



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ODHCS WILL BE SET UP ON TRIAL BASIS : SHA	1
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD	3
VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1994	4
ACP CONTRACT AWARDED FOR SUBMARINE OUTFALL	9
TRADE DIRECTOR LEADS HK DELEGATION TO APEC MEETING IN INDONESIA	10
KEY-OPERATED ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS TRIAL ENDS	11
LEAFLET EXPLAINS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROPOSALS	11
APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION	12
POSTAL SERVICES TO YEMEN RESUMED	13
HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	13

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

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ODHCS WILL BE SET UP ON TRIAL BASIS : SHA

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SCHEME UNDER WHICH CENTRES WOULD BE SET UP FOR OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

AFTER A ONE-YEAR TRIAL PERIOD, THE SCHEME WILL BE REVIEWED.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A TAI PING SHAN LION'S CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING, MR SUEN POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE CURRENTLY ABOUT 130,000 OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS IN THE TERRITORY, OF WHICH 90 PER CENT COME FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN INCREASING AT THE RATE OF OVER 1,000 A MONTH.

THESE HELPERS, MR SUEN STRESSED, HAVE MADE A VALUABLE AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES IN HONG KONG BUT ALSO TO THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

AND HE ALSO REASONED THAT AS THEY HAVE LEFT THEIR COUNTRY TO WORK IN HONG KONG, THEIR BASIC NEEDS SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED.

IN THIS CONTEXT, MR SUEN NOTED THAT A CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) STUDY FOUND THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR THEIR CONGREGATING IN THE MORE POPULAR AREAS OF CENTRAL, WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI ON SUNDAYS WAS DUE TO A LACK OF DEDICATED PREMISES AND SITES FOR SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

ADDITIONALLY, THESE VENUES HAVE TELEPHONE, POSTAL AND BANKING SERVICES WITH CHURCHES AND GOODS STALLS NEARBY.

WHILE ADMITTING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL OR EASY TO FIND SUBSTITUTE SITES, MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS NEEDED TO DRAW UP A SYSTEMATIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PROVIDE MORE SUITABLE SITES FOR THESE HELPERS.

THIS, HE SAID, WOULD NOT ONLY MEET THEIR PRACTICAL NEEDS BUT WOULD ALSO HELP RELIEVE THE IMPACT OF THEIR CROWDING THE MORE POPULAR LOCATIONS.

IN VIEW OF THIS, CNTA HAS STARTED IDENTIFYING SUITABLE SITES FOR USE AS CENTRES OR ACTIVITY CENTRES FOR THESE HELPERS - EASILY ACCESSIBLE VENUES WHICH ARE AT PRESENT UNDER-UTILISED.

"AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS NOT AN EASY TASK AS LAND IS PRECIOUS IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

BUT FORTUNATELY, MR SUEN SAID, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF VARIOUS PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS AND PO LEUNG KUK, THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOUND TWO SUITABLE BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE BOTH BEEN LEFT VACANT FOR OVER A YEAR.

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ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, THE CHUNG SING BENEVOLENT SOCIETY PRIMARY SCHOOL, IS LOCATED IN KENNEDY TOWN WHILE THE OTHER, THE YIU TAK CHI MEMORIAL SCHOOL, IS IN MONG KOK AND BELONGS TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS.

IN ADDITION, A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS HAVE ALSO BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR USE AS ACTIVITY CENTRES.

THEY INCLUDE THE PO LEUNG KUK YU LEE MO FAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL IN NORTH POINT AND FOUR GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN THE URBAN AREA, NAMELY THE HO TUNG TECHNICAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN CAUSEWAY BAY, CLEMENTI SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH POINT, JOCKEY CLUB GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN KOWLOON TONG AND KOWLOON TECHNICAL SCHOOL IN SHAM SHUI PO.

"AS PROPER MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPOSED CENTRES IS VERY IMPORTANT, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED A NON-PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATION KNOWN AS THE HONG KONG BAYANIHAN TRUST (THE TRUST) TO TAKE UP THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FINANCING THE ENTIRE SCHEME AND OPERATING THE CENTRES.

"THE ORGANISATION IS MAINLY FORMED BY A GROUP OF FILIPINO BUSINESS EXECUTIVES IN HONG KONG WHO ARE VERY EXPERIENCED IN PROVIDING ALL SORTS OF SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS.

"THEY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STAFFING AND MANAGEMENT OF ALL THE CENTRES INCLUDING ACTIVITY CENTRES," MR SUEN SAID.

AND THE TRUST WOULD ALSO REFURBISH THE TWO VACANT BUILDINGS.

FACILITIES SUCH AS INFORMATION CENTRES, LIBRARIES, TELEPHONE BOOTHS, PLAYGROUNDS AND FUNCTION ROOMS WILL BE PROVIDED.

REGULAR RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS, TV/FILM SHOWS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT WILL APPEAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS WILL ALSO BE ORGANISED BY RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS.

ADDITIONALLY, UNDER THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE TRUST, THE OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS GROUPS WILL ORGANISE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FILM SHOWS AND SPORTS TOURNAMENTS IN THOSE "SUNDAY ONLY" ACTIVITY CENTRES.

MR SUEN SAID THAT EXCEPT FOR THE TWO VACANT BUILDINGS WHICH WOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE MONTHS TO REFURBISH, THE REST OF THE CENTRES WERE EXPECTED TO COME INTO OPERATION IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS' TIME.

AS A NUMBER OF THESE CENTRES WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE URBAN AREA, MR SUEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSULTED THE 10 URBAN DISTRICT BOARDS.

WHILE SEVEN OF THEM HAVE GIVEN THEIR SUPPORT, TWO HAVE REJECTED THE PROPOSALS WITH ONE BOARD EXPRESSING MIXED VIEWS.

"WITH THE SUPPORT OF MOST OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM VARIOUS SECTORS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE WHOLE CONCEPT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL," HE ADDED.

AS REGARDS THOSE WHO WERE AGAINST THE PROPOSALS, MR SUEN SAID THEIR MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THESE CENTRES MAY GIVE RISE TO TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND HAWKING PROBLEMS.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT AS THE CAPACITY OF EACH CENTRE WOULD BE LIMITED COUPLED WITH PROPER MANAGEMENT, SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD NOT BE INSURMOUNTABLE.

FURTHERMORE, AS THESE CENTRES WILL IN THE COURSE OF TIME HELP DIVERT OVERSEAS HELPERS TO VARIOUS AREAS, THEIR IMPACT ON EACH DISTRICT SHOULD BE REDUCED ACCORDINGLY.

"WE UNDERSTAND THAT EACH DISTRICT HAS ITS OWN NEEDS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALSO TERRITORY-WIDE ISSUES WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

"IF RESIDENTS ONLY CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND OBJECT TO THE SETTING UP OF SUCH CENTRES IN THEIR DISTRICT, THE PROPOSAL CAN NEVER BE IMPLEMENTED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, HE WARNED THAT THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE CONGREGATION OF OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS IN THE MORE POPULAR GATHERING PLACES WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST OR EVEN GET WORSE.

ALTHOUGH ACCEPTING THAT THE SETTING UP OF JUST A FEW CENTRES WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONVERGENCE OF OVERSEAS HELPERS IN CENTRAL AND OTHER POPULAR SPOTS, MR SUEN SAID A START HAD TO BE MADE.

"THE SUCCESS OF THESE CENTRES WILL FACILITATE OUR SEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL SITES AND IN THE LONG RUN, HELP TO RELIEVE THE SITUATION IN THE MORE POPULAR LOCATIONS.

"IT IS BEYOND DOUBT THAT OVERSEAS DOMESTIC HELPERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED A GREAT DEAL TO OUR COMMUNITY.

"SO LET US DO SOMETHING FOR THEM AND PROVIDE THEM WITH SUITABLE VENUES TO SPEND THEIR REST DAYS," HE SAID.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD

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STAGE II WORKS OF THE LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMMENCED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING TOGETHER WITH NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION WAS OBSERVED AFTER 7.45 AM FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SOME MOTORISTS USED HITHERTO OTHER TRAFFIC CORRIDORS CHOSE TO RETURN TO LION ROCK TUNNEL, THINKING THAT THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS WOULD BE IMPROVED WITHOUT THE TIDAL FLOW ARRANGEMENT EFFECTED UNDER STAGE I WORKS. BESIDES, MOTORISTS NORMALLY TAKE SOME TIME TO ADAPT TO A NEW TRAFFIC SCHEME.

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MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED THAT ROAD CAPACITIES ALONG LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD ARE STILL REDUCED DURING STAGE II WORKS, AND ARE ADVISED TO CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

COMMUTERS ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES, AND TO PLAN THEIR TRAVEL WELL TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE POSSIBLE DELAY IN JOURNEY.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS REFINING THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES WHICH CAN BEST MEET PEAK HOUR TRAFFIC DEMAND IN THE ROAD SECTIONS AFFECTED BY WORKS, WITH REFERENCE TO THE ACTUAL TRAFFIC SITUATION.

FURTHER FINE TUNNING OF THE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW IN HAND PARTICULARLY AT HUNG MUI KUK INTERCHANGE TO REDUCE CONGESTION. THE POSITION SHALL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC SCHEME SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED WHERE POSSIBLE.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1994

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THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR RECORDED AN INCREASE OF 14% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 5.7%, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 9.6%. MEANWHILE, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 12% IN VOLUME.

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

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 0.6% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1.6%.

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

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, DECREASED BY 0.9% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1994 OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMPARING JUNE 1994 WITH JUNE 1993, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS ACCELERATED FURTHER TO SHOW AN INCREASE OF 20%, WHILE THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS RETURNED TO MODERATE INCREASE OF 4.9%. TAKEN TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 17%.

MEANWHILE, THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW MARKEDLY BY 23%.

THE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH RECORDED FOR THE VARIOUS TRADE AGGREGATES IN JUNE THIS YEAR WAS, HOWEVER, PARTLY DUE TO A LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED, WHILE THOSE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 1.3%. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 1.6%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JUNE 1994 WITH JUNE 1993, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES RECORDED INCREASES OF VARIOUS MAGNITUDES: CAPITAL GOODS (+23%), RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+23%), CONSUMER GOODS (+17%) AND FOODSTUFFS (+17%). THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FUELS, HOWEVER, DECREASED BY 5.4%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS, CONSUMER GOODS, CAPITAL GOODS, AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, INCREASED BY 1.8%, 0.7%, 0.6% AND 0.3% RESPECTIVELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF FUELS DECREASED BY 14%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

COMPARING JUNE 1994 WITH JUNE 1993, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED INCREASES IN VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+17%) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+15%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-44%) AND FOOTWEAR (-26%).

COMMODITY GROUPS THAT RECORDED INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+5.2%), AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3.6%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR FOOTWEAR (-7.3%), METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-1.4%) AND TEXTILE FABRICS (-0.9%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 21% IN JUNE 1994 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1993.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD. HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RICE AND CATTLE.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 18%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, A MARKED DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS NOTED OF PASSENGER MOTOR CARS.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 21% IN JUNE 1994 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1993.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; COTTON YARN AND THREAD; AND RAW COTTON. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED MARKEDLY BY 125% IN VOLUME IN JUNE 1994 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1993.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 28% IN JUNE 1994 OVER JUNE 1993.

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

COMPARING JUNE 1994 WITH JUNE 1993, THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2.7%), CONSUMER GOODS (+1.8%) AND CAPITAL GOODS (+1.0%). THOSE OF FOODSTUFFS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS, HOWEVER, DECREASED BY 17%.

DETAILS OF THE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 1994 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE AROUND SEPTEMBER 12 AT \$9 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1994 WITH JUN 1993			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1994 WITH JAN-JUN 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	19.0	1.8	17.1	18.0	1.7	16.2
CONSUMER GOODS	16.9	0.7	17.3	12.2	1.0	11.2
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	24.4	0.3	23.3	20.0	-0.7	20.8
FUELS	-18.5	-14.5	-5.4	10.9	-16.0	28.4
CAPITAL GOODS	23.2	0.6	23.4	9.9	1.9	9.2
ALL COMMODITIES	19.8	0.5	19.9	14.0	0.6	13.9

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JUN 1994 WITH JUN 1993			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1994 WITH JAN-JUN 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME
CLOTHING	4.8	1.0	4.1	-1.8	1.2	-2.4

/TEXTILE FABRICS

- 8 -

TEXTILE FABRICS	-4.8	-0.9	-4.1	-12.5	-4.1	-8.8
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	4.8	2.8	2.6	-7.4	0.2	-6.4
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	5.0	3.1	1.4	-3.5	0.1	-4.9
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-44.0	1.0	-43.6	-57.2	1.9	-57.6
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	23.8	5.2	16.8	-3.7	3.9	-7.5
FOOTWEAR	-28.0	-7.3	-25.7	-22.1	-2.9	-23.6
METAL MANUFACTURES	13.6	2.0	15.2	-0.4	2.1	*
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-12.2	-1.4	-14.4	-10.9	-1.7	-11.0
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	10.6	2.2	9.9	-6.9	1.6	-7.2
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	11.7	3.6	8.4	-0.9	4.6	-5.0
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-6.8	3.2	-12.3	-16.8	2.5	-21.2
ALL COMMODITIES	6.4	1.3	4.9	-4.4	1.1	-5.7

* LESS THAN 0.05%

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1994 WITH JUN 1993			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1994 WITH JAN-JUN 1993		
	% CHANGES			% CHANGES		
	UNIT			UNIT		
	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VALUE	VOLUME
FOODSTUFFS	21.9	0.5	21.0	15.2	0.1	15.5
CONSUMER GOODS	17.8	1.8	17.5	10.8	1.9	10.0
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	25.2	2.7	21.1	18.0	2.1	15.0
FUELS	86.9	-16.9	125.1	11.7	-17.1	35.6
CAPITAL GOODS	30.0	1.0	28.0	8.9	1.9	6.8
ALL COMMODITIES	24.0	1.6	23.0	13.1	1.6	12.0

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ACP CONTRACT AWARDED FOR SUBMARINE OUTFALL

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THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD HAS APPROVED THE AWARD OF AN AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SUBMARINE OUTFALL OFF THE NORTH LANTAU COAST AT SIU HO WAN.

THE CONTRACT, VALUED AT ABOUT \$115 MILLION, WILL BE AWARDED BY THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT TO A JOINT VENTURE FORMED BY MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTORS LIMITED OF NEW ZEALAND AND UNIVERSAL DOCKYARD LIMITED OF HONG KONG.

/WORKS UNDER

WORKS UNDER THIS CONTRACT INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF A 1.5-KILOMETRES LONG STEEL PIPELINE OF WHICH 1.3 KILOMETRES WILL BE LAID BENEATH THE SEABED.

IT WILL FORM PART OF THE SEWAGE COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE NORTH LANTAU.

WORK WILL START LATER THIS MONTH AND WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1996.

THE AWARD OF THIS CONTRACT BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACP CONTRACTS AWARDED SO FAR TO 62, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF ABOUT \$51.3 BILLION.

THESE INCLUDE 49 CONTRACTS WORTH ABOUT \$33.5 BILLION AWARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, 11 CONTRACTS WORTH ABOUT \$11.5 BILLION AWARDED BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE \$5.7 BILLION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AWARDED BY THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, AND A \$0.6 BILLION IMMURSED TUBE TUNNEL CONTRACT FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AWARDED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION.

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TRADE DIRECTOR LEADS HK DELEGATION
TO APEC MEETING IN INDONESIA

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THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR TONY MILLER, WILL LEAD A HONG KONG DELEGATION TO THE THIRD SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING FOR THE SIXTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) TO BE HELD IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA, FROM SEPTEMBER 12 TO 14.

THE MEETING WILL DISCUSS A NUMBER OF ISSUES INCLUDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT, FOLLOW-UP OF THE BLAKE ISLAND LEADERS' INITIATIVES, HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE/BUSINESS SECTOR IN APEC AND THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF APEC.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE DRAFT OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP.

MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR KEVIN HO; DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR DOMINIC LAW; GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST, MR K Y TANG; ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR DAVID TONG; ASSISTANT DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MS ANISSA WONG, MISS M L WONG AND MR BRIAN TYLER; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MISS CHERRY LING; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN TSANG; PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, MS PATRICIA LUI; AND TRADE OFFICERS, MR ANTHONY LEE AND MISS ADA YEUNG.

MEMBERS OF APEC ARE AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CANADA, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, CHINESE TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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- 11 -

KEY-OPERATED ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS TRIAL ENDS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE TRIAL OF KEY-OPERATED ELECTRONIC PARKING METERS AT LO TAK COURT IN TSUEN WAN WILL END FROM MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER 11).

THE 50 PARKING SPACES WILL BE REPROVIDED WITH COIN-OPERATED METERS FOR PARKING PRIVATE CARS, PUBLIC/PRIVATE LIGHT BUSES, LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES AND TAXIS.

THESE TWO-HOUR METERS WILL BE OPERATIONAL BETWEEN 8 AM AND MIDNIGHT FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. PARKING CHARGE WILL BE \$2 PER 30 MINUTES.

OWNERS OF THE "PARK KEYS" CAN ARRANGE WITH THE 7-ELEVEN CONVENIENCE STORE AT SHOP B, 85 HOI PA STREET, TSUEN WAN FOR REFUND FROM SEPTEMBER 12 TO OCTOBER 11, 1994.

THE TRIAL BEGAN ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1993 TO ASSESS THE APPLICABILITY OF THEIR USE IN THE ON-STREET CONDITION.

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LEAFLET EXPLAINS LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROPOSALS

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IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC REQUESTS, THE EDUCATION COMMISSION WORKING GROUP ON LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY HAS PUBLISHED A LEAFLET, SETTING OUT THE AIMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ITS REPORT IN A SIMPLIFIED MANNER.

"SOME PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US THAT OUR REPORT IS A BIT TECHNICAL AND COMPLICATED," CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP MRS ANGELA CHEUNG SAID.

"THE LEAFLET WILL HELP MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE TRIED TO TACKLE, AND THE REASONS FOR OUR RECOMMENDATIONS."

MRS CHEUNG NOTED THAT MEDIA REPORTS OVER THE SUMMER HAD FOCUSED ON ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE REPORT, NAMELY THE AGE WHEN CHILDREN SHOULD START LEARNING ENGLISH.

"IN OUR REPORT WE SUGGEST THAT SOME SCHOOLS MIGHT TRY OUT ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES, WHERE ENGLISH IS NOT TAUGHT FORMALLY UNTIL PRIMARY 4. THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE PROPOSALS WE MAKE FOR IMPROVING THE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN," SHE SAID.

"OUR AIM IS TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING, AND AT THE SAME TIME HELP THE CHILD TO BUILD A FIRMER FOUNDATION OF CHINESE LANGUAGE SKILLS.

"AT PRESENT OUR CHILDREN SPEND ABOUT A THOUSAND HOURS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LESSONS, OFTEN WITH DISAPPOINTING RESULTS," MRS CHEUNG SAID.

/"WE WELCOME

"WE WELCOME THE DEBATE, WHICH OUR REPORT HAS STARTED, ABOUT WAYS TO IMPROVE THIS SITUATION."

SHE SAID THE WORKING GROUP WOULD HOLD FOUR PUBLIC BRIEFING SESSIONS LATER THIS MONTH TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE REPORT.

"I HAVE WRITTEN TO ALL SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS, ENCLOSING COPIES OF THE LEAFLET AND INVITING TEACHERS AND PARENTS TO ATTEND THE BRIEFING SESSIONS," MRS CHEUNG SAID.

"WE ARE ALSO ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE BRIEFING SESSIONS ON THE RADIO."

DETAILS OF THE FOUR BRIEFING SESSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS. SEATING WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.

DATE/TIME	VENUE
SEPTEMBER 13 (TUESDAY) 7.30 PM - 9.30 PM	SHA TIN TOWN HALL (CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL), 1 YUEN WO ROAD, SHA TIN
SEPTEMBER 16 (FRIDAY) 7.30 PM - 9.30 PM	TUEN MUN TOWN HALL (CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL), 3 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN
SEPTEMBER 23 (FRIDAY) 7.30 PM - 9.30 PM	SHEUNG WAN CIVIC CENTRE (THEATRE), 145 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
SEPTEMBER 28 (WEDNESDAY) 7.30 PM - 9.30 PM	QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL (HALL), 152 SAI YEE STREET, MONG KOK

COPIES OF THE LEAFLET CAN BE OBTAINED FROM DISTRICT OFFICES, POST OFFICES, DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES, OR FROM THE EDUCATION COMMISSION SECRETARIAT, NINTH FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL. THE FAX NUMBER IS 537 4591.

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APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO NEW MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1994 TO JUNE 30, 1995.

THEY ARE SISTER MARIE REMEDIOS, EPISCOPAL DELEGATE FOR EDUCATION, AND MR SHEUNG KWOK-CHU, PRINCIPAL OF PO LEUNG KUK 1984 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL.

MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK HAS RESIGNED FROM THE BOARD WITH EFFECT FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1994 TO FOLLOW A FULL-TIME MASTER DEGREE COURSE IN EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MR LAM THANKED MR LEE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE BOARD SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT IN JULY 1991.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994

- 13 -

POSTAL SERVICES TO YEMEN RESUMED

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THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MISS NANCY LAW, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT ALL POSTAL SERVICES TO YEMEN, WHICH HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE MAY 25, ARE NOW RESUMED.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,825	0930	+257
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,227	1000	+457
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+457
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+457	1200	+457
LAF TODAY	-55	1500	+457
		1600	+457
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER	TWI 122.1	*+0.0*	8.9.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.17	18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.22	5.79
1 MONTH	4.20	24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	100.07	6.20
3 MONTHS	4.35	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.97	6.55
6 MONTHS	4.65	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.95	6.70
12 MONTHS	5.24	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.56	6.84

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,161 MN

CLOSED 8 SEPTEMBER 1994

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