



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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UK TAKES MORE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HK
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IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY DR MICHAEL CLARK, MP, ON WHAT FURTHER STEPS WERE BEING PROPOSED TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE CONTINUING FLOW OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT, MR DOUGLAS HURD, GAVE THE FOLLOWING REPLY IN THE PARLIAMENT TODAY (FRIDAY):

+THIS GOVERNMENT HAS AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RELIEVE THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE OUTFLOW OF VIETNAMESE TO HONG KONG AND ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

+BETWEEN 1979 AND 1981 WE ACCEPTED FOR SETTLEMENT HERE, FOLLOWING THE INITIAL SURGE OF DEPARTURES FROM VIETNAM, NEARLY 20 000 INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES OF WHOM OVER 12 000 WERE VIETNAMESE FROM HONG KONG. SUBSEQUENTLY WE CONTINUED TO ACCEPT VIETNAMESE BUT APPLIED THE NORMAL IMMIGRATION RULES GOVERNING FAMILY REUNION.

+IN 1985, HOWEVER, FOLLOWING A RECOMMENDATION BY THE HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEES SUB-COMMITTEE ON RACE RELATIONS AND IMMIGRATION, WE AGREED TO ACCEPT AROUND 500 VIETNAMESE (50 OF WHOM WERE NOT FROM HONG KONG) WHOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE ALREADY HERE DID NOT MEET THE NORMAL CRITERIA. FOLLOWING THAT AGREEMENT, SOME 1 200 FURTHER OFFERS OF INDIVIDUAL RESETTLEMENT FROM HONG KONG WERE MADE BY OTHER COUNTRIES.

+WE HAVE NOW CONSIDERED WHAT FURTHER STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THE NEED ON THE ONE HAND TO MAINTAIN TIGHT IMMIGRATION CONTROLS AND, ON THE OTHER, TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP HONG KONG.

+WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD TAKE A FURTHER NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE FROM HONG KONG BOTH AS A CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING THE POPULATION IN THE CAMPS IN HONG KONG AND TO GIVE A SIGNAL TO OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES OF OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG.

+WE HAVE DECIDED THEREFORE TO ACCEPT FOR SETTLEMENT HERE 468 NAMED INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS CLOSE RELATIVES OF THOSE ALREADY HERE. THEY WILL BE RESETTLED AT A RATE OF ABOUT 20 A MONTH SPREAD OVER ALMOST TWO YEARS TO ENSURE THAT OUR RECEPTION FACILITIES ARE NOT OVERSTRETCHED.

+WE BELIEVE THAT AS IN THE PAST, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW SUIT AND OFFER A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF FURTHER RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG. WE SHALL BE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PERSUADE THEM TO DO SO.

+WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, CONSIDER THAT RESETTLEMENT ALONE IS A SUFFICIENT ANSWER TO HONG KONG'S REFUGEE PROBLEM. CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION AIMED AT A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS REQUIRED AND, TO THIS END, WE SHALL BE SEEKING TO PUT TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND THE MAIN RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES THE CASE FOR A COMMON APPROACH. IN DOING SO WE SHALL STRESS OUR OWN CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG OF WHICH THE RESETTLEMENT COMMITMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY IS CLEAR EVIDENCE.+

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JEAFFRESON WELCOMES UK MOVE
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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR DAVID JEAFFRESON, WELCOMED THE DECISION TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO RENEW ITS INTAKE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM HONG KONG. HE SAID THIS DECISION WAS MOST WELCOME BOTH BECAUSE MORE REFUGEES WOULD NOW BE RESETTLED AND BECAUSE THE MOVE WOULD ASSIST HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE OTHER COUNTRIES TO DO MORE FOR HONG KONG'S VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

MR JEAFFRESON EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A SIMILAR DECISION IN 1985, THE RESPONSE FROM OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES HAD BEEN VERY ENCOURAGING AND, AS A RESULT, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES LEAVING HONG KONG TOOK PLACE IN 1986.

HE HOPED THAT THIS NEW BRITISH INITIATIVE WOULD STIMULATE A SIMILAR RESPONSE.

MR JEAFFRESON SAID BOTH THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOW INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL RESETTLEMENT PLACES FOR HONG KONG'S REFUGEES. AT THE SAME TIME, HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE ITS DIALOGUE WITH OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES WITH THE AIM OF REACHING A DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

HE SAID THE DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESETTLING THE REFUGEES WERE STILL BEING FINALISED BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, BUT THE OFFTAKE WOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEREAFTER THEY WOULD LEAVE AT A RATE OF APPROXIMATELY 20 EACH MONTH.

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REVIEW OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME: LIAO
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A SERIES OF MEASURES HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO IMPROVE THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AND TO ENHANCE TIES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, DISTRICT BOARDS, RESIDENT BODIES AND THE COMMUNITY, THE SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR DONALD LIAO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING DETAILS IN THE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR LIAO SAID THERE WERE NO MAJOR CHANGES TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM ALTHOUGH SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROVIDE FULLER SUPPORT TO DISTRICT BOARDS AND LOCAL BODIES.

/+THESE CHANGES

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+THESE CHANGES MEAN THAT DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE BETTER INFORMED ON DISTRICT MATTERS AND THAT THE CHANNELS FOR WIDER CONSULTATION ON DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED,+ MR LIAO SAID.

CERTAIN PROPOSALS, MADE BY DB MEMBERS DURING THE REVIEW, THAT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY FOR PRACTICAL REASONS WOULD BE REVIEWED AT REGULAR INTERVALS, HE ADDED.

+I ANTICIPATE THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE VERY POSITIVE, WILL BE WELCOMED BY BOTH THE MAJORITY OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY,+ MR LIAO SAID.

+WHILE MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED FAIRLY SOON, CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REVIEW WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE GREEN PAPER ON REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT.

+THE ROLE AND COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARDS, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARDS AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE GREEN PAPER.

+THE QUESTION OF WHETHER DISTRICT BOARDS SHOULD HAVE AN EXTENDED AND MORE DIRECT MANAGEMENT ROLE WILL ALSO BE INCORPORATED IN THE DOCUMENT,+ MR LIAO SAID.

HE SAID SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE FAIRLY SIMPLE TO IMPLEMENT AS THEY INVOLVED PROCEDURES, WHEREAS SOME PROPOSALS WOULD INVOLVE AMENDING THE DISTRICT BOARDS ORDINANCE.

THE REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, WHICH BEGAN LAST YEAR, COVERED THE FUNCTIONS, COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS- INTERFACE BETWEEN BOARDS AND THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY- AND THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

VIEWS OF ALL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WERE SOUGHT IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY ON FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SCHEME, WHILE CONSULTATIONS WERE HELD WITH RELEVANT HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS LAST MONTH.

THE REVIEW RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE FUNCTION OF DISTRICT BOARDS ON LOCAL AND TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH REGULAR BRIEFINGS BY GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT POLICY BRANCHES AND DEPARTMENTS ON THEIR MAIN AREAS OF WORK AND ON THE BACKGROUND BEHIND MAJOR POLICIES AND ACTIONS.

WHILE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS TO RECEIVE ADVICE, PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESPOND PROMPTLY TO DB'S REQUESTS, PROCEDURES SHOULD BE LAID DOWN TO REQUIRE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO RESPOND MORE POSITIVELY AND QUICKLY TO ADVICE AND REQUESTS OF THE BOARDS.

/DISTRICT BOARDS

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DISTRICT BOARDS WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE SPECIAL MEETINGS, OUTSIDE NORMAL BOARD MEETINGS, WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO RESOLVE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS.

POLICY BRANCHES WILL DECIDE ON WAYS TO CONSULT DISTRICT BOARDS ON TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES, WHILE DBS CAN ALWAYS CALL FOR FULL BRIEFINGS ON SUBJECTS WHERE PUBLIC CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS SHOULD SET OUT IN CLEAR TERMS THE OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THE PROS AND CONS OF EACH OPTION. APART FROM BRIEFINGS ON MAJOR PLANS AND PROGRESS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE AN ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF THEIR WORK IN THE DISTRICT FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE REVIEW ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT MORE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS BE APPOINTED TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARDS.

NO CHANGE WAS RECOMMENDED TO THE METHOD OF ELECTION, ROLE AND TENURE OF OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, HOWEVER, LEGAL PROVISIONS WILL BE MADE TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO VOTE THE CHAIRMAN OUT OF OFFICE.

A VOTE OF 'NO CONFIDENCE' AGAINST A DB CHAIRMAN MUST BE MOVED BY NO LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS CONCERNED AND WILL BE CARRIED ONLY WITH THE SUPPORT OF AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS OF THE MEMBERS. WHERE THIS VOTE HAD FAILED, A SIMILAR MOTION CANNOT BE MOVED IN THE ENSUING SIX MONTHS, AND NO SUCH MOTION CAN BE MOVED WITHIN THE SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF A NEW CHAIRMAN.

THE REVIEW RECOMMENDED THAT AS THE PRESENT SYSTEM WAS WORKING WELL, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD.

LEGAL PROVISIONS WILL ALSO BE MADE TO STIPULATE THAT A DB MEMBER WHO FAILS TO ATTEND ANY DB MEETING FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD EXCEPT IN CASE OF PROLONG ILLNESS SHOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED RATHER THAN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BOARD AS AT PRESENT. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS THE NEW TERRITORIES RURAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WHOSE DISQUALIFICATION UNDER SECTION 9A(F) OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ORDINANCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

ON THE QUESTION OF MORE FUNDS FOR DBS TO CARRY OUT MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND PROMOTE RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE DISTRICT, THE REVIEW RECOMMENDED THAT AN INCREASE BE MADE IN THE OVERALL PROVISION OF DB FUNDS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FIVE-YEAR FORECAST.

IN ADDITION TO EXISTING TEAMS PROVIDED IN THE NEW TERRITORIES REGION, MINOR WORKS TEAMS WILL BE SET UP IN THE URBAN REGION TO CARRY OUT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT WORKS FOR DBS. APPROVAL HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN FOR TWO MINOR WORKS TEAMS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CNTA IN THE URBAN REGION IN 1987-88.

/THE DISTRICT

THE DISTRICT OFFICER WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CONTROLLER OF THE FUNDS OF HIS RESPECTIVE DISTRICT BOARD AND TO DISBURSE THE FUNDS ON THE BOARD'S ADVICE.

THERE ARE NO POLICY CHANGES IN THE OPERATION OF DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIATS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO COME UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER.

THE REVIEW AGREED WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED BY DB MEMBERS ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN STAFF AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES FOR THE DB SECRETARIAT. THIS WILL BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

THE PRESENT PROVISIONS OF ONE ELECTED SEAT TO A POPULATION OF 25 000 AND TWO ELECTED SEATS TO A CONSTITUENCY OF 50 000 SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. DISTRICT BOARD CONSTITUENCIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE REVIEWED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS, BY AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

THE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WILL REMAIN AS A FORUM FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS. AS AN IMPROVEMENT MEASURE IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE DMC WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE WRITTEN REPORT ON ITS WORK AND DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE PROGRESS OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS REQUESTED BY THE DB TO EACH DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

THE REVIEW CONSIDERED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD MEET THE PUBLIC SCHEME IS A USEFUL CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE COMMUNITY, AND RECOMMENDED THAT EACH DISTRICT OFFICER TOGETHER WITH THE DISTRICT BOARD, SHOULD FURTHER REVIEW THE SCHEME TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, SUCH AS STAFFING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

CONCURRENT WITH THE REVIEW ON THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION ALSO COMPLETED A REVIEW ON THE FUNCTIONS, DEVELOPMENTS AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 110 AREA COMMITTEES AND THE 4 162 MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES.

THE TWO, WHICH WERE FORMED IN THE EARLY 1970'S, HAVE BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME. THEY HAVE PERFORMED AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT, AND HAVE PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE TWO-WAY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL RESIDENTS, INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACTIONS.

THE REVIEW RECOMMENDED THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE, AND RESOURCES ALLOCATED, TO EXPAND THE AC AND MAC SCHEMES AND THAT THE LINKS BETWEEN MACS, ACS AND DBS THROUGH CROSS MEMBERSHIP SHOULD NOT CHANGE.

ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION IS THAT ADDITIONAL STAFF SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO CNTA AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY TO STRENGTHEN THE QUALITY OF SUPPORT TO AND LIAISON WITH ACS AND MACS. PROVISIONS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICES SHOULD ALSO BE INCREASED SO THAT THEY CAN FINANCE MORE COMMUNITY PROJECTS INITIATED BY THE ACS AND MACS.

PRICE, VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF FEBRUARY EXTERNAL TRADE
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STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT INDICATE THAT THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 24 PER CENT AND 44 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1987 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. HENCE, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 32 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1987 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, SO THAT THE PRICES OF TOTAL EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT.

PRICES OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF THE TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO THE IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DROPPED BY 1 PER CENT.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE COMPILED. THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM TRADE VALUES BY DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS TRADE FIGURES FOR THE BEGINNING MONTHS OF A YEAR TEND TO BE MORE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, IT IS MORE USEFUL TO CONSIDER FIGURES COVERING A LONGER PERIOD. COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1987 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1986, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 22 PER CENT, WHILE THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT, SO THAT FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, AN INCREASE OF 29 PER CENT WAS RECORDED IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 24 PER CENT. ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 4 PER CENT AND 2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 4 PER CENT.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1987 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1986, THE VOLUME OF BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT, SO THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY 21 PER CENT. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 17 PER CENT. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE PRICES OF BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 5 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR FEBRUARY 1987 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

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AS CAN BE SEEN FROM TABLE 1, DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1987 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986. THESE INCLUDED CLOTHING (+7 PER CENT)= DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+4 PER CENT)= FOOTWEAR (+4 PER CENT)= TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT)= WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+4 PER CENT)= METAL MANUFACTURES (+3 PER CENT)= TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+2 PER CENT) AS WELL AS TEXTILE FABRICS (+2 PER CENT).

DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE, HOWEVER, RECORDED IN METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-8 PER CENT)= ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-8 PER CENT) AS WELL AS RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-1 PER CENT). THE PRICE OF TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1987 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, INCLUDING TEXTILE FABRICS (+61 PER CENT)= TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+49 PER CENT)= RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+41 PER CENT)= DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+25 PER CENT)= ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+22 PER CENT)= METAL MANUFACTURES (+13 PER CENT)= METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+7 PER CENT) AS WELL AS WATCHES AND CLOCKS (+2 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-18 PER CENT)= CLOTHING (-10 PER CENT)= TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-7 PER CENT) AS WELL AS FOOTWEAR (-5 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1987 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

AS PRESENTED IN TABLE 2, IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES ROSE IN FEBRUARY 1987 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, RANGING FROM 1 PER CENT FOR FOOTSTUFFS TO 9 PER CENT FOR CAPITAL GOODS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS DROPPED BY 28 PER CENT.

MANY OF THE MAJOR IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS INCREASED IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1987 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986. SIGNIFICANT GROWTH WAS RECORD IN FRUIT= SUGAR= WHEAT AND FLOUR= MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS= FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS AS WELL AS CEREALS AND CEREAL PREPARATIONS OTHER THAN RICE, WHEAT AND FLOUR. HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE REGISTERED FOR TEA AND COFFEE AS WELL AS RICE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ALL CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING TOBACCO MANUFACTURES= HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES= CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AS WELL AS RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS.

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THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES ROSE IN FEBRUARY 1987 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, INCLUDING COTTON YARN AND THREAD- WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK- PLASTIC MOULDING MATERIALS- THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS- YARN AND WOOL AND MIXTURES AS WELL AS PAPER AND PAPERBOARD. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES AS WELL AS SILK FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1987 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986.

IN THE CAPITAL GOODS CATEGORY, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MOST COMMODITIES INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1987 OVER FEBRUARY 1986, THE SUBSTANTIAL ONES BEING OFFICE MACHINES- TEXTILE MACHINERY AS WELL AS ELECTRICAL MACHINERY. A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED IN CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1987 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

AS DEPICTED IN TABLE 3, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1987 WHEN COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1986, RANGING FROM 13 PER CENT FOR FOODSTUFFS TO 236 PER CENT FOR FUELS.

FURTHER DETAILS ARE CONTAINED IN THE FEBRUARY 1987 ISSUE OF THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+ AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE NEXT WEEK AT \$2.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT BASKERVILLE HOUSE, HONG KONG, ON 5-214375 AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234918.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1: INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JAN-FEB 1987 WITH JAN-FEB 1986			COMPARING FEBRUARY 1987 WITH FEBRUARY 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	15	7	7	-4	7	-10
TEXTILE FABRICS	70	3	66	64	2	61
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	34	2	31	49	*	49
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	5	6	-1	-3	4	-7
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	49	-4	55	41	-1	41
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	6	-7	14	13	-8	22
FOOTWEAR	9	2	7	-1	4	-5
METAL MANUFACTURES	24	3	21	16	3	13
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-9	-5	-5	-1	-8	7
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	17	4	12	5	4	2
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-1	3	-4	-16	2	-18
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	25	1	24	30	4	25
ALL COMMODITIES	27	3	24	20	3	16

NOTES: * INSIGNIFICANT, I.E. LESS THAN 0.5 PER CENT

PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE CALCULATED FROM TRADE INDEXES TAKEN TO MORE DECIMAL PLACES THAN THOSE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE +HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS+. THEY MAY THEREFORE DIFFER FROM THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES TO BE COMPUTED FROM THE PUBLISHED FIGURES.

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TABLE 2: INCREASES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-FEB 1987 WITH JAN-FEB 1986			COMPARING FEBRUARY 1987 WITH FEBRUARY 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	10	1	9	16	1	14
CONSUMER GOODS	41	7	32	52	6	43
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	42	3	38	57	3	53
FUELS	-33	-31	-4	-33	-28	-6
CAPITAL GOODS	32	10	20	33	9	22
ALL COMMODITIES	33	4	29	42	3	37

TABLE 3: INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN-FEB 1987 WITH JAN-FEB 1986			COMPARING FEBRUARY 1987 WITH FEBRUARY 1986		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	9	-1	10	12	-1	13
CONSUMER GOODS	63	3	58	61	2	58
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	39	1	37	55	1	53
FUELS	87	-30	167	140	-29	236
CAPITAL GOODS	38	3	34	49	2	46
ALL COMMODITIES	47	2	44	54	2	52

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FOURTH QUARTER CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS RELEASED

THE TOTAL GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO \$11 208 MILLION, WHICH WAS 10.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 13.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (INCLUDING WORK CARRIED OUT AT CONSTRUCTION SITES, AT ERECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND AT OTHER MINOR WORK LOCATIONS) IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 WAS \$7 347 MILLION, WHICH WAS 14.7 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND 13.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985. THIS GAVE AN INDEX OF 111.5. THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE OF 1982 WAS TAKEN AS 100 FOR THE INDEX.

THE FIGURES FOR MAIN CONTRACTORS ARE FREE FROM THE EFFECT OF DOUBLE-COUNTING OF CONSTRUCTION VALUE DUE TO THE SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. THEY ARE, THEREFORE, DIFFERENT FROM THE FIGURES ON CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY ALL CONTRACTORS.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 AMOUNTED TO \$5 883 MILLION, WHICH WAS 15.6 PER CENT AND 16.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985 RESPECTIVELY.

OF THIS GROSS VALUE, \$1 968 MILLION WAS CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PUBLIC PROJECTS, WHICH RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 19.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, OR AN INCREASE OF 10.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985.

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT AT SITES, AT \$3 916 MILLION, SHOWED INCREASES OF 13.9 PER CENT AND 19.5 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 WAS \$2 236 MILLION. THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 17.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 22.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WAS \$637 MILLION, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 20.9 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER BUT A DROP OF 9.0 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL (COMPOSITE) BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 WAS \$712 MILLION, WHICH WAS 6.3 PER CENT AND 29.2 PER CENT ABOVE THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985 RESPECTIVELY.

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THE OUTPUT VALUE OF INDUSTRIAL AND STORAGE BUILDINGS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1986 WAS \$445 MILLION, WHICH WAS 15.9 PER CENT AND 1.4 PER CENT ABOVE THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985 RESPECTIVELY.

THE OUTPUT VALUE OF TRANSPORT PROJECTS WAS \$981 MILLION, THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 42.0 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND AN INCREASE OF 99.0 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER OF 1985. THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS DUE MAINLY TO THE WORK ON THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING AND THE TUEN MUN LIGHT RAIL SYSTEM.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT IS GIVEN IN THE +REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 4TH QUARTER 1986+ RELEASED TODAY BY THE DEPARTMENT.

THE QUARTERLY SURVEY REPORT, PRICED AT \$2 A COPY, IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON 5-8234860.

U.S. TEXTILES BILL HEARINGS * * * * *

HEARINGS ON THE U.S. TEXTILES BILL WERE HELD IN WASHINGTON D.C. YESTERDAY BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE, A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE PURPOSE OF THE HEARINGS WAS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERESTED PARTIES TO TESTIFY TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THEM COVERED BY THE BILL.

THE HEARINGS WERE CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN GIBBONS. VARIOUS VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED.

THE TEXTILE CAUCUS PLACED EMPHASIS ON THE INDUSTRY'S RECENT EFFORTS TO MODERNISE AND TO MARKET DOMESTIC PRODUCTS. BUT AS THE INDUSTRY WAS THREATENED BY IMPORTS, THE BILL WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE INDUSTRY A REASONABLE +BREATHING PERIOD TO REGAIN ITS HEALTH+.

/THE HONORABLE

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THE HONORABLE BRIAN BOYLE, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS, WASHINGTON STATE, BELIEVED THAT THE BILL WOULD HAVE SERIOUS ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS IN THE WEST COAST STATES, WHICH ENJOYED A HEALTHY EXPORT TRADE WITH THE PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES. HE SAID THE BILL WOULD SACRIFICE THE WELL-BEING OF ONE REGION'S ECONOMY TO PROTECT ANOTHER REGION'S INDUSTRY.

THE FIBRE, FABRIC AND APPAREL COALITION FOR TRADE SUPPORTED THE ARGUMENTS OF THE TEXTILE CAUCUS, AND ADDED THAT THE BILL WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GATT AND DID NOT VIOLATE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION HAD THE FLEXIBILITY TO KEEP, TERMINATE, OR RE-NEGOTIATE.

THE RETAIL INDUSTRY TRADE ACTION COALITION SPOKE AGAINST THE BILL, WHICH IT SAID VIOLATED THE MFA AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, WOULD DAMAGE THE RETAILING INDUSTRY, UNDERMINE THE URUGUAY ROUND, AND WAS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE HEALTHY STATE OF THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

THE HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE ON MAY 18.

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PLACEMENT SERVICE FOR REDUNDANT TEACHERS

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THE PLACEMENT SERVICE UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL RE-OPEN ON MONDAY (MAY 11) FOR THE ANNUAL EXERCISE OF ASSISTING REDUNDANT TEACHERS IN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS TO OBTAIN NEW TEACHING POSTS.

THE UNIT WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1975 TO HELP THESE TEACHERS TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE DROP IN POPULATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE AS WELL AS MOVEMENT OF POPULATION FROM URBAN AREAS TO NEW TOWNS.

THE UNIT HAS HELPED SOME 4 500 TEACHERS IN SECURING ALTERNATIVE POSTS OVER THE YEARS.

+OUR 100 PER CENT SUCCESS RATE OVER THE YEARS IS DUE TO THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES FOR WHICH THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS MOST GRATEFUL,+ SAID MR CHAN SHIU-KI, SENIOR EDUCATION OFFICER, WHO HEADS THIS YEAR'S PLACEMENT SERVICE UNIT.

+WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL BE GIVING THESE TEACHERS FULL ASSISTANCE AGAIN THIS YEAR,+ MR CHAN SAID.

/STAFFED BY

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STAFFED BY FOUR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOLS DIVISION, THE UNIT IS LOCATED AT KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, ROOM 611, 6TH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, YAU MA TEI.

REDUNDANT TEACHERS ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER WITH THE UNIT FROM MAY 20 TO 27 FROM 9 AM TO 12.45 PM, AND FROM 2.15 PM TO 4.45 PM.

THE SCHEDULE OF REGISTRATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

- MAY 20 (WEDNESDAY) FOR TEACHERS ON HONG KONG ISLAND
- MAY 21 (THURSDAY) FOR TEACHERS IN KWUN TONG AND YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON
- MAY 22 (FRIDAY) FOR TEACHERS IN WONG TAI SIN, MONG KOK, SHAM SHUI PO AND KOWLOON CITY, KOWLOON
- MAY 25 (MONDAY) FOR TEACHERS IN TAI PO, NORTH, TSUEN WAN AND ISLANDS, N.T.
- MAY 26 (TUESDAY) FOR TEACHERS IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI, N.T.
- MAY 27 (WEDNESDAY) FOR TEACHERS IN TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, SHA TIN AND SAI KUNG, N.T.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON REGISTRATION MATTERS CAN BE MADE AT 3-7716123, 3-7718090, 3-7718119 AND 3-7718696 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

MR CHAN REMINDED TEACHERS WHO WILL BE INFORMED BY LETTERS OF THEIR REDUNDANCY UNDER THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF +LAST IN, FIRST OUT+ TO REGISTER WITH THE UNIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE.

+ONCE REGISTERED WITH THE UNIT, ALL WILL BE HELPED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHING POST IN AN AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR,+ MR CHAN SAID.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE POWERS MAINTAINED
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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED AN ORDER ENABLING THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE TO MAINTAIN THE SAME POWERS OF ENFORCEMENT IN RELATION TO THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE 1987 AS WERE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN UNDER THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE WHICH IT REPLACES.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE (AMENDMENT OF SECOND SCHEDULE) ORDER 1987, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, WAS PURELY A TECHNICAL AMENDMENT AND NO NEW POWERS WERE BEING CONFERRED BY IT.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE WERE EMPOWERED TO ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OF HAVING COMMITTED AN OFFENCE AGAINST AN ORDINANCE SPECIFIED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE ORDINANCE.

+THE AMENDMENT IS NECESSARY AS THE OBJECTIONABLE PUBLICATIONS ORDINANCE, ONE OF THE ORDINANCES SPECIFIED IN THE SECOND SCHEDULE, WILL BE REPEALED AND REPLACED BY THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE 1987,+ HE SAID.

THE ORDER WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONTROL OF OBSCENE AND INDECENT ARTICLES ORDINANCE 1987.

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FEEs REVISED FOR FIRE SERVICES REPORTS, CERTIFICATES
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AN ADJUSTMENT OF CHARGES FOR CERTIFICATES AND REPORTS ISSUED UNDER THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT (REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES) REGULATIONS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADJUSTED CHARGES, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, WERE MAINLY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INFLATION SINCE 1984 WHEN THE FEES WERE LAST REVISED.

THE CHARGE OF \$120 FOR MAKING AND ISSUING THE CERTIFICATES IS INCREASED TO \$135. THE NEW CHARGE IN RESPECT OF REPORTS IS \$150.

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RARE ANIMALS FLOWN TO PEKING
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TWENTY-TWO ENDANGERED SPECIES WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) FLOWN TO CHINA TO JOIN THE BREEDING COLONIES IN THE BEIJING ENDANGERED ANIMALS BREEDING CENTRE.

THESE INCLUDE SEVEN RHESUS MONKEYS, FOUR BURMESE PYTHONS, TWO FISCHER'S LOVEBIRDS, EIGHT DERBYAM PARAKEETS AND A YOUNG ASIATIC BLACK BEAR WHICH WAS DISCOVERED AND CAPTURED AT THE MUK WU VILLAGE IN TA KWU LING IN EARLY MARCH.

ALSO FLYING OUT WITH THE LIVE SPECIES WAS A PIECE OF GIANT PANDA SKIN SEIZED IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THEY ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE WHICH ENFORCES THE SPIRIT OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES).

BOTH HONG KONG AND CHINA ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CITES UNDER WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED WILD BIRDS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

AT A BRIEF CEREMONY THIS MORNING, THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (CONSERVATION AND COUNTRY PARKS), MR K.C. IU, HANDED OVER THE ENDANGERED ANIMALS TO THE HONG KONG REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA IMPORT AND EXPORT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, DR EDGAR LIONG.

+TODAY'S OCCASION REFLECTS OUR CLOSER CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN THE WORLDWIDE EFFORT TO SAVE RARE SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION,+ MR IU SAID.

THIS IS THE EIGHTH CONSIGNMENT OF LIVING ENDANGERED ANIMALS TRANSPORTED TO CHINA SINCE 1984. THE PREVIOUS SEVEN CONSIGNMENTS INVOLVED 101 RARE ANIMALS INCLUDING AN ASIATIC BROWN BEAR, AN ASIATIC BLACK BEAR, SEVEN PYTHONS, FIVE CROCODILES, 52 MONKEYS, 29 GIANT SALAMANDERS AND TWO SERPENT EAGLES.

MR IU SAID THAT THESE SPECIES CAME INTO THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF STRICT ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN CONTROLLING UNAUTHORISED IMPORT OF RARE ANIMALS OR BIRDS OR THEIR PARTS AND DERIVATIVES.

HE SAID THAT APART FROM THE IMPORT RESTRICTION, IT WAS ALSO ILLEGAL TO POSSESS OR EXPORT ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHOUT LICENCES ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE MAY LEAD TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5 000 FOR A FIRST OFFENCE, AND \$10 000 PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR A REPEATED OFFENCE, MR IU ADDED.

SAFETY CAMPAIGN EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER MONTH
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THE EIGHT-WEEK SPECIAL FIRE AND CHEMICAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO END LAST WEEK, HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER MONTH.

A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXTENSION WAS TO ENABLE FACTORY INSPECTORS TO CARRY OUT INSPECTIONS ON ALL FACTORIES MANUFACTURING NON-WOVEN POLYESTER-FIBRE SHEETINGS, POLYURETHANE-FOAM PADDINGS, EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS, QUILTS, PADDED GARMENTS WITH SYNTHETIC SPONGY LININGS OR NATURAL-FIBRE UNDERLININGS, STUFFED TOYS, AND CARTONS.

FACTORY INSPECTORS CALLING AT THESE FACTORIES WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO LOCKED EXITS, MAINTENANCE OF FIRE ESCAPES, STORAGE AND USE OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES, AND SOURCES OF IGNITION.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL ALSO REMIND EMPLOYERS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO CARRY OUT REGULAR CHECKS ON EXHAUST SYSTEMS TO PLANTS AND PROCESSES TO ENSURE SAFETY IN THEIR WORKPLACES.

THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS THE FOURTH MOUNTED BY THE DEPARTMENT SINCE OCTOBER LAST YEAR. THE FIRST THREE RELATED TO FIRE IN FUR PROCESSING FACTORIES, SMOKING AT WORK, AND SAFE HANDLING AND USE OF CHEMICALS IN FACTORIES.

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SEMINAR ON AIDS FOR TEACHERS
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A SEMINAR ON AIDS AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES WILL BE HELD FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS AS PART OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME ON AIDS.

THE SEMINAR, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 9 AM TO 12.15 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT THE AUDITORIUM, DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING, HENNESSY ROAD.

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF SEMINARS AND TALKS PLANNED FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS BY THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS TO HELP SPREAD THE MESSAGE ON THE KILLER DISEASE TO SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG.

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ABOUT 300 SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN TOMORROW'S SEMINAR. EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS MEMBER, DR CHIU HIN-KWONG, HAS BEEN INVITED TO OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR Y.T. LI AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, DR S.H. LEE.

A CONSULTANT AND A SENIOR DOCTOR FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT WILL SPEAK ON AIDS AND OTHER BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES AND THE PREVENTION OF BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES IN SCHOOLS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SEMINAR AT 9 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 9).

THE SEMINAR WILL BE HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE DUKE OF WINDSOR SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 15 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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LANDSCAPING FOR SHING MUN SECTION OF ROUTE 5

LANDSCAPING WILL BE PROVIDED ALONG THE SHING MUN SECTION OF ROUTE FIVE, A SEVEN-KILOMETRE LONG TRUNK ROAD NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN TSUEN WAN AND SHA TIN.

CLOSE TO THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, ABOUT ONE KILOMETRE OF THE SECTION IS IN OPEN AREAS AND 2.6 KILOMETRES IN TUNNEL.

SUBSTANTIAL LANDSCAPING WORK WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO BLEND THE ROADWORKS INTO THE RURAL SURROUNDINGS.

THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED BY TREE PLANTING AND CAREFUL SHAPING OF CUT SLOPES TO INTEGRATE WITH THE SURROUNDING TOPOGRAPHY.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE WORK BY 12 NOON ON MAY 29.

WORK IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE IN AUGUST AND TAKES ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

FORMING PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, THE DUAL TWO-LANE TRUNK ROAD IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN LATE 1989.

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

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POSTMEN HONOURED FOR LOYAL SERVICE
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TWO POSTMEN ARE AWARDED THE IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR THEIR LOYAL AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

THEY ARE MR LEUNG KAM-CHUEN AND MR YIP CHEUK-YIN, BOTH AGED 59.

MR LEUNG, ONE OF THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBERS IN THE POST OFFICE, JOINED THE DEPARTMENT AS A MAIL COOLIE IN 1946. HE BECAME A POSTMAN CLASS III IN 1947 AND WAS PROMOTED TO POSTMAN CLASS II IN 1953.

HE WAS REGRADED AS A POSTMAN IN 1967 AND IS DUE TO RETIRE LATER THIS MONTH.

MR LEUNG, WHOSE FATHER ALSO SERVED THE SAME DEPARTMENT FROM 1905 TO 1940, HAS BEEN DELIVERING MAIL IN NORTH POINT FOR MOST OF HIS CAREER.

MR YIP, WHO IS DUE TO RETIRE NEXT MONTH, JOINED THE POST OFFICE AS A MAIL COOLIE IN 1953. HE BECAME A POSTMAN CLASS II IN 1956 AND WAS REGRADED AS POSTMAN IN 1967.

MR YIP HAS BEEN DELIVERING MAIL IN THE DES VOEUX ROAD WEST AREA SINCE 1970 AND IS WELL LIKED BY RESIDENTS OF THE AREA.

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TIN SHUI WAI LAND FORMATION TENDERS INVITED
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TENDERS HAVE BEEN INVITED FROM A SHORT-LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR THE MAIN LAND FORMATION AND DRAINAGE WORKS FOR TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN IN THE NORTH-WESTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE WORKS FOLLOW THE PREPARATORY CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD, REALIGNMENT OF THE TAI RIVER AND FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS NOW UNDERWAY.

THE WORKS COMPRISE DREDGING MATERIAL FROM DESIGNATED AREAS IN DEEP BAY, TRANSPORTING IT TO TIN SHUI WAI AND FORMING 169 HECTARES OF LAND FOR A PLANNED POPULATION OF 146 500. THE CONSTRUCTION OF ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE WORKS IN TIN SHUI WAI CATCHMENT ARE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE PROJECT.

/THE WORKS

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THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START LATER THIS YEAR.

THE DREDGING IN A 2, 142.6-HECTARE AREA OF DEEP BAY HAS BEEN AUTHORISED UNDER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED (RECLAMATIONS) ORDINANCE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH SAID AUTHORISATION FOR THE DREDGING WORK TO PROCEED HAD BEEN GIVEN SUBJECT TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS. THESE INCLUDED MONITORING THE MARINE EFFECTS OF DREDGING ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE OYSTERS IN DEEP BAY.

HE SAID THE BOUNDARY OF THE WORKS AREA HAD BEEN ADJUSTED TO AVOID AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ANY EFFECTS ON OYSTER BEDS.

+TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS, THIS SHOULD GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS CALMING THE WORRIES OF OYSTER FARMERS AS TO THE EFFECTS WHICH DREDGING WILL HAVE ON THEIR INDUSTRY,+

THE SPOKESMAN SAID DETAILS OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY THE DREDGING WERE IN TODAY'S (FRIDAY'S) ISSUE OF THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

A PLAN COULD ALSO BE SEEN AND PURCHASED IF REQUIRED AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AS WELL AS AT YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICE, YUEN LONG DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE.

ANY CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS BY MAY 7 NEXT YEAR.

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RESTRICTED ZONE ON SHA TAU KOK ROAD
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THE SECTION OF SHA TAU KOK ROAD, FROM A POINT ABOUT 100 METRES EAST OF FANLING ROUNDABOUT TO A POINT ABOUT 170 METRES EAST OF ROAD 2 504, WILL BE DESIGNATED A RESTRICTED ZONE FROM 7 AM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY STARTING FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 11).

NO VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREA.

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

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DETAILS OF AWARDS FOR FOOTBALLERS

A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE 10TH HONG KONG FOOTBALLERS AWARDS AND THE SECOND HONG KONG YOUTH FOOTBALLERS AWARDS WILL BE HELD NEXT TUESDAY (MAY 12) AT 3 PM AT THE PARK LANE ROOM, 27TH FLOOR, PARK LANE HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, MR VICTOR HUI, CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG CHINESE FOOTBALLERS ASSOCIATION, MR WU KWOK-HUNG, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MR SIMON LUN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR HO KAM-KWONG, AND GENERAL MANAGER, SPECIALTY RETAILING OF DAIRY FARM COMPANY LTD, MR MICHAEL BEDFORD.

THE EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG CHINESE FOOTBALLERS ASSOCIATION.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT.

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

TRAFFIC CHANGES IN NGAU TAU KOK, FANLING

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN NGAU TAU KOK FOR ABOUT THREE-AND-A-HALF MONTHS FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 11), FOR STORMWATER DRAIN DIVERSION WORK ON ON TAK ROAD.

ON TAK ROAD BETWEEN NGAU TAU KOK ROAD AND ON WAH STREET WILL BE CONVERTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND. MEANWHILE, THE LEFT TURN MOVEMENT FROM NGAU TAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND ON TO ON TAK ROAD WILL BE BANNED.

MOTORISTS ON NGAU TAU KOK ROAD EASTBOUND HEADING FOR ON TAK ROAD ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE VIA ON SIN ROAD OR ON WAH STREET.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING ACCESS ROAD TO ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING FROM ROAD 2502 WILL BE CLOSED TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW ROAD 2504.

TRAFFIC TO ON LOK TSUEN WILL BE DIVERTED VIA THE NEW ROAD.

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FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1987

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URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION IN CENTRAL
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THE EXISTING PEAK-HOUR (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) DAILY URBAN CLEARWAY RESTRICTION ON DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND BETWEEN HOUSE NO. 51 AND 77 WILL BE EXTENDED TO OPERATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 7 PM DAILY FROM 10 AM ON MONDAY (MAY 11).

THE MEASURE WILL LAST FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR ROAD WORKS.

NO VEHICLE OTHER THAN FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP WITHIN THE URBAN CLEARWAY FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS.

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