



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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STATEMENT ON HAN DONGFANG

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ABOUT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT COMMENTS ON THE HAN DONGFANG CASE:

"THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY THAT IN COMMENTING ON THE HAN DONGFANG CASE, HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS WERE REFLECTING THE WIDESPREAD ANXIETIES OF THE COMMUNITY, AS EXPRESSED IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND MEDIA COMMENTARY.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE HONG KONG PEOPLE VIEW FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, AS ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW, AS FUNDAMENTAL TO THEIR FUTURE, AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE WAY IN WHICH MR HAN'S CASE WAS HANDLED IT IS ONLY RIGHT FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY, AND THE ACTING GOVERNOR, TO BRING THESE CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

"THE COMMUNITY WOULD EXPECT NO LESS OF US."

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TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TODAY (THURSDAY):

"WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS OF HONG KONG SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COMMON SET OF TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL CIVIL SERVANTS, ALTHOUGH THE TIMING WILL DEPEND ON CONSULTATION WITH THE STAFF SIDE AND REACHING AGREEMENT WITH CHINA.

"ON THE ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION FOR THE FAILURE OF SOME APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS, IT HAS NEVER BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL CASES PUBLICLY, AND IT WOULD BE WRONG TO DO SO NOW.

"THE ASSOCIATION HAS CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL CIVIL SERVANTS' UNIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS FAVOURED DIALOGUE WITH THE STAFF AS THE BEST MEANS OF RESOLVING ISSUES, AND REMAINS READY TO MEET THE STAFF ASSOCIATIONS AND LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS.

"SERVICE NEED IS ONE OF THE CRITERIA WHEN CONSIDERING AN APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS. SERVICE NEED VARIES FROM POST TO POST AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST.

"SOME EXAMPLES ARE WHETHER THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE OF THE OFFICER CONCERNED IS STILL REQUIRED AND WHETHER THE ORIGINAL JOB OR PROJECT FOR WHICH THE OFFICER WAS FIRST APPOINTED HAS BEEN COMPLETED."

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WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING PROJECT AGREEMENT
AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING FRANCHISE WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FRANCHISEE, WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FRANCHISEE ALSO SIGNED A DOCUMENT UNDER WHICH THE FRANCHISEE'S SHAREHOLDERS GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL COMPLETE THE PROJECT WITHIN 48 MONTHS, AND THAT THEY WILL BEAR ANY COST OVERRUNS.

IN A SEPARATE CEREMONY, THE FRANCHISEE SIGNED A \$5.7 BILLION CONTRACT WITH ITS CONTRACTOR, NISHIMATSU KUMAGAI JOINT VENTURE. THE CONTRACTOR TOOK POSSESSION OF THE SITE A MONTH AGO AND HAS STARTED PREPARATORY WORK.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID: "THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE."

"THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING WILL PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH AN ESSENTIAL THIRD HARBOUR TUNNEL, OFFERING MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF TO OUR EXISTING TUNNELS. IT WILL ALSO FORM A CRUCIAL PART OF THE HIGHWAYS FROM HONG KONG ISLAND TO THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

"THE PROJECT AGREEMENT AND THE GUARANTEE AGREEMENT ARE RESULTS OF TOUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSORTIUM. THEY HAVE LED TO AN AGREEMENT THAT IS FAIR AND REASONABLE FOR BOTH PARTIES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, FOR THE PUBLIC.

"THE TERMS OF THE FRANCHISE, AND THE GUARANTEES ON COMPLETION AND COST OVERRUNS, PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WITH A STABLE TOLL REGIME. THEY ALSO PROVIDE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTORS WITH THE NECESSARY CONTINUITY AND STABILITY.

"THE FRANCHISEE IS COMMITTED TO COMPLETION WITHIN 48 MONTHS, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CONTRACTOR WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENABLE THE TUNNEL TO BE OPENED ON SCHEDULE IN MID-1997."

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL COMPANY LIMITED, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, SAID: "WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE LONG TIME SPENT IN NEGOTIATING THE TERMS OF THIS CONTRACT HAS REACHED FRUITION BY THE PROJECT AGREEMENT TODAY BEING SIGNED BY THE COMPANY AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT."

"THE COMPANY IS CONFIDENT THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT THE TUNNEL WITHIN THE 48-MONTH PERIOD PROVIDED FOR IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE NEW TUNNEL WILL FORM AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF WHICH HONG KONG WILL BE PROUD OF FOR MANY YEARS TO COME."

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE AWARD OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BRINGS TO A TOTAL OF \$44 BILLION THE VALUE OF CONTRACTS AWARDED ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (PAA), AND THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (WHC) FRANCHISEE."

"THAT AMOUNTS TO 54 PER CENT OF THE \$81 BILLION WORTH OF CONTRACTS TO BE LET BY THE GOVERNMENT, THE PAA AND THE WHC FRANCHISEE. ALL THESE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED WITHIN BUDGET.

"WITH THE START OF CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THIS PROJECT, HIGHWAY CONTRACTS WORTH \$25 BILLION ARE NOW UNDER WAY ON THE ACP. THIS AMOUNTS TO JUST OVER 85 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL \$29 BILLION OF ACP HIGHWAY WORK, AND DEMONSTRATES THE EXCELLENT PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE CORE PROJECTS.

"ON THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, THE FRANCHISEE IS NOW CARRYING OUT DETAILED DESIGN AND SITE INVESTIGATIONS, AND IS CLEARING THE SITE. THE GOVERNMENT IS MONITORING PROGRESS CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT WORKS ARE CARRIED OUT ON TIME AND TO REQUIRED STANDARDS."

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GOVT LAB GEARS UP TO MORE WORK
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THE GOVERNMENT LABORATORY IS SET TO HANDLE MORE WORK FROM BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AS IT MOVES INTO ITS PERMANENT HOME IN HO MAN TIN.

LAST YEAR, THE LABORATORY CONDUCTED A TOTAL OF 477,187 LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 12.4 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LABORATORY SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT WITH AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF SOME \$100 MILLION THE CURRENT YEAR SHOULD SEE A SIMILAR INCREASE IN WORKLOAD.

THE LABORATORY IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT WHICH PROVIDES ANALYTICAL, INVESTIGATORY AND ADVISORY SERVICES TO ANY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT WHICH REQUIRES SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT, AND OFFERS SIMILAR SERVICES TO OTHER STATUTORY BODIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON A FEE-PAYING BASIS.

THIS YEAR IS THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LABORATORY AND IT HAS FINALLY FOUND A HOME, RATHER THAN FITTING ITSELF INTO PREMISES WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

IT NOW OCCUPIES THE TOP FIVE FLOORS AND OVER 8,000 SQUARE METRES OF FLOOR SPACE IN THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING IN HO MAN TIN.

"THE NEW LABORATORY HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH CONSIDERATIONS FOR SECURITY OF OPERATION, FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE CHANGING NEEDS, AND EXCELLENCE OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO CREATING THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR STAFF TO DISPLAY THEIR VARIED SPECIALIST TALENTS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION, THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, WILL UNVEIL A PLAQUE IN THE NEW PREMISES ON SEPTEMBER 8.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE LABORATORY WAS AT PRESENT FORMULATING PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS AND TARGETS IN ORDER TO ENSURE EVER GREATER LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY IN THE FUTURE.

"SUCH PARAMETERS AND TARGETS WILL SEEK TO BEST UTILISE RESOURCES BY PROVIDING VALUE-FOR-MONEY ANALYSIS WITH REALISTIC CASE TURNAROUND TIMES," HE SAID.

THE LABORATORY HAS A STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT OF 311 AND IS HEADED BY THE GOVERNMENT CHEMIST. IT HAS TWO ANALYTICAL DIVISIONS - THE ANALYTICAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES DIVISION (AASD) AND THE FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION (FSD).

THE WORK PROGRAMME OF AASD IS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS CONSUMER PROTECTION IN TERMS OF TRADE DESCRIPTION LEGISLATION, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES, PRODUCT SAFETY AND SO ON.

THE FSD PROVIDES AN IMPARTIAL SCIENTIFIC SERVICE TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM BOTH IN ANALYTICAL FACT AND INFORMED SCIENTIFIC OPINION.

WHILE THE PRIMARY OBLIGATION IS TO SERVE ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED WITH LAW AND ORDER, THE SPOKESMAN SAID INCREASINGLY THE PRIVATE SECTOR SOUGHT THE SPECIALIST SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE WHICH EXISTS IN THE DIVISION AND SUCH WORK IS ENTERTAINED WHERE IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC JUSTICE TO DO SO.

IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, OVER 50 CASES INVOLVING 700 ITEMS WERE EXAMINED FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CONCERNING COMMERCIAL DOCUMENT FRAUD, TRAFFIC ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION, PATERNITY TESTING AND DRUG ANALYSIS. A TOTAL OF 51 CASES WERE HANDLED LAST YEAR.

THE LABORATORY'S FACILITIES ARE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED. THE UNITED NATIONS DRUG CONTROL BOARD HAS APPOINTED THE LABORATORY AS A REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SEIZED DRUGS AND DRUGS IN BIOLOGICAL FLUIDS.

THREE TO SIX UN FELLOWSHIPS ARE TO BE AWARDED ANNUALLY AND PRESENTLY THREE ANALYTICAL CHEMISTS FROM BEIJING ARE FELLOWSHIP HOLDERS AND RECEIVING ADVANCED DRUGS TRAINING IN THE LABORATORY.

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RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR JUNE

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JUNE THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$14.7 BILLION, INCREASED 12% WHEN COMPARED WITH JUNE LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 6% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTED TO GROWTH IN SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES.

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN JUNE 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, 26% IN VALUE AND 16% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED 14% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES OF FUELS, 11% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME; SALES OF SUPERMARKETS, 10% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME; SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES, 9% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME; SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS, 8% IN VALUE AND 1% IN VOLUME; AND SALES OF JEWELLERY AND WATCHES, 7% IN VALUE AND VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DECREASED BY 5% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR WITH THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VALUE AND 8% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH MAY 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN JUNE 1993 DECREASED BY 2% IN VALUE AND 3% 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 JUNE 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.

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR MAY 1993 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR JUNE 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN MAY AND JUNE 1993 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE JUNE 1993 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR MAY 1993 AND WITH THOSE FOR JUNE 1992, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for June 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$14,665.3 million
 for May 1993 (Revised Figure) = HK\$14,944.6 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR MAY 1993 AND JUNE 1993

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

Item	Index of Retail Sales	May 1993	June 1993	June 1993 compared with May 1993		June 1993 compared with June 1992		Jan-Jun. 1993 compared with Jan-Jun. 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS									
	Value	159.1	156.2	-3.0	-1.9	+16.7	+12.0	+16.9	+12.7
	Volume	132.8	128.8	-4.0	-3.0	+6.7	+5.5	+9.6	+8.1
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	117.2	122.0	+4.8	+4.1	+8.6	+7.6	+5.3	+4.6
	Volume	94.3	94.1	-0.3	-0.3	+0.7	+0.7	+0.3	+0.3
Supermarkets ϕ	Value	139.4	146.9	+7.6	+5.4	+13.0	+9.7	+11.1	+8.8
	Volume	107.4	112.3	+5.0	+4.6	+2.7	+2.4	+1.8	+1.8
Fuels	Value	144.0	150.9	+6.9	+4.8	+15.4	+11.3	+8.8	+7.0
	Volume	105.0	110.1	+5.1	+4.8	+5.6	+5.3	+1.7	+1.7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	215.6	185.5	-30.1	-14.0	+38.1	+25.8	+44.3	+31.0
	Volume	160.3	138.9	-21.4	-13.3	+19.4	+16.2	+25.4	+20.8
Consumer durable goods *	Value	174.5	183.2	+8.7	+5.0	+8.0	+4.6	+14.8	+9.5
	Volume	153.1	158.9	+5.8	+3.8	+1.7	+1.1	+9.1	+6.5
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	159.9	190.9	+31.0	+19.4	-10.9	-5.4	-6.4	-3.5
	Volume	124.9	148.8	+23.8	+19.1	-21.6	-12.7	-15.5	-9.9
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	185.0	177.6	-7.4	-4.0	+21.7	+13.9	+30.1	+22.5
	Volume	173.4	166.2	-7.2	-4.2	+18.5	+12.6	+27.0	+21.2
Department stores	Value	143.7	129.7	-14.0	-9.7	+10.3	+8.6	+13.6	+11.0
	Volume	110.6	100.5	-10.1	-9.2	+1.6	+1.6	+3.8	+3.6
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	169.6	151.5	-18.1	-10.7	+9.8	+6.9	+18.0	+13.8
	Volume	171.8	149.1	-22.7	-13.2	+0.4	+0.3	+20.5	+15.3
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	157.0	170.2	+13.2	+8.4	+37.2	+28.0	+18.4	+13.7
	Volume	129.0	139.8	+10.8	+8.4	+25.2	+22.0	+8.8	+7.5

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".

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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SHA BRIEFS DB CHAIRMEN ON
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES GREEN PAPER

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THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) BRIEFED DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMEN ON THE NEWLY PUBLISHED GREEN PAPER ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN.

ALSO ATTENDING THE BRIEFING SESSION WERE CHAIRMEN OF COMMUNITY BUILDING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEES UNDER THE DISTRICT BOARDS.

MR SUEN EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE GREEN PAPER WAS TO SEEK PUBLIC VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR ACTION TO FURTHER ENHANCE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH SEXES, AND THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.

"IN THIS RESPECT, THE DISTRICT BOARDS ARE WELL-PLACED TO STIMULATE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AND TO GATHER AND REFLECT PUBLIC OPINION ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT," HE SAID.

MR SUEN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WAS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN HONG KONG.

IT CARRIED WITH IT A SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL VALUE IN FOSTERING AMONG THE PUBLIC A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES, HE ADDED.

STRESSING THE BALANCED ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PREPARING THE GREEN PAPER, MR SUEN SAID: "WE HAVE AN OPEN MIND AND IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO INFLUENCE OR STEER PUBLIC OPINION IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION."

MEANWHILE, LETTERS AND COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER HAVE BEEN SENT TO WOMEN'S GROUPS, EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS, EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATIONS, AND RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS.

VIEWS FROM THESE ORGANISATIONS, MR SUEN STRESSED, WERE VERY IMPORTANT IN HELPING THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP ITS FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO WELCOME TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS BY WRITING TO THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, 31ST FLOOR, SOUTHERN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

COPIES OF THE GREEN PAPER CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND WORK GROUP UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

CONSULTATION WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY

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THE GOVERNMENT IS KEEN TO ENSURE THAT INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG GETS THE SUPPORT IT NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO THRIVE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG WOOLLEN AND SYNTHETIC KNITTING MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, MR CHAU SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS WORKING HARD TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS TO UPGRADE THEIR OPERATIONS.

"WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE TO ASSIST MANUFACTURERS IN MOVING UP THE VALUE-ADDED LADDER," HE SAID.

"MORE SPECIFIC TO THE TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY, THERE ARE FUNDS EARMARKED BY VARIOUS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING RESEARCH PROJECTS.

"WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING A SERIES OF SUPPORT SERVICES RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSULTANTS IN THE RECENTLY COMPLETED TECHNO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET RESEARCH STUDY ON HONG KONG'S TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES," HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THE PAST 30 YEARS HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL FOR THE KNITWEAR INDUSTRY.

HONG KONG'S KNITWEAR EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED FROM \$432 MILLION IN 1963 TO \$34,637 MILLION IN 1992.

THE INDUSTRY NOW ACCOUNTS FOR 15 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS.

IN RESPONSE TO THE PROBLEM OF RISING LAND AND LABOUR COSTS IN HONG KONG, MANY LOCAL KNITWEAR MANUFACTURERS HAVE AUTOMATED LABOUR-INTENSIVE PROCESSES TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND ADDED VALUE TO THEIR PRODUCTS THROUGH PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT, MR CHAU NOTED.

IN 1991, WE RECORDED AN IMPORT OF \$13 BILLION WORTH OF INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY TO BE USED IN HONG KONG WHICH REPRESENTED A 180 PER CENT INCREASE IN REAL TERMS OVER 1982.

"PRODUCTIVITY IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS RISEN BY AN AVERAGE OF 10 PER CENT A YEAR OVER THE LAST DECADE.

"WE CAN SEE FROM THESE STATISTICS THAT THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, INCLUDING OUR KNITWEAR MANUFACTURERS, HAVE FOUND THE KEY TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE 90'S," MR CHAU SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT MAXIMUM SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED TO ASSIST THE INDUSTRY'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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BRAVE FIREMEN COMMENDED

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SIX MEMBERS OF THE FIRE SERVICES WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) COMMENDED FOR A JOB WELL DONE DURING A NO. 4 ALARM FIRE IN A CHAI WAN GARMENT FACTORY TWO WEEKS AGO.

NINE PERSONS WERE RESCUED AND THE FIRE WAS SWIFTLY PUT OUT.

AT A COMMENDATION-PRESENTATION CEREMONY, ACTING DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR PETER CHEUNG, PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, PROFESSIONALISM AND DEVOTION TO DUTY.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BLAZE, TWO MEN WERE SPOTTED ON THE ROOF OF THE 11-STOREY INDUSTRIAL BUILDING WITH FIRE CLOSELY BEHIND THEM.

THE 37-METRE TURNTABLE LADDER AT THE SCENE WAS UNABLE TO REACH THE ROOF.

WHILE WAITING FOR A LONGER TURNTABLE LADDER FROM SHEUNG WAN, THE FIRE OFFICERS TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO HOOK A SHORT LADDER TO THE TOP OF THE AVAILABLE TURNTABLE LADDER TO EXTEND ITS MAXIMUM WORKING HEIGHT.

BY DOING THIS, THE TWO MEN MANAGED TO ESCAPE ONE BY ONE DOWN THE LADDER. SOON AFTER THEIR ESCAPE, THE PLACE WAS ENGULFED IN FIRE.

MR CHEUNG SAID THE RESCUE OPERATION WAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED WITHIN EIGHT MINUTES.

THE FIRE BROKE OUT ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING AT 26 LEE CHUNG STREET AT 6.16 PM. FIREMEN ARRIVED THERE IN THREE MINUTES.

THE BLAZE WAS UPGRADED TO NO. 3 ALARM AT 6.27 PM AND TO NO. 4 ALARM AT 7 PM. IT WAS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AT 10.06 PM AND WAS PUT OUT SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

AWARDED THE COMMENDATIONS WERE SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER CHOI KING-SANG, ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER LAW HUNG, SENIOR STATION OFFICER TAI KEI-WAI, PRINCIPAL FIREMAN LO PING-LAM, AND FIREMEN LUK BING-KEUNG AND WONG NAI-KWAN.

MR CHEUNG SAID TWO OTHER MEMBERS WHO HAD DONE WELL IN THE RESCUE OPERATION HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR A HIGHER HONOUR.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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CS VISITS LABOUR DEPARTMENT

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, VISITED THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SIR DAVID TOURED THE DEPARTMENT'S NEWLY RELOCATED BRANCH OFFICES AT THE TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND DISCUSSED WITH STAFF THE WORK OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

DURING HIS VISIT TO THE LABOUR INSPECTION DIVISION, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS BRIEFED ON THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM WHOSE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO INSPECT WORKPLACES AND ACCOMMODATION OF FOREIGN WORKERS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF LABOUR LAW AND EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS.

HE ALSO TRIED TO MAKE ENQUIRIES AND OBTAIN FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION SHEETS THROUGH THE ENHANCED GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE (GETS) WHICH WAS EQUIPPED WITH A COMPUTER SYSTEM TO PROVIDE PRE-RECORDED INFORMATION ON LABOUR LAW AND FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION ROUND THE CLOCK.

SIR DAVID WAS TOLD THAT STAFF OF THE GETS WOULD ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS OR TRANSFER THE CALLS TO RELEVANT DIVISIONS FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE DURING OFFICE HOURS.

ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY WAS BRIEFED THAT A NEW AIRPORT AND RAILWAYS OFFICE HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE FACTORY INSPECTORATE DIVISION IN JUNE THIS YEAR TO ENSURE WORKERS' SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE IN CONSTRUCTION WORKS RELATING TO THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS.

HE THEN VISITED THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHERE HE SAW FOR HIMSELF THE FREE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR BOTH EMPLOYERS AND JOB-SEEKERS, THE SPECIAL COUNTER FOR RETRAINEES AND VACANCIES INFORMATION FOR JOB-SEEKERS.

SIR DAVID ALSO VISITED THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION WHICH PROVIDES FREE PERSONALISED EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TO DISABLED JOB-SEEKERS.

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"KNOW MORE ABOUT FOOD SAFETY" EXHIBITION

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AN EXHIBITION ENTITLED "KNOW MORE ABOUT FOOD SAFETY" WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY AND THE FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG.

THE FOUR-DAY EXHIBITION, ORGANISED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD FLOOR, SHUN TAK CENTRE, CENTRAL, FROM TOMORROW TILL MONDAY (SEPTEMBER 6).

/INFORMATION ON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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INFORMATION ON THE FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM IN HONG KONG, FOOD HYGIENE EDUCATION AND FOOD SAFETY WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE VENUE.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 2 PM TO 5.30 PM TOMORROW AND FROM 10 AM TO 5.30 PM FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO 6.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

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WATER CUTS IN AP LEI CHAU
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OWING TO WATER MAINS CONNECTION WORK, FRESH AND SALT WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN AP LEI CHAU WILL GO OFF ON SATURDAY (SEPTEMBER 4).

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT THE POWER STATION, ALL THE PREMISES IN AP LEI CHAU ESTATE, SOUTH HORIZONS, THE RECLAMATION AREA AS WELL AS THOSE AT AP LEI CHAU BRIDGE ROAD, LEE NAM ROAD, LEE CHI ROAD AND MAIN STREET, AP LEI CHAU.

THE SALT WATER CUT WILL LAST FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM.

THE FRESH WATER SUPPLY WILL BE CUT OFF FROM 11 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,180
REVERSAL OF LAF	-180
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+175
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,175
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.4 *-0.1* 2.9.93

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.68 PCT	14 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.48	3.38
1 MONTH	2.75 PCT	17 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.68	3.58
3 MONTHS	2.81 PCT	20 MONTHS	2505	4.75	99.93	3.83
6 MONTHS	3.00 PCT	23 MONTHS	2508	4.625	101.24	4.00
12 MONTHS	3.25 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,387 MN

CLOSED SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

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