



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1991

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GOVT RESPONSE TO SOVIET UNION'S SITUATION

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES REGARDING REPORTS ON THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY):

"WE ARE NATURALLY VERY CONCERNED AT THESE REPORTS. WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON WHO ARE MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS".

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ORDERS-ON-HAND,  
EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES FOR JUNE RELEASED

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND REPORTED BY THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES IN JUNE 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, BUT INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN JUNE 1991 INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, BUT DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN THE TEXTILES AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, ORDERS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990, THE ORDERS POSITION IN JUNE 1991 INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ORDERS DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE TEXTILES AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, AND SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

ON EMPLOYMENT, THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED REPORTED THAT THEIR TOTAL WORKFORCE IN JUNE 1991 INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, BUT DECREASED BY 9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE 1991 INCREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES, DUE PARTLY TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUMMER WORKERS.

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OVER THE SAME PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT DECREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE TEXTILES AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES, BUT SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990, EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE 1991 DECREASED IN MOST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH SUBSTANTIAL DECREASES RECORDED IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND THE TEXTILES INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED A SLIGHT INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

IN JUNE 1991, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY AND SLIGHTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, AS SPECIAL BONUSES AND PAYMENTS HAD BEEN ISSUED IN MAY 1991 BY SOME COMPANIES SURVEYED.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS DECREASED MODERATELY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, DUE PARTLY TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF SUMMER WORKERS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, PER CAPITA EARNINGS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE WEARING APPAREL AND THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRY SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS.

COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990, PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 16 PER CENT IN MONEY TERMS IN JUNE 1991.

INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES RECORDED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE FOOD AND DRINKS INDUSTRIES.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED, EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE 1991 DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991 AND MODERATELY WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JUNE 1991 SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, BUT INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE 1991 AS REPORTED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991, BUT DECREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN JUNE 1991 FOR THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS TAKEN TOGETHER INCREASED SLIGHTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 1991 AND SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE 1990.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLES 1 TO 3.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AND SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SITUATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SELECTED SERVICE SECTORS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE SECTORS IN THE SHORT TERM.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR JUNE 1991 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 805 6441.

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF JUNE 1991 ----- (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH MAY 91 ----- (%)	COMPARED WITH JUNE 90 ----- (%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	4.42	*	+2
WEARING APPAREL	4.73	*	+2
TEXTILES	2.27	-3	-3
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.61	-8	+16
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.17	-1	-1
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.39	+1	*
OTHERS	4.12	+1	-1

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PERSONS ENGAGED AT THE END OF JUNE 1991	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
	MAY 91	JUNE 90
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	+1	-9
FOOD AND DRINKS	*	-4
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-4
TEXTILES	-1	-18
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	+9	-23
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	+1	+2
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	+2	-14
OTHERS	+1	-2
CONSTRUCTION #	-1	-9
SERVICES	*	-1
BANKS	+1	+2
HOTELS	*	-7
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	-4
OTHERS	*	+2

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

# PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

NOTE : DUE TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

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## PER CAPITA EARNINGS

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	AVERAGE	CHANGE WHEN	
	AS IN	COMPARED WITH	
	JUNE 1991	MAY 91	JUNE 90
	(HK\$)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	6,760	-2	+16
FOOD AND DRINKS	7,638	*	+18
WEARING APPAREL	5,294	+1	+12
TEXTILES	6,212	-12	+15
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	6,198	-6	+13
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	6,310	-3	+12
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	6,993	+1	+21
OTHERS	8,585	-1	+12
CONSTRUCTION #	9,562	*	+14
SERVICES	11,130	+3	+12
BANKS	11,028	+5	+10
HOTELS	7,898	+11	+22
PUBLIC UTILITIES	10,417	*	+13
OTHERS	12,768	+5	+10

\* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

# PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :

UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONGST THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

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BROADCASTING AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY HAS CONSIDERED AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY COMMERCIAL RADIO HONG KONG FOR APPROVAL TO BROADCAST AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR A CONCERT TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 30 AND 31, 1991 AND HAS COME TO THE VIEW THAT PERMISSION SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT IS POLITICAL IN NATURE WITHIN THE AMBIT OF PARAGRAPH 8 (M) OF THE RADIO CODE OF PRACTICE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ANY POLITICAL GROUP OR MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN THE ADVERTISING SCRIPT.

PARAGRAPH 8 (M) OF THE RADIO CODE OF PRACTICE ON ADVERTISING STANDARDS STATES THAT "NO ADVERTISEMENT OF A POLITICAL NATURE SHALL BE BROADCAST EXCEPT WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY".

"IN CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT, THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY TAKES THE VIEW THAT IT SHOULD LOOK BEYOND THE MERE WORDING OF THE ADVERTISEMENT AND GO INTO THE WHOLE BACKGROUND OF THE SUBJECT MATTER.

"IN PARTICULAR, IT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THE DOMINANT PURPOSE OF THE CONCERT IS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CANDIDATES OF A POLITICAL GROUP TO STAND IN THE COMING ELECTION.

"IT IS ALSO THE CONSIDERED OPINION OF THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY THAT GRANTING PERMISSION FOR THE RADIO BROADCAST OF THE ADVERTISEMENT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE CURRENT PROVISIONS OF THE CODES OF PRACTICE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE APPLICATION WAS MADE BY COMMERCIAL RADIO ON AUGUST 15 AFTER HAVING OBTAINED ADVICE FROM THE TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AUTHORITY THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED TO BE OF A POLITICAL NATURE.

"ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT MENTION ANY PARTICULAR POLITICAL GROUP OR CANDIDATE, REPORTS IN THE PRESS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE CONCERT IS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CANDIDATES OF A POLITICAL GROUP TO STAND IN THE ELECTION.

"THE ADVERTISEMENT MAY THEREFORE BE CONSTRUED AS INDIRECTLY PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF A POLITICAL GROUP," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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S6 CENTRAL ALLOCATION RESULTS ON WEDNESDAY

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STUDENTS WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF THE REMAINING SECONDARY 6 VACANCIES ARE REMINDED THAT A LIST OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE EIGHT REGISTRATION CENTRES FROM 9 AM ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 21).

STUDENTS SHOULD RETURN TO THE SAME CENTRE WHERE THEY LODGED THEIR APPLICATIONS TO SEE THE RESULT.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS SHOULD COLLECT AN ALLOCATION SLIP FROM THE CENTRE AND REGISTER WITH THE ALLOCATED SCHOOL BEFORE 5 PM THE SAME DAY, THEY SHOULD BRING ALONG THEIR HKCEE (HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION) RESULTS NOTICE AND IDENTITY CARD.

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PESTICIDE DEALERS REMINDED TO APPLY FOR LICENCES

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IMPORTERS, SUPPLIERS AND RETAILERS OF DOMESTIC AND NON-AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES, INCLUDING DRUG STORES AND SUPERMARKETS, ARE TODAY (MONDAY) REMINDED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TO APPLY FOR LICENCES AND PERMITS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 24.

THE LICENSING REQUIREMENT IS STIPULATED IN THE NEW PESTICIDES ORDINANCE WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 25 THIS YEAR.

UNDER THIS ORDINANCE, ONLY REGISTERED PESTICIDES ARE PERMITTED FOR IMPORT AND USE LOCALLY.

"ALL DEALERS OF PESTICIDES ARE LICENSED BY THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROPER LABELLING AND REPACKAGING REQUIREMENTS," AN AFD SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD IS GIVEN FOR DEALERS TO ACQUIRE THE REQUIRED LICENCES AND TO CLEAR THEIR STOCKS IN HAND.

"PEOPLE OPERATING WITHOUT A LICENCE ON OR AFTER AUGUST 25 THIS YEAR ARE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT," HE STRESSED.

BY FEBRUARY 25, 1992, ALL PESTICIDE DEALERS SHOULD COMPLY FULLY WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING LABELLING, PACKAGING AND USE.

CONTRAVENTION OF THESE REGULATIONS IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$2,000 AND IMPRISONMENT OF SIX MONTHS.

"THE TERRITORY'S 3,300 DOMESTIC PESTICIDE DEALERS HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AFD OF SUCH REQUIREMENTS AND THEY ARE URGED TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE GRACE PERIOD," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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PUBLIC CONCERT TO CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POST OFFICE  
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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG, A PUBLIC CONCERT TO CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE AND THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS YEAR WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 26 AT THE SHATIN RACE COURSE OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB FROM 3 TO 5 PM.

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR ALLEN LEE PENG-FEI; THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG; AND THE DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, MISS M.Y. CHEUNG; WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONCERT.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE GIVEN BY WELL-KNOWN LOCAL SINGERS SUCH AS ANDY LAU, SALLY YIP, GEORGE LAM, JACKY CHEUNG, AND OTHER FAMOUS ARTISTS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A PARACHUTING DISPLAY AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 39.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 232.347 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 313.120 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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FLUSHING WATER CUT IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN  
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FLUSHING WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE SUSPENDED ON WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 21), FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM, TO FACILITATE MAINTENANCE WORKS ON POWER CABLES BY THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED IS BOUNDED BY CONNAUGHT PLACE, PEDDER STREET, WYNDHAM STREET, GLENEALY, CAINE ROAD, BONHAM ROAD, POK FU LAM ROAD, HOK SZ TERRACE AND SANDS STREET.

IN ADDITION, PREMISES IN KOTEWALL ROAD, CONDUIT ROAD, LYTTTELTON ROAD, CASTLE ROAD, ROBINSON ROAD AND MACDONNELL ROAD IN THE MID-LEVELS WILL ALSO BE AFFECTED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.8.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	19.8.91	+28
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-28
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 113.9 *+0.5* 19.8.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	16.8.91	19.8.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.66 PCT	4.73 PCT
1 MONTH	5.05 PCT	5.05 PCT
3 MONTHS	5.48 PCT	5.58 PCT
6 MONTHS	5.83 PCT	5.90 PCT
12 MONTHS	6.40 PCT	6.41 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED	6,650 MN	4,400 MN

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