



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992

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LIBERALISATION OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

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EXISTING LEGISLATION GOVERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION WILL BE LIBERALISED WITH EFFECT FROM JUNE 30 THIS YEAR FOLLOWING THE EXTENSION OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1989 TO HONG KONG BY ORDER OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

THE EFFECT OF THE ORDER IS THAT IT REPEALS SECTION 2 OF THE UK ACT OF 1911 WHICH COVERED ALL OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND PROVIDED FOR PENALTIES FOR THE MERE RECEIPT AND RETENTION OF INFORMATION, HOWEVER RECEIVED, BY ANY PERSON.

THE NEW LEGISLATION REMOVES FROM CRIMINAL SANCTION THE UNAUTHORISED DISCLOSURE OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING DISCLOSURES WHICH MIGHT EMBARRASS OR INCONVENIENCE THE GOVERNMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW ACT RESTRICTED CRIMINAL SANCTIONS ONLY TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE;
- DEFENCE;
- INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS;
- INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE FROM OTHER STATES OR FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS;
- INFORMATION LIKELY TO RESULT IN AN OFFENCE OR OTHER RELATED CONSEQUENCES;
- SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNDER STATUTORY WARRANT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW LEGISLATION FOCUSED NOT ON THE ACT OF DISCLOSURE ALONE BUT ON THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION DISCLOSED AND THE DAMAGE ARISING FROM THAT DISCLOSURE.

IN ADDITION TO REDUCING THE SCOPE OF EXISTING LEGISLATION, THE 1989 ACT SETS OUT PRECISELY THE TYPES OF INFORMATION THAT CANNOT BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT AUTHORISATION, THE PERSONS TO WHOM THESE RESTRICTIONS APPLY AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THEY APPLY.

HE ADDED THAT THE ACT PROVIDED FOR DAMAGE TESTS AND IT WOULD BE FOR A COURT ALONE TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN OFFENCE HAD BEEN COMMITTED.

THE PROSECUTION WOULD HAVE TO SATISFY SPECIFIC TESTS OF DAMAGE FOR CASES INVOLVING UNAUTHORISED DISCLOSURE BY MOST PEOPLE.

/THESE TESTS

THESE TESTS INVOLVE SHOWING THAT THE DEFENDANT KNEW OR HAD GOOD REASON TO KNOW THAT THE SPECIFIED DAMAGE WAS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE ACT IS IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS AND/OR A FINE OF \$500,000.

THE 1989 ACT DOES NOT AFFECT SECTION 1 OF THE 1911 ACT WHICH PROTECTS INFORMATION USEFUL TO AN ENEMY. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR OFFENCES UNDER THE 1911 ACT, SECTION 1, IS 14 YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT.

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CIVIL SERVANTS OFFERED 11.17% TO 11.60% PAY RISE

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED ON A PAY OFFER OF 11.17% FOR THE UPPER SALARY BAND OF THE NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVICE AND 11.60% FOR THE MIDDLE AND LOWER BANDS, WITH EFFECT FROM APRIL 1 THIS YEAR.

DIRECTORATE STAFF ARE TO RECEIVE THE SAME PERCENTAGE INCREASE AS THAT FOR THE UPPER SALARY BAND OF THE NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE OFFER WAS MADE TODAY (TUESDAY) TO THE STAFF SIDES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE CENTRAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM.

"IT HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY DECISION, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE OFFER PROVIDES A FAIR BALANCE," SAID MR WIGGHAM.

"IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING THE RESULTS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR PAY TREND SURVEY, WHICH COVERED THE PERIOD APRIL 2, 1991 TO APRIL 1, 1992, AND THE PAY CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY STAFF REPRESENTATIVES, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE BUDGETARY POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT," HE ADDED.

THE OFFER OF A 11.17% INCREASE IS MADE TO CIVIL SERVANTS WHOSE MONTHLY SALARIES EXCEED \$25,566; WHILE CIVIL SERVANTS WHO EARN UP TO \$25,565 PER MONTH ARE OFFERED A SLIGHTLY HIGHER INCREASE OF 11.60%.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE 11.17% INCREASE FOR THE UPPER BAND WAS IN LINE WITH PAY INCREASES GIVEN TO PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES EARNING SIMILAR SALARIES.

THE ADJUSTMENT PROVIDES FOR A REAL INCREASE IN SALARIES AS IT IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN THE INCREASE IN THE HANG SENG CONSUMER PRICE INDEX OF 10.58% FOR 1991/92.

THE 11.60% INCREASE FOR THE MIDDLE AND LOWER BANDS WAS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE FINDINGS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY AND IS CLOSE TO THE INCREASE IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) OF 11.54% FOR 1991/92.

"STAFF AT THE LOWER AND END OF THE SCALE ARE THE MOST HARD-HIT BY INFLATION," MR WIGGHAM EXPLAINED.

"AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF TWO YEARS OF WAGE RESTRAINT, WE CONSIDER IT REASONABLE, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BUDGETARY AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, TO OFFER A PAY RISE HIGHER THAN THE PAY TREND INDICATORS FOR LOWER PAID CIVIL SERVANTS, SO AS TO RESTORE THE REAL VALUE OF THEIR SALARIES.

"IN DECIDING ON THE SIZE OF THE PAY OFFER, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD TO BALANCE CAREFULLY THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CIVIL SERVANTS AS THEIR EMPLOYER AND ITS WIDER RESPONSIBILITY TO THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY."

FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH STAFF, THE PROPOSED PAY AWARD WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAIN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE.

IF APPROVED, THE PROPOSED PAY AWARD WILL COST AN ADDITIONAL \$5.5 BILLION A YEAR, INCLUDING THE PROVISION FOR SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS.

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CONSTRUCTION SAFETY FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO HAVE THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MANUAL BEING PREPARED FOR THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) TO BE USED WITH APPROPRIATE CHANGES, FOR OTHER NON-ACP PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, AT THE ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION SAFETY CONFERENCE THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

MR BLAKE SAID THE MANUAL, WITH ITS COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PROVISIONS, AIMED AT ZERO FATAL ACCIDENTS AND ZERO DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES IN EVERY ACP CONTRACT.

HE OUTLINED SOME OF THE PROVISIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY APPLICABLE TO PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- QUARTERLY REPORTING ON SAFETY PERFORMANCE ON CONTRACTORS AND REGULAR REVIEW OF THEIR SAFETY RECORDS;
- WEEKLY REPORT IN LARGE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR MONITORING BY SITE STAFF AND THE ENGINEER;
- PROMOTING THE SET UP OF 'SAFETY COMMITTEES' ON SITE BY THE CONTRACTOR;
- GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT ALL SITE STAFF RECEIVE SUITABLE TRAINING AND CONTINUING SAFETY EDUCATION;

- WORKS BRANCH RECEIVES QUARTERLY RETURNS ON ACCIDENTS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES; AND
- EDUCATION ON WORK SAFETY FOR YOUNG TRAINEE BY CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL.

IN ADDITION, MR BLAKE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

- INSPECTION TEAMS TO JUDGE WHETHER THE REQUIRED SAFETY MEASURES ARE BEING ACHIEVED;
- MEANS TO ENSURE CONTRACTORS CLEARLY UNDERSTAND TENDER REQUIREMENTS;
- INTRODUCTION OF INCENTIVES AND PENALTIES;
- INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE STANDARD MEASURABLE SAFETY ITEMS IN EVERY CONTRACT;
- CONTRACTORS TO HAVE AN APPROVED SAFETY POLICY SO AS TO MAINTAIN THEIR STATUS IN GOVERNMENT APPROVED CONTRACTOR LISTS.

"NOTWITHSTANDING ALL THESE MEASURES, IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE SCALE OF SAFETY PROBLEM IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY," MR BLAKE SAID.

"CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM ALL PARTIES INVOLVED - THE GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPERS, DESIGNERS, CONTRACTORS, SUB-CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS - WILL BE NEEDED TO BRING THE PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL.

"THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ROLE AS A MAJOR DEVELOPER CAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE THE 'THINK SAFE' MESSAGE, AND WILL ALSO USE EVERY AVAILABLE MEANS TO INFLUENCE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPERS WHO MUST ALSO PLAY THEIR PART," HE ADDED.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MARCH

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 32% AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 22% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES HAVING BEEN DISCOUNTED.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 1% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDEXES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX IS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX. IT INCREASED BY 2% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

COMPARING MARCH 1992 WITH MARCH 1991, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 13% AND 50% RESPECTIVELY. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 39% WHILE THAT OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 30%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 1%. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 1%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+44%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+37%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+15%); AND CLOTHING (+11%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-23%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-23%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-18%); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-12%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MANY COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991. IN PARTICULAR, TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES RECORDED RELATIVELY LARGER PRICE INCREASE BY 6%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED LARGER DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-6%); METAL ORES AND SCRAPS (-6%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-5%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 8% IN MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; AND SWINE.

HOWEVER, SOME INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; AND FRUIT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 43%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 22% IN MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; PLASTIC MATERIALS; CRUDE ANIMALS AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS; AND LEATHER AND DRESSED FUR SKINS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SILK FABRICS; MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 12% IN VOLUME IN MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 43% IN MARCH 1992 OVER MARCH 1991.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; OFFICE MACHINERY; AND TEXTILE MACHINERY.

COMPARING MARCH 1992 WITH MARCH 1991, THE IMPORT PRICES OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 2% AND 1% RESPECTIVELY. THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 25% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR MARCH 1992 AS COMPARED WITH MARCH 1991 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING MARCH 1992 WITH MARCH 1991, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED : FUELS (+60%); CAPITAL GOODS (+60%); CONSUMER GOODS (+55%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+41%); AND FOODSTUFFS (+11%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS, FOODSTUFFS AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 3%, 2% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 27% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

STARTING FROM JANUARY 1992, THE THIRD REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC REV. 3) HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN HONG KONG IN PLACE OF THE SECOND REVISION FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF TRADE STATISTICS BY COMMODITY.

TO ACHIEVE COMPARABILITY WITH THE TRADE FIGURES IN 1992, THE CORRESPONDING COMMODITY TRADE STATISTICS IN 1991 HAVE BEEN RE-CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE NEW SYSTEM.

DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND JUNE 15, AT \$6.00 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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 INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO. 582 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING MAR 1992 WITH MAR 1991			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1992 WITH JAN-MAR 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	15	3	11	2	3	*
TEXTILE FABRICS	4	2	2	-8	2	-10
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	4	-5	9	-7	-2	-5
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-7	6	-12	-18	6	-22
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-24	-1	-23	-40	-1	-39
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	35	-6	44	8	-4	13
FOOTWEAR	-1	3	-4	-26	3	-28
METAL MANUFACTURES	20	4	15	16	4	11
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-5	-6	1	-21	-4	-17
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-19	-1	-18	-13	-1	-12
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	39	2	37	29	3	26

/DOMESTIC

DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-22	2	-23	-25	4	-28
ALL COMMODITIES	14	1	13	*	1	*

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1992 WITH MAR 1991			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1992 WITH JAN-MAR 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-7	1	-8	5	1	4
CONSUMER GOODS	46	2	43	34	2	31
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	20	-2	22	14	-1	15
FUELS	-34	-25	-12	-32	-27	-6
CAPITAL GOODS	43	*	43	27	*	26
ALL COMMODITIES	30	-1	30	22	*	22

* LESS THAN 0.5%

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING MAR 1992 WITH MAR 1991			COMPARING JAN-MAR 1992 WITH JAN-MAR 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	14	2	11	8	3	5
CONSUMER GOODS	60	3	55	37	3	33
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	38	-2	41	25	-1	26
FUELS	17	-27	60	38	-29	93
CAPITAL GOODS	63	2	60	45	2	42
ALL COMMODITIES	51	1	50	34	2	32

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992

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HK'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL CENTRE WILL BECOME MORE PROMINENT: STI
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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL CENTRE WILL BECOME EVEN MORE PROMINENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ASIAN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION, MR CHAU SAID THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION COMPRISED SOME OF THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD AND HONG KONG OCCUPIED A PIVOTAL POSITION AT THE CENTRE OF THIS REGION.

MR CHAU SAID A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT MORE THAN 600 FOREIGN COMPANIES HAD LOCATED THEIR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG WHILE ANOTHER 280 FOREIGN COMPANIES HAD ESTABLISHED REGIONAL OFFICES IN THE TERRITORY.

AN AVERAGE OF 21 NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS WERE OPENED EACH YEAR BETWEEN 1980 AND 1984.

THE AVERAGE YEARLY NUMBER INCREASED TO 53 BETWEEN 1985 AND 1990.

THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWS THAT HONG KONG'S GOOD TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES, ITS EFFICIENT BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND ITS STABLE AND LOW CORPORATE TAX STRUCTURE ARE RATED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS UNDERPINNING HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL CENTRE, MR CHAU SAID.

HE DESCRIBED DIGITAL'S DECISION TO SET UP ITS NEW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG AS A STRONG VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

"DIGITAL'S SUCCESS AND ITS DECISION TO BASE ITS ASIAN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS HERE REFLECT CLEARLY THE FACT THAT HONG KONG PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS TO PROSPER," MR CHAU SAID.

"THEY ALSO REINFORCE OUR CONVICTION THAT HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO OFFER AS AN IMPORTANT TRADE, FINANCIAL, TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HUB IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION," HE SAID.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992

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SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT STUDY CONTRACT AWARDED

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AN \$11 MILLION PLANNING STUDY ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON, INCLUDING THE SITE OF THE EXISTING HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WAS COMMISSIONED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER PUN, SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH A GROUP OF CONSULTANTS, LED BY LLEWELYN-DAVIES HONG KONG LIMITED, FOR THE STUDY WHICH WILL TRANSLATE THE METROPLAN CONCEPT FOR SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON INTO A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT.

THE STUDY WILL COVER A TOTAL POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA OF ABOUT 530 HECTARES INCLUDING THE EXISTING AIRPORT SITE OF ABOUT 230 HECTARES AND THE ADJOINING AREAS OF RECLAMATION AT KOWLOON BAY.

IT WILL TAKE FORWARD THE METROPLAN'S OUTLINE PROPOSALS AND DESIGN PARAMETERS TO PRODUCE FOR THE AREA AN OPTIMAL PATTERN OF LAND USE AND AN ATTRACTIVE ENVIRONMENT.

IT WILL ALSO IDENTIFY PACKAGES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT WITH ASSOCIATED MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEMS (INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, STORM WATER DRAINAGE, SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES) AND THE BROAD SEQUENCE OF WORKS.

THE DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO COMPLETE.

THE METROPLAN HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOR THE AREA A BROAD LAND USE FRAMEWORK WHICH ENVISAGED A BALANCED MIX OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING WITH A POTENTIAL POPULATION OF ABOUT 262,000.

THE METROPLAN PLANNING FRAMEWORK ALSO INCLUDES A NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL, OFFICE AND HOTEL AREAS, NEW INDUSTRIAL ZONES FOR HI-TECH MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, RESERVATIONS FOR VARIOUS MAJOR COMMUNITY USES SUCH AS A POSSIBLE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK AND AN INTER-LINKED SYSTEM OF OPEN SPACES AND WATERFRONT PROMENADES.

IN ORDER TO OPTIMISE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE AREAS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE METROPLAN CONCEPT FOR SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON BE TRANSLATED INTO A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT WITH PRACTICAL OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

THE DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT WILL IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ACTION AREAS FOR WHICH DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED SO AS TO ALLOW DETAILED SCHEMES TO PROCEED.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, AN OUTLINE STUDY OF THE PLANNING, TRANSPORT, ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE WHOLE SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON IS REQUIRED.

IN THIS CONTEXT, SOUTH-EAST KOWLOON ALSO INCLUDES KOWLOON CITY, MA TAU KOK, TO KWA WAN AND HUNG HOM FOR WHICH THE STUDY WILL EXAMINE THE POTENTIAL FOR REDEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING THE RELOCATION OF THE AIRPORT FROM KAI TAK TO CHEK LAP KOK.

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/11

MONITORING DEVICE INTRODUCED
TO REGULATE MARINE DUMPING
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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT AN AUTOMATIC SELF-MONITORING DEVICE (ASMD) WHICH WILL ENABLE CLOSER SURVEILLANCE OF MARINE DUMPING OPERATIONS IN LOCAL WATERS IS TO BE INTRODUCED NEXT YEAR.

EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2, 1993, ALL BARGES AND VESSELS ENGAGED IN MARINE DUMPING OPERATIONS, WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO INSTALL THE ASMD EQUIPMENT.

THE NEW REQUIREMENT WILL BE INCLUDED AS A LICENCE CONDITION, AND ONLY THOSE VESSELS EQUIPPED WITH THE ASMD WILL BE AUTHORISED FOR MARINE DUMPING OPERATION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WASTE AND WATER CONTROL), MR JOHN BOXALL, SAID THE EQUIPMENT WOULD ENABLE THE EPD TO APPLY MORE COST-EFFECTIVE AND LESS LABOUR INTENSIVE SURVEILLANCE OF MARINE DUMPING AND EVERY DUMPING OPERATION WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY RECORDED.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMPANY MANAGEMENT WHICH IS ENGAGED IN MARINE DUMPING OPERATION, CAN MAKE USE OF THE RECORDS PRODUCED BY THE DEVICE TO REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BARGE OPERATORS, WHO IN TURN WILL BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE POSITION OF THEIR VESSELS FROM THE EQUIPMENT SIGNALS AND THEREFORE ENSURE THAT THE WASTE IS DUMPED AT THE DESIGNATED SPOIL GROUNDS.

THE DEVICE MAINLY CONSISTS OF A DRAFT SENSOR WHICH MONITORS THE CHANGE IN DRAFT, A GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM TO INDICATE THE TIME, DATE AND LOCATION OF THE VESSEL, AND A DATE RECORDING UNIT.

THE DATE COULD BE RETRIEVED FROM THE DATA RECORDING UNIT AND LOADED ONTO A COMPUTER OR A VIDEO PLOTTER FOR DISPLAY ON THE SCREEN.

THE SOFTWARE WILL ENABLE THE EPD TO QUICKLY REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LICENSEE AND IDENTIFY SHORT-DUMPING INCIDENTS.

IN CASE SHORT DUMPING IS IDENTIFIED, THE EPD WILL TAKE FOLLOW-UP ACTION INCLUDING PROSECUTION, LICENCE REVOCATION OR DELISTING OF THE VESSEL.

MR BOXALL SAID: "THE EPD INTENDS TO RETRIEVE THE DATA ON A MONTHLY BASIS, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AROUND 100 BARGES ARE ENGAGED IN MARINE DUMPING OPERATIONS."

UNDER THE DUMPING AT SEA ACT 1974 (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES) ORDER 1975, SUMMARY CONVICTIONS FOR ILLEGAL MARINE DUMPING ACTIVITIES ARE LIABLE FOR A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND/OR SIX MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

SINCE THE EPD TOOK OVER THE ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN APRIL 1986, A TOTAL OF 151 CONVICTED PARTIES HAVE BEEN RECORDED.

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FLYOVER TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AWARDED A \$99 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLYOVER LINKING THE END OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR AT TUNG CHAU STREET TO FERRY STREET TO ALLEVIATE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN MONG KOK.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID WORKS INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 700 METRE TWO-LANE SOUTHBOUND ELEVATED ROAD EXTENDING THE EXISTING WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR SOUTHWARDS ALONG TONG MI ROAD TO FERRY STREET NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH SOY STREET.

THE CONTRACT ALSO COVERS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND KERB REALIGNMENT, RECONSTRUCTION OF DECK NULLAH, CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE-CELLED BOX CULVERT, MODIFICATIONS TO LAYOUT AND TRAFFIC SIGNALLING AT VARIOUS JUNCTIONS AND ANCILLARY ROAD WORKS, DRAINAGE WORKS AND LANDSCAPING WORKS.

CONSTRUCTION WORK WILL START IMMEDIATELY AND WILL TAKE 30 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED. ONE TRAFFIC LANE ALONG EACH DIRECTION OF TONG MI ROAD AND FERRY STREET WILL BE CLOSED.

SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR WILL BE DIVERTED TO PRINCE EDWARD ROAD WEST, LAI CHI KOK ROAD AND SHANGHAI STREET.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES INCLUDING THE RE-ROUTING OF SHANGHAI STREET TO ONE-WAY SOUTHBOUND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW IN MONG KOK, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED ARRANGEMENTS OF GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES ON JUNE 13 (THE BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN) AND JUNE 15 (THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY) WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WOULD BE NO HOLIDAY OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICE ON JUNE 13 (SATURDAY).

HOWEVER, EIGHT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON JUNE 15 (MONDAY).

/THEY ARE

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THEY ARE THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; THE KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND THE YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND THE LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC, SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THESE CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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TRAINING COURSE FOR HEALTH WORKERS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS TO PROVIDE A 10-WEEK TRAINING COURSE FOR HEALTH WORKERS IN PRIVATE HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THEIR NURSING OR MEDICAL TRAINING IN HONG KONG.

THE COURSE, FIFTH OF THE KIND, IS SCHEDULED TO START IN AUGUST TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE IN THESE ELDERLY HOMES.

THE COURSE WILL BE ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF NURSING AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE COURSE WILL INCLUDE BASIC SKILLS IN LOOKING AFTER THE ELDERLY, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL CHANGES IN THE ELDERLY, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS AND BASIC PRINCIPLES IN RUNNING A HOME FOR THE ELDERLY.

"APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF THEIR QUALIFICATION. THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE ELDERLY HOMES IN WHICH THEY ARE SERVING WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

COPIES OF INVITATION HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO PRIVATE HOME INVITING THEM TO RECOMMEND SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE COURSE.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO WORK IN THESE HOMES MAY ALSO FORWARD THEIR APPLICATIONS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S REGISTRATION OFFICE OF PRIVATE HOMES FOR ELDERLY AT ROOM 1105, 11TH FLOOR, WORLD TRADE CENTRE, 280 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JUNE 23.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 577 4185 OR 894 8040.

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CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN SHA TIN CLOSED

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THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL CLOSE DOWN ITS CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRE IN SHA TIN FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO OBTAIN FREE CAREERS GUIDANCE ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE INFORMATION CENTRES IN WAN CHAI, MONG KOK AND TUEN MUN.

THE CAS PROVIDES A LARGE VARIETY OF SERVICES THROUGH ITS INFORMATION CENTRES TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE A CAREER BEST SUITED TO THEIR TALENTS, INTERESTS AND ABILITIES.

EACH CENTRE HAS A REFERENCE LIBRARY CONTAINING PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS ON CAREERS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION, WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR USE TO FORM 5 AND FORM 7 STUDENTS.

OTHER FACILITIES INCLUDE AN AUDIO-VISUAL UNIT WITH SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, CASSETTE RECORDINGS AND VIDEO TAPES ON CAREERS, AS WELL AS A FREE ENQUIRY SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING ADVICE ON CAREERS AND TRAINING.

CAREERS PAMPHLETS ON JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND THE GOVERNMENT ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO VISITORS AT THE CENTRES.

THE THREE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES ARE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAY). THEIR ADDRESSES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SOUTHORN CENTRE, 16/F,
130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI
TEL. 835 2044

MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2/F
30 LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK
TEL. 399 2241 & 399 2242

TAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 2/F
16 TSUN WEN ROAD, TUEN MUN
TEL. 463 6851 & 463 6855

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COURTESY CALL ON SWD

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THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF POK OI HOSPITAL TODAY (TUESDAY) PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR M.D. CARTLAND, AND EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH HIM ON MAJOR WELFARE SERVICES FOR THE YEAR.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR TANG YING-HEI, OUTLINED THE HOSPITAL'S MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND WELFARE SERVICES AS WELL AS PLANNED PROJECTS TO MR CARTLAND.

"POK OI WILL ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO ELDERLY SERVICES IN VIEW OF THE AGEING POPULATION," MR TANG SAID.

MR CARTLAND COMMENDED POK OI HOSPITAL FOR ITS UNFAILING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AND ASSURED THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE ITS FULLEST SUPPORT TO THEIR PLANS.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	9 JUNE 92	9 JUNE 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q224	H266
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,215 MN	HKD 1,280 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.91 PCT	3.24 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.93 PCT	3.26 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 2 PCT	100 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.96 PCT	3.32 PCT

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDER TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 15 JUNE 1992 -

TENDER DATE	16 JUNE 92	16 JUNE 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q225	Y291
ISSUE DATE	17 JUNE 92	17 JUNE 92
MATURITY DATE	16 SEPT 92	16 JUNE 93
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 500 + 100 MN	HKD 200 + 60 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	988MN
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	988MN
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-80MN
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	908MN
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER TWI 111.2 *+0.0* 9.6.92	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1W	2.87 PCT	18M	2311	6.25	102.42	4.54
1M	2.80 PCT	21M	2402	5.50	101.15	4.84
3M	2.87 PCT	24M	2405	5.50	100.87	5.08
6M	3.20 PCT					
12M	3.91 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,810MN

CLOSED 9 JUNE 1992

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