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CIVIL SERVICE PLEDGES BETTER SERVICE: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) HONG KONG WAS BLESSED WITH A CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC CORPORATIONS THAT HAD A STRONG COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING GOOD SERVICE TO THEIR CLIENTS.

SPEAKING AT A PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE ORIENTAL GOLDEN BRIDGE & HEART OF GOLD AWARDS, THE GOVERNOR SAID IMPROVING CIVIL SERVANTS' PERFORMANCE WAS A KEY PART OF HIS POLICY ADDRESS IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

"ALREADY, A GREAT DEAL HAS BEEN DONE TO INTRODUCE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES," HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 18 MAJOR DEPARTMENTS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR INITIAL PLEDGES, WHILE ANOTHER 16 ARE SET TO DO SO BY SEPTEMBER. ALMOST ALL DEPARTMENTS WILL HAVE DONE SO BY DECEMBER.

THESE PLEDGES TELL THE PUBLIC - THE GOVERNMENT'S CUSTOMERS - WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT.

"THEY GIVE A STANDARD AGAINST WHICH EACH CIVIL SERVANT AND ORGANISATION CAN MEASURE THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE.

"ABOVE ALL, THEY FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE A SERVICE THAT IS ONE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE CUSTOMER," THE GOVERNOR ADDED.

BUT HE STRESSED THESE PLEDGES WERE NOT A "ONE-OFF EXERCISE", SAYING THAT EACH DEPARTMENT WOULD CARRY OUR REGULAR REVIEWS OF ITS SERVICES AND STANDARDS, ASSISTED BY CUSTOMERS' COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION.

"THIS WILL, I TRUST, LEAD TO A DEEPENING AND STRENGTHENING OF THE CULTURE OF SERVICE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION," HE SAID.

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\$20 BILLION LAND REVENUE PROJECTED

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THE ESTIMATED REVENUE FROM LAND SALE AND LEASE MODIFICATIONS DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR WOULD BE ABOUT \$20 BILLION, ACCORDING TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, MR ROBERT POPE.

ADDRESSING A ROTARY CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES MEETING THIS (MONDAY) EVENING, MR POPE SAID ALTHOUGH THE ESTIMATE FROM LAND SALE THIS YEAR MIGHT BE LESS THAN THAT OF LAST YEAR, THE REVENUE FROM LEASE MODIFICATION WAS EXPECTED TO DOUBLE.

"THE ESTIMATED REVENUE FROM LAND SALE IN 1993/94 IS \$9.3 BILLION WHICH COMPARES TO THE ACTUAL REVENUE OF \$11.5 LAST YEAR.

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"THE ESTIMATED REVENUE FROM LEASE MODIFICATIONS AND EXCHANGES IS \$9.8 BILLION WHICH IS ABOUT DOUBLE OF THAT LAST YEAR, DUE TO A NUMBER OF VERY LARGE LEASE MODIFICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED.

"IT WILL BE SEEN THAT REVENUE FROM BOTH SOURCES IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$20 BILLION," HE SAID.

MR POPE SAID THE LEASES ALSO PROVIDED A USEFUL TOOL TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO ADMINISTER LAND.

"OVER THE YEARS, COVENANTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN LEASES RESTRICTING DEVELOPMENT TO THAT CONSIDERED TO BE DESIRABLE AT THE TIME OF SALE.

"TIMES AND POLICIES CHANGE AND IN SOME AREAS IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO PERMIT MORE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT THAN THAT STATED IN THE LEASE."

IN THESE CASES, THE GOVERNMENT VARIES THE RESTRICTED COVENANTS IN THE LEASE TO PERMIT DEVELOPMENT TO PRESENT-DAY STANDARDS.

A PREMIUM IS PAYABLE FOR THIS AND IS ASSESSED ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAND VALUE UNDER THE RESTRICTED LEASE AND THAT AFTER LEASE MODIFICATION, HE SAID.

MR POPE NOTED THAT THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH OF THE LAND COMMISSION HAD ENABLED HONG KONG TO PROSPER SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN 1985 AND HAD GIVEN LAND ADMINISTRATION A GOOD BASE TO ENTER THE YEAR 2,000.

"LAND DISPOSAL IN HONG KONG IS CONTROLLED UNDER ANNEX III OF THE JOINT DECLARATION TO 50 HECTARES PER YEAR, UNLESS OTHERWISE AGREED BY THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION."

IN FACT, THE AVERAGE OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS HAS BEEN 104 HECTARES, DOUBLE THAT OF THE 50 HECTARES LIMIT.

THE LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME AGREED BY THE LAND COMMISSION THIS YEAR (93/94) IS 127.8 HECTARES, HE SAID.

MR POPE POINTED OUT THAT THE LEASEHOLD SYSTEM IN HONG KONG HAD MANY SIMILARITIES TO THE LAND TENURE SYSTEM USED IN CHINA.

"LAND IN SHANGHAI, GUANGDONG AND SHENZHEN IS SOLD FOR LEASE TERMS OF 50-70 YEARS WITH SIMILAR CONDITIONS OF SALE AS THOSE USED IN HONG KONG.

"MANY PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS IN HONG KONG ADVISE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON LAND MATTERS AND MY DEPARTMENT OFTEN EXCHANGE VISITS AND INFORMATION WITH DIFFERENT LAND ADMINISTRATION BUREAU OFFICIALS FROM PROVINCES IN CHINA," HE SAID.

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FIRST STAGE OF CONSULTATION ON BUDGET COMPLETES

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (MONDAY) COMPLETED HIS ROUND OF CONSULTATION WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE EXPENDITURE ASPECTS FOR THE 1994/95 BUDGET.

DESCRIBING THIS FIRST STAGE OF CONSULTATION AS VERY HELPFUL, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE STUDYING MEMBERS' VIEWS AND HE HAD BEEN PASSING COPIES OF THESE VIEWS TO THE RELEVANT POLICY SECRETARIES TO LOOK AT THEM FURTHER AND WOULD ARRIVE AT SOME GENERAL VIEWS THIS MONTH.

HE ALSO SAID WHEN HE SPOKE TO THE MEDIA THIS AFTERNOON THAT CONSULTATION ON REVENUE WOULD TAKE PLACE LATER THIS YEAR, IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA ON OUR GDP FORECAST, MR MACLEOD SAID: "WE ARE HAVING TO LOOK AT OUR GROWTH FORECAST, ASSUMPTION, FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS IN THE LIGHT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA.

"OUR AIM IS TO AVOID TOO MUCH STOP-GO IN OUR BUDGETTING, SO WE LIKE TO HAVE AN AVERAGE FIGURE. AT THE MOMENT, IT IS 5 PER CENT. COUPLES OF YEARS AGO IT WAS 5.5 PER CENT. SO WE DON'T ALTER THAT FIGURE EASILY. BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVE TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT MIGHT BE HAPPENING IN CHINA AS A RESULT OF THEIR INFLATION PROBLEM. AND THAT IS A FACTOR WE HAVEN'T TAKEN A FINAL VIEW ON YET."

IT WAS STILL EARLY DAYS YET TO TELL HOW THE MEASURES TAKEN BY CHINA WOULD AFFECT THEIR ECONOMY AND THE FEEDBACK INTO OUR ECONOMY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT AT THE MOMENT HE WAS NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING TOO DRAMATIC ON OUR ECONOMY.

ON THE EFFECTS OF THE FINANCIAL PACKAGE ON THE AIRPORT PROJECT ON THE FORECAST OF OUR RESERVES, HE SAID:

"CLEARLY ANYTHING WE DO WHICH CHANGES THE AMOUNT OF EQUITY AND DEBT, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE TWO FOR THE AIRPORT OR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, MAY AFFECT, IS LIKELY TO AFFECT OUR FORECASTS OF THE RESERVES.

"SIMILARLY, ANY DECISION WE TAKE IN THE BUDGET ON REVENUE MEASURES OR EXPENDITURE MEASURES WILL AFFECT THOSE FORECASTS TOO.

"THEY ARE GOING TO CHANGE EVERY YEAR IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISIONS WE TAKE DURING THE YEAR AND OUR ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE ECONOMY. I AM NOT GOING TO GUESS WHAT THE NEW FIGURES MIGHT BE. THAT WOULD HAVE TO EMERGE FROM THE BUDGET."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY ALSO SAID NOW THAT THE GREENLIGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE CENTRAL AND WAN CHAI RECLAMATION FROM CHINA, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO GET ON WITH THE PROJECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO PUT THE FUNDING REQUEST TO THE LEGCO SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACP ON THURSDAY AND TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY THE FOLLOWING WEEK, HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT APPROVAL COULD BE OBTAINED BEFORE THE END OF THIS LEGCO SESSION.

THAT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN KEEPING AIRPORT PROJECTS ON TIME, HE SAID, ADDING: "PROVIDED WE ALSO GET THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING LEGISLATION THROUGH THIS SESSION."

"IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE CAN GET APPROVAL FOR THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING THROUGH IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME AND I BELIEVE, IF WE HAVE TO RETAIN CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS IN SUCH PROJECTS, FUTURE PROJECTS IN HONG KONG.

"IT WILL BE TAKEN AS QUITE A BAD SIGN IF THIS PROJECT DOES NOT GET THROUGH," HE SAID.

THE TENDER THEN HAD TO BE PUT AWAY AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE HOW ELSE TO DEAL WITH THIS PROJECT, HE POINTED OUT.

"IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE FOR THE TAXPAYERS IF WE ENDED UP HAVING TO PAY FOR IT OUT OF TAXPAYERS' FUNDS.

"I AM VERY ANXIOUS THAT THIS SHOULD NOT HAPPEN," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD DONE ITS BEST TO LOOK AFTER THE INTERESTS OF CONSUMERS.

HE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY GOOD PROFITS ABOVE THE CEILING LEVEL WOULD BE PUT ASIDE IN RESERVE TO MAKE FUTURE TOLL INCREASES LESS LIKELY.

HE DESCRIBED THIS AS AN "IMAGINATIVE STEP".

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT THE BURDEN OF THE TOLL WOULD FALL LESS HEAVILY ON BUS PASSENGERS AND MORE ON PRIVATE CARS, WHICH HE REGARDED AS A REASONABLE ARRANGEMENT AS THE LATTER WERE BETTER ABLE TO PAY FOR IT, HE ADDED.

CONCEDING THAT THERE WERE CRITICISMS FROM LEGCO MEMBERS ABOUT THE PROJECT, HE HOPED THAT IN THE END "THIS VITAL PROJECT FOR HONG KONG" WOULD GET THROUGH.

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INQUIRY ORDERED INTO SEA ACCIDENT

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THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE, THIS (MONDAY) MORNING ORDERED A PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING THE HONG KONG-REGISTERED JETFOIL "URZELA" IN MACAU WATERS LAST (SUNDAY) NIGHT.

FORTY-ONE PERSONS ON BOARD THE JETFOIL WERE REPORTED AS BEING INJURED.

THE INQUIRY WAS ORDERED UNDER THE MERCHANT SHIPPING ORDINANCE AFTER MR DALE HAD CONSIDERED AN INITIAL REPORT ON THE INCIDENT.

THE PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY IS TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT.

NAUTICAL SURVEYOR, CAPTAIN CHEUNG TAI-KEE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CONDUCT THE INQUIRY.

SHORTLY AFTER 8 PM YESTERDAY (SUNDAY), THE HONG KONG-BOUND "URZELA" REPORTEDLY HIT A SEMI-SUBMERGED PIPELINE NEAR THE MACAU HARBOUR APPROACH CHANNEL.

ACCORDING TO THE JETFOIL COMPANY, 15 OF THE 264 PERSONS ON BOARD WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL IN MACAU.

ANOTHER 180 PERSONS WERE CONVEYED BACK TO HONG KONG BY ANOTHER JETFOIL. ON ARRIVING HONG KONG, 22 WERE SENT TO QUEEN MARY AND TANG SHIU KIN HOSPITALS AND FOUR OTHERS WENT TO QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL ON THEIR OWN.

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GUESTHOUSES COME UNDER LICENSING CONTROL IN SEPTEMBER

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ALL TOURIST GUESTHOUSES WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO OPERATE UNDER LICENCE AS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (BUILDING MANAGEMENT), MR FRANCIS LO, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

HE REMINDED THE OPERATORS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS COMPLETED BY THE END OF AUGUST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LICENSING CONDITIONS AS THE EXEMPTION PERIOD WOULD EXPIRE BY THEN.

WHILE MANY GUESTHOUSES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS, SOME OPERATORS APPEAR TO BE ADOPTING A "WAIT-AND-SEE" ATTITUDE, HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO ENFORCE LICENSING CONTROL FROM SEPTEMBER 1 WAS A VERY FIRM ONE.

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"TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND I URGE THOSE OPERATORS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS IF THEY WISH TO QUALIFY FOR A LICENCE," HE STRESSED.

UNDER THE HOTEL AND GUESTHOUSE ACCOMMODATION ORDINANCE, ANYONE WHO OPERATES A GUESTHOUSE WITHOUT A VALID CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION OR A LICENCE COMMITS AN OFFENCE.

THE OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE OF \$200,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS, AND TO A FURTHER FINE OF \$20,000 FOR EACH DAY DURING WHICH THE OFFENCE CONTINUES.

THE ORDINANCE WAS ENACTED IN 1991 TO PROVIDE FOR A LICENSING SCHEME TO REGULATE THE FIRE AND BUILDING SAFETY OF HOTELS AND GUESTHOUSES.

OPERATORS WERE THEN GIVEN A TWO-YEAR EXEMPTION PERIOD, DURING WHICH OFFICERS FROM THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION'S LICENSING AUTHORITY INSPECTED THEIR PREMISES AND ADVISED THEM IN WRITING ON THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

FURTHERMORE, MR LO SAID, TWO LETTERS HAD BEEN SENT TO INDIVIDUAL TOURIST GUESTHOUSE OPERATORS, IN APRIL AND JUNE THIS YEAR, REMINDING THEM OF THE EXPIRY OF THE EXEMPTION PERIOD AND URGING THEM TO COMPLETE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN TIME.

HE ADDED THAT OPERATORS WHO ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN CARRYING OUT THESE WORKS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF LICENSING AUTHORITY WHOSE STAFF WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADVICE AND GUIDANCE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (BUILDING MANAGEMENT), MR FRANCIS LO, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT AT 3.30 PM TODAY (MONDAY) IN THE CNTA CONFERENCE ROOM, 30TH FLOOR, SOUTHOEN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE SESSION.

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PROPOSAL TO CHARGE FOR
DISPOSAL OF PRIVATELY COLLECTED WASTE

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THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH HAS ISSUED A CONSULTATION PAPER OUTLINING PLANS TO INTRODUCE CHARGING FOR THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT LANDFILLS BY PRIVATE WASTE COLLECTORS.

THE PROPOSAL CALLS FOR THE LEVYING OF CHARGES OF \$175 FOR LOADS BELOW FIVE TONNES AND \$350 FOR LOADS ABOVE THAT WEIGHT ON ALL PRIVATE WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES DISPOSING OF WASTE AT LANDFILLS.

THESE CHARGING LEVELS REPRESENT ABOUT HALF OF THE DISPOSAL COSTS. THE LEVELS WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY INCREASED TO ACHIEVE FULL COST RECOVERY.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE INITIAL MODERATE LEVEL OF CHARGES WILL NOT INDUCE A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF EVASION THROUGH INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING. NEVERTHELESS, CONTINGENCY MEASURES WILL BE DEvised IN CASE SUCH A PROBLEM ARISES.

THE PROPOSAL IS INTENDED TO APPLY THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE AND TO ENCOURAGE WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING.

IT IS ALSO A BID TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE DELIVERED TO LANDFILLS IN RECENT YEARS.

ABOUT 12,000 TONNES OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE PER DAY IS NOW GOING TO LANDFILLS BUT MUCH OF THIS IS INERT MATERIAL AND SHOULD BETTER BE DISPOSED OF AT PUBLIC DUMPS AND USED FOR RECLAMATION PURPOSES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES WILL ENCOURAGE WASTE GENERATORS TO SEPARATE INERT FROM NON-INERT MATERIALS AND MINIMISE THE AMOUNT OF WASTE GOING TO LANDFILLS.

THE CONSULTATION PAPER AND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL IS OBTAINABLE BY WRITING TO THE ENVIRONMENT DIVISION OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, 20TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, CENTRAL. PUBLIC COMMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SAME ADDRESS BEFORE AUGUST 20, 1993.

SALE OF OTB HAS YET BEEN AGREED

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THIS (MONDAY) EVENING CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN IN DISCUSSIONS WITH A NUMBER OF INTERESTED PARTIES RELATING TO THE PROPOSED SALE OF OVERSEAS TRUST BANK (OTB), ONE OF WHICH IS GUOCO GROUP LIMITED.

GUOCO GROUP LIMITED HAS ISSUED EARLIER TODAY A PRESS STATEMENT STATING THAT THE GROUP WAS CURRENTLY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED SALE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ENTIRE ISSUED SHARE CAPITAL OF OTB.

"WE ALSO CONFIRM THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ARE ONGOING BUT THAT NO TERMS FOR THE PROPOSED SALE OF OTB HAVE YET BEEN AGREED WITH GUOCO OR ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL, HOWEVER, ISSUE A FURTHER PRESS RELEASE HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE END OF JULY IF AND WHEN THE TERMS FOR THE SALE OF OTB ARE AGREED WITH ANY ONE OF THE INTERESTED PARTIES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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KEMPSTER REPORT PART II SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MR JUSTICE KEMPSTER HAD SUBMITTED PART II OF HIS INQUIRY REPORT ON WITNESS PROTECTION TO THE GOVERNOR.

"ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT TO BE PRINTED. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JULY 16, 1993. THE FULL CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY TRANSLATION AND PRINTING WORK IS COMPLETED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HK'S INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING EXPLAINED

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THE MOVEMENT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES TO SOUTHERN CHINA SHOULD BE VIEWED AS AN EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RICKY FUNG, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT AN OECD WORKSHOP IN PARIS ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, MR FUNG SAID SINCE THE OPENING OF CHINA IN 1979, HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIALISTS HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE USE OF LOWER LABOUR AND LAND COSTS FOR THE MANUFACTURING - ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE - OF GOODS.

"AND HONG KONG CONTINUES TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE ON INVESTMENT, MANAGEMENT, LINKAGE MATERIALS, FINISHING, AND RE-EXPORTING," HE SAID.

MR FUNG SAID THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, TOGETHER WITH THE EXPANSION OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIES INTO SOUTHERN CHINA, WERE MAKING POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMY GENERALLY AND TO ITS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN PARTICULAR.

HE SAID THE REDUCTION IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES' SHARE IN HONG KONG'S GDP WAS BALANCED BY RAPID ADVANCES IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY, SUCH AS TRADING, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND ONE OF THE MAIN IMPETUS FOR THE ADVANCES IN THESE OTHER SECTORS WAS THE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR MUCH ENLARGED PRODUCTION BASE IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

"EVEN IN THE LOCAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR ALONE, IN REAL TERMS, INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT IN HONG KONG INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF ABOUT 7.8 PER CENT IN ALMOST THE WHOLE OF THE 1980s AND HAS REMAINED STABLE ONLY SINCE 1989.

"THIS MEANS THAT, IN SPITE OF THE CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF OUR ECONOMY, HONG KONG STILL HAS A SUBSTANTIAL MANUFACTURING SECTOR WHICH IS TODAY PRODUCING, IN REAL TERMS, 8.6 PER CENT MORE THAN IT DID SIX YEARS AGO.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE RESTRUCTURING OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRIAL BASE IN THIS WAY HAS RELEASED LABOUR IN HONG KONG FOR OTHER EXPANDING SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND HAS ENABLED THE INDUSTRIES THAT REMAIN IN HONG KONG TO CONCENTRATE ON HIGHER-VALUE ADDED, HIGHER-QUALITY PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

MR FUNG ADDED THAT PRODUCTIVITY PER PERSON ENGAGED - LARGELY THE RESULT OF GREATER AUTOMATION, MORE EFFICIENT PRODUCTION PROCESSES, AND A CONCENTRATION ON HIGHER-VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS - HAD GROWN AT AN IMPRESSIVE RATE.

"IN REAL TERMS, PRODUCTIVITY PER PERSON HAS INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE 11.1 PER CENT PER ANNUM BETWEEN 1986 AND 1992.

"THIS FIGURE COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE EQUIVALENT RATES FOR DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIES AND FOR NEWLY INDUSTRIALISED ECONOMIES IN THE REGION," HE SAID.

MR FUNG ALSO OUTLINED THE RANGE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING INVESTING IN HUMAN RESOURCES, PROVIDING LAND FOR HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES AND BRINGING IN NEW TECHNOLOGY THROUGH PROMOTING INWARD INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

MR FUNG SAID HONG KONG WOULD NOT CLAIM TO BE IN THE VANGUARD OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT: THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES DEVOTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD NEVER MATCH THOSE IN JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES OR EVEN THE OTHER "LITTLE DRAGONS" IN ASIA.

"BUT WE DO NOT HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX: WE HAVE MERELY CHOSEN A DIFFERENT PATH.

"OUR POLICY OF SUPPORTING BUT NOT SUBSIDISING; OF ENCOURAGING BUT NOT INTERVENING; OF PROMOTING BUT NOT PROTECTING; AND OF RESPECTING MARKET FORCES BUT NOT OBSESSING IN STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS, HAS SERVED HONG KONG WELL AND WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING IT," HE SAID.

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HK'S EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR MAY

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR MAY 1993.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN MAY 1993, AT \$66,935 MILLION, SHOWED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 17% OVER MAY 1992, WHEREAS DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6.5% TO \$18,149 MILLION OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

COMPARING MAY 1993 WITH MAY 1992, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO THE NETHERLANDS, CHINA, GERMANY, THE UNITED STATES, SINGAPORE, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 29%, 28%, 26%, 25%, 24%, 16% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY.

THAT TO JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INCREASED BY 9.0% AND 4.2% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 13%.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WAS \$308,748 MILLION, 23% HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS : CHINA (+38%), THE NETHERLANDS (+32%), SINGAPORE (+27%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+26%), THE UNITED STATES (+25%), GERMANY (+23%), FRANCE (+21%), JAPAN (+14%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+4.9%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 18%.

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$8,994 MILLION OR 180%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$6,030 MILLION OR 31%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$5,855 MILLION OR 31%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$5,645 MILLION OR 45%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$5,214 MILLION OR 16%); CLOTHING (BY \$4,295 MILLION OR 15%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$1,044 MILLION OR 4.0%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORTS, INCREASES OF 17% AND 12% IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE TO MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE RESPECTIVELY WHEN COMPARING MAY 1993 WITH MAY 1992. A SLIGHT INCREASE OF 1.0% WAS RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR DESTINATIONS : THE UNITED KINGDOM (-22%), JAPAN (-22%), GERMANY (-9.4%), THE UNITED STATES (-9.3%), CANADA (-8.7%), THE NETHERLANDS (-8.0%) AND TAIWAN (-2.5%).

/COMPARING THE

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND CHINA INCREASED BY 18%, 17% AND 12% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR DESTINATIONS : THE UNITED KINGDOM (-13%), CANADA (-11%), JAPAN (-9.6%), GERMANY (-8.8%), THE NETHERLANDS (-8.6%), THE UNITED STATES (-6.8%) AND TAIWAN (-5.4%).

FOR ALL DESTINATIONS TAKEN TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$84,673 MILLION, DECREASED BY 1.3% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,574 MILLION OR 21%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$694 MILLION OR 14%); AND MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$206 MILLION OR 16%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,029 MILLION OR 8.1%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$1,056 MILLION OR 12%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$812 MILLION OR 11%); AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$181 MILLION OR 2.3%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN MAY 1993 WAS \$90,724 MILLION, INCREASING BY 11% OVER THAT IN MAY 1992.

COMPARING MAY 1993 WITH MAY 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST OF THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS : THE UNITED STATES (+41%), MALAYSIA (+26%), ITALY (+17%), JAPAN (+14%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+14%), CHINA (+9.7%), GERMANY (+8.6%) AND SINGAPORE (+6.5%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN SLIGHTLY DECREASED BY 0.2%.

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED : MALAYSIA (+29%), THE UNITED STATES (+29%), SINGAPORE (+26%), GERMANY (+22%), ITALY (+20%), JAPAN (+18%), CHINA (+14%), TAIWAN (+12%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+9.6%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+8.8%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WAS \$417,432 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 17% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

COMPARING THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

/MORE NOTABLE

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$13,094 MILLION OR 122%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$8,504 MILLION OR 25%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$4,798 MILLION OR 17%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$4,484 MILLION OR 39%); CLOTHING (BY \$4,151 MILLION OR 15%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$3,726 MILLION OR 15%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$1,237 MILLION OR 3.0%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MAY 1993 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY AUGUST.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE MAY 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN MAY 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$68.50 A COPY AROUND JULY 19.

THE REPORT CAN BE PURCHASED EITHER AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO. 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 582 4915).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

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TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (EKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	23,631	+ 27.8	105,834	+ 37.7
UNITED STATES	14,830	+ 25.3	62,977	+ 24.8
JAPAN	2,998	+ 9.0	15,525	+ 14.3
GERMANY	3,085	+ 26.1	15,072	+ 23.4
TAIWAN	1,967	- 13.1	9,177	- 17.9
UNITED KINGDOM	1,726	+ 12.6	8,192	+ 26.2
SINGAPORE	1,356	+ 23.7	6,740	+ 27.3
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,343	+ 4.2	6,055	+ 4.9
FRANCE	1,057	+ 16.5	5,174	+ 20.5
NETHERLANDS	932	+ 28.5	4,624	+ 31.7

/TABLE 2 :

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,221	+ 11.2	36,838	+ 16.5
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,622	+ 11.7	32,076	+ 15.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,371	- 15.1	27,397	+ 4.0
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	5,466	+ 18.8	25,278	+ 31.3
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	5,479	+ 30.7	24,781	+ 30.9
FOOTWEAR	3,837	+ 45.0	18,088	+ 45.4
ROAD VEHICLES	3,107	+181.8	13,992	+179.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,933	+ 22.2	13,426	+ 21.0
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,098	+ 29.7	10,700	+ 37.3
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,352	+ 8.8	10,335	+ 10.3

/TABLE 3 :

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,473	+ 1.0	25,305	+ 11.6
UNITED STATES	4,766	- 9.3	20,515	- 6.8
GERMANY	1,073	- 9.4	4,972	- 8.8
SINGAPORE	997	+ 12.3	4,602	+ 18.0
JAPAN	714	- 21.7	4,048	- 9.6
UNITED KINGDOM	794	- 21.9	3,926	- 13.3
TAIWAN	501	- 2.5	2,480	- 5.4
NETHERLANDS	312	- 8.0	1,722	- 8.6
CANADA	354	- 8.7	1,688	- 11.0
MALAYSIA	249	+ 17.2	1,166	+ 16.9

/TABLE 4 :

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,245	- 7.3	23,152	- 8.1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,895	+ 6.0	9,050	+ 21.0
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,613	- 12.4	7,698	- 12.1
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,486	- 16.3	7,542	- 2.3
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,542	- 13.2	6,809	- 0.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,300	- 20.1	6,436	- 11.2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,188	+ 15.9	5,545	+ 14.3
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	384	- 8.3	1,856	- 5.4
MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	336	+ 12.2	1,485	+ 16.1
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	260	- 23.4	1,394	+ 1.2

/TABLE 5 :

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	32,324	+ 9.7	148,230	+ 13.8
JAPAN	15,043	+ 14.0	72,542	+ 18.1
TAIWAN	8,042	- 0.2	37,143	+ 11.6
UNITED STATES	7,930	+ 40.5	32,572	+ 29.4
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,415	+ 0.2	19,659	+ 8.8
SINGAPORE	4,240	+ 6.5	18,342	+ 25.6
GERMANY	2,024	+ 8.6	10,073	+ 22.1
UNITED KINGDOM	1,650	+ 13.7	8,295	+ 9.6
ITALY	1,396	+ 16.7	6,606	+ 19.8
MALAYSIA	1,490	+ 26.0	6,230	+ 29.5

/TABLE 6 :

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	MAY 93 OVER MAY 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-MAY 1993 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-MAY 93 OVER JAN-MAY 92 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,230	+ 12.8	43,106	+ 24.6
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9,258	- 19.0	40,548	- 3.0
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,048	+ 16.3	32,569	+ 14.6
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7,265	+ 20.7	32,525	+ 17.3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,388	+ 13.7	28,682	+ 14.9
ROAD VEHICLES	5,239	+135.5	23,867	+121.6
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,204	+ 13.9	18,828	+ 8.1
FOOTWEAR	3,327	+ 30.9	15,954	+ 39.1
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	3,247	+ 27.6	14,484	+ 32.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,898	- 1.4	14,232	+ 12.8

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1993

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AIR QUALITY REPORT FOR JUNE RELEASED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (MONDAY) RELEASED AIR QUALITY INFORMATION FOR JUNE 1993.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EPD 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, NAMELY;

- 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.

IN JUNE, THERE WERE NO EXCEEDANCE OF THE ONE-HOUR AND 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR ANY OF THE POLLUTANTS REPORTED.

COMPARED TO 1992, MONTHLY VALUES OF NO₂ AND TSP AT MONG KOK AND KWAI CHUNG WERE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME MONTH.

IN KWAI CHUNG, SO₂ WAS HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR BUT AT MONG KOK IT WAS SIMILAR.

AMONGST THE STATIONS REPORTED, LEVELS OF NO₂ AND PARTICULATES REMAINED HIGHER AT THE GROUND LEVEL SITE IN MONG KOK THAN THE OTHER TWO SITES.

DURING THE MONTH, PEAKS OF SO₂ AT KWAI CHUNG WERE OBSERVED ON JUNE 1, 5, 7 AND 22.

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS INDICATED THAT A SINGLE LARGE EMISSION SOURCE TOGETHER WITH THE PREVAILING WIND CONDITIONS MIGHT HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE FIRST THREE PEAKS WHILE TOTAL EMISSIONS FROM NEARBY INDUSTRIAL AREAS UNDER LOW WIND SPEED SITUATIONS COULD BE THE CAUSE OF THE FOURTH PEAK.

ON JUNE 6, NO₂ LEVELS ROSE TO A MAXIMUM AT ALL REPORTED SITES FOR THE MONTH.

IN MONG KOK, THE DAILY AVERAGE VALUE WAS 123 UG/CU M BUT STILL SMALLER THAN THE 24-HOUR AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVE VALUE OF 150.

/THE EPD

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1993

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THE EPD ANALYSIS FOR THAT DAY REVEALED THAT A POOR POLLUTANT DISPERSION OWING TO LOW WIND SPEED, COUPLING WITH ABUNDANT SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY, PROVIDED FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE OXIDATION OF NITRIC OXIDE IN THE AIR TO NITROGEN DIOXIDE.

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

THE EPD 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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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRY CAN BE DIRECTED TO PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, MR W S TSUI, ON TEL 594 6401.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 72.2 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 423.067 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 465.465 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 79.4 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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LEGCO TO DEBATE LEGISLATURE/EXECUTIVE LINKS

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE AT ITS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 14) A MOTION ON THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE.

THE MOTION IS PROPOSED BY THE HON VINCENT CHENG.

THE HON ANNA WU WILL MOVE ANOTHER MOTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MAKE A STATEMENT ON EXCHANGE FUND.

THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES WILL MOVE TWO MOTIONS, ONE UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND THE OTHER UNDER THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES INCORPORATION ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WILL PRESENT A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON HEALTH POLICY AND THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT VICTIMS ASSISTANCE FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1991/92.

MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER SEVEN BILLS.

TWO BILLS, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 AND LEVERAGED FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING BILL, WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS.

FIVE OTHER BILLS ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1992-93) BILL 1993; EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; AMUSEMENT GAME CENTRES BILL; IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND FILM CENSORSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

THE HON HOWARD YOUNG WILL PRESENT THE HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 1992-93 AND THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WILL PRESENT THE REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON POLICE WELFARE FUND FOR 1990/91.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE WILL PRESENT SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION TRUSTEE'S REPORT 1992-93 WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WILL PRESENT TWO AUDITED STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS.

ONE IS FOR THE SING TAO FOUNDATION STUDENTS' LOAN FUND FOR YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1992 AND THE OTHER WAS ON THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS' LOAN FUND OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

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

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1993

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ONE MORE NOMINATION FOR RC BY-ELECTION
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ONE MORE NOMINATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED TODAY (MONDAY) FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN RESPECT OF THE SAI KUNG CONSTITUENCY.

THE CANDIDATE IS MR WONG SHUI-SANG, AGED 46, MERCHANT. HIS TELEPHONE IS 792 7354.

THIS BRINGS TO SIX THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE TWO-WEEK NOMINATION PERIOD BEGAN ON JULY 5.

THE BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 8 TO FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY MR GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO.

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WATER CUTS IN TSIM SHA TSUI
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TSIM SHA TSUI WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY SALISBURY ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, MODY ROAD, MINDEN ROW AND MIDDLE ROAD.

OWING TO CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL THE PREMISES AT AUSTIN ROAD, CHEONG WAN ROAD, SALISBURY ROAD, SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, GRANVILLE ROAD, CARNARVON ROAD AND KIMBERLEY ROAD WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED FROM 11 PM ON WEDNESDAY (JULY 14) TO 7 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY.

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MONDAY, JULY 12, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,665
REVERSAL OF LAF	+1,135
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+95
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,895
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 113.1 *+0.2* 12.7.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.05 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.50	3.94
1 MONTH	3.11 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.72	4.11
3 MONTHS	3.29 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.84	4.24
6 MONTHS	3.49 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.86	4.45
12 MONTHS	3.80 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 15,022 MN

CLOSED 12 JULY 1993

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