



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1992

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GOVERNOR MAKES FIRST VISIT TO MACAU

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THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN WILL PAY HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO MACAU AS THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE INVITATION OF THE MACAU GOVERNMENT.

HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MR RICHARD HOARE, AND HIS AIDE-DE-CAMP, SUPERINTENDENT FILIPE DE OLIVEIRA.

THE GOVERNOR WILL BEGIN HIS TRIP BY VISITING THE RESIDENCE OF SANTA SANCHA WHERE HE WILL ATTEND A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU, GENERAL ROCHA VIEIRA.

AFTER LUNCH, MR PATTEN WILL VISIT TAIPA ISLAND TO SEE THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE MACAU TAIPA NEW BRIDGE, AS WELL AS THE MACAU INCINERATION PLANT WHICH CAME INTO OPERATION LAST MONTH. LATER THAT DAY, HE WILL HAVE A MEETING WITH GENERAL VIEIRA.

IN THE EVENING, THE GOVERNOR WILL SEE AN OPERA "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE" AT FORTALEZA DO MONTE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO COVER MR PATTEN'S VISIT TO MACAU SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING PRESS ARRANGEMENTS:

(1) ARRIVAL IN MACAU

MR PATTEN WILL ARRIVE BY HELICOPTER AT THE CAR PARK OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL IN MACAU AT 12.50 PM. HE WILL BE GREETED ON ARRIVAL BY THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU, GENERAL VIEIRA. THERE WILL BE A FIXED PRESS POSITION IN THE FIRST-LEVEL CAR PARK OVERLOOKING THE LANDING POINT. PRESS MEMBERS SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE CAR PARK ENTRANCE OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL AT AVENIDA AMIZADE NO LATER THAN 12.40 PM.

(2) VISIT TO AIRPORT SITE

MR PATTEN WILL VISIT THE MACAU AIRPORT SITE AT ABOUT 4 PM. PRESS MEMBERS SHOULD ASSEMBLE OUTSIDE THE CAR PARK ENTRANCE OF MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL BY 3.30 PM. TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE.

/(3) MEETING

(3) MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU

MR PATTEN WILL MEET THE GOVERNOR OF MACAU AT THE GOVERNMENT PALACE AT 5.15 PM. THERE WILL BE A BRIEF PHOTOCALL BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS. TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE THE PRESS FROM THE AIRPORT SITE TO THE GOVERNMENT PALACE.

(4) MEET THE MEDIA

AFTER THE MEETING, BOTH GENERAL VIEIRA AND MR PATTEN WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT 6 PM IN THE GOVERNMENT PALACE AND WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS ON MR PATTEN'S VISIT TO MACAU.

(5) OPERA AT FORTALEZA DO MONTE

MR PATTEN AND GENERAL VIEIRA WILL ARRIVE AT FORTALEZA DO MONTE AT 8 PM TO SEE AN OPERA "THE BARBER OF SEVILLE". A LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA. TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE MACAU PRESS OFFICE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. PLEASE NOTE THAT PHOTOGRAPHY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF SECRETARY,
SIR DAVID FORD, BY RTHK TODAY (THURSDAY)

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QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE DISPUTE OVER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT?

SIR DAVID: WELL, I THINK THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE SHOULD MOVE ON. I DO NOT SEE THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE MUCH POINT IN ARGUING OVER INDIVIDUAL SENTENCES IN DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE RELEASED YESTERDAY. I THINK IT'S WELL TO REMEMBER THAT IN PUTTING FORWARD THE PROPOSALS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS MR PATTEN MADE SEVEN PROPOSALS; PROPOSALS FOR A BOUNDARY COMMISSION, THE VOTING AGE, THE VOTING SYSTEM FOR THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, PROPOSALS TO GIVE THEM MORE POWER AND AUTHORITY, A PROPOSAL FOR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROPOSALS FOR THE FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. ALL THOSE CONSTITUTE A TOTAL PACKAGE FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS. AND OF THOSE 7 PROPOSALS, 6 OF THEM HAVE NO MENTION WHATSOEVER IN THE DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE PUBLISHED YESTERDAY. CLEARLY NO ONE IS SUGGESTING THERE'S BEEN ANY AGREEMENT OVER THOSE PROPOSALS.

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ON THE SEVENTH ONE, THE ELECTION COMMITTEE, WE FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE CHINESE SIDE IS ARGUING THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN AGREEMENT ON THE ELECTION COMMITTEE, FOR TWO REASONS. FIRSTLY, THAT ELECTION COMMITTEE HAS BEEN EXCLUDED SPECIFICALLY FROM THE BASIC LAW. IF THERE HAD BEEN AN AGREEMENT, WHY ARE PROVISIONS OF THAT AGREEMENT NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIC LAW RATHER THAN THE ELECTION COMMITTEE BEING DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED.

AND, INCIDENTALLY, IT'S NO ARGUMENT TO SAY THAT THE REASON FOR THAT IS THAT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED BEFORE 1997, BECAUSE OF COURSE, THERE ARE DETAILED PROVISIONS IN THE BASIC LAW FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WHICH IS FORMED IN 1996 AND THE SELECTION COMMITTEE WHICH WILL BE FORMED TO ELECT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN 1997.

SECONDLY, IF THERE'S BEEN THIS SO-CALLED AGREEMENT, WHY ARE CHINESE SIDE STILL DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. NOW, HONG KONG MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH VISITORS, MEMBERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHO VISITED PEKING, VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THAT ELECTION COMMITTEE. THOSE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS. I REFERRED TO SOME OF THEM IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY. ONE OF THE PROPOSALS IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN ELECTION COMMITTEE COMPRISING 1-200 PEOPLE OF WHOM HALF WOULD BE NOMINATED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND HALF WOULD BE NOMINATED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS TO HAVE A FREE AND OPEN SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. CLEARLY, THE HONG KONG MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE, BY CONTINUING TO DISCUSS IN SUCH BROAD TERMS THE ELECTION COMMITTEE MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ANY AGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT.

NEVERTHELESS, I THINK THE TIME HAS COME WHEN WE MUST MOVE THINGS FORWARD. AS MR PATTEN HAS SAID, WE STAND READY TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS WHICH ARE FAIR AND OPEN AND WOULD HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE HERE IN HONG KONG; AND I KNOW IT'S THE INTENTION OF MR GALSWORTHY, WHEN AMBASSADOR GUO RETURNS TO HONG KONG IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO, TO APPROACH HIM AND TO ASK THE CHINESE SIDE HOW THEY THINK MATTERS CAN BE TAKEN FURTHER FORWARD IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU THINK MATTERS SHOULD BE TAKEN FURTHER FORWARD?

SIR DAVID: WELL, CLEARLY WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME PROPOSALS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE. PROPOSALS WHICH MEET THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE BEEN LAID DOWN BY MR PATTEN AND, AS MR PATTEN HAS MADE VERY CLEAR, HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS ANY SUCH PROPOSALS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE.

QUESTION: BUT LU PING HAS SAID THAT THE CHINESE DON'T INTEND TO PUT FORWARD ANY PROPOSALS; THAT THEY CONSIDER THAT THINGS ARE ALREADY SORTED OUT IN THE BASIC LAW. DOESN'T THAT LEAVE YOU IN A QUANDARY?

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID: WELL, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT POSITION. I'VE MADE THE POINT VERY CLEARLY THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS NEED TO BE VERY COMPREHENSIVE. WE HAVE PUT FORWARD 7 PROPOSALS. WHERE IN THE BASIC LAW CAN ANYONE POINT TO THE PROPOSALS FOR A BOUNDARY COMMISSION, FOR VOTING AGE, FOR A VOTING SYSTEM, FOR THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS, FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES, OR INDEED, THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. WE CAN FIND NO SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF HOW THOSE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE BASIC LAW. CLEARLY, THEY NEED TO BE DISCUSSED. INDEED, IN THE PUBLICATION OF THE LETTERS YESTERDAY, THERE IS A REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED. WE FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN WHICH THE CHINESE SIDE ARE SAYING NOW THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS. WE CLEARLY BELIEVE THERE IS SUCH A NEED.

QUESTION: BUT THE CHINESE SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT DOUGLAS HURD HAS AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, ON THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. INDEED, THEY ARE LIKELY TO POINT TO A PROPOSED FORMULA WHICH WAS PUT FORWARD BY THE BRITISH FOR THE ELECTION COMMITTEE WHICH SEEMS TO BE MUCH CLOSER TO THE BASIC LAW THAN WHAT MR PATTEN IS NOW PUTTING FORWARD. DO YOU THINK CHINA, THEREFORE, HAS A CASE THAT POSSIBLY MR PATTEN IS DEPARTING FROM THE SPIRIT OF PAST UNDERSTANDING?

SIR DAVID: IF CHINA BELIEVES THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER, THEN IT WILL BE VERY INTERESTING TO HEAR FROM THE CHINESE SIDE WHAT THE DETAILED PROPOSAL IS ON WHICH THERE HAS BEEN AGREEMENT. CERTAINLY WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE IS SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION FROM THE BASIC LAW OR FROM ANYWHERE ELSE WHERE IT MIGHT BE; BUT CLEARLY IF THERE IS A PROPOSAL WHICH WILL MEET THE PRINCIPLES WHICH MR PATTEN HAS LAID DOWN, THEN WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS IT.

QUESTION: DO YOU FEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF A PROLONGED STAND-OFF ON THIS, INsofar AS IT MIGHT HARM HONG KONG ECONOMICALLY?

SIR DAVID: I HOPE THAT ANY DISAGREEMENTS THAT WE ARE HAVING WITH CHINA OVER THIS SUBJECT WOULD NOT SPILL OVER INTO ANY OTHER AREAS. IT WOULD BE VERY SAD INDEED IF THE CHINESE SIDE ALLOWED THE RELATIONSHIP ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS TO BE AFFECTED BY THIS POLITICAL DISCUSSION. I SAID IN MY SPEECH YESTERDAY THAT WE DO VALUE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT DOING ANYTHING TO TRY TO DAMAGE THAT RELATIONSHIP AT ALL IN ANY WAY. AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING WHICH WAS DONE BY THE CHINESE SIDE WHICH AFFECTED THE LONG TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF THIS COMMUNITY.

QUESTION: OKAY, THANKS A LOT.

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FS STARTS CONSULTATION ON REVENUE PROPOSALS

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, HAS STARTED HIS ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS TODAY (THURSDAY) WITH MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS ON REVENUE PROPOSALS FOR THE 1993/94 BUDGET.

HE HAS MET THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF MEETING POINT THIS AFTERNOON.

HE WILL BE MEETING MEMBERS BY GROUPS AT SEVEN OTHER SEPARATE SESSIONS OVER THE NEXT FORTNIGHT.

MR MACLEOD SAID: "I HAD VERY USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS IN JULY ON PRIORITIES FOR RECURRENT SPENDING IN TERMS OF BROAD POLICY AREAS.

"THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY LEGCO MEMBERS DURING THIS CONSULTATION EXERCISE HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMMES OUTLINED IN THE GOVERNOR'S RECENT POLICY ADDRESS.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS AND TO SEEKING MEMBERS' VIEWS ON THE REVENUE ASPECTS. I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL PROVE EQUALLY USEFUL IN HELPING ME SHAPE THE PROPOSALS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION TO HEAR LEGCO MEMBERS' VIEWS ON PRIORITIES FOR PUBLIC WORKS SPENDING.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS RECORDED A STRONG INCREASE DURING SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS, HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ROSE DURING THE MONTH. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, ROSE BY 2.8% IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.6% AND 1.0% IN JULY AND AUGUST RESPECTIVELY.

/AMONG THESE

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS GREW BY 26.4%, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A NUMBER OF SHARE FLOTATION EXERCISES. SAVINGS DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.5% WHILE TIME DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 0.4%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF 17.1%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 1.5% IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER A DECREASE OF 0.6% IN JULY AND AN INCREASE OF 1.3% IN AUGUST.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 5.8% WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.8%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 11.0%.

DURING SEPTEMBER, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 2.3% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DROPPED BY 3.0% AND 1.7% RESPECTIVELY.

YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 15.3% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 12.0% AND 23.0% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 16.9%, 2.7% AND 2.7% RESPECTIVELY IN SEPTEMBER. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN AUGUST WERE -3.2%, 1.1% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES INCREASED BY 37.8%, 18.5% AND 17.0% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 14.5%, 2.2% AND 2.0% IN SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN AUGUST WERE -2.7%, 1.2% AND 1.2% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES GREW BY 31.5%, 15.3% AND 13.7% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 2.5% IN SEPTEMBER FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.0% AND 2.4% IN JULY AND AUGUST RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR INCREASED BY 2.1% WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY INCREASED BY 2.7%. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 17.1% AND 27.4% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG DECREASED BY 1.9% IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 0.9% IN JULY AND A DECREASE OF 0.1% IN AUGUST. YEAR-ON-YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 8.4%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG INCREASED BY 2.3% IN SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.6% AND 0.9% IN JULY AND AUGUST RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 16.7%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 3.0% IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 1.5% AND 3.7% IN JULY AND AUGUST. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 31.4%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG DECREASED BY 1.8% DURING SEPTEMBER, AFTER A DECREASE OF 23.0% IN JULY AND AN INCREASE OF 1.2% IN AUGUST. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS DECREASED BY 6.2%.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR
USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1992, TOTAL LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG (EXCLUDING THOSE FOR TRADE FINANCING) INCREASED BY 3.8%.

OF THESE, LOANS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING INCREASED BY 0.4%, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 4.5% AND 5.2% IN THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 10.3%.

LOANS TO BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT SECTOR ROSE BY 2.1% DURING THE THIRD QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.5% AND 4.0% DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 11.6%.

LOANS TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE DECREASED BY 0.8% DURING THE THIRD QUARTER, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 3.8% AND 4.8% DURING THE PRECEDING TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 9.6%.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (EXCLUDING AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS) ROSE BY 9.2% THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.8% AND 0.9% DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER OF 1992 RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 21.6%.

LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) GREW BY 3.5% THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 3.2% AND 5.3% IN THE PRECEDING TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 18.4%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 159 AND 54 RESPECTIVELY WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE TO 148.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 PRESENTS FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

/TABLE 1

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - SEPTEMBER 1992

	(HK\$mn)			
	Sep 1992	Earlier months (% change to Sep 1992)		
		Aug 1992	Jun 1992	Sep 1991
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	149,595	128,021 (16.9)	131,773 (13.5)	108,539 (37.8)
Foreign currency	15,830	16,469 (-3.9)	16,110 (-1.7)	17,221 (-8.1)
Total	165,425	144,490 (14.5)	147,883 (11.9)	125,761 (31.5)
M2 - HK\$*	719,965	700,939 (2.7)	687,849 (4.7)	607,616 (18.5)
Foreign currency*	780,254	766,853 (1.7)	758,935 (2.8)	693,450 (12.5)
Total	1,500,219	1,467,792 (2.2)	1,446,784 (3.7)	1,301,066 (15.3)
M3 - HK\$*	742,406	723,214 (2.7)	710,209 (4.5)	634,385 (17.0)
Foreign currency*	815,111	803,141 (1.5)	798,774 (2.0)	736,043 (10.7)
Total	1,557,518	1,526,355 (2.0)	1,508,984 (3.2)	1,370,428 (13.7)
Notes and coins in circulation	56,299	56,287 (0.0)	52,500 (7.2)	46,638 (20.7)
of which held by public	48,957	48,403 (1.1)	45,729 (7.1)	40,257 (21.6)
Total Deposits				
Total Demand deposits	116,468	96,088 (21.2)	102,154 (14.0)	85,504 (36.2)
Total Savings deposits	351,317	349,928 (0.4)	342,803 (2.5)	281,731 (24.7)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	967,129	957,085 (1.0)	939,854 (2.9)	877,155 (10.3)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	35,543	36,650 (-3.0)	38,909 (-8.7)	40,395 (-12.0)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	19,754	20,088 (-1.7)	20,702 (-4.6)	25,668 (-23.0)
HK\$ deposits*	679,547	661,075 (2.8)	650,990 (4.4)	580,212 (17.1)
US\$ deposits*	367,338	347,278 (5.8)	333,728 (10.1)	297,719 (23.4)
Other foreign currency deposits*	443,326	451,486 (-1.8)	459,703 (-3.6)	432,522 (2.5)
All deposits	1,490,211	1,459,839 (2.1)	1,444,421 (3.2)	1,310,453 (13.7)
Foreign currency swap deposits	51,317	49,009 (4.7)	45,181 (13.6)	45,008 (14.0)
Total Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	89,173	90,878 (-1.9)	90,153 (-1.1)	82,297 (8.4)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	11,126	11,333 (-1.8)	14,545 (-23.5)	11,866 (-6.2)
Other loans for use in H.K.	912,534	892,222 (2.3)	878,951 (3.8)	782,172 (16.7)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,471,180	1,427,802 (3.0)	1,356,673 (8.4)	1,119,381 (31.4)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	37,440	38,150 (-1.9)	37,566 (-0.3)	39,016 (-4.0)
Loans in HK\$	809,135	792,500 (2.1)	781,524 (3.5)	690,896 (17.1)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,712,319	1,667,885 (2.7)	1,596,365 (7.3)	1,343,836 (27.4)
Total loans and advances	2,521,453	2,460,384 (2.5)	2,377,889 (6.0)	2,034,732 (23.9)

* Adjusted for foreign currency swap deposits. Starting from April 1991, swap deposits can further be broken down into US dollar and non-US dollar foreign currency swap deposits.

Note : 'Restricted licence banks' and 'deposit-taking companies' were known as 'licensed deposit-taking companies' and 'registered deposit-taking companies' respectively before 1 February 1990.

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - SEPTEMBER 1992

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>Sep 1992</u>	<u>Earlier quarters</u> (% change to Sep 1992)		
		<u>Jun 1992</u>	<u>Mar 1992</u>	<u>Sep 1991</u>
Manufacturing	60,183	59,943 (0.4)	56,989 (5.6)	54,559 (10.3)
Transport and transport equipment	54,894	54,300 (1.1)	51,415 (6.8)	48,562 (13.0)
Building, construction, property development and investment	135,421	132,620 (2.1)	127,556 (6.2)	121,366 (11.6)
Wholesale and retail trade	86,826	87,553 (-0.8)	83,551 (3.9)	79,203 (9.6)
Financial concerns *	130,181	119,187 (9.2)	118,108 (10.2)	107,042 (21.6)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	20,400	19,988 (2.1)	20,052 (1.7)	15,394 (32.5)
to purchase other residential property	200,465	193,676 (3.5)	183,996 (9.0)	169,267 (18.4)
other purposes	83,446	80,284 (3.9)	78,793 (5.9)	70,699 (18.0)
Others	140,718	131,400 (7.1)	123,802 (13.7)	116,080 (21.2)
Total	912,534	878,951 (3.8)	844,262 (8.1)	782,172 (16.7)

* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions.

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PUBLIC VIEWS SOUGHT ON TAXI POLICY

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) WILL LAUNCH A FOUR-MONTH CONSULTATION EXERCISE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON A NUMBER OF MEASURES IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN ITS REVIEW OF THE TAXI POLICY.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TAC, PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, CALLED ON THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR THE TAXI TRADE, TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS BY FEBRUARY 28 NEXT YEAR ON A CONSULTATIVE PAPER WHICH COVERS THREE MAIN ASPECTS OF THE TAXI POLICY, NAMELY THE LICENSING SYSTEM, FARE POLICY AND QUALITY OF SERVICE.

PROFESSOR LEUNG STRESSED THAT NEITHER TAC NOR GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A VIEW ON THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT WHICH SEEKS TO PRESENT THE VARIOUS SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD TO THE TAC WORKING GROUP ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW.

HE SAID: "VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE WILL BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY BEFORE THE TAC MAKES FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ANY CHANGES WE PROPOSE SHOULD BE MADE IN THE BEST OF PUBLIC INTEREST, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED," PROFESSOR LEUNG SAID.

ON THE LICENSING SYSTEM, VIEWS ARE NOW SOUGHT ON THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- * REPEAL THE QUOTA ON TAXI LICENCES AND ISSUE TAXI LICENCES FLEXIBLY WITHOUT A TIME FRAME;
- * ALLOW EACH TENDERER TO APPLY FOR ONE LICENCE ONLY TO PREVENT MONOPOLY OF TAXI LICENCES;
- * REQUIRE TENDERERS TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS TO DISCOURAGE SPECULATIVE BIDS;
- * INTRODUCE NEW TYPES OF LICENCES WITH RESTRICTED VALIDITY PERIODS AND TRANSFERABILITY;
- * ALLOW INSTALMENT PAYMENT OF A LICENCE PREMIUM TO MAKE OWNERSHIP MORE AFFORDABLE TO TAXI DRIVERS; AND
- * ESTABLISH FORMAL PROCEDURES FOR THE EXECUTION OF LICENCE TRANSFER.

ON FARE POLICY AND STRUCTURE, THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- * REAFFIRM THE EXISTING POLICY OF MAINTAINING A FARE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN TAXIS AND OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT;
- * CONFIRM THE EXISTING YARDSTICK FOR ASSESSING FARE INCREASE APPLICATIONS;

- * USE THE FLAGFALL CHARGE AS A MEANS TO REGULATE THE DEMAND FOR SHORT TRIPS IF NECESSARY;
- * ADJUST WAITING TIME CHARGES TO DISCOURAGE THE USE OF TAXIS TO CONGESTED AREAS IF NECESSARY;
- * RECTIFY PROBLEMS OF BAGGAGE AND RADIO-CALL SURCHARGES; AND
- * LIMIT THE TYPES OF SURCHARGES TO A MINIMUM.

ON QUALITY OF TAXI SERVICE, VIEWS ARE SOUGHT ON THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

- * SIMPLIFY COMPLAINT PROCEDURES INCLUDING MAKING COMPLAINT FORMS AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC PLACES;
- * REQUIRE TAXI DRIVERS TO ISSUE FARE RECEIPTS TO DETER OVERCHARGING;
- * INTRODUCE A DEMERIT POINTS SYSTEM AGAINST MALPRACTICES FOR BOTH TAXI DRIVERS AND OPERATORS;
- * PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TAXI TRADE AND THE PUBLIC OF THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH FORUMS AND SEMINARS AND A TAXI SERVICE GUIDE;
- * REQUIRE TAXI DRIVERS TO UNDERGO WRITTEN TESTS AT REGULAR INTERVALS ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF LOCATIONS, ROUTES AND TAXI REGULATIONS;
- * REQUIRE TAXI DRIVERS TO UNDERGO COMPULSORY PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS TO ENSURE ROAD SAFETY;
- * CONSIDER EXEMPTING TAXIS FROM CERTAIN RESTRICTED ZONES TO GIVE THEM GREATER OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY; AND
- * ENCOURAGE TAXI OPERATORS/DRIVERS TO FORM ORGANISATIONS TO PROMOTE THEIR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ENHANCE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT AND A LEAFLET CONTAINING THE SALIENT POINTS ON THE TAXI POLICY REVIEW WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION TOMORROW AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND LICENSING OFFICES/PUBLIC VEHICLES SECTION OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD, POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED AND ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BE SCREENED ON TV TO URGE THE PUBLIC TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS.

VIEWS SHOULD BE FORWARDED IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY, TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SECOND FLOOR, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (EAST WING). THERE IS ALSO A TAC HOTLINE (882 4411) FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS VERBALLY.

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PUBLICATION OF 1991 POPULATION CENSUS GRAPHIC GUIDE
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FINAL RESULTS OF THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS IN GRAPHIC FORM ARE RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) IN THE REPORT "HONG KONG 1991 POPULATION CENSUS: GRAPHIC GUIDE".

THE REPORT, PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, CONTAINS 29 CHARTS SHOWING THE DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

THE REPORT COMMUNICATES IN GRAPHIC FORM INFORMATION IN A SIMPLE, VIVID MANNER FOR EASY GRASP OF ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF SUCH INFORMATION.

A GOOD AMOUNT OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN COLLECTED IN THE CENSUS.

IN ORDER THAT THE STATISTICS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE DEPARTMENT ISSUES VARIOUS REPORTS IN STAGES.

THE SIMPLER, MORE SUMMARISED DATA WERE DISSEMINATED IN THE "SUMMARY RESULTS" AND SEVERAL OTHER PUBLICATIONS IN OCTOBER 1991.

THE PUBLICATION "BASIC TABLES" CONTAINS MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND WAS RELEASED IN MAY 1992.

THE "MAIN TABLES" WHICH PROVIDES CROSS-TABULATIONS COVERING POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND LIVING QUARTERS IN THE WHOLE TERRITORY WAS RELEASED IN AUGUST 1992.

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE CENSUS RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE "MAIN REPORT" TO BE RELEASED AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE REPORT "GRAPHIC GUIDE", WHICH IS IN BILINGUAL FORM, IS NOW ON SALE AT \$14 PER COPY.

PURCHASES MAY BE MADE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, HONG KONG, AND THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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SPECIAL "GREETING" STAMPS TO BE ISSUED

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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR M. PAGLIARI, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A SET OF SPECIAL "GREETING" STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 19.

THERE WILL BE FOUR DENOMINATIONS: 80 CENTS, \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5. TWELVE ATTRACTIVE SELF-ADHESIVE GREETINGS LABELS WILL ALSO BE ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STAMPS.

A STAMP BOOKLET CONTAINING SIX 80 CENTS STAMPS, TWO EACH OF THE \$1.80, \$2.30 AND \$5 STAMPS AND TWO SHEETS OF 12 GREETINGS LABELS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT \$24 EACH.

THE STAMPS WERE DESIGNED BY MR COLIN TILLYER AND PRINTED BY LEIGH-MARDON PTY LTD OF AUSTRALIA.

THE STAMPS WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR ADVANCE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE AND SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE AS FROM NOVEMBER 5.

OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE AT ALL POST OFFICES, EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE, AS FROM NOVEMBER 5 AT \$1 EACH.

A SHEET OF 12 GREETINGS LABELS WILL BE GIVEN OUT FREE WITH THE PURCHASE OF ONE FIRST DAY COVER.

ADVANCE ORDERS FOR SERVICED FIRST DAY COVERS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM NOVEMBER 5 TO 11. THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF COVERS PER ORDER IS FIVE.

A RESTRICTION OF FIVE STAMP BOOKLETS AND FIVE SHEETS OF STAMPS OF EACH DENOMINATION PER CUSTOMER QUEUING WILL BE IMPOSED ON THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF CUSTOMERS, FIRST DAY COVERS PRE-AFFIXED WITH A SET OF STAMPS AND CANCELLED WITH THE FIRST DAY OF ISSUE POSTMARK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT \$12.90 EACH AT THE FOLLOWING 27 POST OFFICES:

HONG KONG ISLAND

BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
CAUSEWAY BAY POST OFFICE
GENERAL POST OFFICE
HENNESSY ROAD POST OFFICE
KING'S ROAD POST OFFICE
PEAK POST OFFICE
QUEEN'S ROAD POST OFFICE
SAI YING PUN POST OFFICE
TSAT TSZ MUI POST OFFICE

/KOWLOON

KOWLOON

CHEUNG SHA WAN POST OFFICE
GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
KOWLOON BAY POST OFFICE
KOWLOON CENTRAL POST OFFICE
KWONG WAH STREET POST OFFICE
KWUN TONG POST OFFICE
LOK FU POST OFFICE
MONG KOK POST OFFICE
NGAU TAU KOK POST OFFICE
OI MAN POST OFFICE
TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

NEW TERRITORIES

SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
SHEK WU HUI POST OFFICE
TAI PO POST OFFICE
TSUEN WAN POST OFFICE
TSUEN WING STREET POST OFFICE
TUEN MUN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
YUEN LONG POST OFFICE

A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING THE "FIRST DAY" INDICATION ON NOVEMBER 19 AT ALL POST OFFICES EXCEPT THE AIRPORT POST OFFICE.

"THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT HONG KONG POST OFFICE HAS ISSUED GREETINGS STAMPS. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE POPULAR, ESPECIALLY DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD," MR PAGLIARI SAID.

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DISTRICT OFFICE RECRUITS COMMUNITY ORGANISERS
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THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE IS RECRUITING PART-TIME COMMUNITY ORGANISERS (CO) AND ASSISTANT COMMUNITY ORGANISERS (ACO).

APPLICANTS FOR THE CO POST SHOULD BE FORM FIVE GRADUATES, AGED 18 OR ABOVE AND HAVE SOME WORKING EXPERIENCE. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE AND WRITE GOOD CHINESE OR ENGLISH.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACO POST ARE SIMILAR TO THAT FOR THE CO EXCEPT THAT THE EDUCATION STANDARD IS SET AT FORM THREE AND ABOVE.

BOTH COS AND ACOS WILL BE TASKED WITH HELPING RESIDENTS FORM MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES OR OWNERS' CORPORATIONS AND RUN THE RESIDENTS' ORGANISATIONS.

THEY WILL ALSO BE INVOLVED IN ORGANISING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND UNDERTAKING MANAGEMENT DUTIES FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES IN THE DISTRICT.

/THEY ARE

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THEY ARE REQUIRED TO WORK IRREGULAR HOURS, MOSTLY IN THE AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS, AND ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, COVERING ABOUT 100 HOURS EACH MONTH.

THE HOURLY PAY FOR COS IS \$22 AND THAT FOR ACOS \$18.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE TWO POSTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICE. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS BY THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON NOVEMBER 6.

TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON 552 1006.

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NEW OVERNIGHT MINIBUS ROUTE

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A NEW PUBLIC LIGHT BUS PLYING BETWEEN TSIM SHA TSUI AND WAN CHAI WILL COME INTO SERVICE FROM 12.01 AM ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 31).

THE CROSS-HARBOUR SCHEDULED ROUTE NO. 46 WILL OPERATE OVERNIGHT BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 5 AM DAILY. THE FARE WILL BE \$10 PER SINGLE JOURNEY.

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ENTRIES TO TRANSLATION CONTEST CLOSES NEXT MONDAY

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CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS WISHING TO TAKE PART IN AN ANNUAL TRANSLATION COMPETITION ARE REMINDED TO SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS BY NEXT MONDAY (NOVEMBER 2).

NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, THE CHINESE DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, THE MID-LEVELS WEST AREA COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL HEADS COUNCIL AND ASSOCIATION OF ARTS AND CULTURE, WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

THE CONTEST WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS: ONE IS OPEN TO RESIDENTS, WORKING PEOPLE AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS AND THE OTHER FOR THOSE STUDYING IN FORMS FOUR TO SEVEN.

CONTESTANTS IN BOTH SECTIONS ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERTAKE RENDERINGS FROM ENGLISH TO CHINESE AND VICE VERSA AT THE LOK YEW HALL OF UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ON NOVEMBER 14.

THEIR WORKS WILL BE ADJUDICATED BY A PANEL OF LECTURERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

/THE FIRST

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THE FIRST THREE WINNERS, PLUS THOSE RECEIVING HONOURABLE MENTIONS, WILL EACH BE AWARDED A TROPHY AND A BOOK COUPON.

ENTRY FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL 852 3499 AND 852 3486.

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY
* * * * *

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THIS IS THE LAST REPORT ON BEACH WATER QUALITY GRADINGS IN 1992, AS THE BATHING SEASON WILL COME TO AN END BY LATE OCTOBER.

AN ANNUAL REVIEW ON THE WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BATHING BEACHES IN THE BATHING SEASON OF 1992 WILL BE PREPARED BY EPD BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT BIWEEKLY INTERVALS DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E.COLI DATA OBTAINED BY EPD IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER.

THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

/"BEACHES WITH

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS :

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS VERY POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITERS AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADE OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

/THE GRADES

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THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW :

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 15.10.92)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 29.10.92)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	1	1
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	1	1
HAIRPIN	1	1
MIDDLE BAY	2	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST. STEPHEN'S	2	2
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	1	1
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	2	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	2
BUTTERFLY	2	2
SAI KUNG DISTRICT -----		
CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

/ISLANDS DISTRICT

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	1	1
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	1
KWUN YAM WAN	1	1
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	1	1
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	1	1
TUNG O*	1	1

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	3	3
APPROACH	3	2
CASAM	2	1
GEMINI	2	2
HOI MEI WAN	2	2
LIDO	2	2
TING KAU	2	2
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	1	1

NOTE : "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES.
 * NON-GAZETTED BEACHES.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

MIDDLE BAY, CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH AND CASAM FROM "2" TO "1"; APPROACH FROM "3" TO "2".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR DAVID L. HALL, ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER, ON TEL 835 1234.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,200
REVERSAL OF LAF	-700
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-20
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,480

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.0 **0.3* 29.10.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.67 PCT	13 MONTHS	2311	6.25	102.56	3.78
1 MONTH	3.33 PCT	16 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.75	4.14
3 MONTHS	3.24 PCT	19 MONTHS	2405	5.502	101.75	4.37
6 MONTHS	3.32 PCT	22 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.77	4.56
12 MONTHS	3.76 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 10,625 MN

CLOSED 29 OCTOBER 1992

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