



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1992

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MINISTER KNOWS HONG KONG WELL : GOVERNOR

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THE NEWLY APPOINTED MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD, KNOWS HONG KONG QUITE WELL, THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING TWO FACTORIES IN YUEN LONG, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "MR GOODLAD IS SOMEBODY FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. HE IS SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS HONG KONG QUITE WELL.

"HE HAS BEEN HERE ON A NUMBER OF VISITS. I MET HIM SEVERAL TIMES MYSELF HERE AND I HOPE THERE'LL BE A CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM MYSELF SOON AND ALSO TO WELCOME HIM COMING OUT TO HONG KONG.

"HE IS SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS A GOOD DEAL ABOUT HONG KONG ALREADY."

THE GOVERNOR ADDED THAT THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, WAS A VERY GOOD THING FOR HONG KONG.

"HE IS SOMEBODY WHO IS ENORMOUSLY EXPERIENCED IN WORLD AFFAIRS, ALSO EXPERIENCED IN OUR OWN AFFAIRS, HONG KONG AND CHINA," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE DISBANDMENT OF THE VOLUNTEERS, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "THE REASON FOR MAKING THAT PUBLIC NOW IS BECAUSE THERE WAS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE DATE, PARTICULARLY WITH THE PLAN FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE JOCKEY CLUB FACILITY IN HAPPY VALLEY.

"MOST PEOPLE IN THE VOLUNTEERS KNEW ROUGHLY WHAT THE DATE WAS AND WE THOUGHT IT WAS BEST TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ABOUT IT."

NOTING THAT THE VOLUNTEERS WAS A SPLENDID ORGANISATION, HE SAID: "IT HAS VERY HIGH MORALE. RECRUITMENT IS EXCELLENT. BUT THEY WANT TO KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHAT THE PLANS ARE FOR THEIR FUTURE."

ASKED WHY IT WOULD DISBAND TWO YEARS BEFORE THE TRANSFER, THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS TO ALLOW TIME FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO PHASE IN TO DO THE SORT OF WORK THAT THE VOLUNTEERS WERE DOING.

"THERE IS NO PARTICULAR REASON, BUT LATE 1995 MAKES SENSE THAT IT IS ABOUT, JUST OVER A YEAR-AND-A-HALF, SO IT MEANS WE'VE GOT TIME TO SEE HOW THINGS WORK OUT WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE VOLUNTEERS ANY MORE," HE ADDED.

ON THE PROPOSED GOLF COURSE AT SHA LO TUNG, LORD WILSON SAID : "THE WAY IN WHICH ONE SECTION OF THE ORDINANCE WAS BEING USED TURNED OUT TO BE THE WRONG SECTION. SO THE WHOLE PROCESS HAS TO START AGAIN AND IT WILL BE GONE THROUGH WITH VERY FULL CONSULTATION.

"I DO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PRESERVE OUR COUNTRY PARKS BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE WHOLE THING IS SET IN CONCRETE AND NO PART CAN EVER BE CHANGED, BECASUE THAT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE."

GOVERNOR VISITS FACTORIES

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON SAW HOW FACTORIES IN THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TAKE ACTIVE STEPS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

LORD WILSON FIRST VISITED PACIFIC CUP (HK) LTD, A MANUFACTURER OF PAPER CUPS AND FOOD CONTAINERS IN THE ESTATE.

HE LEARNT THAT THE COMPANY, WHICH USED TO PRODUCE PLASTIC CUPS, HAS NOW MOVED TO PRODUCING PAPER CUPS IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF ITS CLIENTS.

HE SAW HOW SCRAP PAPER DISCARDED IN THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS IS NEATLY STORED FOR RECYCLING LATER.

"RECYCLING WASTE MATERIAL IN THIS WAY HAS TWO ADVANTAGES," THE GOVERNOR SAID. "IT HELPS TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND IT REDUCES THE AMOUNT OF RUBBISH TO BE DISPOSED OF."

THE GOVERNOR THEN VISITED FUTURES SAFE CO LTD WHICH WAS OPENED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR.

IT RECYCLES WASTE PAPER COLLECTED BOTH LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS TO PRODUCE PAPER FOR INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING.

THE GOVERNOR SAW THE STATE-OF-THE-ART, POLLUTION-FREE, WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT USED TO RECYCLE WASTE PAPER.

"I HOPE OTHER COMPANIES IN HONG KONG WILL FOLLOW THE EXCELLENT EXAMPLE SET BY THE TWO I HAVE SEEN TODAY AND CLEAN UP THEIR PRODUCTION PROCESSES."

THE GOVERNOR WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H BARMA, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG.

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UN SANCTIONS AGAINST LIBYA

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ON MARCH 31, THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION 748 IMPOSING A RANGE OF SANCTIONS ON LIBYA WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 15.

THESE HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO HONG KONG BY TWO UNITED KINGDOM ORDERS IN COUNCIL TO COME INTO FORCE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE FIRST ORDER IN COUNCIL PROHIBITS ANY AIRCRAFT FROM TAKING OFF FROM, LANDING IN OR OVERFLYING THE TERRITORY IF THEY ARE DESTINED FOR, OR HAVE TAKEN OFF FROM, LIBYA.

THE SECOND ORDER IN COUNCIL:

- \* PROHIBITS THE EXPORT TO LIBYA AND SUPPLY TO PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA OF ARMS AND RELATED MATERIAL.
- \* PROHIBITS THE USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS BY PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANUFACTURE OR MAINTENANCE OF ARMS AND RELATED GOODS.
- \* PROHIBITS THE PROVISION TO PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA OF TECHNICAL ADVICE, ASSISTANCE OR TRAINING IN RELATION TO THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, MANUFACTURE, MAINTENANCE OR USE OF ARMS AND RELATED GOODS.
- \* PROHIBITS THE EXPORT TO LIBYA AND SUPPLY TO PERSONS CONNECTED WITH LIBYA OF AIRCRAFT AND AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS, AND THE SERVICING OF LIBYAN AIRCRAFT, AND THE INSURANCE OF SUCH AIRCRAFT.
- \* PROHIBITS LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES OR ANYONE ACTING ON THEIR BEHALF FROM CONTINUING BUSINESS OPERATIONS, AND REQUIRES THE CLOSURE OF ALL LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINE OFFICES.
- \* PROHIBITS THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS UNDER ANY BOND IN RESPECT OF A CONTRACT THE PERFORMANCE OF WHICH IS UNLAWFUL BY VIRTUE OF THIS ORDER, AND PROHIBITS THE MAKING OF OR OBTAINING PAYMENTS UNDER CERTAIN INDEMNITIES IN RESPECT OF SUCH BONDS.

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT FULLY ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ORDERS IN COUNCIL. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE WILL BE ISSUING GUIDANCE TO THOSE CONCERNED ON THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THESE REQUIREMENTS.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARDS RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

GENERAL AND PRESS ENQUIRIES:

DUTY OFFICER,  
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
(TEL. 842 8747)

FLIGHTS AND AVIATION RELATED MATTERS:

AIR SERVICES DIVISION,  
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT  
(TEL. 867 4210)

TRADE RELATED MATTERS:

STRATEGIC COMMODITIES SECTION,  
TRADE DEPARTMENT  
(TEL. 398 5578)

MATTERS RELATING TO INSURANCE CONTRACTS, BONDS AND INDEMNITIES:

MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH  
(TEL. 528 1890)

DISBANDMENT OF ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) WOULD BE DISBANDED IN SEPTEMBER 1995.

"BY THEN, THE ROLES CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY THE REGIMENT, THOSE OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE DURING INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATIONS AND ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATIONS, WILL BE PERFORMED BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE FORCE AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE, AND THE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE REGIMENT WILL NO LONGER EXIST," HE EXPLAINED.

MR ASPREY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICES OF THE VOLUNTEERS - PAST AND PRESENT. HE SAID:

"THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VOLUNTEERS ARE PART OF A LONG AND PROUD TRADITION IN HONG KONG OF VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

"THEY PUT IN MANY HOURS OF TRAINING TO ENSURE THEY CAN PERFORM THEIR ROLES EFFICIENTLY AND, WHEN CALLED UPON, DO SO WILLINGLY AT NO SMALL COST TO THEMSELVES.

"I HOPE THAT MANY VOLUNTEERS WILL TAKE THEIR EXPERTISE TO OTHER VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG WHEN THE REGIMENT DISBANDS. UNTIL THEN I AM CONFIDENT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM THEIR ROLES WITH THEIR USUAL DEDICATION AND EFFICIENCY."

MR ASPREY SAID IN RECENT YEARS THE REGIMENT HAD ASSISTED THE REGULAR ARMY IN ITS OPERATIONS IN HONG KONG AND HAD ANNUALLY RELIEVED THE REGULAR BATTALIONS ON THE LAND BORDER WITH CHINA FOR EIGHT DAYS.

THE REGIMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEPLOYED ON THE BORDER AFTER THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SECURITY FROM THE ARMY THIS MONTH.

IT WILL BE DEPLOYED TWICE A YEAR FOR A WEEK AT A TIME, STARTING IN MAY THIS YEAR.

THE REGIMENT HAD ALSO BEEN ACTIVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS IN PROVIDING SECURITY FOR TEMPORARY VIETNAMESE MIGRANT DETENTION CENTRES.

MOST RECENTLY, IT SET UP AND RAN A TEMPORARY CENTRE FOR UP TO 1,700 MIGRANTS ON SHEK KWU CHAU. THIS TASK LASTED FOR FIVE MONTHS AND OVER 700 VOLUNTEERS TOOK PART IN THE OPERATION.

THE DISBANDMENT OF THE VOLUNTEERS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF HONG KONG IN AUGUST 1945.

"OVER 280 VOLUNTEERS DIED IN THE BATTLE FOR HONG KONG IN 1941 AND THE REGIMENT WAS AWARDED THE BATTLE HONOUR 'HONG KONG' IN 1957. THIS IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO HONG KONG'S ONLY MILITARY FORCE," MR ASPREY SAID.

EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER RELEASED  
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IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE WAS CONTINUED STRONG GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS, AND IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTORS OVER A YEAR EARLIER, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HOWEVER, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND ON CONSTRUCTION SITES DECLINED MARKEDLY.

THE FALL IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT MAINLY REFLECTED THE CONTINUING STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ECONOMY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TO CHINA, AS WELL AS THE OCCUPATIONAL UPGRADING OF THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE IN RECENT YEARS.

OVERALL, EMPLOYMENT IN ALL THE MAJOR SECTORS SURVEYED TAKEN TOGETHER SHOWED A MARGINAL DECREASE IN DECEMBER 1991 COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1990.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO INCREASE, ALBEIT SLOWLY, DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER.

IN DECEMBER 1991, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES WAS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN IN SEPTEMBER, THOUGH STILL SMALLER THAN IN DECEMBER 1990.

IN DECEMBER 1991, EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS CONTINUED TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION, THERE WAS STILL AN APPRECIABLE IMPROVEMENT IN REAL TERMS FOR AVERAGE EARNINGS IN MOST SECTORS.

THERE WERE 629,200 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1991, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 12.1% FROM DECEMBER 1990.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 871,900 IN DECEMBER 1991, WAS 5.1% HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1990.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 295,900, WAS UP BY 7.0%.

EMPLOYMENT ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT 59,300, WAS 14.2% LOWER THAN IN DECEMBER 1990.

THE EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1991 IN SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, COMPARING WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1990 AND SEPTEMBER 1991, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

/PERSONS ENGAGED .....

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT)			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	DEC. 90	SEP. 91	DEC. 91	DEC. 91 OVER DEC. 90	DEC. 91 OVER SEP. 91
MANUFACTURING	715,600	654,700	629,200	-12.1	-3.9
CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	69,100	63,900	59,300	-14.2	-7.2
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	829,400	880,300	871,900	+ 5.1	-1.0
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	276,600	289,100	295,900	+7.0	+2.3

THE SURVEY EXCLUDED HAWKERS AND PERSONS WORKING AT RETAIL PITCHES BUT INCLUDED THOSE WORKING IN MARKET STALLS.

THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN DECEMBER 1991 WERE DERIVED FROM THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL AND THE QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

BEGINNING FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL ADOPTED THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (HSIC) CODES FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF ECONOMIC SECTORS.

THE TWO SURVEYS ALSO PROVIDE VACANCY STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS. THE VACANCY DATA TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1990 AND SEPTEMBER 1991 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES			PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
	DEC. 90	SEP. 91	DEC. 91	DEC. 91 OVER DEC. 90	DEC. 91 OVER SEP. 91
MANUFACTURING	28,970	23,300	22,980	-20.7	-1.4

/CONSTRUCTION .....

CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES ONLY)	1,330	760	560	-58.0	-26.5
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	27,660	28,220	30,230	+9.3	+7.1
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	8,870	8,480	8,180	-7.8	-3.4

COMPARING DECEMBER 1991 WITH DECEMBER 1990, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN MOST OF THESE MAJOR SECTORS DECLINED. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES, AT AROUND 82,140, DECREASED BY 8.0% IN DECEMBER 1991 OVER DECEMBER 1990.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DECLINE WAS RECORDED ON CONSTRUCTION SITES, BY 58.0%, FOLLOWED BY DECLINES IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, BY 20.7% AND 7.8% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR INCREASED BY 9.3%.

COMPARING THE VACANCY SITUATION IN DECEMBER WITH THAT IN SEPTEMBER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON COULD BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN MANUFACTURING FELL SLIGHTLY BY 1.4% IN DECEMBER 1991 OVER SEPTEMBER 1991.

THOSE IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES FELL BY 3.4%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, VACANCIES IN WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS IN DECEMBER INCREASED BY 7.1% OVER SEPTEMBER.

IN OVERALL TERMS, THERE WAS A NET INCREASE OF ABOUT 0.3% IN THE TOTAL VACANCIES IN DECEMBER OVER SEPTEMBER.

THE DECEMBER 1991 NOMINAL INDICES OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED BY SELECTED MAJOR SECTOR AND THE CORRESPONDING REAL INDICES (AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES) ARE GIVEN BELOW:

/NOMINAL INDEX .....

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 = 100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	DEC. 90	DEC. 91	DEC. 91 OVER DEC. 90
MANUFACTURING	102.4	116.6	+13.9
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	111.3	129.2	+16.1
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	125.1	132.7	+ 6.1

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (MARCH 1991 =100)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE
	DEC. 90	DEC. 91	DEC. 91 OVER DEC. 90
MANUFACTURING	107.3	110.8	+3.3
WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	116.7	122.8	+5.2
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES *	131.1	126.1	-3.8

\* WITHIN THIS SECTOR, REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MAJOR GROUPS "BANKING" AND "INSURANCE" ROSE BY 2.6% AND 4.0% RESPECTIVELY.

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1990 AND DECEMBER 1991, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN ALL MAJOR SECTORS, AS MEASURED BY PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED, RECORDED FURTHER INCREASES IN MONEY TERMS. AN INCREASE OF 13.9% WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 16.1%.

FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS MUCH LOWER, AT 6.1%.

THE SMALLER RATE OF INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO A SLOWER RATE OF INCREASE IN AVERAGE PAYROLL IN THE BUSINESS SERVICES SUB-SECTOR.

AFTER ALLOWING FOR THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICES BETWEEN DECEMBER 1990 AND DECEMBER 1991, THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN DECEMBER 1991, AS COMPARED WITH THAT IN DECEMBER 1990, INCREASED BY 3.3% FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND 5.2% FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE REAL INDEX DECREASED BY 3.8%, MAINLY DUE TO A DECREASE IN THE BUSINESS SERVICES SUB-SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, DECEMBER 1991 AND THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, DECEMBER 1991.

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT HK\$13.5 PER COPY AND HK\$8.5 PER COPY RESPECTIVELY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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#### AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS IN 1991

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR WAS \$282,635 MILLION LAST YEAR, 9% HIGHER THAN THAT IN 1990, ACCORDING TO SUMMARY STATISTICS OF 1991 AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN 1991 INCREASED BY 2%, 11% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY OVER 1990.

THEIR SHARES IN THE TOTAL VALUES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WERE 30%, 18% AND 14% RESPECTIVELY.

IN TERMS OF WEIGHT, AIRBORNE IMPORTS AMOUNTED TO 372, 126 TONNES, WHILE TOTAL AIRBORNE EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AMOUNTED TO 477, 660 TONNES, WHICH WERE 5% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THOSE IN 1990.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING 1991 WITH 1990, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY BY 35%. THOSE TO TAIWAN, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND THE NETHERLANDS INCREASED BY 8%, 6% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND, FRANCE AND CANADA DECREASED BY 15%, 6% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,896 MILLION OR 25%); CLOTHING (BY \$1,390 MILLION OR 6%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,384 MILLION OR 14%); METAL WORKING MACHINERY (BY \$50 MILLION OR 32%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,935 MILLION OR 13%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$733 MILLION OR 29%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$305 MILLION OR 4%).

DETAILED STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY SHOWED THAT NOTABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF TO SINGAPORE (BY \$1,130 MILLION OR 130%) AND TO TAIWAN (BY \$149 MILLION OR 17%); CLOTHING TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$584 MILLION OR 17%) AND TO USA (BY \$426 MILLION OR 4%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE (BY \$506 MILLION OR 20%); AND METAL WORKING MACHINERY TO TAIWAN (BY \$15 MILLION OR 54%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO USA (BY \$454 MILLION OR 10%) AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM (BY \$223 MILLION OR 26%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT TO USA (BY \$356 MILLION OR 39%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS TO USA (BY \$423 MILLION OR 18%).

AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 3.

IMPORTS BY AIR FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE IN 1991 OVER 1990.

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE (+38%), TAIWAN (+36%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+17%), JAPAN (+16%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+12%).

AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, MALAYSIA, ITALY AND USA ALSO INCREASED BY 10%, 10%, 6% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND DECREASED BY 11%.

AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 4.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$6,498 MILLION OR 20%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$2,512 MILLION OR 29%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,145 MILLION OR 17%); AND MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS (BY \$904 MILLION OR 60%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,020 MILLION OR 30%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS (BY \$284 MILLION OR 14%); AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$230 MILLION OR 1%).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM JAPAN (BY \$2,307 MILLION OR 28%) AND FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$1,430 MILLION OR 65%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FROM SINGAPORE (BY \$713 MILLION OR 45%) AND FROM USA (BY \$487 OR 15%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT FROM JAPAN (BY \$451 MILLION OR 14%); AND MEDICINAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS FROM ITALY (BY \$206 MILLION OR 165%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT FROM USA (BY \$982 MILLION OR 32%) AND FROM JAPAN (BY \$36 MILLION OR 81%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS FROM FRANCE (BY \$144 MILLION OR 16%); AND PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS FROM SWITZERLAND (BY \$959 MILLION OR 15%).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO MOST MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN 1991 OVER 1990. THE GROWTH WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+37%).

SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED IN AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND (+31%), CHINA (+31%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+23%) AND USA (+16%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE AND TAIWAN DECREASED BY 20% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY.

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 6.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$3,631 MILLION OR 35%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$3,125 MILLION OR 44%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$761 MILLION OR 15%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$654 MILLION OR 14%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,712 MILLION OR 11%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$531 MILLION OR 6%); AND FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSES, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$192 MILLION OR 31%).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$941 MILLION OR 49%) AND TO USA (BY \$731 MILLION OR 15%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO USA (BY \$745 MILLION OR 67%) AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$299 MILLION OR 67%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE (BY \$300 MILLION OR 41%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS TO USA (BY \$236 MILLION OR 18%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF TO SINGAPORE (BY \$1,571 MILLION OR 63%) AND TO TAIWAN (BY \$1,147 MILLION OR 20%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES TO JAPAN (BY \$305 MILLION OR 15%) AND FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSES, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF TO TAIWAN (BY \$162 MILLION OR 39%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE DECEMBER 1991" NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$33.5 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 582 4915.

TABLE 1: AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
USA	25,166	25,701	- 535	- 2
F.R. OF GERMANY	7,414	6,969	+ 445	+ 6
JAPAN	6,902	6,945	- 43	- 1
SINGAPORE	5,790	4,302	+ 1,488	+ 35

UK	3,599	3,509	+	89	+	3
TAIWAN	2,491	2,316	+	175	+	8
CANADA	1,657	1,722	-	64	-	4
NETHERLANDS	1,620	1,534	+	86	+	6
FRANCE	1,538	1,631	-	92	-	6
SWITZERLAND	1,380	1,632	-	252	-	15

TABLE 2: AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	23,886	22,496	+ 1,390	+ 6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	12,771	14,706	- 1,935	- 13
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	11,006	9,622	+ 1,384	+ 14
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,342	7,446	+ 1,896	+ 25
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	6,694	6,999	- 305	- 4
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,808	2,542	- 733	- 29
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	621	666	- 45	- 7
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	519	519	#	*

/NON-METALLIC .....

NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	389	399	-	11	-	3
FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF	370	348	+	22	+	6

NOTE : # DENOTES LESS THAN HK\$0.5 MN.  
\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3 : AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
JAPAN	31,438	27,000	+ 4,438	+ 16
USA	24,279	23,933	+ 346	+ 1
SINGAPORE	8,827	6,383	+ 2,444	+ 38
SWITZERLAND	8,066	9,086	- 1,021	- 11
TAIWAN	7,909	5,831	+ 2,077	+ 36
ITALY	6,079	5,753	+ 326	+ 6
MALAYSIA	5,506	5,004	+ 502	+ 10
F.R. OF GERMANY	5,133	4,647	+ 486	+ 10
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	5,092	4,342	+ 750	+ 17
UK	5,020	4,493	+ 526	+ 12

TABLE 4: AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	38,396	31,898	+ 6,498	+ 20
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	20,733	20,963	- 230	- 1

/NON-METALLIC .....

NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	15,750	14,924	+	826	+	6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	11,235	8,723	+	2,512	+	29
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7,954	6,809	+	1,145	+	17
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	7,579	7,110	+	469	+	7
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,766	4,876	-	110	-	2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,549	4,091	+	458	+	11
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	3,001	2,492	+	509	+	20
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	2,423	3,444	-	1,020	-	30

TABLE 5: AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
USA	15,316	13,202	+ 2,115	+ 16
JAPAN	8,249	7,442	+ 807	+ 11
TAIWAN	7,634	8,804	- 1,170	- 13
F.R. OF GERMANY	5,807	4,228	+ 1,579	+ 37
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	5,366	4,676	+ 691	+ 15
CHINA	4,507	3,442	+ 1,065	+ 31
SINGAPORE	4,295	5,398	- 1,104	- 20
THAILAND	2,727	2,930	- 203	- 7

UK	2,381	1,929	+	453	+	23
SWITZERLAND	1,840	1,404	+	436	+	31

TABLE 6: AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1991 (HK\$ MN.)	1990 (HK\$ MN.)		INCREASE/ DECREASE (HK\$ MN.)		PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	14,155	15,867	-	1,712	-	11
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	14,108	10,477	+	3,631	+	35
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	10,267	7,142	+	3,125	+	44
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	8,460	8,990	-	531	-	6
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	5,702	4,941	+	761	+	15
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	5,209	4,555	+	654	+	14
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,481	2,945	+	536	+	18
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,533	2,366	+	168	+	7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,961	1,558	+	403	+	26
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	1,409	1,270	+	140	+	11

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FERRY ROUTE WITHDRAWAL AND MTR PEAK HOUR CONGESTION  
RELIEVE MEASURES DISCUSSED

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING A PROPOSAL BY THE HONGKONG AND YAUMATI FERRY COMPANY (HYF) TO WITHDRAW TWO FRANCHISED FERRY ROUTES: CENTRAL TO SHAM SHUI PO AND CENTRAL TO TAI KOK TSUI.

THE TAC ALSO DISCUSSED MTR PEAK HOUR CONGESTION RELIEVE MEASURES IN THIS SUMMER AND THE FITTING OF REAR SEAT BELTS IN NEW PRIVATE CARS.

THE EXISTING TWO FERRY PIERS ON KOWLOON SIDE WILL BE DEMOLISHED THIS YEAR TO MAKE WAY FOR WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION WORKS INCLUDING DREDGING NEAR THE PIERS.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE REPROVISIONING OF THE TWO PIERS WOULD NOT BE ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AS HIGH CAPITAL INVESTMENT - ABOUT \$80 MILLION AND \$160 MILLION RESPECTIVELY - WOULD BE INCURRED.

EVEN IF THE PIERS WERE RELOCATED AT THE NEWLY RECLAIMED WATERFRONT, THEY WOULD BE SOME DISTANCE OFF THE EXISTING PASSENGER CATCHMENT AREAS AND MAY LEAD TO A FURTHER DECREASE IN PATRONAGE.

THE TWO FERRY SERVICES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE VIABLE IN THE LONG TERM BECAUSE WHEN THE PLANNED WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (WHC) OPENS IN 1996/97, THE NEW MTR LINE AND CROSS HARBOUR BUS SERVICES USING THE WHC WOULD DIRECTLY OVERLAPPING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE TWO FERRY ROUTES.

AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PASSENGERS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED, MEMBERS NOTED THAT A NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE BETWEEN SHAM SHUI PO AND CENTRAL VIA TAI KOK TSUI WOULD BE INTRODUCED.

IN ADDITION, PASSENGERS COULD ALSO MAKE USE OF A NUMBER OF EXISTING CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES OPERATING ALONG LAI CHI KOK ROAD.

THE TAC'S ADVICE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO WITHDRAW THE FERRY SERVICES WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION LATER.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSALS TO TACKLE THE CONGESTION PROBLEM ALONG MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR FOR THIS SUMMER.

THESE PROPOSALS INCLUDED AN INTRODUCTION OF EXPRESS BUS ROUTES FROM YUEN LONG, TUEN MUN TO TSIM SHA TSUI; NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS SERVICES FROM MA ON SHAN AND KWAI CHUNG TO HONG KONG; MORE RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS SPECIAL FERRY SERVICES FROM TUEN MUN AND TSUEN WAN TO CENTRAL.

MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THE EFFORT BY THE MTRC TO HELP RELIEVE THE PEAK HOUR CONGESTION, INCLUDING THE PLATFORM ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1992

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AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF REAR SEAT BELTS IN ALL NEWLY REGISTERED PRIVATE VEHICLES.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO A REVIEW OF ACCIDENT STATISTICS BETWEEN 1989 AND 1991, REAR SEAT PASSENGERS ACCOUNTED FOR 30 PER CENT OF ALL PRIVATE CAR ACCIDENT CASUALTIES.

LAST YEAR, 1,281 REAR SEAT PASSENGERS WERE KILLED OR INJURED IN ACCIDENTS.

MEMBERS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE WEARING OF REAR SEAT BELTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND RESEARCH ON WHAT TYPES OF VEHICLES SHOULD BE FITTED WITH REAR SEAT BELTS AND HOW THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING THE SAFETY OF REAR SEAT PASSENGERS COULD BE BEST ACHIEVED IN HONG KONG'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

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CERTAIN MARINE DEPARTMENT OFFICES REMAIN OPEN DURING EASTER

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT ALL PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DAILY DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS (APRIL 17 TO 20).

SENIOR MARINE OFFICER (CENTRAL REGION) OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT, MR YOUNG BING-SHUNG, SAID: "PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT ARE AT THE WESTERN DISTRICT, SHEUNG WAN, WAN CHAI, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING, TSUEN WAN, AND RAMBLER CHANNEL."

"IN ADDITION, THE TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM DURING THE HOLIDAYS," HE SAID.

DURING THE PERIOD, THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL WILL REMAIN OPEN 24 HOURS DAILY, AND THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL BETWEEN 6 AM AND 10 PM DAILY.

ON APRIL 18 (SATURDAY) AND APRIL 20 (MONDAY), THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE IN ROOM 314 ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING AT 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO FACILITATE ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE FOR SHIPS ONLY.

AS FOR THE PORT FORMALITIES OFFICE IN ROOM 318 AT HARBOUR BUILDING, IT WILL BE OPEN ON APRIL 18 (SATURDAY) FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM TO PROCESS APPLICATION FOR PERMITS NORMALLY ISSUED BY THE OFFICE.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1992

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THREE GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCIES ON THREE PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE, LOCATED AT LI SING STREET, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,160 SQUARE METRES.

THE SECOND SITE IS LOCATED AT KO SHING STREET AND HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,420 SQUARE METRES.

BOTH SITES ARE DESIGNATED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS, CONTAINER VEHICLES AND TRAILERS) AND/OR A PRIVATE OR FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR PRIVATE CARS AND LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCIES ARE FOR SIX MONTHS AND MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

SUBMISSION OF TENDERS WILL BE CLOSED\* AT NOON ON APRIL 24.

THE REMAINING SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 28A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,450 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR OPEN STORAGE OF TENANT'S GOODS.

THESE GOODS SHALL INCLUDE VEHICLES NOT LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE BUT EXCLUDING THE STORAGE OF ANY CONTAINERS OR CONTAINER VEHICLES; OR FEE-PAYING PUBLIC VEHICLE PARK FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND LORRIES (EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR TRAILERS OR CHASSIS ATTACHED) WHICH ARE CURRENTLY LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON, MAY 1.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS OF THE THREE SITES INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

THOSE FOR THE FIRST TWO SITES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE HONG KONG WEST DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, 19TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI; AND THOSE FOR THE SHEUNG SHUI SITE AVAILABLE AT THE NORTH DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, SIXTH FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1992

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

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	14.4.92	800
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	15.4.92	+371*
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-471
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED		-100MN
* OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED		+471MN
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX	113.0 *+0.2*	15.4.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.04 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.93	5.03
1 MONTH	3.86 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.15	5.48
3 MONTHS	3.75 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.89 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.40 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 8,108MN

CLOSED 15 APRIL 1992

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