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EXCO APPROACH WOULD BE ENDORSED: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE APPROACH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD AGREED TO THE TALKS WOULD BE AN APPROACH ENDORSED AS WELL BY THE BRITISH CABINET AND SENIOR OFFICIALS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LONDON, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "I THINK THAT AFTER SIX ROUNDS OF TALKS, IT'S AN IMPORTANT TIME TO BE REVIEWING PROGRESS AND TO BE TAKING STOCK.

"WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR MINISTERS OBVIOUSLY TAKE A CLOSE INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR DIALOGUE WITH CHINA, THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HEARING ABOUT THINGS AT FIRST HAND AND HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE SORT OF DISCUSSIONS THAT THEY ARE PLANNING FOR THIS WEEK. SO IT IS OBVIOUSLY THE CABINET WHICH IS CRUCIAL.

"OUR OBJECTIVE IN THE TALKS IS ONE WITH WHICH YOU'RE FAMILIAR. FIRST OF ALL, WE WANT AN OUTCOME WHICH PROVIDES ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ELECTIONS IN 1994 AND 1995 IN HONG KONG WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

"SECONDLY, WE WANT TO SECURE A THROUGH TRAIN. WE DON'T THINK THAT IT MAKES TREMENDOUSLY GOOD SENSE TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IF ONE ISN'T ENSURING AS WELL THE TRANSFER ON A BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CRITERIA OF THOSE WHO MAN THE INSTITUTIONS, IN PARTICULAR, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"SO THOSE REMAIN OUR OBJECTIVES. WE WANT TO SEE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE TALKS. WE'RE DETERMINED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO SECURE AN OUTCOME WHICH IS IN THE LONG-TERM BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. THAT'S TAKING A LITTLE LONGER THAN ANY OF US MIGHT IDEALLY HAVE LIKED."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WAS VERY PLEASED THAT THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SZE WOULD BE WITH HIM ON THE VISIT.

"HE HAS BEEN AT THE TABLE THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AND KNOWS VERY WELL PRECISELY WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING," HE SAID.

"SO HIS EXPERIENCE WILL BE VALUED IN LONDON."

ASKED ABOUT IF HE WOULD GET A DIRECTIVE FROM THE CABINET, THE GOVERNOR SAID : "I THINK THE CABINET WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO EXPRESS A VIEW ON THE TIMING OF THESE TALKS.

"WE'RE VERY PATIENT. AND I AM SURE THE CABINET WILL THINK THAT WE ARE RIGHT TO BE SO.

"I THINK PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WANT EVERY EFFORT TO BE MADE TO SECURE A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME TO THE TALKS. THEY DON'T WANT THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE ANNUNCIATED TO BE COMPROMISED IN ORDER TO SECURE AN OUTCOME."

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TAC DISCUSSES FIXED PENALTIES REVISION

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) DISCUSSED THE REVISION OF FIXED PENALTIES, THE TENDERING OUT OF THE TUEN MUN-WAN CHAI FERRY SERVICES AND THE GRANTING OF A NEW FRANCHISE TO THE NEW LANTAO BUS COMPANY (NLB).

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THE FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME OF THE STAR FERRY AND THE LATEST SITUATION OF THE CONGESTION PROBLEM ALONG THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

ON FIXED PENALTIES, MEMBERS ENDORSED AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF 62 PER CENT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION SINCE THE LAST REVISION IN 1989. FOR PARKING OFFENCE, THE PENALTY WILL GO UP FROM \$200 TO \$320. IT IS PLANNED THAT THE HIGHER PENALTIES WILL BE INTRODUCED IN MID 1994.

MEMBERS WERE INFORMED THAT OWING TO INFLATION AND INCREASE IN AFFLUENCE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE CURRENT FIXED PENALTIES CANNOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED DETERRENT EFFECT ON PARKING, MOVING AND OVERLOADING OFFENCES.

THE REVISION IN THE PENALTY FOR PARKING OFFENCES FROM \$140 TO \$200 IN 1989 CAUSED ONLY A SLIGHT DROP OF 0.9 PER CENT FROM 912,013 TO 903,915 TICKETS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING YEAR. AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARKING TICKETS ISSUED IN 1992 ROSE DRAMATICALLY BY 34.1 PER CENT OVER 1991.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT SUCH DRASTIC INCREASE IN PARKING OFFENCES COMMITTED WAS NOT DUE TO ANY REDUCTION IN PARKING SPACES AS SURVEYS BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOWED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES HAD INCREASED IN PROPORTION TO THE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF LICENSED VEHICLES.

THE NARROWING GAP BETWEEN OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES AT \$112 OR \$126 PER EIGHT OR NINE HOURS A DAY AND THE FIXED PENALTY OF \$200 MIGHT BE A FACTOR ENCOURAGING MOTORISTS TO PARK ILLEGALLY.

MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED THAT FAILURE TO DRIVE IN THE NEARSIDE LANE IN EXPRESSWAYS EXCEPT WHEN OVERTAKING SHOULD BECOME A FIXED PENALTY OFFENCE CARRYING A FINE OF \$450.

TAXI DRIVERS WHO FAIL TO SIT IN OR STAND BESIDE THE FIRST OR SECOND TAXI AT A TAXI STAND WILL ALSO BE LIABLE TO A FIXED PENALTY OF \$320.

AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LEGISLATION TO GIVE EFFECT OF THE INCREASES WOULD BE PUT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE FORM OF RESOLUTIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

ON THE TUEN MUN-WAN CHAI FERRY SERVICES, MEMBERS FURTHER DISCUSSED WHETHER THE NEW ROUTE SHOULD BE TENDERED OUT. THIS FOLLOWED TAC'S PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATION THAT HONG KONG FERRY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE THIS ROUTE ON A TRIAL BASIS FOR SIX MONTHS.

MEMBERS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A NEW FRANCHISE WITH NEW TERMS SHOULD BE GRANTED TO THE NLB FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS STARTING APRIL 1, 1995.

THE NEW FRANCHISE WILL INCLUDE REQUIREMENTS FOR STRENGTHENING CUSTOMER LIAISON AND PROVISIONS TO REINFORCE EXISTING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING FINANCIAL MONITORING.

ON STAR FERRY, MEMBERS NOTED THAT THE COMPANY HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN INTRODUCING A NEW SERVICE BETWEEN WAN CHAI AND TSIM SHA TSUI EAST.

TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICE QUALITY, THE COMPANY IS CONDUCTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON AIR-CONDITIONING SOME UPPER DECK CABINS OF ITS VESSELS.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELIEF MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION ALONG THE MTR NATHAN ROAD CORRIDOR.

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10 MORE HIV-INFECTED CASES CONFIRMED

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EIGHT MEN AND TWO WOMEN WERE FOUND TO BE POSITIVE FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY TEST LAST MONTH, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HIV-INFECTED PERSONS IN HONG KONG TO 369.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S CONSULTANT (SPECIAL PREVENTIVE PROGRAMME), DR S S LEE SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT TWO AIDS CASES WERE REPORTED DURING THE MONTH.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED AIDS CASES IS 83 WITH 53 DEATHS. THE 30 OTHERS ARE EITHER UNDER COUNSELLING AND TREATMENT OR HAVE LEFT THE TERRITORY.

OF THE 369 PERSONS INFECTED, 264 GOT THE INFECTION SEXUALLY, EIGHT WERE INTRAVENOUS DRUG-USERS, AND 65 GOT THE INFECTION THROUGH CONTAMINATED BLOOD OR BLOOD PRODUCTS BEFORE 1985 WHEN HIV ANTIBODY TEST AND SAFE HEAT-TREATED CLOTTING CONCENTRATES WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

FOR THE REMAINING 32, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS INADEQUATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

UNDER THE HIV SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME WHICH STARTED IN 1985, A TOTAL OF 272,084 BLOOD SPECIMENS HAD BEEN TESTED FOR THE HIV ANTIBODY.

THE HONG KONG RED CROSS BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE HAS ALSO SCREENED ALL BLOOD DONORS FOR HIV INFECTION.

UP TO LAST MONTH, 1,253,448 UNITS OF BLOOD HAD BEEN TESTED AND 27 DONORS WERE FOUND POSITIVE.

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ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARD SCHEME LAUNCHED

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A NEW CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARD SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED TODAY (TUESDAY) TO ENCOURAGE CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS TO ESTABLISH GOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ON SITE AND TO CONSTRUCT THE PROJECTS IN A SAFE MANNER.

AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RATE ON CONSTRUCTION SITES IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN SHAMEFULLY HIGH.

EACH YEAR, ONE IN THREE WORKERS WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WHICH RESULTS IN INCAPACITY FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS.

"SUCH A HIGH LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS CANNOT BE TOLERATED ON GOVERNMENT SITES," HE SAID. "FOR THE ACP CONTRACTS, WE HAVE THEREFORE IMPLEMENTED A SERIES OF MEASURES SEEKING TO ENSURE THAT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ARE ACHIEVED."

HE NOTED THAT THE ACP CONSTRUCTION STEERING COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED TO ADDRESS ACP-WIDE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MATTERS.

IN ADDITION, A SITE SAFETY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WAS FORMED ON EACH ACP SITE TO MONITOR CONTRACTORS' COMPLIANCE WITH SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, AND A SAFETY MANAGEMENT UNIT HAD BEEN SET UP IN THE WORKS BRANCH TO AUDIT THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY STANDARDS ON ACP SITES, HE ADDED.

"WE ARE GATHERING AND SCRUTINISING SITE SAFETY STATISTICS IN AN IMPROVED MANNER, SO THAT ANY UNDESIRABLE TRENDS ARE SPOTTED EARLY ENOUGH FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION TO BE TAKEN," MR BLAKE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN SELECTING CONTRACTORS, PROJECT OFFICES WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASPECTS.

"CONDITIONS ARE INCORPORATED INTO ACP CONTRACTS TO REQUIRE THE CONTRACTORS TO PREPARE SAFETY PLANS AND TO EMPLOY FULL-TIME SAFETY PERSONNEL ON SITE AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO THEIR WORKERS AND MANAGEMENT," HE SAID.

AN ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MANUAL HAS BEEN PUBLISHED TO ASSIST PROJECT OFFICES IN ADMINISTERING CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MATTERS.

"OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO ASSIST IN ENSURING SAFETY ON ACP SITES," HE SAID.

"FOR INSTANCE, BESIDES OFFERING TECHNICAL ADVICE, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS ASSIGNED A TEAM OF INSPECTORS TO INSPECT ACP SITES, TO INVESTIGATE ACCIDENTS AND TO ATTEND SITE SAFETY MEETINGS.

"THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ALSO HAVE MADE SIMILAR CONTRIBUTIONS."

/MR BLAKE

MR BLAKE NOTED THAT THE MEASURES HAD RESULTED IN IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY.

"UP TO APRIL 30, 1993, THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RATE AND FATAL ACCIDENT RATE FOR ACP CONTRACTS ARE 90 PER THOUSAND WORKERS PER YEAR AND 0.5 PER THOUSAND WORKERS PER YEAR RESPECTIVELY, COMPARED WITH THE CORRESPONDING RATES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE OF 302 AND 0.8 IN 1992," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, THIS IMPROVEMENT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH. THESE ACCIDENT RATES FOR ACP CONTRACTS ARE STILL HIGHER THAN OUR TARGETS SET IN THE ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY MANUAL, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THE VERY STRINGENT TARGETS THAT WE HAVE SET FOR ACP WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, INCLUDING WORKERS, CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS AND GOVERNMENT, ALL INCREASE THEIR SAFETY ENDEAVOURS STILL FURTHER," HE ADDED.

THE ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARD SCHEME FOR CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS INVOLVED IN ACP PROJECTS IS INTENDED TO FURTHER INCREASE SAFETY AWARENESS, AND TO ENCOURAGE EVEN MORE IMPROVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION SAFETY.

THE SCHEME CONSISTS OF TWO AWARDS. THE SAFETY PERFORMANCE AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED TO THOSE SITES WITH A HIGH QUALITY OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND WITH A GOOD SAFETY RECORD. THE SAFETY RECORD AWARD WILL ONLY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SAFETY RECORDS OF THE SITES.

TODAY'S LAUNCHING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE ON THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION, ONE OF THE 10 PROJECTS BEING BUILT UNDER THE ACP.

AMONG THE OFFICIATING GUESTS WERE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS MR RONALD ARCULLI, MR LAU CHIN-SHEK AND DR SAMUEL WONG AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS CO-ORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), MR BILLY LAM.

THE THREE COUNCILLORS ALSO UNVEILED A MOCK-UP OF MR ACP SAFETY FIRST, A MODEL CHARACTER CREATED FOR THE AWARD SCHEME.

THE ACP CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AWARD SCHEME IS ORGANISED BY NAPCO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL, THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES GENERAL UNION, THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION, THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

THE SCHEME WILL BE HELD EVERY YEAR. THE PRIZE-PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE 1993 AWARDS WILL BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR. PRIZES FOR THE CONTRACTORS AND WORKERS OF THE WINNING SITES WILL INCLUDE TROPHIES, CERTIFICATES, BANNERS, ROAST PIGS AND OTHER SOUVENIRS.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR MAY 1993

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IN MAY 1993, RE-EXPORTS MAINTAINED A STRONG GROWTH, WHILE DOMESTIC EXPORTS REGISTERED A DECREASE OVER THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR.

AT THE SAME TIME, IMPORTS CONTINUED TO GROW.

THESE ARE SHOWN IN THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN MAY 1993 ROSE BY \$9,759 MILLION OR 17% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$66,935 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY \$1,257 MILLION OR 6.5% TO \$18,149 MILLION.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN MAY 1993 GREW BY \$8,502 MILLION OR 11% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$85,084 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$9,206 MILLION OR 11% TO \$90,724 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$5,640 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN MAY 1993.

THIS WAS BROADLY SIMILAR TO THE DEFICIT OF \$4,936 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.1% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN MAY 1992.

IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$308,748 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$58,630 MILLION OR 23% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$84,673 MILLION, WAS \$1,157 MILLION OR 1.3% LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993, AT \$393,421 MILLION, WAS \$57,472 MILLION OR 17% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$59,406 MILLION OR 17% TO \$417,432 MILLION.

A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$24,011 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.8% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993. THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$22,077 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

COMMENTING ON THE MAY FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE CONTINUOUS RELOCATION OF THE MORE LABOUR-INTENSIVE PRODUCTION PROCESSES TO CHINA WAS THE KEY FACTOR UNDERLINING THE SLUGGISH DOMESTIC EXPORTS PERFORMANCE.

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REFLECTING THE STRUCTURAL SHIFT FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS, THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FURTHER ROSE TO 78% IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993 TAKEN TOGETHER, COMPARED WITH 74% A YEAR EARLIER.

IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS WAS 6.8% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER, REFLECTING A SUSTAINED GROWTH IN DOMESTIC DEMAND.

A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN MAY 1993, BY COMMODITY AND COUNTRY, WILL BE RELEASED IN MID-JULY.

THE TABLE BELOW PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN MAY 1993:

MERCHANDISE: DOMESTIC EXPORTS :	\$18,149 MILLION
RE-EXPORTS :	\$66,935 MILLION
TOTAL EXPORTS :	\$85,084 MILLION
IMPORTS :	\$90,724 MILLION
TRADE BALANCE :	-\$5,640 MILLION

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	MAR 93 TO	MAR 92 TO	CHANGE	
	MAY 93	MAY 92	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	53,307	54,175	-869	-1.6
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.2%)	(25.1%)		
RE-EXPORTS	198,019	161,729	+36,290	+22.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	251,325	215,904	+35,421	+16.4
IMPORTS	271,233	233,942	+37,291	+15.9
TRADE BALANCE	-19,908	-18,038	-1,870	

SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	MAY	MAY	CHANGE	
	1993	1992	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,149	19,406	-1,257	-6.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.3%)	(25.3%)		
RE-EXPORTS	66,935	57,176	+9,759	+17.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	85,084	76,582	+8,502	+11.1
IMPORTS	90,724	81,518	+9,206	+11.3
TRADE BALANCE	-5,640	-4,936	-704	

LAST MONTH	MAY	APRIL	CHANGE	
	1993	1993	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,149	17,814	+335	+1.9
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.3%)	(20.9%)		
RE-EXPORTS	66,935	67,615	-680	-1.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	85,084	85,429	-345	-0.4
IMPORTS	90,724	93,654	-2,930	-3.1
TRADE BALANCE	-5,640	-8,224	+2,584	

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CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-MAY	JAN-MAY	CHANGE	
	1993	1992	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	84,673	85,830	-1,157	-1.3
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.5%)	(25.5%)		
RE-EXPORTS	308,748	250,118	+58,630	+23.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	393,421	335,948	+57,472	+17.1
IMPORTS	417,432	358,025	+59,406	+16.6
TRADE BALANCE	-24,011	-22,077	-1,934	

LAST 12 MONTHS	JUN 92 TO	JUN 91 TO	CHANGE	
	MAY 93	MAY 92	HK\$ MN	%
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	232,966	230,762	+2,204	+1.0
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(23.7%)	(28.0%)		
RE-EXPORTS	749,459	594,161	+155,298	+26.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	982,425	824,923	+157,502	+19.1
IMPORTS	1,014,701	841,378	+173,324	+20.6
TRADE BALANCE	-32,276	-16,454	-15,822	

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RENT ALLOWANCE TO GO UP

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT HAS OBTAINED APPROVAL FROM THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE PAYMENT IS IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING RENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

THE NEW RATES ARE:

NO. OF ELIGIBLE MEMBERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD	EXISTING MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE (\$)	REVISED MAXIMUM RENT ALLOWANCE (\$)
ONE	743	1,118
TWO	1,215	2,265
THREE	1,718	2,265
FOUR	1,718	2,858
FIVE	2,063	2,858
SIX OR ABOVE	2,273	3,420

"THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEE THOSE AFFECTED PEOPLE RECEIVE NEW RATES IN DUE COURSE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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EASTBOUND TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ON VICTORIA PARK ROAD

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THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF VICTORIA PARK ROAD EAST OF THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL PORTAL IS BEING WIDENED TO PROVIDE ONE ADDITIONAL LANE FOR TRAFFIC TOWARDS NORTH POINT AND OTHER AREAS IN ISLAND EAST.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID THE WORKS, COSTING \$1.6 MILLION, STARTED IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND WERE DUE TO BE COMPLETED LATER THIS WEEK.

ON COMPLETION, THERE WILL BE FIVE TRAFFIC LANES ALONG THIS SECTION OF VICTORIA PARK ROAD, WHICH WILL BE ASSIGNED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

- * ONE EXCLUSIVELY FOR TRAFFIC FROM CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO CAUSEWAY BAY;
- * ONE EXCLUSIVELY FOR TRAFFIC FROM CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL TO NORTH POINT;
- * ONE EACH FOR TRAFFIC COMING FROM HUNG HING ROAD FLYOVER, GLOUCESTER ROAD AND CANAL ROAD FLYOVER.

"IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR TRAFFIC FROM CANAL ROAD FLYOVER TO MERGE WITH THOSE FROM CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL AS REQUIRED NOW," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"WEAVING MOVEMENTS WILL BE PERMITTED FOR TRAFFIC FROM HUNG HING ROAD FLYOVER AND GLOUCESTER ROAD TO GAIN ACCESS TO EITHER CAUSEWAY BAY FLYOVER OR TO NORTH POINT," HE ADDED.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT TRAFFIC IN THE AREA ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM CANAL ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED.

MORE QUEUING SPACE FOR VEHICLES FROM GLOUCESTER ROAD/HUNG HING ROAD FLYOVER TO CAUSEWAY BAY FLYOVER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

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NEW BUS ROUTE FOR TIN SHUI ESTATE AND SHEUNG SHUI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT KOWLOON MOTOR BUS WILL INTRODUCE A NEW AIR-CONDITIONED BUS ROUTE 276 BETWEEN TIN SHUI ESTATE AND SHEUNG SHUI IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FROM THURSDAY (JULY 1).

SINGLE-DECK COACHES WILL RUN AT A FULL FARE OF \$6 AND SECTION FARE OF \$3 BETWEEN THE JUNCTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG) AND FUNG CHEUNG ROAD AND TIN SHUI ESTATE.

/THE SERVICE

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1993

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THE SERVICE WILL BE OPERATED FROM 6 AM TO 10.45 PM DAILY AT A BASIC FREQUENCY OF 10/20 MINUTES.

THE ROUTE WILL BE:

* FROM TIN SHUI ESTATE TO SHEUNG SHUI

VIA TIN SHUI ROAD, TIN WU ROAD, TIN YIU ROAD, PING HA ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD (PING SHAN), CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG), LONG YAT ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG), NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, SO KWUN PO ROAD AND SAN WAN ROAD.

* FROM SHEUNG SHUI TO TIN SHUI ESTATE

VIA SAN WAN ROAD, LUNG SUM AVENUE, LUNG WAN STREET, SAN WAN ROAD, LUNG SUM AVENUE, LUNG WAN STREET, SAN WAN ROAD, SO KWUN PO ROAD, NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, CASTLE PEAK ROAD (YUEN LONG), CASTLE PEAK ROAD (PING SHAN), PING HA ROAD, TIN YIU ROAD, TIN WU ROAD AND TIN SHUI ROAD.

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OVER 7,000 APPLY TO JOIN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS SO FAR RECEIVED 7,129 APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE COLLEGES OF EDUCATION AT NORTHCOTE, GRANTHAM, SIR ROBERT BLACK AND THE HONG KONG TECHNICAL TEACHERS' COLLEGE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO JOIN THE FOUR COLLEGES IN SEPTEMBER THAT THE CLOSING DATE IS 1 PM TOMORROW.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE GRANTHAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AT 42 GASCOIGNE ROAD, YAU MA TEI.

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LEGCO MEETS ON WEDNESDAY

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WILL DEBATE AT THEIR MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) A MOTION ON WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTRODUCE LAW TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF REAL ESTATE AGENTS THROUGH A LICENSING SYSTEM.

THE MOTION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON ALBERT CHAN.

LEGISLATORS WILL ALSO HOLD AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE, TO BE MOVED BY THE HON ERIC LI, ON THE SALE OF CONFISCATED CIGARETTES.

THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY WILL PRESENT A REPORT OF CHANGES TO THE APPROVED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE APPROVED DURING THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1992/93.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL MOVE THREE MOTIONS UNDER THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ORDINANCE WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY WILL MOVE ANOTHER MOTION UNDER THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE.

THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS AND THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES, WILL MOVE TWO SEPARATE MOTIONS UNDER THE TRADING FUNDS ORDINANCE.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER 15 BILLS.

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

THESE BILLS INCLUDE: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1992-93) BILL 1993; WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING BILL; HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; SHIPPING AND PORT CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; INSURANCE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993 AND PROTECTION OF INVESTORS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993.

DEBATES ON THE OTHER BILLS WILL BE RESUMED. THEY ARE DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THEY ARE: JUDICIAL OFFICERS (TENURE OF OFFICE) BILL; ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (PASSAGE TAX) (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993; CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993; LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992; TRAVEL AGENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 AND INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL 1993.

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

1991 POPULATION CENSUS MAIN REPORT ON SALE
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A REPORT ENTITLED "HONG KONG 1991 POPULATION CENSUS: MAIN REPORT" IS RELEASED TODAY FOR SALE BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE REPORT IS THE FINAL ONE IN A SERIES OF PUBLICATIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS.

IT CONTAINED DETAILED ANALYSIS OF SPECIFIC TOPICS ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC, HOUSEHOLD, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION.

COMPARISONS ARE MADE WITH THE RESULTS OF PAST CENSUSES.

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES AND AN ASSESSMENT OF DATA QUALITY ARE ALSO INCLUDED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID A VAST AMOUNT OF INFORMATION HAD BEEN COLLECTED IN THE CENSUS.

IN ORDER THAT THE STATISTICS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY RELEASED VARIOUS REPORTS IN STAGES, HE SAID:

THEY INCLUDED "SUMMARY RESULTS", "BASIC TABLES", "MAIN TABLES" AND "GRAPHIC GUIDE".

THE "MAIN REPORT", AT \$46 A COPY, IS NOW ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARCOURT ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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INSTALLATION OF PARKING METERS AT DRIVING TEST CENTRE
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT NINE PARKING METERS WOULD BE INSTALLED AT THE PARKING SPACES AT TIN KWONG ROAD DRIVING TEST CENTRE FROM 5 PM ON THURSDAY (JULY 1).

THESE TWO-HOUR PARKING METERS ARE FOR PRIVATE CARS, LIGHT GOODS VEHICLES, PRIVATE/PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES AND TAXIS AND WILL BE OPERATIONAL FROM 5 PM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS. THE PARKING CHARGE IS \$2 EVERY 30 MINUTES.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	29 JUN 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q326
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD3,370 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,000 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.33 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.33 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 100 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.38 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 5 JUL 1993 -

TENDER DATE	6 JUL 93	6 JUL 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q327	H368
ISSUE DATE	7 JUL 93	7 JUL 93
MATURITY DATE	6 OCT 93	5 JAN 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,000 + 200 MN	HKD400 + 80 MN

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TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,780
REVERSAL OF LAF	-980
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,800
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-185
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,615
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.5 *+0.1* 29.6.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.64 PCT	14 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.36	4.08
1 MONTH	3.46 PCT	17 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.51	4.28
3 MONTHS	3.36 PCT	20 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.52	4.46
6 MONTHS	3.55 PCT	23 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.51	4.64
12 MONTHS	3.92 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,315 MN

CLOSED JUNE 29, 1993

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