DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 5-8428777

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1983

CONTENTS — PAGE NO.

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO NEW UNIVERSITY 1

NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE TO START IN JUNE 2

HK DELEGATION ATTENDS ESCAP SESSION 3

WSD STAFF DONATE OVER $70,000 TO BEREAVED FAMILIES 4

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED 5

DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS RELEASED 12

NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS CLOSE FRIDAY 17

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES RAISED 18

COOL AND CLOUDY IN MARCH 20

SATISFACTORY JOB SITUATION FOR TECHNICAL GRADUATES 23

SEMINAR FOR CATERING, RESTAURANT INDUSTRY ORGANISED 23

FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOP FOR KOWLOON BAY 24

DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED 25

ADJUSTMENT OF GMB ROUTE 30 25

MA TAJ WAI ROAD FLYOVER TO OPEN 26

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS TO NEW UNIVERSITY
* * * * *

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING APPEALED FOR DONATIONS TO BE MADE TO THE NEW UNIVERSITY.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURAL DINNER OF THE COUNCIL.

SIR S.Y. SAID THE COUNCIL HOPED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ATTRACT ADDITIONAL FUNDS BY WAY OF DONATIONS TOWARDS EQUIPMENT, RESEARCH AND ENDOWMENTS BESIDES THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE GENEROUS CAPITAL DONATION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

"UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE AND MORE SO IS RESEARCH," SAID SIR S.Y.

"I DO NOT THINK THAT I AM TOO GREEDY IN THIS APPEAL FOR THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT AND WORTHWHILE THAN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE," HE SAID.

SIR S.Y. SAID THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY, WHEN DEVELOPING ITS PLANS, HAD TAKEN THE VIEW THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF THE WORK OF THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE TOWARDS PRODUCING FIRST-DEGREE GRADUATES IN THOSE AREAS OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT WHERE THEY WERE MOST NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY.

BUT IT WAS ALSO OF THE VIEW THAT THE UNIVERSITY SHOULD SEEK TO DEVOTE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF ITS RESOURCES TO POST-GRADUATE WORK FOR HONG KONG'S ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

"IT IS ALSO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S VIEW THAT THE NEW UNIVERSITY SHOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP CLOSE LINKS WITH COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND THAT THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO DO WORK OUTSIDE THE CONFINES OF THEIR NORMAL TEACHING DUTIES.

"WE HAVE, THEREFORE, INCLUDED IN THE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN A RESEARCH CENTRE AND A TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTRE, WHICH WILL BE OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY AS A NON-PROFIT-MAKING BUT BUSINESS CORPORATION," SIR S.Y. SAID.

THE COUNCIL AIMS TO COMPLETE THE FIRST PHASE OF THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN TIME FOR AROUND 600 STUDENTS TO BE ADMITTED IN OCTOBER 1991, AND TO BUILD UP THE STUDENT NUMBERS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO MEET THE TARGET OF 7,000 IN 1996.

"IN OTHER WORDS, THE WHOLE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD BY THREE YEARS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL CONCERNED, THESE AMBITIOUS TARGETS CAN AND WILL BE MET," SIR S.Y. SAID.

/ALSO SPEAKING .....

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY, THE VICE-CHANCELLOR DESIGNATE OF THE UNIVERSITY, PROFESSOR CHIA-WEI WOO, SAID THE UNIVERSITY WAS BY MANDATE DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF THE REGION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

"OUR SPECIFIC TASK IS TO FURTHER ENDOW HONG KONG'S HUMAN RESOURCES WITH TALENTS IN THE SCIENCES, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, AND BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, AND TO DO SO IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH HONG KONG'S MANY ECONOMIC FORCES," HE SAID.

"AS SIR S.Y. POINTED OUT, THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WILL HELP GENERATE WEALTH FOR THIS SOCIETY," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WHO IS ALSO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, AND LADY WILSON ATTENDED THE DINNER.

----0----

NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE TO START IN JUNE

* * * * *

A NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTE WILL BE INTRODUCED IN JUNE BETWEEN KWUN TONG AND CENTRAL AND FURTHER FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED ON CROSS HARBOUR ROUTES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD PROVIDE ABOUT 2,000 MORE PASSENGER SEATS DURING PEAK HOURS, HE SAID IN ANSWER TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN PLANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RELIEVE PEAK-HOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC.

OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS, THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF CROSS-HARBOUR BUSES HAD BEEN INCREASED BY OVER 10 PER CENT -- TWO NEW CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES WERE INTRODUCED AND FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENTS AND CAPACITY INCREASES WERE MADE TO A FURTHER FOUR BUS ROUTES, HE SAID.

AS FOR FERRY SERVICES, A NEW WAN CHAI TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE WAS STARTED ON APRIL 1.

"VERY SOON, THE FREQUENCY OF THIS SERVICE WILL BE INCREASED," HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON THE PEAK-HOUR TRANSPORT DEMAND, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AWARE OF THE GRADUALLY INCREASING CONGESTION ON THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WHICH PARTICULARLY AFFECTS TRAFFIC ALONG THE NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR AND ACROSS THE HARBOUR TO CENTRAL.

/"IN RECENT .....

"IN RECENT YEARS, THE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ON ALL CROSS-HARBOUR MODES OF TRANSPORT HAS RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN WATCHING THE SITUATION AND HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE BUS AND FERRY COMPANIES TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND FREQUENCY OF CROSS-HARBOUR SERVICES," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF SPARE CAPACITY ON THE CROSS-HARBOUR FERRY ROUTES WHICH THE PUBLIC COULD USE AND SO AVOID THE OTHER MORE CONGESTED SERVICES.

"TO AVOID THE DISCOMFORT OF EXCESSIVE CONGESTION AT PEAK HOURS, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN 8 AM AND 9 AM, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO TRAVEL EITHER A LITTLE EARLIER OR A LITTLE LATER.

"CONSIDERABLE RELIEF TO THE CONGESTION CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN THE ROAD AND RAIL SERVICES IN THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BECOME OPERATIONAL AT THE END OF NEXT YEAR. BY THAT TIME, FOUR NEW CROSS-HARBOUR BUS ROUTES WILL ALSO BE OPERATING."

----0----

HK DELEGATION ATTENDS ESCAP SESSION

* * * * *

A HONG KONG DELEGATION, LED BY EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, DR DANIEL TSE, IS ATTENDING THE 44TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP) WHICH IS BEING HELD IN JAKARTA FROM TODAY (TUESDAY) TO APRIL 20.

THE THEME OF THE SESSION IS "THE INTEGRATED PLAN OF ACTION ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT".

THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ARE THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, AND THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY (TRADE), MR K.F. LEE.

ADDRESSING THE SESSION TODAY, DR TSE STRESSED THE THREAT TO TRADE POSED BY PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS.

HE URGED ALL CONCERNED TO JOIN IN EFFORTS TO COUNTER PROTECTIONISM AND TO WORK TOWARDS A FREER TRADING ENVIRONMENT.

DR TSE SAID THAT HONG KONG AND MANY DEVELOPING ECONOMIES IN THE REGION RELIED ON EXPORTS TO PAY FOR VITAL IMPORTS REQUIRED FOR THEIR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

/IF PROTECTIONIST .....

IF PROTECTIONIST MEASURES WERE PUT INTO EFFECT, THEY WOULD RESULT IN ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL.

"AND THEY WOULD UNDERMINE THE EFFORTS OF OUR NEGOTIATORS AT THE NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING ABOUT A MORE LIBERAL AND EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL TRADING REGIME," HE ADDED.

DR TSE ALSO SAID THAT IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES TEMPORARY PROTECTION MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED UNDER THE GATT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROBLEMS SUCH AS WIDE FLUCTUATIONS IN EXCHANGE RATES, HUGE TRADE IMBALANCES AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN DECLINING INDUSTRIES WHICH THE WORLD'S TRADING ECONOMIES WERE FACING.

BUT HE BELIEVED THAT A PROTECTED INDUSTRY IN THE LONG TERM BECAME WEAKER, NOT STRONGER, AND PROTECTION WAS, IN THE END, NOT THE SOLUTION.

"WE ARE LIVING IN A WORLD OF INCREASING INTER-DEPENDENCE," DR TSE ADDED.

----0----

WSD STAFF DONATE OVER $70,000 TO BEREAVED FAMILIES

* * * * * *

A DONATION OF OVER $70,000 WAS MADE TODAY (TUESDAY) TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF THREE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT WORKERS WHO WERE KILLED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT AT LEI YUE MUN ROAD ON MARCH 30.

THE MONEY WAS RAISED BY COLLEAGUES OF THE VICTIMS.

THE VICTIMS WERE MISS LEUNG SUI-SUM, MADAM MAK HOP-NUI AND MR HO SING-KEUNG.

THE DONATION, WHICH WAS SHARED EQUALLY AMONG THE FAMILIES, WILL HELP TO DEFRAY FUNERAL AND OTHER EXPENSES.

THE MONEY WAS HANDED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FAMILIES BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR CHAN YAN-KEE, IN A CEREMONY HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT AT LEIGHTON CENTRE.

----0----

/5 .....

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY RELEASED

* * * * *

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) RELEASED TRADE VALUE STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1988.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1988, AT $58,025 MILLION, GREW BY 30 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS.

COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT TO $13,641 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 1988 WHILE RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 50 PER CENT TO $15,914 MILLION, BRINGING TOTAL EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1988 TO $29,555 MILLION, WHICH WAS 43 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN FEBRUARY 1987.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, IMPORTS INCREASED BY 18 PER CENT TO $28,470 MILLION IN FEBRUARY 1988.

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF BILATERAL TRADE IN ANY SINGLE MONTH, AS THE RESPECTIVE GROWTH RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL MONTHS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE FLUCTUATIONS.

IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE USUALLY AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, WHILE THIS YEAR THEY OCCURRED IN MID-FEBRUARY.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1987 AND FEBRUARY 1988.

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO FRANCE (+92 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+84 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+50 PER CENT), CANADA (+46 PER CENT) AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+46 PER CENT).

A 25 PER CENT GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE USA.

ON THE OTHER HAND, A RELATIVELY MODERATE GROWTH RATE OF 7 PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA.

IMPORTS FROM MOST MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1988 OVER FEBRUARY 1987, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+34 PER CENT), JAPAN (+22 PER CENT), CHINA (+22 PER CENT), FRANCE (+20 PER CENT), TAIWAN (+19 PER CENT) AND SWITZERLAND (+19 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE AND THE USA DECREASED BY 13 PER CENT AND 7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

/RE-EXPORTS TO .....

RE-EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA AND THE REPBULIC OF KOREA INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS, OVER THE SAME PERIOD, BY 114 PER CENT, 106 PER CENT, 87 PER CENT, 61 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE IN JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1988, AT $126,016 MILLION, INCREASED BY 34 PER CENT AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 25 PER CENT TO $30,117 MILLION WHILE RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 52 PER CENT TO $34,278 MILLION.

THUS, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT TO $64,395 MILLION.

IMPORTS INCREASED BY 29 PER CENT TO $61,620 MILLION.

COMPARING JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS.

THE MARKETS WITH THE FASTEST GROWTH IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED FRANCE (+54 PER CENT), SINGAPORE (+48 PER CENT), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+43 PER CENT), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+36 PER CENT) AND CHINA (+26 PER CENT).

DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET, THE USA, GREW BY 13 PER CENT.

IMPORTS IN JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 1988 FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE TERMS WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND (+51 PER CENT), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+45 PER CENT), FRANCE (+32 PER CENT), CHINA (+31 PER CENT) AND SINGAPORE (+28 PER CENT).

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, RE-EXPORTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA AND TAIWAN INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN VALUE TERMS BY 97 PER CENT, 89 PER CENT, 85 PER CENT, 65 PER CENT AND 55 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF COMPARISON TO THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1988 WITH THE 12 MONTHS ENDING FEBRUARY 1987, DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 26 PER CENT TO $201,326 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AT $194,438 MILLION WAS 50 PER CENT HIGHER. TAKING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TOGETHER, TOTAL EXPORTS ROSE BY 37 PER CENT. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 36 PER CENT TO $391,934 MILLION. AS A WHOLE, TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE INCREASED BY 37 PER CENT.

/ALL TRADE .....

ALL TRADE STATISTICS PRESENTED 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 PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY 1988 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY MAY.

THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, INCREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE RECORDED IN ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

THE MORE NOTABLE ONES INCLUDED CLOTHING (BY $2,129 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $780 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $503 MILLION OR 28 PER CENT); AS WELL AS OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY $497 MILLION OR 43 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN ELECTRIC CURRENT (BY $14 MILLION OR 15 PER CENT); AS WELL AS VEGETABLES AND FRUIT (BY $8 MILLION OR 31 PER CENT).

TABLE 2 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, INCREASES IN IMPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $1,817 MILLION OR 42 PER CENT); ARTIFICIAL RESINS AND PLASTIC MATERIALS, AND CELLULOSE ESTERS AND ETHERS (BY $1,082 MILLION OR 91 PER CENT).

THERE WERE ALSO INCREASES IN VALUE TERMS FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY $997 MILLION OR 39 PER CENT); AS WELL AS FOR MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY $937 MILLION OR 40 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT OTHER THAN ROAD VEHICLES (BY $555 MILLION OR 67 PER CENT); AS WELL AS OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY $22 MILLION OR 26 PER CENT).

TABLE 4 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS TO HONG KONG'S 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

/COMPARING THE .....

COMPARING THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1988 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1987, INCREASES IN RE-EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY $1,548 MILLION OR 85 PER CENT); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (BY $1,305 MILLION OR 74 PER CENT); CLOTHING (BY $894 MILLION OR 30 PER CENT); AS WELL AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY $869 MILLION OR 70 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN OIL SEEDS AND OLEAGINOUS FRUIT (BY $22 MILLION OR 29 PER CENT); AS WELL AS MISCELLANEOUS EDIBLE PRODUCTS AND PREPARATIONS (BY $6 MILLION OR 6 PER CENT).

TABLE 6 ILLUSTRATES THE CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON TRADE VALUE BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY ARE AVAILABLE IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE STATISTICS SUMMARY" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND APRIL 15, AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT $9.50 PER COPY.

A MORE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WITH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY 1988 WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY MAY AT $17.50 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THESE REPORTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. 5-8428802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. 5-8234915).

TABLE 1: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
USA	10,152	+ 13	4,557	+ 25
CHINA	4,190	+ 26	1,711	+ 7
FR OF GERMANY	2,808	+ 36	1,254	+ 46
UK	2,039	+ 43	981	+ 84
JAPAN	1,320	+ 26	570	+ 43
CANADA	939	+ 25	426	+ 46

/NETHERLANDS .....

NETHERLANDS	702	+ 22	326	+ 39
SINGAPORE	658	+ 48	298	+ 50
FRANCE	635	+ 54	296	+ 92
AUSTRALIA	586	+ 20	281	+ 26

TABLE 2: DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	10,181	+ 26	4,618	+ 50
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,914	+ 11	1,743	+ 20
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	2,610	+ 43	1,189	+ 57
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,317	+ 28	1,028	+ 20
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	2,225	+ 14	1,088	+ 22
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,172	+ 8	959	+ 11

/TABLE 3: .....

TABLE 3: IMPORTS FROM 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
CHINA	18,787	+ 31	7,853	+ 22
JAPAN	11,382	+ 26	5,906	+ 22
TAIWAN	5,357	+ 26	2,433	+ 19
USA	5,086	+ 16	2,431	- 7
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	3,088	+ 45	1,439	+ 34
SINGAPORE	2,434	+ 28	933	- 13
UK	1,876	+ 22	839	+ 7
FR OF GERMANY	1,661	+ 25	791	+ 18
SWITZERLAND	1,267	+ 51	636	+ 19
ITALY	998	+ 32	463	+ 20

TABLE 4: IMPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	7,250	+ 5	3,299	- 5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	6,113	+ 42	2,979	+ 32
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,167	+ 21	1,717	+ 11
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,580	+ 39	1,746	+ 24

/TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND .....

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	3,381	+ 30	1,519	+ 16
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,301	+ 40	1,478	+ 29

TABLE 5: RE-EXPORTS BY 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
CHINA	10,354	+ 43	4,572	+ 32
USA	6,536	+ 44	2,988	+ 49
JAPAN	2,062	+ 89	967	+ 87
TAIWAN	1,870	+ 55	887	+ 47
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,737	+ 45	947	+ 55
SINGAPORE	1,165	+ 35	517	+ 27
FR OF GERMANY	1,116	+ 97	526	+106
UK	695	+ 85	331	+114
AUSTRALIA	557	+ 65	266	+ 61
MACAU	546	+ 24	244	+ 8

TABLE 6: RE-EXPORTS BY MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISION

COMMODITY DIVISION	JAN-FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	JAN-FEB 88 OVER JAN-FEB 87 (%)	FEB 1988 (HKD MN.)	FEB 88 OVER FEB 87 (%)
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,233	+ 24	1,976	+ 19

/ARTICLES OF .....

ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	3,882	+ 30	1,700	+ 23
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	3,373	+ 85	1,663	+ 83
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	3,071	+ 74	1,416	+ 79
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,112	+ 70	1,009	+ 78
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS, AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,344	+ 88	584	+103

- - - - 0 - - - -

DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS RELEASED

* * * * *

THERE WERE 867,900 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN DECEMBER 1987, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 0.3 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH DECEMBER 1986, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 657,900 IN DECEMBER 1987, WAS 6.1 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN DECEMBER 1986.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 212,200, WAS UP BY 9.3 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES INCREASED BY 2.4 PER CENT COMPARED WITH DECEMBER 1986.

A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN DECEMBER 1987 WERE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL CONDUCTED EVERY QUARTER BY THE DEPARTMENT.

/THESE SECTORS .....

THESE SECTORS COVER THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

THERE IS A SEPARATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY COVERING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1987 IN THESE SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, BY COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1986 AND SEPTEMBER 1987, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT) IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE*	
	DEC. 86	SEPT. 87	DEC. 87	DEC. 87 ON DEC. 86	DEC. 87 ON SEPT. 87
MANUFACTURING	865,600	875,300	867,900	+0.3	-0.8
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON SITES ONLY)	70,800	71,300	72,500	+2.4	+1.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	620,100	647,600	657,900	+6.1	+1.6
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	194,300	209,900	212,200	+9.3	+1.1

* BASED ON UNROUNDED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

COMPARING DECEMBER 1987 WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON IS INFLUENCED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DECREASED BY 0.8 PER CENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT AND 1.1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES INCREASED BY 1.6 PER CENT.

/THE SURVEY .....

THE SURVEY ALSO PROVIDES VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THESE SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS, OTHER THAN FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION. THE OVERALL FIGURES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1986 AND SEPTEMBER 1987, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE*	
	DEC. 86	SEPT. 87	DEC. 87	DEC. 87 ON DEC. 86	DEC. 87 ON SEPT. 87
MANUFACTURING	25,800	53,900	41,700	+61.9	-22.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	10,850	25,620	24,060	+121.8	-6.1
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	3,300	7,610	6,870	+108.2	-9.7

* BASED ON UNROUNDED VACANCY FIGURES.

RELATIVE TO DECEMBER 1986, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR INCREASED BY 61.9 PER CENT.

ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON, THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE OF 121.8 PER CENT AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR AN INCREASE OF 108.2 PER CENT.

THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN VACANCIES REFLECTED THAT THE TIGHT CONDITIONS IN THE LABOUR MARKET CONTINUED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1987, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN THE ABOVE THREE SECTORS DECREASED BY 22.6 PER CENT, 6.1 PER CENT AND 9.7 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER 1987.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY ARE STATISTICS ON MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

/QUARTERLY TOTALS .....

QUARTERLY TOTALS FOR EACH OF THESE SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN 4TH QUARTER 1986 HK$ MN	TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN 4TH QUARTER 1987 HK$ MN	% CHANGE* 4TH QUARTER 1987 ON 4TH QUARTER 1986
MANUFACTURING	8,390	9,284	+10.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	6,459	7,613	+17.9
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	3,679	4,335	+17.8

* BASED ON UNROUNDED PAYROLL FIGURES.

COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO, PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE ABOVE THREE SECTORS INCREASED BY 10.6 PER CENT, 17.9 PER CENT AND 17.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1987.

AFTER ADJUSTMENT FOR VARIATIONS IN TOTAL MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN DECEMBER 1986 AND DECEMBER 1987, ARISING FROM CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT, A NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS OBTAINED.

TO ALLOW FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES, THE NOMINAL INDEX IS DEFLATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) TO GIVE THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED.

THESE TWO INDICES FOR DECEMBER 1986 AND DECEMBER 1987 ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES BELOW:-

/NOMINAL INDEX .....

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100) DEC. 86	DEC. 87	% CHANGE DEC. 87 ON DEC. 86
MANUFACTURING	242.4	263.4	+8.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	264.9	288.5	+8.9
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	305.8	327.7	+7.2

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100) DEC. 86	DEC. 87	% CHANGE DEC. 87 ON DEC. 86
MANUFACTURING	147.2	148.8	+1.1
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	160.8	163.0	+1.4
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	185.7	185.1	-0.3

BETWEEN DECEMBER 1986 AND DECEMBER 1987, AN INCREASE OF 8.7 PER CENT WAS REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR.

/FOR THE .....

FOR THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 8.9 PER CENT AND FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, THE INCREASE WAS 7.2 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE INCREASES IN THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WERE 1.1 PER CENT FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR AND 1.4 PER CENT FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR.

A DECREASE OF 0.3 PER CENT WAS RECORDED FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, DECEMBER 1987, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT $11 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG; AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 19TH FLOOR, WAN CHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

----O----

NOMINATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS CLOSE FRIDAY

* * * * * *

LOCAL RESIDENTS, SCHOOLS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, RESIDENTS ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT WISHING TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD'S SOCIAL SERVICES AWARDS SCHEME HAVE BEEN REMINDED THEY SHOULD SEND IN THEIR NOMINATIONS BY FRIDAY (APRIL 15).

"THE SCHEME AIMS AT GIVING DUE RECOGNITION TO THOSE WHO HAVE RENDERED COMMENDABLE VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AND SOUVENIRS ARE PRESENTED TO SUCCESSFUL NOMINEES.

ALL NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, MEI FUNG COURT, ABERDEEN CENTRE, 7-11 NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN, BY 5.30 PM ON FRIDAY.

THE SCHEME IS DIVIDED INTO THREE DIVISIONS-GROUP, STUDENT, AND OPEN DIVISION.

/THE STUDENT .....

THE STUDENT DIVISION IS SUB-DIVIDED INTO PRIMARY SCHOOL, AND SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY SECTIONS WHILE THE OPEN DIVISION COMPRISES WORKING PEOPLE AND NON-WORKING PEOPLE SECTIONS.

THE NOMINEES MUST EITHER LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT AND SHOULD HAVE GIVEN VOLUNTARY SERVICES TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED OR HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES, WELFARE BODIES, AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

"ALL NOMINATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED BY AN ADJUDICATION PANEL APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND THE FINALISTS WILL BE INTERVIEWED IN MAY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS DIVISIONS WILL BE AWARDED BOOK COUPONS AND SOUVENIRS WHILE ALL FINALISTS WILL GET A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE ON 5-540271.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES RAISED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY (MONDAY) CONTAINS A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES.

AS FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 3.36 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 2.76 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE $0.28 PER MONTH PER $100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 13, 1988.

/CERTIFICATES WHICH .....

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE APRIL 13, 1988 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

4.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 14, 1986 AND BEFORE AUGUST 19, 1986;

3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 19, 1986 AND BEFORE JANUARY 19, 1987;

2.52% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 19, 1987 AND BEFORE MARCH 4, 1987;

3.00% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 4, 1987 AND BEFORE APRIL 9, 1987;

3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 9, 1987 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1987;

3.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1987 AND BEFORE JUNE 24, 1987;

4.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 24, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 1987;

5.28% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 14, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 28, 1987;

4.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 28, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 30, 1987;

3.24% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 30, 1987 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 2, 1987;

3.00% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 2, 1987 AND BEFORE DECEMBER 9, 1987;

2.04% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 9, 1987 AND BEFORE FEBRUARY 20, 1988; AND

2.76% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 20, 1988 AND BEFORE APRIL 13, 1988;

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: $1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON APRIL 14, 1988, MAY 14, 1988 AND JUNE 14, 1988 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDERED IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JULY 13, 1988 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS -

/ON $1,000, ...

ON $1,000, APRIL 14, 1988 TO JULY 13, 1988		
3 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $2.80 PER MONTH	=	$8.40
ON $1,000, MAY 14, 1988 TO JULY 13, 1988		
2 COMPLETE MONTHS AT $2.80 PER MONTH	=	$5.60
ON $1,000, JUNE 14, 1988 TO JULY 13, 1988		
1 COMPLETE MONTH AT $2.80 PER MONTH	=	$2.80
		$16.80

- - - - 0 - - - -

COOL AND CLOUDY IN MARCH

* * * * *

IT WAS RATHER COOL AND CLOUDY IN MARCH WITH A MONTHLY MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT OF 90 PER CENT WHICH WAS 14 PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL, ACCORDING TO A REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE OF 37.1 HOURS WAS ONLY 37 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL AMOUNT FOR MARCH AND IS THE EIGHTH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR THE MONTH.

THE MEAN TEMPERATURE OF 16.8 DEGREES FOR THE MONTH WAS 1.7 DEGREES BELOW THE NORMAL FOR MARCH.

ALTHOUGH RAIN WAS REPORTED ON 26 DAYS IN MARCH, THE MONTHLY RAINFALL AMOUNT WAS ONLY 40.6 MILLIMETRES, 26 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL AMOUNT FOR MARCH.

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1988, THE RAINFALL AMOUNT TOTALLING 53.5 MILLIMETRES WAS 57 PER CENT BELOW NORMAL.

FOR THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS IN MARCH, THE WEATHER WAS CLOUDY TO OVERCAST WITH OCCASIONAL RAIN.

AN INTENSE SURGE OF THE WINTER MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST DURING THE DAY ON MARCH 2, CAUSING THE TEMPERATURE TO DROP TO JUST ABOVE 10 DEGREES EARLY NEXT MORNING.

/SOME RAIN .....

SOME RAIN SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 4 BROUGHT THE TEMPERATURE FURTHER DOWN TO 9.5 DEGREES WHICH WAS THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH. THIS WAS ALSO THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE SO FAR THIS YEAR.

CLOUDY AND COOL WEATHER WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN PATCHES PREVAILED FROM MARCH 5 TO 8.

THE CLOUDY CONDITIONS GAVE WAY TO SUNNY SKIES ON MARCH 9 WHEN THE WINTER MONSOON WEAKENED AND FINE WEATHER CONTINUED ON MARCH 10.

WARM AND MOIST AIR FROM THE PACIFIC BEGAN TO AFFECT THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS ON MARCH 11. MIST AND FOG DEVELOPED, LIMITING VISIBILITY AT WAGLAN ISLAND TO 100 METRES THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON MARCH 12.

WINDS TURNED SOUTH TO SOUTHWESTERLY ON MARCH 13 AND THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 27.2 DEGREES THAT DAY, WHICH WAS THE HIGHEST FOR THE MONTH. GENERALLY MISTY AND FOGGY CONDITIONS PREVAILED UNTIL MARCH 15.

THE FOGGY WEATHER BETWEEN MARCH 12 AND 15 CAUSED TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND TUEN MUN, TSUEN WAN AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

SEVEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED WHEN TWO DISCOVERY BAY FERRIES COLLIDED ON MARCH 14.

A SURGE OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST EARLY ON MARCH 16. FRESH GUSTY WINDS WERE EXPERIENCED AND THE TEMPERATURE AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY FELL SHARPLY BY ALMOST 5 DEGREES BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 1 AM.

THE SURGE ALSO BROUGHT COOL AND CLOUDY WEATHER WITH OCCASIONAL LIGHT RAIN WHICH PERSISTED UNTIL MARCH 20.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A HUMID AIRSTREAM, FOG DEVELOPED ON MARCH 21.

DURING THE DAY ON MARCH 22, A REPLENISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON BROUGHT THE FIRST THUNDERSTORM OF THE YEAR TO HONG KONG. OVERCAST AND RAINY CONDITIONS PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

WINDS FRESHENED ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 23 , AND A SCAFFOLDING IN WAN CHAI COLLAPSED IN STRONG GUSTS.

WINDS MODERATED ON MARCH 25. SOME BREAKS IN THE CLOUD COVER OCCURRED AND THE TEMPERATURE ROSE TO OVER 23 DEGREES.

HOWEVER, THESE WARM CONDITIONS LASTED FOR ONLY ANOTHER DAY. DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF MARCH 27, COOLER AIR FROM THE EAST REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, FORCING TEMPERATURES IN HONG KONG TO BELOW 20 DEGREES AGAIN.

WINDS TURNED SOUTHEASTERLY ON MARCH 28 AND RESULTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOG. MEANWHILE, A COLD FRONT FORMED OVER CENTRAL CHINA AND MOVED SOUTHWARDS.

/THE COLD .....

THE COLD FRONT PASSED HONG KONG SHORTLY AFTER MIDDAY ON MARCH 29, GIVING RISE TO SOME HEAVY SHOWERS AND A DROP IN TEMPERATURE.

PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE COLD FRONT, HEAVY FOG ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 29 RESULTED IN TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF FERRY SERVICES BETWEEN CENTRAL AND CHEUNG CHAU AND THOSE IN TOLO HARBOUR.

OVERCAST CONDITIONS PREVAILED AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE COLD FRONT. AS A RESULT, TEMPERATURES STAYED ON THE LOW SIDE FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH.

DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, NO TROPICAL CYCLONE OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

THIRTY-EIGHT AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO HEAVY FOG. A THUNDERSTORM WARNING WAS ISSUED ON MARCH 22.

THE YELLOW FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 6, 13 AND 27 AND THE RED FIRE DANGER WARNING WAS IN EFFECT ON MARCH 9 AND 10.

THE STRONG MONSOON SIGNAL WAS NOT HOISTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	37.1 HOURS ;	64.3 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	6.58 MJ/SQ.M ;	4.84 MJ/SQ.M BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	40.6 MM ;	14.2 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	90 PER CENT ;	14 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	84 PER CENT ;	2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	18.9 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	2.4 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	16.8 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	1.7 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	15.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	1.1 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	14.1 DEGREES CELSIUS ;	0.9 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	49.6 MM ;	46.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

- - - - O - - - -

/23 .....

SATISFACTORY JOB SITUATION FOR TECHNICAL GRADUATES

* * * * *

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES OF 1981 WAS VERY SATISFACTORY WITH THEIR AVERAGE SALARY INCREASING MORE THAN THREE TIMES OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS, A VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

A TRACER STUDY CONDUCTED LAST YEAR BY THE COUNCIL ON THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF 1,700 FULL-TIME 1981 GRADUATES SHOWED THAT THEIR AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME RANGED FROM $3,800 TO $6,600 AS COMPARED WITH THEIR INITIAL INCOME RANGE OF $1,000 TO $1,800 IN 1981.

THE SURVEY FOUND THAT ABOUT 94 PER CENT OF THE GRADUATES WERE IN EMPLOYMENT AND ABOUT 85 PER CENT OF THEM WERE IN JOBS RELEVANT TO THEIR COURSE OF STUDY IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

IT IS ALSO REVEALED THAT 85 PER CENT OF GRADUATES HAD TAKEN UP SOME FORM OF FURTHER EDUCATION AFTER GRADUATION, MOSTLY IN PART-TIME STUDIES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

----0----

SEMINAR FOR CATERING, RESTAURANT INDUSTRY ORGANISED

* * * * * *

MORE THAN 600 MANAGERS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES FROM THE CATERING AND RESTAURANT INDUSTRY WILL ATTEND A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE EVENT WILL PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MODERN MANAGEMENT AND TO DISCUSS HIDDEN PROBLEMS BEHIND LABOUR TURNOVER IN THE INDUSTRY.

A NUMBER OF EXPERTS FROM THE TRADE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

THEY INCLUDE MR TOMMY CHEUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF RESTAURANT MANAGERS, AND MR CHAN WING-TSAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE EATING ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION.

THE CHIEF LABOUR OFFICER OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT, MR CHOW TUNG-SHAN, WILL ALSO SPEAK.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR HAROLD KWOK, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

/THE EVENT .....

THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF RESTAURANT MANAGERS, THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON CHINESE RESTAURANT AND EATING HOUSE MERCHANTS GENERAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE OCEAN PALACE RESTAURANT AND NIGHT CLUB LTD.

- - - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WILL BE HELD AT THE OCEAN PALACE RESTAURANT, OCEAN CENTRE, HARBOUR CITY, TSIM SHA TSUI, AT 3 PM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

- - - - O - - - -

FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOP FOR KOWLOON BAY

* * * * *

WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FIRE SERVICES WORKSHOP AT KOWLOON BAY.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) AFTER AWARDING A $25 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 1989.

THE WORKSHOP, LOCATED IN LAM HING STREET, WILL INCLUDE A MAIN BLOCK AND ANNEX BLOCK WITH A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 4,000 SQUARE METRES.

TWELVE VEHICLE SERVICING BAYS, PAINT SHOPS, ELECTRICAL SHOPS, HYDRAULIC SHOPS, ANCILLARY OFFICES, A CANTEEN AND STORAGE AREAS FOR EQUIPMENT, HOSES AND UNIFORMS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE THREE-STOREY MAIN BLOCK.

THE ANNEX BLOCK, WHICH WILL ALSO HAVE THREE STOREYS, WILL HOUSE A DUTY DORMITORY AND LIBRARY.

- - - - O - - - -

/25 .....

DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

* * * *

THE GOVERNOR, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAS DECIDED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON LO PUN-MAN AND HO WING-SUM ON JUNE 13, 1986 AND OCTOBER 6, 1986 RESPECTIVELY SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

LO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MADAM CHENG KAU. HO WAS FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF MR TANG TUNG-SENG.

----0----

ADJUSTMENT OF GMB ROUTE 30

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE SERVICES OF GREEN MINIBUS (GMB) ROUTE 30 BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND THE PEAK WILL BE ADJUSTED FROM FRIDAY (APRIL 15).

THE SERVICE BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY (LEE GARDEN ROAD) AND WATFORD ROAD WILL ONLY OPERATE DURING PEAK HOURS ON WEEKDAYS AND WILL BE RE-NUMBERED AS ROUTE 30A. THE FARE WILL BE $2.50 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

FOLLOWING IS THE TIMETABLE OF GMB ROUTE 30A:

FROM CAUSEWAY BAY (LEE GARDEN ROAD)	FROM WATFORD ROAD
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)	
7.30 AM	8 AM
7.45 AM	8.15 AM
5.30 PM	6 PM
6 PM	6.30 PM
SATURDAYS (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)	
7.30 AM	8 AM
7.45 AM	8.15 AM
12.30 PM	1 PM

/AT THE .....

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FREQUENCY ON THE EXISTING SERVICE BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY (LEE GARDEN ROAD) AND HAPPY VALLEY (KWAI FONG STREET) WILL BE IMPROVED FROM 10 MINUTES TO EIGHT MINUTES.

THIS SERVICE WILL BE UPGRADED AS AN INDEPENDENT ROUTE BUT WILL RETAIN THE ROUTE NUMBER 30.

THE NEW GMB ROUTE 30 WILL OPERATE BETWEEN 7 AM AND 10.30 PM FROM MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS AND BETWEEN 8 AM AND 10.30 PM ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AT A FARE OF $1 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT ADJUSTMENT TO THIS GMB ROUTE IS NEEDED IN VIEW OF THE LOW PATRONAGE DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS.

HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SERVICE AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS WHERE NECESSARY.

----O----

MA TAU WAI ROAD FLYOVER TO OPEN

* * * * *

THE MA TAU WAI ROAD FLYOVER IN HUNG HOM, LINKING FAT KWONG STREET AND HUNG HOM ROAD, WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (APRIL 15).

LEARNER DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FLYOVER.

AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE FLYOVER FROM FAT KWONG STREET.

----O----