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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

TRANSCRIPT OF GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION AFTER THE
ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (VOLUNTEERS) FOUNDATION DAY DINNER

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GOVERNOR: GOOD EVENING, I'M EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF MFN RENEWAL. OBVIOUSLY, WE HAVE A BREATHING SPACE FOR A YEAR. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, THERE IS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. I THINK THE ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY IS GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE'LL SEE IN THE FUTURE AN IMPROVED POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. I HOPE THAT WE'LL SEE STRONGER ECONOMIC AND TRADING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES AND SINCE THEY ARE THE TWO BIGGEST TRADING PARTNERS AS THAT HAPPENS, WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE EVEN BETTER NEWS FOR HONG KONG. SO, WHILE TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT ISN'T EVERYTHING I WAS ASKING FOR WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON A FEW WEEKS AGO, NEVERTHELESS I THINK IT'S A GOOD DEAL BETTER THAN MANY PEOPLE FEAR AND DOES GIVE US TWELVE MONTHS IN WHICH I HOPE WE CAN SEE A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNERS, COMMERCIAL PARTNERS IN OUR LIVES.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, MR CLINTON'S STATEMENT WAS TAPID IF NOT TIMID ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DO YOU AGREE YOU TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK AS I SAID WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON THAT IT WAS NOT SENSIBLE TO MIX POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. I THINK ONE SHOULD KEEP POLITICAL ISSUES AND TRADE ISSUES SEPARATE. I KNOW HOW CONCERNED THE UNITED STATES AND MANY POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND AS I EXPLAINED WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON, NOBODY CARES MORE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES THAN PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. BUT WE DON'T THINK THAT THE BEST WAY OF PURSUING THOSE MATTERS IS THROUGH RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE. WE ACTUALLY THINK THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN TRADE, THAT IMPROVEMENTS IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO RAISE PEOPLE'S QUALITY OF LIVING AND IMPROVE PEOPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS STAND THE OPPOSITE. SO I THINK THAT IF WE CAN SEE BOTH ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES AND ON CHINA'S BEHALF AS WELL, A SEPARATION BETWEEN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, THAT'S A GOOD THING NOT ONLY FOR HONG KONG BUT FOR THE REGION AND THE WORLD.

QUESTION: SO THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION, YOU HAVEN'T ANY ANSWER TO IT. DO YOU THINK YOUR TRIP CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DECISION?

GOVERNOR: I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THE ARGUMENTS THAT WE PUT FORWARD WERE LISTENED TO CLOSELY. I THINK THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME TO WASHINGTON WITH ME WILL KNOW THAT WE WERE NOT ONLY GIVEN VERY GOOD ACCESS BUT WE WERE ALSO TAKEN ACCOUNT OF. I THINK, THE ARGUMENTS THAT WE PUT FORWARD DID RECEIVE A VERY GOOD HEARING. I DON'T JUST MEAN IN THE ADMINISTRATION BUT ALSO AMONG CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AS WELL. I THINK THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER IN RECENT DAYS WHO'VE SAID THAT THEY'VE ADJUSTED THEIR POSITION AND ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THEY GAVE WAS THAT THEY LISTENED VERY CLOSELY TO THE ARGUMENTS THAT WE PUT FORWARD. THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON HAS A LOT OF BIG PROBLEMS ON ITS PLATE. IT IS IN EVERYBODY'S INTEREST THAT IT COPE WITH THEM SATISFACTORILY BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES IS THE ECONOMIC WORLD LEADER AND I HOPE THAT THE DECISION IT'S TAKEN ON TRADE WITH CHINA WILL HELP THE U.S. TO COPE WITH ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND THE REST OF US TO COPE WITH OURS AS WELL.

/QUESTION

QUESTION: DO YOU SEE THAT THERE WILL BE A SHADOW CAST ON THE BUSINESS FIELD BECAUSE CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS BEING CONSIDERED.....?

GOVERNOR: I THINK YOU KNOW THAT THE DECISION WHICH I WOULD HAVE LIKED BEST WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL. MANY PEOPLE HAD AGREED THAT THAT WAS UNLIKELY TO BE AN AVAILABLE OPTION BUT I AM PLEASED THAT THERE IS A YEAR AHEAD FOR PEOPLE TO ADJUST POLICIES AND TO IMPROVE THEIR UNDERSTANDINGS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. NOBODY SHOULD UNDER-ESTIMATE THE COMMITMENT WHICH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE TO IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD AND NOBODY SHOULD DOWNPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE MORAL CONSIDERATIONS TO U.S. ADMINISTRATION BUT WE DO HAVE THE CHANCE NOW, I THINK, OF HELPING TO IMPROVE THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHINA. AND IF WE CAN DO THAT SATISFACTORILY, HONG KONG WILL BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST BENEFICIARIES. WE ARE AT THE GATEWAY OF CHINA, WITH THE SWING DOOR BETWEEN CHINA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD AND IT IS NOT MERELY IN OUR INTEREST THAT THE DOOR SHOULD CONTINUE TO SWING OPEN, IT IS IN THE REGION AND THE WORLD'S INTEREST THAT SHOULD HAPPEN.

QUESTION: MAY I ASK SOME OTHER QUESTIONS. THE EXPERT GROUP OF THE JLG AND THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE ARE GOING TO HOLD ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS. DOES IT IMPLY THAT THE TALKS IN BEIJING ARE GETTING PROGRESS?

GOVERNOR: WE ARE MOVING FORWARD IN PEKING. THE ISSUES THAT WE ARE TACKLING ARE VERY DIFFICULT ONES. BUT I THINK WE ARE DEALING WITH THOSE PROBLEMS IN A GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT. BUT I THINK WHAT IS HELPFUL IS THAT THERE'S BEEN A DISTINCTION HERE AS IN THE ISSUES WE'VE JUST BEEN TALKING ABOUT BETWEEN POLITICS AND TRADE. AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON THEIR OWN TERMS. I HOPE IN DUE COURSE WE CAN SOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS WELL. BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS IN PEKING THAT WE'VE MADE SOME PROGRESS ON JLG ISSUES, WELL I HOPE WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS ON JLG ISSUES, IN HONG KONG.

QUESTION: CONCERNING THE RE-OPENING OF TALKS AT THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, HAS THERE BEEN A NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE PROPOSED TO THE CHINESE SIDE.....

GOVERNOR: WE'VE HAD CONTACTS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE AND WE'VE BEEN MAKING PROPOSALS AND I HOPE THAT THOSE WILL BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED WHEN THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETS.

QUESTION: WHAT SORT OF PROPOSALS YOU MEAN? CAN YOU ELABORATE?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THIS EVENING IS THE RIGHT TIME TO GO INTO THOSE IN DETAIL AND THERE WAS A VERY GOOD QUESTION. NOR DO YOU.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT IF THE TALKS IN BEIJING IS NOT GETTING PROGRESS, WOULD YOU IMPOSE A DEADLINE, CONSIDERING IMPOSING A DEADLINE ON THE BILLS TO BE TABLED AT LEGCO?

/GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR: I'VE BEEN RATHER AGAINST IMPOSING DEADLINES BECAUSE I THINK THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT US TO GIVE THE TALKS IN PEKING THE MAXIMUM CHANCE OF SUCCESS. THE DEADLINE IS REALITY. THE DEADLINE IS THAT WE DO HAVE TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE IN TIME FOR THE 1994/1995 ELECTIONS AND THAT WE NEED TO GIVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE TIME TO CONSIDER THOSE PROPERLY. BUT I THINK IT IS RIGHT AT THE MOMENT, AND I SUSPECT THE COMMUNITY THINKS IT'S RIGHT, TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF PATIENCE RATHER THAN IMPATIENCE. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL MANAGE TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN THE TALKS. NO, I DON'T THINK ANYBODY IS UNDER ANY ILLUSION ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT IT'S GOING TO TAKE US TO REACH SATISFACTORY CONCLUSIONS. AT THE END OF THE DAY, THAT'S WHAT ALL OF US WANT TO SEE. BUT THE END OF THE DAY MIGHT NOT BE AS EARLY AS YOU WOULD LIKE AND I WOULD LIKE AND THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE. WE CAN'T HANG ABOUT. WE'VE GOT TO WORK HARD. WE'VE GOT TO GIVE THINGS THE CHANCE TO FLOWER AND BLOOM. IT'S SPRING TURNING SUMMER AND WE KNOW THAT IT TAKES A LITTLE TIME FOR BUDS TO TURN INTO BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.

QUESTION: SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, YOU SAID IT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR THE BILL TO BE TABLED WITHIN THIS SESSION. DOES IT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR STAND?

GOVERNOR: WHAT IT MEANS IS THAT I'M VERY KEEN TO GIVE THESE TALKS ALL THE TIME AND ALL THE CHANCE THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I THINK THAT IF I WAS TO SUGGEST ARBITRARY CUT-OFF DATES THIS EVENING, PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD BE DISSATISFIED WITH THAT. THEY WOULDN'T THINK THAT WAS A VERY SENSIBLE WAY OF BEHAVING. BUT WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE ELECTIONS IN 94 AND 95 AND BECAUSE WE NEED TO GIVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE TIME BEFORE THEN TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AND THE COMMUNITY THE TIME TO CONSIDER THEM PROPERLY. LAST QUESTION.

QUESTION: DOES THAT MEAN, GOVERNOR, THAT REALITY MIGHT NOT MEAN JULY, REALITY MIGHT MEAN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER?

GOVERNOR: REALITY IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MEANS THE AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH IT TAKES TO REACH A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION AND GIVE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE TIME TO PROPERLY DEBATE THAT CONCLUSION WHICH WAS QUITE A GOOD ANSWER TO QUITE A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

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RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS WELCOMED

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, HAS WELCOMED PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DECISION TO RENEW CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) TRADING STATUS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

MR CHAU SAID: "RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS IS GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG. THERE ARE TO BE CONDITIONS ON RENEWAL IN 1994 BUT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WILL GIVE THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA TIME TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN JEOPARDISING RENEWAL. WE HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL."

MR CHAU ADDED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO FREE TRADE AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE AND WILL GO ON ADVOCATING UNCONDITIONAL RENEWAL OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA ARE HONG KONG'S TWO LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS AND A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM WILL BE A VITAL FACTOR IN HONG KONG'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

"HONG KONG CLEARLY HAS VITAL INTERESTS IN FREE TRADE IN GENERAL AND IN GOOD TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IN PARTICULAR," MR CHAU SAID.

"BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS. THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS AN INTEREST IN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WORLD'S FOREMOST INDUSTRIAL NATION AND THE WORLD'S FOREMOST INDUSTRIALISING NATION," HE ADDED.

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EXPERT TALKS ON DEFENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER

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AN ELEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN EXPERTS OF THE BRITISH AND CHINESE SIDES OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S FUTURE DEFENCE AND PUBLIC ORDER WILL BE HELD IN HONG KONG ON JUNE 1 AND 3.

THE BRITISH TEAM WILL BE LED BY BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE MR ALAN PAUL. THE CHINESE TEAM WILL BE LED BY CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE MR LUO JIAHUAN. THEY WILL BE ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM THE TWO SIDES.

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FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT PUBLISHED

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THE HONG KONG ECONOMY CONTINUED TO GROW STEADILY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. THE SHARP INCREASE IN EXPORTS, SPECIFICALLY RE-EXPORTS, UNDERPINNED THIS GROWTH.

LOCALLY, BOTH CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT DEMAND CONTINUED TO SHOW NOTABLE INCREASES, WITH MOST OF THE INCREASES SUPPORTED BY GREATER IMPORTS.

/THE GROSS

THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GREW BY AN ESTIMATED 5.1% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING A SIMILAR INCREASE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THE GDP GROWTH RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 WAS PROBABLY IN THE REGION OF 5-5.5%.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER, THE LABOUR MARKET REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE, WHILE CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION WAS ON A MODERATING TREND.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1993 RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST, MR TANG KWONG-YIU, SAID FOLLOWING AN ONGOING PRACTICE, THE ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR THE YEAR HAD BEEN REVIEWED AND UPDATED IN PARALLEL WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE ECONOMIC REPORT.

ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE TO A FEW COMPONENTS, BUT THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE GDP FOR 1993 IS MAINTAINED AT 5.5%.

THE FORECAST INFLATION RATE FOR 1993, IN TERMS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) AS WELL AS THE GDP DEFLATOR, IS ALSO KEPT UNCHANGED, BOTH AT 9.5%.

IN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW RAPIDLY, BY ABOUT 19% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. WITHIN THIS TOTAL, RE-EXPORTS WERE ABOUT 27% HIGHER IN REAL TERMS.

RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA ROSE SHARPLY, SUPPORTED BY THE SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT IN OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS A FAST INCREASING DEMAND FOR IMPORTS FOR CHINA'S OWN CONSUMPTION.

RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE OTHER MAJOR MARKETS ALSO RECORDED FURTHER MARKED INCREASES.

WITH SUCH A STRONG PERFORMANCE, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS CONTINUED TO RISE, FROM 74% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 TO 78% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

IN CONTRAST, THE PERFORMANCE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED SLACK, BEING AFFECTED BY THE CONTINUED STRUCTURAL SHIFT IN THE EXPORT COMPOSITION TO RE-EXPORTS.

IN THE FIRST QUARTER, DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED VIRTUALLY NO GROWTH IN REAL TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA AND TO MANY MARKETS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION CONTINUED TO RISE SIGNIFICANTLY, THOSE TO THE UNITED STATES, GERMANY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND JAPAN FELL.

TOTAL IMPORTS RECORDED A FURTHER SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OF ABOUT 20% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER. MOST OF THIS GROWTH WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE CONTINUED EXPANSION IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE.

THE SUSTAINED INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS, BY ABOUT 10% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER, ALSO CONTRIBUTED.

AMONG THE VARIOUS END-USE CATEGORIES, RETAINED IMPORTS OF FUELS RECORDED THE FASTEST GROWTH, FOLLOWED BY THOSE OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES, CAPITAL GOODS, FOODSTUFFS, AND CONSUMER GOODS.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$10.1 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS BROADLY COMPARABLE TO THE DEFICIT OF \$9.6 BILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME QUARTER LAST YEAR.

ACCORDING TO THE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF QUARTERLY GDP, PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, AS THE LARGEST COMPONENT OF DOMESTIC DEMAND, RECORDED A CONSIDERABLE GROWTH OF 7% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING A 9% INCREASE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

EXPENDITURE ON DURABLE AND NON-DURABLE GOODS BOTH SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE.

AS REGARDS GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, THE GROWTH RATE ON A NATIONAL ACCOUNTS BASIS WAS 8% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, FOLLOWING A 10% INCREASE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

LOCAL INVESTMENT, MEASURED IN TERMS OF GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION, ROSE BY 11% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 OVER A YEAR EARLIER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 12% IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

OF THE MAIN COMPONENTS, EXPENDITURE ON MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT CONTINUED TO SURGE STONGLY, BY 27% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, HAVING RISEN BY 28% IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

EXPENDITURE ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION ALSO PICKED UP TO SHOW AN INCREASE OF 9% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, FOLLOWING A DECREASE OF 2% IN THE THIRD QUARTER, AS WORK ON A NUMBER OF PUBLIC SECTOR CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS GATHERED MOMENTUM TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

CONSUMER SPENDING SHOULD HAVE REGISTERED A FURTHER NOTABLE INCREASE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, AS EVIDENCED BY THE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN RETAINED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS IN THE QUARTER, BY ABOUT 7% IN REAL TERMS OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

CONCURRENTLY, THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES GREW BY 6% IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

ON INVESTMENT SPENDING, RETAINED IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS STILL SHOWED A NOTABLE INCREASE OF ABOUT 8% IN REAL TERMS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OVER A YEAR EARLIER.

WITHIN THIS CATEGORY, RETAINED IMPORTS OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY FOR MANUFACTURING USE CONTINUED TO GROW SIGNIFICANTLY.

IN THE LABOUR MARKET, CONDITIONS REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE. THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 STOOD AT 2.3%.

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT HIGHER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER, IT WAS 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT LOWER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE, AT 1.6% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, WAS 0.4 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT LOWER THAN IN THE PRECEDING QUARTER AND 0.6 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT LOWER THAN A YEAR EARLIER. REFLECTING THE ONGOING STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE ECONOMY TOWARDS SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES IN THE SERVICE SECTORS CONTINUED TO RISE, WHILE THOSE IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR CONTINUED TO DECLINE.

COMPARING DECEMBER 1992 WITH DECEMBER 1991, AVERAGE EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND IN ALL MAJOR SERVICE SECTORS SHOWED INCREASES BOTH IN MONEY TERMS AND IN REAL TERMS, WITH A PARTICULARLY NOTABLE INCREASE FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

CONSTRUCTION WAGE RATES, HOWEVER, RECORDED LITTLE CHANGE IN REAL TERMS.

THE PROPERTY MARKET SHOWED A VARIED PERFORMANCE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET WAS STILL IN A STATE OF CONSOLIDATION, BEING AFFECTED IN PART BY THE TIGHTER MORTGAGE LENDING POLICY MAINTAINED BY THE BANKS AND IN PART BY A DAMPENED MARKET SENTIMENT.

TRADING IN THE SECONDARY MARKET WAS GENERALLY SUBDUED DESPITE THE RELATIVELY LOW MORTGAGE RATE.

BUT RESPONSE TO PRE-COMPLETION SALES IN THE PRIMARY MARKET WAS MORE FAVOURABLE, MAINLY DUE TO THE LOWER ASKING PRICES AS WELL AS THE HIGHER MORTGAGE LENDING CEILING AND MORE FLEXIBLE PAYMENT TERMS OFFERED BY THE DEVELOPERS CONCERNED.

RENTALS FOR NEW LETTINGS OF FLATS REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE, WITH SOME INCREASES FOR FLATS IN FAVOURED LOCATIONS.

TOWARDS THE END OF THE QUARTER, THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET SHOWED AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY WITH PRICES FIRING UP SLIGHTLY.

ON OFFICE SPACE, RENTALS FIRMED UP IN THE FACE OF SUSTAINED END-USER DEMAND. THE SALES MARKET WAS, HOWEVER, QUIETER IN RECENT MONTHS. THE OVERALL SUPPLY OF OFFICE SPACE WAS STILL ABUNDANT.

ON SHOPPING SPACE, THERE WAS A GREATER DEMAND DUE TO THE CONTINUED INCREASE IN BOTH LOCAL CONSUMER AND TOURIST SPENDINGS.

PRICES AND RENTALS OF SHOPPING SPACE ROSE FURTHER PARTICULARLY IN THE MAIN SHOPPING AREAS.

AS REGARDS INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, THE MARKETS FOR FLATTED FACTORY SPACE AND STORAGE PREMISES WERE GENERALLY QUIET, ALTHOUGH NEW INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS WITH A GOOD DESIGN WERE BETTER RECEIVED.

IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR, THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS WERE OBSERVED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993.

FIRST, THE MARKET EXCHANGE RATE OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR AGAINST THE U.S. DOLLAR REMAINED STABLE DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993, MOVING WITHIN A NARROW RANGE OF 7.730 TO 7.743. THIS REPRESENTED A DEVIATION OF LESS THAN ONE PERCENTAGE POINT FROM THE LINKED RATE OF HK\$7.80 TO US\$1.

SECONDLY, REFLECTING THE MOVEMENTS OF THE U.S. DOLLAR AGAINST OTHER MAJOR CURRENCIES, THE EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE INDEX OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ROSE FROM 114.2 AT END-1992 TO 115.3 IN EARLY FEBRUARY, BEFORE FALLING BACK TO CLOSE THE QUARTER AT 113.4.

LOCAL INTEREST RATES MOVED BROADLY IN LINE WITH THEIR U.S. DOLLAR COUNTERPART. DEPOSIT RATES ADMINISTERED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THIRDLY, THE GROWTH RATES OF BOTH HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND THE BROADER DEFINITIONS OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY PICKED UP DURING THE FIRST QUARTER, AFTER ONLY A MARGINAL GROWTH DURING THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

DOMESTIC LOANS RECORDED A STEADY INCREASE IN LINE WITH OVERALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

WITHIN THIS TOTAL, LOANS TO PURCHASE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY CONTINUED TO SHOW ONLY A MODERATE RISE.

FOURTHLY, IN THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET, THE HANG SENG INDEX RALLIED TO A RECORD HIGH OF 6,508 ON MARCH 9, SPURRED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAVOURABLE CORPORATE RESULTS AND A GREATER OPTIMISM CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUE.

THERE WAS SOME CONSOLIDATION SINCE MID-MARCH, WITH THE HANG SENG INDEX CLOSING THE FIRST QUARTER AT 6,389, GIVING A 16% GAIN FROM THE LEVEL AT THE END OF 1992.

ON CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION, THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) ROSE BY 8.8% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1993 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. THIS REPRESENTED A FURTHER EASING FROM THE 9.4% INCREASE RECORDED IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

MEASURING INFLATION ON A BROADER FRONT, THE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE DOMESTIC DEMAND DEFLATOR ALSO EASED, FROM 7.9% IN THE THIRD QUARTER TO 5.1% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO MORE MODERATE PRICE INCREASES FOR MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT.

THE GDP DEFLATOR HOWEVER RECORDED A FASTER INCREASE, FROM 9.4% IN THE THIRD QUARTER TO 10.3% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992.

THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO DIFFERENT PRICE MOVEMENTS IN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, WHERE IMPORT PRICES ROSE MORE SLOWLY THAN EXPORT PRICES.

AS A RESULT, THE GDP DEFLATOR IN THE FOURTH QUARTER WAS TEMPORARILY LIFTED BY THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE TERMS OF TRADE.

MR TANG SAID THE GDP AND PRICE FORECASTS FOR 1993 WERE REVIEWED BY INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS HAVING REGARD TO THESE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND AN UPDATE OF THE SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR THE ECONOMY.

IN THE EXTERNAL SECTOR, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IS KEPT UNCHANGED AT 1%.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, WHICH ARE MOSTLY RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES, ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN ROBUST.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO MANY OTHER MARKETS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION SHOULD ALSO SHOW A FURTHER CONSIDERABLE INCREASE, IN LINE WITH THEIR SOLID ECONOMIC GROWTH. THESE SHOULD HELP TO OFFSET THE SLACK PERFORMANCE IN THE ESTABLISHED OVERSEAS MARKETS.

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF RE-EXPORTS ALSO REMAINS UNCHANGED AT 25%. THE STRONG RE-EXPORT GROWTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AT ABOUT 27% IN REAL TERMS, ACCORDS WITH THIS FORECAST.

GRANTING A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME FOR THE ISSUE OF RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS IN THE UNITED STATES, RE-EXPORTS INTO AND OUT OF CHINA WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SURGE.

RE-EXPORTS INTO CHINA FOR MEETING ITS OWN DEMAND SHOULD ALSO RISE FURTHER. BUT AS CHINA IS NOW MORE LIKELY TO ADOPT TIGHTER RESTRAINT MEASURES TO CURB OVERHEATING IN THE ECONOMY, THE GROWTH RATE OF THIS STREAM OF RE-EXPORTS COULD BE DAMPENED.

IF THE SLOW-DOWN TURNS OUT TO BE SIGNIFICANT THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF HONG KONG'S OVERALL RE-EXPORTS WOULD HAVE TO BE CORRESPONDINGLY ADJUSTED.

ON TOTAL IMPORTS AND RETAINED IMPORTS, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATES IN REAL TERMS REMAIN BROADLY THE SAME AS IN THE PRECEDING ROUND, AT 18.7% AND 11.5% RESPECTIVELY.

CONSISTENT WITH THE SUSTAINED GROWTH IN OVERALL VISIBLE TRADE AND IN THE TOURIST SECTOR SO FAR THIS YEAR, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATES IN REAL TERMS OF BOTH EXPORTS OF SERVICES AND IMPORTS OF SERVICES ARE KEPT UNCHANGED, AT 9% AND 8% RESPECTIVELY.

IN THE DOMESTIC SECTOR, IN THE LIGHT OF THE STEADY INCREASE IN CONSUMER SPENDING IN RECENT MONTHS, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, AT 7.5%, IS MAINTAINED.

THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE IS LOWERED FROM 5% TO 4%, HAVING REGARD TO THE RECENT OUTTURN.

ON INVESTMENT, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION IS RAISED FROM 7.1% TO 7.6%, MAINLY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ENVISAGED FASTER INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AS WORK ON SOME MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS INTENSIFIES.

OVERALL, THE FORECAST GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF THE GDP IS MAINTAINED AT 5.5%.

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GIVEN THE ONGOING CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY, THE RAPID INCREASES IN SOME OF THE FINAL DEMAND COMPONENTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT BY GREATER IMPORTS, APART FROM THE LOCAL SUPPLY.

ON CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION, IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993 THE CPI(A) ROSE BY AN AVERAGE OF 8.5% OVER A YEAR EARLIER. THIS WAS APPRECIABLY BELOW THE FORECAST INCREASE OF 9.5% FOR 1993 AS A WHOLE.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE MARKED STRENGTHENING OF THE JAPANESE YEN AND THE UPSURGE IN INFLATION IN CHINA IN RECENT MONTHS COULD LEAD TO A FASTER INCREASE IN IMPORT PRICES IN DUE COURSE, WHICH WOULD THEN FEED INTO LOCAL INFLATION.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF MITIGATING FACTORS.

FIRST, WORLD COMMODITY PRICES HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SOFT.

SECOND, THE SIGNIFICANT DEPRECIATION OF THE RENMINBI IN THE SWAP MARKET OVER THE COURSE OF LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR SHOULD HELP TO STABILISE THE PRICES OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA FOR THE TIME BEING.

THIRD, THE SUSTAINED INVESTMENT IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SHOULD HELP TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

FOURTH, THE BUDGETARY MEASURES THIS YEAR IN REGARD TO INDIRECT TAXES SHOULD HAVE VERY LITTLE NET IMPACT ON INFLATION.

TAKING THESE FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, THE FORECAST OF AVERAGE RATE OF INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) FOR 1993 AS A WHOLE IS MAINTAINED AT 9.5%. MEANWHILE, THE FORECAST RATE OF INCREASE IN THE GDP DEFLATOR IS ALSO KEPT UNCHANGED, AT 9.5%.

THE FIRST QUARTER ECONOMIC REPORT 1993 IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AT \$42 A COPY.

/THE UPDATED

THE UPDATED FORECASTS ARE SUMMARISED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

	FORECAST FOR 1993 AS RELEASED ON 3.3.1993	CURRENT UPDATE RELEASED ON 28.5.1993
	----- (%)	----- (%)
GROWTH RATE IN REAL TERMS OF :		

PRIVATE CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	7.5	7.5
GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE	5	4
GROSS DOMESTIC FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION	7.1	7.6
TRANSFER COSTS OF LAND AND BUILDINGS	0	0
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION	1.3	2.8
PRIVATE SECTOR	-2	-2
PUBLIC SECTOR	8	12
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS' MARGIN	-2	-2
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	14.9	15
PRIVATE SECTOR	15	15
PUBLIC SECTOR	10	15
TOTAL EXPORTS OF GOODS	18.5	18.4
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	1	1
RE-EXPORTS	25	25
IMPORTS OF GOODS	18.8	18.7
EXPORTS OF SERVICES	9	9
IMPORTS OF SERVICES	8	8
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)	5.5	5.5
PER CAPITA GDP	4.8	4.8
GROWTH RATE IN MONEY TERMS OF :		

GDP	15.5	15.5
PER CAPITA GDP	14.8	14.8
RATE OF INCREASE IN :		

GDP DEFLATOR	9.5	9.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A)	9.5	9.5

HK HELPS PROMOTE CHINA'S TWO-WAY TRADE

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IT WOULD BE TO HONG KONG'S ADVANTAGE IF IT IS SEEN TO BE PLAYING A PART IN RESTORING TRADE BALANCES BETWEEN CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, SAID.

"THERE IS A GROWING RESENTMENT IN THE WEST AGAINST RAPIDLY RISING IMPORTS OF CHEAP BUT COMPETITIVE CHINA-MADE CONSUMER PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

FOR THE UNITED STATES THIS MEANT AN US\$18 BILLION TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA LAST YEAR, WHILE IN MEXICO IT HAS PRODUCED SUDDEN AND HIGH PRELIMINARY ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES AGAINST A WIDE RANGE OF CHINA-MADE PRODUCTS.

HONG KONG TRADERS HAD GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE BECAUSE OF THE RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA-MADE PRODUCTS TO THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

SPEAKING AT THE HONG KONG SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTANTS' SEMINAR, MR JACKSON SAID: "IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF HONG KONG WERE TO BE SEEN PLAYING A PART IN RESTORING TRADE BALANCES A BIT, BY HELPING OTHERS TO SELL THEIR GOODS TO CHINA."

"THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED A PROGRAMME CONSISTENT WITH THIS THINKING WHICH THEY HAVE NAMED 'OPERATION PACIFIC BRIDGE'."

DESIGNED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE FOR U.S. BUSINESSMEN, THE 'OPERATION PACIFIC BRIDGE' EXPLAINS THE POTENTIAL OF THE CHINA MARKET AND OFFERS TO HELP LINK U.S. BUSINESSES WITH HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN WITH RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE CHINA MARKET.

"THE AIM IS TO MEET THAT NEED FOR INFORMATION IN CHINA ABOUT PRODUCTS AND MATERIAL, ENCOURAGE MORE BALANCED TRADE FLOWS THROUGH HONG KONG WITH CHINA, AND REINFORCE HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A BRIDGE INTO CHINA, AS WELL AS BEING CHINA'S WINDOW ON THE WORLD," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE URUGUAY ROUND OF TALKS, MR JACKSON SAID THERE WERE STILL MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES TO RESOLVE, BUT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME.

HIS OPTIMISM WAS TWO-FOLD. FIRSTLY THE U.S. AND EC HAD BEEN ADDRESSING SERIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM AND SECONDLY, MOST PARTICIPANTS BELIEVED THAT DECEMBER 15 WAS THE LAST DEADLINE.

"THIS SENSE THAT DECEMBER 15 IS THE REAL DEADLINE SHOULD FOCUS MINDS WONDERFULLY," HE ADDED.

ON THE PHASE-OUT OF THE MULTI-FIBRE ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID THERE WERE SIGNS THAT U.S. NEGOTIATORS MIGHT SEEK TO EXTEND THE PHASE-OUT PERIOD.

"THAT WOULD BE A MAJOR SET-BACK FOR THE TALKS GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CURRENT DRAFT TO MANY EXPORTING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG."

"DO NOT TOUCH THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IS OUR MESSAGE.

"A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WOULD BE A MAJOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM," MR JACKSON SAID.

HE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFUTE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY CRITICS IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRIES OF AMERICA AND EUROPE THAT THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES CONNIVED AT THE MISUSE OF QUOTA BY GOODS MADE IN CHINA.

"NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH," HE SAID.

"THE TRADE DEPARTMENT, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND OUR ADVISERS FROM THE TEXTILES AND GARMENT BUSINESS IN HONG KONG ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING REASONABLY POSSIBLE TO STOP MISUSE OF HONG KONG QUOTA," HE SAID.

THE ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM INCLUDES A SOPHISTICATED COMPUTERISED LICENSING SYSTEM, A REQUIREMENT TO TAKE OUT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN CERTIFICATES FOR TEXTILES AND GARMENTS BOUND FOR MARKETS UNDER QUOTA RESTRAINT, SPOT CHECKS OF FACTORIES AND OF CONSIGNMENTS ABOUT TO LEAVE HONG KONG, AND A SCHEME TO REWARD INFORMATION LEADING TO SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF QUOTA FRAUD.

THERE ARE ALSO PLANS TO INTRODUCE BY JULY 1 THIS YEAR A NEW TEXTILES TRADERS REGISTRATION SCHEME TO IMPROVE CONTROLS OVER TEXTILES AND GARMENTS DESTINED FOR MARKETS NOT SUBJECT TO QUOTA.

"WE ARE ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST QUOTA FRAUD," HE SAID.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR APRIL

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RE-EXPORTS IN APRIL CONTINUED TO SURGE, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS REGISTERED A SMALL INCREASE. AT THE SAME TIME, IMPORTS GREW MARKEDLY.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN APRIL 1993 ROSE BY \$14,285 MILLION OR 27% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$67,615 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$97 MILLION OR 0.5% TO \$17,814 MILLION. TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN APRIL 1993 GREW BY \$14,382 MILLION OR 20% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$85,429 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$15,103 MILLION OR 19% TO \$93,654 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$8,224 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 8.8% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN APRIL 1993.

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THIS WAS BROADLY SIMILAR TO THE DEFICIT OF \$7,503 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 9.6% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN APRIL 1992.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$241,813 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$48,871 MILLION OR 25% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$66,524 MILLION, WAS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$308,337 MILLION, WAS \$48,971 MILLION OR 19% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$50,201 MILLION OR 18% TO \$326,708 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$18,371 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.6% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$17,141 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

COMMENTING ON THE APRIL FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT TOTAL EXPORTS CONTINUED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY, DRIVEN BY THE ROBUST GROWTH IN RE-EXPORT.

AS A RESULT, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORT IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORT ROSE TO 78% IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993 TAKEN TOGETHER AND COMPARED WITH 74% A YEAR EARLIER.

AT THE SAME TIME, REFLECTING A SUSTAINED GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND, RETAINED IMPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW STEADILY. IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS WAS 8.0% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN APRIL 1993, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-JUNE.

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/PRIVISIONAL FIGURES

PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR APRIL 1993

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports	:	\$17,814 million
Re-exports	:	\$67,615 million
Total Exports	:	\$85,429 million
Imports	:	\$93,654 million
Trade balance	:	-\$8,224 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Feb 93 to	Feb 92 to	Change	
	Apr 93 HK\$ Mn.	Apr 92 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	51,964 (21.2%)	52,259 (25.3%)	-295	-0.6
Re-exports	192,648	153,933	+38,715	+25.2
Total Exports	244,612	206,192	+38,420	+18.6
Imports	263,357	220,598	+42,759	+19.4
Trade balance	-18,745	-14,406	-4,339	

Same month last year	April	April	Change	
	1993 HK\$ Mn.	1992 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	17,814 (20.9%)	17,718 (24.9%)	+97	+0.5
Re-exports	67,615	53,330	+14,285	+26.8
Total Exports	85,429	71,048	+14,382	+20.2
Imports	93,654	78,551	+15,103	+19.2
Trade balance	-8,224	-7,503	-721	

Last month	April	March	Change	
	1993 HK\$ Mn.	1993 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	17,814 (20.9%)	17,343 (21.5%)	+471	+2.7
Re-exports	67,615	63,469	+4,146	+6.5
Total Exports	85,429	80,812	+4,617	+5.7
Imports	93,654	86,855	+6,798	+7.8
Trade balance	-8,224	-6,043	-2,181	

Calendar year to-date	Jan-Apr	Jan-Apr	Change	
	1993 HK\$ Mn.	1992 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	66,524 (21.6%)	66,424 (25.6%)	+100	+0.2
Re-exports	241,813	192,942	+48,871	+25.3
Total Exports	308,337	259,366	+48,971	+18.9
Imports	326,708	276,507	+50,201	+18.2
Trade balance	-18,371	-17,141	-1,230	

Last 12 months	May 92 to	May 91 to	Change	
	Apr 93 HK\$ Mn.	Apr 92 HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.	%
Domestic Exports (% of Total Exports)	234,223 (24.0%)	230,787 (28.4%)	+3,436	+1.5
Re-exports	739,701	581,909	+157,791	+27.1
Total Exports	973,924	812,696	+161,228	+19.8
Imports	1,005,496	826,997	+178,499	+21.6
Trade balance	-31,572	-14,301	-17,271	

28 May 1993
CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

SURVEY ON BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS FOR 1992

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE SURVEY OF BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE SECTORS FOR 1992 HAD STARTED.

THE ANNUAL SURVEY IS PART OF A CONTINUOUS PROGRAMME TO COMPILE STATISTICS ON THE STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

THE SURVEY AIMS TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL DATA FOR EVALUATING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES TO HONG KONG'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT AND FOR ASCERTAINING THEIR COST STRUCTURE, OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS AND OUTPUT LEVELS.

THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FORMULATING POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS.

THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS, MR FREDERICK HO, APPEALED TO THE MANAGERMENTS OF ALL SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS TO FULFIL THEIR LEGAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES BY RETURNING PROMPTLY THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRES AND CO-OPERATING WITH OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

HE STRESSED THAT INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE UNDER THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDINANCE.

ONLY AGGREGATE INFORMATION THAT DOES NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS WILL BE RELEASED, HE SAID.

MR HO ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AUDITED ACCOUNTS WERE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR THE SUPPLY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DATA REQUIRED IN THE SURVEY.

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ACCEPTS FIGURES BASED ON PRELIMINARY ACCOUNTS OR ESTIMATES WHICH ARE CORRECT TO THE BEST OF THE RESPONDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE, IF AUDITED ACCOUNTS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

ABOUT 5,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL BE ENUMERATED IN THE PRESENT ROUND OF THE SURVEY, INCLUDING A FULL COVERAGE OF PROMINENT ESTABLISHMENTS AND A RANDOM SAMPLE OF SMALLER ESTABLISHMENTS:

- * BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION;
- * REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT;
- * ARCHITECTURAL, SURVEYING AND PROJECT ENGINEERING; AND
- * REAL ESTATE LEASING, BROKERAGE AND MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT.

A DIFFERENT VERSION OF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE IS USED FOR EACH OF THE FOUR CATEGORIES OF ESTABLISHMENTS.

IN GENERAL, INFORMATION TO BE SOUGHT IN THE SURVEY INCLUDES: TYPE OF OWNERSHIP; NUMBER OF DIRECT EMPLOYEES; COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES; CONSUMPTION OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES; PAYMENTS FOR SUB-CONTRACT WORK; OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES; VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED; VALUE OF PROPERTIES UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND THE ASSOCIATED PROJECT OUTLAYS (INCLUDING LAND VALUES); OTHER FORMS OF BUSINESS RECEIPTS; CAPITAL EXPENDITURE; AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION ON THE BUSINESS OPERATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS.

QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE SAMPLED ESTABLISHMENTS. THESE ESTABLISHMENTS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT BY JULY 31, 1993.

IF REQUIRED, OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT WILL VISIT INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND HELP THEM COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

THESE OFFICERS WILL CARRY A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD AND A CERTIFICATE FOR CONDUCTING THE SURVEY WHILE ON DUTY, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3204.

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THREE LOTS FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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THE FIRST GOVERNMENT LAND AUCTION IN 1993/94 WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 22 WITH THE SALE OF THREE LOTS IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE, STARTING AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED AT KAU TO, AREA 46, JUNCTION OF KAU TO SHAN ROAD AND MA LING PATH, SHA TIN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 15,320 SQUARE METRES EARMARKED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 5,544 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

THE SECOND LOT AT AREA 11, JUNCTION OF ON SHUM STREET AND ON LAI STREET, SHA TIN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 4,000 SQUARE METRES. IT IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 22,800 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1997.

THE REMAINING LOT IN TAK YIP STREET, TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,030 SQUARE METRES FOR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING DANGEROUS GOODS).

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 17,271 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON IN YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON. THE SALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THESE OFFICES.

CONDITIONS OF SALE CAN ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH AND ISLANDS.

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POLICY GUIDELINES ON NON-LOCAL STUDENTS FORMULATED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS ENDORSED THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) REGARDING THE POLICY ON NON-LOCAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE FOLLOWING A RECENT REVIEW BY THE UPGC ON THE TREATMENT OF SUCH STUDENTS, WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATING POLICY GUIDELINES FOR ADOPTION BY THE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

THEY RELATE TO THE DEFINITION OF LOCAL AND NON-LOCAL STUDENTS, THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM ACCEPTING NON-LOCAL STUDENTS, THE TREATMENT OF SUCH STUDENTS FOR STUDENT NUMBER AND GRANT CALCULATION PURPOSES, AND THE PERMITTED LEVELS OF ENROLMENT FOR NON-LOCAL STUDENTS ON PUBLICLY FUNDED COURSES.

UNDER THE UPGC RECOMMENDATION, "LOCAL STUDENTS" IS DEFINED AS "STUDENTS WHO HAVE A RIGHT OF ABODE IN HONG KONG, OR HAVE RESIDED OR HAD THEIR HOME IN HONG KONG CONTINUOUSLY FOR THREE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THEIR COURSES".

ALL STUDENTS NOT FITTING INTO THIS DEFINITION WILL BE REGARDED AS "NON-LOCAL STUDENTS".

"WE ACCEPT THAT THE USE OF THE TERM 'OVERSEAS STUDENTS' SEEMS INAPPROPRIATE AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT MANY SUCH STUDENTS ARE FROM CHINA, TAIWAN AND MACAU," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WE THEREFORE SUPPORT THE USE OF THE TERM 'NON-LOCAL STUDENTS' INSTEAD."

AS AT THE END OF DECEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 593 NON-LOCAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN UPGC-FUNDED TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, AMOUNTING TO 1.16 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ENCOURAGED THE INSTITUTIONS TO ENROL A LIMITED NUMBER OF NON-LOCAL STUDENTS ON UPGC-FUNDED COURSES AT SUB-DEGREE, FIRST-DEGREE AND TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE LEVELS UP TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO PER CENT OVER AND ABOVE THE APPROVED STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS.

THE INSTITUTIONS WOULD ALSO BE ALLOWED TO ALLOCATE UP TO 20 PER CENT WITHIN THE APPROVED STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS FOR THE UPGC-FUNDED POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH COURSES TO NON-LOCAL STUDENTS.

IN SETTING A CEILING FOR THE ENROLMENT OF NON-LOCAL STUDENTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, IT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTIONS WOULD NOT BE OVER-STRETCHED.

AS REGARDS NON-UPGC FUNDED COURSES, THE INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE FREE TO ENROL LOCAL AND NON-LOCAL STUDENTS, SUBJECT TO THIS HAVING NO DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PROVISION OF UPGC-FUNDED PROGRAMMES.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING THE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-LOCAL STUDENTS COUNTED WITHIN THE APPROVED STUDENT NUMBER TARGETS, THE UPGC WOULD ADOPT THE FEE LEVELS RECOMMENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR LOCAL STUDENTS.

"WE HAVE NOT PROPOSED THE ADOPTION OF DIFFERENTIAL FEE LEVELS FOR LOCAL AND NON-LOCAL STUDENTS AS WE CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF ACCEPTING SOME NON-LOCAL STUDENTS FAR OUTWEIGH THE DIRECT OR HIDDEN SUBSIDY INVOLVED," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AS THE ENROLMENT EXERCISE FOR THE 1993-94 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS ALREADY STARTED, HE ADDED.

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PROPOSED ROAD WORKS IN FU TEI, TUEN MUN
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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT AN APPROVED DEVELOPER OF A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN FU TEI, TUEN MUN, IS REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT ROAD WORKS IN THE AREA.

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY AND TWO FOOTPATHS ON THE SIDES OF THE NEW ROAD, AS WELL AS A TURNABOUT AT THE END OF THE ROAD.

DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD, THE DEVELOPER IS ALSO REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN ALL EXISTING VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ALONG TSING LEUNG LANE.

A PLAN SHOWING THE WORKS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, SIXTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, AND THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE SAME BUILDING.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS SHOULD SEND HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD BEFORE JULY 27.

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TENDERS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING SITE FORMATION WORKS INVITED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SITE FORMATION WORKS OF THE SECOND RURAL PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AT SIN YAN TSENG ON CHEUNG CHAU.

THE WORKS FORM PART OF A CHEUNG CHAU DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT WORKS WILL START IN AUGUST AND TAKE 22 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON JUNE 25.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM WILBUR SMITH ASSOCIATES AT SUITE 803, TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE, WEST WING, 66 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

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SKILLED DRIVING HELPS PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY

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THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRESENTED PRIZES, INCLUDING THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TROPHY, TO WINNERS OF AN OPEN SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION HELD AT THE VICTORIA PARK LAST MONTH.

THE COMPETITION, KNOWN AS THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TROPHY OPEN SAFETY DRIVING COMPETITION, WAS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS (IAM) TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY THROUGH SKILLED DRIVING.

SPEAKING AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, MR HUI SAID ALL COMPETITORS DISPLAYED SAFE AND SKILL DRIVING TECHNIQUES WHICH FULLY MATCHED THE THEME OF THE COMPETITION.

HE SAID HE HOPED THE EVENT WOULD BE HELD AGAIN NEXT YEAR AND BE EXTENDED TO COVER OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES AS WELL.

HE ALSO PRAISED THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED MOTORISTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY OVER THE YEARS.

AT THE CEREMONY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE IAM, MR DRAGON YOUNG, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SPONSORS ALSO PRESENTED PRIZES TO WINNERS.

THE CONTEST TESTED THE DRIVING TECHNIQUE OF THE PARTICIPANTS WITH A CUP OF 704 GRAMS OF WATER FIXED ON THE BONNET OF THE VEHICLE. THE ONE WITH THE LEAST SPILLAGE OF WATER AND RETURNING TO THE FINISHING POINT WITHIN THE SHORTEST TIME WOULD WIN.

ALL COMPETITORS WERE JUDGED IN THE WAYS THEY NEGOTIATED TURNS, STOPPING AND RESTARTING. EMPHASIS WAS LAID ON THE USE OF CLUTCHES AND BRAKES TO ENSURE THAT THE TRIPS ARE AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.

SINCE TAXI DRIVERS ARE PROFESSIONALS, THEY WERE REQUIRED TO FINISH A MORE DIFFICULT ROUTING WITH HIGHER DRIVING TECHNIQUE.

THE CHAMPION OF THE TAXI SECTION, MR CHAN TAT-YIN, NEEDED 739 SECONDS TO COMPLETE THE JOURNEY AND RETURNED WITH 684 GRAMS OF WATER; WHILE CHAMPION OF THE PRIVATE CAR SECTION, MR LAI KWOK -WAI, SPENT 300 SECONDS TO FINISH A DIFFERENT ROUTING WITH 672 GRAMS OF WATER STILL REMAINING IN THE CUP AT THE FINISHING LINE.

THE 30 WINNERS WERE AWARDED WITH TROPHIES AND MEDALS, HONGKONG/TOKYO ROUND TRIP AIR TICKETS AND PETROL COUPONS.

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SALT WATER RESERVOIR FOR SHA TIN

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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT WATER SERVICE RESERVOIR WITH A CAPACITY OF 3,400 CUBIC METRES IN KAU TO, SHA TIN.

THE CONTRACT ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF CASCADE AND THE LAYING OF DRAINAGE PIPES AND SALT WATER MAINS FROM LAI PING ROAD TO TAI PO ROAD.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN AUGUST FOR COMPLETION IN 14 MONTHS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, 44TH FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON JUNE 18.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,150
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+930
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,080
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 111.7 *-0.1* 28.5.1993	

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 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	2.81 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.72	3.80
1 MONTH	2.94 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.98	3.97
3 MONTHS	3.11 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.06	4.14
6 MONTHS	3.31 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.05	4.30
12 MONTHS	3.62 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,342 MN

CLOSED 28 MAY 1993

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