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GOVT STILL HOPES TO HAVE POLITICAL REFORM TALKS

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT STILL HOPES THAT THERE CAN BE TALKS EVEN AFTER THE DISAPPOINTING TURN OF EVENTS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT WAS HONG KONG'S POSITION SINCE HE ANNOUNCED, ON THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE DECISIONS ON THE GAZETTAL OF THE POLITICAL REFORM PROPOSALS AT THE END OF LAST WEEK.

"WE SET OUT AT THE END OF THE WEEK OUR POSITION AND NO ONE HAS QUESTIONED ITS INHERENT REASONABLENESS," HE SAID.

"NOBODY'S SUGGESTED WHERE WE WERE GOING TOO FAR IN WHAT WE SAID. SO, THAT IS THE POSITION.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO SET OUT OUR POSITION AS POSITIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AS POSSIBLE IN A CALM AND COOL TONE OF VOICE BUT NOT WITHOUT PRINCIPLE AND NOT WITHOUT DETERMINATION TO WORK FOR THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND TO WORK FOR THE INTERESTS, THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF EVERY FAMILY IN HONG KONG."

ASKED ABOUT THE REASON FOR NOT GOING AHEAD AND TABLING THE BILL NOW, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE DISCUSSED THAT THIS MORNING AND CONCLUDED WHICH I THINK IS SENSIBLE, THAT WE SHOULD TAKE THAT DECISION, HAVING TAKEN THE JUDGMENT ON THE MEASURES THAT ARE BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HAVING TAKEN ACCOUNT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL."

MR PATTEN SAID THE PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION WAS A STEADY PROGRESS.

"FIRST OF ALL, IT REQUIRES THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO ENDORSE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND THAT HAPPENED IN EARLY FEBRUARY AFTER WHICH WE HAD THESE FIVE WEEKS OF NOT-YET-SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT TALKS AND YOU HAVE THE PROCESS OF THE GAZETTAL AND THEN IN DUE COURSE, TAKING ACCOUNT OF WHAT IS IN FRONT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, YOU HAVE THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE THE BILL TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

WHEN ASKED TO RESPOND TO REMARKS BY THE CHINESE PREMIER, MR LI PENG, THE GOVERNOR SAID WHATEVER THE WORDS USED ABOUT HONG KONG, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG POSITIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY.

"I WANT TO WORK HARD. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WANTS TO WORK HARD FOR THE ORDINARY FAMILIES, THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT'S THEIR INTEREST THAT WE HAVE IN MIND," HE ADDED.

SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING -
AN EXTENSION OF ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMME

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THE FAST START SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME AIMS TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE HELP TO SOME FAMILIES PENDING THE LAUNCHING OF A LONG-TERM SCHEME TO BUILD AND SELL FLATS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES TO MIDDLE-INCOME PEOPLE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN ANSWER TO PRESS ENQUIRIES TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR EASON SAID THE INITIAL SCHEME IS BEING DEVELOPED AS AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THE SIGNIFICANT RISE IN PROPERTY PRICES IN EARLY 1991.

EVEN WITH THE RECENT SOFTENING IN PRICES, MANY PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUP ARE STILL UNABLE TO AFFORD THEIR OWN FLATS.

"THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR HOME OWNERSHIP WOULD BE FRUSTRATED FOR TOO LONG A TIME IF WE SIMPLY RELY ON A GRADUAL EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMME; AN INCREASE IN THEIR EARNINGS TO CATCH UP WITH FLAT PRICES OR A FURTHER ADJUSTMENT IN PRICES.

"IT IS FOR THESE REASONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO SPEED UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME BY MAKING FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE THE SUBSIDY MORE DIRECTLY."

MR EASON EMPHASISED THAT THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME IN BOTH LONG AND SHORT TERM WILL NOT AFFECT THE EXISTING PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME.

"RESOURCES FOR THE SCHEME WILL BE ADDITIONAL."

"THERE IS NO QUESTION OF THE SCHEME TAKING AWAY ANYTHING FROM PEOPLE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR OR ARE ALREADY ENJOYING PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE."

CLARIFYING SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE INTERIM SCHEME, MR EASON SAID THE BENEFICIARIES WILL NEITHER RECEIVE THE SUBSIDY IN CASH NOR BENEFITS TO AN EXTENT GREATER THAN THOSE AVAILABLE UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME (HOS).

HE SAID: "WHILE DETAILS OF THE INTERIM SCHEME ARE BEING WORKED OUT TAKING ACCOUNTS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, CARE IS BEING TAKEN TO SET UP A WATERTIGHT SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT THE SUBSIDY IS USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING MIDDLE-INCOME PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE THEIR OWN FLATS."

"BENEFICIARIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO RETURN THE SUBSIDY THEY HAVE RECEIVED IF AND WHEN THEY LEAVE THE SCHEME FOR ONE REASON OR THE OTHER."

ON THE SUBSIDY LEVEL, MR EASON DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE HIGHER THAN THAT ENJOYED BY HOS FLAT OWNERS.

"HOS FLATS ARE SOLD AT A DISCOUNT OF 35% - 45% OF THE PREVAILING MARKET PRICES.

"IT MEANS THAT AN HOS FLAT VALUED AT \$2 MILLION ON THE MARKET WILL BE SOLD TO A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT AT A DISCOUNT OF \$700,000 TO \$900,000."

"OF COURSE, HOS HOME BUYERS ARE SUBJECT TO RESALE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF PROTECTING THE SUBSIDY AND DISCOURAGING SPECULATION. THE SAME PRINCIPLE WILL APPLY TO THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME."

MR EASON SAID THE INTERIM SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT A PACE TO AVOID PUSHING UP PROPERTY PRICES.

"WE WILL REVIEW THE SCHEME INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF FLATS AVAILABLE AFTER THE INITIAL PHASE IS LAUNCHED LATER THIS YEAR."

"DEPENDING ON THE SUBSIDY LEVEL TO BE WORKED OUT, THERE MAY BE SCOPE TO EXTEND THE INTERIM SCHEME TO MORE ELIGIBLE HOME BUYERS," HE SAID.

ON THE LONG-TERM SCHEME, MR EASON SAID SITES FOR THE FIRST PHASE HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED 1993-94 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LAND COMMISSION.

"IT REMAINS OUR AIM TO COMPLETE THE FIRST 5,000 PURPOSE-BUILT FLATS FOR SALE BY 1996-97.

"HOME BUYERS OF THE LONG-TERM SCHEME WILL BENEFIT FROM CONCESSIONARY PREMIA FOR THE SITES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE GRANTED AT HALF OF THE FULL MARKET VALUE, THE SAME AS THAT FOR HOUSING SOCIETY'S EXISTING FLATS-FOR-SALE SCHEME."

MR EASON EMPHASISED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME IS THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO MEET DIFFERENT HOUSING NEEDS OF DIFFERENT GROUPS.

"IT IS UNDER THIS BROAD PRINCIPLE THAT VARIOUS FORMS OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE, SUCH AS PUBLIC RENTAL FLATS, HOS FLATS AND HOME PURCHASE LOANS, ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

"THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME IS A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMME TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUP WHO HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTING SO MUCH TO HK'S SUCCESS," MR EASON SAID.

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MORE SENIOR POSTINGS ANNOUNCED

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THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THE FOLLOWING SENIOR POSTINGS OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

- * WITH THE IMPENDING RETIREMENT OF MR T H BARMA, MISS DENISE YUE IS TO BE APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY. MISS YUE, CURRENTLY DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, WILL TAKE UP HER NEW APPOINTMENT IN MID-MAY;
- * MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, CURRENTLY COMMISSIONER FOR INSURANCE, WILL TAKE UP A NEW APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES AT THE END OF APRIL; AND
- * MR STEPHEN IP WILL SUCCEED MR SHIPMAN AS COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE IN MID-MAY.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THESE OFFICERS:

MR T H BARMA, ISO, JP

MR BARMA, AGED 59, FIRST JOINED THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1967 AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR. HE ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE A IN 1989.

HE HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSTS INCLUDING THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE FINANCE BRANCH, THE THEN HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT AND THE POST OFFICE.

HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM 1984 TO 1986 AND COMMISSIONER, EXPORT CREDIT AND INSURANCE CORPORATION FROM 1986 TO 1989.

MR BARMA WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY IN JULY 1989.

MISS DENISE YUE, JP

MISS YUE, AGED 40, JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1974 AND ROSE TO HER PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1992.

SHE HAS SERVED IN A NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES INCLUDING THE FINANCE BRANCH, THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE, THE THEN NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH.

/MORE RECENTLY

MORE RECENTLY, SHE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN NEW YORK FROM 1985 TO 1987, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY FROM 1988 TO 1991, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FROM 1991 TO 1992, WHEN SHE TOOK UP HER CURRENT POSTING AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, JP

MR SHIPMAN, AGED 48, WAS FIRST SECONDED FROM THE SCOTTISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO THE HONG KONG CIVIL SERVICE IN 1975.

HE WAS APPOINTED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE C IN 1980 AND ROSE TO HIS PRESENT RANK OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER STAFF GRADE B1 IN 1991.

DURING HIS CAREER TO DATE, MR SHIPMAN HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSTS. MORE RECENTLY, HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING FROM 1990 TO 1992, WHEN HE TOOK UP HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONER FOR INSURANCE.

MR STEPHEN IP, JP

MR IP, AGED 41, JOINED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE IN 1973. IN HIS EARLY YEARS, HE SERVED IN THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, THE FINANCE BRANCH, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE THEN UMELCO OFFICE AND THE SHAMSHUIPO DISTRICT OFFICE.

FROM 1983 TO 1986, HE SERVED IN THE LANDS AND WORKS BRANCH AND BETWEEN 1987 AND 1992, HE WAS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS.

MR IP HAS BEEN ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE NOVEMBER 1992.

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FEBRUARY SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, MAINLY FLATS, REGISTERED IN THE LAND REGISTRY IN FEBRUARY INCREASED BY 105.6 PER CENT COMPARED WITH JANUARY'S EXCEPTIONALLY LOW LEVEL AND BY 5.3 PER CENT COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY LAST YEAR.

IN ALL, 8,739 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING THE MONTH. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WAS ABOUT \$17.35 BILLION.

/THESE FIGURES

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THESE FIGURES WERE INCLUDED IN THE MONTHLY STATISTICS ON PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS REGISTERED IN THE URBAN AND NEW TERRITORIES LAND REGISTRIES RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

THERE WERE FIVE BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 10,509 OTHER MORTGAGES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH, COMPARED TO SIX AND 10,164 RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW BUILDING MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$0.20 BILLION COMPARED WITH ABOUT \$0.66 BILLION IN FEBRUARY 1992.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER NEW MORTGAGES IN THE MONTH OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES ROSE BY 21.1 PER CENT FROM ABOUT \$5.78 BILLION IN FEBRUARY 1992 TO ABOUT \$7 BILLION IN FEBRUARY 1993.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON BUILDING AND OTHER MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEES' RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 0.2 PER CENT FROM ABOUT \$2.799 BILLION IN FEBRUARY 1992 TO ABOUT \$2.804 BILLION IN FEBRUARY 1993.

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/REGISTRAR GENERAL

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
 Consolidated Monthly Statistics in respect of deeds received for
 registration in the Urban and New Territories District Land Registries

Month : February 1993

Item	Nature of Deeds	Number of Deeds received for registration			Consideration (\$)		
		Urban	New Territories	Total	Urban	New Territories	Total
1.	Assignments of undivided shares	5,971 (6,980)	4,214 (4,279)	10,185 (11,259)	21,912,797,836.94	4,589,638,496.63	26,502,436,333.57
2.	Assignments of whole lot, section or sub-section	48	679	727	2,548,640,455.42	1,327,468,804.50	3,876,109,259.92
	Sub-total (1) + (2)	6,019	4,893	10,912	24,461,438,292.36	5,917,107,301.13	30,378,545,593.49
3.	Building Mortgages/Building Legal Charges	4	1	5	177,000,000.00	18,000,000.00	195,000,000.00
4.	Mortgages/Legal Charges (other than item 3)	6,197	4,312	10,509	5,543,545,852.99	1,459,356,860.06	7,002,902,713.05
	Sub-total (3) + (4)	6,201	4,313	10,514	5,720,545,852.99	1,477,356,860.06	7,197,902,713.05
5.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Undivided Shares	3,715 (3,992)	5,024 (5,069)	8,739 (9,061)	11,639,742,722.47	5,707,687,603.35	17,347,430,325.82
6.	Agreements for Sale and Purchase of Whole Lot, Section or Sub-section	16	220	236	2,455,780,000.00	1,806,189,396.21	4,261,969,396.21
	Sub-total (5) + (6)	3,731	5,244	8,975	14,095,522,722.47	7,513,876,999.56	21,609,399,722.03
7.	Receipts/Discharge/Releases	4,518	2,521	7,039	2,330,980,150.69	472,834,341.56	2,803,814,492.25
8.	Leases/Tenancy Agreements	281	208	489			
9.	Exclusion Orders	0	0	0			
10.	Others	4,050	2,766	6,816			
	Total	24,800	19,945	44,745	46,608,487,018.51	15,381,175,502.31	61,989,662,520.82

Note : Figures within brackets denote number of units involved

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WORK ON BRIDGE FORGES AHEAD

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AN IMPORTANT EARLY MILESTONE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE "SHOES" IN WHICH ONE OF THE HUGE TOWERS OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE WILL STAND.

THE TWO MASSIVE CAISSONS OF REINFORCED CONCRETE, WHICH ARE THE HEIGHT OF A SIX-STORY BUILDING, ARE NOW ANCHORED OFF LANTAU READY TO BE PUT IN PLACE AT THE BASE OF THE TOWER OFF MA WAN ISLAND.

THEY WERE CAST ON BOARD A SPECIAL SUBMERSIBLE BARGE AT THE BRIDGE SITE ON TSING YI ISLAND, AFTER WHICH THE BARGE WAS PILOTTED TO NORTH LANTAU JUST BEFORE THE WEEKEND.

IN A HIGH PRECISION OPERATION OVER TWO DAYS AND INVOLVING SEVERAL TUGBOATS, THE BARGE WAS GRADUALLY SUBMERGED TO ALLOW THE CAISSONS TO BE FLOATED FREE AND SECURED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SUCH AN OPERATION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG AND THAT EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY.

"THE SUBMERSION AND REFLOATING OF THESE GIANT CONCRETE BOXES WAS A DRAMATIC SIGHT," HE SAID, "AND A HIGHLY VISIBLE SIGN OF THE RAPID PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE BRIDGE."

THEY WILL BE TOWED TO THE BRIDGE SITE AND PLACED ON A SPECIALLY PREPARED SEABED WHEN FOUNDATION EXCAVATION AND PREPARATION IS COMPLETED AT THE MA WAN TOWER IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

EACH CAISSON IS 20 METRES BY 28 METRES AND 17 METRES TO 19 METRES HIGH. THE LOWER PORTION OF EACH CAISSON CONTAINS HOLLOW CELLS THAT WILL BE FLOODED TO GRADUALLY SUBMERGE THEM AT THE PRECISE LOCATION OF THE TOWER FOUNDATION.

THE SPACE LEFT BETWEEN THE CAISSONS AND THE FOUNDATION BED ROCK WILL BE FILLED WITH TREMIE CONCRETE WHICH IS A SPECIAL UNDERWATER CONCRETE PLACEMENT PROCESS. INFILL CONCRETE WILL THEN BE ADDED ABOVE THE TREMIE CONCRETE WITHIN THE CAISSONS.

THE UPPER 7 METRES OF EACH CAISSON WILL FORM THE REINFORCED CONCRETE BASE FOR EACH TOWER LEG. THESE BASES, TOGETHER WITH THE INFILL AND THE TREMIE CONCRETE, WILL SECURE THE TOWER.

AN ISLAND WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AROUND THE MA WAN TOWER WITH ROCK ARMOUR TO PROTECT IT FROM MARINE TRAFFIC.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE WILL BE ONE OF THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGES IN THE WORLD, AND THE LONGEST CARRYING BOTH ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC.

TOGETHER WITH THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, IT FORMS THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, WHICH IS ONE OF THE 10 PROJECTS IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. THE CROSSING IS DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN MAY 1997.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT
FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER 1992 - JANUARY 1993

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THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NOVEMBER 1992 - JANUARY 1993 WAS 2.0%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.9%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1992 - FEBRUARY 1993 WAS 2.2%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.7%.

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT THE LABOUR MARKET WAS GENERALLY TIGHT, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SLIGHT EDGING UP OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ARE AFFECTED BY SOME WORKERS LEAVING THEIR JOBS AFTER THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS AND BECOMING TEMPORARILY UNEMPLOYED.

DURING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1992 - JANUARY 1993, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME, JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 56,000, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 52,700.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR NOVEMBER 1992 - JANUARY 1993 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 12,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,400 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE BY THE END OF MARCH AT \$15.50 A COPY.

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GOVERNOR TO OPEN TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN ON MARCH 26 (FRIDAY).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY) DURING A PRESS VISIT TO THE NEW TOWN, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR WORKS (PROGRAMME AND RESOURCES), MISS ELAINE CHUNG, SAID MOST OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS AND FACILITIES FOR TIN SHUI WAI HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

MISS CHUNG SAID THE NEW TOWN - THE EIGHTH BUILT UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW TOWN PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN 1972 - WAS UNIQUE AMONG HONG KONG'S NEW TOWNS FOR THREE REASONS.

FIRST, TIN SHUI WAI HAS BEEN A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

THE AREA WAS FORMERLY FISH PONDS AND DUCK FARMS IN THE 1960'S AND 1970'S.

IN THE 1970'S, THE LAND WAS ACQUIRED BY TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT LTD. IN 1982, THE COMPANY AND THE GOVERNMENT ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT TO JOINTLY DEVELOP THE AREA AS PART OF THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME, MISS CHUNG NOTED.

THE SECOND REASON FOR THE NEW TOWN'S UNIQUENESS WAS ITS VERY FAST SPEED OF DEVELOPMENT.

IN 1989, THE SITE HERE WAS NOTHING BUT SAND. BETWEEN 1989 AND 1991, ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DREDGER MOVED A TOTAL OF 19 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF MARINE FILL FROM DEEP BAY TO FORM OVER 460 HECTARES OF LAND.

"THE BUILDING RATE ACHIEVED AT TIN SHUI WAI HAS BEEN ONE FLOOR FOR EVERY FOUR TO FIVE DAYS WHICH MUST BE SOMETHING OF A WORLD RECORD," SHE EXPLAINED.

THE THIRD REASON WAS THE COMPLETELY HARMONISED BLOCKS DESIGN AT THE NEW TOWN.

THE AVERAGE SITE COVERAGE FOR PRIVATE LOTS IS 24 PER CENT ONLY. THERE ARE VERY GENEROUS AREAS FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION.

THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TIN SHUI WAI SURROUNDS A CENTRAL DISTRICT PARK AND IS GROUPED INTO FOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS, EACH RELATIVELY SELF-CONTAINED WITH SHOPPING CENTRES, PRIMARY SCHOOLS, WELFARE AND RECREATIONAL VENUE, AMONG OTHER FACILITIES.

TIN SHUI WAI IS BEING DEVELOPED IN PHASES. THE FIRST PHASE COVERING 169 HECTARES WILL BE HOME TO SOME 135,000 PEOPLE BY 1995.

THE AREA IS WITHIN A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ZONE OF 220 HECTARES, THE REMAINDER OF WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED AT A LATER STAGE.

/MISS CHUNG

MISS CHUNG SAID THE DEVELOPMENTS HAD REQUIRED AN INVESTMENT OF ABOUT \$10 BILLION, WITH TWO-THIRDS COMING FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND THE BALANCE FROM THE PARTNER DEVELOPER.

TO THE NORTH OF THE EXISTING DEVELOPMENT ZONE, 240 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN EARMARKED AS A RESERVE ZONE FOR LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT.

MISS CHUNG ALSO NOTED THAT THE OPENING OF TIN SHUI WAI NEW TOWN COINCIDED WITH THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW TOWNS PROGRAMME.

"THIS PROGRAMME HAS COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED THE FACE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES."

THE INITIAL 10 YEARS TARGET IN 1973 WAS TO DEVELOP THREE NEW TOWNS TO HOUSE 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE.

IN THE FOLLOWING DECADE, FIVE MORE TOWNS WERE DEVELOPED. 1989 SAW THE DECISION TO PLAN THE NINTH NEW TOWN AT TUNG CH'UNG.

THE NEW TOWNS NOW PROVIDE HOME FOR 2.5 MILLION RESIDENTS.

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REGULATION OF INSURANCE INDUSTRY MAKING GOOD PROGRESS
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GOOD PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN IMPROVING THE REGULATION OF THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, MR NIGEL SHIPMAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE HIS OFFICE'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1992, HE NOTED THAT THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT DURING THE YEAR WITH THE INDUSTRY REGARDING THE REGULATION OF INSURANCE AGENTS.

"ALL INSURANCE AGENTS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITH A CENTRAL REGISTRATION BOARD.

"THE REGISTRATION OF AGENTS BEGAN IN JANUARY 1993. AN AGENT MAY ONLY REPRESENT UP TO FOUR PRINCIPALS, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO FOR LIFE INSURANCE," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, INSURERS HAVE AGREED TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR INSURANCE AGENTS," HE EXPLAINED.

MR SHIPMAN ALSO NOTED THAT A UNIFIED BODY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SELF-REGULATION OF INSURANCE BROKERS HAD RECENTLY BEEN FORMED.

UNDER THE PROPOSED REGULATORY SYSTEM, AN INSURANCE BROKER WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MEET APPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AS A CONDITION OF REGISTRATION, HE SAID.

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"LEGISLATION IS BEING PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS SYSTEM OF SELF-REGULATION, IN PARTICULAR BY PROVIDING THAT NO ONE MAY HOLD HIMSELF OUT TO BE AN INSURANCE INTERMEDIARY UNLESS HE IS A REGISTERED AGENT OR BROKER OR HAS OTHERWISE BEEN AUTHORISED BY THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY," HE ADDED.

"WHILE THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING AND UPDATING OF THE INSURANCE LEGISLATION WILL CONTINUE, IT IS ALSO DESIRABLE THAT THE INDUSTRY ITSELF SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MOVE TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL SELF-REGULATORY SYSTEM WHICH COULD PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS," MR SHIPMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN 1993, THE ROLE OF HIS OFFICE WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE REGISTRATION OF OCCUPATIONAL RETIREMENT SCHEMES IN HONG KONG.

NOTING THAT THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM WOULD TAKE EFFECT IN MID-1993, HE SAID: "THIS PROCESS WILL PROVIDE A GREATER DEGREE OF ASSURANCE THAT RETIREMENT BENEFITS PROMISED BY EMPLOYERS WILL BE PAID TO THE EMPLOYEES AND WILL ALSO PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR ANY FUTURE COMPULSORY RETIREMENT PROTECTION SCHEME IN HONG KONG."

THE YEAR 1992 ALSO SAW AMENDMENTS TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE WHICH REMOVED THE EXEMPTION FOR UK-AUTHORISED INSURERS FROM CERTAIN AUTHORISATION REQUIREMENTS.

THE AMENDED ORDINANCE ALSO EMPOWERED THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT AN ADVISER ON THE AFFAIRS OF AN INSURER AND/OR TO APPOINT A MANAGER TO ASSUME MANAGEMENT CONTROL OF AN INSURER IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES, MR SHIPMAN SAID.

DURING THE YEAR, THE INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL WAS GAZETTED.

"ITS OBJECT IS, INTER ALIA, TO PERMIT INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED TO THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY BY THE AUDITOR OR ACTUARY OF AN INSURER AND TO INTRODUCE TO THE ORDINANCE THREE NEW CLASSES OF LONG TERM BUSINESS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY, THERE WERE 233 AUTHORISED INSURERS OPERATING IN HONG KONG AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1992.

OF THEM, 106 WERE INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG. AMONG THE INSURERS INCORPORATED OVERSEAS, 32 WERE INCORPORATED IN THE UK, 21 IN THE USA, NINE IN BERMUDA, EIGHT IN JAPAN, SEVEN IN SWITZERLAND, FIVE IN EACH OF CANADA, FRANCE AND SINGAPORE, AND FOUR IN CHINA.

DURING 1992 TWO NEW INSURERS WERE AUTHORISED TO CARRY ON INSURANCE BUSINESS, AND THE AUTHORISATION OF NINE INSURERS WAS WITHDRAWN, PRIMARILY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE COMPANIES CONCERNED HAD CEASED TO CARRY ON INSURANCE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

/ON THE

ON THE STATISTICS RELATING TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IN 1991, THE REPORT SHOWED THAT THE TOTAL GROSS PREMIUMS AND NET PREMIUMS FOR HONG KONG GENERAL BUSINESS (DIRECT AND REINSURANCE INWARD) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 AMOUNTED TO \$11,246 MILLION AND \$7,091 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

IN TERMS OF GROSS PREMIUM INCOME, PROPERTY DAMAGE INSURANCE BUSINESS HAD THE LARGEST MARKET SHARE (29%), FOLLOWED BY MOTOR VEHICLE (22%) AND GENERAL LIABILITY (WHICH INCLUDES EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE) (15%).

THE TOTAL GROSS AND NET CLAIMS PAID IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG GENERAL BUSINESS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 WERE \$5,355 MILLION AND \$3,280 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

REGARDING UNDERWRITING RESULTS, AN OVERALL UNDERWRITING LOSS OF \$309 MILLION WAS REPORTED FOR ALL CLASSES OF GENERAL BUSINESS. PARTICULARLY HIGH LOSSES WERE EXPERIENCED IN RESPECT OF GENERAL LIABILITY (\$249 MILLION) AND PROPERTY DAMAGE INSURANCE (\$122 MILLION).

STARTING FROM 1991 LONG TERM BUSINESS WAS REQUIRED TO REPORT ITS HONG KONG MARKET STATISTICS.

THE TOTAL ANNUALISED GROSS PREMIUMS (OFFICE PREMIUMS) FOR HONG KONG LONG TERM BUSINESS IN FORCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 AMOUNTED TO \$10,765 MILLION. NET LIABILITY AMOUNTED TO \$28,624 MILLION.

IN TERMS OF PREMIUMS, INDIVIDUAL LIFE AND ANNUITY BUSINESS TOOK THE LARGEST MARKET SHARE (60%), FOLLOWED BY RETIREMENT SCHEMES (35%) AND INDIVIDUAL LINKED LONG TERM (3%).

HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF NET LIABILITY, RETIREMENT SCHEMES BUSINESS ACCOUNTED FOR 56%, FOLLOWED BY INDIVIDUAL LIFE AND ANNUITY (34%) AND INDIVIDUAL LINKED LONG TERM (10%).

THERE WERE ABOUT 1.5 MILLION INDIVIDUAL LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES IN FORCE. TOTAL ANNUALISED GROSS PREMIUMS FOR INDIVIDUAL LIFE BUSINESS WERE \$6,747 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO \$4,264 PER HOUSEHOLD.

IN RESPECT OF RETIREMENT SCHEMES BUSINESS, THERE WERE 5,949 POLICIES IN FORCE WITH CONTRIBUTIONS MADE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1991 AMOUNTING TO \$3,735 MILLION. THE AGGREGATE OF POLICY FUND BALANCES AMOUNTED TO \$15,902 MILLION.

THE 1992 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, AT \$36 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

ANTI-POLLUTION PROSECUTION FIGURE RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED A LIST OF COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND GUILTY IN THE COURTS DURING FEBRUARY OF BREACHING ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION, CURRENTLY ENFORCED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE REGULARLY ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS COULD BE VERY TIME-CONSUMING AND AS A RESULT THERE WAS SOMETIMES A LENGTHY TIME GAP BETWEEN THE DATE OF THE OFFENCE AND THE CONVICTION DATE.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF PROSECUTION CASES AND THE ASSOCIATED FINES IMPOSED BY THE COURTS IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR:

NAME (COMPANY/ PERSON)	ADDRESS	DATE OF OFFENCE	NATURE OF OFFENCE	FINES(\$)	RECORD OF OFFENCE	COURT
1. ETERNITY INVESTMENT LTD	FUNG YIP STREET, CHAI WAN	1.5.91- 30.5.91	APCO : UNAUTHORISED INSTALLATION OR ALTERATION OF FURNACES	5,000	1ST	TSUEN WAN
2. GAINVIEW DEVELOPMENT LTD	JOHNSTON RD, WAN CHAI	1.9.91- 30.9.91	APCO : "	1,500	1ST	EASTERN
3. DYNAJOY DEVELOPMENT LTD	PAT TIN PA STREET, TSUEN WAN	7.10.91- 8.10.91	APCO : "	3,500	1ST	TSUEN WAN
4. WORLD PROFIT DEVELOPMENT LTD	WING MING STREET, CHEUNG SHA WAN	9.1.92- 4.8.92	APCO : "	2,500	1ST	NORTH KOWLOON
5. BEGIN LUCK LTD	QUEEN'S RD CENTRAL, CENTRAL	30.3.92- 10.6.92	APCO : "	2,500	2ND	EASTERN
6. SONOPRESS PAN ASIA LTD	LOCKHART RD, WAN CHAI	18.5.92- 3.6.92	APCO : UNAUTHORISED INSTALLATION OR ALTERATION OF CHIMNEY	2,300	1ST	SHA TIN
7. CHIU SUNG-YAN	AREA 103, MA ON SHAN	31.5.92	NCO : PERMIT CONSTRUCTION WORK WITHOUT A VALID PERMIT	2,000	1ST	SHATIN

8.GOOD YEAR RESTAURANT LTD	NGA TSIN WAI RD, KOWLOON CITY	23.6.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	25,000	4TH	SAN PO KONG
9.MANLOZE LTD	HARBOUR RD, WAN CHAI	15.7.92	APCO : UNAUTHORISED INSTALLATION OR ALTERATION OF CHIMNEY	3,000	1ST	EASTERN
10.TSANG KI	LARCH STREET, TAI KOK TSUI	24.7.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	2,000	2ND	NORTH KOWLOON
11.LUEN HOP (SCORE HILL) DYEING FTY LTD	KAM TIN, YUEN LONG	27.7.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE	10,000	1ST	FANLING
12.WAYSENG INDUSTRIES LTD	WANG LOK ST, YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	29.7.92	WPCO : "	20,000	1ST	"
13.TAI HING FOOD FTY	FAN KAM RD, YUEN LONG	5.8.92	WPCO : "	7,500	1ST	"
14.NAM HING CIRCUIT BOARD COMPANY LTD	FUNG KAT HEUNG, YUEN LONG	24.8.92	WPCO : "	5,000	1ST	"
15.PAK SHUN RESTAURANT	CHUNG ON ST, TSUEN WAN	26.8.92	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	5,000	1ST	TSUEN WAN
16.KONG LEE HO SHARK'S FIN & SEA PRODUCT	YING PUN TSUEN, SHEUNG SHUI	1.9.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE	5,000	1ST	FANLING

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17.TELLY WEAVING & DYEING FACTORY LTD	KIU TAU WAI, YUEN LONG	9.9.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	7,000	2ND	FANLING
18.REGENT SMART LTD	SAI YU STREET, YUEN LONG	9.9.92	NCO : "	10,000	2ND	"
19.MEI PAN DYEING FTY LTD	TAI YUEN ST, KWAI CHUNG	9.9.92	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	8,000	3RD	TSUEN WAN
20.TSANG YIU-TANG OF FAT KEE SOYA BEAN PRODUCTS	CAPE D'AGUILAR RD, SHEK O	10.9.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE SOUTHERN WATER CONTROL ZONE	20,000	2ND	EASTERN
21.WONG YIU-LUNG OF LUEN HING BEAN PRODUCT FACTORY	"	10.9.92	WPCO : "	25,000	3RD	"
22.SUN LUEN BEAN CURD FACTORY	SHEUNG TSUEN, YUEN LONG	10.9.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE DEEP BAY WATER CONTROL ZONE	10,000	2ND	FANLING
23.WAH HING DYEING FTY LTD	FUNG KAT HEUNG, YUEN LONG	14.9.92	WPCO : "	5,000	3RD	"
24.CHAN KAM-HUNG	SHU KUK STREET, NORTH POINT	17.9.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	3,000	1ST	EASTERN
25.CHEUNG SHU-CHIU	KIMBERLEY RD, TSIM SHA TSUI	23.9.92	NCO : "	10,000	1ST	SOUTH KOWLOON
26.WONG LEE-CHUNG	"	23.9.92	NCO : "	5,000	1ST	"

27.YU KAM- FAI	"	23.9.93	NCO : "	5,000	1ST	"
28.THE INCORPORATED OWNERS OF WALTON ESTATE	WALTON ESTATE, CHAI WAN	25.9.92	NCO : "	25,000	2ND	EASTERN
29.SIU CHI- KEUNG AS YICK FUNG DYEING & BLEACHING FACTORY	SAN YICK LANE, TUEN MUN	6.10.92	WPCO : DISCHARGED POLLUTING MATTER IN THE NORTH WESTERN WATER CONTROL ZONE	10,000	1ST	TUEN MUN
30.LEE TAI BLEACHING & DYEING FTY LTD	TSING YI INDUSTRIAL CENTRE, TSING YI	21.10.92	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	10,000	2ND	TSUEN WAN
31.CHOSERISE LTD	SHAU KEI WAN RD, SHAU KEI WAN	21.10.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	15,000	2ND	EASTERN
32.THE INCORPORATED OWNERS OF IMPERIAL GARDEN	DUKE ST, KOWLOON TONG	3.11.92	NCO : "	25,000	1ST	SAN PO KONG
33.LICK SANG KNITTING & DYEING FTY	WANG LUNG ST, TSUEN WAN	10.11.92	APCO : EXCESSIVE DARK SMOKE EMISSION	15,000	3RD	TSUEN WAN
34.LEE HUNG- KWAN	KING'S RD, NORTH POINT	13.11.92	NCO : FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE	5,000	1ST	EASTERN
35.KWOK SHUN-FAI	"	13.11.92	NCO : "	5,000	1ST	"
36.CHIU TUNG CHUEN LTD	ELECTRIC RD, NORTH POINT	19.11.92	NCO : "	3,000	1ST	EASTERN

37.KONG FUNG KWUN TEI, 23.11.92	APCO :	5,000	1ST	FANLING
IRON & STEEL FANLING				EXCESSIVE DARK
FTY LTD				SMOKE EMISSION

NOTE :

APCO : AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE
 NCO : NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE
 WPCO : WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID TWO PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED BY THE POLICE FOR CAUSING EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM DOMESTIC PLACE AT NIGHT. EACH OF THEM WAS FINED \$600 IN COURT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS :

ENQUIRIES ON SPECIFIC CASES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICERS :

APCO :	MR FRANKLIN CHUNG	TEL	594 6200
NCO :	MR STEVEN HO	TEL	594 6500
WPCO : CASE 11,12,13,	DR ELLEN CHAN	TEL	417 6133
14,16,22,23,			
29			
CASE 20,21	MR MURRAY LUO	TEL	835 1184

ENQUIRIES ON GENERAL ISSUES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MEDIA RELATIONS SECTION.

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PROTECTION OVER INNER DEEP BAY PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO EXTEND PROTECTION OVER INNER DEEP BAY AS ANOTHER MEASURE TO CONSERVE IMPORTANT NATURE RESERVE IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID: "WE PLAN TO LIST THE INNER DEEP BAY AS A RESTRICTED AREA UNDER THE SIXTH SCHEDULE OF THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE."

HE SAID MAI PO MARSHES AND THE ADJACENT INNER DEEP BAY WERE REGARDED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURE RESERVE IN HONG KONG BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OF AN EXTENSIVE MANGROVE FORMATION, A RICH DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE AND ITS IMPORTANT ROLE AS A STOPOVER AND REFUELLING STATION FOR THOUSANDS OF MIGRATORY BIRDS.

AT PRESENT, MAI PO MARSHES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS A RESTRICTED AREA UNDER THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE SINCE 1975 AND A NUMBER OF SHRIMP PONDS AND FACILITIES IN THE AREA ARE MANAGED BY THE WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE, HONG KONG, FOR EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES.

IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, SOME FISHERMEN FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER HAVE ENTERED THE INNER DEEP BAY AREA TO COLLECT MUDSKIPPERS AND TO SET UP NETS, THUS CAUSING DISTURBANCE TO THE WILDLIFE IN THE AREA AND THE ADJACENT MAI PO MARSHES.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE PLANS TO GIVE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO THE NATURE RESERVE AND TO PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS FOR KEEPING OUT FISHERMEN AND OTHER INTRUDERS.

WHEN THE INNER DEEP BAY IS LISTED UNDER THE SIXTH SCHEDULE OF THE WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ORDINANCE, A SPECIAL PERMIT ISSUED BY THE AFD IS REQUIRED FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ENTER THE AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID LOCAL FARMERS WITH A RIGHT TO CULTIVATE OYSTER BEDS WITHIN THE PROPOSED RESTRICTED AREA WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THEIR OYSTER CULTIVATION.

HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED LISTING WOULD NOT ENCROACH UPON THE NAVIGATION CHANNEL IN INNER DEEP BAY AND THUS TRAFFIC ALONG SHAM CHUN RIVER SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, THE HEUNG YEE KUK AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARD WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL CAN SEND IN THEIR VIEWS TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

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TOGETHERNESS DAY TO PROMOTE WELLBEING OF DISABLED
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THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) ENDORSED AT ITS MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY) THE STEPPING UP OF PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO REMOVE PREJUDICE AGAINST DISABLED PERSONS.

COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALLAN CHOW, BRIEFED MEMBERS ABOUT A TOGETHERNESS DAY TO BE HELD IN APRIL AS A PRELUDE TO A SERIES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR 1993/94.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD JOIN HANDS TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE FROM MOTHER TERESA - "TO LOVE THE VULNERABLE, TO SERVE THEM AND TO BE TOGETHER WITH THEM".

"WE SHOULD ALL SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRATION AND HELP TO PROMOTE THE WELLBEING OF DISABLED PEOPLE," SAID RDCC CHAIRMAN, DR RAYMOND WU.

RDCC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED THE NEED FOR THE PUBLICATION OF A WHITE PAPER ON REHABILITATION BY THE END OF 1993.

"THE DOCUMENT CONSISTS OF A LOT OF CONCEPTS ON REHABILITATION AND IS A GUIDE FOR THE FULL 10 YEARS IN THE FIELD," HE SAID.

DR WU ADDED THAT THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION WAS ONLY A CONSULTATIVE PAPER WHILE THE WHITE PAPER SET OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITTED POLICY ON REHABILITATION.

MEMBERS ALSO DECIDED TO DROP THE IDEA OF THE BOUGHT-PLACE SCHEME FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS IN NEED OF HOSTEL/CARE AND ATTENTION SERVICE.

"OPERATORS OF SUCH HOSTELS WOULD UNLIKELY BE INTERESTED TO IMPROVE THEIR HOMES' STANDARDS JUST TO TAKE IN A FEW SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS WHO WOULD EVENTUALLY MOVE TO SUBVENTED HOSTELS IN A FEW YEARS' TIME WHEN THE SHORTFALLS WILL GRADUALLY BE MET," DR WU SAID.

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SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF SEA VICTIMS

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (TUESDAY) EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHY FOR THE FAMILIES OF 29 HONG KONG MERCHANT NAVY OFFICERS AND SEAMEN SERVING ON BOARD THE LIBERIAN REGISTERED BULK CARRIER "GOLD BOND CONVEYOR".

THE SHIP WITH A GROSS REGISTERED TONNAGE OF 14,941 SANK ABOUT 110 MILES SOUTH OF CAPE SABLE, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA IN STORMY WEATHER SHORTLY AFTER MID-NIGHT YESTERDAY (MONDAY).

SHE HAD A CREW OF 33 AND 32 OF THEM ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. A BODY WAS RECOVERED FROM THE SCENE.

MR MILLER SAID: "I SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE THE FAMILIES DURING THEIR ANXIOUS WAIT FOR NEWS THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE AND WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY ENDEAVOUR TO OBTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE FATE OF THE HONG KONG CREW MEMBERS."

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION, AND THE HONG KONG AGENTS OF "GOLD BOND CONVEYOR", FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO APPROACH THE LIBERIAN AUTHORITIES TO REQUEST ANY INQUIRY REPORTS WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

THE CREW COMPRISE EIGHT OFFICERS AND 21 SEAMEN FROM HONG KONG, THREE FROM CHINA AND ONE FROM TAIWAN.

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CJ TO PAY TRIBUTE TO FORMER QC

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR SAM GITTINS, A FORMER HONG KONG QUEEN'S COUNSEL, AT 9.15 AM ON THURSDAY (MARCH 18) IN COURT NO. 1, SUPREME COURT.

MR GITTINS DIED IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, ON MARCH 2.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF COURT OF APPEAL, MR JUSTICE SILKE, HIGH COURT JUDGE MR JUSTICE LIU, DISTRICT JUDGE EVANS AND CHIEF MAGISTRATE MR G P MUTTRIE WILL SIT ON THE BENCH WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE DURING THE CEREMONY.

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MORE VIETNAMESE GO HOME

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A GROUP OF 266 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 90 MEN, 68 WOMEN, 44 BOYS AND 64 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 145TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BRINGS TO 973 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 27,285 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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DTC REGISTRATION REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGISTRATION OF TAT LEE FINANCE (HK) LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAD BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (TUESDAY) AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

THE REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY REVOCATION FOLLOWS THE GRANTING OF A RESTRICTED BANK LICENCE TO TAT LEE BANK ON JULY 10 LAST YEAR.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	16 MAR 93	16 MAR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q311	H360
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$3,128 MN	HK\$1,470 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,000 MN	HK\$400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.98 PCT	3.18 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.99 PCT	3.18 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 29 PCT	ABOUT 95 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.00 PCT	3.23 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 22 MARCH 1993 -

TENDER DATE	23 MAR 93	23 MAR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q312	Y387
ISSUE DATE	24 MAR 93	24 MAR 93
MATURITY DATE	23 JUNE 93	23 MAR 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,000 + 200 MN	HK\$200 + 60 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,490
REVERSAL OF LAF	+660
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-810
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,340
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114.1 *-0.1* 16.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.33 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.21	3.59
1 MONTH	2.74 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.02	3.67
3 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.36	3.81
6 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.41	4.02
12 MONTHS	3.44 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,007MN

CLOSED 16 MARCH 1993

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