



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

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SPEECH BY GOVERNOR AT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB

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PHILIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I CAN ACTUALLY RIVAL SUDANESE NAME-DROPPING WITH YOU. I REMEMBER A VISIT TO SUDAN MYSELF, AN EVEN MORE DISTRESSING, I THINK THE MOST MISERABLE THING THAT I SAW WHEN I WAS BRITAIN'S AID MINISTER FOR THREE YEARS, WAS THE SUDANESE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF ETHIOPIA, A REMINDER, IF ONE NEEDED ONE, OF THE IMPORTANCE OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN EVERY COMMUNITY, NOT JUST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN AFRICA.

THANK YOU FOR THE INVITATION TO SPEAK TODAY, ON WHAT I THINK IS YOUR OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE. I NOTICE THAT FOLLOWING AN ARTICLE BY THE DISTINGUISHED JOURNALIST AND COMMENTATOR WILLIAM REES-MOGG, 'THE TIMES' OF LONDON HAS LAUNCHED A NEW PARTY-GAME. IT CONSISTS OF DIVIDING THE WORLD INTO PEOPLE WHO ARE NATURAL HONG KONGERS - THE SUCCESSFUL, RISK-TAKING, NO-NONSENSE-THRUSTERS - I SEE MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY - AND THE BORING BACKWARD-LOOKING, DEFENSIVE REST - ONE OR TWO SELF-APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THAT CLIQUE. I AM NOT ACTUALLY INVITING YOU TO JOIN IN THE GAME OR TO ANALYSE ITS RULES OR ITS ORIGINS BUT I OFFER THIS AS A SIGN OF OUR TIMES, AS WELL AS A SIGN OF THE TIMES. HONG KONG IS WIDELY REGARDED AS AN EXCITING SUCCESS STORY. WHY HAS HONG KONG WORKED WELL? AND WHY HAS IT WORKED SO MUCH BETTER THAN OTHER COMMUNITIES WITH MORE SUBSTANTIAL NATURAL ASSETS?

HONG KONG HAS PROSPERED MIGHTILY NOT JUST BECAUSE OF ITS GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION; NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE NATURAL MONEY-MAKING ABILITIES OF ITS CHINESE CITIZENS; NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE HONG KONG BLEND OF TOUGH NO-NONSENSE CAPITALISM, ALTHOUGH ALL THESE THINGS HAVE PLAYED A PART IN OUR SUCCESS. BUT IT CANNOT HAVE BEEN JUST THESE THINGS THAT GAVE US SUCCESS, BECAUSE THERE ARE OTHER PLACES THAT HAVE MOST OF THESE THINGS TOO BUT HAVE NOT DONE NEARLY SO WELL. SO, WHAT IS THE DECISIVE EXTRA INGREDIENT? I THINK THE ANSWER IS CLEAR; IT IS THE RULE OF LAW THAT HAS FOR MANY YEARS PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK FOR HONG KONG'S ACHIEVEMENTS. TRUE, IT HAS EXISTED FOR MOST OF THAT TIME WITHOUT LOCAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS - ALTHOUGH NEVER FORGET, IT HAS ALWAYS OPERATED UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF A FULLY DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENT AT WESTMINSTER - I HOPE THAT POINT IS RECORDED AS WELL - AND IN RECENT YEARS, OF COURSE, THE RULE OF LAW HAS BEEN SUPPORTED HERE BY AN EVOLVING SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO AN INCREASINGLY DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY IN HONG KONG.

/SO IT .....

SO IT FOLLOWS THAT PRESERVING HONG KONG'S RULE OF LAW IS ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND ITS WAY OF LIFE. LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THIS.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG IS THAT OF A REFEREE. IN TODAY'S TERMS IT IS, AND I QUOTE, "TO ENSURE A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD FOR ALL PLAYERS", WHETHER HONG KONG, FOREIGN OR PRC. THAT IS WHAT HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM PROVIDES. INDEED, A SIGNIFICANT PROOF OF THE VALUE OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM HAS BEEN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FIRMS WHICH HAVE SET UP IN HONG KONG. THEY ALL NEED HONG KONG OFFICES TO SERVICE THE EXPORT CONTRACTS OF THEIR ENTERPRISES. CONTRACTS WITH THE HONG KONG BRANCHES OF PRC ENTERPRISES ARE GOVERNED BY HONG KONG LAW. ANY DISPUTE CAN BE RESOLVED BY ARBITRATION OR THROUGH THE COURTS. JUDGMENTS ARE EASILY ENFORCED. THIS IS AN IMMENSE ADVANTAGE WHEN DOING BUSINESS. IN THE PRC THESE REMEDIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE. ARBITRATION AWARDS OFTEN CANNOT BE ENFORCED, EVEN WHEN THE COURTS IN BEIJING ORDER THEIR ENFORCEMENT.

NOW, NONE OF THAT, IS PATTEN SPEAKING; THOSE ARE NOT MY WORDS, THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF SINGAPORE'S SENIOR MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW, WHEN HE LAST VISITED HONG KONG. HE WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RULE OF LAW, AND ITS ROLE IN CREATING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT THE SENIOR MINISTER IS ONCE AGAIN EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN HONG KONG TODAY.

WHAT DOES THAT RULE OF LAW AMOUNT TO? INDEPENDENT COURTS, EQUALITY BEFORE THEM FOR GOVERNOR AND GOVERNED ALIKE. IT MEANS THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND ALL THAT IT CONTAINS. IT MEANS NOT BEING ABLE TO LOCK PEOPLE UP ON A WHIM. IT MEANS A FREE PRESS - FREE TO ENQUIRE AND FREE TO ASK DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. IT MEANS LAWS PROPERLY AND FAIRLY ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE; THE LEGISLATURE TO WHICH THE EXECUTIVE IS ACCOUNTABLE. THE RULE OF LAW IS NOT A KIND OF OPTIONAL EXTRA, A BAUBLE AWARDED TO SOCIETIES THAT REACH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND SOPHISTICATION. IT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY, AS WELL AS OF THE ESSENTIAL UNDERPINNING FOR ITS JUST, DECENT AND TOLERANT SOCIETY.

GIVEN THAT THIS HAS ALL WORKED SO WELL, ONE OF THE MORE BIZARRE CRITICISMS I ENCOUNTER IS THE NOTION THAT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO, WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY TO PRESERVE A SYSTEM THAT HAS WORKED SPECTACULARLY WELL, IS SOMEHOW UNSUITED TO ASIA; AN ALIEN IMPLANT THAT WON'T TAKE ROOT HERE, OR CERTAINLY NOT FOR THE TIME-BEING. IT IS A CURIOUS ARGUMENT, GIVEN THAT HONG KONG IS LIVING PROOF THAT THESE CONCEPTS DO WORK AS WELL IN ASIA AS THEY DO ANYWHERE ELSE.

A FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENT OF THE RULE OF LAW IS A PROPER REGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. YES, HUMAN RIGHTS. TOO OFTEN REGARDED BY SOME COMMENTATORS AS TWO INAPPROPRIATE WORDS IN ASIA. WE HAVE THEM HERE IN HONG KONG. WE HAVE HAD THEM FOR YEARS, LONG BEFORE HONG KONG'S GDP PER HEAD EQUALLED OR OVERTOOK THAT OF CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. BUT IF YOU LISTEN TO THESE COMMENTATORS, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE SO. LISTEN TO THEM, AND WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL HONG KONG'S AFFLUENCE REACHED A CERTAIN UNDEFINED LEVEL BEFORE STARTING TO TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS SERIOUSLY, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT, TIRESEMELY, HAVE GOT IN THE WAY OF OUR ECONOMIC ADVANCE. AND THEN WHERE WOULD WE HAVE BEEN?

THIS SAME ARGUMENT WAS SERIOUSLY ADVANCED AT THE BANGKOK CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS EARLIER THIS YEAR, WHERE A NUMBER OF ASIAN GOVERNMENTS MET TO FORGE A COMMON VIEW IN THE RUN-UP TO THE VIENNA WORLD CONFERENCE. THEIR MESSAGE WAS CLEAR: ALL THIS, ALLEGEDLY, WESTERN TALK OF HUMAN RIGHTS AMOUNTED TO LITTLE MORE THAN A NEO-COLONIAL INCURSION INTO ASIAN AFFAIRS. THE FREE-MARKET, WELL THAT WAS FINE, BUT ITS POLITICAL BEDFELLOWS - FREE SPEECH, THE RULE OF LAW, MULTI-PARTY POLITICS - THEY COULD STAY OUT OF THE BED FOR THE TIME-BEING, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, IF DECENCY AND DECORUM WERE TO BE PRESERVED.

THE WORDING OF THE BANGKOK DECLARATION IS CAREFULLY OPAQUE. IT DOESN'T QUITE SAY 'GO HOME DEMOCRACY' OR 'DOWN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS'. BUT BEHIND THE WALL-TO-WALL RHETORICAL LINOLEUM, THE GIST IS CLEAR. LET ME QUOTE:

"WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL IN NATURE, THEY MUST BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF A DYNAMIC AND EVOLVING PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL NORM-SETTING, BEARING IN MIND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PECULIARITIES AND VARIOUS HISTORICAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS."

NORM-SETTING. IN OTHER WORDS, HUMAN RIGHTS AREN'T REALLY UNIVERSAL - AS UNIVERSAL AS MARKET FORCES OR THE WEATHER - THEY VARY, APPARENTLY, FROM PLACE TO PLACE, FROM CONTINENT TO CONTINENT.

I FIND THIS AN ASTONISHING ARGUMENT. OF COURSE, THERE ARE NATURALLY DIFFERENT CULTURES, DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, DIFFERENT TRADITIONS. WESTERN SOCIETIES ARE CERTAINLY NO MORE PERFECT THAN ASIAN OR AFRICAN SOCIETIES. WE CAN ALL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, FROM ADAM SMITH AND FROM CONFUCIUS.

BUT THERE IS SURELY NOTHING SPECIFICALLY OR EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN OR NORTH AMERICAN ABOUT RESPECTING HUMAN DIGNITY - A POINT MADE EXTREMELY PERSUASIVELY BY 110 ASIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS WHO ALSO MET IN BANGKOK AND WHO PUT THE CASE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA AS WELL AS EVERYWHERE ELSE. JUST IMAGINE IF THE ARGUMENT WAS PUT THE OTHER WAY ROUND - IF IT WERE ARGUED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WEREN'T REALLY APPROPRIATE FOR ASIA, FOR LATIN AMERICA, FOR AFRICA. WE WOULD RIGHTLY BE REGARDED AS SANCTIMONIOUS AT BEST, DOWNRIGHT RACIST AT WORST, IF WE WERE TO SAY THAT.

IF YOU'RE A JOURNALIST LOCKED UP FOR MONTHS FOR TELLING THE TRUTH, IF YOU'RE A TRADE UNIONIST INCARCERATED FOR CHAMPIONING WORKERS' RIGHTS, IF YOU'RE THROWN OUT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND DEPRIVED OF YOUR RIGHTS, IF YOU'RE BEATEN OVER THE HEAD (OR WORSE) BY A POLICEMAN, THE BRUTAL RESULT IS THE SAME, FOR YOU AND FOR THE COMMUNITY, WHETHER IT HAPPENS IN EUROPE, OR ASIA OR AMERICA OR AFRICA. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INDIVISIBLE AND INTERDEPENDENT, "BE THEY CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR CULTURAL RIGHTS", AS THOSE ASIAN NGOS IN BANGKOK RIGHTLY ARGUED.

THE MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO SWEEP HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER THE CARPET IS TO RETAIN POLITICAL POWER OR CRUSH OPPOSITION. BUT OTHER EXCUSES ARE PUT FORWARD - THAT DEMOCRACY IS TOO WEAK AND INEFFICIENT AS A SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, THAT WORRYING ABOUT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS HOLDS BACK THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE, ABOVE ALL, THAT IT SOMEHOW CONSTRAINS ECONOMIC SUCCESS. FREEDOM FROM WANT MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE, SO IT IS SAID, OVER WANT FOR FREEDOM.

PITT THE YOUNGER, THE PRIME MINISTER OF BRITAIN TWO CENTURIES AGO, HAD A SHORT ANSWER TO ALL OF THAT. "WAS NOT NECESSITY", HE ONCE ASKED OF HIS FOE CHARLES JAMES FOX, "THE PLEA OF EVERY ILLEGAL EXERTION OF POWER OR EXERCISE OF OPPRESSION? NECESSITY IS THE PLEA FOR EVERY IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN FREEDOM. IT IS THE ARGUMENT OF TYRANTS; IT IS THE CREED OF SLAVES."

THE IDEA THAT HUMAN RIGHTS HOLD UP PROSPERITY IS PREPOSTEROUS. HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE NEVER EMPTIED STOMACHS. HUMAN RIGHTS DON'T HAMPER GROWTH. THEY DIDN'T IN GERMANY AFTER THE WAR. NOR IN JAPAN. NOR HERE IN HONG KONG. INDEED ONE OF THE REASONS ALL OF THESE ECONOMIES HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL IS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY HAD - OR DEVELOPED - A SOLID LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND BECAUSE THEY WERE ABLE TO BUILD ON A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIES HAVEN'T PUT HUMAN RIGHTS ON HOLD WHILE THEY'VE MOVED FORWARD - THEY'VE HELD ON TO THEM HARD.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE QUESTION OF DEMOCRACY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MARXIST TO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE POLITICAL RESULTS. PEOPLE WHO HAVE MORE SAY WITH THEIR WALLETS EVENTUALLY WANT A BIT MORE SAY IN THE WAY THEY ARE GOVERNED. IN HONG KONG, GROWING AFFLUENCE HAS BROUGHT RISING ASPIRATIONS - IF EXTRAORDINARILY MODEST ONES, MODERATELY EXPRESSED. IT WAS IN RECOGNITION OF THAT FACT THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION SPELT OUT THAT THE LEGISLATURE OF THE SAR "SHALL BE CONSTITUTED BY ELECTIONS", AND THE BASIC LAW PROVIDES FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF DIRECTLY-ELECTED SEATS IN LEGCO - NOT AS MANY AS SOME WOULD LIKE, BUT A GROWING NUMBER.

SO IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HONG KONG DESERVES DEMOCRACY. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS GOVERNMENT, OR THIS GOVERNOR, WILL GIVE IT DEMOCRACY. THE QUESTION OF DEMOCRACY - HOW MUCH AND WHEN - IS ALREADY SETTLED. WHAT IS AT ISSUE IS WHETHER THE DEMOCRACY THAT HAS BEEN PROMISED WILL BE REAL DEMOCRACY OR COUNTERFEIT DEMOCRACY; WHETHER THE ELECTIONS TO LEGCO SHOULD BE REAL ONES OFFERING A GENUINE CHOICE - OR BOGUS ONES AMOUNTING TO APPOINTMENT BEHIND DEMOCRACY'S GARB; THAT IS MY CONCERN, THAT SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S CONCERN.

FOR YEARS, AS I SAID EARLIER, HONG KONG HAS HAD A RULE OF LAW WITHOUT DEMOCRACY - ALBEIT WITH DEMOCRATIC OVERSIGHT FROM WESTMINSTER. BUT FOR THE REASONS I OUTLINE EARLIER IT HAS BEEN NONE THE LESS A REAL AND EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW.

NOW HONG KONG IS TO HAVE A WHOLLY ELECTED LEGISLATURE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE NATURE OF THOSE ELECTIONS IS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. REAL ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS FOR WHICH THERE IS A LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD (WHAT A GOOD PHRASE THAT IS) - REAL ELECTIONS WILL ENHANCE THE LEGISLATURE AND UNDERPIN THE RULE OF LAW IN HONG KONG. ENSURE A LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD FOR LEGCO, AND YOU HELP TO SUSTAIN A LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD OUTSIDE IT - FOR THE LAW, FOR BUSINESS, FOR THE MAN OR WOMAN ON THE WAN CHAI OMNIBUS. COMPROMISE THE ELECTIONS, AND YOU INJECT DRY-ROT INTO THE ENTIRE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF HONG KONG.

/THE BEST .....

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THE BEST PROTECTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG - NOW AND BEYOND 1997 - LIES IN THE STRENGTH AND THE INTEGRITY OF HONG KONG'S LEGAL SYSTEM AND ITS INSTITUTIONS. THAT IS WHY I AM SO CONCERNED TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE MAINTAINED; FRANKLY, I AM INCLINED TO REGARD THAT TASK AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRYING TO ESTABLISH NEW BODIES, SUCH AS A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IF YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INFRINGED IN HONG KONG, REMEDIES AND MEANS OF REDRESS ALREADY EXIST. I AM A PASSIONATE BELIEVER IN HUMAN RIGHTS; BUT WHETHER A HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS REALLY NECESSARY, IN ADDITION TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS, THE COURTS, THE ICAC, THE LEGISLATURE, THE FREE PRESS, TO DEFEND THEM IS A MORE OPEN QUESTION. THERE IS ALWAYS THE RISK THAT IT MIGHT PROVE AN UNNECESSARY DISTRACTION FROM THE MAIN TASK AT HAND. BUT I REMAIN OPEN TO THE ARGUMENTS, OPEN TO PERSUASION AS ANY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNOR SHOULD, AND I WELCOME FURTHER PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE.

BEFORE I FINISH, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY A WORD SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE TALKS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE HEARD HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN PEKING. WE HAVE NOW HAD 16 ROUNDS OF TALKS, AND MANY WORDS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED ACROSS THE NEGOTIATING TABLE IN THE DIAOYUTAI. THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY PATIENT. BUT I THINK THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY - AND INDEED THE REST OF THE WORLD - MUST BE SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS AND WONDERING WHY ON EARTH IT IS PROVING SO DIFFICULT TO GET AGREEMENT ON EVEN THE RELATIVELY SIMPLE ISSUES, WHERE THE COMMUNITY'S AND LEGCO'S REASONABLE VIEWS ARE CLEAR - ON THE VOTING AGE FOR EXAMPLE, 18 IN BOTH THE UK AND CHINA, BUT NOT IN HONG KONG; ON THE VOTING SYSTEM, WHERE LEGCO'S VIEW IS VERY CLEAR; OR ON MEMBERSHIP OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, WHERE AGAIN, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS MADE ITS POSITION, ITS PERFECTLY REASONABLE AND MODERATE POSITION, PLAIN. WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THESE ISSUES IN APRIL, IN PEKING - APRIL IN PEKING. NOW IN PEKING THE SNOW IS FALLING. IT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN DAYS, NOT SEASONS, TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THESE LESS CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. AND YET SPRING HAS GIVEN WAY TO SUMMER, SUMMER HAS GIVEN WAY TO AUTUMN, AUTUMN HAS NOW HANDED OVER TO WINTER, AND STILL THE LESS CONTENTIOUS ISSUES REMAIN DOGGEDLY UNRESOLVED - NOT TO MENTION THE MORE DIFFICULT ONES. IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THEM EARLIER - IF - THEN WE WOULD HAVE HAD MORE TIME FOR THE REALLY DIFFICULT STUFF. AS IT IS, PROGRESS HAS BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTING. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST. WE'RE DOING, ON OUR SIDE, OUR SINCERE BEST. BUT - AND THIS, AS YOU WILL KNOW, IS THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR - WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET A MOVE ON IN THESE TALKS IF WE ARE TO REACH AGREEMENT AND GET ALL THE LEGISLATION THROUGH ON TIME.

IS ALL THIS TROUBLE ABOUT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AN IRRELEVANCE, THE ESOTERIC ARGUMENT OF A FEW INTELLECTUALS WHILE EVERYDAY LIFE IN HONG KONG SAILS MERRILY ON? I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE ACADEMIC IF YOU HAVE, SAY, A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY AND A BRITISH OR A NORTH AMERICAN PASSPORT IN YOUR BACK POCKET. BUT THESE THINGS MATTER PARTICULARLY STRONGLY IF YOU DON'T. BECAUSE UPON THEM DEPENDS WHAT HONG KONG WILL BE LIKE TO LIVE IN IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WHETHER IT WILL GO FORWARD - A WAVE OF THE FUTURE; STILL THE WINNING HAND IN THOSE GAMES DEVISED BY 'THE TIMES' - OR DECLINE - ITS PROSPERITY AND STABILITY THREATENED BY PANDEMIC CORRUPTION, BY SLEEZE AND SQUEEZE. I HAVE NO DOUBT WHICH FUTURE HONG KONG DESERVES. AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO SECURE THAT EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND DESERVED PROSPECT. THANK YOU.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

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### BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT DISMISSES MALPRACTICE ALLEGATIONS

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) DISMISSED AS "COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED" ALLEGATIONS THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CORRUPTION AND MALPRACTICE WITHIN THE PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING NEW DEVELOPMENT WERE BEING IGNORED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALWAYS WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE CORRUPTION PREVENTION DEPARTMENT OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) AND INVARIABLY INCORPORATED THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN ITS PROCEDURES.

THIS CO-OPERATION HAD EVEN BEEN STEPPED UP IN RECENT YEARS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE HANDLING OF APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL, CONSENT AND OCCUPATION PERMITS WERE ALL REGULATED BY TIGHT STATUTORY PROCEDURES.

IF ANY PERSON HAD ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING A PARTICULAR CASE WHERE THEY SUSPECTED MALPRACTICE, HE SHOULD REPORT THE FACTS TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS OR THE ICAC, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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### OLI REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MORE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED DEGREE COURSES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLI) CONTINUES TO MAKE A BROAD RANGE OF COURSES, INCLUDING DEGREE COURSES OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED DEGREE STANDARDS, AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN THE OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING MODES.

IN ADDITION, THE OLI IS ALSO EXPECTED TO CHARGE FEES THAT ARE AFFORDABLE IN THE MARKET FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION IN HONG KONG, AND TO REMAIN FINANCIALLY VIABLE ON A SELF-FUNDING BASIS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, WHEN ADDRESSING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES OPENED IN HONG KONG TODAY (MONDAY).

MR LEUNG TOLD THE 160 PARTICIPATING GUESTS FROM 30 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD OF OPEN LEARNING THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OLI IN 1989 WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO EXPAND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG.

THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED ABOUT \$155 MILLION TO THE SETTING UP OF THE INSTITUTE AND ITS RECURRENT COSTS FOR THE INITIAL YEARS.

IT HAS RECENTLY GRANTED THE OLI ANOTHER \$150 MILLION TOWARDS THE COST OF BUILDING ITS OWN HEADQUARTERS, DUE FOR COMPLETION IN 1995.

/ON TOP .....

ON TOP OF THESE, A FURTHER \$100 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE OLI TO SET UP A DEVELOPMENT FUND TO COVER THE COST OF DEVELOPING COURSES WHICH MUST ACHIEVE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS.

MR LEUNG PAID TRIBUTE TO THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN A SHORT SPAN OF FOUR YEARS: IT NOW HAS A STUDENT ENROLMENT OF 15,000 AS WELL AS FIVE SCHOOLS OFFERING 17 DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

AND SINCE APRIL THIS YEAR, IT HAS ALSO BECOME SELF-FINANCING.

HE OBSERVED THAT THE DEDICATION OF THE OLI TO PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY COURSES OF INTERNATIONALLY COMPARABLE STANDARDS MEANT THAT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS MUST BE SPENT TO ACHIEVE, MAINTAIN AND ULTIMATELY TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THOSE STANDARDS.

SUCH COURSES ARE INDEED EXPENSIVE TO DEVELOP AND THIS INEVITABLY EXERTS AN UPWARD PRESSURE ON THE FEES.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE OLI MUST BE JUDGED BOTH ON THE QUALITY OF ITS EDUCATION AND ITS ABILITY TO PROVIDE THAT QUALITY AT FEES WHICH THE ORDINARY MAN IN THE STREET CONSIDERS REASONABLE," SAID MR LEUNG.

"THIS IS A CHALLENGE WHICH REQUIRES IMAGINATIVE APPROACHES TO COST SAVING IN THE PREPARATION AND DELIVERY OF COURSE MATERIAL, AND IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIES OF SCALE THROUGH EFFECTIVE MARKETING AND ENROLMENT STRATEGIES.

"GIVEN THE EVER-CHANGING PATTERNS OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION, THIS CHALLENGE WILL BE A PERMANENT FEATURE FOR THE OLI, AS WILL OUR SEARCH FOR MEANINGFUL METHODS OF EVALUATING ITS PERFORMANCE AS A SELF-FINANCING INSTITUTION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION," HE ADDED.

THE SECRETARY ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE INSTITUTE ENJOYED ACADEMIC AUTONOMY AND FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE, ITS PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY WAS ASSURED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:

- \* MEMBERS OF THE OLI COUNCIL AND VARIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEES ARE MADE UP OF EXPERIENCED BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTIVE IN PUBLIC SERVICE, AND SENIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS;
- \* USE OF ANY CAPITAL GRANTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS STRICTLY MONITORED;
- \* THE OLI IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO TABLE ITS ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND REPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; AND
- \* THE OLI IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ITS THREE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR ANNUAL APPROVAL.

VTC ACTIVELY HELPS RETRAIN WORKERS

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THE GOVERNMENT MUST HELP THE DISPLACED WORKERS IN THE FACE OF THE UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING IN RECENT YEARS, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE POKFULAM TRAINING CENTRE COMPLEX OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC), SIR DAVID SAID THE COUNCIL HAD PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE AS ONE OF THE LEADING INSTITUTIONS TO OPERATE RETRAINING COURSES.

SIR DAVID COMMENDED THE VTC FOR GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING SCHEME TO CATER FOR THE RETRAINING NEEDS OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT VICTIMS, DISABLED WORKERS AND THE ELDERLY.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT, TOGETHER WITH THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER THE MUCH-NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN RETRAINING THESE UNFORTUNATE MEMBERS OF OUR WORKFORCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE COMPLEX WILL PROVIDE TRAINEES WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

ALSO, IT IS ONE OF THE THREE NECESSARY AND RELATED PROJECTS WHICH THE VTC HAS TO COMPLETE ON TIME IN ORDER TO TAKE OVER FROM THE TWO POLYTECHNICS SOME 7,000 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT SUB-DEGREE PLACES.

"WITHOUT THIS PROJECT, WE WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE OUR TARGET OF PROVIDING FOR ALMOST A QUARTER OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ACCESS TO DEGREE AND SUB-DEGREE PLACES BY 1994/95," SIR DAVID SAID.

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ESTATE AGENTS WORKING GROUP MEETS

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THE WORKING GROUP ON REGULATION OF ESTATE AGENTS, AT ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (MONDAY), AGREED ON A SET OF OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED IN FORMULATING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE REGULATION ARE TO ENSURE THAT THE OPERATION OF ESTATE AGENTS MEETS CERTAIN SPECIFIED STANDARDS AND OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR CLIENTS.

THE REGULATORY SYSTEM SHOULD ALSO AIM NOT TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY THE COSTS AND PROCESSING TIME OF PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS; NOT TO CAUSE A SERIOUS SHORTFALL IN THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED ESTATE AGENTS AND TO AVOID MONOPOLY BY LARGE AGENCIES.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO AGREED TO DEFINE AN ESTATE AGENT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO INCLUDE ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS HIMSELF OUT TO THE PUBLIC IN A SINGLE OR A SERIES OF PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE RECEIVES ANY CONSIDERATION.

MEMBERS AGREED TO MEET ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND THEY WILL MEET AGAIN ON JANUARY 4 NEXT YEAR.

AT THE NEXT MEETING, THE WORKING GROUP WILL REVIEW THE EXISTING OPERATION OF ESTATE AGENTS IN HONG KONG, TO IDENTIFY INADEQUACIES AND TO PROPOSE SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS.

THEY WILL ALSO LOOK INTO THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF COMPETENCY OF ESTATE AGENTS IN HONG KONG.

THE WORKING GROUP WELCOMES VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE ABOVE ISSUES AND THESE CAN BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF THE WORKING GROUP IN PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE WORKING GROUP IS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS (HOUSING POLICY), MR LEO KWAN. MEMBERS INCLUDE A REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM THE SOCIETY OF HK REAL ESTATE AGENTS, HK REAL ESTATE AGENCIES ASSOCIATION, HK INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS, LAW SOCIETY OF HK, CONSUMER COUNCIL AND INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, AND HEAD OF CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION OF CITY POLYTECHNIC.

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CONSUMER PRICE INDICES FOR OCTOBER 1993

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IN OCTOBER WAS 9% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE OF 7.9% IN SEPTEMBER.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF A RESURGENCE OF INFLATIONARY PRESSURE.

"THE FASTER INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) IN OCTOBER IS LIKELY TO BE TEMPORARY. IT WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES CAUSED BY THE BAD WEATHER DURING LATE SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER.

"PRICES FOR MANY OTHER COMPONENTS, SUCH AS HOUSING, MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES, SHOWED A SLOWER INCREASE IN OCTOBER THAN IN SEPTEMBER WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER," HE SAID.

TAKING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER TOGETHER, THE CPI(A) WAS ON AVERAGE 8.5% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. THIS WAS THE SAME AS THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE FOR THE FIRST 10 MONTHS COMBINED.

THE CPI(B) AND THE HANG SENG CPI WERE HIGHER BY 8.7% AND 9.4% RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN SEPTEMBER WERE 8.1% AND 9.2%.

THE COMPOSITE CPI, WHICH IS COMPILED BASED ON THE COMBINED EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF HOUSEHOLDS COVERED BY THE THREE CPI'S, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 9.0% IN OCTOBER OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR. THIS WAS ALSO HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING INCREASE OF 8.3% IN SEPTEMBER.

COMPARING OCTOBER 1993 WITH OCTOBER 1992, RELATIVELY SLOWER INCREASES IN PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR DURABLE GOODS (3.2% IN CPI(A) AND 3.1% IN CPI(B)); FUEL AND LIGHT (3.9% AND 3.8%); MISCELLANEOUS GOODS (6.1% AND 5.6%); AND CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR (7.1% AND 7.2%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, RELATIVELY FASTER INCREASES IN PRICES WERE RECORDED FOR HOUSING (11.0% IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B)); ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (10.7% IN CPI(A) AND 9.8% IN CPI(B)); FOOD EXCLUDING MEALS AT RESTAURANTS (10.5% AND 9.5%); AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES (9.6% AND 9.2%).

AS FOR MEALS AT RESTAURANTS AND TRANSPORT, THEIR CORRESPONDING INCREASES WERE 8.3% AND 8.6% IN THE CPI(A) AND 8.3% AND 7.7% IN THE CPI(B).

COMPARING OCTOBER 1993 WITH SEPTEMBER 1993, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED BY 1.2% AND 1.0% RESPECTIVELY. HOWEVER, THIS COMPARISON COULD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS.

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1993, BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE, ON AVERAGE, HIGHER BY 8.5% THAN IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1992.

FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1993, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE, ON AVERAGE, HIGHER BY 8.5% AND 8.8% RESPECTIVELY THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1992.

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1993, THE CPI(A) AND CPI(B) WERE, ON AVERAGE, HIGHER BY 8.6% AND 8.9% RESPECTIVELY THAN IN THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR THE CPI'S. THE DESEASONALISED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 1.0% AND 0.8% RESPECTIVELY PER MONTH DURING THE THREE MONTHS ENDING OCTOBER 1993.

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT  
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MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR OCTOBER 1993, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$12 A COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19 TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS, CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDICES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 805 6403.

DETAILS REGARDING THE HANG SENG CPI ARE CONTAINED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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/Table 1 .....

Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for October 1993  
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Component</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>		<u>CPI(B)</u>		<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>		<u>Composite CPI</u>	
	<u>Index for Oct 93</u>	<u>% change over Oct 92</u>	<u>Index for Oct 93</u>	<u>% change over Oct 92</u>	<u>Index for Oct 93</u>	<u>% change over Oct 92</u>	<u>Index for Oct 93</u>	<u>% change over Oct 92</u>
Food	137.3	+9.3	138.0	+8.8	137.0	+8.5	137.5	+9.0
Meals bought away from home	143.3	+8.3	143.3	+8.3	140.2	+8.3	142.6	+8.3
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	131.4	+10.5	130.7	+9.5	131.4	+8.9	131.1	+9.9
Housing	153.3	+11.0	153.9	+11.0	155.6	+13.6	154.3	+11.8
Fuel and light	120.6	+3.9	119.9	+3.8	119.5	+3.8	120.1	+3.8
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	181.8	+10.7	171.3	+9.8	166.8	+9.3	176.0	+10.2
Clothing and footwear	127.3	+7.1	128.6	+7.2	140.3	+8.3	132.2	+7.5
Durable goods	110.7	+3.2	110.4	+3.1	115.9	+3.9	112.1	+3.4
Miscellaneous goods	127.3	+6.1	124.4	+5.6	122.8	+5.4	125.1	+5.8
Transport	137.6	+8.6	136.4	+7.7	135.9	+6.3	136.7	+7.6
Miscellaneous services	149.1	+9.6	144.8	+9.2	137.4	+8.2	143.9	+9.0
All items	140.0	+9.0	139.6	+8.7	140.7	+9.4	140.0	+9.0

The 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on the expenditure patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of urban households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90. The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of urban households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in the same period. The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of urban households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90.

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices for January 1991 - October 1993  
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>	<u>CPI(A)</u>	<u>CPI(B)</u>	<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>	<u>Composite CPI</u>
1991 January	108.3	108.4	108.6	108.4
February	110.3	110.1	110.2	110.2
March	111.9	111.1	110.7	111.3
April	113.9	113.0	112.0	113.1
May	114.0	113.6	113.4	113.7
June	114.6	114.1	113.9	114.2
July	115.4	114.8	113.9	114.8
August	116.0	115.3	114.6	115.4
September	116.8	116.1	115.8	116.3
October	117.2	116.8	117.4	117.1
November	117.7	117.6	118.7	117.9
December	118.1	118.3	118.5	118.3
1992 January	119.7	119.3	119.4	119.5
February	121.8	121.2	121.0	121.4
March	122.5	121.9	121.8	122.1
April	124.0	123.4	122.9	123.5
May	124.0	123.8	124.2	124.0
June	125.3	125.1	125.2	125.2
July	125.5	125.4	125.4	125.4
August	125.6	125.9	125.8	125.8
September	128.3	127.9	127.5	128.0
October	128.4	128.4	128.6	128.5
November	128.5	129.0	129.9	129.0
December	129.3	129.8	130.0	129.7
1993 January	131.8	131.6	131.5	131.7
February	132.4	132.2	132.0	132.2
March	132.0	132.2	133.1	132.4
April	133.5	133.9	134.5	133.9
May	134.5	134.8	136.3	135.1
June	136.0	135.9	137.1	136.3
July	135.8	136.1	136.9	136.2
August	136.3	136.6	137.4	136.7
September	138.4	138.3	139.2	138.6
October	140.0	139.6	140.7	140.0

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase in CPI(A)

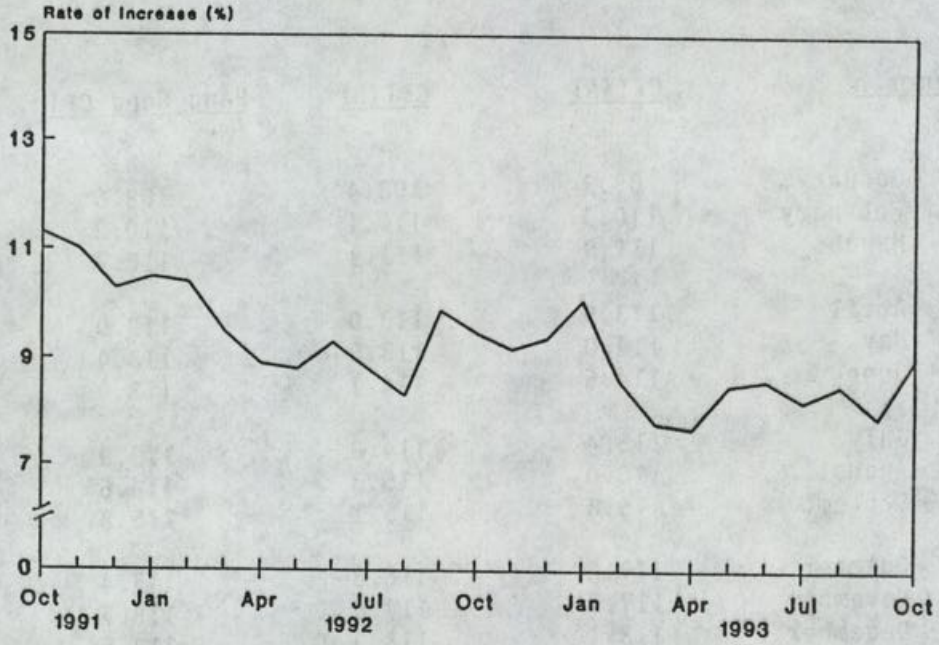
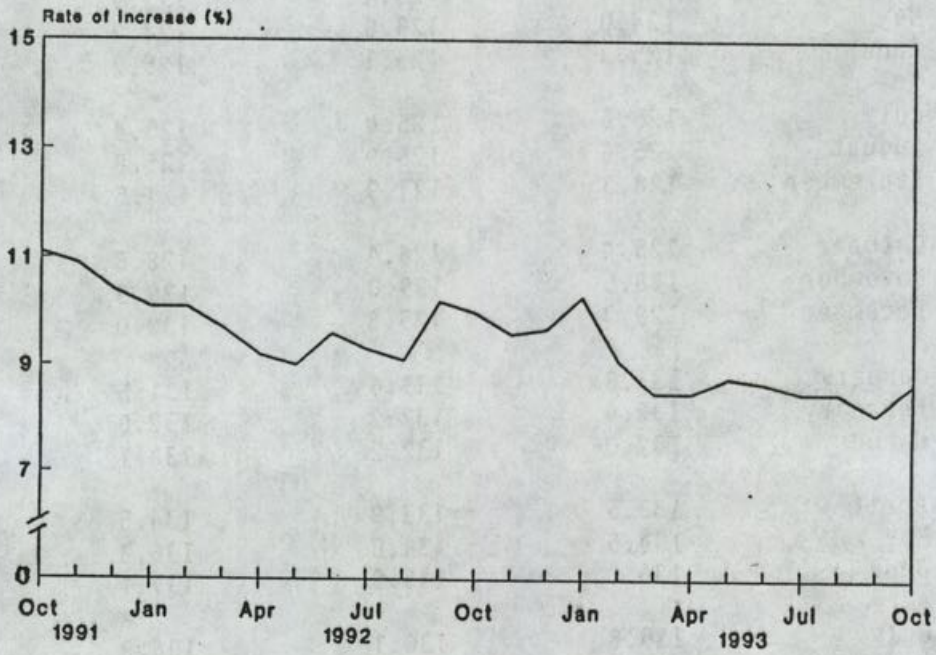


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase in CPI(B)



/Chart 3 .....

Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Hang Seng CPI

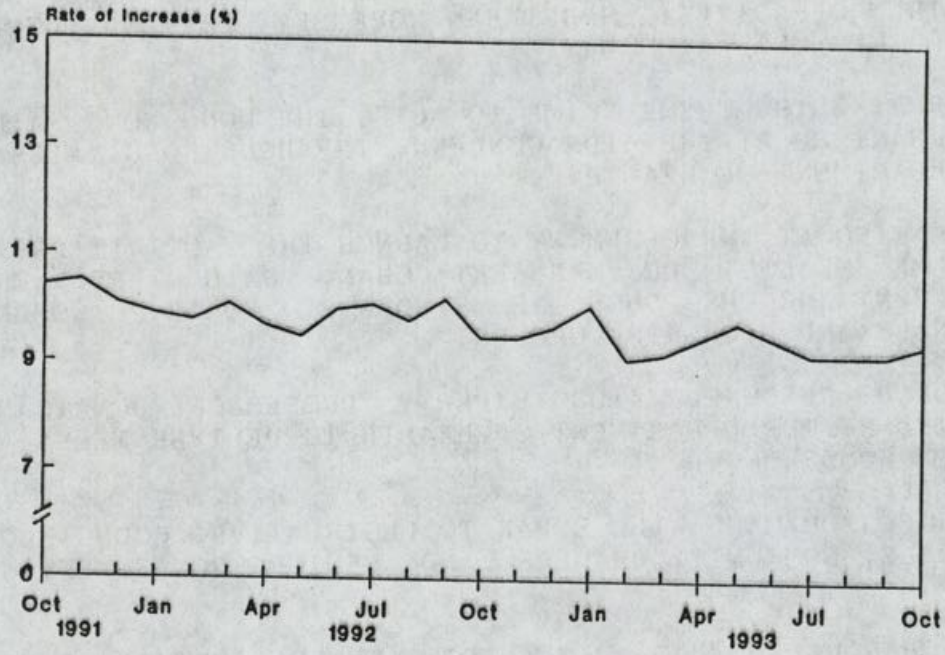
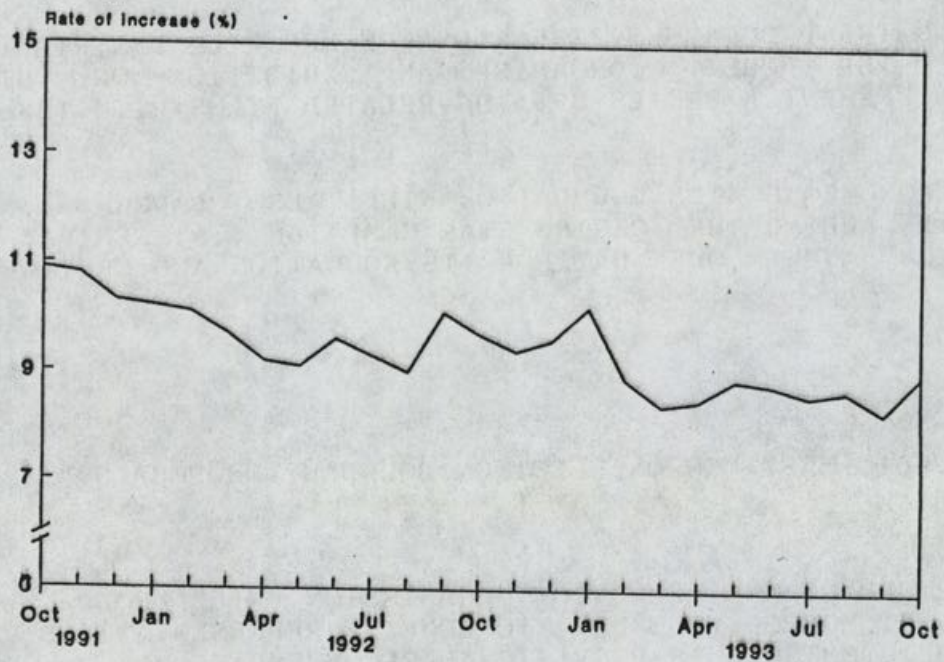


Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Composite CPI



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

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ONE-WEEK PROGRAMMES TO PROMOTE AIDS AWARENESS

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THE GOVERNMENT AND TWO AIDS CONCERN GROUPS ARE ORGANISING A WIDE SPECTRUM OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 28 AND DECEMBER 5 IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD AIDS DAY.

CARRYING THE THEME "TIME TO ACT", THE HONG KONG AIDS WEEK IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AIDS CONCERN, THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY TO LAUNCH THE ACTIVITIES, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR MARGARET CHAN, SAID THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS SUCH AS STUDENTS, YOUTH, WOMEN, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND HIGH-RISK GROUPS.

"WORLD RENOWNED AIDS EXPERT, PROFESSOR JONATHAN MANN, HAS BEEN INVITED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DELIVER TALKS AND ATTEND SEMINARS IN HONG KONG.

"PROFESSOR MANN WILL SPEAK TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS," SHE SAID.

DR CHAN HOPED THAT HIS VISIT WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE CONCERN FOR AIDS AMONG LEADERS AND DECISION-MAKERS IN THE COMMUNITY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FORMULATION OF THE AIDS POLICY IN HONG KONG.

SHE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE AIDS TRUST FUND FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE EVENT.

AMONG THE PROGRAMMES, THE AIDS CONCERN WILL DISTRIBUTE KITS ON SAFER SEX TO THE PUBLIC, ORGANISE AN EXHIBITION OF INTERNATIONAL POSTERS AND PRESENT A SERIES OF AIDS-RELATED FILMS WITH THE HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE.

THE HONG KONG AIDS FOUNDATION WILL ALSO LAUNCH A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE "CARING STAR CAMPAIGN", A SEMINAR ON "AIDS AND WORKPLACE" AND AN OPEN DAY FOR ITS EDUCATION AND SERVICE CENTRE.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS ON ELECTION BOUNDARY PROPOSALS

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION WILL HOLD TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS FROM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO RECEIVE REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NAMES AND BOUNDARIES OF PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY AREAS FOR THE 1994 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HALL OF THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL FROM 9.15 AM TO 5.45 PM.

/FOLLOWING IS .....

FOLLOWING IS THE SCHEDULE:

DATE: TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 23)

URBAN DISTRICTS

TIME

9.15 AM TO 9.45 AM

CENTRAL AND WESTERN

9.45 AM TO 10.15 AM

WAN CHAI

10.15 AM TO 10.45 AM

EASTERN

11 AM TO 11.30 AM

SOUTHERN

11.30 AM TO NOON

YAU TSIM MONG

NOON TO 1 PM

GENERAL ASPECTS

2 PM TO 2.30 PM

SHAM SHUI PO

2.30 PM TO 3 PM

KOWLOON CITY

3 PM TO 3.30 PM

WONG TAI SIN

3.30 PM TO 4 PM

KWUN TONG

4.15 PM TO 5.45 PM

GENERAL ASPECTS

DATE: WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 24)

NEW TERRITORIES DISTRICTS

TIME

9.15 AM TO 9.45 AM

TSUEN WAN

9.45 AM TO 10.15 AM

TUEN MUN

10.15 AM TO 10.45 AM

YUEN LONG

11 AM TO 11.30 AM

NORTH

11.30 AM TO NOON

TAI PO

NOON TO 1 PM

GENERAL ASPECTS

2 PM TO 2.30 PM

SAI KUNG

2.30 PM TO 3 PM

SHA TIN

3 PM TO 3.30 PM

KWAI TSING

3.30 PM TO 4 PM

ISLANDS

4.15 PM TO 5.45 PM

GENERAL ASPECTS

THE PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE PART OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE THE COMMISSION IS HOLDING UNTIL NOVEMBER 27 TO SOLICIT VIEWS ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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AFTER THE PUBLIC MEETINGS, THE COMMISSION WILL MEET LOCAL ORGANISATIONS BY APPOINTMENTS FROM NOVEMBER 25 TO 27 TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

MAPS SHOWING THE DELINEATION OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUENCY AREAS AND THEIR NAMES AS WELL AS THE DESCRIPTIONS OF BOUNDARIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT OVER 400 LOCATIONS INCLUDING ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES, PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, POST OFFICES AND THE REGISTRATION AND ELECTORAL OFFICE AT HARBOUR CENTRE, WAN CHAI.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS IN WRITING TO THE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT ON 10TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 27 DEADLINE.

ENQUIRIES ON THE PUBLIC MEETINGS AND THE MEETINGS BY APPOINTMENT WITH THE COMMISSION CAN BE MADE ON TEL 827 7144.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PUBLIC MEETINGS.

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LEGCO TO DEBATE TWO MOTIONS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL HOLD TWO MOTION DEBATES ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT AND MEASURES TO BOOST MORALE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE IN ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 24).

THE MOTION ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT IS PROPOSED BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT. THE HON STEVEN POON AND THE HON JIMMY MCGREGOR WILL PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO IT.

THE OTHER MOTION IS MOVED BY THE HON NGAI SHIU-KIT.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WILL ASK 16 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SIX BILLS.

OF THE SIX BILLS, THREE WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATES ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE: MAGISTRATES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, NEW TERRITORIES LAND (EXEMPTION) BILL AND INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1993.

/DEBATES ON .....

DEBATES ON THE OTHER THREE BILLS -- FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993, IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 -- WILL BE RESUMED.

THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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STREET SLEEPERS GIVEN BLANKETS

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SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT STAFF DISTRIBUTED 451 BLANKETS TO 409 STREET SLEEPERS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY LAST (SUNDAY) NIGHT.

NINETY-FIVE OF THEM WERE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, 11 IN EAST KOWLOON, 270 IN WEST KOWLOON, 21 IN NEW TERRITORIES EAST AND 12 IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE EXERCISE WAS THE FIRST MOUNTED TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE STREETS THIS WINTER.

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FRANCE AIR MAIL BACK TO NORMAL

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCES TODAY (MONDAY) THAT ALL AIR MAIL SERVICES TO AND FROM FRANCE ARE NOW BACK TO NORMAL.

THE SERVICES HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO DELAY BECAUSE OF THE STRIKE OF AIR FRANCE PERSONNEL IN FRANCE IN OCTOBER.

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FRESH WATER CUT IN SAI KUNG  
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 24) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATERMAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES AT THE SECTION OF CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD BETWEEN FEI NGO SHAN AND PIK UK, INCLUDING TAI SHEK KWU TSUEN, TSENG LAN SHUE TSUEN, TAN SHAN TSUEN, SAM LONG TSUEN, PAK SHEK WO TSUEN, PIK UK PRISON AND THOSE AT RAZOR HILL ROAD.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE  
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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 82.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 481.084 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 413.403 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 70.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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

TENDER DATE	22 NOV 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF NOTES
ISSUE NUMBER	2511
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$3,140 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$500 MN
AVERAGE PRICE ACCEPTED	99.79
LOWEST PRICE ACCEPTED	99.77
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 45 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER PRICE	99.70

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,630
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,370
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	3,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-1,415
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,585
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.8 *+0.1* 22.11.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.87 PCT	12 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.09	3.52
1 MONTH	2.89 PCT	15 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.26	3.73
3 MONTHS	2.99 PCT	18 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.71	3.99
6 MONTHS	3.15 PCT	21 MONTHS	2508	4.625	100.81	4.18
12 MONTHS	3.50 PCT	35 MONTHS	3610	4.20	98.58	4.78

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 23,238 MN

CLOSED 22 NOVEMBER 1993

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