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FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1993

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CONTAINER THROUGHPUT SHOWS SUSTAINED GROWTH

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THE AVERAGE OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 18.2 PER CENT IN HONG KONG'S CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FOR JANUARY TO MAY THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR INDICATES SUSTAINED GROWTH AND AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH IN CONTAINER HANDLING ACTIVITIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THE LATEST CONTAINER THROUGHPUT FIGURES, MR DALE SAID: "HONG KONG HANDLED 3,424,324 TEU'S (TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS) DURING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, COMPARED WITH 2,896,529 TEU'S HANDLED DURING THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

THE LARGE 1992 GROWTH RATE OF 29.4 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS (1991) YEAR HAS NOT YET BEEN ACHIEVED THIS (1993) YEAR, BUT WHILE THE PERCENTAGE GROWTH FOR THE LAST THREE MONTHS (MARCH TO MAY) HAS FLATTENED OUT AT THE 18 TO 19 PER CENT LEVEL, IT SHOWS SIGNIFICANTLY STRONGER DEMAND THAN THE 2.6 PER CENT IN JANUARY AND 13.3 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY.

THROUGHPUT AT KWAI CHUNG TERMINALS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR SHOWS AN INCREASE OF 13.4 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. IT HAS BEEN INCREASING STEADILY SINCE JANUARY, INDICATING AN UNDERLYING STRENGTH IN DEMAND, HE SAID.

CONTAINER-HANDLING IN THE STREAM IS 19.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

MR DALE SAID GROWTH IN THE STEAM THROUGHPUT, LIKE KWAI CHUNG, HAD BEEN STEADY, WITH NO MAJOR FLUCTUATIONS.

RIVER TRADE THROUGHPUT, HOWEVER, WHILE CURRENTLY SHOWING AN 81 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, HAS VARIED WILDLY OVER THE LAST FIVE MONTHS, HITTING A 226 PER CENT INCREASE IN MARCH, ALTHOUGH THIS IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THAT THE ACTUAL TEU THROUGHPUT OF ABOUT 210,000 FOR THE YEAR TO DATE (AS AGAINST MORE THAN TWO MILLION TEU'S AT KWAI CHUNG) ONLY NEEDS A SMALL VARIATION IN NUMBERS TO SHOW A LARGE CHANGE IN PERCENTAGES."

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TABLE FOR THE COMPARATIVE CONTAINER STATISTICS IN TEU'S:

	FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1992	FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993	PERCENTAGE INCREASE
KWAI CHUNG CONTAINER TERMINALS	1,868,632	2,119,318	+ 13.4%
STREAM AND ELSEWHERE	915,672	1,090,913	+ 19.1%
RIVER TRADE	119,183	215,677	+ 81.0%
TOTAL	2,896,529	3,424,324	+ 18.2%

NOTE: TO AVOID DOUBLE COUNTING, FIGURES ARE ADJUSTED DOWNWARDS BY 6,958 IN 1992 AND 1,584 IN 1993 BEING TEU'S HANDLED BY TERMINAL VESSELS CONTRACTED TO WORK IN THE STREAM.

HONG KONG IS THE LARGEST CONTAINER PORT IN THE WORLD AND IS ALSO ONE OF THE BUSIEST PORTS IN TERMS OF VESSEL ARRIVALS AND CARGO AND PASSENGER THROUGHPUT.

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FUNDING SCHEME FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK TO DROP

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE JOINTLY DECIDED TO PHASE OUT THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM STARTING FROM 1994/95.

"STUDENTS ALREADY ON COURSES COVERED BY THE SCHEME WILL CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE UNTIL THEIR EXISTING DIPLOMA OR FIRST DEGREE COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SET UP IN 1983, THE SCHEME PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING TERTIARY EDUCATION AT NATIONAL DIPLOMA AND FIRST DEGREE LEVEL IN THE UK.

"WITH THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME 24 PER CENT OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP WILL HAVE ACCESS TO FIRST-YEAR, FIRST-DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE PLACES IN 1994/95," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

"THEREFORE, THERE IS NO STRONG REASON FOR SENDING HONG KONG STUDENTS TO STUDY OVERSEAS AT PUBLIC EXPENSE," HE ADDED.

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SPONSORS TO GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY

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REPRESENTATIVES FROM 16 ORGANISATIONS TODAY (FRIDAY) PRESENTED CHEQUES TOTTALLING \$1.6 MILLION AS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE 1993 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY.

THE CHEQUES, AMOUNTING TO \$100,000 EACH, WERE RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE AWARD'S ORGANISING COMMITTEE, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OTHER FIVE ORGANISERS OF THE AWARD.

THEY WERE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES, MR MALCOLM MATTHEWS; PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, MR HERBERT LIANG; CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL, MR JAMES TIEN; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, MR JIM DALE AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR FEDERICK LAM.

SPEAKING AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MISS YUE SAID THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY IN FACT POINTED TO THE WAY AHEAD FOR HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES.

AT PRESENT, AWARDS WERE MADE IN SIX CATEGORIES, NAMELY, CONSUMER PRODUCT DESIGN, MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN, PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY, EXPORT MARKETING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE.

"AS THE TITLES OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES SUGGEST, THE AWARD AIMS TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ORIGINALITY IN PRODUCT DESIGN, IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND BETTER QUALITY IN MANUFACTURING PROCESSES, AND THE FORMULATION OF EXPORT MARKETING STRATEGIES, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES."

AT THE SAME TIME, IT ALSO PROMOTES AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMONG HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THROUGH IMPROVEMENT IN THESE AREAS, OUR INDUSTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO ENHANCE THEIR COMPETITIVENESS AND HENCE IMPROVE HONG KONG PRODUCTS' ACCESS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS," MISS YUE SAID.

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE 124 ENTRIES FOR THE SIX CATEGORIES OF THIS YEAR'S GOVERNOR'S AWARD IS UNDERWAY. FINAL JUDGING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER AND THE AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE GOVERNOR AT A CEREMONY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN DECEMBER.

MISS YUE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE 16 SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND KEEN SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUING SEARCH FOR INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE.

THE SPONSORS ARE: A. FAI ENGINEERING AND SHIPREPAIRERS LTD; CHEKIANG FIRST BANK LTD; CHEN HSONG HOLDINGS LTD; CHEVALIER (HK) LIMITED; CHIAPHUA-SHINKO COPPER ALLOY CO. LTD; THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HONG KONG; SULTAN VICWOOD CHONG, MBE; GOLD PEAK INDUSTRIES (HOLDINGS) LTD; HANG SENG BANK LTD; HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD; LIPPO GROUP; REGATEX MANUFACTURERS, LTD; SHANGHAI COMMERCIAL BANK LTD; SINO GROUP; STANDARD CHARTERED BANK AND SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES LTD.

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WHOLESALE FISH MARKET IN A KUNG NGAM

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WHOLESALE FISH MARKET IN A KUNG NGAM, SHAU KEI WAN.

THE MARKET WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF A TWO-STOREY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, A MARKET STRUCTURE, AND A SINGLE-STOREY ANCILLARY BLOCK.

THE WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN OCTOBER FOR COMPLETION IN JULY 1994.

THEY FORM PART OF THE ALDRICH BAY TYPHOON SHELTER RECLAMATION PROJECT WHICH COMPRISES RECLAMATION WORKS AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OF SEAWALL AND STORMWATER DRAINAGE EXTENSIONS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 10.

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TENDERS FOR SLOPE STABILITY WORKS

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR UPGRADING OF SLOPES AND RETAINING WALLS SO AS TO IMPROVE THEIR STABILITY.

THE PREVENTIVE MEASURE INCLUDES INSTALLATION OF SOIL NAILS, CUTTING BACK OF SLOPES, ROCK SLOPE SUPPORT WORKS AND RECOMPACTION OF FILL SLOPES.

OTHER WORKS ARE CONSTRUCTION OF SKIN AND CAISSON WALLS, REPAIR AND PROVISION OF SURFACE DRAINAGE AND PROVISION OF PROTECTION TO FINISHED SLOPE SURFACES.

WORKS ARE SCHEDULED TO START THIS OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE 24 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON SEPTEMBER 10.

THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERTAKE THE DESIGN AND SUPERVISION OF THE WORKS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 MARGARET ROAD, KOWLOON.

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TENDERS INVITED FOR LANDFILL OPERATION

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS TO OPERATE THE SHUEN WAN LANDFILL, TAI PO AND TO INSTALL VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT MEASURES.

WORKS COMPRISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GAS EXTRACTION AND FLARING SYSTEM FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SITE, A LEACHATE PRETREATMENT WORKS, ROADS AND DRAINS AND THE PLACING OF ABOUT THREE MILLION TONNES OF REFUSE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEASURES TO MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ON SURROUNDING AREAS.

LANDFILLING CONSISTS OF SPREADING AND COMPACTING REFUSE IN LAYERS AND THEN COVERING EACH LAYER DAILY WITH EARTH AS THE WORK PROCEEDS. THE FINAL LAYER OVER THE COMPLETED PORTIONS OF THE LANDFILL IS TO ELIMINATE ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE AND FIRE HAZARDS.

THE CONTRACT PERIOD IS 26 MONTHS AND THE WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 24.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER, SOLID WASTE DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING OFFICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, FIRST FLOOR, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

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GURKHAS GIVE 80 CHILDREN A TREAT

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THE 10TH GURKHA RIFLES WILL PLAY HOST TO 80 VISITORS FROM THE TSUNG TSING MISSION PAK HONG YOUTH CENTRE AND NORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 22).

THE VISIT IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROJECTS HOSTED BY THE GARRISON THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND GIVES VISITORS A FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE VARIOUS UNITS AT WORK AND TO TAKE PART IN SOME ACTIVITIES.

A FULL PROGRAMME HAS BEEN ORGANISED AT GALLIPOLI LINES FOR THE GUESTS - AGED BETWEEN EIGHT AND 10. AT A NUMBER OF DISPLAY STANDS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE AND HANDLE VARIOUS WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT IN SERVICE WITH THE BATTALION, WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY THEIR HAND AT SHOOTING.

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AFTER A TRADITIONAL GURKHA MEAL, AN AFTERNOON OF SPORTS HAS BEEN ORGANISED FOR THE VISITORS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THIS EVENT. THEY SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE GUARDROOM, GALLIPOLI LINES, BY 11 AM ON SUNDAY (AUGUST 22). A MEMBER OF JSPRS WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP.

GALLIPOLI LINES IS ON THE SHA TAU KOK ROAD, ABOUT TWO KILOMETRES NORTH OF FANLING.

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CLOSURE OF UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES SOUGHT

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THREE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES IN CAUSEWAY BAY SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT CAUSING DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

TWO OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE ON THE REAR LANE OF 85-89 PERCIVAL STREET WHILE THE OTHER IS ON THE REAR LANE OF 2 MATHESON STREET. ALL OF THEM ARE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURES USED FOR VARIED PURPOSES.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE ON SEPTEMBER 22 WERE POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION OF THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,155
REVERSAL OF LAF	+845
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-120
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,880
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.4 *+0.4* 20.8.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.61 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.40	3.48
1 MONTH	2.66 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.58	3.68
3 MONTHS	2.74 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	4.75	99.66	3.99
6 MONTHS	3.00 PCT	24 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.91	4.19
12 MONTHS	3.26 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,714 MN

CLOSED 20 AUGUST 1993

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