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EXCO APPROVES TAXI FARE INCREASES

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASES FOR URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES (NT) TAXIS WITH EFFECT FROM NOVEMBER 14 THIS YEAR TO COVER INCREASES IN THEIR OPERATING COSTS.

THE FARES WERE LAST REVISED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR.

URBAN TAXIS WILL RECEIVE AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 17.7 PER CENT, MUCH IN LINE WITH THE ESTIMATED RATE OF INFLATION OF 17 PER CENT DURING THE 22-MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY 1992 AND NOVEMBER 1993.

NT TAXIS WILL RECEIVE SLIGHTLY HIGHER INCREASES OF 19.2 PER CENT BECAUSE THEIR OPERATING COSTS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE RISEN 22.3 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 16.2 PER CENT FOR URBAN TAXIS DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

WITH THE INCREASES, AN URBAN TAXI'S FLAGFALL CHARGE WILL GO UP FROM \$9 TO \$11.5 FOR THE FIRST TWO KILOMETRES AND A NT TAXI'S FROM \$8 TO \$10.

FOR URBAN TAXIS, THE INCREMENTAL CHARGE FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT 0.2 KM WILL GO UP FROM \$0.9 TO \$1 AND FOR NT TAXIS, THE RISE WILL BE FROM \$0.8 TO \$0.9.

OTHER CHARGES ARE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

	EXISTING FARE -----	NEW FARE -----
URBAN TAXIS -----		
WAITING TIME CHARGE FOR EVERY ONE MINUTE	\$ 0.9	\$ 1.0
SURCHARGE ON BAGGAGE, ANIMALS OR BIRDS/ PER ITEM	\$ 4.0	\$ 5.0
SURCHARGE ON DIAL-A- TAXI SERVICE	\$ 4.0	\$ 5.0
NT TAXIS -----		
WAITING TIME CHARGE FOR EVERY ONE MINUTE	\$ 0.8	\$ 0.9
SURCHARGE ON BAGGAGE, ANIMALS OR BIRDS/ PER ITEM	\$ 4.0	NO CHANGE
SURCHARGE ON DIAL-A- TAXI SERVICE	\$ 2.0	\$ 4.0

/THE FARE

THE FARE INCREASES WILL ONLY RESULT IN A MARGINAL RISE OF 0.14 PER CENT IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IN APPROVING THE FARE INCREASES, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND VIEWS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TRANSPORT PANEL, TOGETHER WITH CRITERIA IN ASSESSING TAXI FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS, NAMELY THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF TAXI OPERATIONS, AVAILABILITY OF TAXIS, THE FARE DIFFERENTIAL WITH OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO IMPROVING LIVING ENVIRONMENT

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THE COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT IS A CENTRAL PART OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"IT IS AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THE WORK OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LDC) THAT THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY WITHIN WHICH PEOPLE HAVE FREEDOM TO DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITY LIFE AND TO MEET THEIR SOCIAL NEEDS," HE SAID.

HE WAS OFFICIATING AT A GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE LDC'S REDEVELOPMENTS AT WING LOK STREET AND JUBILEE STREET.

MR PATTEN SAID THE PROCESS OF RE-GENERATING DECAYING PARTS OF THE CITY AREA WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGES FACING THE COMMUNITY IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO MEET THE GOAL OF MAKING HONG KONG A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK IN.

CITING THIS PROJECT AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THAT PROCESS, HE SAID THE LDC AND ITS PARTNERS WOULD CHANGE ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RUN-DOWN AREAS OF THE CITY INTO AN EXTENSION OF THE "STATE-OF-THE-ART CITY CENTRE".

IT WILL BE A "NEW CENTRAL" WITH SPLENDID NEW USER-FRIENDLY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, MANY COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND 1,500 SQUARE METRES OF OPEN SPACE.

MR PATTEN POINTED OUT THAT WHILE MAKING GRAND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE AWARE OF THE EFFECTS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE ON PEOPLE TODAY.

HE WAS GLAD TO NOTE THAT REHOUSING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT WAS A PRIORITY FOR THE LDC.

IN THIS PROJECT, 19 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE BEEN REHOUSED AND 50 HAVE BEEN PAID CASH COMPENSATION. NONE REMAIN WITHOUT A PLACE TO LIVE.

MR PATTEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THE WORK OF THE LDC.

THE WORK OF RE-GENERATING AND TRANSFORMING THE CITY WILL CONTINUE, NOT JUST FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, BUT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, HE ADDED.

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TAC DISCUSSES FINANCIAL PENALTIES FOR BUS COMPANIES

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) ENDORSED PROPOSALS TO MAKE FRANCHISED BUS OPERATORS MORE RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC DEMAND FOR BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT SERVICES.

THE PROPOSALS SEEK TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ORDINANCE TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO IMPOSE FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON A ROUTE-BY-ROUTE BASIS UPON THE FAILURE OF A FRANCHISED OPERATOR TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDINANCE, THE CONDITIONS OF THE FRANCHISE OR ANY GOVERNMENT DIRECTIONS OR REQUIREMENTS.

THE PROPOSALS ALSO SEEK TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ANY SUCH PENALTIES, IF IMPOSED, CANNOT BE PASSED ON TO BUS PASSENGERS IN THE FORM OF HIGHER FARES.

SUCH FINANCIAL PENALTIES ARE PROVIDED FOR IN THE EXISTING ORDINANCE. THE EXISTING PENALTY IS \$10,000 FOR THE FIRST OCCASION, \$20,000 FOR THE SECOND OCCASION AND \$50,000 FOR THE THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS REGARDLESS OF THE EXTENT OF SUCH DEFICIENCIES.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENT TO DEAL WITH SERVICE DEFICIENCIES WORKED EFFECTIVELY AND IN MOST CASES, THE OPERATORS CONCERNED WERE ABLE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO RECTIFY ANY DEFICIENCY.

NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THE PROPOSAL TO IMPOSE PENALTIES IN PROPORTION TO THE EXTENT OF THE DEFICIENCIES WOULD BE A FAIRER APPROACH AND AT THE SAME TIME WOULD GIVE THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE TOOL TO DEAL WITH SERIOUS SERVICE DEFICIENCIES OR AN UNCO-OPERATIVE FRANCHISEE IN FUTURE.

IF TAC'S RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AN AMENDMENT BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHIN THE 1993/94 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

AT TODAY'S MEETING THE 1992/93 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) WAS TABLED FOR MEMBERS' INFORMATION.

DURING THE YEAR, THE UNIT HANDLED A TOTAL OF 10,583 COMPLAINTS, AN INCREASE OF 19.7 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT, THE TAC CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, SAID: "THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS IS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF TCU'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS AND DEMAND FOR BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES."

"MEMBERS HAVE ALSO ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE THAT THE COMPLAINTS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED AND APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," PROFESSOR LEUNG SAID.

MEMBERS ALSO WELCOMED A PROPOSAL TO PUT UP METAL PLATES LISTING TCU'S COMPLAINT HOTLINE AT MAJOR TAXI STANDS, RAILWAY STATIONS, FERRY CONCOURSES AND OTHER TERMINI.

AS REGARDS COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXIS, MEMBERS HAVE ASKED THE POLICE TO CONTINUE THEIR ACTION AGAINST SUCH MALPRACTICES ON A REGULAR BASIS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A DETERRENT EFFECT.

MORE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS IN 1992/93

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THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN 1992/93 INCREASED BY 20 PER CENT, TO 10,583, COMPARED WITH 8,843 IN 1991/92.

THE INCREASE IS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF TCU'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS AND DEMAND FOR BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES.

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE RETURN OF COMPLAINTS WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES REMAINED THE MAIN AREA OF CONCERN. THIS CATEGORY OF COMPLAINTS ACCOUNTED FOR 55 PER CENT OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

THERE WERE MORE COMPLAINTS AGAINST HONG KONG FERRY (+118 PER CENT FROM 51 TO 111); TRAMS (+83 PER CENT FROM 47 TO 86); ROAD MAINTENANCE (+59 PER CENT FROM 473 TO 752); TAXIS (+31 PER CENT FROM 2,009 TO 2,638); CHINA MOTOR BUS (+23 PER CENT FROM 586 TO 718) AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION (+22 PER CENT FROM 1,572 TO 1,913 CASES).

OF THE 111 COMPLAINTS AGAINST HONG KONG FERRY, ABOUT 50 PER CENT WERE ABOUT EITHER IRREGULARITY OR INADEQUACY OF SERVICES.

THE BIG INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST TRAMS, IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE IMPROPER USE OF THE AIR-HORN INTRODUCED IN AUGUST 1992.

THE COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD MAINTENANCE WERE MAINLY RELATED TO DEFECTIVE ROAD SURFACES AND MALFUNCTIONING OF TRAFFIC SIGNS AND AIDS.

THERE WERE FEWER COMPLAINTS AGAINST KOWLOON MOTOR BUS (-20 PER CENT FROM 1,283 TO 1,028) AND STAR FERRY (-88 PER CENT FROM EIGHT TO ONE).

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CUSTOMS PROMISE EFFICIENT AND COURTEOUS SERVICES

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED PERFORMANCE PLEDGES IN A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC.

THE SERVICES INCLUDE THE MAKING OF IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS, APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES AND PERMITS, THE CLEARANCE OF DETAINED CARGO AND BORDER-CROSSING VEHICLES, REQUESTS FOR CUSTOMS' ATTENDANCES, REGISTRATION AND CONSIGNMENT INSPECTIONS.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC. OUR INTENTION IS TO DELIVER SERVICES WITHIN THE TARGET STANDARDS SET OUT IN THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE TIME TAKEN TO MAKE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS AND TO PAY AD VALOREM CHARGES AT COLLECTION OFFICES, INCLUDING QUEUING TIME, RANGES FROM HALF AN HOUR TO TWO HOURS, DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF DAY AND THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICE.

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE WAITING TIME WOULD BE LONGER DURING PEAK HOURS AND AT PERIODS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

HE URGED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO RETURN AT ANOTHER TIME IF THEY FOUND THE COLLECTION OFFICE BUSY OR TO MAKE DECLARATIONS (FOR NON-DISKETTE ONLY) BY POST.

REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCES AND PERMITS, THE TARGET TIME IS 14 WORKING DAYS FOR NEW IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES FOR DUTIABLE COMMODITIES; TWO WORKING DAYS FOR REMOVAL PERMITS FOR DUTIABLE COMMODITIES AND PRESCRIBED ARTICLES LICENCES.

THE CLEARANCE OF DETAINED CARGO WILL TAKE SEVEN WORKING DAYS, FROM THE DATE OF REQUEST BY OWNER.

ON THE CLEARANCE OF BORDER-CROSSING VEHICLES, THE TARGET TIME IS ONE MINUTE, EXCEPT FOR VEHICLES THAT ARE SELECTED FOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION.

REGARDING APPLICATIONS FOR CUSTOMS' ATTENDANCE IN RESPECT OF BOND OPERATIONS, THE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED WITHIN THREE WORKING DAYS.

AS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND CONSIGNMENT INSPECTIONS, THE TIME FOR PRE-ISSUE CONSIGNMENT INSPECTIONS RELATING TO TEXTILE LICENCES WILL BE TWO WORKING DAYS.

SEVEN WORKING DAYS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PRE-ISSUE CONSIGNMENT INSPECTIONS RELATING TO NON-TEXTILE LICENCES; REGISTRATION AND RE-REGISTRATION INSPECTIONS UNDER THE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN SYSTEM AND THE RESERVED COMMODITIES SYSTEM.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PUBLIC WAS WELCOME TO COMMENT ON THE WAYS IN WHICH THE SERVICES WERE DELIVERED.

"OUR CUSTOMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO A FULL AND PROMPT EXPLANATION WHEN, DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, THE SERVICES PROVIDED ARE UNABLE TO MATCH THE STANDARDS SET."

SUGGESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS CAN BE RAISED IN PERSON TO THE OFFICE MANAGER ON THE SPOT.

THEY MAY ALSO WRITE TO THE STAFF OFFICER (SERVICE ADMINISTRATION) ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

"ALL COMPLAINTS, WHETHER ORAL OR WRITTEN, WILL BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY. AN INTERIM REPLY WILL BE GIVEN WITHIN 10 DAYS IF INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING," HE SAID.

IF ANYONE FEELS THAT THEIR CASE HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH ADEQUATELY, HE MAY WRITE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD SET UP CUSTOMER LIAISON GROUPS TO MONITOR THE STANDARDS OF ITS SERVICES DELIVERED.

"REPRESENTATIVES FROM MAJOR TRADES IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS A FACILITATING ROLE, FOR EXAMPLE THE AIR FREIGHT INDUSTRY, DUTIABLE COMMODITY DEALERS, AND MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS, WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN AS MEMBERS OF THE GROUPS."

"THE COMMISSIONER WILL PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF THE MONITORING EVERY YEAR," HE SAID.

A BILINGUAL LEAFLET LISTING THE STANDARDS OF THE SERVICES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC AT ALL CUSTOMS OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FROM NEXT MONTH.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR AUGUST

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RE-EXPORTS IN AUGUST MAINTAINED A STRONG GROWTH WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS CONTINUED TO DECLINE. IMPORTS RECORDED A NOTABLE INCREASE.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1993 ROSE BY \$11,959 MILLION OR 20% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$72,903 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY \$1,206 MILLION OR 5.8% TO \$19,627 MILLION.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN AUGUST 1993 GREW BY \$10,753 MILLION OR 13% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$92,530 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$13,663 MILLION OR 17% TO \$93,034 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$504 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 0.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN AUGUST 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF \$2,406 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN AUGUST 1992.

IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$525,195 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$94,238 MILLION OR 22% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$144,178 MILLION, WAS \$4,976 MILLION OR 3.3% LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$669,373 MILLION, WAS \$89,261 MILLION OR 15% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

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THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$91,468 MILLION OR 15% TO \$698,451 MILLION.

A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$29,078 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993. THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$26,871 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.4% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE THE MAIN IMPETUS TO GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE.

"THE EXPANSION IN RE-EXPORT VALUE SO FAR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN STRONG AND STEADY," HE SAID.

IN COMPARISON, THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IS LESS IMPRESSIVE, PARTLY OWING TO SLACKENED DEMAND IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS, AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE ONGOING STRUCTURAL SHIFT IN THE COMPOSITION OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS, HE ADDED.

THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS THUS ROSE FURTHER, FROM 74% IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1992 TO 78% IN THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1993.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS GREW BY 6.4%.

THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT PICK-UP IN THE GROWTH OF RETAINED IMPORTS IN AUGUST, BY 14% OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN AUGUST 1993, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-OCTOBER.

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/PROVISIONAL FIGURES

PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR AUGUST 1993

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$19,627 million
Re-exports :	\$72,903 million
Total Exports :	\$92,530 million
Imports :	\$93,034 million
Trade balance :	-\$504 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Jun 93 to	Jun 92 to	Change	
	Aug 93	Aug 92	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	59,506	63,325	-3,819	-6.0
(% of Total Exports)	(21.6%)	(25.9%)		
Re-exports	216,447	180,839	+35,608	+19.7
Total Exports	275,953	244,164	+31,789	+13.0
Imports	281,019	248,958	+32,061	+12.9
Trade balance	-5,067	-4,794	-272	

Same month last year	August	August	Change	
	1993	1992	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,627	20,833	-1,206	-5.8
(% of Total Exports)	(21.2%)	(25.5%)		
Re-exports	72,903	60,943	+11,959	+19.6
Total Exports	92,530	81,777	+10,753	+13.1
Imports	93,034	79,371	+13,663	+17.2
Trade balance	-504	2,406	-2,910	

Last month	August	July	Change	
	1993	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,627	21,369	-1,742	-8.2
(% of Total Exports)	(21.2%)	(21.8%)		
Re-exports	72,903	76,503	-3,600	-4.7
Total Exports	92,530	97,872	-5,342	-5.5
Imports	93,034	98,690	-5,656	-5.7
Trade balance	-504	-818	+314	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Change	
	1993	1992	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	144,178	149,155	-4,976	-3.3
(% of Total Exports)	(21.5%)	(25.7%)		
Re-exports	525,195	430,957	+94,238	+21.9
Total Exports	669,373	580,112	+89,261	+15.4
Imports	698,451	606,983	+91,468	+15.1
Trade balance	-29,078	-26,871	-2,206	

Last 12 months	Sep 92 to	Sep 91 to	Change	
	Aug 93	Aug 92	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	229,147	233,733	-4,587	-2.0
(% of Total Exports)	(22.6%)	(26.8%)		
Re-exports	785,067	636,973	+148,095	+23.2
Total Exports	1,014,214	870,706	+143,508	+16.5
Imports	1,046,763	890,907	+155,856	+17.5
Trade balance	-32,549	-20,201	-12,348	

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SAMPLES OF DRINKS TESTED
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON THE TESTING OF HORLICKS PRODUCT SAMPLES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID NO GLASS SPLINTERS WERE FOUND IN THE SAMPLES COLLECTED.

HE SAID THE SAMPLES INCLUDED BOTH OVAL- AND ROUND-SHAPED BOTTLES.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO CONFIRMED WITH THE HEALTH AUTHORITY IN SINGAPORE THAT THE HORLICKS PRODUCTS SUPPLIED BY THE COUNTRY FOR SALE IN HONG KONG WERE SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION.

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SIX MORE MEN INFECTED WITH HIV
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SIX MEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 395.

ONE AIDS CASE WAS REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 90, WITH 60 DEATHS. THE 30 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 395 PERSONS INFECTED, 287 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, NINE WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 65 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 34, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

SINCE THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 282,230 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAVE BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR HIV INFECTION.

UP TO AUGUST THIS YEAR, 1,295,605 UNITS OF BLOOD HAVE BEEN TESTED AND 27 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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PROSECUTION PROCEDURES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED UNDER REVIEW
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THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION AND SENSITIVE HANDLING OF CASES INVOLVING THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

IT IS REVIEWING ITS INTERNAL PROSECUTION PROCEDURES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

THE REMARK WAS MADE BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AFTER A DELEGATION OF 200 REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOCIAL SERVICES GROUPS AND MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CONCERNED GROUPS HANDED IN A PETITION TO THE JUDICIARY, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AND THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH, REQUESTING SEPERATE LEGISLATION AND A SPECIAL COURT FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

"THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO STUDY PROSECUTION PROCEDURES USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL CONSIDER VERY CAREFULLY ALL REPRESENTATIONS HE RECEIVES ON THE ISSUE OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED AND WILL REFLECT THE VIEWS AND WISHES OF CONCERNED GROUPS TO THE JUDICIARY, THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH AND A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP.

SINCE FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE WORKING GROUP CONVENED BY MR FRED LI WAH-MING.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, MR JOHN WOOD, WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO LEGISLATORS IN ADDRESSING THE WIDER ISSUES AFFECTING THE TREATMENT OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN COURT.

THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REHABILITATION, TO DISCUSS PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH ORDINANCE.

AS REGARDS THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S SUGGESTION TO SET UP A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE AND COMPRISING MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENT GROUPS, TO STUDY POSSIBLE CHANGES TO HELP HANDICAPPED PERSONS WHEN GIVING EVIDENCE IN A TRIAL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ALREADY REPLIED TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE TO SHOW HIS SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE AND HIS EAGERNESS TO CRYSTALISE SUCH A PROPOSAL.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REITERATED THAT IT HAD BEEN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT'S CONSISTENT POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ON ANY INDIVIDUAL CASE.

"IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR INDIVIDUAL CASE TO BE DISCUSSED SINCE THAT COULD LEAD INTO A DISCUSSION INTO GUILT OR INNOCENCE. THESE ARE MATTERS FOR THE COURTS, AND THE COURTS ALONE.

"THEREFORE, NO RRPRESENTATIVE FROM LEGAL DEPARTMENT WAS SENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP MEETING LAST THURSDAY TO BRIEF MEMBERS OF THE RAPE CASE OF A DEAF, MUTE, YOUNG WOMAN," HE EXPLAINED.

/HOWEVER, THE

HOWEVER, THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THE WORKING GROUP BY OFFERING ITS PROFESSIONAL ADVICE IN RESPECT OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED APPEARING IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL.

MR JOHN WOOD WROTE TO THE WORKING GROUP IN APRIL TO EXPRESS HIS WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND FURTHER MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THIS IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX MATTER.

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SPECIAL GROUP ON MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN COURT
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE JUDICIARY SAID TODAY (TUESDAY):

"THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, HAS APPOINTED A HIGH COURT JUDGE, MR JUSTICE MICHAEL WONG KIN-CHOW, TO CHAIR A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEMS OF MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT.

"THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION."

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REPORT ON MENTALLY HANDICAPPED COURT REFUTED
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A LEGAL DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REFUTED AN EVENING PAPER REPORT THAT SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS IN SUPPORT OF THE IDEA OF SETTING UP A SEPARATE COURT FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.

"THE MATTER IS FOR THE JUDICIARY TO DECIDE AND THE JUDICIARY HAS EXPRESSED ITS OPINION ON THE ISSUE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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PUBLIC INVITED TO JOIN EDUCATIONAL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE
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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO JOIN A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT IS SET UP TO MONITOR THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES LAUNCHED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

SELECTED MEMBERS MAY HAVE A DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE EDUCATION SERVICES MANAGER OF THE SERVING THE COMMUNITY UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES.

A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, MR HERMAN HU SHAO-MING, HAS BEEN APPOINTED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE.

APART FROM TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE SUB-COMMITTEE INCLUDES 11 MEMBERS REPRESENTING PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND THE PUBLIC. MEMBERS WILL BE APPOINTED FOR TWO YEARS.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL MEET FOUR TIMES A YEAR. THE MEETINGS WILL NORMALLY BE CONDUCTED IN CHINESE.

THE EDUCATION SERVICES MANAGER, MR ANTHONY TONG KAI-HONG, SAID: "WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CUSTOMERS OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE RESPONSIVENESS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITIES WOULD BE INCREASED,"

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO JOIN THE SUB-COMMITTEE CAN CONTACT THE SERVING THE COMMUNITY UNIT ON TEL 892 6157 OR BY FAX 893 0718 NEXT MONTH.

THEY CAN ALSO COMPLETE SUGGESTION FORMS AVAILABLE IN ALL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BRANCH OFFICES.

APPOINTMENT WILL BE DECIDED THROUGH AN OPEN RANDOM SELECTION PROCESS AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT A BALANCED REPRESENTATION OF THE DIFFERENT CUSTOMER GROUPS AND THEIR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS.

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INDUSTRIES AND GOVT JOIN HANDS TO KEEP EDGE

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BOTH MANUFACTURERS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVE POSITION, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY PREPARED TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN PROVIDING THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF "MINIMUM INTERVENTION AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT", HE ADDED.

MR CHAU WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE "TEXTILE AND GARMENT TECHNOLOGY" SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION HAD PLACED ON THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE DYEING AND FINISHING SECTOR.

"THE IMPACT OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION ON THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTOR HAS BEEN EXAMINED IN A RECENTLY COMPLETED CONSULTANCY STUDY ON 'SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS'.

"THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW UP ITS RECOMMENDATIONS VIGOROUSLY," HE SAID.

TO HELP TRADERS OVERCOME THE TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF PREPARING EXPORT DOCUMENTATION, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WAS COMMITTED TO PROCESSING EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE INTEGRITY OF THE TRADE CONTROL SYSTEMS, HE ADDED.

IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE PROCESSING OF EXPORT DOCUMENTS WOULD BE FURTHER FACILITATED THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE SYSTEM.

UNDER THE SYSTEM, TRADERS WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE EXPORT DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES THROUGH THE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGES.

MR CHAU PAID TRIBUTE TO THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD, PAST AND PRESENT.

"THEY HAVE GIVEN FREELY OF THEIR TIME AND ATTENTION AND WERE PRESENT TO PROVIDE ON-THE-SPOT ADVICE TO OUR NEGOTIATORS IN ALL OUR MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IN PURSUIT OF THE GREATER GOOD," HE SAID.

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420 SUMMONSES ISSUED ON MACHINE SAFETY

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FACTORY INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ISSUED 420 SUMMONSES AGAINST PROPRIETORS FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW SAFEGUARDING WORKERS' SAFETY, DURING A RECENTLY CONCLUDED MACHINERY AND SUMMER JOB SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS DETERMINED TO TAKE VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS WHO NEGLECTED THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM POTENTIAL HAZARDS," DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR KAN HON-SANG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"THIS CAN BE REFLECTED BY THE 398 SUMMONSES TAKEN OUT DURING A SIMILAR CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED LAST YEAR," HE SAID.

MR KAN POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS RESULTING FROM THE USE OF MACHINERY HAD BEEN DECLINING FROM SOME 8,800 IN 1988 TO ABOUT 4,100 LAST YEAR, EMPLOYERS HAVE THE DUTY TO PROVIDE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF GUARDS AS WELL AS INFORMATION OF POTENTIAL HAZARDS, SUPERVISION AND TRAINING TO MACHINE OPERATORS.

"IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO LEAVE A MACHINE UNGUARDED OR INADEQUATELY GUARDED. EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED OPERATORS CAN MAKE MISTAKES.

"DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINES, IF NOT PROPERLY GUARDED, OFTEN CAUSE SERIOUS ACCIDENTS RESULTING IN LOSS OF LIMBS OR EVEN DEATHS," HE SAID.

SOME MACHINES ARE PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS, SUCH AS POWER PRESSES, GRANULATORS, AND MACHINES USED IN WOODWORK PAPER AND CATERING INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS PRINTING AND PLASTICS FACTORIES.

"PROPER GUARDING OF MACHINERY CAN HELP AVOID INJURIES AT ALL TIMES AND GIVES CONFIDENCE TO OPERATORS," HE SAID.

MR KAN SAID DURING THE TWO-MONTH CAMPAIGN WHICH STARTED IN JULY, FACTORY INSPECTORS VISITED MORE THAN 10,000 INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS TO EXPLAIN TO EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFECTIVELY GUARDING THE DANGEROUS PARTS OF MACHINES.

MORE THAN 10,000 PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING POSTERS, PAMPHLETS AND LEAFLETS, WERE DISTRIBUTED.

"STUDENTS WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO VARIOUS KINDS OF RISK THAT MAY EXIST IN WORKPLACES AND SITES," HE SAID.

"THEREFORE, FACTORY INSPECTORS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUMMER JOB WORKERS IN THE MANUFACTURING, CATERING AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES DURING THEIR VISITS.

"SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS PAID ON WHETHER LIFTING APPLIANCES AND HEAVY PLANTS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ARE BEING OPERATED BY PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18," HE ADDED.

DURING THE INSPECTIONS, 119 INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WERE FOUND TO HAVE EMPLOYED SUMMER JOB WORKERS.

"BOTH THE PROPRIETORS AND WORKERS WERE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK SAFETY, AND LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO SUMMER JOB WORKERS."

MR KAN SAID A SUMMONS WAS ISSUED AGAINST A FACTORY PROPRIETOR FOR ENGAGING A SUMMER JOB WORKER TO OPERATE A DANGEROUS MACHINE.

HE APPEALED TO EMPLOYERS TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ENSURE MACHINERY SAFETY AND URGED WORKERS TO CO-OPERATE WITH EMPLOYERS IN TAKING NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.

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FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND CENTRAL
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LICENSED CATAMARAN FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN TUEN MUN AND CENTRAL WILL START OPERATION FROM THURSDAY (SEPTEMBER 30), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE MAXIMUM SINGLE JOURNEY FARES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN/HANDICAPPED WILL BE \$20 AND \$10 RESPECTIVELY.

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COMMUNITY CHEST WORKS QUIET WONDERS

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THE HELP OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST AND THE GENEROSITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TOGETHER ARE WORKING QUIET WONDERS ALL OVER THE TERRITORY, MRS PATTEN SAID AS SHE LAUNCHED THE CHEST'S 1993/94 FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN.

ONE GIFT HELPS TO PROVIDE LOVE AND CARE FOR AN ABANDONED BABY, TEACHES A NEW SKILL TO A SPASTIC PERSON, AND RESTORES DIGNITY AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TO A FORMER DRUG ADDICT, SHE SAID.

IT ALSO SUPPORTS A FAMILY IN TIME OF CRISIS AND MAKES AN OLD PERSON FEEL USEFUL AND LOVED, SHE ADDED.

STRESSING THAT A GRANT FROM THE CHEST WAS NOT SIMPLY A GIFT OF MONEY, MRS PATTEN SAID: "IT IS ALSO AN EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT, OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONCERN."

WHEN THE CHEST MAKES A GRANT TO HELP THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, IT IS SENDING A MESSAGE THAT THE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS THESE PEOPLE FACE AND BELIEVES THAT THEY NEED SPECIAL HELP AND SUPPORT, SHE SAID.

HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE DONATED MORE THAN \$965 MILLION TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST. IN THIS 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR, THE \$1 BILLION MARK WILL BE PASSED.

THIS YEAR A RECORD TARGET OF \$150 MILLION HAS BEEN SET, AN INCREASE OF ABOUT NINE PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR'S TARGET.

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CAR MARK AUCTION

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL PUT UP ANOTHER 50 LUCKY VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS FOR AUCTION ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 2).

THEY ARE:

FJ1828	AA170	FJ1338	AA748	FK369
FK6899	FH1668	FK821	FJ1011	FJ3345
*FS313	*2890	*FK7	*FP1	*FJ3883
AC978	FH238	AV338	FK3228	AL8300
FK1686	AA3222	FG7662	CK8322	FK265
FJ9288	FH8288	AU3338	FJ8631	FJ6368
FE332	FK668	FK1980	FK8768	FK8854
*DL17	*FS11	*DL88	*FN818	*FR525
FK1688	HK2047	FK786	AU2389	FK723
FH832	FK3328	FJ6618	FK2340	FK9483

* SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

THE AUCTION WILL BEGIN 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.

/SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT 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, WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTION WILL BE THE 203RD ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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197 RETURN TO VIETNAM
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A GROUP OF 197 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER A VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATION HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 61 MEN, 50 WOMEN, 51 BOYS AND 35 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 167TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 6,618 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 32,930 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
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TENDER DATE	28 SEPT 93	28 SEPT 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q339	H374
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 4,350MN	HKD 2,450MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 1,000MN	HKD 400MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.88 PCT	3.07 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.89 PCT	3.07 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 6 PCT	ABOUT 36 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.90 PCT	3.09 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 4 OCT 1993 -

TENDER DATE	5 OCT 93	5 OCT 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q340	Y394
ISSUE DATE	6 OCT 93	6 OCT 93
MATURITY DATE	5 JAN 94	5 OCT 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 1,000+200MN	HKD 300+90MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,000
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+460
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,460
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.3 *-0.1* 28.9.1993	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.75 PCT	14 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.44	3.34
1 MONTH	2.79 PCT	17 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.66	3.54
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	20 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.98	3.80
6 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	23 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.36	3.90
12 MONTHS	3.28 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,679 MN

CLOSED 28 SEPTEMBER 1993

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