



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

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HK, CANADA SIGN ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENT

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A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA WAS SIGNED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON AND THE VISITING CANADIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, THE HON PAULINE BROWES.

UNDER THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, HONG KONG AND CANADA WILL PROVIDE EACH OTHER WITH INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ON SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND MONITORING PROGRAMMES.

THE AGREEMENT WILL ALSO ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO DEVELOP A CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME WHICH MAY INCLUDE EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL AND JOINT PROJECTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGIES.

INITIALLY, THE PROGRAMME WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- * ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND EXPERIENCE;
- * PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES;
- * WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE;
- * PROMOTION OF THE APPLICATION OF CLEAN TECHNOLOGY; AND
- * ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION, INCLUDING ACID RAIN AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BE MANAGED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA.

SPEAKING AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY, MINISTER BROWES SAID: "CANADA'S GREEN PLAN FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT COMMITS CANADA TO STRENGTHENING BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CO-OPERATION. THROUGH EXCHANGES OF KNOWLEDGE AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES, AGREEMENTS SUCH AS THE ONE SIGNED TODAY BUILD TOWARDS GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION."

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, MR EASON SAID: "THE MEMORANDUM REFLECTS GROWING TIES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA."

HE WELCOMED IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HONG KONG TO LEARN FROM CANADA'S EXPERIENCE AND HIGH STANDARDS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

"CANADA'S GREEN PLAN FOR A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT IS GENERALLY SEEN AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF HOW COMMUNITIES WITH A STRONG ECONOMY CAN PURSUE THEIR ECONOMIC STRENGTHS IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

"THE FIRST LEAF THAT HONG KONG CAN BORROW FROM CANADA'S GREEN PLAN IS THE IMPORTANCE THAT CANADA PAYS TO DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTANDING WITHIN ITS COMMUNITY.

"ANOTHER LESSON FOR HONG KONG IN CANADA'S GREEN PLAN IS THAT AS THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT BRINGS CLOSER THE CONCEPT OF A GLOBAL VILLAGE, SO ALSO IT BRINGS CLOSER THE NEED TO THINK OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES NOT PURELY IN DOMESTIC TERMS," HE SAID.

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MORE CONTROL ON SPREAD OF DISEASES NEEDED
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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, DR S H LEE, SAID MUCH HAD TO BE DONE IN CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF DISEASES AMONG VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS REGARD AND IN THE RAPID DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.

DR LEE WAS SPEAKING AT THE 43RD SESSION OF WHO'S REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC WHICH OPENED IN HONG KONG TODAY (TUESDAY).

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CURRENT SESSION, DR LEE SAID HONG KONG WAS A VERY BUSY CROSSROAD OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRAVEL.

THIS BRINGS WITH IT THE HEALTH RISKS THAT ACCOMPANY PEOPLE AND GOODS AS THEY MOVE AROUND THE WORLD, MAKING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE VERY DIFFICULT.

"IN THE RECENT PAST WE HAVE SEEN SOME GOOD EXAMPLES IN THE FORM OF 'BORDER MEETINGS' IN PROGRAMME AREAS SUCH AS DRUG ABUSE, AIDS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES," HE SAID.

"SUCH MEETINGS HAVE GREATLY HELPED IN SETTING UP SYSTEMS TO MONITOR THE TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT OF INFECTIONS.

"I AM SURE THERE ARE MANY OTHER WAYS IN WHICH WHO IS ENABLING COUNTRIES TO CO-OPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF DISEASES, AND THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE IN THIS AREA."

DR LEE POINTED OUT THAT WHO'S COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC OVER THE YEARS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ADDRESSING THE MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES OF THE REGION.

CITING EXAMPLES, HE SAID CONTROL OF THE SIX TARGET DISEASES WAS BECOMING POSSIBLE; THE ELIMINATION OF LEPROSY WAS BECOMING A REALITY; AND MORTALITY FROM DIARRHOEAL DISEASES WAS ALSO BEING RAPIDLY REDUCED.

HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR NEW INITIATIVES TO REDUCE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON HEALTH OF URBANISATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION WHICH WERE RELATED MAINLY TO ENVIRONMENT AND LIFESTYLE.

IN ADDITION TO COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL, DR LEE SAID HONG KONG WOULD COLLABORATE WITH WHO MEMBER STATES IN OTHER AREAS LIKE WATER AND SANITATION, POLLUTION CONTROL, CANCER AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE PREVENTION.

DURING THE FIVE-DAY SESSION, MEMBERS WILL BE REVIEWING PROGRESS IN ERADICATING POLIOMYELITIS, CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HEALTH SERVICES AND FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING IN THE REGION, AND DISCUSSING MANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES.

DR LEE SAID: "WE SHOULD GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF ALL THESE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS."

"THE NEED FOR BETTER CARE AND BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE IS FELT BY ALL POPULATION GROUPS. IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS HAVE GREATLY INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR GOOD SERVICES.

"THOUGH OUR RESOURCES ARE VERY LIMITED, WE HAVE TO FIND WAYS TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE EQUITY AND QUALITY OF OUR HEALTH SERVICES," HE ADDED.

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HK TO ATTEND FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF APEC

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (APEC) TO BE HELD IN BANGKOK WILL AGREE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

"APEC HAS PROVED TO BE A VERY USEFUL FORUM FOR ECONOMIES IN THE REGION TO SHARE EXPERIENCE AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST.

"THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT STEP TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER APEC'S ACTIVITIES," MR CHAU SAID BEFORE LEAVING FOR BANGKOK TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

"THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS FUNDING FOR THE SECRETARIAT, FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN APEC, REGIONAL TRADE LIBERALISATION MEASURES AND THE URUGUAY ROUND," HE ADDED.

HONG KONG JOINED APEC IN NOVEMBER 1991. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT HONG KONG IS PARTICIPATING IN AN APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING.

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY MR T H CHAU. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION INCLUDE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG; DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER; DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MISS CHERRY LING; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR JOHN C TSANG AND PRINCIPAL TRADE OFFICER, MISS JOANNA CHOI.

THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11. TO PREPARE FOR THIS MEETING, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DELEGATIONS ARRIVED EARLIER IN BANGKOK TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS ISSUES.

HONG KONG IS REPRESENTED AT THE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG.

CURRENT MEMBERS OF APEC INCLUDE AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CANADA, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, HONG KONG, INDONESIA, JAPAN, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, CHINESE TAIPEI, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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NO PROPOSALS ON TAXI MERGING

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT FORMULATED ANY PROPOSAL ON THE MERGING OF URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS.

"IT IS WRONG TO CONSTRUE THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE TRANSPORT NEEDS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AS AN INDICATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OR IS ABOUT TO TAKE A VIEW ON THE ISSUE.

"IN FACT, THE STUDY AIMS TO LOOK AT A WHOLE RANGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES TO THE NEW AIRPORT, INCLUDING THE TAXIS," HE SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE STUDY WILL START IN OCTOBER AND BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1993.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL THEN CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND SEEK PUBLIC VIEWS, INCLUDING THOSE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS. AT THIS STAGE, ANY PROPOSAL FOR MERGING IS SPECULATING AND TOTALLY UNFOUNDED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR INCREASED BY 1%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 31% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 22%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 23% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES HAVING BEEN DISCOUNTED.

REGARDING PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH INCREASED BY 1%. IMPORT PRICES WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDEXES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX IS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX. IT INCREASED BY 1% IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

COMPARING JUNE 1992 WITH JUNE 1991, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 12% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 39%. THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 31%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 32%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. IMPORT PRICES ROSE BY 1%.

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

COMPARING JUNE 1992 WITH JUNE 1991, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+47%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+45%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+13%) AND METAL MANUFACTURES (+12%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-36%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-23%); AND FOOTWEAR (-12%).

ON DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASE WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES, BY 10%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS RECORDED A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE OF 5% IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES. THE DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES OF TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD; DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP ALL DECLINED BY 3%.

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

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 20% IN JUNE 1992 OVER JUNE 1991.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF LIVE POULTRY; ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; FRUIT; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS. HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASE WAS RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 34%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; FOOTWEAR; CLOTHING; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 20% IN JUNE 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR BASE METALS (OTHER THAN IRON AND STEEL); WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND RAW COTTON.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MAN-MADE FIBRES AND SILK FABRICS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 65% IN VOLUME IN JUNE 1992 AS COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 56% IN JUNE 1992 OVER JUNE 1991.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, OPTICAL, MEASURING AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS; AND OFFICE MACHINES. HOWEVER, A DECREASE WAS NOTED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEXTILE MACHINERY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN JUNE 1992 OVER JUNE 1991 : CAPITAL GOODS (+3%); FUELS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+2%); AND FOODSTUFFS (+1%).

HOWEVER, THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 2%.

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

THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS HAD GROWN SUBSTANTIALLY IN JUNE 1992 COMPARED WITH JUNE 1991, BY 70%.

THAT OF CONSUMER GOODS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS ALSO REGISTERED INCREASES, BY 37%, 33% AND 14% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 23%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS, CONSUMER GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 7%, 2% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY.

THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 3% WHILE THOSE OF CAPITAL GOODS REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE AROUND SEPTEMBER 14 AT \$6 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JUN 1992 WITH JUN 1991			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1992 WITH JAN-JUN 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	9	2	7	2	2	*
TEXTILE FABRICS	12	-1	13	4	2	2
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	5	-3	8	-3	-3	-1
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	4	10	-6	-12	7	-18
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-36	*	-36	-39	-1	-38
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	40	-5	47	21	-5	27
FOOTWEAR	-9	4	-12	-30	3	-32
METAL MANUFACTURES	16	4	12	9	4	5
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	40	-3	45	-14	-5	-9
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-3	*	-4	-13	-1	-12
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-7	-1	-6	7	2	5
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-25	-3	-23	-32	1	-33
ALL COMMODITIES	12	*	12	2	1	1

* LESS THAN 0.5%

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1992 WITH JUN 1991			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1992 WITH JAN-JUN 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	21	1	20	13	1	11
CONSUMER GOODS	38	2	34	30	2	27
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	18	-2	20	15	-2	18
FUELS	71	3	65	3	-16	23
CAPITAL GOODS	62	3	56	33	1	32
ALL COMMODITIES	33	1	32	23	*	23

* LESS THAN 0.5%

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

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JUN 1992 WITH JUN 1991			COMPARING JAN-JUN 1992 WITH JAN-JUN 1991		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	15	2	14	8	2	5
CONSUMER GOODS	40	2	37	34	3	30
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	30	-3	33	26	-2	28
FUELS	-18	7	-23	15	-14	33
CAPITAL GOODS	70	*	70	48	1	46
ALL COMMODITIES	40	*	39	33	1	31

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

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POST OFFICE OPENS WANCHAI TOWER BRANCH

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A NEW BRANCH POST OFFICE IN WANCHAI TOWER III OPENS FOR BUSINESS TODAY (TUESDAY), PROVIDING A NORMAL RANGE OF COUNTER SERVICES.

THE GLOUCESTER ROAD POST OFFICE IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF WANCHAI TOWER III, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

THE POST OFFICE ALSO ACCEPTS SPEEDPOST POSTINGS AND MAKES AVAILABLE 1,000 P.O. BOXES.

THE BUSINESS HOURS ARE 9.30 AM TO 5 PM FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND 9.30 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR ENQUIRIES IS 877 0929.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MICHELANGELO PAGLIARI; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, MRS PEGGY LAM; AND THE ACTING WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR TOM W H FONG, OFFICIATED AT ITS OPENING CEREMONY THIS MORNING.

THIS BRINGS TO 120 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BRANCH POST OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

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NEW TRANSPORT TERMINUS IN THE PEAK OPENS

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A NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS IN THE PEAK WILL BE OPENED FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED.

THE TERMINUS WILL COMPRISE A BUS TERMINUS, A TAXI STAND AND A GREEN MINIBUS STAND.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING TERMINUS OF CHINA MOTOR BUS ROUTES 15, 15A, 15B AND 15M, AND THE TERMINUS OF GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 1 AT FINDLAY ROAD WILL BE RELOCATED TO THE NEW TERMINUS.

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CLINIC SERVICE TO BE SUSPENDED ON SATURDAY

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO HOLIDAY AND EVENING GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES ON SEPTEMBER 12 (SATURDAY) WHICH IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

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HEAVY FINE FOR FALSE TRADE DECLARATION

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED DISHONEST TEXTILE TRADERS THAT MAKING FALSE DECLARATION OF GOODS ORIGIN MAY INCUR A MAXIMUM FINE AMOUNTING TO 40 PER CENT OF THE "FREE ON BOARD" VALUE OF THE GOODS INVOLVED.

THE ADVICE WAS MADE AFTER A RECENT COURT CASE IN WHICH A TRADING FIRM WAS FINED \$225,000 BY A NORTH KOWLOON MAGISTRATE FOR POSSESSION OF 8,672 PIECES OF CHINA-MADE LADIES' WOVEN PANTS AND BLOUSES BEARING FALSE "MADE IN HONG KONG" LABELS.

THE FIRM WAS ALSO FOUND GUILTY OF FALSELY DECLARING THE GOODS TO BE HONG KONG PRODUCT IN APPLYING FOR TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES ON FIVE OCCASIONS.

THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CASE WERE ALSO CONVICTED AND FINED A TOTAL OF \$160,000 FOR APPLYING "MADE IN HONG KONG" TRADE DESCRIPTION TO CHINA-MADE GARMENTS, AND MAKING FALSE DECLARATION IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

THE COURT HEARD ON SEPTEMBER 4 THAT THE GOODS, VALUED AT ABOUT \$1.5 MILLION, WERE FOR EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE HEAD OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU, PRINCIPAL TRADE CONTROL OFFICER MR ANDREW WONG SAID CUSTOMS TRADE CONTROL OFFICERS WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO PROSECUTE OFFENDERS OF THIS TYPE.

"THE PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE THAT THE COURTS ALSO TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW ON THESE OFFENCES BECAUSE OF THE HARMFUL EFFECT THEY HAVE ON THE REPUTATION OF HONG KONG'S TEXTILE TRADE. HEAVIER SENTENCES ARE THUS IMPOSED," MR WONG SAID.

"ONCE WE DETECTED A CASE, WE WOULD SHOW NO MERCY ON THE OFFENDERS BY BRINGING THEM TO THE COURT," HE ADDED.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE IN HONG KONG IS \$500,000 FINE PLUS TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

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POPULATION FIGURE

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THE ESTIMATED POPULATION OF HONG KONG AT THE END OF JUNE WAS 5,811,500, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 56,700 PERSONS OR 1.0 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH MID-1991 WHEN THE ESTIMATED POPULATION WAS 5,754,800.

/BETWEEN MID-1991

BETWEEN MID-1991 AND MID-1992, THERE WERE 71,800 BIRTHS AND 30,600 DEATHS IN HONG KONG.

THE BALANCE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS THUS AMOUNTED TO 41,200 AND ACCOUNTED FOR 73 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION GROWTH.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE BALANCE OF TOTAL ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SHOWED A NET INFLOW OF 15,500 PERSONS.

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235 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 235 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 81 MEN, 74 WOMEN, 26 BOYS AND 54 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 121ST BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 7,798 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 21,677 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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500 RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS ATTEND SEMINAR

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FIVE HUNDRED RETIRING CIVIL SERVANTS ATTENDED A PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR LAM WOON-KWONG, SAID THE SEMINAR AIMED TO HELP THE OFFICERS CONFRONT ANY LATENT FEAR AND APPREHENSION, DEVELOP A MORE POSITIVE AND HEALTHY ATTITUDE TOWARDS RETIREMENT AND DEFINE THEIR OWN PRIORITIES AND TAKE ACTION IN GOOD TIME.

"THIS SEMINAR WILL ALSO PROVIDE YOU WITH A FORUM TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS AND FEELINGS WITH RETIRING COLLEAGUES AND EXPERTS IN SPECIFIC FIELDS AND TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO COMMON PROBLEMS," HE TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE ONES HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH PARTICIPANTS AS WELL AS EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

IT PROVIDES INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON PRE-RETIREMENT PREPARATION, HOW TO COPE WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF RETIREMENT, HEALTH AND NUTRITION FOR RETIREES AND BASIC FINANCE PLANNING.

TWO SIMILAR SEMINARS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OFFICERS WILL BE CONDUCTED NEXT WEEK.

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HEALTH EXHIBITION AT SCIENCE MUSEUM

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A FOUR-DAY HEALTH EXHIBITION TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF SELF CARE WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 11) AT THE SPECIAL EXHIBITION HALL, SCIENCE MUSEUM, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

ENTITLED "HEALTHY MEMBERS, HAPPY FAMILY", THE EXHIBITION IS ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CENTRAL HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT.

IT AIMS TO DRIVE HOME MESSAGES OF HEALTHY LIFESTYLE, SELF CARE AND FAMILY SUPPORT.

THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE CAUSES OF SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG SUCH AS HEART DISEASES, CANCERS, HYPERTENSION AND OBESITY, AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

THERE WILL BE STATIC DISPLAYS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF HEALTH TOPICS. THEY INCLUDE: DIET AND OVERWEIGHT, EXERCISE AND REST, DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOL, SMOKING AT HOME, SEX EDUCATION AND FAMILY PLANNING, MENTAL FITNESS, ASTHMA AND OTHER ALLERGIES, ORAL HYGIENE, AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE AUDIOVISUAL SHOW, BOOTH GAMES AND DISPLAY OF THE WINNING ENTRIES IN TWO RECENTLY HELD CARTOON WORDING AND PHOTO CONTESTS.

A 24-HOUR TELEPHONE HOTLINE (833 0111) WILL PROVIDE TAPED INFORMATION ON THE EXHIBITION.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 3 PM TO 7 PM ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 11) AND FROM 10.30 AM TO 7 PM BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 12 AND 14.

STAFF FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE ON HAND TO GIVE ADVICE AND ANSWER ENQUIRIES.

FREE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.

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LOGO SOUGHT FOR SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL

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STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ARE INVITED TO DESIGN THE LOGO FOR THE SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL.

THE THEME OF THE DESIGN SHOULD PROVIDE AN INTERESTING FOCUS FOR DRAMA ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS.

THE FESTIVAL MADE ITS DEBUT IN THE LAST SCHOOL YEAR AND ATTRACTED 110 SCHOOLS.

/"IT AIMS

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"IT AIMS AT PROMOTING DRAMA AS A REGULAR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY AND DEVELOPING STUDENTS' CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE EXPRESSION AND LANGUAGE SKILLS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO DIVISIONS, WITH GROUP A OF DIVISION I OPEN TO SECONDARY 1-3 AND GROUP B TO SECONDARY 4-7 STUDENTS.

DIVISION II IS OPEN TO FULL-TIME STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION.

EACH PARTICIPANT MAY SUBMIT A MAXIMUM OF TWO DESIGNS. ENTRIES SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH SCHOOLS BEFORE OCTOBER 20.

A TOTAL OF 15 PRIZES, RANGING FROM \$200 TO \$700 IN BOOK TOKENS, WILL BE AWARDED: FIVE EACH FOR THE TWO GROUPS IN DIVISION I AND FIVE FOR DIVISION II.

FURTHER ENQUIRIES MAY BE MADE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOL ACTIVITIES SECTION ON 892 6692.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	8 SEPT 92	8 SEPT 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q237	Y294
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,585 MN	HKD 1,330 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 800 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.36 PCT	3.10 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.37 PCT	3.10 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 59 PCT	ABOUT 88 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.38 PCT	3.15 PCT

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDER TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 14 SEPTEMBER 1992 -

TENDER DATE	15 SEPT 92	15 SEPT 92
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q238	H273
ISSUE DATE	16 SEPT 92	16 SEPT 92
MATURITY DATE	16 DEC 92	17 MAR 93
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160 MN	HKD 300+60 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERASL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	NIL
CLOSING NALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 108.8 **0.0* 8.9.92	

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.34 PCT	14 MONTHS	2311	6.25	103.55	3.21
1 MONTH	2.35 PCT	17 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.88	3.46
3 MONTHS	2.35 PCT	20 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.89	3.75
6 MONTHS	2.54 PCT	23 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.92	3.91
12 MONTHS	3.08 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,708 MN

CLOSED 8 SEPTEMBER 1992

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