



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1993

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GOVERNOR HAPPY TO TALK TO CHINA

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO TALK TO CHINA AT ANY STAGE ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994 AND 1995 ELECTIONS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE ATTENDING A CONCERT THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, MR PATTEN REITERATED THAT HE HAD MADE THAT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR AND HAD SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS IN PEKING LAST OCTOBER.

"IT WAS MY POSITION, IT REMAINS MY POSITION, AND IT'S ALSO THE POSITION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

"SO THAT IF AT ANY STAGE, CHINA WISHES TO TALK TO US ABOUT THE FUTURE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG, WE'LL BE DELIGHTED THAT THOSE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD GO FORWARD WITHOUT, ON OUR PART, ANY PRECONDITIONS FOR TALKS," HE SAID.

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BANK MORTGAGE CAP WORKS WELL

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REFERRING TO A NEWSPAPER REPORT ON MORTGAGE LENDING, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR TAM WING-PONG, TODAY (MONDAY) CLARIFIED THAT AT PRESENT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEE THE NEED TO TAKE FORMAL ACTION ON MORTGAGE LENDING ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION WAS KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENT 70 PER CENT MORTGAGE CAP VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED BY THE BANKING SECTOR IS WORKING WELL AND STILL COMMANDS THE SUPPORT OF THE BANKING SECTOR IN GENERAL," MR TAM SAID.

THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING, UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE, MAY ISSUE GUIDELINES TO AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS REGARDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEIR BUSINESS PRACTICES TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL STABILITY AND EFFECTIVE WORKING OF THE BANKING SYSTEM.

"BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT AT PRESENT THE COMMISSIONER HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING SO," MR TAM SAID.

"WE DO NOT NORMALLY INTERVENE IN THE WAY BANKS CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. THERE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SUCH A NEED AT THE MOMENT," HE SAID.

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SECOND REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER UNDERWAY

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THE SECOND REVIEW OF THE 1989 WHITE PAPER ON ENVIRONMENT WILL BE THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT ADDRESSED TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY COOPER, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE PACIFIC ASIA TOURIST ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, MR COOPER SAID THE SECOND REVIEW, WHICH WAS BEING DRAFTED FOR RELEASE LATER THIS YEAR, WAS MORE THAN JUST AN ACTION PLAN TO DEAL WITH WORST ABUSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

IT AIMED TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES SO FAR; SET DOWN THE BASIS FOR FUTURE ACTION TO PROTECT HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT; AND TO EXPLAIN SEVERAL INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVING THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN PERFORMANCE IN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

"THE REVIEW IS INTENDED TO BE AN EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIVE TOOL. IT WILL OUTLINE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE VERY NATURE OF HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN."

"IT WILL TAKE AS ITS STARTING POINT THE BELIEF THAT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS NOT THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR OF OUR COMMUNITY, BUT AN OBLIGATION THAT RESTS WITH US ALL," HE SAID.

MR COOPER SAID THERE WERE ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMMES TO MITIGATE THE WORST ABUSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

AS PART OF THE SEWAGE STRATEGY, A HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMME WAS UNDER ACTIVE PLANNING TO CURTAIL WATER POLLUTION IN THE CENTRAL HARBOUR.

A SOPHISTICATED AND STATUTORY WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN FEATURING REMOTE LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WAS IN PLACE TO ENSURE THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF CHARGING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE.

MR COOPER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW DISCUSSING WITH THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY A DETAILED CONTROL PROGRAMME ON LIVESTOCK WASTE WHILE A CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY ON TSING YI WOULD BE COMMISSIONED SHORTLY TOGETHER WITH ENFORCEMENT OF NEW LEGISLATION FOR TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL.

AT THE CONFERENCE, MR COOPER ALSO CALLED ON THE TOURIST INDUSTRY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF GREEN TOURISM.

HIS PLEA RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM A NUMBER OF DELEGATES INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE LOCAL TOURISM INDUSTRY.

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RE-EXPORT TRADE ASSUMES GREATER ROLE

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RE-EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR 74.7% OF THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS AND 36.7% OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXTERNAL TRADE OF HONG KONG LAST YEAR. IN 1991, THE CORRESPONDING SHARES WERE 69.8% AND 34.6% RESPECTIVELY.

THESE FIGURES, AFFIRMING THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF RE-EXPORT TRADE, ARE AMONG THE DETAILED RE-EXPORT STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

CHINA REMAINED THE LARGEST PARTNER FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE. OF THE TOTAL \$691 BILLION OF RE-EXPORTS GOING THROUGH HONG KONG IN 1992, 86.2% OR \$596 BILLION INVOLVED CHINA IN EITHER DIRECTION.

AS A COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, CHINA ACCOUNTED FOR 58.4% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT VALUE IN 1992. AS A COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, CHINA'S SHARE WAS 30.7%.

IT IS NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE RE-EXPORT TRADE INVOLVING CHINA IS RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, AS RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURED GOODS ARE EXPORTED TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING AND THE FINAL PRODUCTS SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO HONG KONG.

OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS IN 1992 INCLUDED JAPAN (ACCOUNTING FOR A SHARE OF 12.3%), TAIWAN (7.9%), THE UNITED STATES (4.6%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (2.8%).

THE MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION IN 1992, BESIDES CHINA, INCLUDED THE UNITED STATES (ACCOUNTING FOR A SHARE OF 21.5%), JAPAN (5.4%), GERMANY (4.8%) AND TAIWAN (3.8%).

TABLE 1 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN 1992 COMPARED WITH 1991.

COMPARING 1992 WITH 1991, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: JAPAN (+48.5%), GERMANY (+34.2%), SINGAPORE (+33.3%), TAIWAN (+30.6%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+29.1%), CHINA (+27.9%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+27.4%), FRANCE (+21.5%) AND THE UNITED STATES (+20.8%).

OF THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM CHINA IN 1992, 34.7% WENT TO THE UNITED STATES, 7.6% TO GERMANY AND 7.1% TO JAPAN.

FOR GOODS OF JAPAN ORIGIN, 65.4% OF THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS THROUGH HONG KONG IN 1992 WENT TO CHINA.

IN 1992, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REPLACED TAIWAN AS THE SECOND MAJOR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION FOR RE-EXPORTS OF JAPAN ORIGIN THROUGH HONG KONG.

AT \$3,630 MILLION, THE VALUE OF JAPAN ORIGIN RE-EXPORTS THROUGH HONG KONG TO VIETNAM IN 1992 WAS ALMOST FIVE TIMES THAT IN 1991.

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FOR RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM TAIWAN, AN OVERWHELMING PROPORTION (90.1% OF THE VALUE IN 1992) WENT TO CHINA.

AS REGARDS RE-EXPORTS ORIGINATING FROM THE UNITED STATES, 56.6% OF THE VALUE IN 1992 WERE SHIPPED TO CHINA AND 12.6% TO TAIWAN.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$7,172 MILLION OR 20.1%); ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$6,769 MILLION OR 120.1%); AND MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$6,511 MILLION OR 94.4%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE RECORDED FOR ORGANIC CHEMICALS (BY \$249 MILLION OR 8.0%); AND CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (BY \$77 MILLION OR 9.2%).

AS REGARDS RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$12,142 MILLION OR 40.1%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$5,535 MILLION OR 35.8%); AND CLOTHING (BY \$4,820 MILLION OR 28.8%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES WERE RECORDED FOR FISH, CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$73 MILLION OR 10.6%); AND MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (BY \$35 MILLION OR 24.1%).

DETAILED STATISTICS OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORT TRADE ARE PUBLISHED IN THE DECEMBER 1992 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" REPORT WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT \$52 A COPY AROUND FEBRUARY 22.

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE 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, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT 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 STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

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/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS FROM THE TEN MAJOR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

MAJOR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	JAN-DEC 1992 (HKD Mn)	JAN-DEC 1991 (HKD Mn)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD, Mn)	JAN-DEC 92 OVER JAN-DEC 91 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	403,782	315,689	+ 88,093	+ 27.9
JAPAN	84,966	57,215	+ 27,751	+ 48.5
TAIWAN	54,442	41,693	+ 12,749	+ 30.6
UNITED STATES	32,113	26,591	+ 5,523	+ 20.8
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	19,391	15,019	+ 4,372	+ 29.1
GERMANY	9,134	6,805	+ 2,329	+ 34.2
SINGAPORE	8,269	6,202	+ 2,067	+ 33.3
UNITED KINGDOM	7,404	5,813	+ 1,590	+ 27.4
FRANCE	6,448	5,307	+ 1,141	+ 21.5
SWITZERLAND	5,478	5,523	- 45	- 0.8

/TABLE 2

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE TEN MAJOR COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

MAJOR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION	JAN-DEC 1992 (HKD Mn)	JAN-DEC 1991 (HKD Mn)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD Mn)	JAN-DEC 92 OVER JAN-DEC 91 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	212,105	153,318	+ 58,787	+ 38.3
UNITED STATES	148,500	110,802	+ 37,698	+ 34.0
JAPAN	37,465	29,574	+ 7,891	+ 26.7
GERMANY	33,103	32,073	+ 1,030	+ 3.2
TAIWAN	26,156	24,765	+ 1,391	+ 5.6
UNITED KINGDOM	20,591	14,663	+ 5,928	+ 40.4
SINGAPORE	13,866	12,094	+ 1,772	+ 14.7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	13,588	14,631	- 1,043	- 7.1
CANADA	11,101	8,498	+ 2,604	+ 30.6
FRANCE	11,039	9,038	+ 2,001	+ 22.1

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STUDY ON WHOLESALE ACTIVITIES COMMISSIONED

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) SIGNED A \$1,027,000 AGREEMENT WITH A CONSULTANCY FIRM TO CARRY OUT A PLANNING STUDY ON WHOLESALE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

"THE STUDY AIMS AT EXAMINING THE CHARACTERISTICS, LOCATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF WHOLESALE ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS ASSESSING THE IMPACTS GENERATED BY WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENTS TO NEIGHBOURING BUILDINGS," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

IT WILL BE CARRIED OUT FROM FEBRUARY TO DECEMBER THIS YEAR AND COMPRISES A SURVEY AND AN ANALYSIS.

A SAMPLE OF 2,000 WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/OFFICE BUILDINGS WILL BE TAKEN FROM A COMPREHENSIVE REGISTER KEPT BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

"STUDY FINDINGS MAY BE USED TO RECOMMEND REVISIONS TO THE EXISTING STATUTORY ZONINGS AND THE SCHEDULE OF NOTES AND USES ATTACHED TO OUTLINE ZONING PLANS.

"THEY CAN ALSO BE USED TO FORMULATE PLANNING GUIDELINES ON WHOLESALE ACTIVITIES," THE SPOKEMAN ADDED.

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, DR PETER PUN, SIGNED THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YUE CHENG AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED.

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NEW PHONE SYSTEM OFFERS EDUCATION INFORMATION

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN NOW OBTAIN INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL MATTERS THROUGH AN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SYSTEM BY DIALING 891 0088.

THE SYSTEM ALSO INCLUDES A FACSIMILE SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE EQUIPMENT EITHER AT HOME OR IN THE OFFICE, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE MADE THESE REMARKS WHILE SWITCHING ON THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SYSTEM WHICH IS NOW ON TRIAL FOR FOUR MONTHS TO GAUGE PUBLIC DEMAND BEFORE THE FULL SYSTEM IS INSTALLED.

"THE 24-HOUR SERVICE IS BILINGUAL. CALLERS CAN OBTAIN THE TYPE OF INFORMATION THEY REQUIRE BY FOLLOWING THE VOICE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY USE THE NOW FAMILIAR ELECTRONIC TELLER MACHINES," MR WONG EXPLAINED.

THE SYSTEM CAN ALSO AUTOMATICALLY TRANSFER CALLS TO VARIOUS KEY SERVICES SUCH AS DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES, THE TEACHER REGISTRATION SECTION AND THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT.

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INFORMATION AND FAX MESSAGES AVAILABLE DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD COMPRISES SCHOOL ADMISSION, INCLUDING A LIST OF ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION SCHOOLS AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS; GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL ADMISSION SYSTEMS; PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION, STUDENT GUIDANCE SERVICES (CANTONESE ONLY); SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES; NON-GRADUATE TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT SCHEME; TEACHER REGISTRATION AND SUPPLY TEACHERS; AND APPLICATIONS FOR VACANCIES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

"THE SYSTEM WILL ENABLE US TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFICIENT ENQUIRY SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC WHO CAN GAIN ACCESS MORE EASILY AND AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY TO OUR ENQUIRY SYSTEM.

"THE SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE USED TO MAKE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS SUCH AS THE SUSPENSION OF SCHOOLS DURING TYPHOONS OR RAINSTORMS," HE SAID.

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MEXICO IMPOSES PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTY
ON CANDLES FROM CHINA

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THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A PROVISIONAL ANTI-DUMPING DUTY OF 103 PER CENT IS IMPOSED ON CANDLES ORIGINATING FROM CHINA WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 25, 1992.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT INFORMED TRADERS LAST SEPTEMBER, THROUGH A COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR, THAT THE MEXICAN MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HAD INITIATED AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION INTO IMPORTS OF CANDLES FROM HONG KONG BUT ORIGINATING FROM CHINA.

THE PRODUCTS UNDER INVESTIGATION WERE CLASSIFIABLE UNDER TARIFF CLASSIFICATION NO. 3406.00.01 OF THE LAW ON THE GENERAL DUTY ON IMPORTS.

ACCORDING TO HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS, HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO MEXICO OF CANDLES, TAPERS AND LIKE-PRODUCTS (UNDER HARMONISED SYSTEM CODE 3406.0000) ORIGINATING FROM CHINA AMOUNTED TO HK\$2.7 MILLION IN 1991 AND HK\$3.6 MILLION IN JANUARY-NOVEMBER 1992.

MEANWHILE, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT REMINDS EXPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN OR CERTIFICATE OF PROCESSING AND CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN FORM A THAT THE RESPECTIVE APPLICATION FORMS TIC 185 (REV) AND TIC 185B (REV) HAVE BEEN UPDATED AND THE REVISED FORMS ARE INTRODUCED TODAY (MONDAY).

"APPLICANTS MAY HOWEVER CONTINUE TO USE THE EXISTING FORMS UNTIL MAY 14, 1993.

"WITH EFFECT FROM MAY 15, 1993, ONLY THE REVISED APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED," A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE REVISED FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT TRADE DEPARTMENT'S COLLECTION OFFICE AT ROOM 813, 700 NATHAN ROAD AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE AT GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CENTRAL.

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* MEASURES TO HELP MARICULTURISTS CONSIDERED

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MEMBERS OF THE AQUACULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES TODAY (MONDAY) DISCUSSED AT ITS MEETING THE RECENT FISH KILLS AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE.

THEY SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO HELP THE MARICULTURISTS.

THE MEETING NOTED THAT BASED ON INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD), THE RECENT SERIOUS FISH MORTALITY WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROLONGED COLD WEATHER DURING THE LUNAR NEW YEAR PERIOD WHEN LARGE NUMBER OF FISH KILLS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY IN FISH CULTURE ZONES WITH SHALLOW WATER AND IN BAYS FACING THE NORTHEAST.

MARICULTURISTS WERE CONCERNED THAT DUMPING BARGES PASSING IN THE NEARBY WATERS OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE WATER QUALITY OF THE ZONE.

AFD OFFICERS INFORMED THE MEETING THAT RESULTS OF A THREE-WEEK SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT LAST DECEMBER INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NO DETERIORATION OF WATER QUALITY AT CHEUNG SHA WAN.

ALSO, IN RESPONSE TO AFD'S REQUEST, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY IN CHARGE OF THE NEW AIRPORT SITE PREPARATION WORKS HAD AGREED AND WAS LIAISING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TO AMEND THE LICENSING CONDITIONS FOR DREDGING AND DUMPING TO INCLUDE A WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATION JUST OUTSIDE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE.

THE MEETING ALSO SUPPORTED AFD TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE TO REQUEST THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED TO PRESCRIBE THE ROUTE OF DUMPING BARGES TO AVOID THE WATERS IN FRONT OF THE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE.

AS REGARDS MARICULTURISTS' REQUEST TO RELOCATE SOME OF THEM TEMPORARILY TO TAI LEI ISLAND, THE MEETING CONSIDERED THAT THE SITE WAS NOT SUITABLE AS IT WAS CLOSER TO OTHER DREDGING AREAS.

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME OTHER PROJECTS, SUCH AS SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, BEING PLANNED NEAR TAI LEI ISLAND.

HOWEVER, MEMBERS SUGGESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF FURTHER EXTENDING THE CHEUNG SHA WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE TO SPACE OUT THE FISH RAFTS AND ENABLE BETTER WATER CIRCULATION.

ON THE WATER QUALITY OF OTHER FISH CULTURE ZONES, MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE AFD AND CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAD KEPT ON MONITORING THE SIX DESIGNATED WATER MONITORING STATIONS AROUND THE BORROW AREA AT NORTH TATHONG CHANNEL AND THE RESULTS WERE FOUND TO BE SATISFACTORY.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE SECOND CONSULTATION DOCUMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW. VIEWS WOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION.

CURRICULUM GUIDES READY IN SEPTEMBER

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THE FINAL VERSION OF THE CURRICULUM GUIDES FOR THE FOUR LEVELS OF EDUCATION WILL BE READY FOR ISSUE TO SCHOOLS THIS SEPTEMBER.

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MR ANDREW SO KWOK-WING, SAID CONSULTATION ON THE CURRICULUM GUIDES FOR KINDERGARTEN, PRIMARY, SECONDARY 1 TO 5 AND SIXTH FORM EDUCATION HAD RECEIVED FAVOURABLE COMMENTS FROM SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL BODIES.

"THESE COMMENTS WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE COUNCIL'S CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FINAL VERSION OF THE GUIDES WILL BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER," HE SAID.

"MOST SCHOOL HEADS AND TEACHERS WHO RESPONDED HAD FOUND THE GUIDES WELL THOUGHT OUT, USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE," HE SAID.

MR SO SAID THERE WERE ALSO SOME SPECIFIC COMMENTS AIMED AT IMPROVING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE GUIDES.

HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME THE COUNCIL'S NEW VICE-CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, DR PANG KING-CHEE.

DR PANG SAID ANOTHER SET OF CURRICULUM GUIDES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION WAS BEING PREPARED AND WOULD SOON BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION.

THE FIRST OF THE SERIES WOULD BE THE CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN.

"OTHER CURRICULUM GUIDES IN THE PIPELINE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INCLUDE THAT TO THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED, THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, THE HEARING IMPAIRED, MALADJUSTED AND THE SOCIALLY DEPRIVED," DR PANG SAID.

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COLD SPELLS DOMINATE JANUARY

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JANUARY SAW ONE OF THE MOST PERSISTENT COLD SPELLS, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE BELOW 12 DEGREES FOR 16 CONSECUTIVE DAYS (JANUARY 15-30), AND DAILY MEAN TEMPERATURES WERE BELOW 12 DEGREES FOR 11 CONSECUTIVE DAYS (JANUARY 15-25), THE LONGEST SINCE 1887.

THE COLD WEATHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY 33.5 MILLIMETRES OF RAINFALL, 43 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 23.4 MILLIMETRES FOR THE MONTH.

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THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE MONTH WERE RELATIVELY WARM. THE WEATHER WAS MOSTLY FINE EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE INTERLUDES OF CLOUDS, LIGHT RAIN AND SLIGHTLY LOWER TEMPERATURES DUE TO WEAK REPLENISHMENTS OF THE WINTER MONSOON.

THE FIRST OF THESE REPLENISHMENTS WAS ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 4, WITH THE FRESHENING WINDS CLEARING AWAY THE MIST PATCHES WHICH FORMED OFFSHORE IN THE MORNING AND INSIDE THE HARBOUR IN THE EVENING ON THAT DAY.

WINDS AGAIN FRESHENED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF JANUARY 8. THEY WERE SHORT-LIVED AND SOON TURNED SOUTHEASTERLY, BRINGING IN WARM AND MOIST MARITIME AIR.

MIST PATCHES HOVERED OVER THE COASTAL WATERS ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 8 AND THE MORNING OF JANUARY 9.

RISING TEMPERATURES LED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST READING OF 23.7 DEGREES ON JANUARY 10.

THE REPLENISHMENT ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 11 BROUGHT EASTERLY WINDS WHICH WERE FRESH AND REMAINED SO FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

AS A RESULT, THE WEATHER WAS NOTICEABLY CLOUDIER AND THERE WAS ALSO DRIZZLE.

WINDS MODERATED AND VEERED TO THE SOUTHEAST ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 13.

MOISTER AIR FROM THE SEA ONCE AGAIN LED TO THE FORMATION OF MIST INSIDE THE HARBOUR THE NEXT DAY.

MEANWHILE, A COLD FRONT ASSOCIATED WITH AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON WAS ADVANCING SOUTHWARDS ACROSS GUANGDONG.

IT REACHED HONG KONG ON THE AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 14. TEMPERATURES STARTED TO FALL IN THE EVENING AS THE NORTHERLY WINDS FRESHENED.

THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A PROLONGED COLD SPELL WHICH LASTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

LIGHT RAIN WAS FREQUENT ON JANUARY 15. BY THE MORNING OF JANUARY 16, TEMPERATURES AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY HAD PLUNGED BY NEARLY 16 DEGREES FROM THE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE TWO DAYS EARLIER TO 5.4 DEGREES, THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH AND THE COLDEST SO FAR THIS WINTER.

FREEZING CONDITIONS WERE EXPERIENCED ON HIGH GROUND. ICE AND GLAZE WERE REPORTED AT TAI MO SHAN WHERE TEMPERATURES WERE AS LOW AS -2.0 DEGREES.

/EVEN THOUGH

EVEN THOUGH THE SUN BROKE THROUGH THAT DAY, DAYTIME TEMPERATURES WERE NO MORE THAN 12 DEGREES AS COLD AIR OF POLAR ORIGIN CONTINUED TO POUR FORTH FROM THE NORTH.

JANUARY 17 WAS AGAIN CLOUDY. LIGHT RAIN BEGAN FALLING THAT EVENING AND ABATED ON JANUARY 19.

A NORTHERLY REPLENISHMENT ON JANUARY 23 BROKE THE DRY SPELL OF THE PREVIOUS FOUR DAYS AND USHERED IN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH RAIN.

RAINFALL OF 13.3 MILLIMETRES FELL ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR, A RECORD SECOND ONLY TO THE RECORD OF 15.8 MILLIMETRES SET WAY BACK IN 1911.

THE CLOUDS BEGAN TO THIN OUT ON JANUARY 24 AS THE NORTHERLIES FINALLY BROUGHT IN DRY CONTINENTAL AIR IN DEPTH. THE WEATHER TURNED FINE AND PERSISTED TILL THE END OF THE MONTH.

THE ABUNDANT SUNSHINE BROUGHT Milder CONDITIONS DURING THE DAY, BUT THE CLEAR SKIES ACCENTUATED THE NIGHT-TIME COOLING ESPECIALLY OVER THE INLAND REGION.

TA KWU LING RECORDED SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES ON THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 28, AND GROUND FROST WAS REPORTED IN THE NORTHERN NEW TERRITORIES ON THE MORNINGS OF JANUARY 29 AND 30.

FRESH TO STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS ON JANUARY 27 CAUSED SCAFFOLDINGS IN NGAU TAU KOK TO COLLAPSE.

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY VALUES REMAINED BELOW 40 PER CENT ON JANUARY 27 AND 28. BETWEEN JANUARY 27 AND 31, NEARLY 100 CASES OF HILL FIRE WERE REPORTED.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN JANUARY.

NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED IN THE MONTH AS A RESULT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN JANUARY

WARNINGS / SIGNALS -----	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME -----
STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	JAN 14 1600 - JAN 15 0645 JAN 15 2305 - JAN 16 1200 JAN 27 2230 - JAN 28 1015
FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	
YELLOW	JAN 1 0615 - JAN 2 0615 JAN 22 0615 - JAN 22 0940 JAN 24 0635 - JAN 26 0600 JAN 27 0000 - JAN 27 1205 JAN 31 0600 - FEB 1 0600
RED	JAN 17 0000 - JAN 17 1615 JAN 27 1205 - JAN 31 0600
GAS HEATER ALERTS	JAN 14 1630 - JAN 31 1615

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - JANUARY

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	132.8 HOURS ; 19.6 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	9.64 MJ/SQM ; 1.99 MJ/SQM ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	33.5 MM ; 10.1 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	61% ; 3% ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	74% ; 3% ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	16.9 DEGREES ; 1.7 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	14.6 DEGREES ; 1.2 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	12.6 DEGREES ; 1.0 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	9.6 DEGREES ; 0.6 DEGREE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	58.8 MM ; 38.7 MM BELOW NORMAL

CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS PRAISED FOR SAFETY RECORD

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THE MANAGEMENT, CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE WERE PRAISED BY THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR MAK SAI-YIU, FOR SETTING AN EXCEPTIONAL SAFETY RECORD IN HONG KONG.

"IT TAKES A LOT OF VISION, PLANNING AND SELF-DISCIPLINE TO REACH A LEVEL AS HIGH AS 3.5 MILLION MAN-HOURS, WITHOUT A SINGLE ACCIDENT," MR MAK SAID AT THE SAFETY AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD TODAY (MONDAY) AT THE NEW MOBIL TERMINAL ON TSING YI.

"IT ALSO TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF TEAMWORK AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE CONTRACTORS AND BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE."

MR MAK NOTED THAT BY INITIATING AN INNOVATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PROGRAMME, THE NEW MOBIL OIL TERMINAL PROJECT HAD GONE FAR BEYOND THE NORMAL STANDARDS IN HONG KONG.

IT WAS AN EXAMPLE THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED BY ALL THOSE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, HE ADDED.

MR MAK ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE WAS NO REASON EVER TO ACCEPT ANY LEVEL OF ACCIDENT RATE WITH COMPLACENCY AND THAT THERE WAS NO EXCUSE NOT TO AIM FOR TOTAL SAFETY.

"AVOIDING ACCIDENTS IS NOT COMPLICATED, BUT IT IS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE AND FOLLOWING SOME SIMPLE RULES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT COULD BE ACHIEVED BY PUTTING STRAIGHTFORWARD IDEAS INTO A WORKABLE AND USABLE PROGRAMME.

MR MAK HOPED THAT WORKERS WOULD TAKE WITH THEM THEIR EXPERIENCE OF A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT IN THE PROJECT WHEN THEY MOVED ON TO NEW JOBS AND PROJECTS, AND ENCOURAGED THEIR NEW COLLEAGUES TO FOLLOW SIMILAR PRACTICES.

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LEGCO TO DEBATE FAIR TRADE POLICY

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE A MOTION ON FAIR TRADE POLICY AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17).

THE MOTION IS PROPOSED BY THE HON FRED LI.

THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR WILL PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION.

ANOTHER MOTION ON MONITORING OF MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK.

MEMBERS WILL ASK 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER TWO BILLS AT THE SITTING.

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COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON IT IS DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

DEBATE ON FORESTS AND COUNTRYSIDE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WILL BE RESUMED. IT WILL GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SITTING. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERIES BY PHONING 869 9492.

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SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON EAST
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SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 9 AM TO 8 PM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17) TO FACILITATE REPAIR WORK ON THE SALT WATER PUMPING SYSTEM.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND KOWLOON HOSPITAL AS WELL AS ALL PREMISES IN HUNG HOM, TO KWA WAN, TUNG TAU, WONG TAI SIN, LOK FU, WANG TAU HOM, CHUK YUEN, KOWLOON TONG, KOWLOON CITY, MA TAU WAI AND MA TAU KOK.

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AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES RESCUERS TRY OUT SKILLS
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MORE THAN 20 PEOPLE "INJURED" IN A RAINSTORM ON A HO MAN TIN HILLSIDE WERE SPEEDILY RESCUED AND CARRIED DOWNHILL BY A TEAM OF OFFICERS FROM THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE (ERTF) IN A MOCK EXERCISE CONDUCTED TODAY (MONDAY).

THE EXERCISE WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE ONGOING TRAINING AND FAMILIARISATION TO THE AMS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS IN PRE-HOSPITAL CARE SKILL, PARAMEDIC TREATMENT AND SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNIQUE.

SPEAKING TO THE PRESS AFTER THE EXERCISE, THE COMMISSIONER OF AMS, DR S H LEE, SAID THE ERTF WAS EXPECTED TO REPORT TO INCIDENT SITES TO GIVE ON-THE-SPOT PARAMEDIC TREATMENT WITHIN 30 TO 45 MINUTES AFTER BEING MOBILISED.

THE ERTF IS A FORWARD PARTY OF AMS FOR ANY EMERGENCY. THEY ARE REINFORCED BY UNIFORMED MEMBERS FROM THE DISTRICT IN WHICH A DISASTER OCCURS.

DR LEE SAID: "SUCH A TWO-TIER MOBILISATION WILL ENABLE QUICK RESPONSE AND AT THE SAME TIME EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF THE MANPOWER RESOURCE WITHIN THE AMS."

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TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE MOVES TO NEW OFFICE
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THE TSUEN WAN MUSIC CENTRE OF THE MUSIC OFFICE WILL OPERATE FROM ITS NEW PREMISES ON FIRST FLOOR, TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN FROM SATURDAY (FEBRUARY 20).

THE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE:

DISTRICT SECRETARY 417 6431

ENQUIRIES 417 6430

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FRESH WATER CUT IN HO MAN TIN
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN HO MAN TIN WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 17) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT SHEUNG LOK STREET, SHEUNG SHING STREET AND SHEUNG HONG STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 53.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 312.540 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 182.266 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 31.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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LAN KWAI FONG INQUIRY
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OUTLINE OF WORK DONE ON MONDAY
(FEBRUARY 15) UP TO 4.30 PM

1. REVIEWING PRESS REPORTS.
2. STUDYING MATERIAL ON FIRST-AID TRAINING IN THE POLICE.

NOTE:

DURING THE WEEKEND: GENERAL REVIEW OF FILES AND CORRESPONDENCE

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	FEB 15, 93
PAPER ON OFFER	GOVT BONDS
ISSUE NUMBER	2502
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$2,575 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$500 MN
AV PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.40 (4.59)
LOWEST PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.40 (4.59)
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 91 PCT
AV TENDER PRICE (YIELD)	100.29 (4.65)

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,950
REVERSAL OF LAF	+200
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,500
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	650
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 115.00 *+0.1* 15.2.93

/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	3.05 PCT	12 MONTHS	2402	5.50	102.13	3.78
1 MONTH	3.04 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.61	3.99
3 MONTHS	3.05 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.65	4.28
6 MONTHS	3.14 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.64	4.46
12 MONTHS	3.54 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 6,202MN

CLOSED 15 FEBRUARY 1993

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