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# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES  
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1994

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GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION  
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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO INTRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE PIECE OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN EARLY 1995, WILL GIVE PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY THE LEGAL WEAPONS TO FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND FOR ACCESS TO AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE," MRS WONG SAID.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNISED THAT PUBLIC EDUCATION WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN CHANGING PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF THOSE WITH A DISABILITY AND CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDES ON HOW TO TREAT THEM.

"THAT IS WHY WE ARE SPENDING \$32 MILLION BETWEEN 1993 AND 1997 ON STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION ON INTEGRATION.

"AND, AS IT HAS ELSEWHERE, THE LEGISLATION WILL ITSELF PERFORM A CAUTIONARY AND EDUCATIONAL FUNCTION.

"IT WILL ENSHRINE IN THE LAW THE STANDARDS TO WHICH WE BELIEVE HONG KONG, AS A CIVILISED COMMUNITY, SHOULD ADHERE," SHE SAID.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION WILL CONTAIN PROVISIONS TO COVER DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUND OF DISABILITY IN, FOR EXAMPLE:

- \* WORK (BY EMPLOYERS, PROFESSIONAL AND TRADE ORGANISATIONS, AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES);
- \* MEMBERSHIP OF PARTNERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS, QUALIFYING BODIES AND CLUBS;
- \* EDUCATION (BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN TERMS OF ADMISSION AND TREATMENT OF STUDENTS);
- \* ACCESS TO AND USE OF BUILDINGS, PLACES, VEHICLES AND SERVICES;
- \* ACCOMMODATION (BY LANDLORDS OR AGENTS IN DEALING WITH A PERSON'S APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL PREMISES); AND
- \* RECREATION AND SPORT.

"IN ADDITION, PROVISIONS ON DISCRIMINATION INVOLVING HARASSMENT OR VILIFICATION ON THE GROUND OF DISABILITY, WHICH ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE, WILL BE INCLUDED," SHE ADDED.

ON THE DEFINITION OF DISABILITY, MRS WONG SAID IT WAS PROPOSED TO DEFINE "DISABILITY" TO INCLUDE ANY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT THAT LIMITED A PERSON'S LIFE ACTIVITIES.

"PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS WILL ALSO BE COVERED BY THE LEGISLATION," SHE SAID.

TO ENFORCE THE LEGISLATION, MRS WONG POINTED OUT THAT THE PURVIEW OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION, TO BE SET UP UNDER THE SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION, WOULD BE EXPANDED.

SHE ENVISAGED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD SETTLE MOST DISPUTES ON, FOR EXAMPLE, DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORK PLACE, THROUGH CONCILIATION.

"ONLY WHERE THIS FAILED WOULD THE COMMISSION HELP COMPLAINANTS TO TAKE THEIR CASES TO THE LABOUR TRIBUNAL.

"IN CASES INVOLVING DISCRIMINATION IN OTHER AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE MEMBERSHIP OF CLUBS OR EDUCATION, AND WHERE CONCILIATION FAILED, THEIR CASES COULD BE TAKEN TO COURT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT AS NECESSARY.

"THE COMMISSION COULD ALSO HELP STEER A TEST CASE OR A CLASS ACTION THROUGH THE COURTS," SHE SAID.

IN KEEPING WITH THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH IN HONG KONG, THE LEGISLATION WILL NOT IMPOSE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS ON EMPLOYERS, DEVELOPERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SO ON TO PROVIDE MORE JOBS OR BETTER FACILITIES TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY.

"RATHER, IT WILL MAKE IT UNLAWFUL FOR THEM TO TREAT SUCH PERSONS LESS FAVOURABLY THAN OTHERS ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR DISABILITY, IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ARE THE SAME OR NOT MATERIALLY DIFFERENT.

"THE LEGISLATION WILL THUS PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF SUCH PERSONS NOT TO BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, RATHER THAN REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF SERVICES TO MEET THEIR NEEDS," MRS WONG EXPLAINED.

THE LEGISLATION WILL PROVIDE FOR TWO GENERAL EXEMPTIONS, UNJUSTIFIABLE HARDSHIP AND THE INHERENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB.

"EMPLOYERS AND OTHERS, SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, LANDLORDS, TRANSPORT OPERATORS ETC. WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEAT A CLAIM OF DISCRIMINATION BY SHOWING THAT ACTION NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY WOULD IMPOSE 'UNJUSTIFIABLE HARDSHIP'," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE UNJUSTIFIABLE HARDSHIP WOULD ONLY ARISE IN RESPONSE TO A COMPLAINT TO THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION.

"IN DETERMINING UNJUSTIFIABLE HARDSHIP, ALL OF THE RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES OF A PARTICULAR CASE WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EMPLOYER OR BUSINESS CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND COSTS OF PROVIDING THE APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION OR SERVICES.

"MOREOVER, THE LEGISLATION WOULD NOT REQUIRE THAT PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY BE GIVEN JOBS WHICH THEY COULD NOT DO.

"CONSEQUENTLY, THERE WOULD BE AN EXEMPTION WHICH DOES NOT PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION IF THE PERSON IS NOT ABLE TO PERFORM THE INHERENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARTICULAR JOB," MRS WONG SAID.

ALSO, IT WOULD NOT BE UNLAWFUL UNDER THE LEGISLATION FOR SPECIAL MEASURES OR SERVICES, SUCH AS SPECIAL SCHOOLS OR SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, TO BE PROVIDED FOR PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE LEGISLATION WILL NOT REQUIRE ABSOLUTE EQUALITY IN ALL AREAS WHATEVER THE COST, NOR PROHIBIT SPECIAL TREATMENT OR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WHICH MIGHT APPEAR DISCRIMINATORY, BUT WHICH IS, IN FACT, IN THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY," MRS WONG SAID.

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SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY ON OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL CASH CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROPOSED OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME WILL ACCOUNT FOR ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE SCHEME, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCH MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOWLOON GOLDEN MILE, MR TSANG SAID: "AS THE SINGLE LARGEST EMPLOYER IN THE TERRITORY, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTRIBUTE ALMOST \$1.2 BILLION IN 1994 PRICES IN RESPECT OF CIVIL SERVANTS AND SUBVENTED SECTOR EMPLOYEES.

"IN ADDITION, WE WILL PLOUGH BACK ALL SAVINGS ON THE STANDARD PAYMENTS TO THE ELDERLY UNDER OUR SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, WHICH WILL BE SUBSUMED UNDER THE PENSION. THIS WILL AMOUNT TO SOME \$3.6 BILLION, AGAIN AT 1994 PRICES."

ON TOP OF THESE, MR TSANG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL UP-FRONT CAPITAL INJECTION OF \$10 BILLION INTO THE SCHEME.

"THIS WILL ENABLE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF PENSION TO THOSE ELIGIBLE, WHILE CONTRIBUTORS' FUNDS ARE BUILDING UP.

"IN ADDITION, IT WILL PROVIDE A CUSHION AGAINST ADVERSE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES SO THAT, EVEN IF WE WERE TO EXPERIENCE SOME LEAN YEARS, THE RISK OF HAVING TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION RATES WOULD BE MINIMAL," HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, EMPLOYERS' CONTRIBUTIONS WERE TO BE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE, COSTING SOME \$770 MILLION IN THE SCHEME'S FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION.

"ALL TOLD, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEAR SOME 35 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE SCHEME," HE SAID.

IN REPLY TO COMMENTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE MORE, MR TSANG STRESSED THAT GOVERNMENT MONEY WAS TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

/"EVEN GREATER .....

"EVEN GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD INEVITABLY MEAN INCREASES IN TAXES, OR REDUCED RESOURCES FOR OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC. NONE OF US WANTS THAT," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE PROPOSED PENSION SCHEME WAS "IMAGINATIVE AND BOLD", MR TSANG SAID RECENT INDEPENDENT POLLS CONDUCTED ON THE SCHEME SEEMED TO SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT, DESPITE SOME CRITICAL COMMENTS BY A FEW ACADEMICS AND LEGISLATORS, THERE WAS SOLID COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL.

MR TSANG ALSO DISPELLED SOME OF THE FEARS THAT CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY HAD ABOUT THE PROPOSED SCHEME.

"HONG KONG IS AS UNLIKELY TO BECOME A WELFARE STATE AS WE ARE TO WIN THE NEXT WORLD CUP.

"WE INTEND THERE TO ALWAYS BE A CLEAR AND UNBREAKABLE LINK BETWEEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS.

"THE SCHEME WILL BE DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS WILL REQUIRE CLEAR AND CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY ENDORSEMENT AND SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL.

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNMENT RAISING THE RATES OF BENEFITS AND CONTRIBUTIONS UNILATERALLY," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE NOTION THAT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME REPRESENTED A NEW TAX "BETRAYS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF HOW OUR TAX SYSTEM WORKS".

"IN BRIEF, ALL OUR TAX REVENUE GOES INTO THE BIG POT WHICH WE CALL THE GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT.

"FROM THIS POT WE TAKE WHAT WE NEED TO FUND ON-GOING PUBLIC SERVICES. THOSE DEPARTMENTS WHICH COLLECT TAX AND OTHER MONIES DO NOT GET TO KEEP AND USE THEM FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE PENSION SCHEME WILL BE TOTALLY SELF-CONTAINED FINANCIALLY. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL GO TO FUNDING PENSION BENEFITS AND NOTHING ELSE. THEY WILL NEVER GO NEAR THE GENERAL REVENUE," HE ADDED.

ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD GO BROKE, MR TSANG ANSWERED WITH AN UNEQUIVOCAL "NO".

"THE TOTAL COST TO THE GOVERNMENT AT 1994 PRICES AMOUNTS TO NO MORE THAN JUST OVER THREE PER CENT OF OUR RECURRENT REVENUE. I DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT PROPORTION INCREASING," HE SAID.

AS FOR POSSIBLE WIDER ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS FOR THE BUSINESS SECTOR, MR TSANG SAID THE FEARS WERE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED.

"OUR BUSINESSES ARE NO LONGER OPERATING AT THE MARGIN. THEY ARE SOLIDLY BASED, WELL FINANCED AND ARE ENJOYING AN EFFECTIVE TAX RATE SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW ANY OTHER TERRITORY IN THE REGION.

"TO SUGGEST THAT A CONTRIBUTION OF 1.5 PER CENT OF PAYROLL WOULD PERSUADE COMPANIES TO RELOCATE OR WOULD RENDER THEM IMPOTENT IN TERMS OF COMPETITION, I FIND FANCIFUL TO SAY THE LEAST," HE SAID.

MR TSANG ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED PENSION SCHEME WAS BETTER THAN A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND.

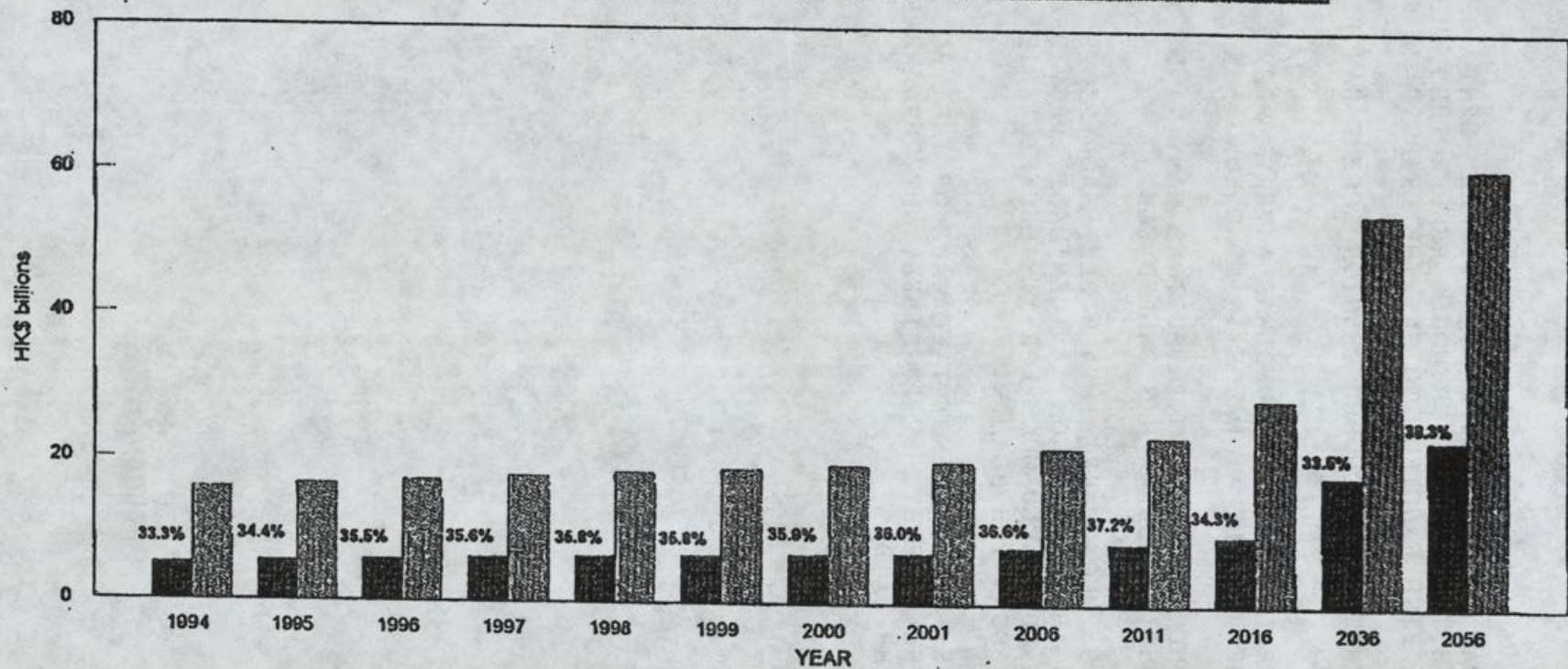
HE SAID A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND WAS A VERY POOR OPTION IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY AT LARGE IN HONG KONG.

"SUCH A FUND WOULD REQUIRE CONTRIBUTIONS MANY TIMES MORE THAN THE PROPOSED OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME HAS CALLED FOR.

"THE HOUSEWIVES WHO MAKE INVALUABLE SACRIFICES FOR OUR COMMUNITY RECEIVE NO BENEFIT FROM A CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND. FURTHERMORE, A CPF WILL NOT YIELD MUCH FOR ITS BENEFICIARIES UNTIL THE FUND MATURES MANY YEARS DOWN THE ROAD.

"IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL NOT TAKE CARE OF THE BULK OF OUR PRESENT GENERATION OF THE ELDERLY. IT IS SIMPLY NOT THE ANSWER TO HONG KONG'S PRESENT NEEDS," HE SAID.

## Government's Cash Contribution Towards OAP Scheme



Government's Cash Contribution
  OAP Cost

**Notes:**

1. Contribution rate at 1.5% each for employer/employee
2. Government contribution includes \$10 billion capital injection, but excludes tax forgone
3. Percentage figures denote government's cash contribution as percentage of OAP cost

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STATEMENT ON OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME

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IN REPLY TO ENQUIRIES ON THE PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED BY THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FUND AN ENHANCED OLD AGE ALLOWANCE INSTEAD OF AN OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR W K LAM, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THE OPTION WAS IMPRACTICABLE.

"IT WOULD INVOLVE SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR THE TAX PAYERS, AND OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE AN INCREASE OF TWO TO THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS IN BOTH SALARIES TAX AND PROFITS TAX.

"IT WOULD ALSO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO FUND SUCH A SUBSTANTIAL LONG-TERM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT THROUGH SURPLUSES," HE ADDED.

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RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SURVEY RESULTS FOR JUNE

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THE GROWTH OF RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN HONG KONG HAS SLOWED DOWN IN JUNE, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE LATEST MONTHLY SURVEY OF THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA).

THE LATEST FIGURES SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF OUTSTANDING MORTGAGE LENDING BY THE 33 INSTITUTIONS IN THE SURVEY GREW BY 1.40 PER CENT IN JUNE FROM \$235.0 BILLION TO \$238.2 BILLION. THIS COMPARES WITH THE 1.75 PER CENT GROWTH IN MAY.

OVER THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, THE AVERAGE MONTHLY GROWTH HAD BEEN 1.5 PER CENT.

REFLECTING THE HIGHER GROWTHS IN APRIL AND MAY, THE ANNUALISED RATE OF GROWTH IN LENDING OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS HAS RISEN TO 21.4 PER CENT FROM 21.1 PER CENT IN THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD TO MAY. HOWEVER, THE 12 MONTH AVERAGE GROWTH HAS SLOWED TO AN ANNUALISED RATE OF 17.0 PER CENT, COMPARED WITH 17.9 PER CENT IN MAY.

NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN HAS FALLEN SHARPLY IN JUNE FROM \$5.0 BILLION TO \$3.6 BILLION.

"WE ARE PLEASED WITH THE JUNE FIGURES," THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (BANKING SUPERVISION) OF THE HKMA, MR ALBERT CHEOK, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IT PROVIDES TANGIBLE PROOF THAT GOVERNMENT MEASURES AND CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS OF BANKS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TAKING THE SPECULATIVE HEAT OFF THE PROPERTY MARKET.

/"HOWEVER, IT .....

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"HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN A LONG SLOG RESTORING STABILITY TO THE PROPERTY MARKET. WE THEREFORE URGE BANKS TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CAUTIOUS LENDING POLICIES TO PROTECT THE HARD EARNED RESULTS," HE SAID.

LENDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTIES IN CHINA, WHICH WAS MAINLY FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES, HAS ALSO SLOWED IN JUNE. TOTAL LENDING GREW 1.7 PER CENT, FROM \$3.9 BILLION TO \$4.0 BILLION, COMPARED WITH THE 2.2 PER CENT GROWTH IN MAY.

GROSS LOANS MADE IN JUNE FELL BOTH IN NUMBER (TO 235 FROM 295) AND IN AMOUNT (TO \$93 MILLION FROM \$142 MILLION). NEW LOANS APPROVED ALSO DROPPED IN AMOUNT (TO \$197 MILLION FROM \$250 MILLION) AND IN NUMBER (TO 335 FROM 567).

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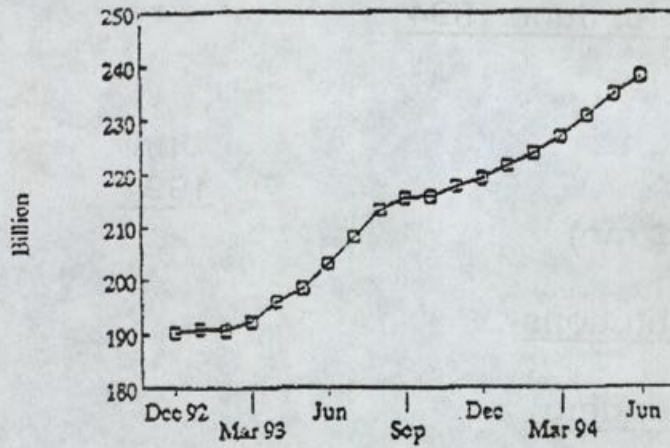
Residential Mortgage Loans in Hong Kong  
Results of Survey for June 1994

	<u>Jun</u> 1994	<u>May</u> 1994
(Amount in HK\$ mn)		
<u>33 authorised institutions</u>		
1. <u>Outstanding lending</u>		
a. Amount	238,248	234,966
b. Monthly change	1.40%	1.75%
c. Twelve-month change	17.0%	18.0%
d. Average change (annualized)		
Latest three months	21.4%	21.1%
Latest twelve months	17.0%	17.9%
2. <u>Gross loans made during month</u>		
a. Amount	7,745	10,007
b. Number	5403	7482
3. <u>New loans approved during month</u>		
a. Amount	6,222	8,935
b. Number	4172	6090
4. <u>New loans approved during month but not yet drawn</u>		
a. Amount	3,633	5,043
b. Number	2531	3404

Chart A

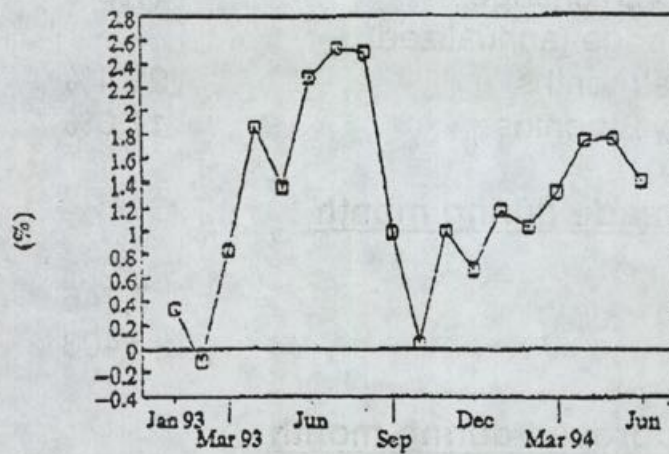
**RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG**  
(33 institutions)

Outstanding balance at end of month



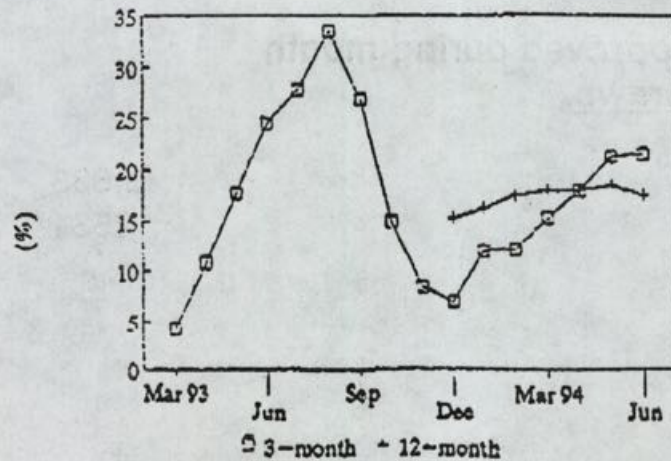
A1

Monthly growth rate



A2

3-month and 12-month moving average growth rate on annualised basis



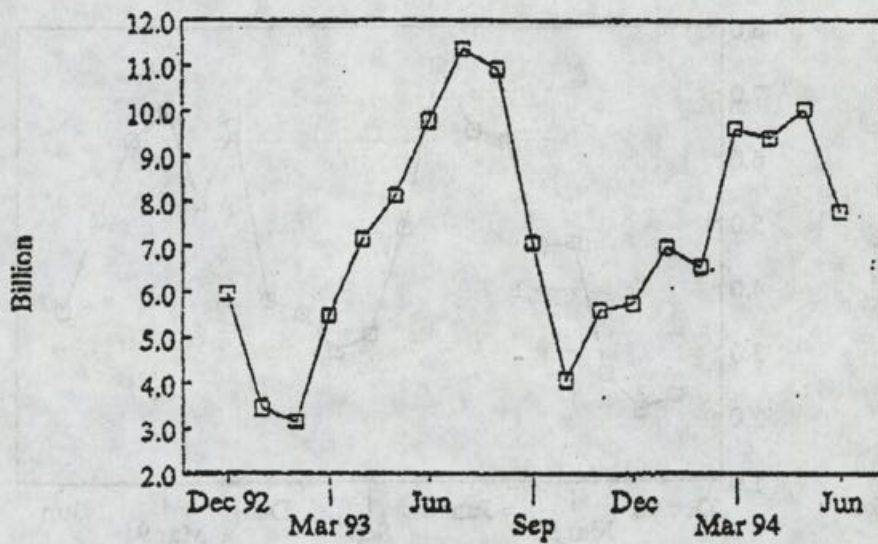
A3

Chart B

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG  
(33 institutions)

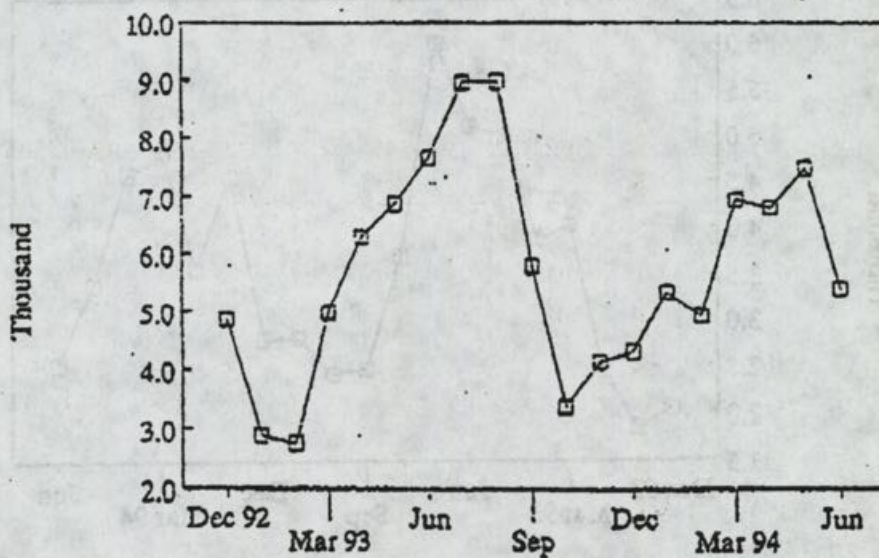
GROSS LOANS MADE DURING THE MONTH

Amount



B1

Number of accounts



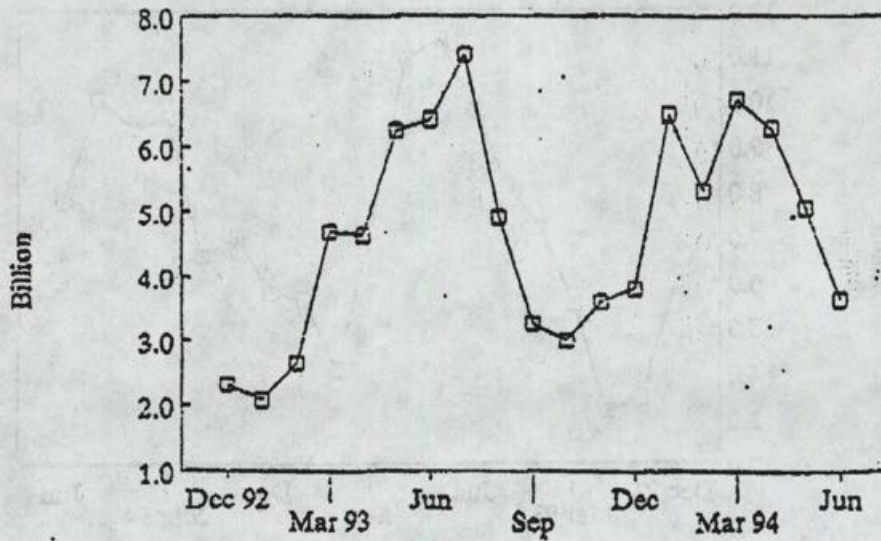
B2

Chart C

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS IN HONG KONG  
(33 institutions)

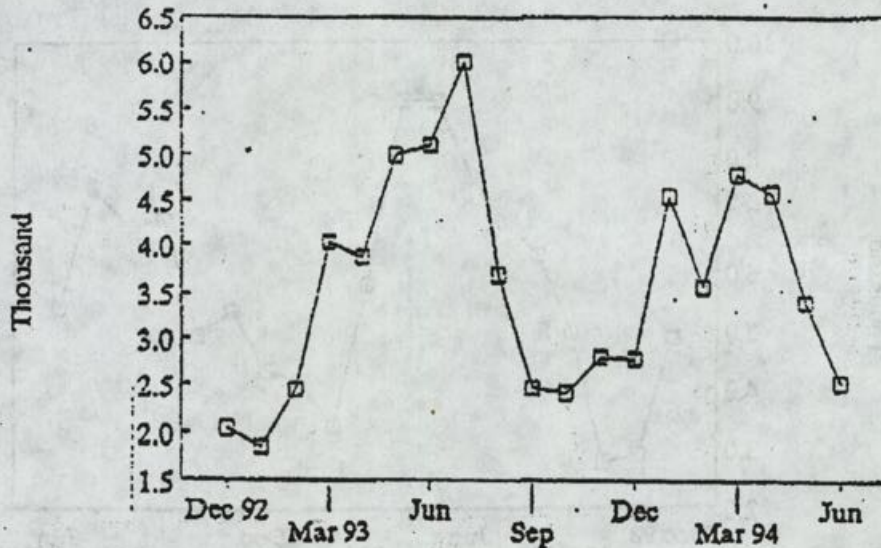
NEW LOANS APPROVED BUT NOT YET DRAWN

Amount



C1

Number of accounts



C2

PERMITS FOR SEA WATER SUPPLIERS TO ENTER COUNTRY PARK

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) HAS INTRODUCED A PERMIT SYSTEM TO FACILITATE SEA WATER SUPPLIERS TO ENTER SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK TO DRAW CLEAN WATER FROM KO TONG HAU, SAI KUNG.

WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, SEA WATER SUPPLIERS CAN APPLY FOR THESE PERMITS FOR THEIR WATER TANK TRUCKS DURING OFFICE HOURS AT THE VISITOR CENTRE OF THE COUNTRY PARK, NEXT TO THE PAK TAM CHUNG BARRIER GATE.

"TRUCKS WITH PERMITS CAN ENTER THE COUNTRY PARK TO DRAW SEA WATER EVEN AFTER OFFICE HOURS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE PERMIT, VALID FOR A WEEK, IS FREE OF CHARGE, HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE NEW MEASURE WAS INTRODUCED FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT'S INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF CHOLERA.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE VISITOR CENTRE ON TEL 792 7365.

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CRANE OPERATORS ARE REMINDED TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATES

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CRANE OPERATORS ARE REMINDED TO ENROL IN APPROVED TRAINING COURSES TO OBTAIN A VALID CERTIFICATE FOR OPERATING CRANES BEFORE LEGAL REQUIREMENT IS BROUGHT INTO EFFECT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

"AFTER CONSIDERING THAT CRANE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ENOUGH TIME TO BE TRAINED AND CERTIFIED, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR INTENDS TO BRING THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEAR) REGULATION INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1, 1995," A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"A FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THE COMMENCEMENT DATE WILL BE GAZETTED IN DUE COURSE."

SECTION 15A OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEAR) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993 PROVIDES THAT THE OWNER OF A CRANE SHALL ENSURE THAT IT IS ONLY OPERATED BY A PERSON WHO HOLDS A VALID CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY (CITA) OR ANY OTHER PERSON SPECIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR.

"THE REGULATION HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATORY MEASURES ON THE USE OF LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEARS IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS AND CONSTRUCTION SITES AS WELL AS THE COMPETENCE OF CRANE OPERATORS.

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"AT THE END OF JUNE, A TOTAL OF 2,640 OPERATORS HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED A VALID CERTIFICATE FOR OPERATING CRANES," HE ADDED.

HE ALSO REMINDED OWNERS OF CRANES THAT ALLOWING OPERATORS TO OPERATE A CRANE WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE WOULD RENDER THEM LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AFTER THIS PARTICULAR SECTION OF THE REGULATION BECAME EFFECTIVE.

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TSING YI LOT TO LET  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN TSING KING ROAD, TSING YI.

THE 4,550-SQUARE-METRE LOT IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR PRIVATE CARS AND LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES, EXCLUDING HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON AUGUST 5.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

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CLOSURE OF MONG KOK ILLEGAL STRUCTURE  
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE AN UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURE IN MONG KOK SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE OCCUPANTS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE SINGLE-STOREY STRUCTURE USED AS A SHOP IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF 541 SHANGHAI STREET.

A NOTICE APPLYING FOR A CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE DISTRICT COURT UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OF JULY 28 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,170	0930	-750
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,429	1000	-793
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-741
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-741	1200	-741
LAF TODAY	NIL	1500	-741
		1600	-741
LAF RATE 2.50 BID/4.50 OFFER	TWI 122.8	*+0.3*	20.7.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.14	16 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.33	5.53
1 MONTH	4.08	22 MONTHS	2605	6.35	100.77	5.98
3 MONTHS	4.28	27 MONTHS	3610	4.20	95.76	6.33
6 MONTHS	4.60	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.87	6.51
12 MONTHS	5.25	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	99.03	6.64
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,612 MN						
CLOSED 20 JULY 1994						

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