



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MAY 18, 1992

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MONDAY, MAY 18, 1992

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DON'T LET ROUGH POLITICAL DEBATE OBSCURE OUR CONSENSUS: GOVERNOR
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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, TONIGHT (MONDAY) SAID THERE WAS A BROAD CONSENSUS IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON KEY ISSUES AND WE SHOULD NOT LET THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE POLITICAL DEBATE OBSCURE THIS BEDROCK OF CONSENSUS.

ADDRESSING A DINNER HOSTED BY THE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE HAD BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF TALK ABOUT THE CHANGED NATURE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SINCE THE ELECTIONS LAST SEPTEMBER.

"SOME PEOPLE FEAR THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL GROUPS HAS BEEN A RETROGRADE STEP. WE NEED TO KEEP ISSUES SUCH AS THIS IN PERSPECTIVE," LORD WILSON SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ESSENTIAL POINT WAS THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT IDEOLOGICAL CHASM IN HONG KONG POLITICS.

"THERE IS A BROAD CONSENSUS IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN LEGCO ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS THE ECONOMY, TRADE, LAW AND ORDER, SOCIAL SERVICES AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

"WE SHOULD NOT LET THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE OF POLITICAL DEBATE OBSCURE THIS BEDROCK OF CONSENSUS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS THE BRITISH POLITICIAN RAB BUTLER WHO DECLARED THAT "POLITICS IS THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE".

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIST JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH DISAGREED, HE ADDED.

"HE SAID THAT 'POLITICS IS ABOUT DECIDING BETWEEN THE DISASTROUS AND THE UNPALATABLE'," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

LORD WILSON POINTED OUT THAT EITHER WAY, IT WAS ABOUT MAKING HARD CHOICES.

"IT IS TO MAKING SENSIBLE DECISIONS OUT OF THESE HARD CHOICES THAT WE AS A COMMUNITY SHOULD DEVOTE OUR EFFORTS."

THE GOVERNOR RECOUNTED SOME OF THE MAJOR EVENTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS DURING HIS GOVERNORSHIP AND THE WAY HONG KONG HAD HANDLED THEM.

THEY INCLUDED THE CRASH OF THE STOCK MARKET IN OCTOBER 1987; THE ARRIVAL OF OVER 61,000 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE BETWEEN 1989 AND 1991; THE MAJOR BLOW TO CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AFTER THE EVENTS IN BEIJING IN JUNE 1989; THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS ON BUILDING A NEW AIRPORT AND THE LONG AND SOMETIMES DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINA.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINA ON THE NEW AIRPORT HAD BEEN A MAJOR TEST OF ABILITY TO RESTORE A CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

/"THE RESULT

"THE RESULT LAST YEAR WAS A GOOD, WORKABLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. NOW THE AIRPORT AND THE PROJECTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT HAVE MOVED FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE TO THE DRAWING BOARD AND THEN TO WHERE IT REALLY MATTERS, TO WORK ON SITE.

"TOGETHER, THE 10 PROJECTS IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AMOUNT TO THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. THEY WILL PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH A SPRINGBOARD FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH INTO THE NEXT CENTURY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

NOTING THAT THE NEW AIRPORT WAS CLEARLY REQUIRED TO REPLACE KAI TAK, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE AIRPORT RAILWAY WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE DIRECT RAIL ACCESS TO CHEK LAP KOK WHICH A MODERN AIRPORT NEEDED.

IT WOULD ALSO BE OF IMPORTANT BENEFIT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN KOWLOON AND ON LANTAU.

"HONG KONG FACES AN IMPORTANT CHALLENGE AS THIS EXCITING VISION IS CARRIED THROUGH TO REALITY. THE MOMENTUM IS ALREADY BUILDING UP AS DESIGNS ARE COMPLETED, CONTRACTS LET, AND WORK ON SITE BEGINS.

"WE, THE GOVERNMENT, LOOK TO YOU IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO GIVE THIS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE YOUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT, SO THAT WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT A REALITY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

LORD WILSON POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD SHOWN THAT IT HAD A REMARKABLE ABILITY TO COPE WITH THE CHALLENGE OF DIFFICULT TIMES.

BUT HONG KONG HAD ALSO BEEN GOOD AT THE QUIET, STEADY AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT WORK OF MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

HE SAID IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, HAD BUILT 215,000 NEW FLATS - A RATE THAT MADE ROUGHLY 120 NEW FLATS EVERYDAY - SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. BY THE END OF THE 1990'S, 400,000 MORE FLATS WOULD BE BUILT.

ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT HAD DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF TERTIARY LEVEL FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE PLACES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM FROM ABOUT 5,000 TO OVER 10,000. ADD TO THAT, IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS A FURTHER 4,500 PLACES WOULD BE ADDED.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO PROVIDED 6,300 ADDITIONAL HOSPITAL BEDS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

"WE HAVE INVESTED OVER \$5 BILLION DOLLARS SO FAR IN CAPITAL WORKS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG WAS A SOCIETY WHICH HAD MOVED FROM THE THIRD WORLD TO THE FIRST WORLD IN TWO GENERATIONS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PRAGMATISM AND DYNAMISM WHICH MADE THIS POSSIBLE REMAINED THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF HONG KONG TODAY.

THE GOVERNOR SAID TWO KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING HONG KONG'S PAST SUCCESS AND ITS PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE WERE THE IMPATIENCE OR A RESTLESSNESS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY.

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"HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE A DEEP-SEATED CONVICTION THAT THINGS CAN AND SHOULD GET BETTER," SAID THE GOVERNOR.

HE SAID THE FUNDAMENTAL STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY, WHICH HAD IN THE PAST MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO REALISE THEIR ASPIRATIONS AND WOULD GO ON DOING SO IN THE FUTURE.

"WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE CONFIDENT ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC AND TRADE PROSPECTS," HE SAID.

LORD WILSON POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD SEEN A RAPID TRANSFORMATION TAKE PLACE AS A LARGE PART OF ITS MANUFACTURING BASE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE LOW COST ENVIRONMENT OF GUANGDONG.

"SERVICES NOW ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 70% OF OUR GDP. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN A MASSIVE GROWTH IN OUR TRADE WITH CHINA AND THE REGION. THESE TRENDS LOOK SET TO CONTINUE.

"I SEE NO REASON WHY HONG KONG SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO PROSPER THROUGH FREE TRADE AND ENTERPRISE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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TSING MA BRIDGE CONTRACT SIGNED

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THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE WHICH FORMS THE MAJOR PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING.

THE \$7 BILLION CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE ANGLO-JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION JOINT VENTURE FORMED BY DORMAN LONG OVERSEAS LTD, COSTAIN CIVIL ENGINEERING LTD AND MITSUI & CO LTD.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR S.K. KWEI, AND MESSRS. BOYLE & HOLLANDERS (DORMAN LONG), LAWSON & WATKINSON (COSTAIN) AND IKEDA & TAKEYAMA (MITSUI) ON BEHALF OF THE JOINT VENTURE.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, ALSO ATTENDED THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, AND TOGETHER WITH THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCTS, WILL LINK THE ROUTE 3 (KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI SECTORS) AND THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK.

THE TSING MA BRIDGE WILL HAVE AN OVERALL LENGTH OF OVER 2 KILOMETRES, WITH A MAIN SUSPENDED SPAN OF 1,377 METRES.

IT WILL BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGES AND THE LONGEST CARRYING BOTH A RAILWAY AS WELL AS A ROAD.

/THE MAIN

THE MAIN SUPPORT TOWERS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OF CONCRETE AND WILL BE MORE THAN 200 METRES HIGH. VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WILL BE RUNNING ON THE STEEL BRIDGE DECK AT A HEIGHT OF NEARLY 80 METRES ABOVE THE WATER OF MA WAN CHANNEL.

THE BRIDGE IS DESIGNED TO CARRY A DUAL THREE-LANE EXPRESSWAY ON THE TOP DECK. IT WILL ALSO HAVE A LOWER DECK CARRYING THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND A TWO-LANE SHELTERED ROADWAY FOR USE IN EMERGENCIES AND BAD WEATHER.

WORK ON THE BRIDGE WILL START ON MAY 25, 1992 AND WILL TAKE ABOUT FIVE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

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GOVT LAND SOLD FOR \$541.65M
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TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$541.65 MILLION IN A PUBLIC AUCTION BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE FIRST LOT IS LOCATED AT AREA 30, TAI PO, NEW TERRITORIES.

THE SITE HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 14,540 SQUARE METRES AND IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, RETAIL SHOPS, A SUPERMARKET AND A PUBLIC CAR PARK AND SUCH ANCILLARY USES.

IT WAS SOLD TO TIME RANK LIMITED AT \$533 MILLION WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$390 MILLION.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 13,894 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

THE OTHER LOT IS LOCATED AT ON CHUEN STREET, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 471 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADE AND ANY GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS).

THE LOT IS BOUGHT BY V-DAY LIMITED AT \$8.65 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$7.5 MILLION.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 1,415 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1996.

THE AUCTION, HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE, WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR JOHN CORRIGALL.

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ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS TO THAILAND

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IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THAILAND AND ON THE ADVICE OF THE FCO, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION TODAY (MONDAY) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING TRAVEL ADVICE:

"THERE HAVE BEEN SOME VIOLENT OUTBREAKS IN THE CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS IN THAILAND. THE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE PRESENTLY CONFINED TO THE AREAS SURROUNDING THE DEMOCRACY MONUMENT, GRAND PALACE AND GOLDEN MOUNT. TOURISTS SHOULD AVOID THESE AREAS AND ALL LARGE PUBLIC GATHERINGS.

"THERE IS NO DIRECT THREAT TO FOREIGNERS BUT IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY VISITORS TO BANGKOK SHOULD CONSIDER POSTPONING IF AT ALL POSSIBLE I.E. ONLY ESSENTIAL VISITS. TOURISTS GOING TO AREAS OTHER THAN BANGKOK SHOULD BE SAFE TO TRAVEL BUT SHOULD OBVIOUSLY AVOID ANY TROUBLE SPOTS AND GATHERINGS."

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EFFLUENT TUNNEL TO ABATE TOLO HARBOUR POLLUTION

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A 7.4-KILOMETRE LONG TUNNEL THAT FORMS AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOLO HARBOUR EFFLUENT EXPORT SCHEME TO ABATE POLLUTION IN TOLO HARBOUR WAS OFFICIALLY "BROKEN THROUGH" AT A CEREMONY TODAY (MONDAY).

THE TUNNEL RUNS FROM SHA TIN IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO DIAMOND HILL IN KOWLOON BEFORE PASSING INTO THE KAI TAK NULLAH AND EVENTUALLY JOINING VICTORIA HARBOUR.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID AT PRESENT TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT WAS DISCHARGED INTO TOLO HARBOUR.

THE SEWAGE EFFLUENT WITH ITS NUTRIENT CONTENTS IS ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF RED TIDE IN TOLO HARBOUR.

"THIS SCHEME, WHEN FULLY COMPLETED IN EARLY 1995, WILL CONVEY TREATED SEWAGE EFFLUENT FROM TAI PO AND SHA TIN TO VICTORIA HARBOUR WHICH HAS GREATER CAPACITY THAN TOLO HARBOUR TO RECEIVE SEWAGE EFFLUENT," MR BLAKE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THE TUNNEL, THE SCHEME ALSO INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUMPING STATIONS AT TAI PO AND SHA TIN, A SUBMARINE PIPELINE IN TOLO HARBOUR, A BRIDGE ACROSS SHING MUN RIVER, RISING MAINS, IMPROVEMENTS TO THE KAI TAK NULLAH AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS.

/CONSTRUCTION WAS

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CONSTRUCTION WAS SEPARATED INTO TWO STAGES - THE FIRST STAGE COMPRISES THE WORKS FROM SHA TIN TO KOWLOON, AND THE SECOND COMPRISES WORKS FROM TAI PO TO SHA TIN.

THE TWO STAGES COST \$453 MILLION AND \$430 MILLION RESPECTIVELY, MR BLAKE SAID.

"THE SCHEME WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED WILL SERVE THE PLANNED TOTAL POPULATION OF ONE MILLION IN SHA TIN AND TAI PO NEW TOWNS.

"THE SCHEME, TOGETHER WITH OTHER MEASURES UNDERTAKEN AS PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR ACTION PLAN, WILL ELIMINATE MOST OF THE POLLUTION SOURCES OF TOLO HARBOUR," MR BLAKE ADDED.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, SAID CONSTRUCTION TIME FOR THE TUNNEL WAS REDUCED FROM TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS TO TWO YEARS BY THE USE OF A TUNNEL BORING MACHINE.

MR SIU SAID: "THE TUNNEL BORING MACHINE OFFERS HIGH RATES OF ADVANCE AND THIS MEANS THAT LONG TUNNELS CAN BE BUILT FASTER AT LOWER COSTS.

"WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND OF SEWER TUNNELLING WORK WITHIN THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, IN PARTICULAR UNDER THE STRATEGIC DISPOSAL SCHEME, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THIS KIND OF TUNNELLING BORING MACHINE WILL BE MORE FREQUENTLY USED IN FUTURE."

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MARCH ORDERS-ON-HAND,
EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS FIGURES RELEASED

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THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MARCH THIS YEAR FOR THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURERS INCREASED BY 2% OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO A MONTHLY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE ORDERS POSITION IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, PARTLY OWING TO A LOW BASE OF COMPARISON IN MARCH 1991.

THE ORDERS POSITION IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, WEARING APPAREL, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES ALSO IMPROVED, THOUGH TO A LESSER EXTENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A SLIGHT DECREASE IN ORDERS WAS RECORDED IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND OF THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED INCREASED BY 1% IN MARCH 1992.

/SIMILAR TO

SIMILAR TO THE YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, ORDERS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, WHILE THOSE IN THE WEARING APPAREL, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, AND ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES SHOWED SMALLER INCREASES. THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY, HOWEVER, REPORTED A MODERATE DECREASE IN ORDERS.

THE AVERAGE VOLUME OF ORDERS-ON-HAND IS MEASURED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MONTHS AND REFERS TO ORDERS OUTSTANDING AS AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE MONTH.

CONTINUING WITH THE TREND IN RECENT YEARS, THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED DECREASED BY 10% IN MARCH 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO. THIS DECREASE REFLECTS THE CONTINUING TREND OF RELOCATING PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO SOUTH CHINA.

EMPLOYMENT DECLINED IN ALL THE INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT DECREASES FOUND IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED DECREASED BY 1% IN MARCH 1992.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, EMPLOYMENT DECREASED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, WEARING APPAREL AND TEXTILES INDUSTRIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE FOOD AND DRINKS, AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR THE MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED INCREASED BY 15% IN MONEY TERMS IN MARCH 1992 OVER A YEAR AGO.

INCREASES IN PER CAPITA EARNINGS WERE RECORDED IN ALL THE INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED, MORE SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS, THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS AND THE PLASTICS PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING MONTH, THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES SURVEYED INCREASED BY 1% IN MONEY TERMS IN MARCH 1992.

INCREASES WERE REPORTED BY THE TEXTILES, FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS AND WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRIES; WHILE DECREASES WERE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS, FOOD AND DRINKS, AND PLASTICS PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES.

THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED DECREASED IN MARCH 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH BOTH THE PRECEDING MONTH AND THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES SURVEYED INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN MARCH 1992 OVER A YEAR AGO. INCREASE WAS ALSO RECORDED OVER THE PRECEDING MONTH.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FIGURES FOR THIS INDUSTRY COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

IN THE SERVICE SECTORS, THE TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE COMPANIES SURVEYED SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN MARCH 1992 WHEN COMPARED WITH BOTH A MONTH AND A YEAR AGO.

THE AVERAGE PER CAPITA EARNINGS IN MARCH 1992 FOR THE SERVICE SECTORS SURVEYED INCREASED FAIRLY SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. IT WAS ALSO HIGHER THAN A MONTH AGO.

THE SURVEY COVERED A PANEL OF THE 200 LARGEST MANUFACTURING COMPANIES AND THE 50 LARGEST COMPANIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE SECTORS, CHOSEN BY REFERENCE TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT SIZES IN SEPTEMBER 1986.

THE DEPARTMENT CAUTIONED THAT AS THE SURVEY SAMPLE COVERS ONLY THE LARGE COMPANIES, THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE SERVICE SECTORS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE SURVEY RESULTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A USEFUL INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OF CHANGE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF SHORT-TERM DEVELOPMENTS IN THOSE SECTORS.

THE SURVEY REPORT FOR MARCH 1992 IS ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$4.5 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE MADE TO THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 805 6441.

THE PERCENTAGE CHANGES IN ORDERS-ON-HAND, EMPLOYMENT AND PER CAPITA EARNINGS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING THREE TABLES:

TABLE 1 : ORDERS-ON-HAND IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	ORDERS-ON-HAND		
	AS AT THE END OF MARCH 1992 (MONTHS)	CHANGE WHEN FEB. 92 ----- (%)	COMPARED WITH MAR. 91 ----- (%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	4.50	+1	+2
-----	----	--	--
WEARING APPAREL	4.86	+2	+3
TEXTILES	2.38	-7	-1
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	3.96	+16	+14
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	4.43	+1	+5
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	5.50	+1	+3
OTHERS	3.93	+1	-4

/TABLE 2 :

TABLE 2 : EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRY/SERVICES -----	PERSONS ENGAGED AS AT THE END OF MARCH 1992 -----	
	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH FEB. 92 MAR. 91 -----	
	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED -----	-1	-10
FOOD AND DRINKS	+1	-1
WEARING APPAREL	-1	-9
TEXTILES	-1	-8
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	+1	-12
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	-2	-12
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	-3	-18
OTHERS	*	-3
CONSTRUCTION # -----	-1	-5
SERVICES -----	*	*
BANKS	-3	-1
HOTELS	*	*
PUBLIC UTILITIES	*	*
OTHERS	+1	+1

* CHANGES WITHIN +/- 0.5%

PERSONS ENGAGED COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : PER CAPITA EARNINGS

NOTE: OWING TO THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF IRREGULAR PAYMENTS (E.G. BACKPAY OR SPECIAL BONUS), "PER CAPITA EARNINGS" FOR A GIVEN MONTH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RATHER VOLATILE FLUCTUATIONS FROM TIME TO TIME. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY ADVISABLE, IN STUDYING PER CAPITA EARNINGS STATISTICS, NOT TO TAKE A GIVEN MONTH'S DATA IN ISOLATION, BUT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DATA OVER A LONGER PERIOD.

INDUSTRY/SERVICES	PER CAPITA EARNINGS		
	AVERAGE AS IN MARCH 1992	CHANGE WHEN COMPARED WITH	
		FEB. 92	MAR. 91
	(HK\$)	(%)	(%)
ALL MANUFACTURERS SURVEYED	7,490	+1	+15
FOOD AND DRINKS	7,649	-2	+4
WEARING APPAREL	5,555	+3	+11
TEXTILES	6,498	+8	+14
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	7,582	-1	+17
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS	8,652	+6	+22
ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS	7,794	-3	+20
OTHERS	9,528	+3	+14
CONSTRUCTION #	10,090	+6	+15
SERVICES	12,085	+1	+9
BANKS	11,034	-2	+13
HOTELS	7,943	-2	+9
PUBLIC UTILITIES	11,748	+1	+3
OTHERS	14,325	+2	+11

PER CAPITA EARNINGS COVER COMPANY EMPLOYEES ONLY; SITE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY LABOUR-ONLY SUB-CONTRACTORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.

NOTE TO TABLES 1 - 3 :

UNLIKE "ORDERS-ON-HAND" AND "PER CAPITA EARNINGS", WHICH ARE AVERAGE FIGURES AMONG THE COMPANIES SURVEYED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED BY THE COMPANIES SURVEYED IS NOT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION ON ITS OWN (BECAUSE THIS IS A PANEL SURVEY) AND IS THEREFORE NOT SHOWN.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1992

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APPLICATION FOR REPLACING CI MAY BE MADE BY POST

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A SPOKESMAN FOR IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT AS AN IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, APPLICATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY MAY BE MADE BY POST.

APPLICANT'S PERSONAL ATTENDANCE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION WILL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED.

FROM JUNE 1, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE IN HONG KONG AND ARE AGED 18 OR OVER MAY SEND THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT OF THEIR HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY BY POST TO THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (OTHER SERVICES) SECTION, IMMIGRATION HEADQUARTERS, FOURTH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

APPLICATIONS MAY ALSO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE DROP-IN BOXES INSTALLED AT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (OTHER SERVICES) SECTION OR AT ANY IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICES.

APPLICANTS WHO PREFER TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON MAY CONTINUE TO DO SO.

WHEN POSTING THEIR APPLICATIONS, APPLICANTS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE ENCLOSED A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF THEIR CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY AND HONG KONG PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, TWO IDENTICAL RECENT PHOTOGRAPHS AND A CROSSED CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER FOR PAYMENT OF DOCUMENT FEES.

FOR APPLICATIONS MADE BY POST OR DEPOSITED AT THE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS (OTHER SERVICES) SECTION, IT WILL NORMALLY TAKE 10 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION TO ISSUE A NEW CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY.

FOR APPLICATIONS DEPOSITED AT AN IMMIGRATION BRANCH OFFICE, IT WILL TAKE ABOUT 15 WORKING DAYS.

APPLICANTS WILL BE INFORMED BY LETTER THE DATE AND OFFICE TO COLLECT THEIR NEW CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY.

THEY SHOULD COLLECT THEIR NEW CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IN PERSON AND BRING ALONG THEIR PREVIOUS CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY FOR CANCELLATION.

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASISED: "THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE PROCEDURES FOR OTHER CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY SERVICES.

"APPLICANTS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PREVIOUS CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY OR WHO NEED A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY FOR URGENT TRAVEL SHOULD ALSO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS IN PERSON."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY CALL THE INFORMATION OFFICE ON TEL 824 6111.

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MONDAY, MAY 18, 1992

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LEGCO MEETING ON WEDNESDAY

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 19 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 20).

THREE OF THE BILLS: EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1992 AND SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER ~~THREE~~ BILLS WILL BE RESUMED BEFORE GOING THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE FIRE SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992, BUILDINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND AERIAL ROPEWAYS (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992.

PROF THE HON EDWARD CHEN WILL MOVE A MOTION ON THE DEPOSIT PROTECTION SCHEME WHILE DR THE HON CONRAD LAM WILL MOVE A MOTION ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.

ALSO, DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA WILL MOVE AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON "ACCOUNTABILITY AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND STATUTORY BODIES".

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS WILL PRESENT THE REVISIONS OF THE 1992/93 ESTIMATES WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF LAST FINANCIAL YEAR.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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REGISTRATION OF DEPOSIT-TAKING CO REVOKED

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THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE REGISTRATION OF ASIAN OCEANIC LIMITED AS A DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANY HAS BEEN REVOKED AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY AT ITS OWN REQUEST UNDER SECTION 31(2) OF THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 54.7% OF CAPACITY OR 320.702 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 140.028 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 23.9% OF CAPACITY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO CONSERVE WATER AND AVOID WASTAGE.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN TAI KOK TSUI
* * * * *

FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (MAY 20) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY TO FACILITATE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES AT LI TAK STREET, KOK CHEUNG STREET, TAI KOK TSUI ROAD, CHERRY STREET, WAI ON STREET, CHUNG WUI STREET, TAI TSUN STREET AND IVY STREET.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
* * * * *

TENDER DATE	18 MAY 92
PAPER ON OFFER	GOVT BONDS
ISSUE NUMBER	2405
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,233MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500MN
AV PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.77 (5.15)
LOWEST PRICE (YIELD) ACCEPTED	100.75 (5.17)
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 46 PCT
AV TENDER PRICE (YIELD)	100.59 (5.25)

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MONDAY, MAY 18, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	16.5.92	1,688
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.5.92	-541 *
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-159
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+700 **

* O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED -700 MN

OTHER FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED +159 MN

**O/N ASSISTANCE TO BE REVERSED ON 19/5

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.7 *-0.1* 18.5.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.13 PCT	18 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.44	4.60
1 MONTH	3.16 PCT	21 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.98	4.96
3 MONTHS	3.25 PCT	24 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.68	5.20
6 MONTHS	3.59 PCT					
12 MONTHS	3.99 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,196 MN

CLOSED 18 MAY 1992

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