



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
LEGCO TO ENSURE BEST ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: GOVERNOR	1
GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO MEDIA	2
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE	3
BIG BUDDHA ADDS MORE TO LIFE	7
PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR NOVEMBER	8
CUT IN AD VALOREM CHARGES FOR NON-FOOD IMPORTS	11
POSTAL REMITTANCE SERVICE STOPS	11
TRANSPORT GUIDE FOR DISABLED	12
COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	12
FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY	13
NEW OFFICE FOR SHA TIN BIRTHS REGISTRY	14
FRESH WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN	15
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	15

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

- 1 -

LEGCO TO ENSURE BEST ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAD FAIR, OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE OVERTURNED," HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE TIAN TAN BUDDHA ON LANTAU, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "I THINK WHAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT IS A GUARANTEE THAT THEIR WAY OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE BEYOND 1997.

"LOOK AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF THIS COMMUNITY, LOOK AT THE CIVILISED VALUE AND STANDARD WHICH THIS COMMUNITY ENJOYS. WE WANT IN HONG KONG THOSE THINGS TO CONTINUE."

HE SAID HONG KONG WAS DETERMINED THAT THESE THINGS WOULD CONTINUE AND ONE OF THE IMPORTANT GUARANTEES OF THEIR CONTINUING WAS THE RULE OF LAW.

"THE RULE OF LAW REQUIRES US TO HAVE IN PLACE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE FAIR, WHICH GUARANTEE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. NOBODY DISPUTES THOSE PROPOSITIONS. SO WE ARE GOING TO GO ON WORKING FOR THOSE THINGS.

"I AM SURE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS STARTING TO CONSIDER OUR NON-CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS TODAY, WILL DO A JOB WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE HAVE ARRANGEMENTS HERE IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN, WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG."

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT BY THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF CHINA'S STATE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IT'S A SURPRISING STATEMENT IN VERY MANY WAYS BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO BE A REFLECTION NOT OF THE RULE OF LAW BUT OF THE RULE OF MAN.

"IT APPEARS THAT THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE HAS THE POWER OF CLAIRVOYANCE BECAUSE EVEN BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS CONSIDER OR PASS LEGISLATION ON THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS, THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE SAY THAT THEY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT."

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT A MATTER FOR THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE TO DECIDE WHAT WAS OR WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THE BASIC LAW. IT IS A MATTER FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CHINA'S NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

"I DON'T THINK THAT ANY OF US REALLY BELIEVE THAT STAMPING ONE'S FOOT IS AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR A POLICY FOR THE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO MEDIA

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE TIAN TAN BUDDHA ON LANTAU ISLAND TODAY (WEDNESDAY):

GOVERNOR: GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM VERY HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THE OPENING OF THIS GREAT BUDDHA TODAY. I AM SURE THAT IT WILL PROVIDE A VISION AND GREAT INSPIRATION TO HONG KONG AND TO CHINA AND THE WORLD. IT'S A MARVELLOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT BY THE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY AND I CONGRATULATE THEM VERY WARMLY ON IT.

QUESTION: MR GOVERNOR, DO YOU THINK THE HKMAO STATEMENT IS REASONABLE? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK THAT TODAY WHEN WE WERE CELEBRATING A RELIGIOUS OCCASION IS THE TIME FOR GREAT POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. THERE WILL BE MANY CHANCES OVER THE NEXT THREE AND HALF YEARS OF HAVING EXCHANGES ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG. BUT I MUST SAY THAT AS A NUMBER OF HONG KONG LEGISLATORS POINTED OUT YESTERDAY, THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE STATEMENT ISN'T A VERY ATTRACTIVE CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. IT'S A SURPRISING STATEMENT IN VERY MANY WAYS BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO BE A REFLECTION NOT OF THE RULE OF LAW BUT OF THE RULE OF MAN. IT APPEARS THAT THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE HAVE THE POWER OF CLAIRVOYANCE BECAUSE EVEN BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS CONSIDER OR PASS LEGISLATION ON THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS, THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE SAY THAT THEY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. EVEN IF THAT WAS REASONABLE, IT'S CLEAN AGAINST THE BASIC LAW ITSELF, ARTICLE 160 FOR EXAMPLE. IT'S NOT A MATTER FOR THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE TO DECIDE WHAT IS OR IS NOT IN LINE WITH THE BASIC LAW. IT'S A MATTER FOR THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE. SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE THINK THEY ARE DOING. THEIR POSITION APPEARS TO BE THAT WHATEVER HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT, WHATEVER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DISCUSSES, WHATEVER WE PROPOSE IN THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE AND SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL THROW IT OUT, WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. BUT, WHERE ARE OUR PROPOSALS ON "SINGLE SEAT, SINGLE VOTE" AGAINST THE BASIC LAW? WHERE ARE OUR PROPOSALS FOR HAVING THE VOTING AGE AT 18, WHERE IS THAT AGAINST THE BASIC LAW? WHERE ARE OUR PROPOSALS ON MEMBERSHIP OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AGAINST THE BASIC LAW? THE TRUTH IS THAT, I AM AFRAID, THEY APPEAR TO BE MAKING UP THE LAW AS THEY GO ALONG. I DON'T THINK THAT ANY OF US REALLY BELIEVE THAT STAMPING ONE'S FOOT IS AN ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR A POLICY FOR THE LONG-TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. SO I HOPE THAT OVER THE NEXT THREE AND HALF YEARS, RATHER WISER COUNSEL WILL PREVAIL. I AM SURE THAT IF PEOPLE ARE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THAT WILL BE WHAT HAPPENS, THAT WILL BE THE SITUATION AND IT WILL BE IN ALL OUR INTERESTS WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

QUESTION : MR PATTEN, WHAT YOU MEANT IS THAT THE STATEMENT IS AGAINST THE BASIC LAW AND THE JOINT DECLARATION?

GOVERNOR: I MEAN EXACTLY WHAT I'VE SAID AND I'VE MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN MY REMARKS. I COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT ANY CLEARER.

QUESTION: WILL YOU CLARIFY THIS POINT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE?

GOVERNOR: I'VE MADE IT CLEAR TODAY. HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE AND, OF COURSE, THERE IS NO ANSWER EXCEPT ANOTHER FOOT-STAMPING.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, DO YOU THINK BY DELIVERING THE STATEMENT JUST NOW, AND YOU THINK A VERY ATTRACTIVE CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO THE HONG KONG PEOPLE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK WHAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE WANT IS A GUARANTEE THAT THEIR WAY OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE BEYOND 1997. LOOK AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF THIS COMMUNITY, LOOK AT THE CIVILISED VALUE AND STANDARD WHICH THIS COMMUNITY ENJOYS. WE WANT IN HONG KONG THOSE THINGS TO CONTINUE. WE ARE DETERMINED THAT THEY SHALL CONTINUE AND ONE OF THE IMPORTANT GUARANTEES OF THEIR CONTINUING IS THE RULE OF LAW AND THE RULE OF LAW REQUIRES US TO HAVE IN PLACE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE FAIR, WHICH GUARANTEE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD. NOBODY DISPUTES THOSE PROPOSITIONS. SO WE ARE GOING TO GO ON WORKING FOR THOSE THINGS. I DON'T THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE CHINA OR SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS SAY THAT AFTER 1997 THEY MAY DO THINGS WHICH WOULD BE AGAINST HONG KONG'S INTEREST, THAT'S A VERY PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT FOR US TODAY DOING THINGS WHICH WOULD BE AGAINST HONG KONG'S INTEREST. SO WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF HONG KONG. I AM SURE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS STARTING TO CONSIDER OUR NON-CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS TODAY, WILL DO A JOB WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT AT THE END OF DAY, WE HAVE ARRANGEMENTS HERE IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN, WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE OVERTURNED.

QUESTION: HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU'RE REJECTED TO THE HANDSHAKE BY MR ZHOU NAN JUST NOW?

GOVERNOR: I DIDN'T REJECT ANY HANDSHAKE WITH MR ZHOU NAN. MR ZHOU NAN MADE A BUDDHIST SIGN TO ME AND I MADE A BUDDHIST SIGN BACK. I IMAGINE MR ZHOU NAN IS A BUDDHIST, I DON'T KNOW. BUT I SHAKE HANDS WITH EVERYONE EVERYWHERE. IF OTHERS DON'T DO SO, THAT'S SOMETHING FOR THEM TO EXPLAIN BUT NOT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

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POLICE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO BE COURTEOUS AND PATIENT, TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND BE CONSIDERATE TO CHILDREN AND ELDERLY WHILE ENJOYING VARIOUS COUNTDOWN ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORY ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

AS LARGE CROWD OF PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED IN TSIM SHA TSUI, CAUSEWAY BAY AND CENTRAL, EXTRA POLICE OFFICERS WILL BE DEPLOYED FOR CROWD MANAGEMENT AND TRAFFIC DUTIES.

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID POLICE WOULD TAKE ACTION TO DIRECT THE PUBLIC WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THEIR SAFETY REQUIRED IT ON THE DAY.

HE URGED THE PUBLIC TO BE CO-OPERATIVE AND LISTEN TO THE ADVICE GIVEN BY POLICE OFFICERS ON THE GROUND.

POLICE WILL ALSO TAKE FIRM ACTION AGAINST ANY TROUBLE MAKERS FOR THE SAKE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

/TO ENABLE

TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL, SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TSIM SHA TSUI, CAUSEWAY BAY AND CENTRAL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A NUMBER OF ROADS WOULD BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC AT CERTAIN HOURS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF PEDESTRIANS AND ALSO CALLED ON THE PUBLIC TO MAKE FULL USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

"WHEN MEETING PEOPLE, THE PUBLIC ARE STRONGLY ADVISED NOT TO USE MTR STATIONS BECAUSE THE MOVE WOULD DISRUPT SMOOTH PASSENGER FLOW THROUGH THE STATIONS," HE ADDED.

MOTORISTS SHOULD DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE AND NOT DRIVE AFTER DRINKING ALCOHOL. THEY ARE ADVISED TO PAY HEED TO TRAFFIC SIGNS AND GUIDANCE BY TRAFFIC POLICE.

ILLEGAL PARKING OR WAITING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. TOWING ACTION WILL BE TAKEN WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE SHOULD VEHICLES CAUSE OBSTRUCTION.

"THE BEST WAY IS TO LEAVE THE CARS AT HOME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON NEW YEAR'S EVE ARE:

TSIM SHA TSUI

LARGE CROWDS ARE EXPECTED TO GATHER IN THE DISTRICT IN THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 31, PARTICULARLY IN THE VICINITY OF THE STAR FERRY CLOCK TOWER. THE AREA, INCLUDING PARTS OF CANTON ROAD, SALISBURY ROAD AND KOWLOON PARK DRIVE, IS EXPECTED TO BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES FROM 8 PM UNTIL IT IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO REOPEN THE ROADS.

ONCE THE AREA IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC, ENTRY TO AND EXIT FROM ALL CAR PARKS IN THE AFFECTED AREA WILL BE STOPPED. MOTORISTS WHO LEAVE THEIR VEHICLES IN SUCH CAR PARKS BEFORE 8 PM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEPART UNTIL THE ROADS ARE REOPENED. THEY ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LAWFUL PARKING OF THEIR VEHICLES EVEN THEY LEAVE THEM WITH CAR JOCKEYS.

DEPENDING ON THE DENSITY OF THE CROWD, THE FOLLOWING ROADS MAY ALSO BE CLOSED AT ANY TIME TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIANISATION:

- (1) PEKING ROAD BETWEEN CANTON ROAD AND KOWLOON PARK DRIVE;
- (2) ASHLEY ROAD BETWEEN PEKING ROAD AND MIDDLE ROAD;
- (3) MIDDLE ROAD BETWEEN KOWLOON PARK DRIVE AND SALISBURY ROAD;
- (4) HANKOW ROAD BETWEEN PEKING ROAD AND SALISBURY ROAD;
- (5) SALISBURY ROAD BETWEEN KOWLOON PARK DRIVE AND CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH (BOTH DIRECTIONS);
- (6) SALISBURY ROAD BETWEEN CHATHAM ROAD SOUTH AND HONG CHONG ROAD (WESTBOUND);

(7) NATHAN ROAD

- (7) NATHAN ROAD BETWEEN SALISBURY ROAD AND MODY ROAD (BOTH DIRECTIONS);
- (8) NATHAN ROAD BETWEEN MODY ROAD AND GRANVILLE ROAD (NORTHBOUND);
- (9) CHATHAM ROAD BETWEEN SALISBURY ROAD AND MODY ROAD;
- (10) MODY ROAD BETWEEN CHATHAM ROAD AND SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD (BOTH BOUNDS);
- (11) MODY LANE; AND
- (12) MODY SQUARE.

CAUSEWAY BAY

SPECIAL TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS MAY BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 8 PM ON DECEMBER 31 UNTIL 3 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY IN THE VICINITY OF VICTORIA PARK TO FACILITATE THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATING IN THE "COUNTDOWN '94".

DEPENDING ON THE CROWD SITUATION, ROAD CLOSURES AND TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO DIFFERENT PHASES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DUTY POLICE OFFICERS.

PHASE I

- (A) SUGAR STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;
- (B) KAI CHIU ROAD BETWEEN YUN PING ROAD AND JARDINE'S CRESCENT WILL BE CLOSED;
- (C) CANNON STREET BETWEEN GLOUCESTER SERVICE ROAD AND LOCKHART ROAD WILL BE MADE ONE WAY NORTHBOUND;
- (D) THE SECTION OF LOCKHART ROAD EAST OF CANNON STREET WILL BE CLOSED;
- (E) EAST POINT ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;
- (F) THE SECTION OF GREAT GEORGE STREET BETWEEN EAST POINT ROAD AND PATERSON STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;
- (G) THE SECTION OF HING FAT STREET SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN GORDON ROAD AND TSING FUNG STREET WILL BE CLOSED. ALL SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC ALONG HING FAT STREET WILL BE DIVERTED INTO GORDON ROAD; AND
- (H) THE RIGHT TURN MOVEMENT FROM WESTBOUND KING'S ROAD/CAUSEWAY ROAD INTO HING FAT STREET WILL BE PROHIBITED.

PHASE II

IN ADDITION TO THE CLOSURES AND TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS MENTIONED IN PHASE I, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE IMPLEMENTED:

- (A) THE SECTION OF PATERSON STREET BETWEEN KINGSTON STREET AND YEE WOO STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;
- (B) THE SECTION OF GLOUCESTER ROAD BETWEEN GLOUCESTER SERVICE ROAD AND CAUSEWAY ROAD EXCEPT FOR ACCESS FOR NORTHBOUND VEHICLES FROM THE TAI HANG ROAD FLYOVER HEADING FOR GLOUCESTER ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;

(C) THE SECTION

(C) THE SECTION OF KINGSTON STREET BETWEEN GLOUCESTER ROAD AND CLEVELAND STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC;

(D) THE SECTION OF GREAT GEORGE STREET BETWEEN PATERSON STREET AND GLOUCESTER ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. ACCESS TO AND FROM PUBLIC CARPARKS IN THIS AREA WILL BE SUSPENDED SIMULTANEOUSLY.

CENTRAL

DEPENDING ON THE DENSITY OF THE CROWD, TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS AND ROAD CLOSURES MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO DIFFERENT PHASES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE POLICE.

THE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 31 UNTIL 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY, DURING WHICH THE NORMAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT COMMENCES.

PHASE I

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAY PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT CLOSURES AND DIVERSIONS WILL APPLY.

(A) CHATER ROAD BETWEEN PEDDER STREET AND JACKSON ROAD AS WELL AS ICE HOUSE STREET BETWEEN QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC;

(B) EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL (EXCEPT FOR FRANCHISED BUSES) WILL BE DIVERTED NORTH INTO PEDDER STREET;

(C) NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON ICE HOUSE STREET WILL BE DIVERTED WEST INTO QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL;

(D) NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC ON PEDDER STREET WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CHATER ROAD.

PHASE II

IN ADDITION TO ROAD CLOSURES AND DIVERSIONS AS PER PHASE I, CHATER ROAD BETWEEN JACKSON ROAD AND MURRAY ROAD, JACKSON ROAD BETWEEN CHATER ROAD AND CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, CLUB STREET, MURRAY ROAD AND LAMBETH WALK BETWEEN THE EXIT TO THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND MURRAY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC.

PERMITTED VEHICLES TO THE AREA OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED TO ENTER AND LEAVE THE AREA THROUGH DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

LAMBETH WALK WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND BETWEEN THE EXIT OF THE MURRAY ROAD MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK AND THE COTTON TREE DRIVE SLIP ROAD.

LAN KWAI FONG

ILLEGAL PARKING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AT 10 STREETS IN THE AREA STARTING FROM 6 PM ON DECEMBER 31, NAMELY ARBUTHNOT ROAD, WYNDHAM STREET, GLENEALY, D'AGUILAR STREET, WELLINGTON STREET, STANLEY STREET, WO ON LANE, ON LAN STREET, ICE HOUSE STREET AND LOWER ALBERT ROAD.

POLICE WILL TAKE ACTION TO RESTRICT THE INFLOW OF PEOPLE INTO LAN KWAI FONG WHENEVER THE NUMBER OF THE VISITORS WITHIN THE AREA REACHES 5,000.

* PEOPLE WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AREA THROUGH THE LOWER ENTRANCE AT THE JUNCTION OF D'AGUILAR STREET WITH WELLINGTON STREET.

* PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE VIA THE EXIT POINTS AT THE JUNCTIONS OF WELLINGTON STREET WITH WAI TAK LANE, WELLINGTON STREET WITH WO ON LANE, AND D'AGUILAR STREET WITH WYNDHAM STREET.

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BIG BUDDHA ADDS MORE TO LIFE

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THE CALM, REFLECTIVE STATUE OF BUDDHA ON LANTAU IS A VISIBLE SYMBOL THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID.

HE WAS JOINING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE BIG BUDDHA STATUE TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR PATTEN SAID IT WAS A SIGN THAT HONG KONG WAS NOT A CITY IN WHICH ONLY PROFITS WERE HELD IN HONOUR.

"A SENSE OF SPIRITUALITY - OF MEANING BEYOND OUR DAILY LIVES - GIVES LIFE ITSELF HOPE AND PURPOSE.

"IT ENSURES THAT FOR MANY MILLIONS LIFE IS MORE THAN A ROCKY, UPHILL ROAD," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WAS ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF CIVILISED SOCIETY.

EQUALLY, A CIVILISED COMMUNITY LIKE HONG KONG RECOGNISED THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING WHATEVER THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS OR THEIR INFIRMITIES REFLECTS THE MAJESTY OF THE INFINITE AND THE WONDER OF THE UNKNOWN, HE SAID.

TODAY'S EVENT IS THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF WORK BY THE MONKS, NUNS AND BUDDHIST COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG, WITH THE SUPPORT OF MANY OTHER BUDDHISTS IN CHINA AND FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

THE IDEA WAS FIRST PROPOSED IN 1974 AND WAS REALISED WITH THE HELP OF SCULPTORS, CRAFTSMEN, ARCHITECTS AND CHINA'S EXCELLENT BRONZE CASTERS.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR NOVEMBER

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RE-EXPORTS CONTINUED TO SHOW A NOTABLE INCREASE IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. DOMESTIC EXPORTS REMAINED SLUGGISH, WHILE IMPORTS ROSE MODERATELY.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR NOVEMBER RELEASED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS, AT \$72,351 MILLION IN NOVEMBER 1993, WAS \$9,045 MILLION OR 14% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

AFFECTED PARTLY BY THE CONTINUED STRUCTURAL SHIFT TO RE-EXPORTS AND PARTLY BY THE WEAKER DEMAND IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED FURTHER, BY \$1,182 MILLION OR 5.8% TO \$19,145 MILLION IN NOVEMBER.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN NOVEMBER GREW BY \$7,863 MILLION OR 9.4% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$91,495 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$7,362 MILLION OR 8.7% TO \$92,469 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$974 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.1% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$1,476 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 1.7% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN NOVEMBER 1992.

IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$749,450 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$122,904 MILLION OR 20% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$202,444 MILLION, WAS \$10,020 MILLION OR 4.7% LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$951,894 MILLION, WAS \$112,884 MILLION OR 14% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$111,484 MILLION OR 13% TO \$976,548 MILLION.

A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$24,654 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 2.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$26,053 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE TO 79% IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1993, FROM 75% IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

/COMMENTING ON

COMMENTING ON THE LATEST TRADE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE GROWTH IN EXPORTS MODERATED IN RECENT MONTHS.

THIS WAS LARGELY DUE TO THE WEAKER DEMAND IN THE OVERSEAS MARKETS, AS WELL AS THE SLOW-DOWN IN EXPORT GROWTH TO THE CHINA MARKET.

NEVERTHELESS, LATELY THERE WERE SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN EXPORT PERFORMANCE TO A FEW MAJOR MARKETS - JAPAN, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE GROWTH RATE OF THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS SLOWED DOWN FURTHER, FROM 16% IN 1992 TO ONLY 3.9% IN THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

THIS REFLECTED A CONTINUOUS CONSOLIDATION AFTER THE LARGE INCREASES IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTERS.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN NOVEMBER 1993, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-JANUARY.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR NOVEMBER 1993

MERCHANDISE: Domestic Exports :	\$19,145 million
Re-exports :	\$72,351 million
Total Exports :	\$91,495 million
Imports :	\$92,469 million
Trade balance :	-\$974 million

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Latest 3 months	Sep 93 to	Sep 92 to	Change	
	Nov 93	Nov 92	HK\$ Mn	%
	HK\$ Mn	HK\$ Mn		
Domestic Exports	58,266	63,310	-5,044	-8.0
(% of Total Exports)	(20.6%)	(24.5%)		
Re-exports	224,255	195,589	+28,666	+14.7
Total Exports	282,521	258,899	+23,622	+9.1
Imports	278,097	258,080	+20,017	+7.8
Trade balance	4,424	819	+3,605	
Same month last year	November	November	Change	
	1993	1992	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,145	20,327	-1,182	-5.8
(% of Total Exports)	(20.9%)	(24.3%)		
Re-exports	72,351	63,305	+9,045	+14.3
Total Exports	91,495	83,632	+7,863	+9.4
Imports	92,469	85,107	+7,362	+8.7
Trade balance	-974	-1,476	+501	
Last month	November	October	Change	
	1993	1993	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	19,145	19,665	-520	-2.6
(% of Total Exports)	(20.9%)	(20.4%)		
Re-exports	72,351	76,697	-4,347	-5.7
Total Exports	91,495	96,362	-4,867	-5.1
Imports	92,469	93,566	-1,096	-1.2
Trade balance	-974	2,797	-3,771	
Calendar year to-date	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Change	
	1993	1992	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	202,444	212,465	-10,020	-4.7
(% of Total Exports)	(21.3%)	(25.3%)		
Re-exports	749,450	626,546	+122,904	+19.6
Total Exports	951,894	839,011	+112,884	+13.5
Imports	976,548	865,063	+111,484	+12.9
Trade balance	-24,654	-26,053	+1,399	
Last 12 months	Dec 92 to	Dec 91 to	Change	
	Nov 93	Nov 92	HK\$ Mn.	%
	HK\$ Mn.	HK\$ Mn.		
Domestic Exports	224,103	234,764	-10,661	-4.5
(% of Total Exports)	(21.6%)	(25.7%)		
Re-exports	813,733	679,032	+134,701	+19.8
Total Exports	1,037,836	913,797	+124,040	+13.6
Imports	1,066,779	942,037	+124,743	+13.2
Trade balance	-28,943	-28,240	-703	

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CUT IN AD VALOREM CHARGES FOR NON-FOOD IMPORTS
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) URGED THOSE MAKING TRADE DECLARATIONS TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE CHANGES OF AD VALOREM CHARGES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THE AD VALOREM CHARGES ON NON-FOOD IMPORTS HAD BEEN REDUCED SINCE OCTOBER 1.

HE SAID MANY TRADERS HAD MISTAKEN THAT THE REDUCTION APPLIED TO ALL ITEMS OF GOODS, IMPORTS AND EVEN DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS.

"THIS CONFUSION HAS OVERBURDENED OUR COLLECTION OFFICES, PARTICULARLY THE POSTAL REMITTANCE UNIT WHICH IS EXPERIENCING FIVE TO SIX TIMES THE NORMAL VOLUME OF UNACCEPTABLE TRADE DECLARATIONS BECAUSE OF MISCALCULATIONS OF DECLARATION CHARGES," HE SAID.

"THE REJECTED TRADE DECLARATIONS, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE RESUBMITTED AND REPROCESSED, HAVE WASTED MUCH OF THE RESOURCES OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND TRADERS," HE ADDED.

THE REDUCED CHARGES PAYABLE FOR NON-FOOD IMPORTS ARE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS: \$5 IN RESPECT OF THE FIRST \$14,000 OF THE VALUE, OR THE AGGREGATE VALUE, OF THE GOODS OR PART THEREOF AND 35 CENTS IN RESPECT OF EACH ADDITIONAL \$1,000 VALUE OR PART THEREOF AND ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST 10 CENTS.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CHARGES CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S HONG KONG COLLECTION OFFICE ON TEL 852 3048, OR KOWLOON COLLECTION OFFICE ON TEL 311 3053.

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POSTAL REMITTANCE SERVICE STOPS
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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR MIKE PAGLIARI, REMINDED THE PUBLIC TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OF THE CESSATION OF THE POSTAL REMITTANCE SERVICE IN HONG KONG FROM NEXT YEAR.

FROM JANUARY 1, THE POST OFFICE WILL NOT ISSUE INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS, POSTAL ORDERS OR LOCAL MONEY ORDERS.

CASH-ON-DELIVERY PARCELS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND POSTCHEQUES ISSUED BY FOREIGN POST OFFICES WILL NOT BE ENCASHED.

HOWEVER, LOCAL MONEY ORDERS, AND POSTAL AND MONEY ORDERS ISSUED OVERSEAS ON OR BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH FOR PAYMENT IN HONG KONG WILL STILL BE ENCASHED PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE PRESENTED AT POST OFFICES BEFORE THEIR VALIDITY HAS EXPIRED.

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO REMIT MONEY LOCALLY OR TO OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AFTER THE CESSATION OF THE POSTAL REMITTANCE SERVICE ARE ADVISED TO USE ALTERNATIVE BANKING FACILITIES COMMONLY AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG.

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TRANSPORT GUIDE FOR DISABLED

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DISABLED PERSONS CAN NOW BETTER PLAN THEIR JOURNEYS WITH THE HELP OF A BOOKLET PUBLISHED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

ENTITLED "A GUIDE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN HONG KONG FOR DISABLED PERSONS", IT IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG.

IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE AND IN BRAILLE, THE GUIDE CONTAINS INFORMATION ON FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR DISABLED PERSONS ON VARIOUS PUBLIC TRANSPORT MODES SUCH AS TRAINS, BUSES AND FERRIES.

IT DESCRIBES THE TRIAL SCHEME ON THE CERTIFICATE FOR THE PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN OF DISABLED TAXI PASSENGERS IN RESTRICTED ZONES.

THE GUIDE ALSO LISTS THE REHABUS SERVICES AND THEIR APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

IN ADDITION, IT SETS OUT TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS WHERE DISABLED PASSENGERS MAY SEEK HELP OR OBTAIN INFORMATION ON SERVICES.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES CAN COLLECT THE BOOKLET FROM THE REHABILITATION ORGANISATIONS, THE DISTRICT OFFICES, LICENSING OFFICES OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND THE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES OF MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS.

PERSONS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT CAN CONTACT THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND ON 778 8332 EXT 325 FOR BRAILLE COPIES.

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COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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THE SAI KUNG WEST COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE IN PAK TAM CHUNG HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR RENOVATION UNTIL JANUARY 31 NEXT YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID: "IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS NOW SINCE THE OPENING OF THE SAI KUNG VISITOR CENTRE FOR PUBLIC USE. IT IS POPULAR AMONG COUNTRY PARK VISITORS."

"TO MAINTAIN ITS LONG-STANDING OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING GOOD SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO RENOVATE THE CENTRE AND IMPROVE THE FACILITIES," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED THE PUBLIC NOT TO ARRANGE VISITS TO THE CENTRE UNTIL NEXT FEBRUARY WHEN RENOVATION WORK WAS DUE TO COMPLETE.

THERE ARE MANY OTHER BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN THE COUNTRY PARK WHERE VISITORS CAN APPRECIATE NATURE AND ENGAGE IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, HE SAID.

FROM NOW UNTIL EARLY FEBRUARY, VISITORS COULD ALSO USE THE OTHER SIX VISITOR CENTRES IN VARIOUS COUNTRY PARKS.

THE SIX CENTRES ARE IN ABERDEEN, SHING MUN, TAI MEI TUK, CLEAR WATER BAY, TAI MO SHAN AND AT LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE, TSIU HANG.

THEY ARE OPEN FROM 9.30 AM TO 4.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT TUESDAYS.

THE CENTRES ARE ESTABLISHED WITH THE MAIN AIM OF HELPING VISITORS ENJOY AND UNDERSTAND THE COUNTRYSIDE THROUGH STATIC DISPLAYS AND VISUAL AIDS.

DURING THE FIRST 11 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 633,000 VISITORS TO THE CENTRES WERE RECORDED.

THE SPOKESMAN CALLED ON COUNTRY PARK VISITORS TO HELP PREVENT COUNTRYSIDE FIRES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE FIRE DANGER WARNING IS RED OR YELLOW.

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FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY

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A TOTAL OF EIGHT ORGANISATIONS HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO RAISE FUNDS NEXT MONTH, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WILL EITHER SELL FLAGS, TOKENS OR SIMILAR ITEMS, OR PLACE DONATION BOXES IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC AREAS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT ON ITS HOTLINE - 343 2255 OR THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE'S 866 8123 IN CASE OF DOUBTS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ALSO APPEALED TO ORGANISERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FRAUD.

"SELLERS SHOULD DISPLAY THE PERMIT OR CARRY COPIES OF THE PERMIT FOR INSPECTION UPON REQUEST IF THE FUND-RAISING IS MOBILE," HE ADDED.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO ADVISED THEM TO PREPARE GUIDELINES FOR SELLERS, SETTING OUT THE PLACES AND THE TIME FOR SELLING AND THE COLLECTION POINTS FOR BAGS.

ORGANISERS SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE IN CASE OF LOSS OF PROPERTY, AND SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE WHEN FRAUDULENT ACTS, SUCH AS TAMPERING OF COLLECTION BAGS OR MAKING UNAUTHORISED SELLING, ARE FOUND.

PERMITS ALLOCATED FOR SELLING FLAGS AND FOR SUBSCRIBING IN PUBLIC ARE:

/(A) FOR FLAGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

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FRESH WATER CUT IN TUEN MUN

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL GO OFF FROM 10 PM ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 31) TO NOON THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT THE SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN TAI LAM CHUNG AND TSING BIK STREET, ALL HOUSING ESTATES LOCATED BETWEEN TSING LUN ROAD AND WU CHUI ROAD AS WELL AS THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN TUEN MUN.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,828
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,180
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-30
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,970
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 114.0 *+0.1* 29.12.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/ HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.41 PCT	14 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.34	3.56
1 MONTH	3.18 PCT	17 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.05	3.75
3 MONTHS	3.14 PCT	20 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.15	3.93
6 MONTHS	3.20 PCT	23 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.12	4.12
12 MONTHS	3.53 PCT	34 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.13	4.58
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,297MN						
CLOSED 29 DECEMBER 1993						

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