



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

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ELECTIONS TALKS TO START IN BEIJING

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ISSUED AT 1100 HRS. GMT TODAY (TUESDAY) THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

"THE CHINESE AND BRITISH SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL, STARTING FROM 22 APRIL, HOLD TALKS IN BEIJING ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994-95 ELECTIONS IN HONG KONG IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH THE BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE SIR ROBIN MCLAREN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO CHINA. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL BE MR JIANG ENZHU, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

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EVERYBODY MUST APPROACH TALKS POSITIVELY

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING THAT EVERYBODY MUST NOW LOOK FORWARD IN A VERY POSITIVE SPIRIT AND WELCOME THE TALKS ON THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS SCHEDULED TO START ON APRIL 22 IN BEIJING.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS, SIR DAVID SAID: " WE'VE BEEN TRYING HARD TO HAVE THESE TALKS AND I'M DELIGHTED THAT WE MANAGE TO REACH AGREEMENT WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES ON THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE TALKS.

"WE HOPE THAT WE, AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE HAVE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND WHICH WILL PROVIDE CONTINUITY THROUGH 1997 WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY A KEY FACTOR ALSO.

"OUR PLAN FROM HERE IS THAT SIR ROBIN MCLAREN WILL RETURN WITH THE GOVERNOR THIS WEEKEND. WE PLAN TO HAVE TALKS WITH OFFICIALS ON SUNDAY AND ALSO WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE THE TEAM TRAVELS TO BEIJING NEXT WEEK."

ASKED ABOUT HONG KONG'S ROLE IN THE TALKS, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE HONG KONG OFFICIALS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY PARTICIPATED IN PREVIOUS TALKS.

"IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT HONG KONG OFFICIALS WILL BE SUPPORTING SIR ROBIN MCLAREN AS MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WHICH IS GOING TO BEIJING."

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND TO PARTICIPATE AS ANY MEMBER OF A TEAM IN THAT SENSE.

/IN REPLY

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IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHETHER THE FOUR OFFICIALS HAD THE SAME STATUS AS SIR ROBIN, SIR DAVID SAID: "THE LEADER IS ALWAYS A LEADER OF ANY TEAM AND THAT IS THE CASE IN THE JLG OR WHENEVER THERE ARE TALKS AND HE HAS SUPPORTERS.

"THE SUPPORTERS ARE THE SUPPORTERS WHO COME FROM HONG KONG AND FROM LONDON AND, IN THIS CASE, THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE HONG KONG SUPPORT TEAM AND THE LONDON SUPPORT TEAM.

"AND THEY WILL BE FULLY PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS AND THAT IS THE PATTERN WHICH HAS BEEN WELL ESTABLISHED IN THE PAST AND THERE'S NOTHING DIFFERENT HAPPENING THIS TIME."

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION AS TO HOW LONG THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT COULD WAIT BEFORE TABLING THE BILL INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID: "IT REMAINS IMPORTANT THAT WE DO REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT SO THAT ANY AGREEMENT CAN BE PUT INTO LEGISLATIVE FORM.

"IT CAN BE THEN INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, DISCUSSED AND HOPEFULLY AGREED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DURING THIS SESSION. THAT REMAINS OUR AIM AND OUR WISH."

ON CONSULTATION WITH LEGCO IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, SIR DAVID SAID IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER OR NORMAL DURING NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS TYPE TO REVEAL THE CONTENTS OF THOSE WHILE THEY WERE IN PROGRESS.

"THIS IS AGAIN NOTHING UNUSUAL. BUT I THINK WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR IDEA OF THE VARIOUS VIEWS AND THEY WILL CERTAINLY BE IN OUR MIND AS WE ENTER INTO THESE TALKS," HE ADDED.

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OFFICIALS IN TALKS

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IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS TODAY ON WHO WILL SUPPORT SIR ROBIN MCLAREN IN THE TALKS, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID, SIR ROBIN WILL BE SUPPORTED BY MR MICHAEL SZE, SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR WILLIAM EHRMAN, POLITICAL ADVISER, MR PETER RICKETTS, HEAD OF THE HONG KONG DEPARTMENT OF THE FCO, AND MR PETER LAI, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.

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IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM MANY REPORTERS REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE HONG KONG OFFICIALS AT THE TALKS, WHETHER THEY WOULD BE FULL MEMBERS OR ADVISERS AND EXPERTS, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THEY WILL TAKE PART IN THE TALKS IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS THEY HAVE DONE IN PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS."

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VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JANUARY

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THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR WAS 3.3% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF 28%.

TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 21%. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 16% IN VOLUME.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES WITH THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES BEING DISCOUNTED.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS DECREASED BY 0.5% AND 1.5% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICE DECREASED BY 2.0%.

PRICE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED BY CHANGES IN UNIT VALUE INDICES, WHICH ARE COMPILED BASED ON AVERAGE UNIT VALUES OR, FOR CERTAIN COMMODITIES, BASED ON SPECIFIC PRICE DATA.

THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX, DEFINED AS THE RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX, INCREASED BY 0.8% IN JANUARY 1993 OVER JANUARY 1992.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID CAUTION SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE FOR A SINGLE MONTH AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH YEAR WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

COMPARING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1993 WITH THE THREE MONTHS ENDING JANUARY 1992, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 1.2% WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 24%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 19%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED TEXTILE FABRICS (+61%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+40%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+34%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+32%); AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+32%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES IN THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-53%); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-39%); AND FOOTWEAR (-36%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES, COMMODITY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED SIGNIFICANT INCREASES INCLUDED FOOTWEAR (+6.8); AND TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+5.8%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-9.4%); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-5.8%); AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-5.2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 22% IN JANUARY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL, VEGETABLE OIL AND LARD; MILK, BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS; LIVE POULTRY; AND FRUIT.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; AND ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 11%.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; MISCELLANEOUS MADE-UP ARTICLES OF TEXTILE MATERIALS; AND FOOTWEAR.

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR TOBACCO MANUFACTURES; AND CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES INCREASED BY 20% IN JANUARY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1992.

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR SPECIAL TEXTILE FABRICS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSE; WOVEN FABRICS OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; RAW COTTON; AND WOVEN COTTON FABRICS.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERABLE DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES; AND MAN-MADE FIBRES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 12% IN VOLUME IN JANUARY 1993 AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1992.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 18% IN JANUARY 1993 OVER JANUARY 1992.

NOTABLE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY; OFFICE MACHINES; AND TEXTILE MACHINERY.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, THE IMPORT PRICES OF FUELS AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 3.6% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY.

THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; CONSUMER GOODS AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 4.6%, 1.2% AND 0.8% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING JANUARY 1993 WITH JANUARY 1992, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FOODSTUFFS (+61%); CAPITAL GOODS (+30%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+29%); CONSUMER GOODS (+26%); AND FUELS (+3.3%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS AND FUELS INCREASED BY 1.7% AND 0.3% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; FOODSTUFFS; AND CONSUMER GOODS DECREASED BY 4.6%, 2.5% AND 0.8%.

DETAILS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS".

THE REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SALE AROUND APRIL 15 AT \$8.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDICES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4918).

TABLE 1 : CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING JAN 1993 WITH JAN 1992		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	5.9	2.5	3.4
TEXTILE FABRICS	61.1	0.1	60.9
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	2.6	-4.3	7.3
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	42.3	5.8	34.3
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	19.6	-9.4	31.8
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	32.9	-5.2	40.3
FOOTWEAR	-31.3	6.8	-35.7
METAL MANUFACTURES	-6.6	-2.9	-3.8
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	24.1	-5.8	31.7
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-14.0	-1.5	-12.7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-53.7	-2.2	-52.6
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-41.0	-3.5	-38.9
ALL COMMODITIES	2.7	-0.5	3.3

TABLE 2 : CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN 1993 WITH JAN 1992		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	20.7	-0.8	21.8
CONSUMER GOODS	9.5	-1.2	10.9
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	14.6	-4.6	20.1
FUELS	15.6	3.6	11.6
CAPITAL GOODS	18.8	1.1	17.5
ALL COMMODITIES	13.3	-2.0	15.6

TABLE 3 : CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING JAN 1993 WITH JAN 1992		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	57.0	-2.5	61.0
CONSUMER GOODS	24.9	-0.8	25.9
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	23.3	-4.6	29.2
FUELS	3.6	0.3	3.3
CAPITAL GOODS	32.5	1.7	30.3
ALL COMMODITIES	26.0	-1.5	28.0

TSING YI CRANE ACCIDENT REGRETTEED

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THE GOVERNMENT DEEPLY REGRETS THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF TWO WORKERS WHEN A CRANE COLLAPSED ON THE TSING YI SITE OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE PROJECT THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, WHO VISITED THE SITE WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE TO RECEIVE AN INITIAL BRIEFING ON THE ACCIDENT.

"IT APPEARS THAT THE ACCIDENT OCCURED WHILE THE CRANE WAS BEING TESTED PRIOR TO USE, WITH A CERTIFIED CRANE SURVEYOR IN ATTENDANCE," MR BLAKE SAID.

"THE WORKERS, THE CRANE OPERATOR AND AN ELECTRICIAN, WERE IN THE CABIN OF THE CRANE WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED," HE ADDED.

PERSONNEL FROM THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WERE ON HAND TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE TEST.

A DETAILED INVESTIGATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO ASCERTAIN THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.

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OUTLYING ISLANDS SEWERAGE STUDY

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A SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN STUDY BEGINS TODAY (TUESDAY) TO INVESTIGATE THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY INADEQUATE PROVISION OF SEWERAGE FACILITIES ON THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THE AREAS TO BE STUDIED INCLUDE LANTAU, LAMMA, CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND OTHER SMALL ISLANDS IN THE VICINITY WHICH ARE LARGELY UNSEWERED EXCEPT FOR THE RURAL TOWNSHIPS ON CHEUNG CHAU, MUI WO, PENG CHAU AND TAI O.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WHICH COMMISSIONED THE STUDY SAID: "THE COASTAL WATERS AT SOME ENCLOSED BAYS SUCH AS SOK KWU WAN AND YUNG SHUE WAN OF LAMMA ISLAND AND WATERS AROUND PENG CHAU IS SHOWING SIGNS OF DETERIORATION."

"IT IS CAUSED BY DOMESTIC SEWAGE BEING DISCHARGED TO THE COASTAL WATERS VIA WATERCOURSES AND SURFACE WATER SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE STUDY WOULD ASSESS THE ADEQUACY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE EXISTING SEWERAGE FACILITIES AND RECOMMEND REMEDIAL WORKS.

"THE ASSESSMENT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEED FOR IMPROVING AND EXPANDING THE EXISTING FACILITIES TO COPE WITH THE UNSEWERED AREAS AND THE DEVELOPMENTS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE RURAL TOWNSHIPS."

"A SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED AND A PRIORITISED PROGRAMME FOR PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NECESSARY ENGINEERING WORKS WILL BE PREPARED."

"EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO ACHIEVING EARLY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ISLAND WATERCOURSES AND TO PROTECTING THE WATERS IN THE SOUTHERN AND NORTH WESTERN WATER CONTROL ZONES," HE ADDED.

THE STUDY, AT A COST OF \$11 MILLION, WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN TWO PHASES AND BE COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS.

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR MARCH

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR MARCH.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED OF THE AIR QUALITY LEVELS IN THE TERRITORY AND TO EXPLAIN THE MEASUREMENTS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT NORMALLY CONTAINS MONITORING RESULTS OBTAINED AT ITS MONG KOK, CENTRAL/WESTERN AND KWAI CHUNG MONITORING STATIONS.

THESE LOCATIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THREE OF THE IMPORTANT LAND USE TYPES FOUND IN THE TERRITORY:

- * LOCATIONS CLOSE TO ROAD TRAFFIC IN BUILT-UP URBAN DISTRICTS,
- * COMBINED COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND
- * DISTRICTS CLOSE TO INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

THE REPORTED AIR POLLUTANTS INCLUDE SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂), NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO₂), RESPIRABLE SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (RSP) AND TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATES (TSP).

THE GASEOUS POLLUTANTS ARE MONITORED CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PARTICLE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED FOR 24 HOURS, ONCE EVERY SIX DAYS.

MARCH WAS A COMPARATIVELY UNEVENTFUL MONTH IN TERMS OF AIR QUALITY. LEVELS OF ALL THE REPORTED POLLUTANTS WERE BELOW THE 24-HOUR HONG KONG AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUES.

HOWEVER, AT MONG KOK, THE LEVELS OF TSP WERE A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUE.

THE LEVELS OF PARTICLES IN THE AIR WERE AGAIN HIGHER AT MONG KOK THAN AT THE OTHER TWO STATIONS. TSP CONCENTRATIONS AT MONG KOK AND KWAI CHUNG WERE HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

THE FOUR POLLUTANTS HAVE DIFFERENT ORIGINS. SO₂ MOSTLY ORIGINATES FROM THE COMBUSTION OF SULPHUR CONTAINING FOSSIL FUELS.

NO₂ IS FORMED EITHER DIRECTLY DURING COMBUSTION OR, BY THE ATMOSPHERIC OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE (NO) WHICH IS ALSO PRODUCED DURING COMBUSTION.

/VEHICLE EXHAUST

VEHICLE EXHAUST IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF NO AND NO2. IT IS ALSO A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIRBORNE PARTICLES; OTHER SOURCES INCLUDE INDUSTRY, FURNACES AND BOILERS, CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE SEA AND SOIL DUST.

THE DEPARTMENT CURRENTLY MONITORS AIR QUALITY CONTINUOUSLY AT 11 STATIONS, INCLUDING THE THREE MENTIONED ABOVE. SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT CAMPAIGNS ARE ALSO UNDERTAKEN AS AND WHERE THE NEED ARISES.

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RADIO SERIES TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS FAMILY BONDS
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A 14-WEEK RADIO SERIES ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WILL BE ON AIR ON RTHK'S RADIO 5 EVERY WEEKEND, STARTING FROM NEXT SATURDAY (APRIL 24).

THE HOUR-LONG PROGRAMME, ENTITLED "HARMONIOUS LIFE", WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE THROUGH AM 783 AT 11 AM.

"EXPERIENCED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION WORKERS WILL BE INVITED TO GIVE ADVICE ON MAINTAINING HAPPY FAMILY RELATIONS," CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, MISS CHUNG WOON-CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE SERIES WILL ALSO FOCUS ON WAYS TO SUSTAIN HAPPY MARRIAGE, EFFECTIVE PARENTING, ADVICE FOR YOUTHS AND MEANS TO UPHOLD HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG THREE GENERATIONS.

AUDIENCE WILL ALSO HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING ATTRACTIVE PRIZES BY PHONING IN THE PROGRAMME TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, MISS CHUNG WOON-CHEUNG, AND AN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF RTHK'S RADIO 5, MR YIP SAI-HUNG, WILL ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT RTHK'S STUDIO ONE, BROADCASTING HOUSE, 30 BROADCAST DRIVE, KOWLOON.

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 3 PM ON THURSDAY (APRIL 15).

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PAMPHLETS ON NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME PUBLISHED

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A PAMPHLET HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TO INTRODUCE DETAILS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME WHICH WILL COME INTO OPERATION IN JULY, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION FROM ALL SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

THE NEW SCHEME WOULD ENSURE THAT THOSE IN NEED WOULD RECEIVE MORE ASSISTANCE, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH LAST OCTOBER, HE SAID.

PAYMENTS TO RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES HAVE BEEN RAISED FOLLOWING A NINE PER CENT REVISION THIS MONTH.

"UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, THE MONTHLY PAYMENT TO ALL CLIENTS IN GENERAL WILL BE IMPROVED IN REAL TERMS BY BETWEEN FOUR PER CENT AND 37 PER CENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THAT WOULD BE ABOVE THE REGULAR ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION, HE STRESSED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT SUPPLEMENTS AND SPECIAL GRANTS WOULD BE INCREASED BY THE ANNUAL INFLATION RATE.

AS REGARDS SPECIAL GRANTS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY THE AMOUNT ACCORDING TO THE APPLICANTS' NEEDS, INCLUDING SCHOOL FEES, TEXT BOOKS, DENTURES AND GLASSES," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING TWO SEPARATE PAYMENTS ON DIFFERENT DAYS AT BANKS AND POST OFFICES.

HE SAID THE PRACTICE HAD CAUSED INCONVENIENCE TO THEM.

"UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, THE PRACTICE WILL BE STREAMLINED, GRANTING ONE STANDARD RATE PAYMENT TO OUR CLIENTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE ANY QUERIES ON THE NEW SCHEME MAY APPROACH THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNITS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OR CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE 343 2255.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

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ENTRIES INVITED TO DRAGON BOAT RACES
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ENTRIES ARE NOW INVITED TO THIS YEAR'S SHA TIN DISTRICT DRAGON BOAT RACES.

ORGANISED BY THE SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION, THE RACES WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 24 ON THE SHING MUN RIVER.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (TUESDAY), DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID BROWNING, SAID THE EVENT HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT DISTRICT ATTRACTION SINCE IT WAS FIRST HELD IN 1984.

HE SAID A RECORD 139 TEAMS TOOK PART IN THE RACES LAST YEAR, MAKING IT THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE TERRITORY.

"THE SHA TIN COMMUNITY TAKES PRIDE IN THE SUCCESS OF THESE RACES AND FULLY SUPPORTS THEM," MR BROWNING ADDED.

CHAIRMAN OF THE RACES' ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR HO SAU-MO, SAID COMPETITIONS WOULD BE DIVIDED INTO THREE DIVISIONS: MEN'S DIVISION, MEN'S MINI-BOAT DIVISION AND WOMEN'S MINI-BOAT DIVISION.

THIS YEAR A TOTAL OF 96 TEAMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PART.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM SHA TIN SPORTS ASSOCIATION ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SAU CHUEN HOUSE, LEK YUEN ESTATE. THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS APRIL 24.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE OF THE ASSOCIATION ON 691 5657.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (TUESDAY) STOOD AT 51.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 300.561 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 262.037 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 44.7 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	13 APR 93	13 APR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q315	H362
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$3,698 MN	HK\$2,350 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,000 MN	HK\$400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.87 PCT	3.05 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.87 PCT	3.06 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 100 PCT	ABOUT 59 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.92 PCT	3.10 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 19 APR 1993 -

TENDER DATE	20 APR 93	20 APR 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q316	Y388
ISSUE DATE	21 APR 93	21 APR 93
MATURITY DATE	21 JULY 93	20 APR 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	364 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,000 + 200 MN	HK\$200 + 60 MN

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TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,290
REVERSAL OF LAF	+860
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-790
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,360
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.4 *-0.5* 13.4.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS				HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS		
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.58 PCT	13 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.45	3.23
1 MONTH	2.66 PCT	16 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.31	3.40
3 MONTHS	2.82 PCT	19 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.66	3.57
6 MONTHS	3.03 PCT	22 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.74	3.80
12 MONTHS	3.20 PCT					
TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,553MN						
CLOSED 13 APRIL 1993						

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