



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991  
AND UPDATED FORECASTS OF GDP AND PRICES FOR 1991

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ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CONTINUED TO REVIVE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991. THE PERFORMANCE OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINED ROBUST, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS RECORDED A MODERATE INCREASE, ACCORDING TO THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1991 RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY).

LOCALLY, INVESTMENT DEMAND GREW SIGNIFICANTLY. CONSUMPTION DEMAND ALSO SHOWED A FAIR INCREASE. THE LABOUR MARKET EASED SOMEWHAT BUT INFLATION AT THE CONSUMER LEVEL WAS STILL HIGH.

THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW BY AN ESTIMATED 4.1% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, AND IS LIKELY TO HAVE INCREASED BY AROUND 4-4.5% IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

INFLATIONARY PRESSURES AT THE CONSUMER LEVEL INTENSIFIED DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991, PEAKING IN APRIL BEFORE MODERATING SOMEWHAT IN MAY AND JUNE.

THE PACKAGE OF COUNTER-INFLATION MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN MAY HAD SOME EFFECT. THE GDP DEFLATOR, AS A BROAD OVERALL MEASURE OF INFLATION IN THE ECONOMY, ROSE LESS RAPIDLY THAN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDICES.

THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST, MR K.Y. TANG SAID, ON THE BASIS OF THIS REPORT AND OTHER LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION, A REVIEW HAD BEEN MADE OF THE FORECASTS OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) AND OF THE PRICE TRENDS FOR 1991.

"AS A RESULT OF THIS REVIEW, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE GDP IS REVISED UPWARD FROM 3.5% TO 4%. THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IS ALSO REVISED UPWARDS, FROM 11% TO 12%.

"HOWEVER, THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE GDP DEFLATOR, AS A MEASURE OF OVERALL INFLATION IN THE ECONOMY, IS LOWERED FROM 9.5% TO 9%," HE SAID.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY ABOUT 2% IN REAL TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

"THE PICK-UP IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN RECENT QUARTERS WAS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO AN EARLIER IMPROVEMENT IN THE EXTERNAL COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS, DUE TO THE DEPRECIATION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ALONG WITH THE US DOLLAR IN THE LATTER PART OF 1990 AND IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1991," MR TANG SAID.

THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE VARIOUS MAJOR MARKETS WAS MIXED. DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND CHINA RECORDED FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES, WHILE THOSE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN ALSO PICKED UP.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED TO DECLINE. AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES IN HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL TO ONLY 25% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991, FROM 29% FOR 1990 AS A WHOLE.

"RE-EXPORTS ROSE MARKEDLY, BY ABOUT 25% IN REAL TERMS, IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990. AS RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW AT A FASTER RATE THAN DOMESTIC EXPORTS, THEIR SHARE IN TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED FURTHER, TO 69% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 FROM 65% FOR 1990 AS A WHOLE.

"SUSTAINED STRONG GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS INVOLVING CHINA IN BOTH DIRECTIONS WAS THE MAIN FACTOR UNDERLYING THIS REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE. CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST MARKET FOR AS WELL AS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS, ACCOUNTING FOR 29% AND 57% RESPECTIVELY OF THE TOTAL IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991," MR TANG SAID.

IMPORTS REGISTERED A STRONG GROWTH OF ABOUT 20% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. RETAINED IMPORTS ALSO GREW SIGNIFICANTLY, BY ABOUT 13% OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

AMONG THE VARIOUS END-USE CATEGORIES, RETAINED IMPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES RECORDED THE FASTEST GROWTH, BY ABOUT 22% IN REAL TERMS.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$21,183 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1991. A LARGER AMOUNT OF RETAINED IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES FOR PRODUCTION, CONTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLY TO THE INCREASED TRADE DEFICIT.

ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY QUARTERLY GDP ESTIMATE, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, AS THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF DOMESTIC DEMAND, GREW BY 5% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 7% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

THERE WAS A GREATER DEMAND FOR DURABLE GOODS, IN LINE WITH THE INCREASED TAKE-UP OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. EXPENDITURE OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS TRAVELLING ABROAD ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY.

AS REGARDS GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, THE GROWTH RATE IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS TERMS WAS 6% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 5% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990.

LOCAL INVESTMENT, MEASURED IN TERMS OF GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION, ROSE BY 7% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING A MARKED INCREASE OF 19% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR.

OF THE MAIN COMPONENTS, EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION GREW BY 4% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 13% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990. THE SLOWER GROWTH REFLECTED MAINLY THE WINDING DOWN OF SOME LARGE PROJECTS.

EXPENDITURE ON PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ROSE BY 7% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER. THE GROWTH RATE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1990 WAS 18%.

THE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 WAS SUSTAINED IN THE SECOND QUARTER. ON INVESTMENT DEMAND, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS ACCELERATED SHARPLY FROM 9% IN THE FIRST QUARTER TO ABOUT 20% IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY SHOWED PARTICULARLY RAPID GROWTH.

ON CONSUMER SPENDING, MR TANG SAID, SENTIMENT SHOULD HAVE IMPROVED AFTER THE ENDING OF THE GULF WAR.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS SHOWED A SMALLER DECLINE OF ABOUT 2% IN REAL TERMS IN THE SECOND QUARTER, AS AGAINST A DECLINE OF 6% IN THE FIRST QUARTER. "OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE REBOUND IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES, GIVING A YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE OF 4% IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS COMBINED," HE ADDED.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 11.9% AND 13.1% RESPECTIVELY IN THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTERS OF 1991 COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTERS LAST YEAR. REFLECTING A DECELERATION IN CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION DURING THE SECOND QUARTER, THE CPI(A) ROSE BY 13.9% IN APRIL, 13.0% IN MAY, AND 12.3% IN JUNE OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

THE GDP DEFLATOR, AS A BROAD INDICATOR OF INFLATION FOR THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE, INCREASED BY 8% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

IT ROSE AT A LESS RAPID RATE THAN THE CPI, MAINLY DUE TO MORE MODERATE INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF EXPORTS AND OF PLANT AND MACHINERY, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN THE PRICES OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT.

THE LABOUR MARKET EASED SOMEWHAT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE SECOND QUARTER, AT 2.4%, WAS 0.6 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN IN PRECEDING QUARTER, AND 0.8 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE ROSE TO 1.7% IN THE SECOND QUARTER. THIS WAS 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND 0.8 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES IN MOST SECTORS CONTINUED TO DECLINE. MOST RECENTLY, THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SEEMS TO HAVE STABILISED.

THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET WAS ACTIVE DURING MOST OF THE FIRST HALF OF 1991. THE UNDERLYING DEMAND FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED FLATS CONTINUED TO BE STRONG. SPECULATIVE ACTIVITY IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INTENSIFIED DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH TO MAY BUT EASED IN JUNE.

"THE INCREASE IN THE MORTGAGE RATE BY ONE PERCENTAGE POINT IN LATE MAY AND THE GENERALLY TIGHTER BANK POLICY ON MORTGAGE LENDING CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MODERATION," MR TANG POINTED OUT.

THE DEMAND FOR LARGE FLATS SHOWED FURTHER IMPROVEMENT. THE MARKET FOR SHOPPING SPACE HELD UP WELL PARTICULARLY IN THE PRIME SHOPPING AREAS, WHILE THAT FOR FACTORY PREMISES WAS GENERALLY STABLE. THE MARKET FOR OFFICE SPACE, HOWEVER, REMAINED SOFT.

IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE FOLLOWING MAIN DEVELOPMENTS WERE OBSERVED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1991.

FIRST, WITH A VIEW TO DAMPENING INFLATIONARY EXPECTATIONS, LOCAL MONEY MARKET CONDITIONS WERE TIGHTENED AND INTEREST RATES RAISED BY ONE PERCENTAGE POINT IN LATE MAY. THE WIDER GAP BETWEEN THE HONG KONG DOLLAR INTEREST RATES AND THE CORRESPONDING US DOLLAR INTEREST RATES PUSHED THE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR TO A HIGH OF HK\$7.714 TO US\$1 ON JUNE 22. BUT TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE, IT MOVED BACK CLOSER TO THE LINK RATE OF HK\$7.80 TO US\$1.

THE OVERALL EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR, IN TERMS OF THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX, ROSE FROM 109.3 AT THE END OF 1990 TO 114.1 AT THE END OF JUNE 1991.

SECONDLY, DOMESTIC LOANS AND ADVANCES REGISTERED A FAIRLY STRONG GROWTH DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 1991, IN LINE WITH AN IMPROVED ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE BROADEST DEFINITION OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY (HK\$M3) ROSE AT A RATE BROADLY COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF NOMINAL GDP.

THIRDLY, LOCAL SHARE PRICES WERE GENERALLY ON AN UPTREND DURING THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1991. SHARE PRICES EASED IN LATE MAY, BEFORE SHOWING SOME RECOVERY TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE. THE STOCK MARKET WAS THEN BOOSTED CONSIDERABLY BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

MR TANG SAID IN UPDATING THE GDP AND PRICE FORECASTS FOR 1991 IN THE LIGHT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE TO THE COMPONENT FORECASTS AS APPROPRIATE. THE UPDATED FORECASTS ARE SHOWN IN THE TABLE BELOW.

IN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, CONTINUED GROWTH IN DEMAND IN MANY OF THE MAJOR MARKETS ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER, A STRONGER US DOLLAR COULD REDUCE THE PRICE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S PRODUCTS.

FURTHERMORE, ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES IS MIXED. TAKING THESE FACTORS TOGETHER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE BY 1.5% IN REAL TERMS IN 1991, WHICH IS MORE MODERATE THAN THE EARLIER FORECAST OF 2.5%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF RE-EXPORTS IS REVISED UPWARD FROM 15% TO 19%.

THIS HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE ROBUST GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. WITH THE RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATIONS STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES BEING ALMOST CERTAIN, THERE SHOULD BE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE BORDER, AND HENCE IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS INVOLVING CHINA.

GIVEN A HIGHER FORECAST FOR RE-EXPORTS AND A FASTER INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS FOR MEETING LOCAL DEMAND, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF IMPORTS OF GOODS IS REVISED UPWARD FROM 10.7% TO 14.6%.

THE DEMAND FOR TRADE-RELATED SERVICES SHOULD INCREASE IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH IN OVERALL TRADE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE BETTER THAN THE EARLIER FORECAST.

ON TRAVEL AND TOURISM, THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF THE GULF WAR ON HONG KONG'S TOURIST RECEIPTS HAS BEEN ABSORBED, WHILE THE EXPENDITURE OF HONG KONG'S RESIDENTS TRAVELLING ABROAD HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

THUS THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF EXPORTS OF SERVICES IS RAISED FROM 5% TO 6%, AND THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF IMPORTS OF SERVICES FROM 7.5% TO 8%.

WITH THESE DIFFERENTIAL RATES OF INCREASE, NET EXPORTS OF SERVICES IS EXPECTED TO SHOW A SMALL DECLINE COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING YEAR.

LOCALLY, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY 5% IN REAL TERMS. THIS IS FASTER THAN THE GROWTH RATE OF 3.5% FORECAST EARLIER. THE HIGH TAKE-UP RATE OF RESIDENTIAL FLATS CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUSTAIN THE SPENDING ON DURABLE GOODS.

SPENDING ON SERVICES, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATED TO TRAVELLING ABROAD, IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE. THE RECENT TREND OF CONSUMER SPENDING LENDS SUPPORT TO THIS UPWARD REVISION IN THE FORECAST, NOTWITHSTANDING SOME DAMPENING EFFECT OF THE CURRENT INFLATION ON CONSUMER DEMAND.

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF GOVERNMENT-CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 6%.

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION IS RAISED FROM 5.7% TO 7.4%, MAINLY REFLECTING THE FASTER INCREASE IN PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON PLANT AND MACHINERY.

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON PLANT AND MACHINERY REMAINS UNCHANGED. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM THE CURRENT CONSTRUCTION WORKLOAD, EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SECTORS IS LIKELY TO INCREASE LESS RAPIDLY THAN AS FORECAST EARLIER.

OVERALL, THE REVISED FORECAST OF THE GDP GROWTH RATE, AT 4%, IS CONSISTENT WITH THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE SO FAR AND IMPLIES STEADY GROWTH FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR.

HAVING REGARD TO THE ACTUAL OUTTURN IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) FOR 1991 AS A WHOLE IS REVISED UPWARD FROM 11% TO 12%.

THE RECENT EASING OF THE LABOUR MARKET, ALONG WITH A STRONGER US DOLLAR AND STABLE WORLD COMMODITY PRICES (INCLUDING OIL PRODUCT PRICES), IS CONDUCIVE TO A FURTHER MODERATION OF INFLATION.

HOWEVER, AS OVERALL DEMAND IN THE ECONOMY CONTINUES TO INCREASE THERE WILL BE GREATER PRESSURES ON RESOURCES.

ALSO, THE DROUGHT IN SOUTH CHINA AND THE FLOODING IN CENTRAL AND EAST CHINA OVER THE PAST MONTH OR SO HAVE LED TO A TEMPORARY RISE IN THE PRICES OF CERTAIN ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS. THUS CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION IS LIKELY TO EASE MORE GRADUALLY THAN ENVISAGED EARLIER.

ON THE GDP DEFLATOR, THE RATE OF INCREASE HAS DECELERATED FROM A DOUBLE-DIGIT LEVEL SINCE THE SECOND QUARTER OF LAST YEAR. AFTER REVIEWING ITS VARIOUS PRICE COMPONENTS, THE EARLIER FORECAST OF A 9.5% INCREASE FOR 1991 IS REVISED DOWNWARD TO 9%.

THE HALF-YEARLY ECONOMIC REPORT 1991 WILL BE ON SALE ON 27 AUGUST 1991 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$30 A COPY.

	FORECAST FOR 1991 AS RELEASED ON 24.5.1991 (%)	CURRENT UPDATE RELEASED ON 23.8.1991 (%)
GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF :		
PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	3.5	5
GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	6	6
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION	5.7	7.4
TRANSFER COSTS OF LAND AND BUILDINGS	5	14
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	6.7	5.3
PRIVATE	6	5.5
PUBLIC	8	5
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS' MARGIN	6.5	6
PLANT, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	4.5	9.3
PRIVATE	4	9
PUBLIC	20	20
TOTAL EXPORTS OF GOODS	10.3	12.4
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	2.5	1.5
RE-EXPORTS	15	19
IMPORTS OF GOODS	10.7	14.6
EXPORTS OF SERVICES	5	6
IMPORTS OF SERVICES	7.5	8
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)	3.5	4
PER CAPITA GDP	2.4	2.9
GROWTH RATE IN MONEY TERMS OF :		
GDP	13.3	13.4
PER CAPITA GDP	12.1	12.1
RATE OF INCREASE IN :		
GDP DEFLATOR	9.5	9
DOMESTIC DEMAND DEFLATOR	10.5	9.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)	11	12

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HONG KONG IS FAST BECOMING A CULTURAL CENTRE: ACTING GOVERNOR  
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HONG KONG IS FAST BUILDING UP A REPUTATION AS A CULTURAL CENTRE WHERE EAST MEETS WEST AND IT HAS NOW BECOME AN IMPORTANT POINT IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARTS CIRCUIT, THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TONIGHT (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FESTIVAL 2000, SIR DAVID SAID THIS WAS A FAR CRY FROM HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS SOMETHING OF A CULTURAL DESERT ONLY A DECADE OR SO AGO.

"IN ALL THIS DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS SCENE, THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE," HE SAID.

AFTER A FEW SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN EARLY YEARS, SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS NOW FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AS A CENTRE FOR LOCAL TALENT AND A FOCUS FOR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF MANY OF HONG KONG'S ARTISTS.

"I AM DELIGHTED WITH ITS SUCCESS," HE NOTED.

HONG KONG NOW PLAYED HOST TO A NUMBER OF ARTS FESTIVALS, INCLUDING THE HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL, THE FESTIVAL OF ASIAN ARTS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL.

SIR DAVID SAID THESE FESTIVALS HAD BROUGHT THE ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF HONG KONG TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AS HAD OVERSEAS TOURS BY LOCAL PERFORMING GROUPS.

WHILE RECOGNISING THAT BY WORLD STANDARDS HONG KONG'S PERFORMING ARTS WERE STILL YOUNG, SIR DAVID SAID THE TERRITORY HAD PLENTY OF TALENT AND CREATIVITY.

HE ADDED THAT THE TRAINING OF HONG KONG'S TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE HAD BEEN ENHANCED BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN 1984.

"WE NOW HAVE TWO PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRAS, SIX FULL-TIME DANCE AND THEATRE COMPANIES, AND MANY AMATEUR GROUPS WITH A VARIETY OF INTERESTS," HE NOTED.

THESE PERFORMING GROUPS AND COMPANIES HAD BLOSSOMED THROUGH SUPPORT FROM MANY PEOPLE AND DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS.

"I HOPE THAT TONIGHT WE ARE SEEING THE BIRTH OF ANOTHER ANNUAL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR HONG KONG," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE FESTIVAL 2000 WAS A UNIQUE ARTS PROMOTION PROJECT WHICH HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE, THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS AND NINE OF HONG KONG'S MOST TALENTED DANCE AND DRAMA GROUPS.

"THE FESTIVAL WILL BE ENRICHED BY ARTISTS WHO HAVE COME FROM THREE OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND AS AN ADDED EXCITEMENT IT WILL BRING US PERFORMANCES WHICH INCLUDE THE LATEST 'MULTI-MEDIA' ART FORM TECHNIQUES.

HE CONGRATULATED THE ORGANISERS FOR BRINGING FESTIVAL 2000 TO FRUITION.

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HK PEOPLE URGED TO TAKE PART IN POLITICAL PROCESS  
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THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG CAN MAKE THEIR FULL CONTRIBUTION TO SHAPING THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE ONLY IF THEY ACCEPT A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENTHUSIASTIC AND WELL-INFORMED PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

MR SUEN WAS SPEAKING IN HONG KONG AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME JOINTLY OFFERED BY SHUE YAN COLLEGE AND THE NORTHEAST LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY OF USA.

HE SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED TO NOTE THE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF CANDIDATES IN THE FORTHCOMING DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WE HAVE 54 CANDIDATES, CONTESTING IN NINE CONSTITUENCIES. THIS REPRESENTS A RESPECTABLE FIGURE OF AN AVERAGE OF SIX CANDIDATES CONTESTING TWO SEATS IN A CONSTITUENCY. THIS IS CERTAINLY ENCOURAGING AND GIVES THE ELECTION A VERY GOOD START," HE SAID.

"WE ALSO NEED THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE ITS RIGHT TO VOTE," HE ADDED.

"WE WANT THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE SUCCESSFULLY RETURNED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BETTER REFLECT PUBLIC VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS."

MR SUEN NOTED THAT THE QUESTION HAD OFTEN BEEN ASKED AS TO HOW THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COULD BE MEASURED.

"AN ACTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS A GOOD BEGINNING. IT WOULD BE MOST ENCOURAGING IF THERE IS A GOOD TURNOUT OF VOTERS AND A WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE ELECTION," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SUCCESS MUST ALSO BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ITSELF. THIS WOULD BE JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF WHETHER IT WAS SEEN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT FORUM IN REFLECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, WHETHER IT WAS FURTHERING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG AND LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

"I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL PASS THESE TESTS AND THAT THE FIRST DIRECT ELECTION WILL PROVIDE THE FIRM FOUNDATION FOR US TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS," HE SAID.

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FS MEETS LU PING  
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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT A MORNING MEETING HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN SHENZHEN TODAY (FRIDAY) TO ENABLE THE NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH MR LU PING ON FINANCIAL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

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DHS - A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION  
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THE INTRODUCTION OF A DISTRICT HEALTH SYSTEM (DHS) IN THE DELIVERY OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) SERVICES HAS BEEN VIEWED BY MANY PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND INTERESTED GROUPS AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, SAID THIS TONIGHT (FRIDAY) AT A MEETING OF THE LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

DR LEE SAID HONG KONG WAS IN THE PHASE OF REFORMING ITS HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM SO AS TO REDRESS THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE HOSPITAL SYSTEM AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

"IT IS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP PHC TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF PROMOTIVE, PREVENTIVE, CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES AS THE BASIS IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF HEALTH FOR ALL IN THE WAY AHEAD," HE SAID.

ON DHS, ONE OF THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT BY THE WORKING PARTY ON PHC, DR LEE SAID: "DHS IS A NEW CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DELIVERY OF PHC SERVICES UNDER WHICH THE WHOLE TERRITORY WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO VARIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL PHC DISTRICTS.

"A NETWORK OF CLINICS LINKING TOGETHER ALL EXISTING CLINIC FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SAME DISTRICT WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE HOSPITALS IN THE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF PHC SERVICES.

"THERE WILL BE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN DISCUSSING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT."

DR LEE POINTED OUT THE NEED TO CHANGE THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE HEALTH OF THE HONG KONG POPULATION WAS SAID TO BE OF A HIGH STANDARD WITH HEALTH INDICES EVEN BETTER THAN THOSE IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

"THE EXISTING SYSTEM LACKS FLEXIBILITY AND PROMPTNESS IN RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS AND IN ADJUSTING SERVICE PRIORITIES.

/"THE COMMUNICATION .....

"THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CLINICS AND HOSPITALS IS INADEQUATE AND REFERRAL SYSTEM INEFFICIENT," DR LEE SAID.

IN VIEW OF THESE, HE SAID, THERE WAS A NEED TO INVOLVE ALL THE RELEVANT SECTORS IN IDENTIFYING THE MAIN HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE DISTRICT AND IN SETTING OUT RIGHT TARGETS AND PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

TURNING TO IMPLEMENTATION, DR LEE SAID KWUN TONG HAD BEEN CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE PILOT DISTRICTS FOR DHS BECAUSE OF ITS EXISTING SERVICE COMPONENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT INTO A CO-ORDINATED NETWORK.

THESE COMPONENTS INCLUDED A DISTRICT HOSPITAL -- THE UNITED CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL, OUT-PATIENT HEALTH FACILITIES, HEALTH CENTRES, A PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY, COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE SERVICES, HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID THE NGAU TAU KOK CLINIC WOULD BE THE DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE SERVING AS THE CO-ORDINATING CENTRE OF THE PILOT KWUN TONG DHS.

IN THE PILOT SCHEME, DR LEE SAID, THE PLANNING OF HEALTH SERVICES WOULD BE AT DISTRICT LEVEL BASING ON LOCAL NEEDS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FIELD STAFF, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND AGENCIES IN THE DISTRICT.

"THERE WILL BE DEVOLUTION OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND EMPHASIS ON A TEAM APPROACH INVOLVING PROFESSIONALS OF DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.

"COMMUNICATION CHANNELS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND ENHANCED AMONG HEALTH STAFF, PUBLIC, SUBVENTED AND PRIVATE SECTORS, HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS," HE SAID.

VARIOUS INNOVATIVE IDEAS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING PARTY WILL BE TRIED OUT IN THE PILOT DHS.

THESE INCLUDE SCREENING OF COMMON DISEASES FOR THE ELDERLY, OPPORTUNISTIC SCREENING FOR PATIENTS AGED BETWEEN 45 AND 64 ATTENDING GENERAL OUT-PATIENT (GOP) CLINICS, WELL-WOMEN CLINIC IN A FAMILY HEALTH CENTRE AND MINI-SPECIALIST CLINIC.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS BEING PLANNED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO INTRODUCE INTO THE NETWORK OF CLINICS IN KWUN TONG ARE INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORDS AT GOP CLINICS, APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FOR CHRONIC CASES, SPECIAL HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR CHRONIC PATIENTS AND DRUG LABELLING.

"ALL THESE HELP TO PROVIDE A BETTER QUALITY AND CONTINUITY OF PATIENT CARE.

"IN THE LONG RUN, OUR AIM IS TO INTRODUCE A CLINICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM USING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY IN OUR GOPD (GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT) SERVICE," DR LEE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A MULTI-SECTORAL DISTRICT HEALTH COMMITTEE WOULD BE SET UP TO FACILITATE CO-ORDINATION WITH HOSPITALS AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND TO ENSURE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO PLAN HEALTH PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITY.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE ACTIVE ROLE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES PLAYED IN HEALTH PROMOTION, THUS RAISING THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING POSITIVE HEALTH.

"HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION ARE TWO MAJOR COMPONENTS IN THE DHS.

"VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE MORE FLEXIBLE IN ADOPTING NEW APPROACHES AND INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION AND INFORMATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANISATION.

"THEIR INVOLVEMENT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE THE OVERALL EFFORTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT," HE SAID.

DR LEE SAID PHC WAS PARTICIPATORY CARE WITH SHARED COMMITMENTS AMONG THE GOVERNMENT, INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE COMMUNITY.

"GOVERNMENT ALONE CANNOT SECURE THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATION," HE SAID, "THE SUPPORT, CO-OPERATION, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL SECTORS ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAKE PHC A SUCCESS."

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#### MERCHANT SENTENCED FOR TAX EVASION

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A 55-YEAR-OLD MERCHANT, WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO TWO TAX EVASION CHARGES, WAS SENTENCED TO NINE MONTHS IMPRISONMENT ON EACH COUNT SUSPENDED FOR 24 MONTHS IN HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DEFENDANT, LOKE FU-YING, WAS ALSO ORDERED TO PAY A FINE OF \$15,000 ON EACH CHARGE, AND A FURTHER FINE OF \$388,802 WHICH WAS EQUIVALENT TO 200 PER CENT OF THE TAX EVADED.

LOKE IS THE SOLE PROPRIETOR OF KWONG SANG WATCH COMPANY WHICH RETAILS WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

THE DEFENDANT APPEARED BEFORE JUDGE BURRELL IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR SIGNING PROFITS TAX RETURNS WITHOUT REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR BELIEVING THEM TO BE TRUE.

THE OFFENCES INVOLVED OVERSTATING PURCHASES OF \$1,166,220 AND CONSEQUENTLY UNDERSTATING PROFITS OF \$1,166,220 FOR THE YEARS 1986/87 AND 1987/88.

THE PROFITS UNDERSTATED REPRESENTED 71 PER CENT OF THE FULL PROFITS AND THE TAX EVADED AMOUNTED TO \$194,401.

THE CROWN WAS REPRESENTED BY MR P.L. ROBERTS, SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL AND THE DEFENDANT WAS REPRESENTED BY MR ALAN HOO, Q.C.

THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT REMINDS THE PUBLIC THAT TAX EVASION IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE. UPON CONVICTION, THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE IS THREE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$20,000 ON EACH CHARGE, PLUS A FURTHER FINE EQUIVALENT TO THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED.

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FORMS FOR REGISTRATION AS OVERSEAS UK ELECTORS AVAILABLE  
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A SPOKESMAN FOR IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT FORMS AND EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS FOR REGISTRATION AS AN OVERSEAS ELECTOR IN UK PARLIAMENTARY AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

"BRITISH CITIZENS LIVING IN HONG KONG MAY CONTACT THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ON SECOND FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, BY WRITING OR IN PERSON TO OBTAIN THE FORMS AND EXPLANATORY LEAFLETS," HE SAID.

UNDER THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT OF 1989, IMPORTANT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE IN WHO CAN VOTE IN UK PARLIAMENTARY AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

THE QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR PEOPLE LIVING ABROAD HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM FIVE TO 20 YEARS.

THAT MEANS IF A BRITISH CITIZEN LEFT THE UK AS LONG AGO AS OCTOBER 1971, HE CAN STILL VOTE.

HE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED TO DECLARE AN INTENTION TO RETURN TO THE UK AND THE VOTE WILL BE CAST IN THE CONSTITUENCY IN WHICH HE OR HIS FAMILY WERE REGISTERED BEFORE LEAVING THE UK.

PEOPLE WHO LEFT THE UK BEFORE THEY WERE OLD ENOUGH TO BE INCLUDED ON THE ELECTORAL REGISTER MAY REGISTER AS OVERSEAS ELECTORS.

"IN ORDER TO QUALIFY, POTENTIAL ELECTORS WILL HAVE TO FILL IN AN APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT DIRECT TO THEIR ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICE BY OCTOBER 10 THIS YEAR (SEPTEMBER 15 IF THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY RESIDENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND)", THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO BRITISH CITIZENS FOR ASSISTANCE IN INFORMING ANYONE THEY KNOW LIVING ABROAD ABOUT THIS.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1991

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AIRPORT AND PORT PROJECTS RESOURCE CENTRE TO OPEN

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A RESOURCE CENTRE PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO REFERENCE MATERIAL ON MATTERS RELATED TO AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT WILL OPEN ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 27).

THE AIRPORT AND PORT PROJECTS RESOURCE CENTRE HAS ABOUT 600 TECHNICAL PAPERS AND REPORTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND ASSOCIATED CORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, AS WELL AS OTHER READING MATERIAL.

THE RESOURCE CENTRE, IN WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN READ THE REFERENCE MATERIAL, IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE FRENCH MISSION BUILDING AT 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL, AND WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM AND FROM 2 PM TO 5 PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY. IT WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THERE ARE ALSO AUDIO-VISUAL FACILITIES THAT ILLUSTRATE THE PROJECTS, A LARGE FLOOR MODEL INCORPORATING THE CORE PROJECTS, AND MODELS OF THE TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

THE RESOURCE CENTRE, OPERATED BY THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE, IS DESIGNED AS PART OF THE OVERALL PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONAL EFFORT TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF AIRPORT AND PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE CENTRE'S EQUIPMENT INCLUDES A COMPUTERISED ON-LINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE OF THE REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE, ALLOWING FOR EASY ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION DESIRED.

OWING TO THE LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCE CENTRE, INTENDING VISITORS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN GROUPS, ARE ADVISED TO MAKE BOOKINGS IN ADVANCE BY TELEPHONING 877 3829.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO VISIT THE RESOURCE CENTRE IN ADVANCE OF ITS OPENING MAY DO SO TODAY (FRIDAY), AT 4 PM. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NAPCO, MR RAYMOND WONG, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

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TWO GOVT LOTS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IN A PUBLIC AUCTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE ON SEPTEMBER 18.

THE FIRST SITE IS A LOT ADJOINING 31C WYNDHAM STREET ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT MEASURES ABOUT 78.5 SQUARE METRES AND IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 470 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 25, 1994.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 11, ON LAI STREET, SHA TIN.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,839 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN).

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 16,182 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1995.

THE AUCTION WILL START AT 2.30 PM.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND SALE PLANS INSPECTED AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH, SAI KUNG AND ISLANDS.

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INSHORE WORKS IN FORESHORE AND SEABED AREAS PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO CARRY OUT A NUMBER OF INSHORE WORKS INVOLVING FORESHORE AND SEABED AREAS AT FOUR DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE TERRITORY.

ON LANTAU ISLAND, RECLAMATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN AN AREA OF ABOUT 90.4 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED NEAR SIU HO WAN TO PROVIDE LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY DEPOT AND REFUSE TRANSFER STATION TO SERVE THE NEW AIRPORT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH LANTAU AREA.

/THE RECLAMATION .....

THE RECLAMATION WORK IS PROGRAMMED TO START IN APRIL NEXT YEAR AND TO BE COMPLETED BY MID 1994.

IN HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH, ANOTHER RECLAMATION WORK IS PROPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT NEXT YEAR WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.3 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED ALONG THE EASTERN PORTION OF STANLEY BAY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE RECLAMATION IS TO PROVIDE LAND AND TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 200-METRE SEAWALL, BOTH OF WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PROJECT FOR STANLEY IN FUTURE.

THE DISPOSAL PROJECT WILL INVOLVE INSTALLATION OF GRAVITY SEWER PIPE AND ASSOCIATED UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMERGENCY ROADWAY AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AND LANDSCAPING IN THE RECLAMATION AREA.

MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH TWO OTHER INSHORE WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION OF A PIER AT PAK KOK ON LAMMA ISLAND, AND THE LAYING OF SUBMARINE PIPELINE TO CONVEY WATER SUPPLY TO AP CHAU IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE PIER PROJECT, WHICH IS PROPOSED TO PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE SHORE FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS AT NORTH LAMMA, WILL INVOLVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,040 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED WHILE WORKS ON THE SUBMARINE PIPELINE WILL INVOLVE AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.11 HECTARES.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THESE PROJECTS WERE DESCRIBED IN SEPARATE NOTICES PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HE HAS AN INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABEDS INVOLVED MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 22.

THE NOTICES (IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE) TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PLANS CAN BE SEEN ON NOTICE BOARDS POSTED NEAR THE SITES OF THE PROPOSED WORKS.

THE PLANS CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER), AND AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.

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AMENDMENTS TO TSUEN WAN WEST DRAFT OZP

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT TSUEN WAN WEST OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1989.

ONE OF THE AMENDMENTS IS THE REZONING OF A BUILDING LOT AT TING KAU FROM "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C)" TO "RESIDENTIAL (GROUP C) 1" WITH RESTRICTIONS ON DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY TO A MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT OF THREE STOREYS INCLUDING CARPARK AND A MAXIMUM PLOT RATIO OF 0.75.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID THE AMENDMENT WAS MADE TO MEET AN OBJECTION SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD.

OTHER AMENDMENTS GAZETTED TODAY INCLUDE ADDITIONS TO AND ELABORATION ON SOME OF THE NOTES.

IT HAS BEEN SPECIFIED THAT THE MAXIMUM PLOT RATIOS IS SUBJECT TO A SATISFACTORY DEMONSTRATION TO THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD THAT A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT HAS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL CAPACITIES AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS OF THE SITE.

OBJECTIONS TO THESE AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT; FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

DEADLINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF OBJECTIONS TO THE REZONING OF THE TING KAU LOT AND OTHER AMENDMENTS ARE SEPTEMBER 6 AND SEPTEMBER 13 RESPECTIVELY.

THE DRAFT PLAN CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICE, THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SECTION AT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, AND THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE.

COPIES OF THE PLAN ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, CENTRAL AND KOWLOON MAPS SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR WATER IMPROVEMENT WORKS

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE LAYING OF FRESH WATER MAINS IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND HAPPY VALLEY.

THE WORKS, WHICH FORM PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT TO THE HONG KONG EAST TRUNK FEED SYSTEM STAGE II PROJECT, ARE AIMED AT IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM FOR TAI HANG, JARDINE'S LOOKOUT, BLACKS' LINK, MIDDLE GAP AND MOUNT NICHOLSON AREAS.

/THE WORKS .....

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THE WORKS WILL INCLUDE THE LAYING OF ABOUT 4,000 METRES OF MILD STEEL TRUNK MAINS RANGING FROM 600 TO 1,200 MILLIMETRES IN DIAMETER IN CAUSEWAY BAY AND HAPPY VALLEY.

THE MAINS WILL FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF TREATED WATER FROM THE SHA TIN TREATMENT WORKS TO THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF HONG KONG ISLAND VIA THE NORTH POINT CROSS HARBOUR MAINS AND THE EXISTING WATER MAINS IN THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE LAYING OF ABOUT 285 METRES OF DUCTILE IRON MAINS RANGING FROM 80 TO 200 MILLIMETRES IN DIAMETER IN HAPPY VALLEY FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FLUSHING WATER.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN DECEMBER AND BE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 13.

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## CONSTRUCTION OF YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL START BUILDING THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS EARLY NEXT YEAR.

TENDERS FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION ARE BEING INVITED AND A TENDER NOTICE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE THREE-KILOMETRE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS WILL CONNECT THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR (NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION) NEAR LAM HAU TSUEN TO THE WEST AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD NEAR POK OI HOSPITAL TO THE EAST.

THIS SECTION OF NEW ROAD CONSISTS OF A 1.8-KILOMETRE LONG DUAL-TWO LANE EXPRESSWAY FROM LAM HAU TSUEN TO KONG TAU SAN TSUEN, AND TWO 1.2-KILOMETRE LONG DISTRIBUTOR ROADS FROM KONG TAU SAN TSUEN TO POK OI HOSPITAL.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SERVICE ROAD TO CONNECT TAI TONG ROAD WITH THE BYPASS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF A VILLAGE ROAD ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FILL SITE AT CHEUNG NGAU SHAN.

VEHICULAR BRIDGES, AND VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN UNDERPASSES WILL BE BUILT TO BRING THE BYPASS OVER THE EXISTING NULLAHS AND ROADS.

PROVISIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE DESIGN TO CATER FOR THE CONNECTIONS WITH THE FUTURE ROUTE 3 AND THE AU TAU BYPASS.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS IN MID 1994, THROUGH TRAFFIC WILL BE ABLE TO BYPASS YUEN LONG TOWN TO THE SOUTH RESULTING IN A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN FLOW IN THE AREA.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1991

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FIRING PRACTICE IN SEPTEMBER  
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FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE HA TSUEN - CASTLE PEAK RANGE ON 10 DAYS NEXT MONTH.

THE PUBLIC IS WARNED NOT TO ENTER THE AREA WHEN RED FLAGS ARE HOISTED.

FOLLOWING ARE THE DATES AND TIMES THAT FIRING PRACTICE WILL TAKE PLACE:

DATE ----	TIME ----
SEPTEMBER 16 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 17 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 19 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 20 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 24 (TUESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 25 (WEDNESDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 26 (THURSDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 27 (FRIDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM
SEPTEMBER 30 (MONDAY)	8.30 AM - 5 PM

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

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	22.8.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	23.8.91	-140
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+140
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.0 *-0.1* 23.8.91		

/HONG KONG .....

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		22.8.91	23.8.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	4.35 PCT	4.36 PCT
	1 MONTH	4.84 PCT	4.67 PCT
	3 MONTHS	5.37 PCT	5.31 PCT
	6 MONTHS	5.84 PCT	5.82 PCT
	12 MONTHS	6.38 PCT	6.35 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		3,920 MN	10,460 MN*

\* RECORD HIGH

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