



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1993

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EDUCATION PROFESSION PRAISED FOR VITALITY

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE VITALITY OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSION IN HONG KONG.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AWARD 1992 TODAY (THURSDAY), HE SAID IMPROVEMENT TO AN EDUCATION SYSTEM REQUIRED STEADY AND SUSTAINED COMMITMENT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE.

"BUT I KNOW FULL WELL THAT THE SUCCESS OF ANY OF OUR PLANS DEPENDS ON THE RESPONSE OF INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS THEMSELVES," MR PATTEN SAID.

"IN MY POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER, I MADE EDUCATION POLICY A KEY PART OF MY PROPOSALS, AND I SET OUT MEASURES TO HELP TEACHERS AT THE HEART OF THAT POLICY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID A NUMBER OF GOALS WERE SET. MORE TEACHERS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER, AND FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM NEXT YEAR.

CLASS SIZES WILL BE REDUCED TO NO MORE THAN 35, STARTING WITH PRIMARY 1 CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER. ANOTHER GOAL IS TO OPERATE ALL NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS ON A WHOLE-DAY BASIS.

TO MEET THESE GOALS, 780 NEW TEACHERS ARE NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

"THE RECRUITING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THIS ARE IN PLACE. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL MEET THESE GOALS," MR PATTEN SAID.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE CEREMONY THAT HE WANTED TO SEE HONG KONG DO MORE IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR TO HELP TEACHERS RAISE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION.

HE ADDED THAT MORE AND BETTER SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PROVIDED AND YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN A BETTER OPPORTUNITY OF THE SORT OF STARTING LIFE WHICH THEY DESERVED.

"AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT, OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A SECURE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FUTURE FOR EVERYONE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

A PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL HAS BEEN SET UP TO PLAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION TO HELP IMPROVE TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

ALSO, A COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ARRANGE THE INTRODUCTION OF COURSES IN TERTIARY INSTITUTES TO ENABLE SERVING TEACHERS TO UPGRADE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS.

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WATER SUPPLY TO HK DISCUSSED

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AT THE INVITATION OF DIRECTOR GUAN ZONGZHI ON BEHALF OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER, A DELEGATION FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT LED BY SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, VISITED GUANGZHOU FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THIS WAS HELD DURING THE PERIOD JULY 5-8 TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATED TO THE SUPPLY OF WATER TO HONG KONG.

ITEMS DISCUSSED INCLUDED A REVIEW OF WATER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS AND RAW-WATER QUALITY, PROGRESS OF THE STAGE III UPGRADING WORKS FOR THE INCREASED WATER SUPPLY COVERED BY THE 1989 AGREEMENT, AND THE BASE PRICES FOR WATER TO BE PURCHASED FROM GUANGDONG DURING THE YEARS 1994 UNTIL 1996 INCLUSIVE.

DIRECTOR GUAN CONFIRMED THAT THE UPGRADING WORKS WERE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED ALMOST A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR M S HU, CONFIRMED THAT THE HONG KONG RECEIVING FACILITIES WOULD BE COMPLETED ACCORDINGLY.

BOTH DIRECTORS AGREED THAT WORKING MEETINGS AT SUB-GROUP LEVEL WOULD BE HELD FREQUENTLY AS INTENDED BY THE 1989 AGREEMENT, TO ENSURE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE LIAISON BETWEEN THE SUPPLY AND RECEIVING OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY RATE OF SUPPLY ADJUSTMENTS TO ALLOW FOR STORAGE LEVELS IN THE HONG KONG RESERVOIRS.

AS AGREED, 668 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER WILL BE SUPPLIED DURING THE WATER YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1994.

LONG TERM DEMAND FORECAST TRENDS FOR HONG KONG WATER WERE DISCUSSED, AND IT WAS RE-CONFIRMED THAT ADEQUATE ALLOWANCE HAD BEEN MADE IN PLANNING THE USAGE OF GUANGDONG WATER RESOURCES TO PROVIDE FOR HONG KONG REQUIREMENTS, THROUGH THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND.

DIRECTOR GUAN MADE SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE BUREAU, TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE FROM HARMFUL POLLUTION.

RECENT CONCERNS RAISED BY WATER USERS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN DEALT WITH BY CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES.

DETAILED DISCUSSIONS RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON BASE PRICES FOR RAW WATER TO BE PURCHASED DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS UNDER THE TERMS OF PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS.

DESPITE THE RELATIVELY HIGH PRICE INDEX IN THE RECENT PERIOD ARISING FROM THE FAST DEVELOPING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDING PROGRAMME, THE BUREAU HAS UNDERTAKEN TO OVERCOME THE EXISTING DIFFICULTIES IN SO FAR AS THE AGREED PRICE INCREASES ARE BEING HELD DOWN IN FAVOUR OF HONG KONG.

/THE MEETING

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THE MEETINGS WERE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED ON SCHEDULE, AND BOTH SIDES WILL SUBMIT THE REPORT FROM THE MEETINGS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, SEEKING EARLIEST POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS SET DOWN THEREIN.

SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO DIRECTOR GUAN ZONGZHI FOR THE CONTINUED ATTENTION BY GUANGDONG BUREAU IN MEETING THE WATER NEEDS OF HONG KONG.

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STI WELCOMES TARIFF REDUCTION PACKAGE

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR CHAU TAK-HAY, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TRADE MINISTERS OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED ON A TARIFF REDUCTION PACKAGE IN TOKYO.

"THIS IS THE MOST POSITIVE NEWS WE HAVE HAD FOR A LONG TIME," MR CHAU SAID.

"I WELCOME THE ANNOUNCEMENT. I NOTE THAT NOT ALL OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES HAVE BEEN AGREED AND THAT SOME OF THE DETAILS ARE MISSING, BUT I HOPE THAT THIS PACKAGE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO GET UNDER WAY AGAIN IN GENEVA," HE SAID.

MR CHAU EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ON THE PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUDING THE URUGUAY ROUND BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

"PROGRESS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND HAS BEEN STALLED FOR OVER A YEAR-AND-A-HALF BECAUSE OF SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT AMONGST THE MAJOR ECONOMIES. IT APPEARS THEY HAVE REACHED A BROAD AGREEMENT ON LOWERING TARIFFS.

"PROVIDED THEY AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THE ROUND BY MID-DECEMBER," HE SAID.

MR CHAU NOTED THAT HONG KONG PLAYED AN ACTIVE PART IN THE URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS AS A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT.

"HONG KONG LOOKS FORWARD TO PLAYING ITS PART IN RESOLVING THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN GENEVA. IN OUR VIEW WORK SHOULD NOW FOCUS ON THE REMAINING MARKET ACCESS ISSUES, RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO FIDDLE WITH THE REST OF THE DRAFT FINAL AGREEMENT WHICH WAS WORKED OUT IN GENEVA AT THE END OF 1991," HE SAID.

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STATEMENT ON EXTRA INJECTION INTO AIRPORT PROJECTS

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COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TOLD A MEETING POINT DELEGATION THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO INJECT MORE THAN \$10 BILLION EXTRA EQUITY INTO AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, DID NOT REFER TO ANY FIGURES RELATING TO POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT EQUITY INJECTIONS INTO AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS WHEN HE MET A DELEGATION FROM MEETING POINT THIS AFTERNOON TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR THE 1994/95 BUDGET.

MR FRED LI ASKED THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO CONFIRM MEDIA REPORTS THAT AN EXTRA \$10 BILLION WAS TO BE INJECTED. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY DECLINED TO COMMENT ON ANY FIGURE.

WHAT MR MACLEOD DID SAY WAS TO REASSURE MR LI THAT, IF THERE WERE TO BE ANY EXTRA INJECTION, IT WOULD COME FROM THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND AND THUS WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IMPACT ON PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURE; BUT HE DID NOT CONFIRM THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY EXTRA FUNDING, NOR DID HE MENTION ANY FIGURE."

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HELP THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED: CS APPEALS

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THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF REHABILITATION IS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LEAD AN INDEPENDENT AND FULFILLING LIFE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE HANDING-OVER CEREMONY AND OPEN DAY OF CARITAS LOK YI SCHOOL, SIR DAVID SAID THIS GOAL COULD BE ACHIEVED PRIMARILY THROUGH OPEN EMPLOYMENT.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT WOULD NEVER BE SUFFICIENT ON THIS SCORE.

"COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE. EMPLOYERS SHOULD TRY TO EMPLOY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY COULD HELP THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED:

- * TO RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES;
- * TO TRY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEM; AND
- * TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DELIVERY OF REHABILITATION SERVICES.

"THE MORE WE INTERACT WITH THEM, THE MORE WE BECOME AWARE OF THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS AND ABILITIES, AND THE MORE WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO OUR COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

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SPONSORED BY THE CARITAS, LOK YI SCHOOL CAN ACCOMMODATE 80 SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN DAY TIME WITH BOARDING FACILITIES FOR 60 OF THEM.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ASD) OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER THE SCHOOL TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AFTER THE CEREMONY.

THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOL TOOK 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE WITH A PRICE TAG OF \$20 MILLION.

IT IS THE SECOND SPECIAL SCHOOL BUILT BY THE ASD.

SIX OTHER SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION, WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER PROJECTS ON THE DRAWING BOARD.

THE DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR PAUL CORSER, DESCRIBED THESE PROJECTS AS VERY REWARDING.

"WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP MEET THE NEEDS OF THE LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY," MR CORSER SAID AT THE CEREMONY.

HE ALSO SAID IN DESIGNING THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS, HIS DEPARTMENT AIMED AT PROVIDING AN ATTRACTIVE AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND STAFF.

"WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF DESIGNING TO A HUMAN SCALE AND TRY TO AVOID ANY INSTITUTIONAL REFERENCES IN ORDER TO CREATE A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.

"IN THE CASE OF LOK YI SCHOOL, I BELIEVE WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS GOAL," HE ADDED.

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WHARF CABLE PROGRESS REPORT CONSIDERED

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THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY (BA) MET TODAY (THURSDAY) TO CONSIDER THE FIRST PROGRESS REPORT SUBMITTED BY WHARF CABLE AND WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THE EFFORTS BEING PUT INTO MEETING THE OCTOBER 1993 LAUNCH DATE.

THE AUTHORITY WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MR ALEXANDER ARENA, TO THE AUTHORITY TO REPLACE THE POSTMASTER GENERAL FOLLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY ON JULY 1.

THE BA ALSO ENDORSED THAT A TELEVISION BROADCASTING SURVEY BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94. THE SURVEY WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL DATA FOR CONDUCTING THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF WIRELESS TELEVISION LICENCES IN 1994.

AT THE MEETING, BA ALSO CONSIDERED METRO BROADCAST'S FAILURE TO BROADCAST THE STIPULATED AMOUNT OF NEWS AND WEATHER PROGRAMMES ON THE METRO PLUS CHANNEL AS REQUIRED UNDER THE SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 8 TO 20 THIS YEAR.

THE BA DECIDED TO ISSUE A STRONG WARNING TO METRO BROADCAST WHICH WAS ALSO ASKED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF ITS STAFF TO ALL THE RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE.

AS A REGULAR ITEM OF THE AGENDA, THE BA ALSO CONSIDERED REPORT OF ITS COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE AND ENDORSED THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION IN RESPECT OF ALL THE COMPLAINTS DEALT WITH IN THE PAST MONTH.

ELEVEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT UNSATISFACTORY TELEVISION AND RADIO RECEPTION HAD ALSO BEEN REFERRED TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATION.

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL

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IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 26%, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 19% 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 DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE ABOUT THE SAME WHILE THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 0.7%. IMPORT PRICES DECREASED BY 1.1%.

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, INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 0.7% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING APRIL 1993 ALONE AND COMPARING WITH APRIL 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 27%. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 19%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 0.7%. THOSE OF RE-EXPORTS AND IMPORTS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING APRIL 1993 WITH APRIL 1992, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+15%); AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+13%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-47%); FOOTWEAR (-46%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-34%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE PRICE OF FOOTWEAR RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 4.8%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-8.5%); AND TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-6.7%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 24% IN APRIL 1993 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1992.

CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; AND SWINE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE INCREASE WAS RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 28%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; AND FOOTWEAR. HOWEVER, DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS NOTED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 10% IN APRIL 1993 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR IRON AND STEEL; WOOD, LUMBER AND CORK; AND WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW COTTON; AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 84% IN VOLUME IN APRIL 1993 AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1992. AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 32%.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT.

COMPARING APRIL 1993 WITH APRIL 1992, THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 11% AND 4.5% RESPECTIVELY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 3.2%. THOSE OF CONSUMER GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGES.

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

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COMPARING APRIL 1993 WITH APRIL 1992, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS AND CAPITAL GOODS GREW SUBSTANTIALLY BY 56% AND 45% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT OF CONSUMER GOODS; AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES REGISTERED INCREASES OF 28% AND 18% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 17%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS; CAPITAL GOODS AND CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 5.4%, 2.7% AND 0.9% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 2.7% AND 1.2% RESPECTIVELY.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SALE AROUND JULY 10 AT \$8.5 A COPY AT EITHER THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 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 OR ON TEL 842 8802 AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 4918.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING APR 1993 WITH APR 1992			COMPARING JAN-APR 1993 WITH JAN-APR 1992		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
CLOTHING	0.7	2.7	-2.0	-8.3	2.6	-10.7
TEXTILE FABRICS	-13.6	-4.1	-9.9	4.9	-2.1	7.1
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-7.7	-6.7	-1.1	-1.1	-6.1	5.4
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-46.4	0.3	-46.5	-26.7	1.9	-28.1
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-39.7	-8.5	-34.0	-17.0	-9.3	-8.4
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	10.3	-2.7	13.4	22.1	-2.4	24.9
FOOTWEAR	-43.9	4.8	-46.4	-41.9	6.8	-45.7
METAL MANUFACTURES	2.5	-4.6	7.5	3.3	-3.4	6.8
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	11.4	-2.6	14.5	13.1	-3.2	16.8
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-3.8	2.2	-5.7	-9.0	*	-9.1
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-10.7	-3.1	-7.8	-29.4	-2.3	-27.9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-15.5	-3.2	-12.5	-22.0	-3.6	-19.1
ALL COMMODITIES	0.5	0.7	-0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.1

* LESS THAN 0.05%

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1993 WITH APR 1992			COMPARING JAN-APR 1993 WITH JAN-APR 1992		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	-24.1	-0.2	-23.9	-3.4	-0.3	-3.1
CONSUMER GOODS	28.2	0.3	27.9	19.7	-0.5	20.3
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	6.4	-3.2	10.0	10.5	-3.9	15.1
FUELS	102.7	10.5	83.5	46.4	6.0	38.3
CAPITAL GOODS	38.2	4.5	32.3	35.0	2.9	31.2
ALL COMMODITIES	19.2	-0.1	19.4	18.1	-1.1	19.4

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING APR 1993 WITH APR 1992			COMPARING JAN-APR 1993 WITH JAN-APR 1992		
	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	UNIT VALUE	VOLUME
	%	%	%	%	%	%
FOODSTUFFS	-18.4	-1.2	-17.3	-4.2	-1.6	-2.6
CONSUMER GOODS	29.1	0.9	28.0	22.8	*	22.7
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	14.5	-2.7	17.7	17.9	-3.6	22.2
FUELS	64.9	5.4	56.4	48.5	1.4	46.5
CAPITAL GOODS	48.8	2.7	44.8	52.1	1.8	49.3
ALL COMMODITIES	26.8	0.1	26.7	25.3	-0.7	26.2

* LESS THAN 0.05%

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NEW TB CASES SHOW SMALL RISE

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THE NUMBER OF NEWLY NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS CASES IN HONG KONG HAS SHOWN A SLIGHT INCREASE LAST YEAR WITH 6,534 CASES REPORTED, COMPARED WITH 6,283 CASES IN 1991.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION, DR S H LEE, AT THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

DR LEE SAID THE NOTIFICATION RATE WAS 112.4 PER 100,000 POPULATION COMPARED WITH 109.2 IN 1991.

TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY REMAINED MORE OR LESS THE SAME WITH DEATH RATE BEING 7.1 PER 100,000 POPULATION IN THE PAST TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, HE ADDED.

AMONG VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS, 309 WERE FOUND TO HAVE ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AS REQUIRED UNDER THE REPATRIATION OR RESETTLEMENT SCHEME.

IT IS NOTED THAT THE INCIDENCE RATE OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG THEM HAS BEEN HIGHER THAN THE LOCAL POPULATION, DR LEE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE SITUATION OF TUBERCULOSIS HAD BEEN CAUSING WORLDWIDE CONCERN IN RECENT YEARS.

"DURING THE WORLD CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, USA IN NOVEMBER 1992, MANY RENOWNED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WORRIES ON THE CONTROL OF THE DISEASE IN RELATION TO THE PANDEMIC OF HIV INFECTION AND THE PROBLEM OF MULTIDRUG-RESISTANCE.

"ALTHOUGH HONG KONG IS NOT FACING THE SAME PROBLEM AT PRESENT, ALL PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES ON TUBERCULOSIS HAVE TO BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED," HE SAID.

RESEARCH ON TUBERCULOSIS HAS BEEN CONTINUED TO DEVELOP MODERN CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS WHICH WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE, LESS TOXIC AND EASIER TO ADMINISTER.

"OTHER RESEARCH ON SURVEILLANCE, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND RAPID DIAGNOSTIC METHODS WILL NEED TO BE LOOKED INTO IN THE YEARS TO COME," HE SAID.

TURNING TO LUNG CANCER, DR LEE SAID THE REPORTED LUNG CANCER DEATHS WERE 2,761 LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 2,597 IN 1991.

"AN UNSTEADY TREND OF LUNG CANCER DEATHS IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE ANTI-CIGARETTE SMOKING EDUCATION CAMPAIGN HAS WON TOTAL PUBLIC CONSCIENCE AND BECOME CONSISTENTLY SUCCESSFUL," HE SAID.

ON PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES, DR LEE SAID 188 CASES OF SILICOSIS AND TWO CASES OF ASBESTOSIS WERE REPORTED, ASSESSED AND COMPENSATED LAST YEAR.

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"WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL YESTERDAY, IT WILL PROVIDE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND CONTINUING COMPENSATION TO THE PATIENTS FOR INCAPACITY AS A RESULT OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS," HE SAID.

TO DATE, A TOTAL OF 3,904 PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES HAVE BEEN COMPENSATED.

ON HEART DISEASES, DR LEE SAID THE DISEASES CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 5,359 PERSONS LAST YEAR, WHICH WERE HIGHER AS COMPARED TO THOSE IN 1991.

A TOTAL OF 764 CARDIAC OPERATIONS WERE PERFORMED IN THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL WITH A HIGH SUCCESS RATE.

"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO HAVE THE FIRST HONG KONG HEART TRANSPLANT OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED AT THE GRANTHAM HOSPITAL LAST DECEMBER," HE ADDED.

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ONE CANDIDATE ENTERS LEGCO BY-ELECTION
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ANOTHER CANDIDATE HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN RESPECT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE IS 35-YEAR-OLD MR CHOW YICK-HAY, A UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBER. HIS CONTACT TELEPHONE IS 785 7979.

THIS BRINGS TO TWO THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE TWO-WEEK NOMINATION PERIOD BEGAN ON JUNE 25.

THE BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON JULY 28 TO FILL THE SEAT OF MR GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO.

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NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS NOW INVITING EMPLOYERS TO NOMINATE THEIR DISABLED EMPLOYEES FOR THE OUTSTANDING DISABLED EMPLOYEES AWARD (ODEA) 1993.

NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, THE AWARD SERVES AS A RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION DISABLED WORKERS MADE TO SOCIETY THROUGH THEIR JOB.

THE ODEA ALSO AIMS TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE WORKING ABILITIES OF DISABLED PERSONS AND TO PROMOTE THEIR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (SELECTIVE PLACEMENT) MRS JENNIE CHOR SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT SERVICE HAD ACHIEVED A RECORD PLACEMENT OF 1,366 FOR THE YEAR 1992.

"TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM, WE HOPE THIS MEANINGFUL EVENT CAN ENCOURAGE MORE EMPLOYERS IN RECOGNISING THE WORKING ABILITIES AND POTENTIALS OF THE DISABLED," SHE ADDED.

"NOMINEES WILL BE SELECTED ON A NUMBER OF CRITERIA INCLUDING OVERALL PERFORMANCE, EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES, DILIGENCE, DEVOTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT IN EMPLOYMENT," SHE SAID.

ALL SHORTLISTED NOMINEES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW WITH A PANEL OF JUDGES. RESULTS OF THE ODEA WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

SUCCESSFUL NOMINEES WILL EACH BE AWARDED A SOUVENIR PLAQUE AND THEIR NOMINATORS WILL ALSO RECEIVE A SOUVENIR. THEY WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY ON OCTOBER 21, MRS CHOR ADDED.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 15 AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 852 4809.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,580
REVERSAL OF LAF	+220
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,035
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,765
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.5 *+0.0* 8.7.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.52 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.51	3.94
1 MONTH	3.11 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.78	4.07
3 MONTHS	3.28 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.89	4.21
6 MONTHS	3.50 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.92	4.41
12 MONTHS	3.85 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 19,626 MN

CLOSED 8 JULY 1993

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