



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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EFFICIENT TELECOMMUNICATIONS BACKS HONG KONG'S SUCCESS: GOVERNOR  
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A MEASURE OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS IS THE GROWING VOLUME OF REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAFFIC WHICH IS ROUTED THROUGH THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON SAID IN HANNOVER, GERMANY ON TUESDAY (MARCH 12).

THE GOVERNOR WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF CEBIT 1991 WHICH IS REGARDED AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT FAIR FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT, DATA PROCESSING, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY.

SIR DAVID TOLD THE ASSEMBLY COMPRISING GERMANY'S OFFICIALS AND TOP BUSINESS EXECUTIVES FROM EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND ASIA THAT HONG KONG'S COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENT WAS SUCH THAT THERE WAS A PREMIUM ON INFORMATION AND ON THE ABILITY TO EITHER PASS IT ON, OR ACT ON IT, FASTER THAN THE COMPETITION.

HONG KONG HAD BECOME THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE FOR THE REGION, HE SAID, A DEVELOPMENT THAT HAD BEEN LED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"IN COMMON WITH OTHER UTILITIES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN HONG KONG ARE COMPLETELY IN THE HANDS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"AS A RESULT THEY ARE HIGHLY EFFICIENT, TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED AND CHEAPER THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

"THE LAUNCHING LAST YEAR OF ASIASAT, FINANCED BY A HONG KONG CONSORTIUM, IS ONLY THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF WHAT UNFETTERED PRIVATE INITIATIVE CAN ACHIEVE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG WAS LINKED TO THE WORLD BY RADIO, CABLE AND SATELLITE AND BUSINESSMEN COULD COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR HEAD OFFICES DIRECT BY TELEPHONE, TELEX, FAX OR EVEN PRIVATELY-RENTED DEDICATED NETWORKS.

"THUS THE FOREIGN BUSINESSMAN SETTING UP IN HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME NEED DO LITTLE MORE THAN PLUG A CABLE INTO A WALL SOCKET," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TELEX TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG INCREASED BY ALMOST ONE THIRD LAST YEAR AND MUCH OF THIS INVOLVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CHINA.

"FOR SOUTHERN CHINA, HONG KONG IS THE MAIN OUTLET TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

"THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT. THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY OF SOUTHERN CHINA, AND HONG KONG'S CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE PROCESS, IS ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN HONG KONG'S RECENT SUCCESS AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG WAS VERY PROUD TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS A FOCUS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CEBIT FORUM THIS YEAR AND WE VALUED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW WHAT WE WERE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING AND WHAT WE COULD OFFER COMPANIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE MARKETS OF EAST ASIA.

"TEN YEARS AGO I DOUBT THAT HONG KONG WOULD EVEN HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AS A PARTNER FOR THIS EXHIBITION. THAT WE HAVE BEEN TODAY SHOWS THAT WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN A SHORT TIME.

"THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY DEMONSTRATES THIS PARTICULARLY WELL," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WAS VERY MUCH A POST-WAR PHENOMENON AND HONG KONG WAS NEW TO THE SCENE.

"THE REFUGEE WORKFORCE OF THE '50S PRODUCED SIMPLE BATTERIES, BULBS AND TORCHLIGHTS.

"IN THE '60S WE GRADUATED TO TRANSISTOR RADIOS.

"NOW, AS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE EXHIBITION, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY CAN TURN ITS HAND TO A WHOLE RANGE OF SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTS FROM HOME AUDIO AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT, THROUGH HEART-RATE MONITORS, INTEGRATED CIRCUITS, COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER PERIPHERALS, TO SATELLITE RECEIVERS AND OTHER TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICES," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT INCREASED SOPHISTICATION MEANT HIGHER VALUE ADDED, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG EMPLOYED ONLY ONE TENTH OF THE TERRITORY'S WORKFORCE BUT IT ACCOUNTED FOR A QUARTER OF ITS EXPORTS.

"MORE IMPORTANT, HONG KONG IS NO LONGER SIMPLY A PRODUCER. IT HAS NOW BECOME A PLACE FROM WHICH TRANS-NATIONAL PRODUCTION OPERATIONS ARE MANAGED," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ON HONG KONG/GERMANY ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THE GOVERNOR SAID GERMANY HAD ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE TERRITORY'S MOST VALUED TRADING PARTNERS.

GERMANY WAS THE THIRD LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S EXPORTS. AND HONG KONG BOUGHT ALMOST AS MUCH FROM GERMANY IN MONEY TERMS, PARTICULARLY MACHINERY, TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, CHEMICAL PRODUCTS AND ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

"YOU ARE ALSO A SIGNIFICANT INVESTOR IN HONG KONG, WITH AROUND DM110 MILLION INVESTED BY GERMAN COMPANIES IN THE TERRITORY AT PRESENT," HE SAID.

GERMAN FINANCIERS HAD ALSO BEEN QUICK TO RECOGNISE THE VITAL ROLE HONG KONG PLAYED AS A REGIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE.

"ALMOST ALL MAJOR GERMAN BANKS HAVE A PRESENCE IN HONG KONG. THEY ARE THERE WITH SOME 400 OTHERS FROM 45 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 75 FROM AMONGST THE WORLD'S TOP 100 IN TERMS OF ASSET SIZE. SO WE HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF BANKING POWER AND PLENTY OF COMPETITION," HE SAID.

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THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ABSENCE OF EXCHANGE CONTROLS AND RED TAPE; FIRST RATE COMMUNICATIONS; PLUS LOCATION; COMBINED TO GIVE HONG KONG A SIGNIFICANT EDGE OVER COMPETITORS IN THE REGION.

"INCREASINGLY, I BELIEVE, HONG KONG IS SEEN AS THE PLACE TO BE IN ASIA.

"SOME 600 FOREIGN FIRMS HAVE SET UP THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG. THAT IS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NUMBER FIVE YEARS AGO. MORE THAN A THIRD OF THEM COME FROM EUROPE," HE SAID.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS WAS REALLY THE SYMBOL OF THE ARRIVAL OF POST-INDUSTRIAL HONG KONG, SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT SERVICES NOW ACCOUNTED FOR AROUND 70 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY.

"HONG KONG IS NO LONGER JUST ANOTHER PLACE TO INVEST IN OFF-SHORE ASSEMBLY.

"IT IS NOW BOTH AN ENTREPOT, PARTICULARLY FOR TRADE WITH CHINA (BUT NOT ONLY CHINA); AND ALSO A HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURER; AN EFFICIENT FINANCIAL CENTRE; AND A SOPHISTICATED COMMUNICATIONS HUB.

"IT HAS BECOME A PLACE NOT SIMPLY TO DO BUSINESS, BUT FROM WHICH TO MANAGE BUSINESS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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#### GOVERNOR SEEKS SUPPORT FROM OVERSEAS RESIDENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, LAST (MONDAY) NIGHT CALLED ON PROFESSIONALS AND EXECUTIVES FROM HONG KONG, WHO NOW LIVE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, TO HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THE TERRITORY'S CONTINUED SUCCESS.

SPEAKING TO SOME 120 MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG EXECUTIVES CLUB IN LONDON, SIR DAVID SAID THE TERRITORY NEEDS PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG WHO TAKE KEEN INTERESTS IN ITS AFFAIRS TO ACT AS ITS AMBASSADORS.

HE SAID: "THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO WORK IN HONG KONG SHOULD NOT DELAY AS GOOD OPPORTUNITIES ABOUNDED THERE.

"BUT THOSE WHO ARE STAYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM SHOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW SUPPORT AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN HONG KONG EVENTS."

WHILE NOT DISCOUNTING THE PROBLEMS FACING THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNOR EMPHASISED SUCH POSITIVE ASPECTS AS THE ECONOMY, WHICH AT TWO PER CENT GROWTH RATE, ALTHOUGH LOW BY ITS OWN STANDARD, WAS REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL COMPARED TO THE RECESSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES.

/"THERE IS .....

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"THERE IS TREMENDOUS ACTIVITY GOING ON THE WHOLE TIME. THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE AROUND, A GOOD DEAL OF INVESTMENT AROUND."

NOTING THE CLOSE AND GROWING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CHINA, HE TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF ALL EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN THE MAINLAND CAME FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG, AND MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG WERE CONTRIBUTING THEIR EXPERTISE TO THE WORKFORCE.

"IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE ALONE, SOMETHING LIKE TWO MILLION PEOPLE ARE WORKING FOR HONG KONG ENTERPRISES," HE SAID.

GUANGDONG HAD A DYNAMISM AND MOMENTUM OF ITS OWN AND IN THAT HONG KONG WAS PLAYING A VERY IMPORTANT PART.

"THE PEARL RIVER AREA WILL BECOME A GREAT CENTRE OF GROWTH IN EAST ASIA IN THE NEXT 20 OR 30 YEARS AND HONG KONG IS IN A UNIQUE POSITION GEOGRAPHICALLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE KEY CHANGES THAT ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JANUARY RELEASED

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY 1991, AT \$118,857 MILLION, GREW BY 39% IN VALUE TERMS AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE DETAILED FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF TRADE IN JANUARY 1991 RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 15% TO \$19,176 MILLION, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 40% TO \$39,021 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 30% TO \$58,197 MILLION. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 48% TO \$60,661 MILLION.

CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE TRADE FIGURES FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR JANUARY THIS YEAR ARE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, BUT IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1991 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2% TO \$228,414 MILLION WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS WAS UP BY 22% TO \$425,059 MILLION.

/TAKING DOMESTIC .....

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 14%. THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 18% TO \$662,100 MILLION. THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, AS A WHOLE, INCREASED BY 16%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, CHINA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES OF 82%, 55% AND 46% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE TO THE NETHERLANDS, TAIWAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN ALSO INCREASED, BY 31%, 26%, 26% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA AND THE USA DECREASED BY 16% AND 11% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$667 MILLION OR 65%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$496 MILLION OR 43%); CLOTHING (BY \$173 MILLION OR 3%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$151 MILLION OR 12%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$48 MILLION OR 2%), AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$11 MILLION OR 11%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARIZED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN, BY 100%, 74%, 61% AND 54% RESPECTIVELY. THOSE FROM THE USA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, CHINA, SWITZERLAND, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND FRANCE INCREASED BY 49%, 48%, 43%, 39%, 35% AND 24% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$2,537 MILLION OR 66%); TEXTILES (BY \$1,837 MILLION OR 39%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,624 MILLION OR 56%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$1,618 MILLION OR 43%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CORK AND WOOD AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF (BY \$125 MILLION OR 25%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO ALL THE MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, CHINA, TAIWAN, SWITZERLAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY 96%, 61%, 54%, 54%, 53% AND 45% RESPECTIVELY.

THOSE TO JAPAN, THE USA, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND SINGAPORE INCREASED BY 31%, 22%, 10% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING JANUARY 1991 WITH JANUARY 1990, CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$1,354 MILLION OR 35%); TEXTILES (BY \$1,152 MILLION OR 39%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY \$1,116 MILLION OR 32%); AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$937 MILLION OR 42%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN INORGANIC CHEMICALS (BY \$37 MILLION OR 21%), AND OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT (BY \$30 MILLION OR 47%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY 1991 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL 1991.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE JANUARY 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN JANUARY 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND MARCH 20, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$33.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 823 4915).

/TABLE 1 .....

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
USA	4,712	5,277	- 565	- 11
CHINA	4,263	2,752	+ 1,511	+ 55
FR OF GERMANY	1,930	1,319	+ 611	+ 46
UK	1,201	957	+ 244	+ 26
JAPAN	938	897	+ 41	+ 5
SINGAPORE	861	472	+ 389	+ 82
TAIWAN	559	443	+ 116	+ 26
NETHERLANDS	502	384	+ 118	+ 31
CANADA	440	524	- 84	- 16
FRANCE	334	334	#	*

# DENOTES LESS THAN HKD 0.5 MN.

\* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,140	5,968	+ 173	+ 3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,897	1,945	- 48	- 2
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	1,692	1,025	+ 667	+ 65

/PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS .....

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,653	1,501	+ 152	+ 10
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,636	1,140	+ 496	+ 43
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,376	1,225	+ 151	+ 12

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
CHINA	22,881	16,043	+ 6,838	+ 43
JAPAN	8,816	5,711	+ 3,105	+ 54
TAIWAN	5,635	3,503	+ 2,132	+ 61
USA	5,280	3,551	+ 1,729	+ 49
SINGAPORE	3,099	1,546	+ 1,553	+ 100
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2,815	1,614	+ 1,201	+ 74
UK	1,310	887	+ 423	+ 48
FR OF GERMANY	1,276	948	+ 328	+ 35
SWITZERLAND	849	611	+ 237	+ 39
FRANCE	805	647	+ 157	+ 24

TABLE 4: IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,587	4,751	+ 1,837	+ 39

/ELECTRICAL MACHINERY .....

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,359	3,822	+ 2,537	+ 66
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,374	3,756	+ 1,618	+ 43
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	4,536	2,912	+ 1,624	+ 56
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,983	2,769	+ 1,214	+ 44
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,868	2,245	+ 623	+ 28

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS TO 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
CHINA	11,090	6,889	+ 4,201	+ 61
USA	7,625	6,245	+ 1,380	+ 22
FR OF GERMANY	2,948	1,501	+ 1,447	+ 96
JAPAN	2,261	1,730	+ 531	+ 31
TAIWAN	2,016	1,311	+ 705	+ 54
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,096	995	+ 101	+ 10
UK	1,061	733	+ 328	+ 45
SINGAPORE	955	925	+ 29	+ 3
NETHERLANDS	651	425	+ 226	+ 53
SWITZERLAND	348	226	+ 122	+ 54

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JANUARY 1991 (HKD MN.)	JANUARY 1990 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE INCREASE ( % )
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,223	3,869	+ 1,354	+ 35
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,593	3,477	+ 1,116	+ 32
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,100	2,948	+ 1,152	+ 39
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,489	2,570	+ 919	+ 36
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,185	2,248	+ 937	+ 42
FOOTWEAR	1,844	961	+ 883	+ 92

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NO RESTRICTION ON TRADE WITH KUWAIT

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THE GOVERNOR HAS ISSUED AN OPEN GENERAL LICENCE PERMITTING ALL TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND KUWAIT TODAY (TUESDAY), BY EXERCISING HIS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLES 2 AND 4 OF THE IRAQ AND KUWAIT (UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS) (DEPENDENT TERRITORIES) ORDER 1990 WHICH WAS APPLIED TO HONG KONG WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 9 LAST YEAR.

"FOLLOWING THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF AND THE RESTORATION OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN KUWAIT, IT IS NOW CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE FOR HONG KONG TO RESUME TRADE RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID.

"SHOULD TRADERS HAVE ANY ENQUIRIES, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE TRADE DEPARTMENT FOR ADVICE," HE ADDED.

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GOVT DISAPPOINTED BY AUSTRALIA'S PHASING-OUT  
PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT

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CERTAIN HONG KONG EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA WILL GRADUALLY LOSE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT AS FROM JULY 1992 UNDER A PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE MOVE CAME AS A RESULT OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAKE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN AUSTRALIA'S TARIFFS BETWEEN JULY 1, 1992 AND THE YEAR 2000.

ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES MADE BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE AVERAGE GENERAL (MOST FAVOURED NATION) TARIFF RATE ON ALL IMPORTS WILL HAVE FALLEN IN PHASES FROM SOME 18 PER CENT IN 1987-88 TO 4.7 PER CENT BY 2000.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO PHASE OUT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT FOR HONG KONG, SINGAPORE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TAIWAN ON THOSE ITEMS ON WHICH TARIFFS ARE TO BE CUT FROM JULY 1, 1992.

UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM OF TARIFF PREFERENCES, A FIVE PERCENTAGE PREFERENCE MARGIN APPLIES TO ALL IMPORTS FROM ANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

COMMENTING ON THE NEW MEASURE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT CERTAIN HONG KONG EXPORTS WILL LOSE THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT OVER TIME."

"THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA IN THE PAST TWO YEARS WAS FAIRLY SLUGGISH. WE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT IT."

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WOULD STILL ENJOY PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR PRODUCTS ON WHICH DUTIES AT JULY 1, 1992 WOULD BE AT FIVE PER CENT OR LESS.

"OVER HALF OF HONG KONG'S EXPORTS ENTERED AUSTRALIA DUTY FREE IN 1989-90. THESE EXPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY DUTY FREE TREATMENT," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN THE LONG TERM, EXPORTS FROM HONG KONG WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL TARIFF CUTS UNDER AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC REFORM.

THE DEPARTMENT IS AWAITING DETAILS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. IT WILL THEN EXAMINE THE PROPOSALS CLOSELY AND ADVISE TRADERS CONCERNED OF THE LIKELY FUTURE EFFECTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN PLANS.

HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA LAST YEAR WERE VALUED AT \$3.52 BILLION, 16 PER CENT DOWN ON 1989.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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FIVE GOVT LOTS SOLD FOR \$484 MILLION

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FIVE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$484 MILLION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT AT A PUBLIC AUCTION THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

TOPPING THE LIST IS A 8,675-SQUARE-METRE LOT FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES AT AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT IS BOUGHT BY HIGH ELITE LTD FOR \$200 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$125 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 12,500 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

THE SECOND LOT, LOCATED AT THE REAR OF NOS.. 181-205 SHAU KEI WAN ROAD, SHAU KEI WAN, HONG KONG ISLAND, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 726.3 SQUARE METRES AND IS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL, EXCLUDING HOTEL AND GODOWN PURPOSES.

THE SITE WAS BOUGHT BY TRIPLE REACH LTD FOR \$105 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$40 MILLION.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 4,445 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1994.

THE THIRD LOT WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,100 SQUARE METRES IS LOCATED AT AREA 14B, YUEN SHUN CIRCUIT, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, EXCLUDING GODOWN, RESIDENTIAL AND HOTEL.

BIDDING OPENED AT \$75 MILLION AND THE SITE WAS BOUGHT BY TATRINE DEVELOPMENT CO LTD FOR \$94 MILLION.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,878 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

THE FOURTH LOT, AT AP LEI CHAU WEST AND WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,500 SQUARE METRES, IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

IT WAS BOUGHT BY DAILY EAGLE INVESTMENT LTD AND DOUBLE JOY INVESTMENT CO LTD AT THE OFFSET PRICE OF \$60 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 25,650 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

/THE FIFTH .....

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THE FIFTH LOT, LOCATED AT AREA 4B, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,759 SQUARE METRES. THE SITE IS ALSO INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE.

IT WAS BOUGHT BY DIGITEK ELECTRONICS LTD FOR \$25 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$15 MILLION.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 5,277 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1994.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE, WAS CONDUCTED BY THE GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JAMES HUGHES.

HE SAID THE RESULT OF THE AUCTION WAS ENCOURAGING.

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GOVT STATEMENT ON DISRUPTION OF MTR SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION HELD A MEETING THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING CONCERNING THE MAJOR DISRUPTION OF MTR SERVICES DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS YESTERDAY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MTRC ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DISRUPTION AND THE INCONVENIENCE IT HAS CAUSED TO THE PUBLIC.

THE CORPORATION HAS ALREADY STARTED FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF THE INCIDENT, ITS RECOVERY PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION SYSTEM. IT WILL PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO STARTED REVIEWING THE ARRANGEMENTS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AS WELL AS INFORMATION DISSEMINATION PROCEDURES IN THE LIGHT OF THIS INCIDENT AND EXAMINING HOW THEY COULD BE FURTHER IMPROVED.

HAVING STUDIED THESE REPORTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL THEN CONSIDER WHETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR A FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

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/14 .....

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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NOMINATIONS FOR KWUN TONG BY-ELECTION

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THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT BOARD BY-ELECTION TO FILL TWO SEATS IN THE SHUN LEE CONSTITUENCY WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 21, A SUNDAY.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID NOMINATIONS WILL BE CALLED ON FRIDAY (MARCH 15) AND WILL CLOSE ON APRIL 2.

HE SAID INTENDING CANDIDATES MUST BE REGISTERED ELECTORS ON THE GENERAL ELECTORAL ROLL AND HAVE BEEN ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN HONG KONG FOR 10 YEARS PRECEDING NOMINATION.

A CANDIDATE CAN BE A RESIDENT ANYWHERE IN HONG KONG BUT HIS NOMINATION MAY ONLY BE MADE BY REGISTERED ELECTORS IN THE SHUN LEE CONSTITUENCY.

EACH NOMINATION REQUIRES 10 SUBSCRIBERS AND EACH SUBSCRIBER MAY GIVE SUPPORT TO NO MORE THAN TWO CANDIDATES.

NOMINATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE, KWUN TONG DISTRICT BRANCH OFFICES BUILDING, TUNG YAN STREET, KOWLOON AND AT THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE, HARBOUR CENTRE, 10TH FLOOR, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE SHUN LEE CONSTITUENCY COVERS MAINLY THE SHUN LEE AND SHUN ON ESTATES AND SHUN CHI COURT, AND HAS A REGISTERED ELECTORATE OF 15,030.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD UNLESS THE SEATS ARE UNCONTESTED.

THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION FOR THIS CONSTITUENCY WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3, BUT WAS COUNTERMANDED FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF ONE OF THE CANDIDATES, MR POON YU-KWONG.

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WARMER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL IN FEBRUARY

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TEMPERATURE AND SUNSHINE FIGURES FOR LAST MONTH SHOWED THAT THE MONTH WAS ON THE WHOLE WARMER AND SUNNIER THAN NORMAL, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY MEANWHILE WAS STRETCHED BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES - FROM NEAR SATURATION IN DAMP AND FOGGY CONDITIONS TO BELOW 30 PER CENT ON DAYS WITH DRY AND CLEAR WEATHER.

/THE RAIN .....

THE RAIN THAT FELL DURING THE MONTH WAS MOSTLY LIGHT AND PATCHY. THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 8.2 MILLIMETRES WAS 83 PER CENT BELOW THE FEBRUARY NORMAL OF 48 MILLIMETRES.

TOTAL RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1 AMOUNTED TO 36.9 MILLIMETRES, 48 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 71.4 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

THE MONTH BEGAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A COOL WINTER MONSOON WHICH REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS ON THE LAST DAY OF JANUARY.

THE CLOUDS THINNED OUT ON FEBRUARY 2, BUT THE WARMING EFFECT OF THE SUN WAS NOT FELT UNTIL THE NEXT DAY WHEN THE WINTER MONSOON SUBSIDED.

THE WEATHER STAYED FINE DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK APART FROM ONE CLOUDY DAY ON FEBRUARY 5 AS A RESULT OF FRESHENING EASTERLIES.

OFFSHORE AREAS, PARTICULARLY AREAS TO THE EAST, WERE AT TIMES SHROUDED IN MIST DURING THE PERIOD, BUT THE HARBOUR AREAS WERE ONLY AFFECTED ON FEBRUARY 7.

THE FRESHENING OF EASTERLIES ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 11 BROUGHT COOLER WEATHER AND MORE WIDESPREAD MIST.

VISIBILITY DETERIORATED FURTHER OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS AS THE EASTERLIES WERE GRADUALLY REPLACED BY A HUMID MARITIME AIRSTREAM.

THE TERRITORY WAS COVERED IN LOW CLOUDS AND FOG WITH LIGHT RAIN FALLING FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE WEATHER MEANWHILE BECAME PROGRESSIVELY WARMER, WITH THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 22.5 DEGREES ON FEBRUARY 14 BEING THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH.

CLEARANCE OCCURRED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF FEBRUARY 15 IN RESPONSE TO THE ARRIVAL OF A DRY NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM. EVEN THOUGH THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED BY TWO TO THREE DEGREES, THE BRILLIANTLY FINE WEATHER ARRIVED IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVE CROWD ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

HOWEVER, THE CLOUDS SOON RETURNED AS THE NORTHERLIES WERE REPLACED BY MOIST EASTERLIES THAT NIGHT.

CLOUDY WEATHER WITH NIGHT DRIZZLE PREVAILED OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

DRIZZLE BECAME MORE FREQUENT ON FEBRUARY 19 AS A SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON APPROACHED THE COASTAL AREAS OF GUANGDONG.

FRESHENING NORTHERLIES BROUGHT COLD AIR ACROSS THE SOUTH CHINA COAST DURING THE NIGHT.

THE TEMPERATURE ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 20 FELL TO 11.5 DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH.

/OVER THE .....

OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS, THE TEMPERATURE GRADUALLY RECOVERED AS THE WEATHER TURNED BRIGHTER.

HOWEVER, THE RELATIVE HUMIDITY CONTINUED TO FALL AS THE EFFECT OF THE DRY NORTHERLIES WAS FELT.

HILL FIRES WERE REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY UNDER THE EXTREMELY DRY CONDITIONS.

THE EASTERLIES FRESHENED ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 24 AND LED TO CLOUDIER WEATHER FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

AFTER SOME MORNING DRIZZLE ON FEBRUARY 27, CONDITIONS BECAME EVEN MOISTER AS A HUMID MARITIME AIRSTREAM MOVED IN.

MIST HOVERING OVER OFFSHORE AREAS THICKENED INTO FOG DURING THE NIGHT.

VISIBILITY INSIDE THE HARBOUR ALSO DETERIORATED THE NEXT MORNING. THE WEATHER STAYED GENERALLY CLOUDY AND MISTY THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN AT TIMES.

THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA WERE DEVOID OF TROPICAL CYCLONES IN THE MONTH. ONE AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED DUE TO FOGGY WEATHER ON FEBRUARY 14. THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 2, 3, 10, 15 TO 17, 20, 21, 25 AND THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 21 TO 25.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE & TIME OF HOISTING	DATE & TIME OF LOWERING
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 12 10 AM	FEBRUARY 12 2.30 PM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 16 7.50 AM	FEBRUARY 17 7 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 17 11.30 PM	FEBRUARY 18 7.45 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	FEBRUARY 25 4.30 AM	FEBRUARY 25 2.30 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	116.4 HOURS ; 18.7 HOURS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.87 MJ/SQ. METRES ; 0.18 MJ/SQ. METRE ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	8.2 MM ; 39.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	64 PER CENT ; 9 PER CENT LESS THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	75 PER CENT ; 3 PER CENT LOWER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	19.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	17.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	15.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.4 DEGREES CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	12.5 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	64.2 MM ; 14.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

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NEW MEASURES TO TACKLE VEHICLE THEFTS  
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A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN STEMMING THE TIDE OF VEHICLE THEFTS AND THE TRADE IN STOLEN VEHICLES HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE POLICE CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU IN NEW AGREEMENTS WITH INSURANCE BODIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

CAR RINGING RACKETS AND THE SLACK IDENTIFICATION OF CARS BEING EXPORTED WILL BE CONTROLLED BY NEW MEASURES WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR FIVE YEARS.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF STOLEN AND LOST VEHICLES LAST YEAR WAS ABOUT \$400 MILLION.

THE STAFF OFFICER, CRIME PREVENTION BUREAU MR JOHN BORMAN, SAID: "TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTING VEHICLE INSURERS IN HONG KONG, THE MOTOR TRADE AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER AN AGREEMENT WHICH I CONFIDENTLY PREDICT WILL VASTLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NON-RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLES.

"MORE MONEY IS NOW BEING MADE IN CAR THEFTS THAN IN JEWELLERY SHOP ROBBERIES. EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT VEHICLE CRIME FIGURES HAVE GONE THROUGH THE ROOF."

HIGH VALUE CARS BEING STOLEN FOR ILLEGAL EXPORT TO CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WERE BEING TRANSPORTED BY LORRIES OR IN CONTAINERS. CARS WERE BEING FOUND OVERSEAS WHICH HAD BEEN STOLEN IN HONG KONG AND ALREADY SOLD TO NEW OWNERS.

/MR NORMAN .....

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MR NORMAN SAID THE THREE MAIN AREAS OF VEHICLE CRIME WERE CAR RINGING IN WHICH LOST CARS WERE RESOLD WITH COMPLETELY NEW IDENTITIES OR WRECKED CARS WRITTEN OFF AND SUBSTITUTED BY STOLEN CARS; THE EXPORTATION OF VEHICLES FROM HONG KONG; AND THE SMUGGLING TO CHINA OF WHOLE OR DISMANTLED HIGH VALUE CARS.

THE DOCUMENTS OF CARS WRITTEN OFF WERE BEING PASSED TO COVER IDENTICAL CARS WHICH WERE BEING STOLEN AND COVERED BY THE OTHER CARS' DOCUMENTS AND LICENCE PLATES.

"ALMOST ALL THESE CARS ARE LESS THAN TWO YEARS OLD," MR NORMAN SAID. "IT MAY BE FIVE YEARS BEFORE ANYONE CHECKS THE CAR'S TRUE IDENTITY AGAINST ITS CHASSIS NUMBER. BY THEN IT COULD HAVE CHANGED HANDS SEVERAL TIMES.

"THIS HAPPENS FOUR OR FIVE TIMES A DAY.

"IT IS THE BULK OF ORDINARY CLASS VEHICLES STOLEN. EXPENSIVE, HIGH VALUE CARS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 10 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL."

ON THE EXPORTATION OF CARS FROM HONG KONG, MR NORMAN, SAID MERE POSSESSION OF A VEHICLE WAS ENOUGH TO SHIP IT. A BILL OF LADING WAS SUFFICIENT PROOF OF OWNERSHIP.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE IT'S YOUR CAR AND THESE ARE HIGH VALUE CARS."

THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF INSURERS WILL REQUIRE THAT WHEN A WRECKED VEHICLE IS WRITTEN OFF THE LOG BOOK AND REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN TO PURCHASERS BUT INSTEAD SENT TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

A REFRAINING ORDER WILL BE ISSUED WHICH WILL PREVENT ANY TRADING ON A WRECKED CAR'S IDENTIFICATION.

"THIS WILL MEAN THAT YOU CAN'T USE THAT VEHICLE'S NUMBER OR LOG BOOK UNTIL IT HAS BEEN SEEN TO HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND THAT IT SUFFERED THE SAME DAMAGE AS SHOWN ON A REPORT AND ON A PHOTOGRAPH," MR NORMAN SAID.

MEASURES ARE ALSO AFOOT TO MAKE THE EXPORT OF VEHICLES DECLARABLE THROUGH CUSTOMS AND EXCISE. LOOPHOLES IN BILLS OF LADING ARE ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION.

"THESE MOVES WILL HAVE A DRAMATIC EFFECT ON VEHICLE THEFTS AND THE ILLEGAL USE OF THEIR DOCUMENTS," MR NORMAN SAID. "DOZENS OF CARS ARE BEING WRITTEN OFF EVERY DAY IN HONG KONG."

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/19 .....

LOCAL CHARITY ORGANISATIONS PRAISED

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THE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES DEPENDS MUCH ON THE EFFORTS AND SUPPORTS BY LOCAL CHARITY ORGANISATIONS.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, SAID THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) WHEN HOSTING A SPRING RECEPTION FOR BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF TRADITIONAL CHARITY ORGANISATIONS.

HE ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE GUESTS FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY SERVICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS.

MORE THAN 50 GUESTS ATTENDED THE PARTY. THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS WERE FROM THE TUNG WAH GROUPS OF HOSPITALS, PO LEUNG KOK, YAN CHAI HOSPITAL, POK OI HOSPITAL AND YAN OI TONG.

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SYMPOSIUM FOR WORK SAFETY TRAINERS TO START ON THURSDAY

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MORE THAN 160 OFFICERS FROM 73 ORGANISATIONS WILL TAKE PART IN A TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT STARTING FROM THURSDAY.

THE RESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION AND THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

COMPRISING A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS, THE SYMPOSIUM WILL INTRODUCE THE ESSENTIAL METHODS AND INSTRUCTIONAL TRAINING TECHNIQUES TO THOSE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING OR IMPLEMENTING IN-HOUSE SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMMES.

IT WILL ALSO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF PARTICIPATING SAFETY OFFICERS AND IN-PLANT SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AND WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A FORUM FOR EXCHANGING IDEAS.

GUEST SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE OFFICERS FROM THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING CENTRE AS WELL AS EXPERTS FROM ACADEMIC INSTITUTES AND PRIVATE COMPANIES.

/THE SYMPOSIUM .....

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THE SYMPOSIUM WILL BE OPEN ON THURSDAY BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR DARWIN CHEN, CONSULTANT TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION, MR A.T. ASUNCION, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, MR K.Y. TONGSON, A COUNCIL MEMBER, MR CHEUNG LUN, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF REGISTERED SAFETY OFFICERS, MR LEE HUNG-KWONG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SYMPOSIUM WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY AT BLOCK 5, LEI YUE MUN PARK AND HOLIDAY VILLAGE.

A COACH (EE 3 414) TAKING MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VENUE WILL DEPART FROM HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, AT 9.15 AM SHARP.

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TEXTBOOKS DISPLAY TO BOOST CHINESE TEACHING MEDIUM

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AN EXHIBITION OF CHINESE TEXTBOOKS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF CHINESE AS THE TEACHING MEDIUM WILL BE HELD FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY (MARCH 14 TO 16) AT THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GASCOIGNE ROAD.

THE THREE-DAY EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE TEXTBOOKS COMMITTEE.

EIGHTY-TWO SETS OF TEXTBOOKS COMPRISING 14 GENERAL SUBJECTS AND EIGHT PRACTICAL/TECHNICAL SUBJECTS PRODUCED UNDER A GOVERNMENT INCENTIVE AWARD SCHEME WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

THE SCHEME, IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED MORE THAN \$10 MILLION, OFFERS FINANCIAL AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PRODUCE GOOD QUALITY CHINESE TEXTBOOKS.

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL OF THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, 42 GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAU MA TEI AT 10.30 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 14).

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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EXHIBITION OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECTS AND PAINTINGS

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A FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY HALL EXHIBITION HALL, BEGINNING FRIDAY (MARCH 15).

IT WILL BE OPEN FROM 10 AM TO 5.30 PM DAILY. ADMISSION IS FREE.

ON DISPLAY WILL BE THE WINNING AND OUTSTANDING ENTRIES IN THE 1991 INTER-SECONDARY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT EXHIBITION COMPETITION AND THE INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION PAINTING COMPETITION.

SPONSORED BY THE URBAN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS, THE CONTESTS WERE JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ENHANCE HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG STUDENTS.

ABOUT 2,200 ENTRIES FROM 147 SCHOOLS WERE RECEIVED.

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LATEST ISSUE OF 'CAMPAIGN ENVIRONMENT' NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

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THE LATEST ISSUE OF A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (ECC), "CAMPAIGN ENVIRONMENT", IS NOW AVAILABLE FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THIS ISSUE HIGHLIGHTED VEHICLE EMISSION, THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL TO HONG KONG STARTING FROM APRIL 1, AND VEHICLE POLLUTION.

THE FULL-COLOUR TABLOID IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

FREE COPIES OF THE PUBLICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE RECEPTION COUNTER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT ON 28TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, WANCHAI; AND AT THE PUBLICITY DIVISION OF INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL.

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE GREEN GROUPS INCLUDING THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION AT ROOM 709, STAG BUILDING, 148-150 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL; FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ON SECOND FLOOR, 53-55 LOCKHART ROAD, WANCHAI; WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE HONG KONG AT 1 TRAMWAY PATH, CENTRAL; AND GREEN POWER AT ROOM 705, NATHAN CENTRE, 508 NATHAN ROAD, MONG KOK.

THE PUBLICATION IS PUBLISHED BY THE ECC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AND WAH KIU YAT PO.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF NBD ASIA LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (TUESDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DB FUNDS APPLICATION TO CLOSE ON FRIDAY

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ORGANISATIONS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN WISHING TO APPLY FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR SHOULD DO SO ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY (MARCH 15).

A DB SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT PRIORITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS WHICH COULD GENERATE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL RESIDENTS.

OTHER NEW AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, WHICH COULD ENHANCE A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, WOULD ALSO BE SUPPORTED, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED ORGANISATIONS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE A BALANCED PLANNING FOR ANNUAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT MANPOWER AND RESOURCES CONSTRAINTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR COULD BE AVOIDED.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD AND ITS SUB-OFFICE AT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING).

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS, TOGETHER WITH BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES, SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE DB SECRETARIAT ON 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO MISS ROSANNA HO ON TEL. 852 3480.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991

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ACTION ON ILLEGAL STRUCTURES IN NORTH POINT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS IN NORTH POINT SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS OR THE PUBLIC.

THE STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE MAIN ROOF AND PROJECTING FROM THE EXTERNAL WALLS OF THE NINTH AND 10TH FLOORS OF HONG LOK BUILDING, 77-87 MARBLE ROAD.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON SEPTEMBER 12 THIS YEAR WAS POSTED ON THE STRUCTURES TODAY (TUESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START ONCE THE CLOSURE ORDER IS GRANTED.

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