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SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAM RESULTS OUT

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THE RESULTS OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION THIS YEAR WILL BE ISSUED TO SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE CANDIDATES TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE RESULTS WILL BE ISSUED IN THE FORM OF INDIVIDUAL NOTICES SHOWING THE GRADES ACHIEVED IN EACH SUBJECT TAKEN. THEY ARE RECORDED IN TERMS OF SIX GRADES (A TO F). EACH GRADE IS SUB-DIVIDED INTO TWO SUB-GRADES.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS NOTICES FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION BY SCHOOLS AT THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY'S OFFICE AT SOUTHERN CENTRE, WAN CHAI. SCHOOL CANDIDATES SHOULD SEEK INFORMATION FROM THEIR OWN SCHOOLS ABOUT COLLECTION OF THE NOTICES.

RESULTS NOTICES HAVE BEEN POSTED TO PRIVATE CANDIDATES AND SHOULD REACH THEM TOMORROW. CANDIDATES WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR RESULTS NOTICES TOMORROW MAY MAKE ENQUIRIES AT THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY ON 12TH FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG OR TELEPHONE 834 9922.

RESULTS NOTICES FOR CANDIDATES PRESENTED BY WONG SEWAI ENGLISH EVENING COLLEGE HAVE ALSO BEEN POSTED TO THEIR HOME ADDRESS.

A TOTAL OF 118,516 CANDIDATES ENTERED FOR THE EXAMINATION THIS YEAR, REPRESENTING A DECREASE OF 7.74 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 128,457 LAST YEAR.

ALTOGETHER 41 SUBJECTS WERE EXAMINED. THE PERCENTAGES OF AWARDS OF GRADE E OR ABOVE IN ALL SUBJECTS FOR ALL CANDIDATES AND SCHOOL CANDIDATES ARE 62.94 AND 62.22 RESPECTIVELY. THE CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGES LAST YEAR WERE 62.98 AND 62.13 RESPECTIVELY.

THIS YEAR THERE WERE THREE CASES OF PREMEDITATED CHEATING WHICH LED TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE ENTIRE EXAMINATION (FIVE IN 1992). THERE WERE NINE CASES INVOLVING A VARIETY OF SERIOUS BREACHES OF THE EXAMINATION REGULATIONS WHICH LED TO SUBJECT DISQUALIFICATION (13 IN 1992).

THE YEAR 1993 SAW A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE NUMBER OF CASES WHERE CANDIDATES RECEIVED MARK PENALTIES FOR LESS SERIOUS BREACHES OF THE REGULATIONS SUCH AS USING UNAPPROVED CALCULATORS (50 PER CENT DROP) AND IMPROPERLY INCLUDING THEIR NAMES IN THEIR ANSWER SCRIPTS (46 PER CENT DROP).

HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITY IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF PRIVATE CANDIDATES WHO ATTENDED EXAMINATION SESSIONS WITHOUT THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, THEREBY PLACING A QUITE UNNECESSARY STRAIN ON EXAMINATION CENTRE AND STAFF OF THE EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY WHO HAD TO VERIFY THE CANDIDATES' IDENTITY AFTER THE EXAMINATION.

THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR 1994 HAVE BEEN RELAXED. ANY PERSON CAN ENTER FOR THE EXAMINATION AS A PRIVATE CANDIDATE PROVIDED THEY HAVE:

- * SAT A PREVIOUS HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION, OR
- * REACHED THE AGE OF 19 BY JANUARY 1, 1994.

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AG ORDERS REOPENING OF CLP INQUEST

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, HAS DECIDED TO EXERCISE HIS DISCRETION UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE CORONERS ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE THE CORONER TO REOPEN THE INQUIRY INTO LAST YEAR'S EXPLOSION AT CASTLE PEAK POWER STATION.

IN A LETTER TO THE CORONER MR WARNER BANKS, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE ORIGINAL INQUEST AND WHO SUGGESTED THAT IT BE REOPENED, MR MATHEWS SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT IMPORTANT RELEVANT EVIDENCE "MAY NOT HAVE BEEN BEFORE YOU AT THE ORIGINAL INQUEST" AND IT APPEARED THAT FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT WAS NECESSARY.

IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 20 OF THE CORONERS ORDINANCE, MR MATHEWS REQUIRED MR BANKS TO REOPEN THE INQUIRY AND PROCEED TO MAKE FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE ORIGINAL INQUEST HAD NOT BEEN CONCLUDED.

MR MATHEWS NOTED THAT HE HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE LETTER FROM MR BANKS TOGETHER WITH THE REPRESENTATIONS HE RECEIVED FROM MRS YIP AU LAI-CHUN, THE WIDOW OF ONE OF THE TWO ENGINEERS KILLED IN THE EXPLOSION, AND THOSE FROM CHINA LIGHT AND POWER LIMITED/CASTLE PEAK POWER COMPANY LIMITED THROUGH THEIR SOLICITORS, BEFORE REACHING HIS DECISION.

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LAM WING-YIN ELECTED TO REGIONAL COUNCIL

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MR LAM WING-YIN YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) BEAT SIX OTHER CANDIDATES AND WON IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN SAI KUNG CONSTITUENCY.

MR LAM FETCHED A TOTAL OF 4,670 VOTES. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY MR CHEUNG HON-TIN, WHO GOT 4,016 VOTES.

THE VOTES RECEIVED BY OTHER CANDIDATES ARE AS FOLLOWS: MR LAW CHEUNG-KWOK (2,657), MR FRANCIS CHAU YIN-MING (2,312 VOTES), MR WONG SHUI-SANG (2,017 VOTES), MR WAI HING-CHEUNG (552 VOTES) AND MR WONG WAH-KEUNG (475 VOTES).

YESTERDAY'S BY-ELECTION WAS HELD TO FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY MR GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO.

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64,491 ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES

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THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 AND POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES THIS YEAR IS 90.66 PER CENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID IN ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF THE JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, 77,028 STUDENTS TOOK PART THIS YEAR.

APART FROM 1,060 STUDENTS WHO HAVE OPTED OUT DURING THE YEAR, 64,491 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SECONDARY 4 PLACES, INCLUDING 56,504 WHO HAVE BEEN PROMOTED IN THEIR OWN SCHOOLS.

"IN ADDITION, 4,384 STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FULL-TIME POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSE PLACES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADVISED STUDENTS TO RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL SCHOOLS TO CHECK THE RESULTS TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO OTHER SCHOOLS OR TECHNICAL INSTITUTES OR INDUSTRY TRAINING CENTRES WILL EACH BE GIVEN A REGISTRATION FORM WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DESIGNATED SCHOOL DURING REGISTRATION ON WEDNESDAY.

FOR REGISTRATION, STUDENTS SHOULD BRING WITH THEM:

- * THE REGISTRATION FORM;
- * THEIR HONG KONG IDENTITY CARD;
- * TWO RECENT PASSPORT-SIZED PHOTOGRAPHS; AND
- * ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER ONE MONTH'S SCHOOL FEE WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SCHOOL.

STUDENTS FAILING TO REGISTER ON WEDNESDAY WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE SUBSIDISED SCHOOL PLACE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED SUBSIDISED SCHOOL PLACES WILL EACH BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION SHEETS ON THE POST-SECONDARY 3 CRAFT COURSES AND ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO SECONDARY 4 OF THE EVENING SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL START FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY (AUGUST 10-13).

HE SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD CALL IN PERSON AT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF WU CHUNG HOUSE AT 213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI (TEL 892 6669).

THEY SHOULD BRING WITH THEM THEIR STUDENT'S PARTICULARS SLIP ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION RECORDS AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SECTION AND A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SLIP WHICH WILL BE KEPT BY THE SECTION, HE ADDED.

"STUDENTS SEEKING INFORMATION ON ADULT EDUCATION COURSES SHOULD CONTACT THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION DIRECT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID ALL ENQUIRIES ON THE ALLOCATION RESULTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE EDUCATION RECORDS AND JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSESSMENT SECTION (TEL 891 9099).

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TENDER FOR SECOND ISSUE OF EXCHANGE FUND NOTES

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THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE TENDER FOR THE SECOND ISSUE OF EXCHANGE FUND NOTES WILL BE HELD NEXT MONDAY (AUGUST 16) FOR SETTLEMENT ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 17).

SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS ISSUE AN AMOUNT OF HK\$500 MILLION TWO-YEAR NOTES WILL BE ON OFFER.

IN ADDITION, ANOTHER HK\$100 MILLION WILL BE HELD AS RESERVE BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY FOR SUPPLY TO MARKET MAKERS IN THE SECONDARY MARKET.

THE NOTES WILL MATURE ON AUGUST 17, 1995 (THURSDAY) AND WILL CARRY INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 4.625 PER CENT PER ANNUM PAYABLE SEMI-ANNUALLY IN ARREARS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO TENDER FOR THE NOTES MAY DO SO THROUGH ANY OF THE MARKET MAKERS OR RECOGNISED DEALERS ON THE PUBLISHED LIST WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY ON 30TH FLOOR, 3 GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (OR TELEPHONE 878 8196)

EACH TENDER MUST BE FOR AN AMOUNT OF HK\$50,000 OR INTEGRAL MULTIPLES THEREOF.

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REFORM UPHOLDS RIGHT TO HEALTH CARE: SHW

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REFORM OF HONG KONG'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WILL NOT DENY RESIDENTS' RIGHT TO ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT BECAUSE THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, REITERATED TODAY (MONDAY).

"THIS RIGHT IS ENSHRINED IN THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ORDINANCE AND REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR HEALTH CARE POLICY," MRS WONG SAID.

"REFORM WILL NOT SEEK TO CHANGE THIS RIGHT, ONLY TO REINFORCE IT," SHE ADDED.

NOR DOES REFORM MEAN A REDUCTION IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

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"TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT REMAINS PARAMOUNT, THE GOVERNOR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER PLEDGED TO INCREASE RECURRENT SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE BY 22 PER CENT IN REAL TERMS BY 1997," MRS WONG RECALLED.

SHE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SPEND NEARLY \$15 BILLION THIS YEAR ON PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES, REPRESENTING \$2,500 FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD.

THIS IS AN INCREASE OF 7.8 PER CENT OVER LAST YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF ZONTA CLUB OF VICTORIA, THE HEALTH CHIEF GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT THE REFORMS OUTLINED IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT "TOWARD BETTER HEALTH" HAD THE INTEREST OF PATIENTS VERY MUCH IN MIND.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE DOCUMENT RECOGNISES THE MANY POOR PATIENTS -- THE ELDERLY, THE DISABLED, THE CHRONICALLY-ILL UNEMPLOYED -- AND PROPOSES SPECIAL WAIVER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM.

"AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO CLEAR-CUT WAIVER SYSTEM AND THESE PATIENTS ENTER HOSPITAL WITH NO CERTAINTY OF ACCESS TO WAIVER," MRS WONG POINTED OUT.

"IF THE OPTION IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT IS ACCEPTED, THEY WOULD IN FUTURE PAY ONLY HALF THE REGULAR FEE OR, PERHAPS, NOTHING AT ALL," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WAIVER ARRANGEMENT WILL BE AUTOMATIC SO THAT THE PATIENTS NEED NOT APPLY AND BE ASSESSED ON EACH OCCASION.

MRS WONG THEN REFERRED TO ANOTHER GROUP OF PATIENTS WHO WERE AT PRESENT STUCK WITHOUT CHOICE, THE BETTER-OFF PEOPLE WHO DESIRED GREATER PRIVACY AND COMFORT BUT WHO COULD NOT AFFORD PRIVATE HOSPITALS.

"FOR THEM, WE ARE TARGETING A NEW CLASS OF SEMI-PRIVATE ROOMS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS," SHE SAID.

"THEY CAN HAVE THE GREATER COMFORT THEY DESIRE, IF THEY ARE PREPARED TO PAY MORE FOR THE PRIVILEGE; IF NOT, GENERAL WARDS WOULD STILL BE AVAILABLE TO THEM," THE SECRETARY SAID.

SHE STRESSED THAT NOBODY WOULD BE FORCED TO OCCUPY A SEMI-PRIVATE ROOM AND THAT THESE ROOMS WOULD NOT BE PROVIDED AT THE EXPENSE OF GENERAL WARD BEDS.

"IF NO GENERAL WARD BED IS AVAILABLE, ANY PATIENT WHO DEMANDS ONE WILL BE ACCOMMODATED IN A SEMI-PRIVATE ROOM AT THE GENERAL WARD FEE," MRS WONG SAID.

WHILE SEMI-PRIVATE ROOMS WILL NOT DRAW PATIENTS AWAY FROM PRIVATE HOSPITALS, PATIENTS WILL BE ABLE TO COMPARE FEES BETWEEN THE TWO.

"THIS SHOULD PROVIDE SOME ELEMENT OF COMPETITION, TO MAKE BOTH SECTORS PAY MORE ATTENTION TO COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND OFFERING CONSUMERS BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY," MRS WONG SAID.

/WHILE DISAPPROVING

WHILE DISAPPROVING OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPULSORY COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SAW INSURANCE AS A WAY TO ENHANCE PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO PRIVATE MEDICAL SERVICES AND THEREBY GIVE THEM MORE CHOICE.

"TO PROTECT CONSUMERS, WE PROPOSE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF ANY VOLUNTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEME AIMED AT COVERING PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES SHOULD BE REGULATED," SHE SAID.

REFERRING TO THE CURRENT HOSPITAL FEE STRUCTURE, MRS WONG SAID IT WAS ORIGINALLY BASED ON CATERING COST AND WAS IRRATIONAL.

PATIENTS IN ALL TYPES OF HOSPITALS PAY THE SAME FEE WHICH BEARS NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE ACTUAL COST OF TREATMENT.

"WE ARE THEREFORE PROPOSING THAT FUTURE HOSPITAL FEES SHOULD BE PEGGED TO A PERCENTAGE OF THE OPERATING COST AND THAT CERTAIN ITEMISED CHARGES SHOULD BE STANDARDISED AMONG ALL HOSPITALS," THE SECRETARY SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT WHILE MANY PEOPLE ASKED WHY THE COMMUNITY SHOULD HEAVILY SUBSIDISE PATIENTS WHO DID NOT NEED IT, THERE WAS ALSO SOME CONCERN THAT WE MUST NOT PEG CHARGES AT A PERCENTAGE THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD NOT AFFORD.

SHE GAVE A REASSURANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED COMMITTED TO ITS POLICY THAT NOBODY SHOULD BE DENIED ADEQUATE MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR WANT OF MEANS, SO FEE LEVELS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BECOME UNAFFORDABLE BY THE PEOPLE THEY WERE TARGETED AT.

"IT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE TO RAISE FEES TO UNTENABLE LEVELS, SINCE THIS WOULD BE OFFSET BY MORE PEOPLE APPLYING FOR WAIVERS," MRS WONG SAID.

ON THE CONCERN THAT PEGGING FEES TO COSTS WILL ALSO RESULT IN RAPID ESCALATION IN LINE WITH MEDICAL INFLATION, SHE POINTED OUT THAT FEES WERE ADJUSTED NOW IN LINE WITH INCREASES IN OPERATING COSTS.

"SUCH PEGGING, TOGETHER WITH DETAILED BILLING, WILL IN FACT ENABLE CONSUMERS TO BETTER MONITOR COSTS AND TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THESE TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AS PART OF THE FEEDBACK PROCESS," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO PROVIDE A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WITH INCREASED ACCESS, MORE CHOICE AND BETTER CONSUMER PROTECTION.

"TO DO THIS, WE NEED TO MAKE IT BETTER MANAGED, MORE TRANSPARENT TO USERS, CHEAPER FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY AND FAIRER FOR EVERYONE," SHE SAID.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PRECONCEIVED IDEAS WHICH OPTIONS IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT SHOULD BE PURSUED.

"THE CHOICE IS UP TO THE COMMUNITY," MRS WONG SAID.

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STATEMENT ON TRIAD AND STUDENT SERVICES

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IN REPLY TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON CLAIMS OF TRIAD INFILTRATION INTO SCHOOLS AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICES SUCH AS FINDING SCHOOL PLACES FOR STUDENTS AGED 16 AND ABOVE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID:

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS ISSUED SPECIFIC GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH SUSPECTED TRIAD ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS IN ANY CASE, STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT TO THE POLICE IF THEY ARE THREATENED BY SUSPECTED TRIAD ELEMENTS.

THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC CASE REFERRED TO SINCE IT IS THE SUBJECT OF A POLICE INVESTIGATION.

AS REGARDS SCHOOL PLACES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST STUDENTS IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE TO FIND APPROPRIATE PLACES FOR STUDY."

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GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ESTIMATE FOR FIRST QUARTER

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CONTINUING THE SIGNIFICANT GROWTH MOMENTUM CARRIED OVER FROM LAST YEAR, HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW BY 5.3% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

THIS IS SHOWN IN THE PRELIMINARY GDP ESTIMATE RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AMONG THE MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE GDP ESTIMATES, GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION GREW BY 7.2% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992.

WITHIN THIS COMPONENT, EXPENDITURE ON MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 19.1%. EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION ALSO RECORDED A NOTABLE GROWTH OF 7.1% IN THE FIRST QUARTER.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE GREW BY 7.1% IN REAL TERMS, WHILE GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE (DEFINED IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS TERMS) DECLINED SLIGHTLY BY 0.4%.

THE DECLINE IN GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE REFLECTS IN PART THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORT IN RESTRAINING GROWTH IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, AND IN PART A DECREASE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER IN GOVERNMENT PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES SUCH AS STORES AND SUPPLIES.

REGARDING EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS, RE-EXPORTS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 26.1% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECLINED BY 0.1%. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR IMPORTS OF GOODS WAS 19.5%.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS EXPORTS OF SERVICES, THE GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS WAS 15.2%. THE CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATE FOR IMPORTS OF SERVICES WAS 8.9%.

THE IMPLICIT PRICE DEFLATOR OF GDP, AS A BROAD MEASURE OF OVERALL INFLATION IN THE ECONOMY, ROSE BY 9.5% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 OVER THE SAME QUARTER IN 1992, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 10.2% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

ALONG WITH THE RELEASE OF THE PRELIMINARY GDP ESTIMATE FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, GDP ESTIMATES FOR 1991 AND 1992 HAVE BEEN REVISED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LATEST DATA SOURCES, INCLUDING MAINLY THE RESULTS OF THE 1991 ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS AND THE 1992 SURVEY OF RE-EXPORT TRADE.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE EXTENT OF REVISION IS RELATIVELY MINOR. THE REAL GROWTH RATE OF GDP FOR 1991 IS SLIGHTLY REVISED DOWNWARDS FROM 4.2% TO 4.1%, THAT FOR 1992 IS REVISED UPWARDS FROM 5.0% TO 5.3%.

FOR THE PRODUCTION-BASED GDP, THE REVISED (AUG 93) ESTIMATE FOR 1991 SHOWS THAT, AMONG THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST SHARE (25.4%) OF GDP, FOLLOWED BY FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES (22.7%), COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES (15.7%) AND MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (15.2%).

THE LATEST ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE-BASED GDP FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991 TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 ARE PUBLISHED IN A REPORT ENTITLED "QUARTERLY ESTIMATES OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, 1ST QUARTER 1993".

THE REVISED (AUGUST 93) PRODUCTION-BASED GDP ESTIMATES FOR 1991 ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PUBLICATION.

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$4.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, HONG KONG; AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE NATIONAL INCOME BRANCH OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY DIALLING 582 5077.

THE LATEST EXPENDITURE-BASED GDP FIGURES ARE PRESENTED IN TABLES 1 AND 2. THE REVISED PRODUCTION-BASED GDP FIGURES FOR 1991 ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 3.

Table 1 Expenditure-based GDP Estimates
first quarter of 1991 to first quarter of 1993

<u>Year/quarter</u>	<u>GDP at Current Market Prices</u>		<u>GDP at Constant (1980) Market Prices</u>	
	<u>HK\$ Mn</u>	<u>% change over same period of the preceding year</u>	<u>HK\$ Mn</u>	<u>% change over same period of the preceding year</u>
1991	643,382	15.1	273,524	4.1
1992	747,432	16.2	287,941	5.3
1991 Q1	139,795	13.8	61,580	4.0
Q2	152,099	14.8	64,364	3.8
Q3	172,648	15.3	73,370	3.9
Q4	178,840	16.4	74,210	4.7
1992 Q1	164,164	17.4	64,795	5.2
Q2	176,807	16.2	67,637	5.1
Q3	199,464	15.5	77,580	5.7
Q4	206,997	15.7	77,929	5.0
1993 Q1	189,396	15.4	68,253	5.3

Table 2 Expenditure-based GDP Estimates
Quarterly Year-on-year Growth Rates, first quarter of 1992 to first quarter of 1993

Expenditure Components of GDP	% change over same period of the preceding year											
	At current market prices						At constant (1980) market prices					
	1992					1993	1992					1993
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	Q1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	Q1
Private consumption expenditure	17.3	15.3	17.2	15.6	16.3	14.6	9.0	7.9	9.4	7.7	8.5	7.1
Government consumption expenditure	16.0	18.0	19.9	17.4	17.8	10.0	6.5	7.9	9.2	6.4	7.5	-0.4
Gross domestic fixed capital formation	14.4	18.9	19.3	13.4	16.5	10.0	7.5	10.6	11.7	9.6	9.9	7.2
of which : Construction	3.6	-2.7	-0.6	8.1	2.2	9.1	1.2	-5.9	-2.5	6.1	-0.1	7.1
Machinery and equipment	11.6	24.8	32.8	29.7	25.5	21.6	11.2	22.3	28.2	27.4	23.0	19.1
Total exports of goods	23.2	23.0	20.0	17.9	20.8	18.4	20.8	21.5	18.3	16.8	19.2	18.8
Imports of goods	21.6	24.4	21.9	22.2	22.6	17.7	21.9	23.9	20.7	22.9	22.3	19.5
Exports of services	15.4	22.1	15.3	19.2	18.1	22.7	10.2	13.8	7.3	10.0	10.3	15.2
Imports of services	10.0	10.6	16.0	8.9	11.4	7.0	7.7	5.6	8.3	4.2	6.4	8.9
Gross Domestic Product	17.4	16.2	15.5	15.7	16.2	15.4	5.2	5.1	5.7	5.0	5.3	5.3

Table 3 Percentage share of various economic activities in
Production-based GDP estimates, 1991

Revised(August 93) Estimates for 1991

	<u>% share</u>
1. Agriculture and fishing	0.2
2. Mining and quarrying	#
3. Manufacturing	15.2
4. Electricity, gas and water	2.2
5. Construction	5.6
6. Wholesales, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	25.4
7. Transport, storage and communication	9.4
8. Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	22.7
9. Community, social and personal services	15.7
10. Ownership of premises	10.9
Less imputed bank service charge	7.3

	100.0

Less than 0.05

MORE IMPORTED VEGETABLES CHECKED

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (MONDAY) INSPECTED 63 LORRY-LOADS OF VEGETABLES FROM CHINA AND TOOK 16 SAMPLES FOR TESTING, IN ITS CONTINUED EFFORT TO MONITOR IMPORTED FOOD PARTICULARLY VEGETABLES FROM ACROSS THE BORDER.

THE FIGURES BRING TO 239 AND 67 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LORRY-LOADS OF VEGETABLES INSPECTED AND SAMPLES TAKEN FOR TESTING OF CONTAMINATION SINCE THE BLAST INCIDENT IN SHENZHEN.

SO FAR, ALL SAMPLES SHOWED NO EVIDENCE OF CONTAMINATION.

HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR VEGETABLES AT BORDER CHECK POINTS, AND TO TAKE SAMPLES FOR TESTS OF CONTAMINATION ARISING FROM THE BLAST, IN PARTICULAR OF ANY POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF AMMONIUM NITRATES.

MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REMINDED THE PUBLIC TO ALWAYS OBSERVE GOOD HYGIENIC PRACTICES, WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY AND COOK WELL BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

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NO CHANGE IN WATER QUALITY

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) ASSURED THE PUBLIC ONCE AGAIN THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD CLOSELY MONITORED THE QUALITY OF THE EAST RIVER WATER SUPPLIED TO HONG HONG SINCE THE SHENZHEN EXPLOSION INCIDENT.

SO FAR NO TRACE OF ANY CHANGE IN WATER QUALITY HAD BEEN DETECTED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REITERATED THAT THE TREATED WATER SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS COMPLIED WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S STANDARD GUIDELINES FOR DRINKING WATER, ADDING THAT THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN ABOUT ITS QUALITY.

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CONTINGENCY PLAN ON GIRLS' HOME

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (MONDAY) CONFIRMED THAT SINCE 1989 THERE WAS, AT ANY ONE TIME, LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF GIRLS IN THE MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME WITH VENEREAL DISEASES.

"OVER 100 TESTS ON VENEREAL DISEASES AND AIDS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED ON THE GIRLS THERE SINCE JULY 15 THIS YEAR. NONE HAS A POSITIVE RESULT," HE SAID.

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HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD IN HAND A CONTINGENCY PLAN, TO BE CARRIED OUT IN PHASES, TO ACCOMMODATE GIRLS IN MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME TO COPE WITH THE OVER-CAPACITY PROBLEM.

"PUI YIN JUVENILE HOME IS BEING CONSIDERED BECAUSE IT IS ALSO A GAZETTED PLACE OF REFUGE AND WITHIN THE VICINITY OF THE GIRLS' HOME," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT PUI YIN JUVENILE HOME WAS PREVIOUSLY A MIXED HOME WITH SEPARATE FACILITIES FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE WAI YEE HOSTEL IN NOVEMBER 1991.

THE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT UNDER PHASE ONE OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN PUI YIN JUVENILE HOME COULD ACCOMMODATE 30 TO 40 GIRLS WITH FURTHER FACILITIES FOR EXPANSION, IF REQUIRED.

HE SAID THE HIGHEST FIGURE OF GIRLS AT MA TAU WEI GIRLS' HOME RECORDED TODAY (MONDAY) WAS 230. THE HOME NOW HAS A CAPACITY OF 220, SINCE THE MOVE OF THE PROBATION SECTION TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION LAST WEDNESDAY.

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PROSECUTION AGAINST USING FALSE DOCUMENTS

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PEOPLE WHO SUBMIT FALSE DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ELECTRICAL WORKER UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION, AN ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS RECENTLY CONVICTED IN EASTERN COURT FOR USING A COPY OF A FALSE INSTRUMENT IN HIS APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

THE DEFENDANT PLEADED GUILTY AND WAS FINED \$1,000.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EMSD WOULD SCRUTINISE ALL APPLICATIONS, ESPECIALLY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE APPLICATIONS.

"PROSECUTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE APPLICANTS WHO KNOWINGLY MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH IS FALSE IN A MATERIAL PARTICULAR," HE SAID.

UNDER THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE, ALL WORKERS ENGAGED IN WORK ON FIXED ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH EMSD.

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COURSES ON COMMUNICATION WITH TRADE UNIONS

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TWO LABOUR RELATIONS COURSES WILL BE RUN BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER TO PROMOTE BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MANAGERS AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS.

THE TWO COURSES, EACH COMPRISING SEVEN SESSIONS TO BE HELD IN AFTERNOONS ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, ARE DESIGNED FOR MANAGERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ENGAGED IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OR STAFF DISCIPLINE.

ENTITLED "GETTING TO KNOW TRADE UNIONS AND HOW TO DEAL WITH TRADE UNION OFFICIALS", THE COURSES WILL HELP MANAGERS GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE LEGAL STATUS AND THE ROLE OF TRADE UNIONS.

OTHER TOPICS INCLUDE MANPOWER CHARACTERISTICS IN HONG KONG, CULTURAL AND GROUP NORMS AMONG WORKERS AS WELL AS THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORK, EMPLOYERS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.

THERE WILL BE TALKS ON THE ART OF COMPROMISE, NEGOTIATION SKILLS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND TRADE DISPUTES. VISITS TO TRADE UNIONS WILL ALSO BE ARRANGED.

THE SPEAKER WILL BE MR CHEUNG LUN, SECRETARY OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CEMENT AND CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION TRADE WORKERS' UNION AND MEMBER OF THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD.

THE COURSES, WITH THE FIRST CLASS STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 3, WILL BE CONDUCTED IN CANTONESE. THE ENROLMENT FEE IS \$350.

EACH CLASS WILL HAVE 25 PLACES. ENROLMENT IS ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED.

DETAILS OF THE COURSES AND ENROLMENT LEAFLETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LABOUR RELATIONS PROMOTION UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 16TH FLOOR OF OVERSEAS TRUST BANK BUILDING, 160 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI AND FROM ALL LABOUR RELATIONS BRANCH OFFICES.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 834 9311.

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ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT ON SALE

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN MEETING THE INITIATIVES SET OUT IN THE 1989 WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION WERE OUTLINED IN AN ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

"ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1993" PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WORK IN THE TERRITORY AND IS NOW ON SALE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE REPORT IS AN ESSENTIAL REFERENCE FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN HONG KONG."

APART FROM REVIEWING THE WIDE RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, THE 184-PAGE REPORT CONTAINS 82 DIAGRAMS, 24 TABLES OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND 122 PICTURES TO ILLUSTRATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION.

"AS EVENTS AT LAST YEAR'S EARTH SUMMIT ARE HAVING THEIR IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG, 1992 SAW PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING EXISTING PLANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEASURES TO CONTROL POLLUTION.

"PROGRESS WAS ALSO MADE IN SETTING THE SCENE FOR A BROADER APPROACH TO BE TAKEN TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

THE REPORT RECORDS THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR IN PROVIDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC.

THESE INCLUDE THE COMPLETION OF \$700 MILLION WORTH OF NEW SEWERAGE WORK, NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE AND THE BEGINNING OF ADVANCE WORKS ON THREE STRATEGIC LANDFILLS.

THE ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION WAS COMMISSIONED. MAJOR CONSTRUCTION WORK OF THE CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT CENTRE WAS COMPLETED. CHEMICAL WASTE REGULATIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES.

THE YEAR ALSO SAW THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW REGULATIONS TO CONTROL NOISY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS PETROL AND LIGHT-DUTY DIESEL-ENGINED VEHICLES.

MAJOR NEW LEGISLATION TO CONTROL ASBESTOS AND OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES WAS ALSO FINALISED.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICE FOR WEST KOWLOON WAS SET UP TO MONITOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS GENERATED BY MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE AREA.

MEANWHILE, A NEW COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT DEDICATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS WITH A VIEW TO HARNESSING THE CONTRIBUTION THE PUBLIC CAN MAKE TO IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE ENGLISH VERSION OF "ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1993", AT \$30 A COPY, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE NEXT MONTH.

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"THE PAMPHLET IS ALSO USEFUL TO EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THEIR DISCUSSION ON WORK ARRANGEMENTS IN TIMES OF SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, AS IT CLEARS ALL MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT WARNING SIGNALS," HE SAID.

THE PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH. BOTH VERSIONS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS AT VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 75.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 441.544 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 503.455 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 85.9 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,600
REVERSAL OF LAF	+400
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-110
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,890
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.2 *+0.0* 9.8.93

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.77 PCT	12 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.59	3.82
1 MONTH	2.86 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.85	3.97
3 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.85	4.21
6 MONTHS	3.39 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.85	4.48
12 MONTHS	3.77 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 28,211 MN

CLOSED AUGUST 9, 1993

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