



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

Monday, May 22, 1995

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Transcript of Governor's media session	1
1995/96 land sales programme announced	4
Airport Authority Bill gazetted	6
Consumer Price Indices for April 1995	8
Monitors' report submitted to CS	14
Contract awarded for the new airport	14
Services to traders will be further improved	15
Property owners fined for tax evasion	16
150,000 letters sent to electors to update data	17
ED to help redundant teachers obtain employment	18
Open forum for arts groups	19
Reminder to ratepayers	20
Water storage figure	21
Fresh water cut in Mong Kok	21
Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations	21

Transcript of Governor's media session

* * * * *

Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Monday) after meeting with members of the disciplined services who had participated in the Whitehead operation over the weekend:

Governor: I wanted to come down to the CSD Headquarters this morning to tell representatives of our Correctional Services Department, of our Police and of our Fire Services, representatives of those men and women who took part in the operation over the weekend, how grateful I am and the Chief Secretary is and the whole community is for the exemplary way in which they carried out their responsibilities at the weekend, carried them out with great courage and considerable restraint in the face of the most violent provocation.

We often speak about the high quality of our disciplined services in Hong Kong. We saw just how right we are to celebrate their competence and courage in the operations at the weekend. I was kept in touch throughout the weekend about what was happening and I never had any doubt at all that the right thing to do was to support the operational decisions that were taken by our commanders on the spot. I have and had complete faith in their judgment about the best way to carry through the operation. It is extremely difficult for our disciplined services and to carry through an operation like this. But we are absolutely determined to implement our policy of securing the return of Vietnamese migrants to Vietnam. Seventy thousand have left Hong Kong so far. There are still just over 20,000 in our camps. We are determined within the terms of the Comprehensive Programme of Action to see them go back to Vietnam. There is no reason at all why they shouldn't do so. And we will do everything required to make a success of our policy.

There are no no-go areas in Hong Kong and that includes the Vietnamese migrant camps. I'm very pleased that we can continue to count on our disciplined services to make sure that this policy is carried through to the maximum effect.

Question: Governor Patten, what is your response to the Refugee Concern Hong Kong? They urged you to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the gas bomb fired to Vietnamese children.

Governor: We certainly won't be doing any such thing. The whole community knows perfectly well what happened over the weekend. The community knows that our disciplined services reacted with considerable restraint in dealing with a violent and dangerous situation. One of the reasons why teargas was used was in order to secure the perimeter fence of the camp without having to use more men and women to do so. Those who were responsible for the dangerous situation which arose from time to time are those who were present in the camps, the Vietnamese migrants themselves. Our men and women were carrying out their duty in an exemplary fashion. As you know, there were monitors recording what was happening and their report will be published in full this afternoon.

Question: And how many teargas have been used during this two-day operation?

Governor: We will be announcing that figure as well explicitly this afternoon.

Question: But someone said that during these two days' operation the security official seems lost control and why it caused that? Is it because of they're not well planned or not well-equipped?

Governor: In April, we carried through an absolutely similar exercise without any violence and very calmly. The disciplined services employed exactly the same preparatory techniques. On this occasion, that was the same information provided, the same counselling. But unfortunately we had this appalling violence at the weekend. There was no question of our disciplined services not being able to deal with the matter competently and firmly and that's what they did though I am very sorry in deed that so many of our disciplined services were injured in the process. Over two hundred sustained injuries of one sort or another and I've of course seen some the injured men and women this morning.

Question: The Refugee Concern said that this operation aroused the bitter feeling among the boat people and will increase the resentment towards the repatriation. So, what do you think?

Governor: I think that it would be more helpful if advocacy groups would encourage Vietnamese migrants to go home peacefully. I think that's the best possible way in which advocacy groups could help the Vietnamese migrants because there is no question that they are going to go home.

Question: Do you think so many disciplined officers are injured during this incident reflected that they are not well-equipped or not well-trained?

Governor: I think it reflects the amount of violence that was being used by some of the Vietnamese migrants. I think it also shows how brave our disciplined services are.

Question: What do you think prompted the rioting this time as oppose to in April?

Governor: It is difficult to say given that we behaved in exactly the same way. There have of course been reports of things that have been said, things that have been done in the American Congress and there is of course a great deal of speculation and that is unlikely to have been particularly helpful. But that's only speculation. All that I will say is that our policy and our determination have not changed one inch.

Question: Governor, how would you deal with the next 8,000 Vietnamese migrants in the Whitehead Detention Centre so as to later remove them. Would a similar situation occur later?

Governor: I hope a similar situation doesn't recur. We will continue to behave sensibly, giving proper counselling, when we have to move migrants between camps in this sort of way. But I want to repeat that we remain absolutely determined, operating as we have been within the law and within international agreements to move Vietnamese migrants and to send the Vietnamese migrants home under the Comprehensive Programme of Action. I hope that more will volunteer but where necessary we would also send Vietnamese migrants home under the mandatory programme.

Question: Someone has criticised about the operation timing as not appropriate and simply regarded as a provocation to the Vietnamese migrants?

Governor: I don't think the provocation came from those who were carrying out the operation. I think the provocation came from some of the Vietnamese migrants. We went through exactly the same procedures on this occasion as we had been through in April when there wasn't any problem.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

1995/96 land sales programme announced

* * * * *

The Principal Government Land Agent, Mr James Hughes, announced today (Monday) that following the agreement of the Land Commission to the Land Disposal Programme submitted by the Administration, the Government's Land Sales Programme for 1995/96 would consist of 27 sites extending to 30.96 hectares.

The breakdown of the sites is as follows (with the corresponding figures for 1994/95 in brackets) :

<u>User</u>	<u>Sites</u>	<u>Area (ha.)</u>
i) Commercial/ Residential and Residential (high densities)	14 (20)	9.36 ha. (14.95)
ii) Residential (low densities)	3 (4)	4.35 ha. (4.46)
iii) Industrial	4 (2)	1.87 ha. (2.01)
iv) Private Sector Participation Scheme (PSPS)	4 (1)	13.62 ha. (2.75)
v) Other Uses/Petrol Filling Station	2 (3)	1.76 ha. (1.04)

Mr Hughes said the number of flats that would be produced from the commercial/residential and residential sites would be 7,500, and 13,620 from PSPS sites.

In addition, he emphasised that a further 11,700 flats will be generated from 28.31 hectares to be granted during 1995/96 for Airport Railway related developments, with considerable additional flats also resulting from land exchanges and modifications.

Although the number of flats to be produced from commercial/residential and residential sites is about 2,100 less than the 9,600 flats from the 1994/95 programme, he stressed that this was more than compensated by the very substantial numbers from the Airport Railway and PSPS developments.

Mr Hughes pointed out that, of the 27 sites, only 13 were proposed for disposal by auction with the remainder to be sold by tender.

This reflects the recommendations of the independent review panel set up in 1994 to report on auction arrangements as well as the nature of the sites concerned.

Mr Hughes said the programme included four sites for Letter A/B (or cash) tender amounting to 6.078 ha. and that this could result in the surrender of 1,635,574 sq ft of outstanding agricultural Letter B.

The estimated land revenue to be received in 1995/96 compared to 1994/95 is as follows:

<u>Disposal Type</u>	<u>1994/95 (Actual)\$M</u>	<u>1995/96 (Estimate)\$M</u>
Auctions/Tenders	12,776	14,373
Private Treaty Grants	7,342	13,270
Exchanges/Modifications	<u>11,239</u>	<u>9,161</u>
Total	<u>31,357</u>	<u>36,804</u>

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Airport Authority Bill gazetted

* * * * *

The Airport Authority (AA) Bill is gazetted today (Monday) and will be introduced into the Legislative Council for first reading and commencement of second reading debate on May 24.

A Government spokesman said the Bill was approved by the Governor-in-Council on April 25, but gazettal has been deferred to allow time for the Chinese side to study it.

The Chinese side has now completed its examination. Both the British and the Chinese sides agree that the Bill should be gazetted and introduced into the Legislative Council.

The spokesman said the Bill reflects agreement reached with the Chinese side. It is the same as the Bill circulated to members of the Legislative Council on April 26.

Under the AA Bill, the existing Provisional Airport Authority (PAA) will be renamed as the Airport Authority (AA) and reconstituted, but its contractual and other legal obligations will remain intact.

The Bill sets out the powers and functions of the AA to operate, develop and maintain Hong Kong's new international airport at Chek Lap Kok. It incorporates a wide range of measures to strengthen Government controls over the Authority.

The spokesman said in January last year, the Government had published the Airport Corporation Bill as a White Bill for public consultation.

While the objectives and structure of the AA Bill and the White Bill remain basically the same, a number of important changes have been made.

The changes were made in the light of comments received from members of the Legislative Council, the Airport Consultative Committee and the public during the consultation exercise. The Bill also takes into account the agreements reached with the Chinese side.

"In general, the changes serve to strengthen Government's controls over the AA," said the spokesman.

Measures to strengthen controls include the following:

- * The AA is permitted to undertake only airport-related activities;
- * The prior consent of the Financial Secretary is required before restrictions on charging and disposal of land and buildings in the Land Grant could be changed;
- * The Financial Secretary has the power to direct the AA not to delegate any of its statutory functions without his agreement;
- * The Governor may direct the AA not to borrow any sum above a specified amount without the prior written consent of the Financial Secretary;
- * The quorum for all meetings of the AA's Board shall be at least half of the members of the AA of whom at least two shall be public officers; and
- * Compensation will be payable to the AA only where compliance with a direction given by the Governor-in-Council in the public interest results in the Authority being unable to pay a debt or discharge a legal obligation.

"Significant progress has been made on the new airport at Chek Lap Kok and the middle of the year will see the formation of the airport island substantially complete and ahead of schedule. Construction of the main passenger terminal facilities is also now well under way," the spokesman said.

"We hope that the AA Ordinance will be enacted as soon as possible to help maintain momentum in the development of the new airport," he added.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Consumer Price Indices for April 1995

* * * * *

The Consumer Price Index (A) in April 1995 was 9.6% higher than in April 1994, according to figures released today (Monday) by the Census and Statistics Department. This was marginally faster than the corresponding increase of 9.5% in March this year.

On the other hand, the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (B) and the Hang Seng CPI were 9.9% and 9.8% respectively, marginally slower than the corresponding increases of 10.0% and 9.9% in March.

The Composite CPI, which is compiled based on the combined expenditure pattern of households covered by the three CPIs, showed an increase of 9.8% in April 1995 over the same month in 1994. This was the same as the corresponding increase in March.

Commenting on the CPI figures for April as compared to March, a Government spokesman said consumer price inflation in Hong Kong remained stable in overall terms, although the level of inflation itself was still high.

The slightly slower increases recorded for the CPI(B) and the Hang Seng CPI, in contrast to the slightly faster increase recorded for the CPI(A), was mainly due to a pick-up in the prices of basic foodstuffs along with a less rapid rise in private housing rentals as well as prices of clothing and footwear.

Given the difference in weightings, the boosting effect from food prices affected the CPI(A) more than the CPI(B) and the Hang Seng CPI, while the moderating effect from housing rentals as well as prices of clothing and footwear affected the CPI(A) less than the other two indices.

Comparing April 1995 with April 1994, relatively faster price increases than the overall average increase were recorded for housing (12.5% in the CPI(A) and 13.9% in the CPI(B)); miscellaneous services (11.5% and 10.7%); fuel and light (10.5% and 10.7%); food (excluding meals bought away from home) (10.5% and 10.0%); and clothing and footwear (10.4% and 10.9%).

On the other hand, relatively slower price increases than the overall average increase were recorded for durable goods (4.3% in the CPI(A) and 4.6% in the CPI(B)); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (6.5% and 5.7%); transport (6.8% and 7.3%); meals bought away from home (7.1% and 6.9%); and miscellaneous goods (8.4% and 7.3%).

Comparing April 1995 with March 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) increased by 1.0% and 1.2% respectively. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 1.2%.

Taking the first four months together, the increases in the CPI(A) and CPI(B) averaged at 9.5% and 10.0% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.8%.

For the three months ended April 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 9.3% and 9.9% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.7%.

For the 12 months ended April 1995, the CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 8.8% and 9.3% respectively than in the preceding 12-month period. The corresponding increase for the Composite CPI was 9.3%.

Seasonally adjusted series are also available for the CPIs. The deseasonalised CPI(A), CPI(B) and Composite CPI all increased at an average rate of 0.8% per month during the three months ended April 1995.

Further details are shown in Tables 1-2 and Charts 1-4.

The Consumer Price Index Report

More details are given in the "Consumer Price Index Report" for April 1995, which is available at \$23 per copy from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong; or from the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about the indices, please telephone the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2805 6403.

Details regarding the Hang Seng CPI are contained in the Hang Seng CPI Report issued by the Economic Research Department of Hang Seng Bank Ltd.

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for April 1995
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Component	CPI(A)		CPI(B)		Hang Seng CPI		Composite CPI	
	Index for Apr 95	% change over Apr 94	Index for Apr 95	% change over Apr 94	Index for Apr 95	% change over Apr 94	Index for Apr 95	% change over Apr 94
Food	149.8	+8.7	151.7	+8.1	154.6	+8.8	151.5	+8.5
Meals bought away from home	161.1	+7.1	160.5	+6.9	162.4	+8.3	161.1	+7.3
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	138.6	+10.5	139.5	+10.0	141.3	+9.9	139.4	+10.2
Housing	180.9	+12.5	185.0	+13.9	190.3	+13.0	185.4	+13.2
Fuel and light	134.8	+10.5	134.3	+10.7	132.9	+8.9	134.3	+10.3
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	197.6	+6.5	186.6	+5.7	181.9	+5.7	191.5	+6.1
Clothing and footwear	153.0	+10.4	156.1	+10.9	161.2	+9.3	157.1	+10.2
Durable goods	116.7	+4.3	116.9	+4.6	120.3	+2.7	117.8	+3.9
Miscellaneous goods	141.1	+8.4	136.6	+7.3	134.9	+6.9	137.8	+7.6
Transport	155.9	+6.8	155.2	+7.3	154.4	+7.5	155.2	+7.2
Miscellaneous services	172.0	+11.5	165.5	+10.7	153.6	+8.8	163.9	+10.4
All items	157.6	+9.6	159.2	+9.9	162.3	+9.8	159.4	+9.8

Monthly consumer price indices are compiled on the basis of (a) expenditure patterns of relevant households and (b) prices collected currently in the month. The expenditure patterns underlying the 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on those patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$3,600-\$14,600 at 1994 prices). The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$14,600-\$26,000 at 1994 prices). The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90 (broadly equivalent to \$26,000-\$56,000 at 1994 prices).

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for April 1992 - April 1995
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>	<u>CPI(B)</u>	<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>	<u>Composite CPI</u>
1992 April	124.0	123.4	122.9	123.5
May	124.0	123.8	124.2	124.0
June	125.3	125.1	125.2	125.2
July	125.5	125.4	125.4	125.4
August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
September	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
1993 January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
February	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
March	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9
May	134.5	134.8	136.3	135.1
June	136.0	135.9	137.1	136.3
July	135.8	136.1	136.9	136.2
August	136.3	136.6	137.4	136.7
September	138.4	138.3	139.2	138.6
October	140.0	139.6	140.7	140.0
November	139.4	139.9	142.2	140.3
December	140.4	140.9	143.3	141.3
1994 January	140.0	140.7	143.4	141.1
February	142.7	142.9	144.9	143.3
March	142.5	143.0	145.3	143.4
April	143.8	144.8	147.9	145.2
May	145.0	146.1	150.0	146.7
June	146.2	146.9	151.0	147.7
July	147.3	147.9	150.5	148.3
August	149.6	149.6	151.7	150.1
September	150.3	150.8	153.4	151.3
October	151.1	152.2	155.3	152.6
November	151.4	153.1	157.3	153.5
December	153.0	154.3	158.1	154.8
1995 January	154.1	155.3	158.2	155.6
February	155.4	156.6	159.0	156.7
March	156.1	157.4	159.7	157.5
April	157.6	159.2	162.3	159.4

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(A)

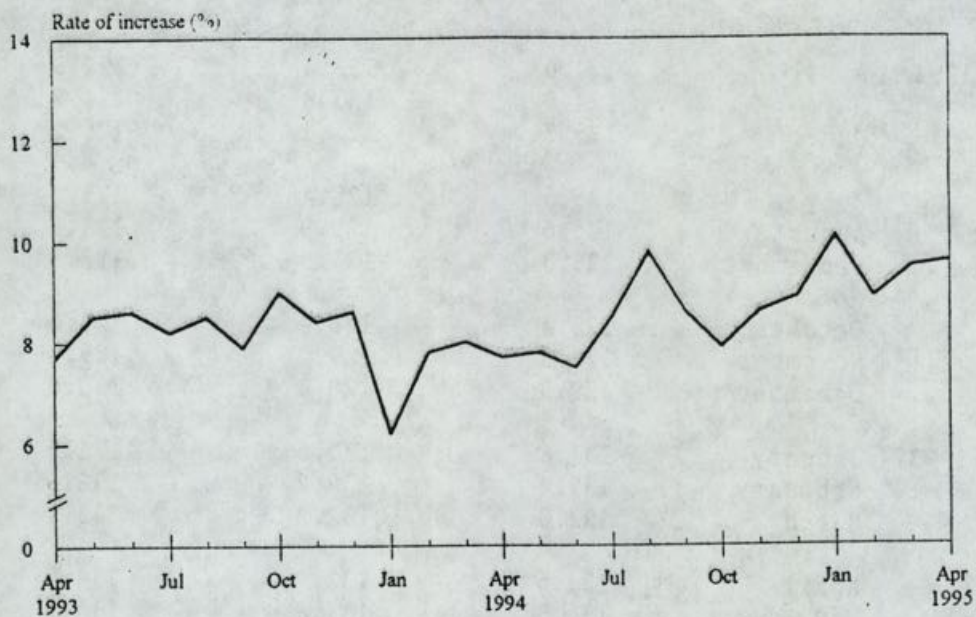


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in CPI(B)

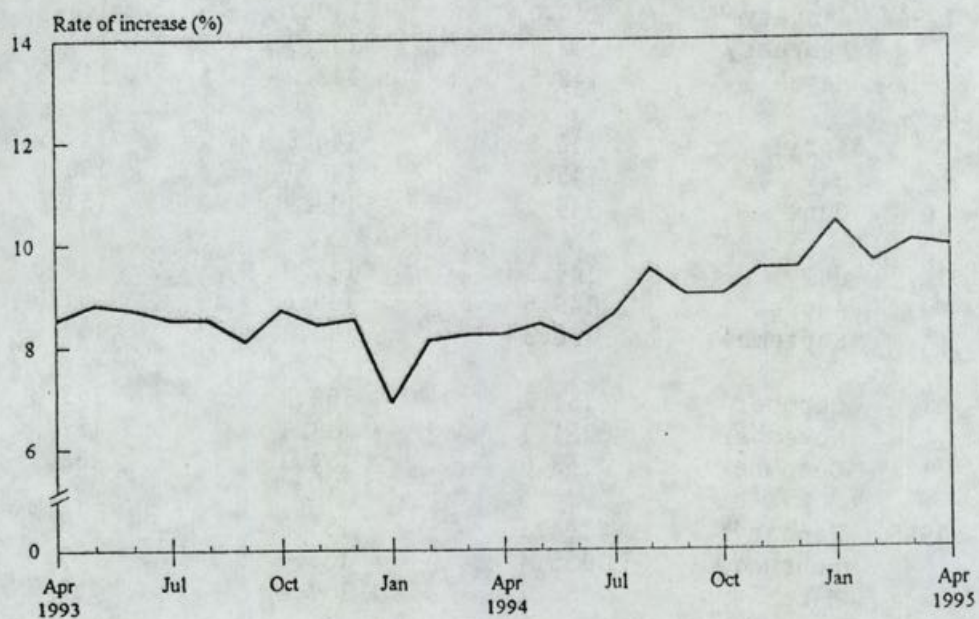


Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Hang Seng CPI

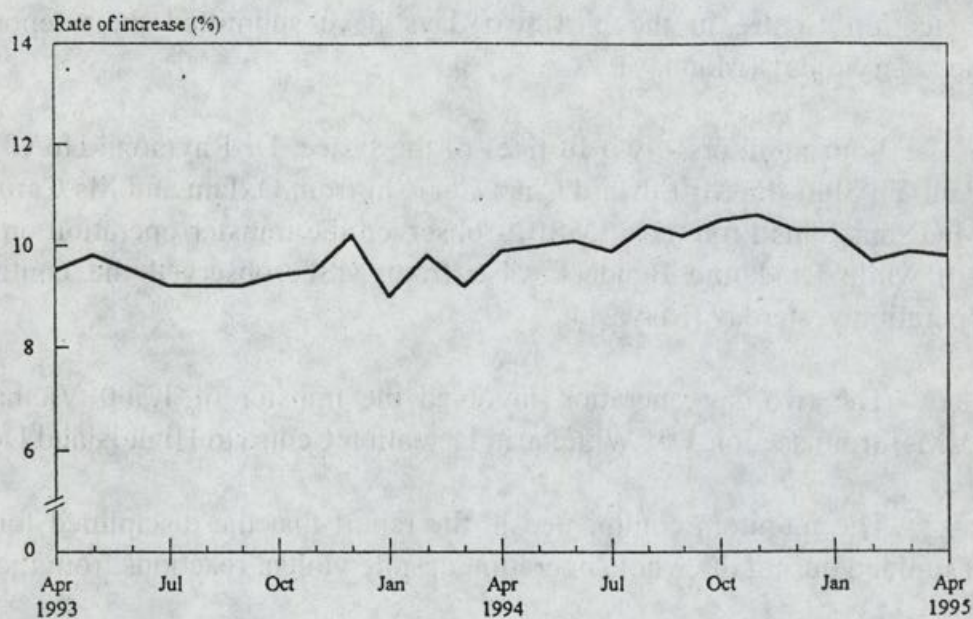
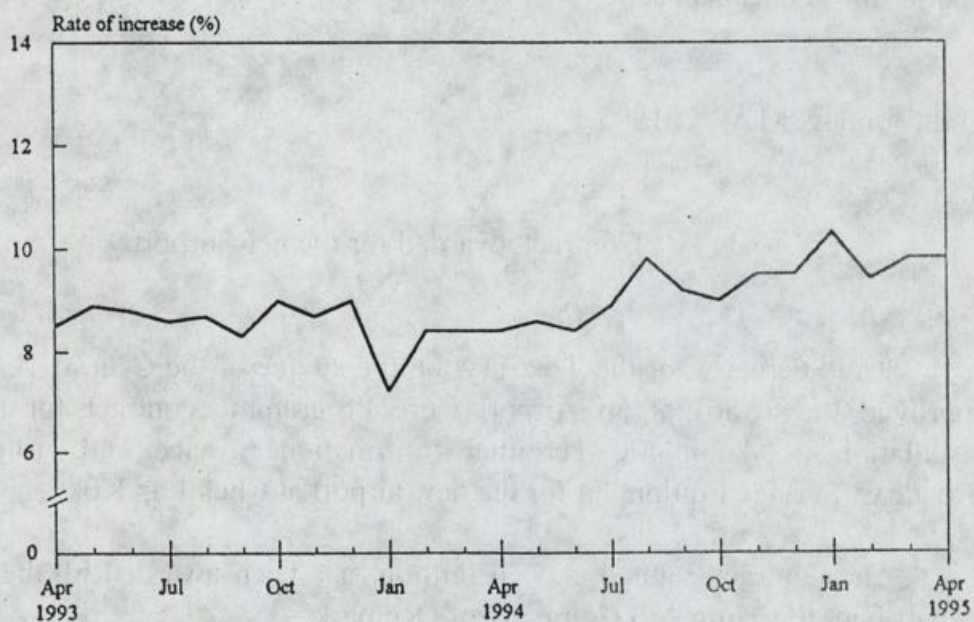


Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase
in Composite CPI



Monitors' report submitted to CS

* * * * *

The monitors appointed to observe the camp transfer operation in Whitehead Detention Centre in the past two days have submitted their report to the Chief Secretary today (Monday).

Four monitors - two Justices of the Peace, Dr Raymond Ho Chung-tai and Mr Paul Yu Shiu-tin, Mr Edward Chan Chai-shi from Oxfam and Ms Caroline Beetz from Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) - observed the transfer operation on Saturday (May 20) while Dr Jaime Bendeck, also from MSF, observed the continuation of that operation yesterday (May 21).

The two-day operation involved the transfer of 1,500 Vietnamese migrants (VMs) from section 1 of Whitehead Detention Centre to High Island Detention Centre.

The monitors commented in the report that the disciplined forces "were very restrained during the whole operation despite violent reactions from the VMs".

A Government spokesman also confirmed today that subject to final inventory checking, a total of 3,250 CS cartridges and grenades were used during the operation in the Whitehead Detention Centre on Saturday.

"It should be borne in mind that the disciplined services faced violent resistance from the 10,000 VMs in all six sections of the camp in an operation which lasted 13 hours," the spokesman said.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Contract awarded for the new airport

* * * * *

The Secretary for the Treasury, on the advice of the Central Tender Board, has approved the award of an Airport Core Programme contract for the supply and installation of Automatic Terminal Information Service and Automatic Volmet Broadcast Service Equipment for the new airport at Chek Lap Kok.

The contract, valued at \$5.6 million, has been awarded by the Civil Aviation Department to Crimp A/S Company of Denmark.

The company will be responsible for the supply, installation and commissioning of the equipment at the new airport to provide pilots and airline operators with up-to-date aerodrome and weather information.

Work will start later this month for completion in May next year.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Services to traders will be further improved

The Director-General of Trade, Mr Tony Miller, today (Monday) expressed confidence that services to traders would be further improved with continued input from its new-term Customer Liaison Group (CLG).

Addressing its inauguration ceremony before the 1995-96 CLG convened its first meeting, Mr Miller said the Government was determined to improve public services and the Efficiency Unit of the Chief Secretary's Office had commissioned a consultancy study to provide professional advice.

"Apart from referencing the consultancy study, it is more important to listen to more views from our clients and to enhance the understanding of each other," he said.

"I believe that the new-term Customer Liaison Group will continue to successfully serve as a valuable bridge between the Department and traders."

Chairman of the Customer Liaison Group, Dr Victor Char Mou-zing, also stressed the importance of a link and noted that the past year had seen services improved with some of the suggestions made by the Group already implemented by the Department.

"I understand that the department will by the end of the year introduce an interactive telephone answering system to further enhance its enquiry service," he said.

Set up in April last year, the Trade Department's Customer Liaison Group comprises 30 members, with representatives from the sectors of import and export, manufacturing, sea and air freight, courier and transportation.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Property owners fined for tax evasion

A father and his two sons were fined a total of \$555,217 today (Monday) for tax evasion.

Chan Kee-poc, and his two sons, Chan Wing-lun and Louis Chan Wing-yue, were prosecuted for failing to inform the Commissioner of Inland Revenue in writing of their chargeability to property tax for the years of assessment 1988-89 and 1989-90, contrary to Section 80(2)(e) of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

Chan Kee-poc and Louis Chan had earlier pleaded guilty to all charges while Chan Wing-lun was found guilty in the Western Magistracy.

Chan Kee-poc (67) also known as Tan Chun-gam, is the owner of the properties at the ground floor to fifth floor, 485 Lockhart Road, Hong Kong. He received rental income from these properties in the years of assessment 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the value assessable to property tax amounted to \$3,415,104.

Chan Wing-lun (40) is the owner of the properties at the sixth to 10th floor and Louis Chan (32) is the owner of the properties at 11th to 15th floor of the same building.

They also received rental income from the properties in the years of assessment 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the value assessable to property tax amounted to \$1,639,264 and \$1,222,416, respectively.

The defendants were chargeable to property tax for the years of assessment 1988-89 and 1989-90 in respect of the rental income. They did not inform the Commissioner in writing of their chargeability to tax until the Inland Revenue Department issued tax returns to them in the years 1991 to 1993.

The court was told that as a result, the father had evaded tax of \$519,308 and the two sons, Chan Wing-lun and Louis Chan had evaded tax of \$249,147 and \$185,980, respectively.

Chan Kee-poc was fined a total of \$277,654. Chan Wing-lun was fined a total of \$154,573 and Louis Chan a total of \$122,990.

An Inland Revenue Department spokesman reminded the public that every person chargeable to tax for any year of assessment must inform the Commissioner in writing that he is so chargeable not later than 4 months after the end of the basis period for that year of assessment unless he had already been required to furnish a tax return.

A person who fails to notify chargeability without reasonable excuse shall be guilty of an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$5,000 for each charge and a further fine of three times the amount of tax undercharged.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

150,000 letters sent to electors to update data

* * * * *

The Registration and Electoral Office (REO) has sent out 150,000 letters to electors suspected to have outdated addresses.

These electors have to confirm their new address before the end of May.

An REO spokesman said if the office did not hear from the electors, their names would be put under the "List of proposed omission of names from the Final Register" in the Provisional Register to be published on June 21 for public inspection.

The public can make claims or objections regarding the particulars and omissions from the Provisional Register before July 5, and for the Revising Officer (a judicial officer) to make a ruling on these appeals.

If no objection or claim is heard, their names will be deleted from the Final Register to be published on August 1.

The spokesman explained that given the population mobility in Hong Kong, it was inevitable some of the information on the current electoral roll had become outdated since its publication last year.

The REO has identified suspected cases of incorrect particulars, through election mail returned undelivered and matching records maintained by the Housing Department, the Registration of Person's Office, the Housing Society and so on.

"We attach great importance to maintaining the accuracy of the electoral roll. However, under our existing system, the accuracy of the electoral roll depends, to a large extent, on the initiative of the electors themselves to report to us on any changes," the spokesman said.

He also reminds electors to make sure that they inform the REO of any changes of particulars before July 5.

He also drew the attention of those who were interested to join the September LegCo elections as candidates should make sure that they had been registered as electors. To qualify as a candidate, a person must be a registered elector of the geographical constituency. Registration forms should reach the REO before June 1.

For enquiries, please call 2891 1001.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

ED to help redundant teachers obtain employment

* * * * *

The Education Department's (ED) Placement Service Unit has swung into action on May 1 in helping redundant teachers in aided primary schools obtain new teaching posts.

An Education Department spokesman said the unit was set up to assist these teachers who would become redundant this September as a result of the reduction of classes in their schools.

The spokesman explained the reduction of classes in some schools was mainly due to people moving from urban areas to new towns and the decline of primary school age population in individual areas.

He invited redundant teachers who would require the department's placement service to register with the Placement Service Unit at Room 704, seventh floor, Kowloon Government Offices, 405 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, during the following periods:

<u>Region of Serving School</u>	<u>Registration</u>	<u>Time of Registration</u>
Hong Kong	May 27 (Saturday)	9.15 am - 11.45 am
Hong Kong and Kowloon	May 29 (Monday)	9 am - 12.45 pm and 2.15 pm - 4.45 pm
NT (West)	May 30 (Tuesday)	"
NT (East)	May 31 (Wednesday)	"

Redundant teachers should bring along the following documents for registration with the Placement Service Unit:

- * ED's letter to redundant teachers on the date of registration;
- * Original and copy of the Redundant Teacher's Registration Form; and
- * Identity Card.

For further enquiries on the placement service, teachers of the Hong Kong and Kowloon regions should call 2782 7640 and teachers of the New Territories on 2782 7639.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Open forum for arts groups

Members from the arts community wishing for more information on the Guidelines for Representative Arts Organisations and for their Nominees for Membership of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC), issued on May 8 this year by the Recreation and Culture Branch, are welcome to attend an open forum to be held tomorrow (Tuesday).

The acting deputy Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Ian Petersen, and the acting Principal Assistant Secretary for Recreation and Culture, Mr Raymond Tam, will be present to answer questions.

The HKADC will operate as a statutory body starting from June 1 this year. Its second term of office will commence with effect from January 1 next year. At that time, it is intended to include up to nine specified organisations representing each of nine specified categories of arts interests, namely: literary arts, music, dance, drama, visual arts, film arts, arts administration, arts education and arts criticism.

The forum will be held at 4 pm in the Conference Room of the Recreation and Culture Branch, 41st floor, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai.

As the venue can only accommodate about 30 people, those interested should contact Mr Saul Ching on 2594 5625 to make reservations. Each organisation may only reserve up to two seats.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Reminder to ratepayers

* * * * *

A spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department today reminded ratepayers that if they wish to make a proposal to alter the rateable value of their property for the financial year commencing April 1, 1995, they must serve a proposal on the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation on or before Wednesday (May 31).

He stressed that under the provisions of the Rating Ordinance, if a proposal is served after May 31, it cannot be accepted as valid. Proposals can be served by post or by hand, but transmission by facsimile is not acceptable.

The spokesman added that the proposal should be made on the specified form (Form R20A) which is obtainable from the department at Hennessy Centre, 17th floor, 500 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, and also from district offices.

For further enquiries ratepayers can telephone the Department on 2805 7666.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Water storage figure

Storage in Hong Kong's reservoirs at 9 am today (Monday) stood at 64.0 per cent of capacity or 375.070 million cubic metres.

This time last year the reservoirs contained 379.596 million cubic metres of water, representing 64.8 per cent of capacity.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Fresh water cut in Mong Kok

Fresh water supply to some premises in Mong Kok will be temporarily suspended from 11 pm on Wednesday (May 24) to 6 am the following day to facilitate water mains leakage detection.

The affected areas will include Tung Chau Street, Maple Street, Lai Chi Kok Road, Tong Mi Road, Sycamore Street and Prince Edward Road West.

End/Monday, May 22, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,275	0930	+1,247
Closing balance in the account	2,207	1000	+1,247
Change attributable to :		1100	+1,257
Money market activity	+1,252	1200	+1,258
LAF today	-320	1500	+1,258
		1600	+1,252

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 119.5 *+0.3* 22.5.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.77	2 years	2705	6.40	100.07	6.46
1 month	5.76	3 years	3804	6.90	100.39	6.86
3 months	5.77	5 years	5003	7.75	102.05	7.37
6 months	5.88	5 years	M501	7.90	100.23	8.00
12 months	6.05					

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$15,775 million

Closed May 22, 1995

End/Monday, May 22, 1995