



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF ESTATE AGENTS DISCUSSED	1
PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE ELECTRICAL PRODUCT SAFETY	2
HK CELEBRATES INT'L YEAR OF THE FAMILY	3
TRAM AND LANTAU TAXI FARE RISES APPROVED	4
CHANGES TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST TAKE EFFECT ...	6
PROVISIONAL RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR OCTOBER RELEASED	6
BARGE OPERATORS URGED TO USE TUEN MUN WATERFRONT	9
1994 MUSIC OFFICE ANNUAL GALA	9
60 RETURN TO VIETNAM	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND TENDER RESULTS	10
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	11

ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF ESTATE AGENTS DISCUSSED

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THE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATION OF ESTATE AGENTS TODAY (TUESDAY) EXAMINED THE ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS OF ESTATE AGENTS IN HONG KONG AND ENDORSED SOME SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS TO EXISTING MALPRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN THE TRADE.

IN THE SECOND MEETING, THE GROUP AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT MOST ESTATE AGENTS' PRIMARY ROLE IS TO ACT AS MIDDLEMEN BETWEEN VENDORS AND PROSPECTIVE BUYERS IN PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.

IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY AMBIGUITY ABOUT AND ABUSE OF AN ESTATE AGENT'S ROLE AS A MIDDLEMAN, THE GROUP PROPOSED THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD PROVIDE THAT A PERSON WHO PLAYS SUCH A ROLE SHOULD IN FUTURE BE CONSIDERED AS AN AGENT FOR BOTH THE VENDOR AND PURCHASER.

THE GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED THE DUTIES OF AN ESTATE AGENT AND AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS FOR PRACTISING ESTATE AGENTS SHOULD BE LAID DOWN FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK:

- * TO BE A FIT AND PROPER PERSON, WITH NO CRIMINAL RECORD FOR FRAUDULENT OR DISHONEST OFFENCE;
- * TO REPORT AND PRESENT TO THE PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER TO THE BEST OF HIS OR HER KNOWLEDGE THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPERTY TRANSACTION; AND
- * TO DISCLOSE FULLY HIS OR HER INTEREST INCLUDING COMMISSIONS AND PROFITS IN THE TRANSACTION.

THE WORKING GROUP NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT INTERMEDIARY SYSTEM IN PROPERTY TRANSACTION HAS A NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES, SUCH AS SPEEDING UP THE TRANSACTION IN A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY, IT ALSO GIVES RISE TO THE FOLLOWING MALPRACTICES BY UNSCRUPULOUS ESTATE AGENTS:

- * ENGAGING CONFIRMORS TO POCKET THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OFFERING PRICE AND THE ASKING PRICE;
- * TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR DOUBLE AGENCY ROLE BY OFFERING A FLAT TO A BUYER AT A PRICE HIGHER THAN WHAT A SELLER HAS ASKED FOR;
- * ACCEPTING COMMISSION ILLEGALLY BY REFERRING HIS CLIENTS TO A SOLICITOR, A BANK OR AN INSURER;
- * MAKING MISREPRESENTATION TO INDUCE A PROSPECTIVE BUYER TO MAKE A WRONG DECISION ON THE TRANSACTION;
- * EXPLOITING THE PRESENT SITUATION OF UNCLEAR OBLIGATION THAT LEADS TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT POOR QUALITY OF SERVICE AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS.

AS A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION, THE WORKING GROUP ENDORSED THAT THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL SHOULD STEP UP PUBLICITY TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THESE MALPRACTICES WITH ADVICE ON HOW TO AVOID THESE PITFALLS.

THE GROUP ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE LAW SOCIETY AND THE TWO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD WORK OUT JOINTLY A STANDARDISED PROVISIONAL SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PSPA) WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CLAUSE TO REQUIRE ESTATE AGENTS TO DISCLOSE FULLY THEIR INTEREST IN THE TRANSACTION.

IT IS ALSO AGREED THAT THE TWO ESTATE AGENTS TRADE ASSOCIATIONS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR MEMBERS AND DRAW UP A CODE OF ETHICS AND A PRACTISING GUIDELINE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ICAC AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL TO IMPROVE PRACTISING STANDARD.

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PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE ELECTRICAL PRODUCT SAFETY

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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) HAS DRAWN UP A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AGAINST SUB-STANDARD HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS IN USE IN HONG KONG.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS ARE SPELT OUT IN A CONSULTATION PAPER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO OVER 40 INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS, INVITING THEIR COMMENTS ON STATUTORY CONTROL OVER THE SAFETY OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS.

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSALS IS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY BY PRESCRIBING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS DESTINED FOR USE IN HONG KONG," AN EMSD SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT UNDER THE PROPOSALS, SUPPLIERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THEIR PRODUCTS COMPLY WITH THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH CERTIFICATES OF SAFETY COMPLIANCE.

"HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS NOT MEETING THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM BEING SUPPLIED OR USED IN THE TERRITORY," HE SAID.

THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS SCHEDULED TO BE ENACTED IN 1995 AND BROUGHT INTO EFFECT 12 MONTHS LATER, ALLOWING A 12-MONTH GRACE PERIOD FOR MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, SUPPLIERS AND CONSUMERS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

"IT WILL ENTAIL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS TO BE MADE UNDER THE ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND OTHER BODIES WISHING TO OBTAIN COPIES OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER MAY WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES (ATTENTION MR T H TAI), 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

REQUESTS CAN ALSO BE MADE ON TEL 895 8803 OR BY FAX 895 4929.

THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL END ON FEBRUARY 28. BEFORE THEN, INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSALS TO THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SINCE MANY PLUGS AND ADAPTORS ON SALE LOCALLY WERE BELOW STANDARD, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INTENDED TO INTRODUCE STATUTORY CONTROL OVER THE SAFETY OF THESE ITEMS BEFORE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION COMING INTO EFFECT.

"THIS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER CONSULTATION PAPER TO BE ISSUED LATER THIS MONTH, " HE ADDED.

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HK CELEBRATES INT'L YEAR OF THE FAMILY
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A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY (IYF).

MESSAGES TO PROMOTE IYF WILL ALSO BE PUBLICISED.

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY) THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGO'S) REPRESENTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT (SWD) AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (HKCSS) WILL FULLY SUPPORT THE LAUNCHING OF THE YEAR AND ITS OBJECTIVES.

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS PROCLAIMED 1994 AS IYF.

MR STRACHAN APPEALED TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION.

"THE MAIN THEME OF THE YEAR IS TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLES OF THE FAMILY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY AT LARGE," HE ADDED.

A CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE BY SWD AND HKCSS HAS BEEN SET UP AND HAS CHOSEN "FAMILY AND COMMUNITY: UNITY, HARMONY, DEVELOPMENT" AS THE MAIN THEME. THE SLOGAN IS "LOVE: FAMILY AND ME".

THE COMMITTEE HAS WRITTEN TO 500 ORGANISATIONS IN JULY LAST YEAR ANNOUNCING THE ADVENT OF IYF.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB (CHARITIES) TRUST HAS DONATED \$3.3 MILLION TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES.

ACTIVITIES TO BE ORGANISED INCLUDE:

* PUBLICITY

PROMOTION OF THE THEME SONG; DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED PUBLICITY MATERIALS TO THE PUBLIC; PRESSING OF SPECIAL POSTAL CHOP WITH SLOGANS; BUS ADVERTISEMENTS; TELEVISION DRAMA SERIES ON THE CHINESE CHANNELS OF BOTH TV STATIONS FROM MAY; A NEW TV API PLUS EXISTING API'S ON FAMILY EDUCATION; AND SOUVENIR BROCHURE;

* FAMILY GAMES DESIGN COMPETITION TO PROMOTE INTERACTION AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS; AND 300,000 "SWEET HOME" CARDS TO IMPROVE FAMILY TIES;

* A KICK-OFF EVENT TO BE HELD IN KOWLOON PARK ON JANUARY 8. MRS PATTEN WILL BE THE OFFICIATING GUEST; AND

* WINNING PROJECTS OF THE YOUTH SCHEME 1993 PROGRAMME TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE KICK-OFF EVENT.

OTHER MAJOR EVENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN THE YEAR.

IN ADDITION TO ORGANISING PROGRAMMES JOINTLY WITH THE HKCSS, THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ORGANISE PROGRAMMES AT DISTRICT LEVEL.

THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO ORGANISE A PROGRAMME - THE COMPETITION AND OPEN DAY OF FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES UNIT - TO MARK THE YEAR.

"AS INITIATIVES TO COMMEMORATE IYF, THE DEPARTMENT WILL DIRECT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE BOTH THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.

THESE INCLUDE:

* ADDITIONAL FAMILY CASEWORKERS AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS TO PROVIDE MORE INTENSIVE CASEWORK AND COUNSELLING;

* MORE HOME HELP TEAMS AND FAMILY AIDES, MORE FOSTER CARE PLACES, SMALL GROUP HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL CARE STAFF TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN; AND

* EXPANDING CHILD CARE CENTRE FACILITIES AND IMPROVING THE SALARY SCALE OF THE CHILD CARE SUPERVISORS.

IN NGO SECTOR, MANY OF THEM HAVE STARTED TO PLAN FOR ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE YEAR.

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, WITH THE THEME OF "FAMILY AND COMMUNITY CARE", IS BEING ORGANISED AND A TERRITORY-WIDE RESEARCH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT ON THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN COMMUNITY CARE, HE ADDED.

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TRAM AND LANTAU TAXI FARE RISES APPROVED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASES FOR THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS AND LANTAU TAXIS MAINLY TO MEET INCREASED OPERATING COSTS.

TRAM FARES WILL GO UP BY 20 CENTS TO \$1.2 FOR ADULTS AND BY 10 CENTS TO \$0.6 FOR CHILDREN WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 6.

A HALF-FARE CONCESSION FOR PASSENGERS AGED 65 OR ABOVE WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED.

UNDER THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE, THE PRICE OF A MONTHLY TICKET WILL GO UP FROM \$80 TO \$100. THE PRICE OF A TOURIST TICKET FOR FOUR DAYS OF UNLIMITED RIDE WILL REMAIN AT \$20.

THE LANTAU TAXIS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A 12.5 PER CENT FARE INCREASE EFFECTIVE FROM FEBRUARY 16. THE FLAGFALL CHARGE WILL GO UP FROM \$8 TO \$9 FOR THE FIRST TWO KILOMETRES. THE SUBSEQUENT INCREMENTAL CHARGE WILL INCREASE FROM 80 CENTS TO 90 CENTS FOR EVERY 0.2 KILOMETRE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE TRAM FARE INCREASE WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THE ESTIMATED 40 PER CENT RISE IN INFLATION RATE SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION IN AUGUST 1990.

"THE LOW RATE OF INCREASE HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE COMPANY'S SUCCESS IN INTRODUCING A NUMBER OF COST-SAVING MEASURES TO KEEP THE RISE IN OPERATING COSTS DOWN TO 15 PER CENT DURING THIS PERIOD," HE SAID.

THE HONGKONG TRAMWAYS HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED A REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME UNDER WHICH ALL TRAMS HAVE BEEN REBODIED AND WOODEN SEATS ON THE UPPER-DECK WERE REPLACED BY MORE COMFORTABLE MOULDED PLASTIC ONES.

THE COMPANY HAS ALSO COMMENCED A PROGRAMME TO REDECORATE TRAM SHELTERS, ALL OF WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED WITH SHIELDS AGAINST BAD WEATHER.

FOR LANTAU TAXIS, THE APPROVED RATE OF INCREASE IS IN LINE WITH THE RISE IN INFLATION RATE SINCE THE LAST FARE REVISION IN NOVEMBER 1992.

IN DETERMINING THE RATE OF INCREASE, CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE TRADE, THE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE, FARE DIFFERENTIAL WITH OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC ACCEPTABILITY.

THE PRESENT AND NEW FARE SCALES FOR LANTAU TAXIS ARE:

	EXISTING FARES	NEW FARES
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	\$	\$
FLAGFALL FOR THE FIRST TWO KILOMETRES	8.00	9.00
FOR EVERY SUBSEQUENT 0.2 KILOMETRE	0.80	0.90
WAITING TIME CHARGE FOR EVERY ONE MINUTE	0.80	0.90
ADDITIONAL FARE FOR EACH ARTICLE OF BAGGAGE, ANIMAL OR BIRD	3.00	4.00
ADDITIONAL FARE FOR EVERY HIRING ARRANGED THROUGH TELEPHONE BOOKING	3.00	5.00

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1994

- 6 -

CHANGES TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROL LIST TAKE EFFECT

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NEW REGULATIONS TO CONTROL MOVEMENT OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES) (NO. 2) ORDER 1993 WAS GAZETTED ON DECEMBER 3, 1993 AND TABLED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 8, 1993.

IT BRINGS REGULATIONS OF HONG KONG IN LINE WITH UPDATED CONTROLS BY THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROLS (COCOM) AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES ON STRATEGIC COMMODITIES.

THE AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE 1 OF THE REGULATIONS REFLECT UPDATED COCOM CONTROLS ON THE MUNITIONS LIST AND ATOMIC ENERGY LIST, AND CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT RELAXATION OF CONTROLS ON DUAL-USE GOODS INCLUDING COMPUTERS, SIGNAL PROCESSING EQUIPMENT, DISK DRIVES AND MODEMS ON THE INDUSTRIAL LIST, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID.

BESIDES, ALL THE ITEMS IN THE EXISTING MISCELLANEOUS LIST WILL BE MOVED AND NEW ITEMS ADDED TO THE INDUSTRIAL LIST TO REFLECT CONTROLS ON GOODS OF NON-PROLIFERATION CONCERNS, WHILE THE MISCELLANEOUS LIST WILL BE REPEALED, HE ADDED.

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO SCHEDULE 2 WHICH COVER ARTICLES IN TRANSIT HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE.

NO CHANGE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN MADE TO SCHEDULES 3 AND 4 WHICH COVER END-USE CONTROL AND SPECIFIED ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO ARTICLES SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 3 RESPECTIVELY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES WERE SUBJECT TO LICENSING CONTROL BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE.

ANY PERSON WHO IMPORTS OR EXPORTS AN ARTICLE SPECIFIED IN THE SCHEDULES WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE TO AN UNLIMITED FINE AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS IF CONVICTED, HE ADDED.

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PROVISIONAL RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR OCTOBER RELEASED

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$15.3 BILLION, INCREASED BY 14% OVER THE SAME MONTH IN 1992, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 7% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A STRONG GROWTH IN SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, AND ON JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFTS.

/SALES OF

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN OCTOBER 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, 26% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES AND CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFTS WENT UP CONSIDERABLY BY 18% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME.

INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED FOR SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES, 13% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME; AND SALES IN SUPERMARKETS, 12% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED BY 3% IN VALUE BUT WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS AND FUELS DROPPED BY 1% AND 2% RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME. IN VALUE TERMS, THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES WERE 9% AND 4%. SIMILARLY, SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES DECREASED BY 5% IN VOLUME, DESPITE A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1% IN VALUE.

COMPARING THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VALUE AND 7% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1993 REMAINED VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED BOTH IN VALUE AND IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE OCTOBER 1993 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for October 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,322.7 million
for September 1993 (Revised Figure) = HK\$15,265.9 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR SEPTEMBER 1993 AND OCTOBER 1993

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	September 1993	October 1993	October 1993 compared with September 1993		October 1993 compared with October 1992		Jan-Oct. 1993 compared with Jan-Oct. 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	162.6	163.2	+0.6	+0.4	+19.5	+13.6	+17.6	+12.6
	Volume	134.0	133.9	-0.2	-0.1	+9.0	+7.2	+8.7	+7.1
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	131.5	132.1	+0.6	+0.5	+10.8	+8.9	+7.8	+6.7
	Volume	103.4	100.5	-2.9	-2.8	-1.0	-1.0	+1.6	+1.7
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	151.1	139.4	-11.7	-7.8	+14.9	+12.0	+12.3	+9.6
	Volume	113.7	104.3	-9.4	-8.3	+4.2	+4.2	+2.5	+2.4
Fuels	Value	165.0	168.0	+3.0	+1.8	+5.6	+3.5	+12.0	+8.8
	Volume	120.6	122.8	+2.2	+1.8	-1.9	-1.5	+3.8	+3.6
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	192.0	201.9	+9.9	+5.2	+42.0	+26.2	+47.0	+31.5
	Volume	147.8	153.4	+5.6	+3.8	+22.9	+17.5	+27.2	+21.5
Consumer durable goods *	Value	196.1	175.2	-20.9	-10.7	+12.8	+7.9	+12.7	+7.8
	Volume	166.8	147.8	-19.0	-11.4	+2.2	+1.5	+5.7	+3.9
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	234.0	206.9	-27.1	-11.6	+24.0	+13.2	-0.7	-0.4
	Volume	179.6	157.6	-22.0	-12.3	+4.7	+3.1	-12.7	-7.8
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	168.7	152.3	-16.4	-9.7	+4.6	+3.1	+22.4	+15.9
	Volume	157.5	140.7	-16.8	-10.6	+0.4	+0.3	+19.1	+14.2
Department stores	Value	126.8	131.2	+4.3	+3.4	+1.2	+0.9	+11.6	+9.1
	Volume	100.0	102.0	+2.0	+2.0	-5.5	-5.1	+2.2	+2.0
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	146.8	159.7	+12.9	+8.8	+23.9	+17.6	+14.5	+10.7
	Volume	145.2	160.3	+15.1	+10.4	+19.8	+14.1	+12.2	+8.7
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	186.3	200.2	+13.9	+7.4	+42.5	+26.9	+25.3	+17.5
	Volume	151.9	162.6	+10.7	+7.0	+28.4	+21.2	+14.5	+11.5

NOTES : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1994

- 9 -

BARGE OPERATORS URGED TO USE TUEN MUN WATERFRONT

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BARGE OPERATORS AT TAI LAM KOK ARE ASSURED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE SPECIALLY DESIGNED CARGO HANDLING WATERFRONT IN TUEN MUN IS AVAILABLE FOR THEIR USE.

FISHERMEN ARE ALSO ASSURED THAT THE TAI LAM KOK BARGE OPERATORS WHO HAVE ORIGINALLY MOVED FROM AREA 44 IN TUEN MUN TYPHOON SHELTER WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED TRAFFIC LEVELS IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER, A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN AT A MEETING BETWEEN MARINE OFFICIALS, BARGE OPERATORS AND FISHERMEN REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE MOVE OF FOUR BARGE OPERATORS FROM TAI LAM KOK TO TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT (NORTH) IN TUEN MUN.

TAI LAM KOK WATERFRONT WAS DECLARED NOT TO BE A PUBLIC WATERFRONT IN THE GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY (DECEMBER 31), MAKING WAY FOR ITS USE AS AN AIRPORT CORE PROJECT WORKS SITE.

TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT (NORTH) WAS GAZETTED AT THE SAME TIME TO PROVIDE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE WATERFRONT LOST AT TAI LAM KOK.

CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE BARGES AT TAI LAM KOK WOULD DELAY PRESSING CIVIL WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS GENERATED FROM THE BARGE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN MINIMISED TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS BY LOCATING THE BARGES TO THE FAR WESTERN SECTION OF THE TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT (NORTH)," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE LAND TRANSPORT IMPLICATIONS OF THE FOUR OPERATORS OPERATING AT TUEN MUN PUBLIC WATERFRONT (NORTH) WOULD BE MINIMAL, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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1994 MUSIC OFFICE ANNUAL GALA

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MORE THAN 500 YOUNG MUSICIANS WILL PERFORM AT THE MUSIC OFFICE'S ANNUAL GALA TO BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE CONCERT HALL ON JANUARY 29 AT 3 PM.

THE ANNUAL GALA IS THE FIRST MUSIC ACTIVITY ORGANISED BY THE MUSIC OFFICE OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH THIS YEAR.

IT WILL BE A REVIEW OF ALL THE TRAINEES' ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR UNDER THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TRAINING SCHEME RUN BY THE MUSIC OFFICE.

IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE TRAINEES WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM BEFORE THEIR PARENTS, FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC.

PERFORMING IN THE CONCERT WILL BE THE HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE ORCHESTRA; HONG KONG YOUTH CHINESE PLUCKED STRING ORCHESTRA; HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND; HONG KONG YOUTH STRINGS; MUSIC OFFICE YOUTH CHOIR AND CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND HONG KONG YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

/PIECES SUCH

PIECES SUCH AS "WINTER HUNTING", "SOMEWHERE OUT THERE" AND "FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES" WILL BE PERFORMED.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, WILL OFFICIATE AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY DURING WHICH OUTSTANDING TRAINEES, ORCHESTRAL, CHOIR AND BAND MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES OF MERIT OR AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.

TICKETS FOR THE ANNUAL GALA, AT \$30 AND \$50 EACH, ARE NOW ON SALE AT ALL URBIX OUTLETS.

HALF-PRICE TICKETS WOULD ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 60 OR ABOVE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 802 0657.

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60 RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A TOTAL OF 60 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS RETURNED TO VIETNAM TODAY (TUESDAY) ON THE 15TH FLIGHT UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

THE RETURNEES, COMPRISING 26 MEN, 13 WOMEN, 11 BOYS AND 10 GIRLS, ARE FROM THE HIGH ISLAND, NEI KWU CHAU, CHI MA WAN (UPPER) AND WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRES.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES ON THESE FLIGHTS TO 795.

THE 60 RETURNEES ARRIVED IN HONG KONG MOSTLY IN 1988 AND 1989, AND WERE ALL SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	4 JAN 94	4 JAN 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q401	H455
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$5,390 MN	HK\$2,060 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,200 MN	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.07 PCT	3.22 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.08 PCT	3.23 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 66 PCT	ABOUT 50 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.12 PCT	3.25 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 10 JANUARY 1994 -

TENDER DATE 11 JAN 94
 PAPER ON OFFER EF BILLS
 ISSUE NUMBER Q402
 ISSUE DATE 12 JAN 94
 MATURITY DATE 13 APR 94
 TENOR 91 DAYS
 AMOUNT ON OFFER HK\$1,200 + 240 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
 MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,900
REVERSAL OF LAF	+100
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-700
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,300
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 127.8 *+0.3* 4.1.94

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.98 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.23	3.65
1 MONTH	2.99 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.88	3.88
3 MONTHS	3.11 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.91	4.08
6 MONTHS	3.21 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	99.87	4.27
12 MONTHS	3.55 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.75	4.73

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 30,963 MN

CLOSED 4 JANUARY 1994

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