



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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COURT OF FINAL APPEAL EXPLAINED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) DISMISSED AS MISGUIDED AND UNTRUE RECENT SUGGESTIONS THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED AT THE LAST JOINT LIAISON GROUP MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL (CFA) WAS CONTRARY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION (JD) AND THE BASIC LAW (BL).

"UNDER THE PRINCIPLED AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE, THE CFA SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE JUDGES IN ANY SITTING," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE FIVE JUDGES WILL INCLUDE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE CFA, THREE PERMANENT HONG KONG JUDGES, WHO MAY BE LOCAL OR EXPATRIATE, AND A REMAINING ONE WHO MAY, DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF EACH PARTICULAR CASE, BE DRAWN FROM A LIST OF NON-PERMANENT HONG KONG JUDGES OR FROM A LIST OF DISTINGUISHED JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS.

"THUS THE PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF THE CFA WILL PERMIT JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS TO SIT ON THE CFA IF THERE IS A NEED, AS PROVIDED FOR IN JD 68 AND BL82."

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE JD AND BL MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE CFA MAY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEED, INVITE JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS TO SIT ON THE CFA.

MOREOVER, THE JD AND THE BL DOES NOT SPECIFY ANY MINIMUM NUMBER OF SUCH JUDGES TO BE INVITED TO SIT ON THE CFA. THUS THE COMPOSITION OF THE CFA AS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE CHINESE IS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THE JD AND THE BL.

"MOREOVER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID, "THE JD AND BL PROVIDE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY TO BE MAINTAINED THROUGH A NUMBER OF WAYS.

"THEY EXPRESSLY PROVIDE THAT JUDGES OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (HKSAR) SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HKSAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION.

"THEY SHALL BE CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR JUDICIAL QUALITIES AND MAY BE RECRUITED FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS.

"THUS JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS MAY SERVE IN THE COURTS OF THE HKSAR AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE CFA, (EXCEPT AS THE CJ OF THE CFA AND THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE HONG KONG SAR WHO ARE REQUIRED BY THE JD AND BL TO BE CHINESE CITIZENS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE HK SAR WITH NO RIGHT OF ABODE IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY).

"THE THREE PERMANENT HONG KONG JUDGES WHO MAKE UP THE CFA MAY INCLUDE JUDGES WHO HAVE SERVED IN OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS AND WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO SERVE IN THE COURTS OF HONG KONG."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE CFA WILL HINGE ON THE QUALITY OF JUDGES APPOINTED, BE THEY HONG KONG JUDGES OR THOSE DRAWN FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS, RATHER THAN ON THE PROPORTION OF HONG KONG TO SUCH JUDGES.

"WHILE THE APPOINTMENT OF EMINENT JUDGES FROM OTHER COMMON LAW JURISDICTIONS TO SIT ON THE CFA WHERE NECESSARY WILL NO DOUBT ENHANCE THE REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY OF HONG KONG'S CFA, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS NO LACK OF CAPABLE JUDGES OF INTEGRITY LOCALLY TO SIT ON THE CFA.

"THERE ARE SUFFICIENT SAFEGUARDS IN THE JD AND THE BL TO ENSURE THE INDEPENDENCE OF HONG KONG'S JUDGES IN ADJUDICATING CASES BEFORE THEM AT ALL LEVELS."

"A LOT OF DETAILED WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE, INCLUDING THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION IN UK AND IN HK TO REPLACE THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL WITH THE CFA IN HONG KONG IN HEARING APPEALS FROM HONG KONG, AND TO SET OUT THE PRECISE CONSTITUTION, JURISDICTION AND POWERS OF THE CFA.

"THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION WILL BE DRAFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLED AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE CHINESE," THE SPOKESMAN CONTINUED, "FULL DETAILS WILL BE SET OUT IN THE DRAFT HONG KONG BILL ESTABLISHING THE CFA, WHICH WILL BE A PUBLIC DOCUMENT.

"THE HONG KONG PUBLIC WILL HAVE THE FULLEST OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND DEBATE THE DETAILS BEFORE THE BILL PASSES INTO LAW."

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT AS PART OF THE PRINCIPLE OF "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS", THE SINO-BRITISH JD ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG AND THE BASIC LAW PROVIDE FOR THE HKSAR TO BE VESTED WITH INDEPENDENT JUDICIAL POWER, INCLUDING THAT OF FINAL ADJUDICATION.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CFA IS ONE OF THE KEY MEASURES CONTRIBUTING TO THIS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CFA TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT JUDICIAL SYSTEM AFTER 1997 AND TO THE VESTING OF THE POWER OF FINAL ADJUDICATION IN HONG KONG CANNOT BE OVER-EMPHASISED.

THE SMOOTH ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CFA BEFORE 1997 WILL DO MUCH TO BOOST CONFIDENCE IN THE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY OF THE EXISTING JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS IN THE RUN UP TO 1997 AND BEYOND.

IT IS AGAINST THESE CONSIDERATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE REACHED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CFA AT JLG XX LAST MONTH.

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STI VISITS CHINA

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, LEFT TODAY (MONDAY) FOR A FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO CHINA AT THE INVITATION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

THE WEEK-LONG VISIT COVERS SHENZHEN, CANTON AND FUZHOU.

DURING THE VISIT, MR CHAU WILL MEET CHINESE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS DEALING WITH ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE ISSUES.

HE WILL ALSO VISIT YANTIAN PORT AND HUANGTIAN AIRPORT AT SHENZHEN, THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE AT CANTON, AND THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE AT FUZHOU.

MR CHAU WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 19).

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991 WAS 2.2%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

FOR THE PERIOD JULY - SEPTEMBER 1991, THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.0%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%.

THUS, THE EARLIER RISE IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND IN THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE HAD STABILISED IN RECENT MONTHS, IF NOT TRENDING DOWNWARD SLIGHTLY.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991 WAS 2.2%, COMPARED WITH 2.4% FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1991 AND 1.8% FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE DECREASE OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE INCREASE OF 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN JUNE - AUGUST 1991 WAS ESTIMATED AT 62,400, COMPARED WITH 67,500 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1991 AND 48,600 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991 WAS 1.5%, COMPARED WITH 1.9% FOR MARCH - MAY 1991 AND 0.9% FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

/THE DECREASE

THE DECREASE OF 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND THE INCREASE OF 0.6 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER ARE BOTH STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN JUNE - AUGUST 1991 WAS 41,000, COMPARED WITH 54,100 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING MAY 1991 AND 26,200 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

AS THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (E.G. PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR JUNE - AUGUST 1991 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,700 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ILO.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND DECEMBER 20 AT \$13.50 PER COPY.

TIGHTENED BORDER CHECKING AND SAMPLING ON VEGETABLES

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THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS TIGHTENED UP BORDER-CHECKING AND SAMPLING ON IMPORTED VEGETABLES, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR M.B. ALI, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THIS FOLLOWED THE DETECTION OF ISOLATED CASES OF VEGETABLE-POISONING OVER THE PAST WEEK THROUGH THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

DR ALI SAID INVESTIGATIONS ARE UNDERWAY AND THE SHENZHEN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE INCIDENTS FOR THEIR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

DR ALI SAID A TOTAL OF 22 PEOPLE FROM 14 FAMILIES LIVING IN SHAM SHUI PO, MONG KOK AND TSUEN WAN WERE FOUND TO HAVE SYMPTOMS OF FOOD POISONING AFTER CONSUMING CHOI SUM IN THEIR MEALS.

ONLY FIVE - FOUR WOMEN AND A MAN - REMAIN IN HOSPITAL WHILE THE OTHERS WERE TREATED AND DISCHARGED.

OVER THE WEEKEND, A TOTAL OF 137 SAMPLES WERE TAKEN FROM STREET HAWKERS, MARKET STALLS AND MAN KAM TO FOR EXAMINATION.

OF THESE, 15 WERE SUSPECTED TO HAVE BEEN CONTAMINATED BY PESTICIDE.

TO PREVENT FOOD POISONING CAUSED BY THE INTAKE OF PESTICIDE-CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- DO NOT BUY VEGETABLES WITH AN OBVIOUS STRANGE SMELL;
- WASH VEGETABLES WELL BEFORE COOKING;
- DIP VEGETABLES INTO CLEAN WATER FOR SOME TIME TO ALLOW PESTICIDES TO LEACH OUT;
- BLANCH VEGETABLES IN BOILING WATER AND POUR AWAY THE WATER USED FOR BLANCHING AS IT MAY CONTAIN DISSOLVED PESTICIDES; AND
- COOK VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

THE URBAN SERVICES AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS ARE ASSISTING IN DISPLAYING AND HANDING OUT POSTERS ON "PREVENTING PESTICIDE-TAINTED VEGETABLES POISONING" IN VARIOUS MARKETS.

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO PAA BOARD

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED THREE NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

THE NEW MEMBERS WHO BRING WITH THEM FINANCIAL AND REAL ESTATE EXPERTISE ARE - MR THOMAS CHEN, WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE HANG LUNG DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD; MR SHU TSE-WONG, WHO IS CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL MANAGER OF NANYANG COMMERCIAL BANK; AND MR JOHN GRAY, WHO IS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

IN ADDITION TO THE CHAIRMAN AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BOARD MEMBERSHIP NOW COMPRISES FIVE EX-OFFICIO CIVIL SERVANTS AND SEVEN MEMBERS DRAWN FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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STATEMENT ON WATER MAIN BURST

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IN REPLY TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WATER MAIN BURST IN KOWLOON YESTERDAY (SUNDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO TRUTH IN SOME PRESS REPORTS TODAY (MONDAY) THAT WATERWORKS STAFF DID NOT ARRIVE AT THE SCENE UNTIL THREE HOURS AFTER THE BURST.

HE SAID THE TECHNICAL COMPLAINT CENTRE OF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A REPORT OF MAIN BURST AT LUNG CHEUNG ROAD NEAR HAMMER HILL ROAD AT 1.45 PM YESTERDAY.

AT THE TIME OF CALL, ALL EMERGENCY GANGS WERE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS EMERGENCY WORK AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN KOWLOON.

THE DUTY OFFICER THEREFORE IMMEDIATELY DIVERTED AN EMERGENCY GANG WHICH WAS THEN WORKING ON ANOTHER SITE IN THE EASTERN PART OF KOWLOON TO LUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

IT ARRIVED AT THE SITE AT 2.30 PM AND FOUND THAT THE BURST MAIN INVOLVED WAS AN 18-INCH-DIAMETER FRESH WATER MAIN HAVING BEEN DAMAGED BY AN EXCAVATOR.

THEY ALSO FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY THOSE CONTROL VALVES NEAR THE BURST AS THEY WERE ALL IMMERSSED IN THE FLOOD WATER. IT WAS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO TRY TO ISOLATE THOSE VALVES WHICH WERE LOCATED AT A GREATER DISTANCE FROM THE BURST.

A SECOND EMERGENCY TEAM WAS ALSO DISPATCHED FROM ANOTHER IN KOWLOON TO ASSIST.

/BOTH EMERGENCY

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BOTH EMERGENCY GANGS CONTINUED WITH THE EMERGENCY VALVE OPERATION UNTIL ABOUT 4.40 PM WHEN ALL VALVES INVOLVED WERE FULLY CLOSED AND THE SITUATION WAS PUT UNDER CONTROL.

THE GANGS THEN MOVED ON TO OTHER SITES TO OPERATE ANOTHER SERIES OF VALVES SO AS TO RESUME WATER SUPPLY TO THE AFFECTED CONSUMERS, AND THIS WAS COMPLETED AROUND 9.50 PM.

THE DAMAGED WATER MAIN WAS EVENTUALLY REPAIRED AT 4.30 AM THIS MORNING.

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ACTION TAKEN TO HELP SOLVE ROAD OPENING PROBLEMS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS LONG BEEN AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ROAD OPENINGS AND HAS MADE IMPROVEMENTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING HIGHER STANDARDS OF TRENCH WORKS AND BETTER CO-ORDINATION AMONG GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE UTILITY UNDERTAKERS ON ROAD EXCAVATION, THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING ON "ROAD OPENINGS IN HONG KONG" AT A LUNCHEON OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, MR KWEI SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS PROMOTING THE USE OF THE "NO-DIG" TECHNOLOGY FOR INSTALLING UTILITY SERVICES WITHOUT THE NEED FOR MAJOR TRENCHING OPERATIONS.

HE SAID THE TECHNIQUE REQUIRED EXCAVATIONS ON THE TWO SIDES OF A ROAD FROM WHICH A UTILITY PIPE OR DUCT WAS JACKED THROUGH THE SUBGRADE UNDER THE CARRIAGEWAY.

THE JACKING PROCESS HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT AT A SUFFICIENT DEPTH TO CLEAR OTHER UTILITIES.

IN SPITE OF ITS LIMITATIONS, THIS TECHNIQUE HAD PROVED TO BE USEFUL APPLICATIONS IN SPECIFIC AREAS AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS KEEPING ABREAST OF EXPERIENCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

MR KWEI SAID NEW MATERIALS HAD BEEN ADOPTED FOR UTILITY WORKS. AN EXAMPLE WAS FOAMED CONCRETE WHICH OFFERED A QUICK AND EASY WAY FOR BACKFILLING OF UTILITY TRENCHES ESPECIALLY THOSE CONGESTED WITH EXISTING UTILITIES WHERE COMPACTION OF NORMAL GRANULAR BACKFILL WOULD BE DIFFICULT.

MR KWEI SAID IN A BID TO ELIMINATE THE DISRUPTION TO ROAD USERS CAUSED BY THE USUAL ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH A PERMITTEE OF A ROAD OPENING ONLY PROVIDED A TEMPORARY ROAD REINSTATEMENT, THE DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT PILOT SCHEMES IN WHICH SELECTED UTILITY COMPANIES UNDERTOOK PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT OF TRENCHES ON FOOTWAYS. THE RESULT OF THESE SCHEMES WAS POSITIVE.

HE SAID CURRENTLY THE UTILITY COMPANIES CARRIED OUT PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT IN MORE THAN HALF OF ALL UTILITY OPENINGS. IT WAS HOPED THAT THEY WOULD PROGRESSIVELY TAKE UP ALL PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT IN CARRIAGEWAYS.

/IN ADDITION

IN ADDITION TO THE LONG ESTABLISHED ROAD OPENING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE IN EACH OF THE THREE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT REGIONAL OFFICES, RESPECTIVELY FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, TWO COMMITTEES HAD BEEN FORMED BY GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE UTILITY UNDERTAKERS AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO ENHANCE CO-ORDINATION AMONG THEM.

HE SAID THE JOINT UTILITIES POLICY GROUP FORMED AT TOP MANAGEMENT LEVEL PROVIDED A FORUM FOR DISCUSSION ON UTILITY POLICIES. THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WAS REPRESENTED AT THIS GROUP BY MR KWEI HIMSELF.

A UTILITIES TECHNICAL LIAISON COMMITTEE FORMED BY REPRESENTATIVES AT SENIOR MANAGEMENT LEVEL, STRENGTHENED THE CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION OF UTILITY UNDERTAKERS TO IMPROVE PROCEDURAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL MATTERS SO THAT DISRUPTION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC CAN BE MINIMISED.

ON THE REGIONAL ROAD OPENING CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE, HE SAID IT COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL UTILITY COMPANIES, RELEVANT GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE POLICE AND THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

EACH UTILITY COMPANY OR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WHICH PROPOSED TO CARRY OUT EXCAVATION WORK PREPARED A PROGRAMME EVERY MONTH DETAILING WORKS IN HAND AND ALSO THOSE IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

MR KWEI SAID THESE PROGRAMMES WERE FORWARDED TO THE HIGHWAYS REGIONAL OFFICE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGION FOR COLLATION INTO AN OVERALL PROGRAMME WHICH WAS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS EXERCISE WAS TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY DISTURBANCE TO THE PUBLIC AND KEEP DISRUPTION TO TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIANS TO A MINIMUM. WHERE POSSIBLE, OPENINGS WERE SO PROGRAMMED THAT A SINGLE TRENCH SERVED MORE THAN ONE UTILITY SERVICE.

MR KWEI SAID ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT IN MONITORING ROAD OPENING WAS THAT THE STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF DATA ASSOCIATED WITH UTILITY OPENINGS AND PERMIT CONDITIONS HAD RECENTLY BEEN COMPUTERISED. INFRINGEMENTS TO THE PERMIT CONDITIONS COULD BE RAPIDLY DETECTED.

HE ADDED THAT A FURTHER STEP WAS NOW BEING TAKEN TO COMPUTERISE THE MONTHLY PROGRAMME OF TRENCH WORKS.

THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS STRESSED THAT AS A MATTER OF POLICY, ROAD OPENINGS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN A CARRIAGEWAY CONSTRUCTED OR RECONSTRUCTED WITHIN FIVE YEARS AND IN A CARRIAGEWAY RESURFACED WITHIN ONE YEAR.

HOWEVER, EMERGENCY OPENINGS WERE PERMITTED TO RECTIFY FAULTS, RESTORE SERVICES OR INSTALLING ADDITIONAL SERVICES THAT COULD NOT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED PROVIDED NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE EXISTED.

IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CRITICISM REGARDING REPEATED ROAD OPENINGS IN THE SAME PLACE, MR KWEI SAID ONE EXPLANATION WAS THAT SOME EMERGENCY OPENINGS MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE VICINITY OR SOON AFTER SOME PLANNED ROAD OPENINGS.

OR SOMETIMES, BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY TRAFFIC ON MOST ROADS, ROAD OPENING WORKS HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES TO MAINTAIN TRAFFIC AND TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

HE SAID UTILITY COMPANIES CARRIED OUT PERFORMANCE TESTS ON THE NEWLY LAID SERVICES. THESE TESTS SUCH AS LEAKAGE TEST MIGHT TAKE A FEW DAYS.

TO MINIMISE TRAFFIC CONGESTION, THE TRENCHES WERE OFTEN BACKFILLED AND REINSTATED BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THESE TESTS. IF THE PERFORMANCE TESTS FAILED, THE PERMITTEE MIGHT HAVE TO RE-OPEN THE TRENCH FOR REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR.

MR KWEI SAID USUALLY THE PERMITTEE CARRIED OUT ONLY TEMPORARY REINSTATEMENT OF TRENCHES. THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CARRIED OUT A FINAL REINSTATEMENT AT A LATER DATE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT UTILITY COMPANIES WERE NOW BEING ENCOURAGED TO TAKE UP PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THIS IS THE THIRD MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT. SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE REGULARLY.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂) AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂) WHICH ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY ROUND THE CLOCK, AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP) AND RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) WHICH ARE SAMPLED FOR 24 HOURS EVERY SIX DAYS.

IN SEPTEMBER, HONG KONG SUFFERED SLIGHTLY HIGHER AVERAGE LEVELS OF NO₂ AND TSP THAN IN AUGUST.

THIS PHENOMENON OF GENERALLY INCREASING LEVELS OF POLLUTION AS HONG KONG APPROACHES OR GETS INTO THE WINTER MONTHS IS CONSIDERED NORMAL.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE LESS EFFICIENT VERTICAL DISPERSION CAPABILITY OF THE ATMOSPHERE IN WINTER GENERALLY CAUSE HIGHER AIR POLLUTION LEVELS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS TO MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF THE GENERAL AIR QUALITY LEVELS TO WHICH THEY MIGHT BE EXPOSED, AND THE ATMOSPHERIC AND OTHER FACTORS THAT AFFECT AIR QUALITY.

THE AIR POLLUTANTS MAINLY COME FROM COMBUSTION OF FUEL IN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINES. TSP AND RSP ARE ALSO GENERATED BY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND SOME MANUFACTURING PROCESSES.

HONG KONG'S DAILY AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES OF SO₂, NO₂, TSP AND RSP ARE 350, 150, 260 AND 180 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METER RESPECTIVELY. THESE WERE NOT EXCEEDED IN SEPTEMBER.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE COMPARABLE TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED AIR QUALITY STANDARDS RECOMMENDED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC.

HIGH LEVELS OF SO₂ CAUSE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS, REDUCES LUNG FUNCTION AND INCREASE MORTALITY RATE.

NO₂ CAUSES RESPIRATORY IRRITATION, INCREASES SUSCEPTIBILITY TO RESPIRATORY INFECTION AND IMPAIRS LUNG DEVELOPMENT.

TSP ACTS SYNERGISTICALLY WITH OTHER GASEOUS POLLUTANTS AND RSP CAUSES RESPIRATORY ILLNESS, REDUCES LUNG FUNCTION AND SOME FORMS OF RSP MAY CAUSE CANCER.

THE MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG STATIONS BROADLY REPRESENT AIR QUALITY RESPECTIVELY AT: LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS; COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS; AND DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE MEASURED CONCENTRATIONS AT THE MONG KOK STATION ARE RELATIVELY HIGHER THAN THOSE RECORDED AT OTHER STATIONS, REFLECTING THE FACT THAT AIR QUALITY AT LOCATIONS CLOSE TO THE TRAFFIC IS GENERALLY POORER.

CURRENTLY THE EPD OPERATES A TOTAL OF 11 FIXED MONITORING STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE.

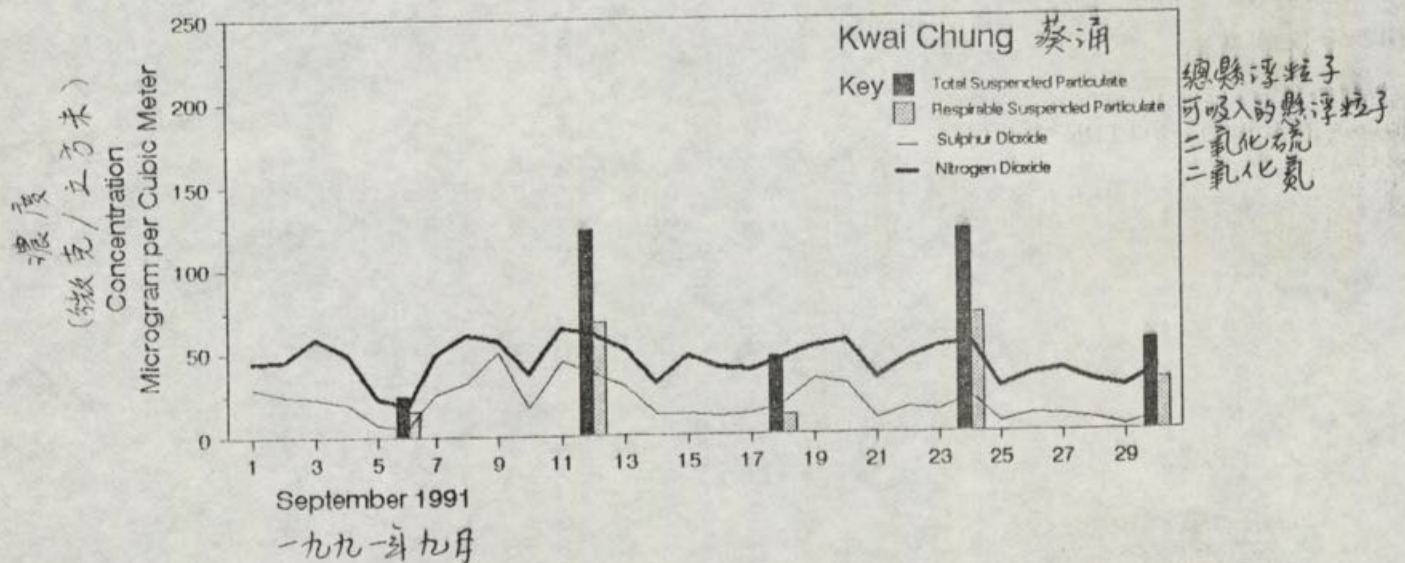
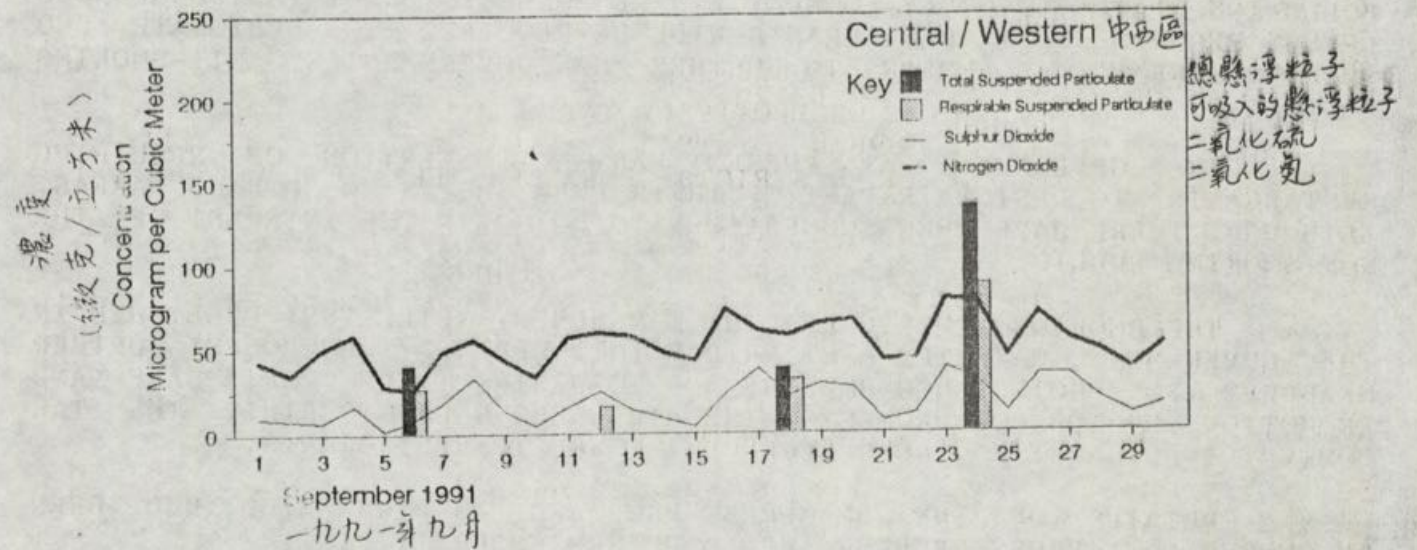
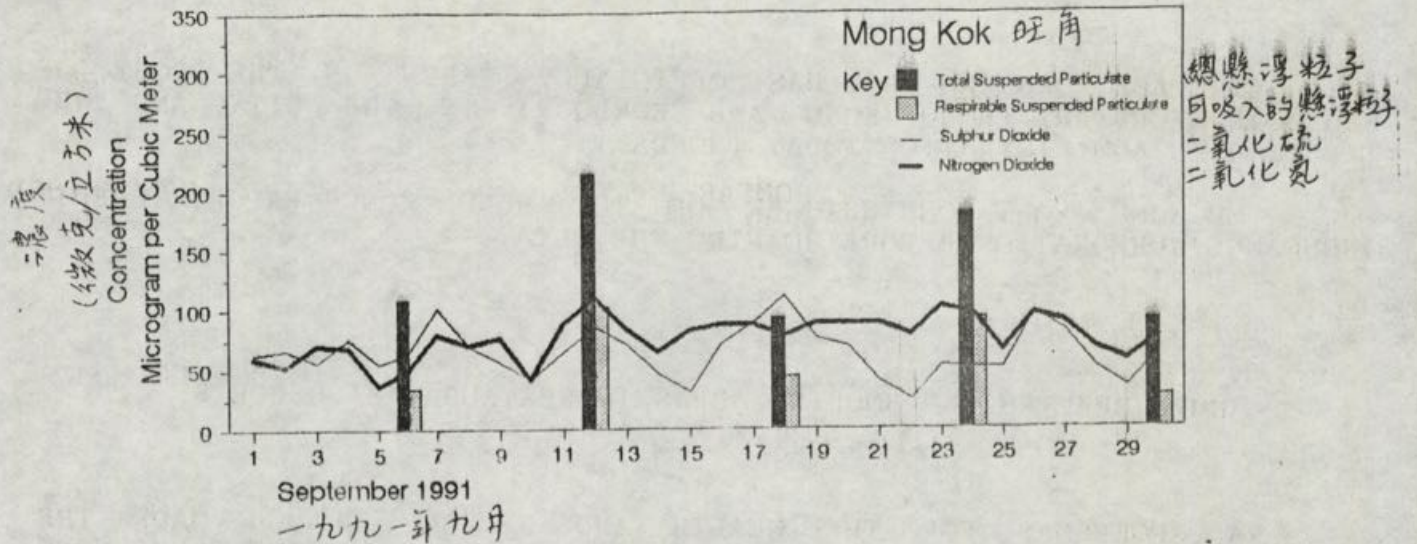
THE OTHER EIGHT STATIONS ARE AT KWUN TONG, SHAM SHUI PO, TSIM SHA TSUI, TSEUNG KWAN O, TSUEN WAN, HONG KONG SOUTH, TAI PO AND SHA TIN.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR RAYMOND LEUNG, ON TEL. 835 1048.

一九九一年九月份空氣質素報告

Hong Kong Air Quality Report for September 1991



MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1991

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NEW REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON)

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MR PAUL WONG KAM-CHIU HAS OFFICIALLY TAKEN UP THE POST OF REGIONAL SECRETARY (HONG KONG AND KOWLOON) IN THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY (MONDAY).

MR WONG WAS COMMISSIONER OF THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION BEFORE JOINING THE CNTA.

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GOVT REFUTES 'NO SMOKING AREAS IN RESTAURANTS' REPORTS

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (MONDAY) IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS THAT RESTAURANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DESIGNATE "NO SMOKING AREAS" AS A MEANS TO FURTHER THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-SMOKING POLICY:

"THE GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT HAS NO INTENTION OF REQUIRING RESTAURANTS TO DESIGNATE PART OF THEIR PREMISES AS NO SMOKING AREAS, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTIONS TO DO SO IN THE INTEREST OF THE NON-SMOKING PUBLIC.

"THE SMOKING (PUBLIC HEALTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY (OCTOBER 11) PROPOSES FURTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT NON-SMOKERS AND TO RESTRICT THE USE, SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS. THE BILL ALSO SEEKS TO LIMIT THE TAR CONTENT IN CIGARETTES. NO REFERENCE IS MADE TO RESTAURANTS.

"DETAILS OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED IN THE BILL HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1991."

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1991

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PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF SECOND QUARTER SURVEY
OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES
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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, ESTIMATED AT \$9,116.7 MILLION, WAS 8.3% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990, WHILE THE VOLUME WAS 4.2% LOWER, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY).

THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, ESTIMATED AT \$3,430.1 MILLION, WAS 3.6% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990.

AS FROM THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, INDEXES OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS HAVE ADOPTED THE NEW BASE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 (QUARTERLY AVERAGE INDEX IN THE PERIOD BEING TAKEN AS 100).

THE REBASED VOLUME INDEXES ARE DERIVED USING UPDATED PRICE DEFLATORS, WHICH HAVE ALSO ADOPTED THE SAME NEW BASE PERIOD.

ANALYSED BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT, THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR FAST-FOOD SHOPS, "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" (COMPRISING HERB TEA SHOPS, CREAMERIES AND OTHER OUTLETS SELLING BEANCURD JELLY, AND SO ON), BARS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WENT UP BY 29.3%, 27.5%, 9.5%, 6.2% AND 4.4% RESPECTIVELY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

IN VOLUME TERMS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD SHOPS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" INCREASED BY 16.0% AND 14.3% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE FOR BARS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS DECREASED BY 4.3%, 6.5% AND 7.1% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS INCREASED BY 7.8% IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 4.9% IN VOLUME; AND THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS ROSE BY 4.4%.

IN VALUE TERMS, INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", FAST-FOOD SHOPS, BARS, CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS AT 24.8%, 23.5%, 7.5%, 6.1% AND 5.6% RESPECTIVELY.

IN VOLUME TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" AND FAST FOOD SHOPS ROSE BY 12.2%, AND 10.4% RESPECTIVELY; WHILE THOSE OF BARS, NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND CHINESE RESTAURANTS DROPPED BY 4.4%, 6.3% AND 6.8% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS DECREASED BY 1.8% IN VALUE AND 4.5% IN VOLUME, WHILE THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANTS FELL BY 5.6%.

/IN VALUE

IN VALUE TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST FOOD-SHOPS, "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES", BARS AND NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 20.0%, 17.5%, 3.9% AND 2.0% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS DECREASED BY 6.2%.

IN VOLUME TERMS, TOTAL RECEIPTS OF FAST-FOOD SHOPS AND "OTHER EATING AND DRINKING PLACES" INCREASED BY 16.8%, AND 11.7% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS, BARS AND CHINESE RESTAURANTS DECREASED BY 0.8%, 1.7% AND 8.8% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE ENTIRE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE NEW VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER AND THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 AND THOSE FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990; COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 RESULTS, A TABLE PRESENTING THE TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND THE NEW RESTAURANT RECEIPTS INDEX SERIES FROM 1986 TO SECOND QUARTER 1991, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$1.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE/RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. : 802 1258).

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		1st qtr. 1991 (Revised figures)	2nd qtr. 1991 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HKS million)	9 282.1	9 116.7
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HKS million)	3 633.6	3 430.1

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 1st QUARTER 1991 AND 2nd QUARTER 1991

(Quarterly average of Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	1st quarter 1991	2nd quarter 1991	2nd qtr. 1991 compared with 1st qtr. 1991		2nd qtr. 1991 compared with 2nd qtr. 1990		1st-2nd qtr. 1991 compared with 1st-2nd qtr. 1990	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	109.0	102.2	-6.8	-6.2	+6.0	+6.2	+6.1	+6.1
	Volume	96.9	88.3	-8.6	-8.8	-6.2	-6.5	-6.8	-6.8
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	104.2	106.3	+2.1	+2.0	+4.5	+4.4	+5.6	+5.6
	Volume	92.9	92.1	-0.8	-0.8	-7.1	-7.1	-6.3	-6.3
Fast food shops	Value	109.8	131.8	+22.0	+20.0	+29.8	+29.3	+23.0	+23.5
	Volume	99.6	116.3	+16.7	+16.8	+16.1	+16.0	+10.2	+10.4
Bars	Value	102.0	106.0	+3.9	+3.9	+9.2	+9.5	+7.3	+7.5
	Volume	93.6	92.0	-1.6	-1.7	-4.1	-4.3	-4.3	-4.4
Other eating and drinking places	Value	113.1	132.9	+19.8	+17.5	+28.7	+27.5	+24.4	+24.8
	Volume	104.8	117.1	+12.3	+11.7	+14.6	+14.3	+12.1	+12.2
Entire restaurant sector	Value	108.0	106.1	-1.9	-1.8	+8.1	+8.3	+7.7	+7.8
	Volume	96.3	92.0	-4.3	-4.5	-4.1	-4.2	-4.9	-4.9

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PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO LOSS OF 'MINERAL DIAMOND' COMPLETED

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THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO THE LOSS OF THE HONG KONG REGISTERED BULK CARRIER "MINERAL DIAMOND" HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE FINDINGS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

THE INQUIRY WAS ORDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE IN APRIL THIS (1991) YEAR WHEN THE VESSEL DISAPPEARED WITH ALL HER CREW OF 26 IN THE SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN, SOME 1,200 MILES WEST OF AUSTRALIA, WHILST LADEN WITH IRON ORE LOADED AT DAMPIER IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND BOUND FOR IJMUIDEN IN HOLLAND.

THE "MINERAL DIAMOND" WAS A NINE-YEAR OLD SHIP OF SOME 170,000 TONNES DISPLACEMENT. SHE WAS OWNED BY DIAMOND SHIPPING LTD AND MANAGED BY ANGLO-EASTERN SHIP MANAGEMENT OF HONG KONG.

THE SHIP WAS MAKING ROUTINE DAILY POSITIONAL REPORTS TO AUSREP, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTING SYSTEM FOR SHIPS WITHIN THEIR SEARCH AND RESCUE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AT NOON ON APRIL 17 THIS YEAR THE SHIP GAVE A ROUTINE REPORT THAT SHE WAS HEADING INTO A GALE AND WAS STEAMING AT SIX-AND-A-HALF KNOTS (HALF SPEED) DUE TO THE VERY ROUGH SEAS. SINCE THAT REPORT NOTHING MORE WAS HEARD OF HER.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATED SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES WITHIN HOURS WHEN SHE FAILED TO REPORT AS EXPECTED ON APRIL 18.

AN AIR SEARCH WAS COMMENCED ON APRIL 19 BY THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE AND THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

DAY AND NIGHT FLIGHTS WERE FLOWN HAMPERED PARTLY BY THE LACK OF INFORMATION AS TO EXACTLY WHERE SHE DISAPPEARED BUT ALSO BY THE REMOTENESS OF THE AREA FROM LAND.

A TOTAL OF 15 SORTIES WERE FLOWN TOTALLING MORE THAN FIVE DAYS FLYING TIME DURING THE COURSE OF WHICH A SEARCH AREA OF 6,400 SQUARE NAUTICAL MILES WAS COVERED. NOTHING WAS EVER SIGHTED THAT WAS PRESUMED TO HAVE COME FROM THE SHIP.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEARCH, ONE OF THE AUSTRALIAN AIRFORCE PLANES CRASHED SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM COCOS ISLANDS KILLING THE PILOT.

SOME 21 BULK CARRIERS OF WHICH EIGHT VESSELS WERE OVER 100,000 TONNES DEADWEIGHT HAVE BEEN LOST SINCE JANUARY LAST (1990) YEAR, SOME IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN BAD WEATHER IN THIS REMOTE PART OF THE SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN.

/CONSEQUENTLY THE

CONSEQUENTLY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS INSTIGATED A RESEARCH STUDY INTO THE WAVES SHE WOULD LIKELY TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE GALE. THIS STUDY SHOWS MAXIMUM WAVE HEIGHTS OF ABOUT 18 METRES (59 FEET).

DUE TO THE FAILURE TO FIND THE WRECKAGE OR SURVIVORS, THE PRECISE CAUSE OF HER LOSS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. THE DEPTH OF WATER AROUND HER LAST REPORTED POSITION IS OVER 3,000 METRES.

IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION, IT SEEMS MOST LIKELY THAT A MAJOR STRUCTURAL FAILURE OF HER HULL WHICH RESULTED IN HER BREAKING IN TWO IS THE CAUSE OF HER SINKING.

THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS CONSIDER THAT A FORMAL INVESTIGATION IS NOT WARRANTED GIVEN:

- (I) ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY SURVEYORS OF THE HONG KONG MARINE DEPARTMENT. THESE INCLUDE:
 - THE MINERAL DIAMOND'S STRUCTURAL HISTORY AND THAT OF HER SISTERSHIPS;
 - THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING UP TO HER FINAL DEPARTURE FROM THE LOADING PORT OF DAMPIER, AUSTRALIA;
 - THE WEATHER WHICH SHE ENCOUNTERED AFTER LEAVING DAMPIER; AND
 - THE STANDARD OF HER MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION;
- (II) AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE AUSTRALIAN INSPECTOR OF MARINE ACCIDENTS, WHICH ALSO FAILED TO FIND DIRECT EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THE CAUSE OF THE LOSS. THAT INVESTIGATION COVERED THE SHIP'S STAY IN DAMPIER;
- (III) THE GENERAL TOPIC OF LOSSES OF BULK CARRIERS SUCH AS MINERAL DIAMOND IS THE SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND THE LOSS OF THIS SHIP IS NOT AN ISOLATED INSTANCE;
- (IV) THIS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH WHICH IS EXAMINING THE EVIDENCE FROM ALL SUCH CASUALTIES IS A BETTER FORUM TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSES OF SUCH LOSSES AND TO FIND METHODS TO PREVENT SIMILAR LOSSES.

THESE VIEWS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS HAVE EXAMINED VARIOUS TECHNICAL ASPECTS AS PART OF THE PRELIMINARY INQUIRY. THESE COVER TOPICS SUCH AS HULL CONSTRUCTION, SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS. THEIR VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS ARE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE.

/THE MARINE

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER ITS APPRECIATION OF THE CO-OPERATION RECEIVED FROM INTER ALIA: MINERAL DIAMOND'S OWNERS AND MANAGERS; OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF HER SISTERSHIPS; CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES AND VARIOUS SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN AUSTRALIA.

A PAPER ENTITLED "THE HONG KONG ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON BULK CARRIER CASUALTIES AND LOSSES" BY THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS OF THE "MINERAL DIAMOND" INQUIRY, MESSRS JEREMY PETER CARO AND HUGH EDWARD SPINK, WILL BE PRESENTED TO A SEMINAR JOINTLY ORGANISED BY INTERCARGO AND INTERNATIONAL BULK JOURNAL IN HONG KONG TOMORROW (TUESDAY). THE SPEAKERS WILL BE DISCUSSING SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF MINERAL DIAMOND'S LOSS.

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SLOGAN DESIGN CONTEST TO PROMOTE AIDS MESSAGE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS INVITING ENTRIES TO AN AIDS SLOGAN COMPETITION WHICH AIMS TO RAISE THE HEALTH AWARENESS AND CONCERN FOR AIDS AMONG YOUTHS IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE COMPETITION, HELD IN SUPPORT OF THIS YEAR'S WORLD AIDS DAY, IS OPEN TO ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE CONTEST IS SPONSORED BY YOUNG POST, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST'S DAILY EDITION FOR STUDENTS.

THE COMPETITION WILL COMPRISE TWO SECTIONS : ENGLISH AND CHINESE WITH EACH SUB-DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS NAMELY JUNIOR AND SENIOR.

PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO DESIGN A SLOGAN WITH NOT MORE THAN 20 WORDS ON ONE OF THE THREE GIVEN THEMES. THEY ARE : "THE IMPACT OF AIDS ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE COMMUNITY", "PREVENTION OF AIDS", AND "CARE AND RESPECT FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS OR HIV INFECTION".

THE TOP THREE WINNERS OF EACH GROUP WILL EACH RECEIVE BOOK/STATIONERY COUPONS WORTH BETWEEN \$800 TO \$1,200. THERE WILL BE FOUR CONSOLATION PRIZES IN EACH GROUP.

THOSE WISHING TO TAKE PART SHOULD CONTACT THEIR OWN SCHOOL FOR DETAILS AND TO OBTAIN ENTRY FORMS.

COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE ORGANISING BODY THROUGH PARTICIPANTS' OWN SCHOOL BEFORE NOVEMBER 16.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 839 2496.

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STUDENTS TO SEE WORLD OF WORK

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MORE THAN 800 STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE REAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT UNDER THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR'S WORK ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE.

THE YEAR-LONG ACTIVITY IS AIMED AT HELPING FORMS 3 TO 7 STUDENTS TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD OF WORK SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE BETTER PLANS FOR THEIR FUTURE.

"THROUGH A SERIES OF VISITS TO VARIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS, STUDENTS CAN OBTAIN FIRST-HAND AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON DIFFERENT CAREERS," A LABOUR OFFICER, MR WILLIAM AU, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

"STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS IN TAI PO, SAI KUNG, SHA TIN, YUEN LONG, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI DISTRICTS WILL VISIT 30 DIFFERENT ESTABLISHMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND DECEMBER 6," MR AU SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENTS INCLUDE HOTELS, MASS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS, DEPARTMENT STORES, TRAINING INSTITUTES, PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES, FACTORIES, BANKS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

DURING THE VISITS, STUDENTS WILL BE TAKEN ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE FACILITIES AND WILL BE BRIEFED BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT TERMS AND PROSPECTS OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES.

"MORE VISITS OF THIS KIND WILL BE ARRANGED FOR STUDENTS IN OTHER DISTRICTS FROM APRIL TO JULY NEXT YEAR," MR AU SAID.

"THESE VISITS WERE WELCOME BY BOTH STUDENTS AND CAREERS TEACHERS, WITH SOME 1,600 STUDENTS FROM 65 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME IN THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR," HE NOTED.

APART FROM THIS ANNUAL CAREERS EDUCATION PROJECT, MR AU SAID, FOUR CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES IN WAN CHAI, MONG KOK, SHA TIN AND TUEN MUN ARE ALSO IN OPERATION.

"THESE CENTRES PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING CAREERS GUIDANCE," HE SAID.

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD SCHEME OPENS FOR NOMINATION

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THE WAN CHAI'S "OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD SCHEME" IS NOW OPEN FOR NOMINATION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SCHEME'S WORKING GROUP SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THE SCHEME IS TO DULY RECOGNISE LOCAL RESIDENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

/"THE NATURE

"THE NATURE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE IN THE FORM OF VOLUNTEERS' WORK, ORGANISATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS, BUILDING MANAGEMENT, SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY AGENCIES.

"ANYONE LIVING, STUDYING OR WORKING IN THE DISTRICT IS ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION," HE SAID.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES AGED UNDER 25 AND STUDYING FULL-TIME CAN APPLY UNDER THE "STUDENT SECTION" WHILE THOSE UNDER 30, THE "YOUTH SECTION".

THE "OPEN SECTION" IS FOR ADULTS OVER THE AGE OF 30.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 2 O'BRIEN ROAD. THE CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATION IS NOVEMBER 30.

SHORTLISTED NOMINEES WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE SELECTION COMMITTEE IN MID DECEMBER.

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE STUDENT AND YOUTH SECTIONS IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH, COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE OPEN SECTION COMPRISES MEMBERS FROM THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE, HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROMOTION OF CIVIC EDUCATION.

A MAXIMUM OF FIVE NOMINEES WILL BE CHOSEN FROM EACH SECTION. THEY WILL EACH BE PRESENTED WITH AN AWARD AT A CEREMONY IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR.

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE AND THE WORKING GROUP ON CONCERN FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 835 1994.

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11 QUESTIONS, THREE BILLS ON LEGCO AGENDA

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 11 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER THREE BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 17).

THE THREE BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS ARE CRIMES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND RABIES BILL. DEBATES ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, THE HON MARTIN BARROW WILL SPEAK ON THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 1990/91.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 45.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 267.139 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 335.290 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 57.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	12.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	14.10.91	+97
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-97
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.8 *-0.1* 14.10.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	14.10.91	11.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.68 PCT	4.87 PCT
1 MONTH	4.48 PCT	4.58 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.61 PCT	4.63 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.72 PCT	4.80 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.40 PCT	5.46 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	6,490 MN	8,613 MN

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