



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MAY 4, 1992

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ADB TASKED TO IMPROVE LIFE QUALITY IN ASIA: GOVERNOR

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THE GOAL FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS IS TO LIFT OUT OF POVERTY SOME 800 MILLION ASIANS WHO STILL LIVE IN A STATE OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY, THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), LORD WILSON POINTED OUT THAT IMPATIENCE WITH POVERTY AND A DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF ONE'S FAMILY, WERE TWO OF THE BASIC MOTIVE FORCES BEHIND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA.

"THE POOR OF ASIA ARE UNDERSTANDABLY IMPATIENT FOR PROGRESS NOW. THEY LOOK TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND TO INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE ADB TO HELP PROVIDE IT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

LORD WILSON SAID SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1966, THE ADB HAD PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF ASIA.

HE SAID THE TRANSFORMATION HAD BEEN UNEVEN WITH MANY PARTS OF THE CONTINENT HAD REACHED THE POINT OF ECONOMIC TAKE-OFF WHILE OTHERS WERE STILL STRUGGLING AGAINST THE ODDS TO RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THEIR PEOPLE.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNOR SAID STATISTICS IN THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY ON ASIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOWED THAT THERE WAS A REAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

"THE ADB CAN BE PROUD OF THE PART IT HAS PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT THIS IMPROVEMENT.

"IN THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE BANK HAS MADE LOANS OF MORE THAN US\$37 BILLION IN 49 COUNTRIES - LOANS WHICH HAVE PRIMED THE PUMP OF DEVELOPMENT AND GIVEN MOMENTUM TO ASIA'S ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION," HE SAID.

BUT LORD WILSON SAID THERE WERE STILL MAJOR PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME.

"THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 800 MILLION ASIANS LIVE IN A STATE OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY - MEANING THEY CANNOT AFFORD ADEQUATE NOURISHMENT.

"THIS IS A DAUNTING STATISTIC. IT REPRESENTS ABOUT A QUARTER OF ASIA'S POPULATION AND IS DOUBLE THE POPULATION OF EUROPE," HE SAID.

"THE GOAL FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS IS TO LIFT THESE PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY - TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL OF THE 4.5 BILLION PEOPLE WHO WILL BE LIVING IN ASIA BY THE YEAR 2017- THE YEAR OF THE ADB'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

LORD WILSON POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD FOR MANY YEARS PUT ITS FAITH IN THE DISCIPLINE OF THE MARKET PLACE AND IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THIS YEAR HONG KONG'S PER CAPITA GDP WOULD BE OVER US\$16,000 PER YEAR.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR TOLD THE DELEGATES THAT THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE CONFIDENCE OF HONG KONG PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE WAS TO APPRECIATE THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY AND WHAT GAVE IT THE POTENTIAL FOR CONTINUING STRENGTH.

HE POINTED OUT THAT LIKE MANY OF THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IN ASIA, HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN THE PAST 40 YEARS WAS BASED ON TRADE WITH EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

HE SAID WHILE THESE MARKETS REMAINED IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG, IT WAS TRADE WITH THE NEIGHBOURS IN ASIA WHICH WAS NOW GIVING HONG KONG'S ECONOMY ITS DYNAMISM.

ON TRADE WITH ASIA, THE GOVERNOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHINA.

"THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE ECONOMIC SUCCESS IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH THAT OF CHINA - ESPECIALLY SOUTHERN CHINA - AND IN PARTICULAR WITH GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

"GUANGDONG IS RAPIDLY EMERGING AS A MAJOR ECONOMIC FORCE. IT IS ON TARGET TO BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR MANUFACTURING CENTRES EARLY IN THE NEXT CENTURY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

CITING FIGURES TO ILLUSTRATE THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT MUCH OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING BASE HAD MOVED TO GUANGDONG AND HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS NOW TO A LARGE EXTENT SERVICE BASED.

"ABOUT 65% OF OUR WORKFORCE IS EMPLOYED IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES. OUR FUTURE PROSPERITY DEPENDS UPON OUR ABILITY TO ACT AS AN EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN THE BURGEONING ECONOMY OF SOUTHERN CHINA AND BOTH THE ASIA REGION AND THE REST OF THE WORLD," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

LORD WILSON REASSURED THAT 1997 WOULD NOT WEAKEN HONG KONG'S TRADE POSITION.

"IT WILL ENHANCE IT. THE STRONG ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

"THE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION OF CHINA'S COASTAL PROVINCES WILL MEAN A CONTINUING AND INCREASING DEMAND FOR HONG KONG'S CAPITAL, SERVICES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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GOVT READY TO DISCUSS WITH CHINA ON ACP FINANCING

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THE GOVERNMENT IS READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE PROPOSALS ON THE FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE OPENING OF THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, MR MACLEOD POINTED OUT THAT THE ISSUES WERE COMPLEX AND IT WAS NOT UNREASONABLE THAT THE CHINESE WOULD NEED TO ABSORB IT.

"THERE IS QUITE A MASS OF INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN TO THE CHINESE AND WE DO ACCEPT THAT THEY NEED TO STUDY THAT CAREFULLY. AND OF COURSE CERTAINLY WE EXPECT AND HOPE THAT THEY WILL COME BACK TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH ANY QUESTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD SAID HE BELIEVED BOTH SIDES HAD A MUTUAL INTEREST IN GETTING ON WITH THE PROJECT AND THE TIME-SCALE WAS PRETTY TIGHT.

"WE HAVE A NUMBER OF MAJOR DECISIONS TO TAKE IN TERMS OF TENDERS AND CONTRACTS COMING UP. SO THAT IF THE TIME-SCALE SLIPS TOO MUCH, THEN THAT WILL BEGIN AFFECTING THE REAL COMPLETION DATE FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS.

"SO IT IS NOT A BLACK AND WHITE ISSUE, BUT I THINK THE CHINESE ARE VERY WELL AWARE OF THE NEED FOR SPEED. I HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS HERE," HE SAID.

ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY NEED FOR THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN MORE TO THE CHINESE OFFICIALS BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PACKAGE, MR MACLEOD SAID:

"WE ARE VERY READY TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH THEM. THERE HAVE BEEN OF COURSE MEETINGS WITH THEM ALREADY AND WE ARE READY AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS WITH THEM ANY CONCERNS THAT THEY'LL HAVE."

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON CALLABLE EQUITY, MR MACLEOD SAID IT WAS A WELL-ESTABLISHED WAY OF FUNDING SUCH PROJECTS.

"WE THINK THAT LENDERS WILL READILY UNDERSTAND THIS AND WILL FIND IT REASSURES THEM. THAT IS THE AIM OF HAVING THAT PROVISION. IT IS A REASSURANCE TO LENDERS THAT IF UNFORTUNATELY COSTS GO UP OR OTHER THINGS GO ASTRAY, THEN THERE IS A FALL-BACK THERE FOR THEM."

HE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THAT VERY CLEARLY TO THE CHINESE AND THAT THEY WOULD TAKE A HELPFUL VIEW OF IT.

ON FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY, MR MACLEOD SAID EQUITY INJECTION FOR THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WOULD CERTAINLY GO TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

"AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN THE NEW ORDINANCE. SO CERTAINLY THEY HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY."

TALKING ABOUT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING, MR MACLEOD SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED THE VISITORS AND BANKERS TO HAVE A GOOD POSITIVE IMPRESSION ABOUT HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

"WE ARE NOT HERE ACTUALLY TRYING TO RAISE THE MONEY. WE ARE TRYING TO GET OVER TO OUR MANY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS AND BANKERS THE GENERAL SITUATION OF HONG KONG THAT WE ARE DYNAMIC, THE ECONOMY IS EXPANDING, AND IN THAT CONTEXT THAT WE HAVE THESE INTERESTING PROJECTS LATER ON," HE SAID.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1992

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ADB HAS AN IMPORTANT TASK AHEAD: FS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) HAS AN IMPORTANT TASK AHEAD IN FURTHERING ITS ROLE AS AN ENGINE OF ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND EQUITABLE GROWTH.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ADB'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS, MR MACLEOD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, SAID THE RAPID POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES ON THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL FRONTS PRESENT BOTH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

"TOGETHER, THEY COULD AFFECT THE BANK'S SCOPE OF OPERATIONS AND ALSO ITS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN THIS REGION," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, THE BIRTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES, THE TRANSFORMATION OF CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES IN EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE REFORMS TAKING PLACE IN THE COUNTRIES OF INDO-CHINA ARE MILESTONES THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE BANK'S OPERATIONS IN THE 1990S," HE SAID.

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, MR MACLEOD SAID CHANGES ARE OCCURRING IN THE COMPOSITION AND DIRECTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE: REGIONAL TRADING BLOCS ARE BEING FORMED, AND TRADE LIBERALISATION NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE URUGUAY ROUND REMAIN UNCERTAIN.

"THE BANK MUST BE PREPARED TO OPERATE STRATEGICALLY TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES," HE SAID.

"AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, I WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING UNIT BY THE BANK LAST JULY TO TACKLE FORWARD PLANNING IN THIS VERY CRITICAL PERIOD," MR MACLEOD ADDED.

TURNING TO THE REGIONAL FRONT, MR MACLEOD SAID THE IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES, AND ESPECIALLY THE ASIAN NEWLY INDUSTRIALISING ECONOMIES (NIES), HAS WRITTEN A NEW PAGE IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"THE REGION HAS NOT ONLY SCORED WELL ON INCOME GROWTH, BUT HAS ALSO UNDERGONE RAPID ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL CHANGES. CONTINUOUS EFFORTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TOWARDS REDUCING POVERTY," HE SAID.

BETWEEN 1981 AND 1990, THE REGION AS A WHOLE MAINTAINED AN AVERAGE ANNUAL REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWTH RATE OF 7 PER CENT, SIGNIFICANTLY OUTPACING THE AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF 3 PER CENT FOR ALL INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES.

RAPID INDUSTRIALISATION AND ECONOMIC LIBERALISATION, PARTICULARLY IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, HAVE UNDERPINNED THIS STRONG PERFORMANCE.

/"BEHIND ALL

"BEHIND ALL THIS SUCCESS, FACTORS SUCH AS GOOD LOCATIONS, SOUND MACRO-ECONOMIC POLICIES, OUTWARD-LOOKING TRADE POLICIES, INDUSTRIOUS AND DEDICATED WORK FORCES, ADHERENCE TO A GOOD WORK ETHICS, AND EQUALLY EFFICIENT PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE SOME OF THE SEEDS FROM WHICH THE ASIAN 'ECONOMIC MIRACLE' GERMINATED," MR MACLEOD SAID.

DYNAMISM AND RESILIENCE ARE TWO SALIENT FEATURES SHARED BY MOST OF THE FAST GROWING ECONOMIES IN THE REGION, HE SAID.

"ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HAS INEVITABLY VARIED SIGNIFICANTLY AMONG INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES," MR MACLEOD SAID, ADDING THAT THIS REFLECTS DIFFERENCES IN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, RESOURCE ENDOWMENT, INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT, POLITICAL STABILITY, AND EXTENT OF NATURAL CALAMITIES.

"BUT IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT MANY ECONOMIES IN THE REGION ARE CONTINUING TO MOVE UP THE DEVELOPMENT LADDER," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE IMPRESSIVE TAKE-OFF OF THE FOUR NIES IN THE PAST TWO DECADES AND NOW ANOTHER LEAGUE OF NIES ARE EMERGING.

"THE FACT THAT COUNTRIES IN THE REGION HAVE DIFFERENT RESOURCE ENDOWMENTS AND DIFFERENT POSITIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT LADDER PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTRA-REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, BANKING AND FINANCE," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"THROUGH ITS LENDING OPERATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IN THE AREA OF POLICY REFORMS, THE ADB HAS HELPED IN THIS PROCESS BY PROMOTING EQUITABLE GROWTH IN THE REGION," HE ADDED.

THE GROWTH IN INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT GAINED IN MOMENTUM IN THE MID-1980'S, SPURRED ON BY AN INTENSIFICATION OF THE OUTWARD SHIFT OF MANUFACTURING PROCESSES BY JAPAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CURRENCY REALIGNMENT FOLLOWING THE PLAZA ACCORD.

"TO ACHIEVE COST-SAVINGS, THE NIES HAVE, IN MORE RECENT YEARS, ALSO BEEN FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JAPAN IN RELOCATING LABOUR-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS TO NEIGHBOURING ECONOMIES.

"THIS PROCESS IS CONTRIBUTING TO AN EXTENSIVE INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING WITHIN ASIA. AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF INTRA-ASIAN EXPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORTS OF THE REGION HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY, FROM 35 PER CENT IN 1987 TO 41 PER CENT IN 1990.

"THE WEB OF INTRA-REGIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS NATURALLY GROWS IN SIZE AND COMPLEXITY AS THE ECONOMIES IN THE REGION ATTAIN A HIGHER LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION.

"INTRA-REGIONAL INVESTMENT HAS DIVERSIFIED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS SUCH AS FINANCIAL SERVICES, RETAIL TRADE AND PROPERTY SECTOR.

THE SURGE IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT HAS AUGMENTED THE DEMAND FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES. THIS HAS GIVEN AN IMPORTANT IMPETUS TO THE GROWTH OF THE REGION'S FINANCIAL CENTRES.

"IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF ECONOMIES, WHICH USED TO HAVE HEAVILY CONTROLLED FINANCIAL SECTORS, ARE EMBARKING ON FINANCIAL LIBERALISATION TO COPE WITH THE UPSURGE IN FINANCIAL ACTIVITY WHICH ACCOMPANIES ECONOMIC GROWTH.

"THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MARKET FORCES IN ENHANCING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FINANCIAL SECTOR," HE NOTED.

"WHILST THE EXTENT AND PACE OF LIBERALISATION DIFFERS, THE PROCESS HAS USUALLY TAKEN THE FORM OF RELAXING CROSS-BORDER FLOWS, ALLOWING FOREIGN ACCESS TO DOMESTIC FINANCIAL MARKETS AND STIMULATING COMPETITION AMONG FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE REMARKABLE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE REGION, I MUST ADD THE CAVEAT THAT PAST ACHIEVEMENT CANNOT ALWAYS GUARANTEE FUTURE SUCCESS. WE SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE TO IMPROVE UPON THE REGION'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CHINA'S COMMITMENT TO AN OPEN-DOOR ECONOMIC POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BENEFICIAL CO-OPERATION IN THE AREAS OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

"THE MARKET-ORIENTED REFORMS WHICH ARE BEING PURSUED IN COUNTRIES IN INDO-CHINA AND THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT ALSO OFFER PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR THE REST OF THE REGION," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, THE AMBITIOUS INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER WAY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE REGION - FOR EXAMPLE, THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG AND THE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS IN THAILAND AND TAIPEI - WILL ACT AS A MAGNET FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

"IN SHORT, THE GROWTH MOMENTUM OF THE REGION IS STRONG. BUT SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH WILL DEPEND ON OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING A STABLE MACRO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT AND EFFICIENCY IN RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS," HE STRESSED.

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RIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

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HONG KONG'S INTENTION IS TO PROVIDE THE RIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT IS VITAL TO ITS FUTURE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE INFRASTRUCTURE HAD TO BE ABLE TO COPE WITH DEMAND IF HONG KONG WAS TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE AND ITS POSITION AS A MAJOR REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCE AND OTHER SERVICES.

/MRS CHAN

MRS CHAN WAS SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ON THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) INTO WHICH THE STRATEGY HAS EVOLVED, FOR DELEGATES ATTENDING THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S ANNUAL MEETING.

EXPLAINING WHY HONG KONG HAS EMBARKED ON ITS PROGRAMME TO BUILD A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, SHE POINTED OUT THAT KAI TAK AIRPORT, AMONG THE WORLD'S BUSIEST WITH OVER 19 MILLION PASSENGERS LAST YEAR, WOULD ALREADY HAVE REACHED CAPACITY BUT FOR EXPANSION WORK NOW IN PROGRESS.

"WELL BEFORE WE CAN OPEN THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT, KAI TAK WILL BE UNABLE TO COPE WITH FORECAST TRAFFIC. GROWTH WILL BECOME SEVERELY CONSTRAINED AS IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR AIRLINES TO SECURE COMMERCIALY ACCEPTABLE LANDING AND DEPARTURE SLOTS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN SAID THE NEW AIRPORT AT SHENZHEN AND THE MACAU AIRPORT UNDER CONSTRUCTION WERE ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE AND DESIGNED TO MEET SPECIFIC REGIONAL DEMANDS.

"IN THIS WAY, THEY PERFORM A ROLE COMPLEMENTARY TO THAT OF HONG KONG'S AIRPORT.

"WHILE THEY MIGHT PLAY A MINOR PART IN RELIEVING THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE CONGESTION AT KAI TAK, THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO RELIEVE THE HUGE VOLUME OF EVER INCREASING TRAFFIC OPERATING INTO KAI TAK UNDER THE TERMS OF AIR SERVICE AGREEMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE TERRITORY OF HONG KONG. SUCH TRAFFIC SIMPLY CANNOT BE DIVERTED TO AIRPORTS LOCATED IN OTHER TERRITORIES," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT AN EFFICIENT TRANSPORT NETWORK WAS CRUCIAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW AIRPORT, AND THIS WOULD BE FORMED BY A SIX-LANE ROAD CORRIDOR AND A HIGH-SPEED RAILWAY.

ON FINANCING, MRS CHAN SAID THE ACP PRESENTED A MAJOR FINANCING CHALLENGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, FOR PRIVATE INVESTORS AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S TWO WHOLLY-OWNED CORPORATIONS, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTRC) AND THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

"WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF CO-OPERATING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DEVELOPING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND WE SEE GREAT SCOPE FOR CONTINUING THIS SUCCESS STORY IN THE ACP," SHE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THE TWO CORPORATIONS WERE SUFFICIENTLY CAPITALISED TO UNDERTAKE THEIR WORK OF BUILDING THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

FINANCING FOR THE AIRPORT PLAN HAD BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRUDENT FISCAL POLICIES WHICH HAD BEEN CONSISTENTLY ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT: TO KEEP THE GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WITHIN THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY AS REFLECTED BY THE FORECAST TREND GROWTH RATE OF GDP.

"WE CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE ABSOLUTELY RIGID ABOUT THIS. FROM TIME TO TIME, WE MUST ACCOMMODATE LARGE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ITEMS SUCH AS THE ACP.

"WE HAVE MADE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR THIS MAJOR PROGRAMME IN OUR PLANNING FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS -- BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS, WHICH WILL STILL TAKE UP THREE QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL SPENDING BETWEEN NOW AND 1997," SHE SAID, NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S RESERVES TOTALLED U.S.\$11.8 BILLION IN MARCH.

MRS CHAN SAID THE MTRC ENJOYED A WELL ESTABLISHED OPERATING AND FINANCIAL TRACK RECORD AND HAD CONSIDERABLE EXISTING RESOURCES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD REPLACE THE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY LATER THIS YEAR WOULD HAVE FEW REVENUES OF ITS OWN, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDING SUPPORT WAS NEEDED TO COVER A WIDER RANGE OF RISKS PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE AIRPORT.

"WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT IS EXTREMELY ROBUST BECAUSE THE AUTHORITY WILL INHERIT ALL OF KAI TAK'S TRAFFIC ONCE THE NEW AIRPORT OPENS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN ALSO SAID THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND CHINA, CONSULTATIONS HAD ALREADY STARTED WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE FUNDING PLANS FOR THE RAIL AND THE AIRPORT WHICH CREATED SOME CONTINGENT LIABILITIES FALLING TO THE POST-1997 GOVERNMENT.

"WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THESE PLANS WILL CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, BUT TIME WILL BE NEEDED TO EXPLAIN THEM CAREFULLY -- THE PLANS ARE, AFTER ALL COMPLEX," SHE SAID.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR MARCH PUBLISHED

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED IN MARCH, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 15.3%, BROADLY IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN MONEY TERMS.

CONSISTENT WITH THE INCREASE IN DEPOSITS IN MARCH, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE DURING THE MONTH. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO INCREASED IN MARCH.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 1.2% IN MARCH FOLLOWING DECREASES OF 1.2% AND 0.1% IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.

/AMONG THESE

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND TIME DEPOSITS GREW BY 7.9% AND 1.7% RESPECTIVELY DURING MARCH WHILE SAVING DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.6%.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 15.3%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS DECREASED BY 1.1% IN MARCH, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.4% AND 0.2% IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 0.9% WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.2%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 5.7%.

DURING MARCH, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS REGISTERED ZERO GROWTH WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DROPPED BY 3.8% AND 2.3% RESPECTIVELY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 11.5% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 14.1% AND 27.0% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 2.8%, 0.8% AND 0.7% RESPECTIVELY IN MARCH, COMPARED WITH DECLINES OF 10.5%, 1.0% AND 1.0% IN FEBRUARY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 22.8%, 16.6% AND 14.8% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 INCREASED BY 0.9% IN MARCH WHILE M2 AND M3 DECREASED BY 0.2% AND 0.4% RESPECTIVELY. THESE COMPARED WITH DECLINES OF 9.0%, 0.4% AND 0.4% IN FEBRUARY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES GREW BY 20.4%, 11.3% AND 9.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS DECREASED BY 0.4% IN MARCH FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.4% IN JANUARY AND A DECREASE OF 0.4% IN FEBRUARY.

AMONG THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR INCREASED BY 1.6% WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY DECREASED BY 1.4%.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 17.6% AND 25.5% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 1.0% IN MARCH, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.2% IN JANUARY AND A DECLINE OF 2.4% IN FEBRUARY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 10.6%.

/OTHER LOANS

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 1.4% IN MARCH, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.7% AND 0.2% IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 16.1%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG DECREASED BY 1.8% IN MARCH, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.1% IN JANUARY AND A DECREASE OF 0.5% IN FEBRUARY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 38.8%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG ROSE BY 10.8% DURING MARCH, AFTER A DECLINE OF 5.7% IN JANUARY AND AN INCREASE OF 2.1% IN FEBRUARY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 63.0%.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992, TOTAL LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG (EXCLUDING THOSE FOR TRADE FINANCING) INCREASED BY 3.4%.

OF THESE, LOANS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING INCREASED BY 4.5%, FOLLOWING DECREASES OF 0.6% AND 0.05% IN THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1991 RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 9.9%.

LOANS TO BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT SECTOR ROSE BY 1.5% DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.7% AND 3.6% DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 15.8%.

LOANS TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE RECORDED A QUARTERLY GROWTH OF 3.8%, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 2.9% AND 1.6% DURING THE PRECEDING TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 13.8%.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (EXCLUDING AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS) ROSE BY 3.8% THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.8% AND 6.3% DURING THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 5.9%.

THE RATE OF INCREASE IN LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) SLOWED DOWN FURTHER TO 3.2% THIS QUARTER, FROM 9.3% AND 5.4% IN THE THIRD AND THE FOURTH QUARTERS RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 29.9%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS, RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 161, 55 AND 156 RESPECTIVELY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR MARCH 1992 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 PRESENTS FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

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TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - MARCH 1992

(HK\$mn)

	Mar 1992	Earlier months (% change to Mar 1992)		
		Feb 1992	Dec 1991	Mar 1991
<u>Money Supply</u>				
M1 - HK\$	115,642	112,491 (2.8)	111,769 (3.5)	94,145 (22.8)
Foreign currency	14,139	16,074 (-12.0)	16,728 (-15.5)	13,689 (3.3)
Total	129,781	128,565 (0.9)	128,497 (1.0)	107,834 (20.4)
M2 - HK\$*	638,577	633,684 (0.8)	636,042 (0.4)	547,442 (16.6)
Foreign currency*	740,630	748,230 (-1.0)	734,948 (0.8)	692,270 (7.0)
Total	1,379,207	1,381,913 (-0.2)	1,370,990 (0.6)	1,239,712 (11.3)
M3 - HK\$*	661,380	656,528 (0.7)	660,117 (0.2)	576,291 (14.8)
Foreign currency*	778,939	789,571 (-1.3)	777,225 (0.2)	738,318 (5.5)
Total	1,440,319	1,446,099 (-0.4)	1,437,342 (0.2)	1,314,609 (9.6)
Notes and coins in circulation	51,024	53,150 (-4.0)	49,177 (3.8)	46,422 (9.9)
of which held by public	44,341	46,430 (-4.5)	42,608 (4.1)	39,687 (11.7)
<u>Total Deposits</u>				
Total Demand deposits	85,440	82,135 (4.0)	85,889 (-0.5)	68,146 (25.4)
Total Savings deposits	309,466	316,471 (-2.2)	314,052 (-1.5)	231,006 (34.0)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	924,103	919,744 (0.5)	911,491 (1.4)	883,716 (4.6)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	37,185	38,664 (-3.8)	39,627 (-6.2)	43,305 (-14.1)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	21,866	22,372 (-2.3)	23,547 (-7.1)	29,963 (-27.0)
HK\$ deposits*	603,765	596,800 (1.2)	604,162 (-0.1)	523,581 (15.3)
US\$ deposits*	314,182	316,976 (-0.9)	311,422 (0.9)	296,600 (5.9)
Other foreign currency deposits*	460,113	465,610 (-1.2)	459,023 (0.2)	435,956 (5.5)
All deposits	1,378,061	1,379,386 (-0.1)	1,374,606 (0.3)	1,256,136 (9.7)
Foreign currency swap deposits	44,275	40,067 (10.5)	40,235 (10.0)	62,010 (-28.6)
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	82,457	81,632 (1.0)	82,637 (-0.2)	74,524 (10.6)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	13,211	11,926 (10.8)	12,384 (6.7)	8,103 (63.0)
Other loans for use in H.K.	844,262	832,311 (1.4)	816,767 (3.4)	727,234 (16.1)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,277,847	1,301,457 (-1.8)	1,293,387 (-1.2)	920,385 (38.8)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	37,811	38,036 (-0.6)	38,598 (-2.0)	106,781 (-64.6)
Loans in HK\$	751,240	739,186 (1.6)	723,832 (3.8)	638,725 (17.6)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,504,348	1,526,177 (-1.4)	1,519,940 (-1.0)	1,198,303 (25.5)
Total loans and advances	2,255,588	2,265,362 (-0.4)	2,243,773 (0.5)	1,837,027 (22.8)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar foreign currency swap deposits.

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - MARCH 1992

<u>Sectors</u>	(HK\$MN)			
	<u>Mar 1992</u>	<u>Earlier quarters</u> (% change to Mar 1992)		
		<u>Dec 1991</u>	<u>Sep 1991</u>	<u>Mar 1991</u>
Manufacturing	56,989	54,532 (4.5)	54,559 (4.5)	51,871 (9.9)
Transport and transport equipment	51,415	51,260 (0.3)	48,562 (5.9)	43,543 (18.1)
Building, construction, property development and investment	127,556	125,704 (1.5)	121,366 (5.1)	110,183 (15.8)
Wholesale and retail trade	83,551	80,500 (3.8)	79,203 (5.5)	73,399 (13.8)
Financial concerns *	118,108	113,758 (3.8)	107,042 (10.3)	111,575 (5.9)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	20,052	19,077 (5.1)	15,394 (30.3)	15,071 (33.1)
to purchase other residential property	183,996	178,347 (3.2)	169,267 (8.7)	141,648 (29.9)
other purposes	78,793	75,073 (5.0)	70,699 (11.4)	65,271 (20.7)
Others	123,802	118,516 (4.5)	116,080 (6.7)	114,673 (8.0)
Total	844,262	816,767 (3.4)	782,172 (7.9)	727,234 (16.1)

* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions.

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PROVISIONAL RETAIL SALES STATISTICS
FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED
* * * * *

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$11.4 BILLION, INCREASED BY 7% WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE ABOVE YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON WAS, HOWEVER, AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WHICH FELL IN EARLY FEBRUARY THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF MID-FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

TO REDUCE SUCH SEASONAL EFFECTS, COMPARISON SHOULD BE MADE ON THE SALES OF THE FIRST TWO MONTHS IN 1992 TAKEN TOGETHER, WITH THOSE OF THE SAME MONTHS A YEAR AGO.

ON THIS BASIS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 21% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME.

AS A RESULT OF PROMOTION CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED BY SOME DEALERS, THE SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES CONTINUED TO REGISTER THE LARGEST INCREASE IN FEBRUARY WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, BY 145% IN VALUE AND 127% IN VOLUME.

FOR THIS ITEM, SALES SHOULD BE LESS AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS SUCH AS THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

THE SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS IN FEBRUARY RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 8% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO.

COMPARING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, THE SALES OF THESE ITEMS INCREASED BY 28% IN VALUE AND 36% IN VOLUME.

IN VOLUME TERMS, SALES IN SUPERMARKETS, OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS, CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR OUTLETS AND DEPARTMENT STORES ALL DROPPED IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR FROM THE SAME MONTH A YEAR AGO (-3% IN VOLUME, THOUGH +6% IN VALUE FOR SUPERMARKETS; -17% IN VOLUME AND -8% IN VALUE FOR OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS; -14% IN VOLUME AND -6% IN VALUE FOR CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR OUTLETS; AND -4% IN VOLUME, THOUGH +4% IN VALUE FOR DEPARTMENT STORES).

SUCH YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON FOR THESE TYPES OF OUTLETS WAS PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE DIFFERENT TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR.

/TAKING JANUARY

TAKING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TOGETHER, INCREASES WERE RECORDED THIS YEAR IN THE SALES IN SUPERMARKETS OVER LAST YEAR (BY 15% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME); IN CLOTHING/FOOTWEAR OUTLETS (BY 21% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME); AND IN DEPARTMENT STORES (BY 17% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME).

SALES IN OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS ALSO ROSE BY 10% IN VALUE; BUT IN VOLUME TERMS, A FALL OF 2% WAS RECORDED.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES USED ARE THE RESPECTIVE COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX WHICH CORRESPOND TO THE BROAD CATEGORIES OF GOODS IN QUESTION.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR JANUARY 1992 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR FEBRUARY 1992.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1992 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF FEBRUARY 1992 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR JANUARY 1992 AND WITH THOSE FOR FEBRUARY 1991, AND COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO FEBRUARY OF 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE FEBRUARY 1992 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 802 1258.

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for February 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$11,351.1 million
 for January 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$14,214.9 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR JANUARY 1992 AND FEBRUARY 1992

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	January 1992	February 1992	February 1992 compared with January 1992		February 1992 compared with February 1991		Jan.-Feb. 1992 compared with Jan.-Feb. 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	151.4	120.9	-30.5	-20.1	+7.5	+6.6	+23.2	+20.6
	Volume	137.6	107.9	-29.6	-21.5	+0.2	+0.2	+15.2	+14.2
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET:									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	129.7	99.9	-29.9	-23.0	-8.3	-7.7	+10.4	+10.0
	Volume	109.9	81.0	-28.9	-26.3	-16.5	-16.9	-2.1	-2.1
Supermarkets	Value	125.2	128.4	+3.2	+2.6	+7.7	+6.3	+16.4	+14.8
	Volume	107.0	108.1	+1.1	+1.0	-3.3	-3.0	+5.5	+5.4
Fuels	Value	131.4	107.1	-24.3	-18.5	+4.5	+4.4	+5.2	+4.6
	Volume	103.0	84.1	-18.9	-18.3	-0.4	-0.5	#	#
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	185.8	124.4	-61.4	-33.1	-7.7	-5.8	+27.1	+21.2
	Volume	166.5	111.6	-55.0	-33.0	-17.4	-13.5	+15.0	+12.1
Consumer durable goods*	Value	158.2	134.0	-24.1	-15.3	+40.8	+43.8	+45.2	+44.8
	Volume	144.5	121.1	-23.5	-16.2	+32.0	+36.0	+36.1	+37.4
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	196.1	180.3	-15.8	-8.0	+106.8	+145.3	+107.1	+132.1
	Volume	170.5	155.2	-15.3	-9.0	+86.7	+126.7	+86.9	+114.4
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	130.7	100.5	-30.2	-23.1	-6.9	-6.5	+0.4	+0.4
	Volume	125.7	96.4	-29.3	-23.3	-7.5	-7.3	-0.6	-0.6
Department stores	Value	162.5	119.4	-43.2	-26.6	+4.4	+3.9	+20.4	+17.0
	Volume	146.8	107.1	-39.7	-27.0	-4.7	-4.2	+9.9	+8.4
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	136.3	114.2	-22.1	-16.2	+8.9	+8.4	+27.5	+28.1
	Volume	143.3	114.3	-29.0	-20.2	+12.1	+11.8	+33.9	+35.7
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	166.1	127.4	-38.7	-23.3	-8.8	-6.5	+11.7	+8.7
	Volume	149.6	113.9	-35.8	-23.9	-18.4	-13.9	+0.6	+0.5

NOTE : * This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".
 # denotes a figure within ± 0.05

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR 4TH QUARTER OF 1991

* * * * *

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, AMOUNTED TO \$16.9 BILLION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS WAS 7.4% HIGHER IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER IN 1990, IT WAS 0.2% HIGHER.

THE RISE IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991 OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER WAS LARGELY DUE TO A GREATER AMOUNT OF WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE GROSS VALUE OF SUCH WORK DONE AT PRIVATE SITES INCREASED BY 10.8% OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER TO \$8.9 BILLION; AND AT PUBLIC SITES, BY 7.7% TO \$4.0 BILLION.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS ALSO INCREASED, BY 7.3% OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER TO \$1.3 BILLION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF NON-SITE WORK PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS CONTINUED TO FALL BY 2.3% OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER TO \$2.8 BILLION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO COMBINED RESIDENTIAL/NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, ACCOUNTED FOR THE GREATEST PORTION OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK PERFORMED.

THE GROSS VALUE OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991 WAS \$5.1 BILLION.

ALTHOUGH THIS FIGURE WAS STILL 3.6% LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO, IT SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL RISE OF 5.0% OVER THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

CONSTRUCTION WORK ON COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991, WITH A TOTAL VALUE AT \$2.7 BILLION, COMPARED HIGH WITH BOTH THE PRECEDING QUARTER (+28.2%) AND THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO (+23.9%).

THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS FORMED THE SECOND LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A CONTINUED DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN TRANSPORT PROJECTS, WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR THE THIRD LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK.

/THE GROSS

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THE GROSS VALUE OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991 AT \$1.3 BILLION, WAS 6.2% LOWER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 14.7% LOWER THAN A YEAR AGO.

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT AT THE SAME TIME.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS, INCLUDING BOTH GENERAL AND SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, COVERS ONLY THOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH THE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT TAKES THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, BUT NOT PROJECTS IN WHICH IT TAKES ONLY THE ROLE OF A SUB-CONTRACTOR.

HOWEVER, SUB-CONTRACTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR WHOM THEY WORKED.

MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 4TH QUARTER 1991".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER I, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3265.

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UK/HK STUDENT FUNDING SCHEME INVITES APPLICATIONS

* * * * *

THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY ANNOUNCED THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FOR THE 1992-93 ACADEMIC YEAR IS OPEN TO APPLICATIONS FROM TODAY (MONDAY).

THE SCHEME IS JOINTLY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG AND UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENTS TO HELP HONG KONG STUDENTS WHO ARE IN NEED TO PAY THE HIGHER TUITION FEES CHARGED ON OVERSEAS STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

IT IS OPEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING FULL-TIME FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES AT UNIVERSITIES, POLYTECHNICS AND COLLEGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, SUBJECT TO THEIR HAVING RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY OR HAVE HAD THEIR HOME IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE COURSE STARTS.

/THE SCHEME

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THE SCHEME IS MEANS-TESTED AND THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TUITION FEES PAYABLE BY AN OVERSEAS STUDENT AND A NOTIONAL BRITISH HOME STUDENT FEE ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING STUDENTS' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1992-93, THE NOTIONAL "HOME FEE" WILL BE 702 POUNDS STERLING.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL BE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS, BUT IF THE TOTAL REQUIREMENT EXCEEDS THE JOINT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THEN EACH SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S SHARE OF GRANT WOULD BE PROPORTIONATELY REDUCED, WITH THE BALANCE MADE UP BY A LOAN SOLELY FINANCED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

AN INTEREST ON THE LOAN BORROWED BY APPLICANTS IS CHARGEABLE AT A RATE OF 2.5 PER CENT A YEAR CALCULATED FROM THE STARTING DATE OF THE LOAN REPAYMENT PERIOD.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY AT QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOW BLOCK, GROUND FLOOR, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

APPLICANTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THEIR HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED BY AN INSTITUTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR ONE OF THE COURSES COVERED BY THE SCHEME (PROOF OF CONDITIONAL OFFER WILL BE ACCEPTABLE).

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY HAND TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY. THE CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE:

* ON-COURSE STUDENTS	:	JULY 1, 1992
* NEW STUDENTS	:	OCTOBER 1, 1992

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE BUT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 2, 1992 MAY BE ACCEPTED BUT WILL BE PROCESSED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOANS ONLY.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE ON 867 3547.

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RADIO FREQUENCY AGREEMENT SIGNED IN GUANGZHOU

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, TODAY (MONDAY) SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN GUANGZHOU BETWEEN THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE AND THE GUANGDONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION.

THE AGREEMENT COVERS RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM USED FOR MOBILE AND FIXED COMMUNICATION AS WELL AS FM SOUND AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING.

/IT AIMS

IT AIMS TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK WHEREBY EXISTING RADIO FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS ARE PROTECTED AND FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE CO-ORDINATED IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE TO THE OTHER SIDE.

"I AM HAPPY THAT THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED," MR WONG SAID.

"IT WILL ALLOW BOTH SIDES TO USE THE SCARCE RADIO FREQUENCY SPECTRUM MORE EFFICIENTLY, AND WILL PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLVING ANY FUTURE PROBLEMS," HE ADDED.

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION
COMPLETES FINAL REPORT

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION, DR C.H. LEONG, TODAY (MONDAY) SUBMITTED THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE.

THE FINAL REPORT CONCLUDES THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE IN NOVEMBER 1987 WITH THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

IN THE LIGHT OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION (SAHR), TO CONSIDER THE SOCIAL, MORAL, ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES ARISING FROM THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSESS THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TOWARDS THEM, AND TO ADVISE GOVERNMENT ON HOW THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1987 AND AUGUST 1991, THE COMMITTEE HELD 19 MEETINGS AND MADE TWO FAMILIARISATION VISITS TO SEE THE IN-VITRO FERTILISATION (IVF) FACILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FACILITIES OF THE HONG KONG FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

IN JULY 1989, THE COMMITTEE PUBLISHED AN INTERIM REPORT SETTING OUT THE COMMITTEE'S PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

TAKING ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE INTERIM REPORT, THE COMMITTEE MADE FURTHER DELIBERATION INTO THE SUBJECT.

IN THE FINAL REPORT, THE COMMITTEE AFFIRMS ITS VIEWS IN THE INTERIM REPORT AND SETS OUT 22 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE:

- * A CONTROLLING BODY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE. IT SHOULD BE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IN COMPOSITION. AN ETHICS COMMITTEE SHOULD BE SET UP AS PART OF THE BODY;
- * THE CONTROLLING BODY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO REGISTER MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF SAHR AND TO ISSUE A CODE OF PRACTICE GOVERNING SUCH INSTITUTIONS;

- * THE CONTROLLING BODY SHOULD MAINTAIN A CENTRAL REGISTRY KEEPING A RECORD OF SEMEN DONORS THROUGHOUT HONG KONG;
- * THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONDUCT AN EARLY ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF SETTING UP SUCH A BODY;
- * A REGISTERED MEDICAL INSTITUTION SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE AND ANY OTHER CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE CONTROLLING BODY. IN PARTICULAR, A REGISTERED MEDICAL INSTITUTION SHOULD KEEP PROPER RECORDS OF ALL SAHR PROCEDURES CARRIED OUT;
- * THE LEGITIMACY OF CHILDREN BORN BY DONOR INSEMINATION (DI) SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY LEGISLATION;
- * ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY HUSBAND SHOULD BE ALLOWED;
- * ONLY BANKED SEMEN SHOULD BE USED FOR DONOR INSEMINATION;
- * THE HUSBAND'S CONSENT TO DI PROCEDURE SHOULD BE REQUIRED;
- * THE IDENTITY OF SEMEN DONORS SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL;
- * THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN Sired BY ANY ONE SEMEN DONOR SHOULD NOT BE MORE THAN THREE;
- * A REGISTERED MEDICAL INSTITUTION MAY PROVIDE A PERSON BORN OF DI WITH INFORMATION RELATING TO HIS BIRTH IF THAT PERSON HAS REACHED THE AGE OF MAJORITY AND HAS MADE SUCH A REQUEST. THE INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO CONFIRMATION THAT THE MOTHER OF THE PERSON CONCERNED, HAD DI PROCEDURES AROUND THE TIME THAT THAT PERSON WAS BORN. EXCEPT FOR THIS, THE INSTITUTION SHOULD MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY AND SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO ANY OTHER PERSON;
- * COMMERCIAL SURROGACY SHOULD BE BANNED;
- * ONLY GENETIC IVF SURROGACY (THAT IS, WHERE THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE CONTRIBUTE BOTH THE EGG AND SEMEN FERTILISED OUTSIDE THE SURROGATE MOTHER) SHOULD BE ALLOWED;
- * FOR GENETIC IVF SURROGACY, THE CONSENT OF THE SURROGATE MOTHER AND HER HUSBAND SHOULD BE REQUIRED;
- * GENETIC IVF SURROGACY SHOULD ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR INFERTILE MARRIED COUPLES WHERE NO ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IS POSSIBLE;
- * A WOMAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN MARRIED NOR HAS HAD A CHILD OF HER OWN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ACT AS A SURROGATE MOTHER;
- * PROPER PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING ON LIKELY PROBLEMS FOR BOTH THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE AND THE SURROGATE SHOULD BE MADE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PROCESS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE SURROGACY;

- * NO EMBRYO SHOULD BE DELIBERATELY CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH. NO RESEARCH ON AN EMBRYO SHOULD BE ALLOWED AFTER THE 14TH DAY OF FERTILISATION WHICH IS THE USUAL TIMING OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE PRIMITIVE STREAK (THAT IS, RUDIMENTARY NERVOUS TISSUE) IN THE EMBRYO;
- * PARTICULAR STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR GAMETES AND EMBRYOS SHOULD BE SPECIFIED;
- * THE REGISTERED MEDICAL INSTITUTION SHOULD OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF THE GENETIC PARENTS REGARDING THE DISPOSAL OF STORED EMBRYOS AND THE USE OF THE EMBRYOS FOR IVF, RESEARCH AND DONATION TO OTHER PARTIES;
- * THERE SHOULD BE GUIDELINES ON WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED AND NOT ALLOWED IN EMBRYO RESEARCH.

DR LEONG SAID: "IN FORMULATING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT, THE COMMITTEE HAS ALL ALONG ADOPTED AN OPEN AND NEUTRAL POSITION. IT HAS NEITHER PROMOTED NOR DISCOURAGED SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION."

THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISES THAT SAHR IS A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING AREA INVOLVING COMPLEX SOCIAL, MORAL, ETHICAL, LEGAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

IT IS AWARE THAT THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE ABOUT WHICH SOCIETY AT LARGE CAN EASILY ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS.

"RATHER, GIVEN THAT IT IS NOT REGARDED APPROPRIATE OR DESIRABLE TO BAN SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION IN HONG KONG, THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISES THE NEED TO INTRODUCE A CONTROLLING AND MONITORING MECHANISM TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

"THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE MADE TO GOVERNMENT WITH THIS DIRECTION IN MIND," DR LEONG SAID.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE IS:

DR LEONG CHE-HUNG (CHAIRMAN)
MR CHRISTOPHER CHAN CHEUK
MR JIMSON CHAN WING-TAI
DR FANNY CHEUNG MUI-CHING
DR CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING
MRS PEGGY LAM PEI YU-JA
DR LAW CHI-LIM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
REPRESENTATIVE FROM HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH
REPRESENTATIVE FROM MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
(FROM NOVEMBER 1987 TO APRIL 1989)
REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
(FROM APRIL 1989)
REPRESENTATIVE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(FROM MARCH 1990)
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
(FROM MARCH 1990)

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1992

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THREE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR PAK TIN BY-ELECTION
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THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF THREE NOMINATIONS FOR THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S PAK TIN CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 24.

ONE OF THE NOMINATIONS, FOR MR STANLEY SUM YIU-CHO, WAS RECEIVED TODAY (MONDAY) - THE LAST DAY OF THE NOMINATION PERIOD.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS OF THE THREE CANDIDATES ARE:

NAME -----	SEX ---	AGE ---	OCCUPATION -----	CONTACT TELEPHONE -----
STANLEY SUM YIU-CHO	M	41	LECTURER	421 4721 OR 112 8329 CALL 1369
YAN KAI-WING	M	26	COMMUNITY ORGANISER	393 5258
LEUNG WAI-SHING	M	33	CIVIC EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR	727 4331 EXT 375

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UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN KWUN TONG TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON TWO BUILDINGS IN KWUN TONG SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE AT SHOP NO. 5, GROUND FLOOR OF WAH ON HOUSE, 51 MUT WAH STREET AND ON THE ROOF OVER FLATS 12 AND 13, SIXTH FLOOR, YUE WAH MANSION, 407-431 KWUN TONG ROAD AND 34-62 YUE MAN SQUARE, KWUN TONG.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 9 AND JULY 14 RESPECTIVELY WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (MONDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO GO OFF IN KOWLOON EAST
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO KOWLOON EAST WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 6) TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG, NGAU CHI WAN, CHOI HUNG ESTATE, CHOI WAN ESTATE, PING SHEK ESTATE, SHUN LEE ESTATE, SHUN TIN ESTATE, SHUN ON ESTATE, SHUN CHI COURT, SHUN LEE TSUEN THA, NGAU TAU KOK, LOK WAH ESTATE, JORDAN VALLEY, KOWLOON BAY, KWUN TONG, LAM TIN, SAU MAU PING AND CHA KWO LING.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 47.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 279.443 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 143.918 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 24.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	2.5.92	988
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	4.5.92	+241
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-241
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.6 **0.1* 4.5.92

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1992

- 24 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.42 PCT	19 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.97	4.96
1 MONTH	3.42 PCT	22 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.36	5.35
3 MONTHS	3.59 PCT					
6 MONTHS	3.81 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.30 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,545 MN

CLOSED 4 MAY 1992

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