVIDING THESE SERVICES IN EASTERN, WONG TAI SIN AND MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED," HE ADDED.

THE FIVE CENTRES WILL OPEN FROM 6.30 PM TO 8.30 PM ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

MONDAY	SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE
TUESDAY	WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE
	TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE
WEDNESDAY	YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE
	KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE

PEOPLE WISHING TO MAKE USE OF THE SCHEME MAY APPROACH ANY OF THE CNTA'S 20 PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICES CENTRES IN THE TERRITORY.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SCHEME CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CNTA'S CENTRAL TELEPHONE ENQUIRY CENTRE ON TEL. 835 1501.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REMINDED PEOPLE THAT THE "TEL-LAW" SERVICE WHICH CONTAINS TAPED LEGAL INFORMATION ON 65 TOPICS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE ON TEL. 521 3333 (10 LINES).

THIS SERVICE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, OPERATES FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON ALL WORKING DAYS, AND CLOSES ONLY DURING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1991

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DOCTORS INVITED TO REGISTER FOR SMS

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THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD HAS SENT OUT LETTERS TO ALL REGISTERED PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS CURRENTLY PRACTISING IN HONG KONG, INVITING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 1991/92.

THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE DOCTORS TO TAKE PART IN THIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

DOCTORS PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT YEAR HAVE TO RENEW THEIR CONTRACT WITH THE BOARD IF THEY WISH TO CONTINUE DOING SO.

THE REMUNERATION TO PARTICIPATING DOCTORS IS \$120 PER PUPIL PER YEAR.

IN ADDITION, A PER VISIT CHARGE OF \$13 MAY BE LEVIED ON EACH PUPIL, WITH MEDICINE SUPPLIED FREE FOR TWO DAYS IF MEDICATION IS REQUIRED. NO OTHER CHARGES MUST BE LEVIED ON STUDENTS.

THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED OUR LETTER OF INVITATION MAY CONTACT THE BOARD'S SECRETARIAT ON TEL. 894 9603, 576 4765 OR 576 3545.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR JOINING THE SCHEME IS AUGUST 6.

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WRITTEN DRIVING TEST COMPUTERISED

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CANDIDATES SITTING FOR THE WRITTEN DRIVING TEST AT THE KOWLOON DRIVING TEST CENTRE CAN CHOOSE TO TAKE THEIR TEST USING INTERACTIVE COMPUTERS INSTEAD OF PEN AND PAPER FROM NEXT MONTH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID FOUR COMPUTER TEST TERMINALS WITH MONITORS HAD BEEN INSTALLED AT THE KOWLOON DRIVING TEST OFFICE, PARK-IN COMMERCIAL CENTRE, NINTH FLOOR, DUNDAS STREET, KOWLOON AND WOULD COME INTO OPERATION NEXT THURSDAY (AUGUST 1) AS PART OF A PILOT SCHEME TO COMPUTERISE THE WRITTEN PART OF THE DRIVING TEST.

"THE CANDIDATE IS REQUIRED TO ANSWER A SET OF 20 QUESTIONS RANDOMLY SELECTED BY THE COMPUTER BY TOUCHING THE APPROPRIATE AREAS ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN. WAITING TIME FOR TEST RESULTS WILL BE SHORTENED AS TIME WILL BE SAVED SIGNIFICANTLY FOR MARKING TEST PAPERS," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE TEST FEE, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS NUMBER OF QUESTIONS AND CONTENTS, AND PASSING CRITERIA WERE THE SAME FOR BOTH FORMS OF TESTS.

A QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY CONDUCTED IN MAY LAST YEAR FOUND THAT THERE HAS BEEN GOOD PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE COMPUTERISED TEST. THE PILOT SCHEME IS TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF THE COMPUTERISED TEST AND A REVIEW WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1991

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A BUILDING IN YAU YAT TSUEN, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE AUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE LOCATED ON FLAT B AND ITS ROOF ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF FOOK SUN VILLA, 16 FA PO STREET.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 19 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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256 VM'S RETURNED TODAY
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A GROUP OF 256 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (THURSDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 140 MEN, 50 WOMEN, 39 BOYS AND 27 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 60TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 8,062 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	24.7.91	540
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	25.7.91	-21
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+21
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.4 *-0.1* 25.7.91		

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		24.7.91	25.7.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	5.89 PCT	6.04 PCT
	1 MONTH	6.07 PCT	6.12 PCT
	3 MONTHS	6.30 PCT	6.28 PCT
	6 MONTHS	6.41 PCT	6.38 PCT
	12 MONTHS	6.73 PCT	6.69 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		1,501 MN	5,446 MN

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