



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

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APEC: GOOD NEWS FOR THE REGION

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, CAUTIONED THAT ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) SHOULD NOT DIVERT TOO MUCH ATTENTION FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND.

MR CHAU IS LEADING THE HONG KONG DELEGATION AT THE THREE-DAY APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY (SEATTLE TIME).

HE SAID HONG KONG WOULD ADVISE CAUTION REGARDING SOME OF THE MORE AMBITIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE PROPOSED APEC STATEMENTS.

REGARDING APEC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPE, HE EMPHASISED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE NOT "GANGING UP" ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND WOULD NOT USE APEC AS A TOOL TO DO SO.

LOOKING AT LONG-RANGE APEC ISSUES, MR CHAU SAID THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD CONVENED THE MEETING WAS A GOOD SIGN FOR EAST ASIA.

"WE DO WANT THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO BE ENGAGED IN ASIA AND PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DECISION TO HOLD THIS MEETING IS OBVIOUSLY AN INDICATION THAT HE HAS FOCUSED ON THE REGION AND APEC AND WANTS TO DO MORE. THAT IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE REGION," HE SAID.

QUESTIONED BY THE MEDIA ON THE U.S./CHINA BILATERAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS WEEK BETWEEN PRESIDENT CLINTON AND PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN, MR CHAU SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS WERE MEETING.

"I THINK IT CAN ONLY BE BENEFICIAL TO U.S./CHINA RELATIONS FOR THEIR TWO TOP LEADERS TO MEET AND I HOPE THEY CAN ESTABLISH A RAPPORT SO THAT THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE."

MR CHAU'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY INCLUDED BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THREE APEC ECONOMIES - KOREA, SINGAPORE AND JAPAN.

HE ALSO BRIEFED THE MEDIA ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN APEC AND ATTENDED MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER.

A DINNER HOSTED BY THE WASHINGTON COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE WITH A KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONCLUDED THE DAY.

MINISTERIAL MEETINGS CONTINUE ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL ARRIVE IN SEATTLE ON THURSDAY EVENING IN PREPARATION FOR THE TWO-DAY APEC LEADERS CONFERENCE.

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TWO APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS APPROVED

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT TWO APPLICATIONS FROM OVERSEAS OFFICERS FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON THE ADVICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ONE IS A SENIOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER SPECIALISING IN THE FIELD OF FORENSIC PATHOLOGY AND THE OTHER AN ESTATE SURVEYOR WORKING IN THE LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE TWO OFFICERS WERE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG, COMMITTED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND HAD A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE APPLICATIONS, THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION WERE SATISFIED THAT THE TWO OFFICERS MET THE CRITERIA FOR TRANSFER, THAT IS, SERVICE NEED, SATISFACTORY CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE, AND PHYSICAL FITNESS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"BOTH ARE HIGHLY COMPETENT IN THEIR OWN FIELDS AND HAVE CONSISTENTLY HIGH STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE," HE ADDED.

THE TWO APPLICANTS ARE THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CASES UNDER THE INTERIM MEASURE ON LOCALISATION ANNOUNCED ON JULY 30 UNDER WHICH CIVIL SERVANTS ON OVERSEAS TERMS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG COULD APPLY FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS IF THEY MEET CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

EACH APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO VIGOROUS SCRUTINY BY THE DEPARTMENT, CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

A TOTAL OF 104 APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SO FAR. EIGHT HAVE BEEN REJECTED, TWO APPROVED AND ONE HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN. THE REST OF THE APPLICATIONS ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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STATEMENT ON NAFTA

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON THE PASSAGE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) BILL IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIS MORNING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE NOTE THAT THE U.S. SENATE MUST NOW ALSO VOTE TO APPROVE THE NAFTA IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION BEFORE NAFTA CAN BE IMPLEMENTED, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THAT SENATE APPROVAL IS EXPECTED.

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"APPROVAL OF THE NAFTA WILL HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

"WE HOPE THE U.S. WILL NOW REFOCUS ITS ENERGY ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. A COMPLETED URUGUAY ROUND WILL STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM AND SERVE AS AN ENGINE FOR GROWTH AND JOBS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

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TRADE FIGURES ON OUTWARD PROCESSING
IN CHINA FOR 2ND QUARTER

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IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR, 48% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 73% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 43% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 74% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 85% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 WERE 56% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 76% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 51% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 70% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 77% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, 48% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 73% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 42% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 73% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 81% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1992 WERE 54% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 74% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 48% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 71% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 77% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

THE DECREASES IN THE PROPORTION OF EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 REFLECT THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FOR MEETING DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA, VIZ. EXPORTS TO CHINA NOT DESTINED FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, INCREASED AT A FASTER PACE THAN OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE DURING THE PERIOD.

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THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE SUSTAINED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA FOR IMPORTED GOODS.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA INITIATED BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY AS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 TO DISTINGUISH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS BEEN EXTENDED AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

STARTING FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS FURTHER BEEN EXTENDED SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WHICH ARE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, \$41,816 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 6% OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1992.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING DECREASED BY 3% TO \$11,702 MILLION WHILST THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 10% TO \$30,114 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 17% TO \$72,087 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$90,362 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 29%.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, \$75,488 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 15% OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1992.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 6% TO \$21,564 MILLION AND 18% TO \$53,925 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 15% TO \$130,673 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$161,008 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 24%.

THE ESTIMATES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 AND THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 ARE SUMMARISED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING
IN CHINA, 2ND QUARTER AND FIRST HALF OF 1993

	2ND QTR. 1993	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER 2ND QTR. 1992	FIRST HALF 1993	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER FIRST HALF 1992
	(HKD MN.)	(%)	(HKD MN.)	(%)

TOTAL TRADE VALUE * :				

TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	86,788	+24.3	158,177	+29.6
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	16,020	+ 0.2	29,442	+ 7.4
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	70,768	+31.5	128,734	+36.0
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	97,142	+ 9.7	179,482	+11.9
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	106,707	+17.4	198,926	+18.4

ESTIMATED VALUE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA :

TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	41,816	+ 6.2	75,488	+14.6
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	11,702	- 3.2	21,564	+ 6.1
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	30,114	+10.4	53,925	+18.4
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	72,087	+16.8	130,673	+15.2
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	90,362	+29.4	161,008	+24.1

ESTIMATED PROPORTION INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA :

	2ND QTR. 1993	2ND QTR. 1992	FIRST HALF 1993	FIRST HALF 1992
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)

TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	48.2	56.4	47.7	54.0
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	73.0	75.6	73.2	74.1
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	42.6	50.7	41.9	48.1
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	74.2	69.7	72.8	70.7
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	84.7	76.9	80.9	77.2

* THE VALUE EXCLUDES COMMODITIES AND TRANSACTIONS NOT CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO KIND.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE RE-EXPORTS OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IN INTERPRETING THE STATISTICS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VALUE AND PROPORTION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GOODS INSTEAD OF JUST THE VALUE ADDED CONTRIBUTED BY OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, AND IMPORTS FROM CHINA) AS WELL AS HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA IS SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, ARE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE.

THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, HOWEVER, FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

THE ABOVE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE".

THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT \$52 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 5037.

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CURTAIN GOES UP FOR HK FILM FESTIVAL

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THE HONG KONG FILM FESTIVAL IN PARIS GOT OFF TO A HECTIC START LAST NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) WITH MOVIE-GOERS ANXIOUS TO MEET POPULAR HONG KONG FILM STARS JACKIE CHAN, MAGGIE CHEUNG AND JOEY WANG.

THE STARS HAD FLOWN SPECIALLY TO PARIS TO TAKE PART IN THE OPENING CEREMONY PERFORMED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS ANSON CHAN, AND THE DIRECTOR OF CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE, MR DOMINIQUE PAINI.

JACKIE CHAN, IN PARTICULAR, WHO HAS A STRONG FOLLOWING IN PARIS HAS ALREADY FEATURED IN LE MONDE NEWSPAPER AND ON FRENCH TELEVISION, WHICH HAS RAISED THE PROFILE OF THE FESTIVAL - A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S EUROPE PROMOTION.

DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY, MR CHAN PRESENTED A COSTUME TO CINEMATHEQUE FRANCAISE AS PART OF ITS MUSEUM COLLECTION, WHILE A COPY OF THE FILM "MASTER OF ZEN" WAS ALSO HANDED OVER TO CINEMATHEQUE.

IN HER SPEECH, THE CHIEF SECRETARY-DESIGNATE, MRS CHAN, SAID HONG KONG HAD BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTION CENTRE FOR CHINESE-LANGUAGE FILMS WITH MORE THAN 200 FILMS BEING PRODUCED.

SHE SAID IT WAS FITTING THAT THE FESTIVAL STARTED WITH A JACKIE CHAN FILM "CRIME STORY" AND SHE PRAISED HIM FOR BEING "A TIRELESS AMBASSADOR FOR HONG KONG CINEMA".

THE FESTIVAL HAS BEEN JOINTLY ORGANISED WITH THE HONG KONG MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND LA CINEMATHEQUE, A WORLD RENOWNED FILM LIBRARY.

IT FEATURES 20 FILMS MADE BETWEEN THE EARLY 1980'S AND 1993 AND REPRESENTS THE WORK OF FAMOUS HONG KONG MOVIE DIRECTORS. IT WILL RUN FOR THREE WEEKS.

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SUPPORT EQUALITY OF SEXES: SHA URGES

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PEOPLE SHOULD RAISE THEIR CONCERN ON SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE SUCH DISCRIMINATION CAN BE ELIMINATED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

ADDRESSING THE 43RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST JAMES SETTLEMENT, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES.

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AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, IT HAD RECENTLY PUBLISHED THE GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION.

MR SUEN SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THERE HAD BEEN ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE ITS PUBLICATION.

ACCORDING TO THE VIEWS COLLECTED SO FAR, THE MOST CONCERNED ISSUES INCLUDE WHETHER OR NOT TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES SUCH AS EQUAL PAY LAWS; THE EXTENSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN TO HONG KONG; AND THE SETTING UP OF A WOMEN'S COMMISSION.

MR SUEN ALSO URGED MEMBERS OF ST JAMES SETTLEMENT AND ITS CENTRES TO ACTIVELY GIVE THEIR VIEWS DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, WHICH IS DUE TO CLOSE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORK

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

BUT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT JUST A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY, SIR DAVID SAID FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ALL HAD A POSITIVE ROLE TO PLAY.

"SUCCESSFUL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES INVOLVE MANY FACETS AND REQUIRE THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF ALL SECTORS IN THE COMMUNITY," HE ADDED.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE BREAKTHROUGH YOUTH VILLAGE PROJECT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT, TO DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT, HAD SUBSCRIBED TO THE CHARTER OF YOUTH, WHICH SETS OUT PRINCIPLES AND IDEALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND PROVIDES A FOCUS OF ALL INVOLVED.

SIR DAVID SAID GROWING UP WAS A CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE FOR THE YOUNG IN A COMPLEX SOCIETY.

"IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR US TO RECOGNISE THEIR NEEDS AND TO HELP THEM OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES, SO THAT THEY WOULD REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL AND DEVELOP INTO RESPONSIBLE ADULTS IN SOCIETY," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD TO PROMOTE YOUTH WELFARE.

"IN THIS AREA OUR PROGRAMMES ARE DESIGNED TO HELP FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY, CHARACTER, SOCIAL APTITUDE AND SENSE OF CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

HE ALSO CONGRATULATED THE STAFF OF BREAKTHROUGH FOR ORGANISING THE YOUTH VILLAGE PROJECT AND PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTION IN SERVING THE YOUTH.

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RETAILERS REMINDED TO USE ACCURATE WEIGHING EQUIPMENT

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A SPOKESMAN FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED SEAFOOD RETAILERS TO USE ACCURATE WEIGHING EQUIPMENT.

A SEAFOOD RETAILER WAS FINED \$1,000 IN WESTERN COURT ON TUESDAY FOR USING DEFECTIVE "CHINGS" FOR TRADE.

ACTING ON A COMPLAINT ON SHORT WEIGHT SALES, OFFICERS OF THE CUSTOMS TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU RAIDED A RETAILER'S SHOP IN WAN CHAI ON JUNE 25 THIS YEAR AND FOUND FIVE SETS OF DEFECTIVE CHINESE "CHINGS".

THE "CHINGS" WERE LATER TESTED TO HAVE 10 TO 38 PER CENT ERROR IN EXCESS OF THE ACTUAL WEIGHT.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID UNDER THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ORDINANCE, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR POSSESSING INACCURATE EQUIPMENT FOR USING FOR TRADE IS A FINE OF \$20,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

CONSUMERS WHO WISH TO COMPLAIN ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES MALPRACTICES CAN CONTACT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ON TEL 398 5157 DURING OFFICE HOURS OR 852 3185 OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS.

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EARLY POSTING OF X'MAS CARDS URGED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR POSTING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOCAL DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19).

POSTINGS AFTER THIS DATE MIGHT RUN THE RISK OF NOT BEING DELIVERED IN TIME BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED SEASONAL PRESSURE OF WORK.

HE ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO POST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID A LAST-MINUTE RUSH.

MR PAGLIARI ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL MAIL DELIVERY WOULD BE PROVIDED ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 19) AND ON DECEMBER 27.

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A SPECIAL COLLECTION SERVICE WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED ON DECEMBER 19.

NO DELIVERY WOULD BE MADE ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

ALL POST OFFICES WOULD BE CLOSED DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

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TRANSPORT LICENSING OFFICE ON MOVE

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG LICENSING OFFICE WILL MOVE TO NEW PREMISES AT UNITED CENTRE, QUEENSWAY, IN JUNE NEXT YEAR.

A SENIOR PROPERTY MANAGER OF THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY, MR ALAN WALKER, SAID THE NEW ACCOMMODATION ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE UNITED CENTRE WAS EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM QUEENSWAY AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY.

"IT WILL PROVIDE A MODERN USER-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT FOR CLIENTS IN LINE WITH THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE AND FACILITIES," HE SAID.

THE NEW PREMISES HAVE BEEN PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY. THE PRESENT LICENSING OFFICE IN MURRAY ROAD CAR PARK WILL BE CONVERTED FOR USE BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION WHICH HAS AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SPACE.

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HONG KONG AND MACAU YACHT RACE

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SOME 30 YACHTS WILL TAKE PART IN A RACE FROM HONG KONG TO MACAU ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 20), A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

"THE RACE WILL START AT 10 AM FROM THE SOUTHEAST OF LAMMA ISLAND. CONCENTRATION OF YACHTS ARE EXPECTED AT THE SOUTH OF LAMMA AND LANTAU," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"MASTERS, COXSWAINS AND PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THE AREA AND ON THE WAY TO MACAU ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE EXTRA CARE," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA 1972 WAS MANDATORY.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,185
REVERSAL OF LAF	+815
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,584
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,416
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.2 *-0.1* 18.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.41 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.20	3.42
1 MONTH	2.71 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.45	3.58
3 MONTHS	2.89 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.83	3.91
6 MONTHS	3.04 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.96	4.09
12 MONTHS	3.40 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.96	4.63

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,536 MN

CLOSED 18 NOVEMBER 1993

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