



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1991

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MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR IN 1990

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE BY AIR WAS \$259,864 MILLION IN 1990, 11% HIGHER THAN THAT IN 1989, ACCORDING TO THE SUMMARY STATISTICS ON AIRBORNE MERCHANDISE TRADE IN 1990 RELEASED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN 1990, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 2%, 13% AND 18% RESPECTIVELY OVER 1989. THEIR SHARES IN THE TOTAL VALUES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WERE 30%, 20% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY.

IN TERMS OF WEIGHT, AIRBORNE IMPORTS AMOUNTED TO 352,887 TONNES, WHILE TOTAL AIRBORNE EXPORTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) AMOUNTED TO 449,052 TONNES, WHICH WERE 15% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THOSE IN 1989.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

COMPARING 1990 WITH 1989, AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, TAIWAN AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BY 53%, 22% AND 16% RESPECTIVELY IN VALUE.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE USA AND JAPAN DECREASED BY 16%, 7%, 6% AND 6% RESPECTIVELY.

AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,299 MILLION OR 16%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,134 MILLION OR 8%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$748 MILLION OR 11%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS (BY \$162 MILLION OR 2%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING (BY \$1,720 MILLION OR 7%); FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF (BY \$92 MILLION OR 21%); AND FOOTWEAR (BY \$44 MILLION OR 28%).

/DETAILED FIGURES

DETAILED FIGURES ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY SHOWED THAT NOTABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED IN OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO SINGAPORE (BY \$970 MILLION OR 63%) AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$240 MILLION OR 34%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS TO PARAGUAY (BY \$334 MILLION OR 401%) AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$285 MILLION OR 25%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF TO SINGAPORE (BY \$312 MILLION OR 56%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS TO SINGAPORE (BY \$68 MILLION OR 53%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN CLOTHING TO THE USA (BY \$1,226 MILLION OR 10%) AND TO JAPAN (BY \$360 MILLION OR 12%); FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSES, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF TO JAPAN (BY \$93 MILLION OR 26%); AND FOOTWEAR TO THE USA (BY \$46 MILLION OR 38%).

AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE PRESENTED IN TABLE 3.

IMPORTS CARRIED BY AIR FROM ALL MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED IN VALUE IN 1990 OVER 1989. SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH WAS RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA (+24%), SINGAPORE (+23%), SWITZERLAND (+23%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+20%) AND JAPAN (+15%). AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE USA, ITALY, TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALSO INCREASED BY 11%, 11%, 9% AND 9% RESPECTIVELY.

AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 4.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, NOTABLE INCREASES IN VALUE WERE REGISTERED FOR AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$2,981 MILLION OR 10%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$2,888 MILLION OR 16%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,399 MILLION OR 26%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIAL (BY \$1,191 MILLION OR 20%).

HOWEVER DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES (BY \$227 MILLION OR 65%); RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS (BY \$199 MILLION OR 17%); AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$141 MILLION OR 15%).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF FROM THE USA (BY \$916 MILLION OR 14%) AND MALAYSIA (BY \$706 MILLION OR 20%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AND OPTICAL GOODS, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS FROM JAPAN (BY \$1,211 MILLION OR 16%) AND FROM SWITZERLAND (BY \$1,111 MILLION OR 21%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT FROM JAPAN (BY \$921 MILLION OR 42%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES INCLUDING MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES, AND OTHER ARTICLES OF PRECIOUS OR SEMI-PRECIOUS MATERIALS FROM THE USA (BY \$397 MILLION OR 33%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES FROM THE USA (BY \$229 MILLION OR 69%); RAW HIDES, SKINS AND FURSKINS FROM FINLAND (BY \$106 MILLION OR 42%); AND POWER GENERATING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE USA (BY \$204 MILLION OR 48%).

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS ARE DEPICTED IN TABLE 5.

HONG KONG'S AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO ALL MAJOR MARKETS INCREASED IN VALUE IN 1990 OVER 1989. THE GROWTH WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG FOR THAILAND (+86%), THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (+80%), SWITZERLAND (+39%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+34%). AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE USA, TAIWAN AND JAPAN ALSO INCREASED BY 14%, 11% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY.

AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 6.

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, NOTABLE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,575 MILLION OR 33%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES (BY \$2,327 MILLION OR 35%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT (BY \$1,420 MILLION OR 40%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$741 MILLION OR 19%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS (BY \$157 MILLION OR 28%); GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE PARTS (BY \$41 MILLION OR 15%); AND LEATHER AND LEATHER MANUFACTURES AND DRESSED FURSKINS (BY \$33 MILLION OR 15%).

ANALYSED BY COMMODITY, BY COUNTRY, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF CLOTHING TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$1,096 MILLION OR 134%) AND THE USA (BY \$805 MILLION OR 19%); NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES TO THAILAND (BY \$1,170 MILLION OR 125%) AND TO JAPAN (BY \$669 MILLION OR 49%); OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$327 MILLION OR 175%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES, INCLUDING MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS TO THE USA (BY \$169 MILLION OR 15%).

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN CRUDE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE MATERIALS TO JAPAN (BY \$86 MILLION OR 63%) AND TO CHINA (BY \$37 MILLION OR 73%); GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND MACHINE PARTS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (BY \$39 MILLION OR 63%); AND LEATHER AND LEATHER MANUFACTURES AND DRESSED FURSKINS TO THE USA (BY \$33 MILLION OR 58%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER 1990" NOW AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$27 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4915.

TABLE 1: AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
USA	25,701	27,417	- 1,715	- 6
F.R. OF GERMANY	6,969	5,984	+ 985	+ 16
JAPAN	6,945	7,351	- 406	- 6
SINGAPORE	4,302	2,818	+ 1,484	+ 53
UK	3,509	3,779	- 269	- 7
TAIWAN	2,316	1,896	+ 420	+ 22
CANADA	1,722	2,045	- 323	- 16
SWITZERLAND	1,632	1,652	- 19	- 1
FRANCE	1,631	1,444	+ 186	+ 13
NETHERLANDS	1,534	1,506	+ 28	+ 2

TABLE 2: AIRBORNE DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	22,496	24,216	- 1,720	- 7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	14,706	13,572	+ 1,134	+ 8
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	9,622	8,323	+ 1,299	+ 16
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	7,446	6,698	+ 748	+ 11

/MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	6,999	6,837	+	162	+	2
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,542	2,496	+	46	+	2
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	666	558	+	108	+	19
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	519	519	#			*
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	399	310	+	90	+	29
FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSCS, AND PREPARATIONS THEREOF	348	440	-	92	-	21

DENOTES LESS THAN HK\$ 0.5 MILLION
* DENOTES LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3: AIRBORNE IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

MAJOR SUPPLIER	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
JAPAN	27,000	23,477	+ 3,523	+ 15
USA	23,933	21,551	+ 2,382	+ 11
SWITZERLAND	9,086	7,415	+ 1,671	+ 23
SINGAPORE	6,383	5,190	+ 1,193	+ 23
TAIWAN	5,831	5,327	+ 504	+ 9
ITALY	5,753	5,184	+ 570	+ 11
MALAYSIA	5,004	4,050	+ 954	+ 24
F.R. OF GERMANY	4,647	3,883	+ 764	+ 20
UK	4,493	4,379	+ 115	+ 3
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,342	3,975	+ 367	+ 9

/TABLE 4:

TABLE 4: AIRBORNE IMPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	31,898	28,917	+ 2,981	+ 10
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	20,963	18,075	+ 2,888	+ 16
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	14,924	14,333	+ 591	+ 4
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	8,723	7,713	+ 591	+ 13
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	7,110	5,919	+ 1,191	+ 20
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	6,809	5,410	+ 1,399	+ 26
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,876	4,229	+ 647	+ 15
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	4,091	3,419	+ 672	+ 20
OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	3,444	2,729	+ 714	+ 26
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	2,492	2,186	+ 307	+ 14

/TABLE 5:

TABLE 5: AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR MARKETS

MAJOR MARKET	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
USA	13,202	11,558	+ 1,643	+ 14
TAIWAN	8,804	7,967	+ 837	+ 11
JAPAN	7,442	6,740	+ 702	+ 10
SINGAPORE	5,398	4,939	+ 460	+ 9
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,676	4,349	+ 327	+ 8
F.R. OF GERMANY	4,228	2,343	+ 1,885	+ 80
CHINA	3,442	3,178	+ 264	+ 8
THAILAND	2,930	1,574	+ 1,356	+ 86
UK	1,929	1,437	+ 492	+ 34
SWITZERLAND	1,404	1,011	+ 393	+ 39

TABLE 6: AIRBORNE RE-EXPORTS OF THE MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	1990 (HKD MN.)	1989 (HKD MN.)	INCREASE/ DECREASE (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	15,867	15,418	+ 449	+ 3
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	10,477	7,902	+ 2,575	+ 33
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	8,990	6,664	+ 2,327	+ 35
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	7,142	6,714	+ 427	+ 6

/OFFICE MACHINES

OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT	4,941	3,521	+	1,420	+	40
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	4,555	3,814	+	741	+	19
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	2,945	2,740	+	205	+	7
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,366	1,892	+	473	+	25
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,558	1,108	+	450	+	41
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	1,270	928	+	342	+	37

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GOVERNOR OPENS SCIENCE MUSEUM
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM PROJECT SETS AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE THAT HE HOPES MANY OTHERS WILL FOLLOW.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM, SIR DAVID SAID MANY OF THE EXHIBITS HAD BEEN SPONSORED OR DONATED, AND MANY EXPERTS AND SCIENTISTS HAD GIVEN THEIR TIME AND ADVICE IN DEVELOPING THE DISPLAYS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MUSEUM WOULD BE FUN AS WELL AS INSTRUCTIVE, AND VISITORS WOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE OVER 300 OF THE EXHIBITS AND MAKE THINGS WORK FOR THEMSELVES.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG AS A MODERN SOCIETY HAD BENEFITTED GREATLY FROM SCIENCE BY MAKING WIDESPREAD USE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

/SIR DAVID

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG RELIED HEAVILY ON THEM WHETHER IN THE FORM OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WHICH ENABLED THE TERRITORY TO BE AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE; OR THE NEW TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE BUILDINGS AND ENGINEERING PROJECTS; OR THE TELEVISION, HI-FI, AND EVEN KARAOKE EQUIPMENT, THAT GAVE PLEASURE AND ENTERTAINMENT TO SO MANY HERE.

SIR DAVID CONGRATULATED ALL THOSE WHO HAD HELPED BRING THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM INTO FRUITION AND WISHED ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN RUNNING IT EVERY SUCCESS.

"I ALSO HOPE THAT ALL THOSE WHO VISIT IT IN THE YEARS TO COME WILL FIND IT AN INTERESTING AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE," HE ADDED.

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OPENING OF SCIENCE MUSEUM HERALDS RAPID EXPANSION
OF MUSEUM SERVICES IN HONG KONG

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THE OPENING OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S NEW WORLD-CLASS HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM TODAY (THURSDAY) MARKS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE RAPID EXPANSION OF MUSEUM FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE \$340 MILLION NEW FACILITY AT TSIM SHA TSUI EAST WAS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MUSEUM, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, MR H.M.G. FORSGATE SAID THE COUNCIL HAD INVESTED OVER \$420 MILLION IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS ON CAPITAL WORKS ON MUSEUM SERVICES.

"LATER IN THE YEAR, WE WILL BE OPENING THE NEW MUSEUM OF ART IN TSIM SHA TSUI, THE HONG KONG VISUAL ARTS CENTRE IN HONG KONG PARK AND TWO PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS AT THE SPACE MUSEUM AND THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY," MR FORSGATE SAID.

MR FORSGATE SAID THE SCIENCE MUSEUM AIMED TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE IN EXPLORING THE MYSTERY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

"WE WANT VISITORS TO PARTICIPATE, BE AMAZED, AMUSED AND EDUCATED BY THE PRINCIPLE HIGHLIGHTED BY THE EXHIBITS. WE ALSO WISH TO SEE THE MUSEUM AS A TOOL OF INFORMAL CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF GENERAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY," HE SAID.

MR FORSGATE ALSO PRAISED THE EXTENT OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN PROVIDING DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS TO THE MUSEUM.

THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM OCCUPIES A SITE AREA OF 27,000 SQUARE METRES. THE FOUR-STORY PURPOSE-BUILT MUSEUM BUILDING HAS A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF 13,500 SQUARE METRES, OF WHICH 7,500 SQUARE METRES ARE EXHIBITION GALLERIES.

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ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE 500 EXHIBITS WILL BE "HANDS-ON", ALLOWING VISITORS TO MAKE THINGS WORK FOR THEMSELVES.

THE EXHIBITS COVER 4 MAJOR AREAS -- SCIENCE, LIFE SCIENCES, TECHNOLOGY AND A CHILDREN'S ZONE SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THE THREE TO SEVEN AGE GROUP. THE TECHNOLOGY AREA IS FURTHER SUB-DIVIDED INTO SECTIONS COVERING COMPUTERS AND ROBOTICS, ENERGY, COMMUNICATION, CONSTRUCTION, TRANSPORTATION, FOOD SCIENCE AND HOME TECHNOLOGY.

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM CHARGES AN ADMISSION FEE OF \$25 FOR ADULTS AND \$15 FOR CHILDREN, STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS AGED 60 OR OVER. CHILDREN UNDER THREE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULTS ARE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE.

EXPLAINING THE IMPOSITION OF AN ADMISSION FEE TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM AND THREE OTHER MAIN MUSEUMS OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, NAMELY HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART, HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM, MR FORSGATE SAID THIS WAS TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF MUSEUM SERVICE WAS MAINTAINED IN A PERIOD OF RISING COSTS, WITH ANNUAL RECURRENT COSTS OF OPERATING MUSEUM SERVICES RISING FROM \$53 MILLION IN 1989 TO OVER \$100 MILLION THIS YEAR.

"IT IS, THEREFORE, NOT WITHOUT RELUCTANCE, THAT WE ARE FORCED TO CHARGE A MODEST FEE FOR ADMISSION TO THE FOUR MAIN MUSEUMS. HOWEVER, A CONCESSIONARY SCHEME WILL OPERATE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND STUDENTS, WHILST ADMISSION TO BRANCH MUSEUMS AT LEI CHENG UK, LAW UK, AND THE MUSEUM OF TEA WARE WILL REMAIN FREE," MR FORSGATE ADDED.

THE MUSEUM ALSO HAS AN OPEN-AIR PIAZZA, A 295-SEAT LECTURE HALL, A CLASSROOM, A LABORATORY, A WORKSHOP, A BOOKSHOP AND A FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT.

THE URBAN COUNCIL IS ORGANISING A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING MONTH TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING OF THE MUSEUM, INCLUDING MAGIC BUBBLE SHOWS, SCIENCE LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS, EGG DROP CONTEST AND MICROMOUSE MAZE CONTEST.

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE MUSEUM WILL BE 1 PM TO 9 PM ON WEEKDAYS (EXCEPT MONDAYS WHEN THE MUSEUM WILL BE CLOSED) AND 10 AM TO 9 PM ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

ENQUIRIES FOR ADMISSION AND BOOKING OF TICKETS OR HIRE OF MUSEUM FACILITIES CAN BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM, 2 SCIENCE MUSEUM ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST OR BY CALLING 732 3232.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1991

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SCHOOL PRAISED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION
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LADY WILSON TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID TRIBUTE TO ST STEPHEN'S GIRLS COLLEGE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE SCHOOL, SHE SAID AS ONE OF THE OLDEST SCHOOLS IN HONG KONG AND WITH ONE OF THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, ST STEPHEN'S HAD A LOT TO BE PROUD OF.

LADY WILSON SAID BEING A TEACHER BY PROFESSION, SHE WAS DELIGHTED TO NOTE THE EMPHASIS THE SCHOOL PLACED ON THE PROVISION OF GOOD LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR ITS STUDENTS.

"I FULLY AGREE WITH DR (KAY) BARKER THAT INDEPENDENT STUDY AND RESEARCH SHOULD PLAY A CENTRAL PART IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

"EVEN AS A LEISURE ACTIVITY, READING INCREASES OUR KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPS OUR MINDS INTELLECTUALLY.

"IT IS ALSO AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF IMPROVING LANGUAGE SKILLS," SHE ADDED.

LADY WILSON NOTED THAT GENERATIONS OF YOUNG GIRLS HAD PROGRESSED THROUGH THE SCHOOL IN THE COURSE OF 85 YEARS.

"THOUSANDS HAVE GROWN UP INTO ACCOMPLISHED YOUNG WOMEN WHO HAVE MADE THEIR MARK ON SOCIETY," SHE SAID, CITING THREE EXAMPLES OF PAST STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT GENERATIONS: DR ELLEN LI, PROFESSOR MA HOGEI AND MRS RITA FAN.

LADY WILSON SAID THE OCCASSION ALSO MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD OF EXPANSION FOR THE SCHOOL WITH THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR THE NEW ASSEMBLY HALL AND SCIENCE BLOCK WHICH WOULD BE NAMED AFTER MRS RITA FAN'S FATHER.

"ST STEPHEN'S GIRLS COLLEGE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MODERN NEW BUILDINGS IN WHICH TO OPERATE, AND TO BUILD UPON ITS EXCELLENT TRADITION OF PROVIDING A BROAD AND BALANCED EDUCATION FOR ITS STUDENTS," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON THANKED MRS RITA FAN, HER FAMILY AND OTHERS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY TO THE SCHOOL AND CONGRATULATED ALL THE TEACHERS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, FOR THEIR DEDICATION.

"IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DR KAY BARKER, WHO CELEBRATES HER 30TH ANNIVERSARY AS PRINCIPAL THIS YEAR," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT DR BARKER'S ENTHUSIASM, DEDICATION AND INTEGRITY WERE WELL KNOWN TO ALL.

SHE ALSO CONGRATULATED ALL OF THE GIRLS, FOR HELPING TO MAKE THE SCHOOL SUCH A FINE AND HAPPY ONE, WHICH THEY COULD BE RIGHTLY PROUD OF.

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SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 TO BE PUBLISHED

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUBLISH TOMORROW (FRIDAY) THE SECURITIES (DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, WHICH PROPOSES TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ORDINANCE TO OVERSEAS COMPANIES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG.

"AT PRESENT, THE ORDINANCE APPLIES ONLY TO LOCAL COMPANIES LISTED IN HONG KONG," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR INTENTION THAT THE DISCLOSURE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ORDINANCE SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO OFFICERS AND SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS OF OVERSEAS COMPANIES LISTED IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO PROTECT LOCAL INVESTORS.

"WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN NOT TO BRING THE ORDINANCE INTO FORCE UNTIL THIS IS DONE," HE SAID.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE ORDINANCE TO EMBRACE OVERSEAS COMPANIES LISTED IN HONG KONG, THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO AMEND THE FREEZING ORDER PROVISIONS TO RECOGNISE THE NEED FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN COMPANIES, AND TO GIVE THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION POWER TO EXEMPT CERTAIN COMPANIES FROM THE ORDINANCE.

"IF AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE OWNERSHIP OF A COMPANY'S SHARES MEETS WITH OBSTRUCTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OR THE HIGH COURT MAY ORDER THAT THE SHARES IN QUESTION BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS A 'FREEZING ORDER'," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THESE RESTRICTIONS OPERATE TO FREEZE THE TRANSFER, EXERCISE OF VOTING RIGHTS, PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND BONUS ISSUES IN RESPECT OF THE SHARES OF A DEFAULTING SHAREHOLDER.

"HOWEVER, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RESTRICTION ON TRANSFERS IN HONG KONG, THESE PROVISIONS CANNOT BE ENFORCED IN PRACTICE AGAINST A FOREIGN COMPANY. WE THINK IT UNNECESSARY AND UNDESIRABLE TO RETAIN THEM FOR LOCAL COMPANIES ONLY.

"WE BELIEVE THAT A RESTRICTION ON THE TRANSFER OF SHARES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG SHOULD, BY ITSELF, BE ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE IN MOST CASES TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE. BUT ABOVE ALL, WE MUST AIM TO PROVIDE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.

"THE BILL PROPOSES, THEREFORE, TO APPLY ONLY A RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER OF SHARES REGISTERED IN HONG KONG, TO ALL COMPANIES LISTED IN HONG KONG.

"WE BELIEVE THAT, AS A GENERAL RULE, THE ORDINANCE SHOULD APPLY TO ALL COMPANIES LISTED IN HONG KONG. HOWEVER, WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT RELIEF MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN CERTAIN CASES, FOR EXAMPLE TO EASE THE BURDEN OF DUPLICATE FILING REQUIREMENTS. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE.

/"THE BILL

"THE BILL PROPOSES THEREFORE THAT THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION SHOULD BE GIVEN A GENERAL POWER TO EXEMPT COMPANIES FROM SOME OR ALL OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE."

THIS DISCRETION WILL NEED TO BE EXERCISED IN THE LIGHT OF GUIDELINES TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE COMMISSION AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

"WE WILL ENSURE THAT THESE GUIDELINES REFLECT THE PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN THE NEED TO PROTECT LOCAL INVESTORS AND THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN ISSUERS TO LIST AND RAISE CAPITAL IN HONG KONG," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 1.

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BILL TO FACILITATE SEC'S CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER REGULATORS
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THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WHICH SEEKS TO FACILITATE THE COMMISSION'S CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER FINANCIAL MARKET REGULATORS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 5.

"THE BILL AIMS TO RELAX THE SECRECY REQUIREMENTS IN THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION (SEC) ORDINANCE WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE GENERAL CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE COMMISSION FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES," THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

UNDER THE SEC ORDINANCE, THE SEC CAN ONLY DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO OTHER REGULATORS IF THIS IS DESIRABLE OR EXPEDIENT IN THE INTEREST OF THE INVESTING PUBLIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST. IT CANNOT DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO OTHER REGULATORS FOR THE PURPOSES OF CO-OPERATION OR ASSISTANCE.

THIS HAS CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR HONG KONG SECURITIES COMPANIES CONDUCTING BUSINESS OVERSEAS AND HAMPERED THE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG.

THE BILL INCLUDES A NEW FUNCTION FOR THE SEC TO CO-OPERATE WITH AND ASSIST OTHER REGULATORS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS.

IT ALLOWS THE SEC TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO OTHER REGULATORS IN ORDER TO ENABLE THEM TO PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS, PROVIDED THEY ARE SUBJECT TO ADEQUATE SECRECY PROVISIONS AND PROVIDED THIS IS NOT CONTRARY TO THE INTEREST OF THE INVESTING PUBLIC OR TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE OPPORTUNITY IS ALSO TAKEN TO INCLUDE A FEW REFINEMENTS TO THE EXISTING SECRECY REQUIREMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE CERTAIN OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE SEC. THEY ARE:

- * SECRECY PROVISIONS NOT TO APPLY TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WITH CONSENT OF PERSON TO WHOM INFORMATION RELATES;
- * SECRECY PROVISIONS NOT TO APPLY TO INFORMATION WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC LEGITIMATELY;
- * PRIOR CONSENT BY THE SFC NOT TO BE REQUIRED FOR ONWARD DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN A SUMMARY FORM BY RECIPIENTS OF SUCH INFORMATION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MEDIA;
- * SFC TO GAZETTE THE NAMES OF OVERSEAS REGULATORS TO WHOM IT DISCLOSES INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT NECESSARILY PRIOR TO DISCLOSURE.

"IN FORMULATING THESE AMENDMENTS, WE HAVE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE NEED FOR ADEQUATE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO GUARD AGAINST IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY THE SFC OR RECIPIENTS OF SUCH INFORMATION," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE BILL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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MORE TIME FOR POLICE TRUSTS ACCOUNTS SUBMISSION

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TWO BILLS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) PROVIDING FOR AN EXTENSION BY THREE MONTHS OF THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE ANNUAL AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE UNDER THE POLICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TRUST ORDINANCE AND THE POLICE EDUCATION AND WELFARE TRUST ORDINANCE MUST BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE TRUSTS WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1967 AND THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE WAS APPOINTED THE PERMANENT TRUSTEE OF THE FUNDS WHILE TWO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES WERE FORMED TO ASSIST HIM.

UNDER THE ORDINANCES, THE TRUSTEE IS REQUIRED TO PREPARE ACCOUNTS OF ALL TRANSACTIONS OF THE FUNDS FOR EACH YEAR ENDING MARCH 31.

A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS SIGNED BY THE TRUSTEE MUST BE AUDITED BY AN AUDITOR APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

A COPY OF THE SIGNED AND AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, TOGETHER WITH THE AUDITOR'S REPORT AND A REPORT BY THE TRUSTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDS, MUST THEN BE TABLED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY SEPTEMBER 30.

THE TRUSTS HAVE GROWN CONSIDERABLY SINCE THEIR INCEPTION. IN 1989/90, A TOTAL OF 1,700 STUDENTS AND OFFICERS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THEM.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE TRUSTS AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVED, IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR THE AUDITING AND PREPARATION OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE PERIOD SPECIFIED IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION.

"IT IS PROPOSED, THEREFORE, TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY DEADLINE TO ALLOW THE TRUSTEE A REASONABLE PERIOD TO COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES AND TO AVOID LATE SUBMISSIONS," HE SAID.

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NEW LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE PRIVATE CLUBS' SAFETY
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NEW LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A SCHEME FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF CLUB-HOUSES WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL EARLY NEXT MONTH.

THE CLUBS (SAFETY OF PREMISES) BILL WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE ITS FIRST READING ON MAY 8.

AT PRESENT, FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY IN CLUB-HOUSES, JUST AS IN OTHER PREMISES, ARE REGULATED BY THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE AND THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION, HOWEVER, IS CURRENTLY BEING TAKEN ON AN AD HOC BASIS OR IN RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS.

TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPOSE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS REGULATING THEIR FIRE AND STRUCTURAL SAFETY, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED THAT A "CERTIFICATION SCHEME", TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, SHOULD BE INTRODUCED.

ONCE THE BILL IS ENACTED, IT WILL BE AN OFFENCE TO OPERATE, KEEP, MANAGE OR CONTROL A CLUB-HOUSE WITHOUT A VALID "CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE" OR "CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION".

THE MAXIMUM PENALTY WILL BE A FINE OF \$200,000 AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT OWING TO RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS, IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO ENFORCE CONTROLS ON ALL CLUBS WITH CLUB-HOUSES IMMEDIATELY.

"THE CERTIFICATION SCHEME WILL FIRST TARGET AT 'PROPRIETARY' CLUBS WHICH USE THEIR CLUB-HOUSES AS ORDINARY BUSINESS PREMISES," HE SAID.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL THEREFORE BE EMPOWERED TO ISSUE, RENEW OR REVOKE CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION SO THAT THE CERTIFYING AUTHORITY MAY PHASE ITS CONTROL PRIORITIES.

"CLUB OPERATORS MAY USE THE EXEMPTION PERIOD TO UPGRADE THE SAFETY MEASURES IN THEIR CLUB-HOUSES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AS FOR THE ISSUE OF A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE, THE APPLICANT HAS TO SATISFY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS THAT THE SUBJECT CLUB-HOUSE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AND THE FIRE SERVICES ORDINANCE.

A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE MAY BE ENDORSED WITH CONDITIONS TO WHICH IT IS SUBJECT.

"AND BEFORE A CERTIFICATE IS RENEWED, THE PREMISES WILL BE RE-INSPECTED TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY STANDARDS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT REGULAR INSPECTIONS OF CLUB-HOUSES WILL BE CONDUCTED TO ENSURE THAT THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS ARE COMPLIED WITH.

FURTHERMORE, THE DISTRICT COURT WILL BE EMPOWERED TO ORDER ANY PREMISES USED AS A CLUB-HOUSE TO BE CLOSED AND TO CEASE TO BE USED AS A CLUB-HOUSE IF THERE IS ANY DANGER OR RISK OF DANGER TO ITS MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS.

THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES FOR APPEALS ARISING FROM ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION TO BE DETERMINED BY AN APPEAL BOARD CHAIRED BY A PERSON WHO IS QUALIFIED FOR APPOINTMENT AS A DISTRICT JUDGE.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PANEL WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT FEES WILL BE PAYABLE TO THE CERTIFYING AUTHORITY FOR THE ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION OR COMPLIANCE AS IT IS THE INTENTION TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF OPERATING THE CERTIFICATION SCHEME FROM THE TRADE.

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MEMORANDUM SIGNED ON TIDAL MONITORING EXERCISE

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HONG KONG AND CHINESE AUTHORITIES FORMALLY SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN CANTON YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) ON A JOINT TIDAL MONITORING EXERCISE WHICH IS PART OF THE OCEANOGRAPHIC SURVEY WORK FOR HONG KONG'S STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE MEMORANDUM WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE PEARL RIVER WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION (PRWRC) OF CHINA'S MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD).

THE HONG KONG DELEGATION WAS LED BY EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR MIKE STOKOE.

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UNDER THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM, THE PRWRC WILL MEASURE TIDAL LEVELS AT DANGAN ISLAND, WANSHAN ISLAND AND SHAJIAO IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE, WHILE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE SIMULTANEOUS TIDAL OBSERVATIONS AT WAGLAN, LOK ON PAI AND QUARRY BAY IN HONG KONG FOR TWO ONE-MONTH PERIODS WITHIN THIS YEAR.

THE TIDAL INFORMATION WILL BE USED TO CALIBRATE A SET OF COMPUTER MODELS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE EPD TO IDENTIFY A SITE FOR DISCHARGE OF TREATED SEWAGE WITHOUT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

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SURVEY ON AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES COMMISSIONED

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THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A SURVEY ON THE BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORY.

THE SURVEY, TO BE CARRIED OUT BY A PRIVATE MARKET RESEARCH FIRM, SURVEY RESEARCH HONG KONG LIMITED, WILL HELP THE GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR THE RURAL AREAS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE SURVEY, ENTITLED "SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USES AND DEVELOPMENT", IS TO BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN APRIL AND AUGUST THIS YEAR, WITH A RANDOM SAMPLE OF 5,000 AGRICULTURAL DEMARCATION DISTRICT LOTS.

INTERVIEWERS FROM THE MARKET RESEARCH FIRM WILL VISIT THE SELECTED RESPONDENTS DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD AND THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTED RESPONDENTS WILL SOON RECEIVE A LETTER ASKING FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION IN THE SURVEY.

THE SURVEY REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

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SDTFR RECEIVES DONATION FROM RHKJC

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THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION (SDTFR) HAS RECEIVED A GENEROUS GRANT OF \$5 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB TO ENLARGE THE CAPITAL BASE OF THE FUND.

THE GRANT WILL INCREASE THE CAPITAL BASE OF THE FUND FROM \$18.2 MILLION TO \$23.2 MILLION.

ESTABLISHED IN 1970 UNDER THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND FOR RECREATION ORDINANCE, THE FUND IS USED TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR RECREATIONAL, SPORTING, CULTURAL OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

THE AIM IS TO PROMOTE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, PURPOSEFUL USE OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, PARTICULARLY OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE FUND IS DISBURSED ON THE ADVICE OF THE SIR DAVID TRENCH FUND COMMITTEE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS.

IN THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE FUND HAS FINANCED MORE THAN 170 CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS AND 3,200 NON-CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS VALUED AT A TOTAL OF \$44 MILLION.

THE RHKJC HAS BEEN A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTOR TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF RECREATION AND SPORTS IN HONG KONG. THROUGH THE JOCKEY CLUB (CHARITIES) LTD, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS GRANTED ANNUALLY SINCE 1979 TO VARIOUS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR YOUTH. A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$26 MILLION HAS BEEN GIVEN OUT SINCE 1979.

APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO MEET THE COST OF CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS UNDER THE SDTFR AND THE JOCKEY CLUB GRANTS FOR PERMANENT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR YOUTH ARE BEING INVITED.

THE CLOSING DATE IS MAY 20. ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE FUND'S SECRETARIAT 11TH FLOOR, HARBOUR CENTRE, 25 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO MEET THE COST OF NON-CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS ARE ACCEPTED ALL YEAR ROUND.

THE INJECTION OF \$5 MILLION BY THE RHKJC WILL ENABLE THE SDTFR TO PROVIDE MORE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO MEET ITS OBJECTIVES.

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SHAM SHUI PO AND MONG KOK DB CHAIRMEN ELECTED

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MR CHOY WAI-SHEK WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD AT THE BOARD'S FIRST MEETING FOR THIS TERM TODAY (THURSDAY). HE WAS RETURNED UNCONTESTED.

MEANWHILE, TWO CANDIDATES WERE NOMINATED FOR THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S CHAIRMANSHIP, WITH MR CHOW CHUN-FAI ELECTED AT THE BOARD'S MEETING TODAY, WHICH WAS ALSO ITS FIRST FOR THE 1991-94 TERM.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SHAM SHUI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S FOUR COMMITTEES WERE ALSO ELECTED AT TODAY'S MEETING. THEY ARE:

COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE	: MR CHAU MUN
COMMUNITY WELFARE COMMITTEE	: MR TAM KWOK-KIU
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	: MR CHEUNG WING-SUM
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE	: MR CHAN CHEE-SING

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REMINDER ON 24-MONTH PROHIBITION PERIOD FOR REPOSSESSED PREMISES
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED LANDLORDS WHO HAVE OBTAINED AN ORDER FOR POSSESSION OF PREMISES ON THE GROUND OF SELF-OCCUPATION THAT THEY SHALL NOT, UNLESS PRIOR AUTHORISATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE LANDS TRIBUNAL, LET, SELL OR PART WITH POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES FOR A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE ORDER.

THE REMINDER FOLLOWS A RECENT CASE IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN WHICH A WOMAN WAS ORDERED TO PAY A FINE OF \$20,000, A FORFEITURE OF \$70,000 AND A COMPENSATION TO THE FORMER TENANT IN THE SUM OF \$9,900 AFTER SHE PLEADED GUILTY TO THE OFFENCE OF ASSIGNING HER REPOSSESSED PREMISES WITHIN 24 MONTHS OF AN ORDER FOR POSSESSION AND WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL.

THE WOMAN WAS THE FORMER LANDLADY OF A FLAT AT FIRST FLOOR, 257 TO KWA WAN ROAD, HUNG HOM.

SHE SUCCESSFULLY RECOVERED POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES FROM THE FORMER TENANT ON THE GROUND OF SELF-OCCUPATION UNDER THE LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE BY AN ORDER OF THE LANDS TRIBUNAL ON MARCH 12, 1990.

ON AUGUST 10 THE SAME YEAR, SHE SOLD THE REPOSSESSED PREMISES WITHOUT ANY PRIOR AUTHORISATION OF THE TRIBUNAL.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED LANDLORDS WHO HAVE OBTAINED AN ORDER FOR POSSESSION OF PREMISES ON THE GROUND OF SELF-OCCUPATION THAT THE REPOSSESSED PREMISES SHOULD BE WHOLLY OCCUPIED DURING THE 24-MONTH PROHIBITION PERIOD AS A RESIDENCE BY THE PERSON SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER FOR POSSESSION FOR WHOSE OCCUPATION THE PREMISES ARE REQUIRED.

"THE ABOVE PROHIBITIONS ALSO APPLY TO A LANDLORD WHO HAS RECOVERED POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES BY WAY OF A CONSENT ORDER IN TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDLORD AND TENANT, OR EVEN IN A CASE WHERE AN APPLICATION FOR POSSESSION ON THE ABOVE GROUND DOES NOT PROCEED OR IS DISCONTINUED AND THE TENANT CONSENTS TO DELIVER UP VACANT POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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SAFE USE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES URGED
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CONTRACTORS AND FACTORY PROPRIETORS WERE TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED TO TAKE ADEQUATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ON THE USE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES IN THEIR PREMISES.

THE APPEAL FOLLOWED A COURT CASE IN WHICH THE CONTRACTOR OF A WATER-PROOFING PROJECT IN A RESTAURANT AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN 1989 WAS GIVEN THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$30,000 ON EACH OF THE THREE SUMMONSES TAKEN OUT UNDER THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES) REGULATIONS.

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THE CASE INVOLVED THE DEATH OF TWO WORKERS IN A FIRE CAUSED BY WELDING WORK SPARKS SETTING ALIGHT A LARGE QUANTITY OF HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES NEARBY.

"THE INCIDENT WAS A HARD LESSON ON THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECTING SAFETY," THE DEPUTY CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID.

"THE TRAGEDY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF THE CONTRACTOR HAD SUPERVISED THE WORK PROPERLY AND HAD TRAINED HIS WORKERS TO TAKE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ON THE USE OF CHEMICALS AND DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES," MR CHAN ADDED.

HE STRESSED THAT UNDER THE REGULATIONS, PROPRIETORS WERE REQUIRED TO LABEL THE CONTAINERS OF THE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, PUT WARNING SYMBOLS ON THEM, AND STATE THEIR RISKS AND THE APPROPRIATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.

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OMELCO MEMBERS VISIT FSD

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SIX OMELCO MEMBERS VISITED THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN TSIM SHA TSUI EAST THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS PART OF A SERIES OF VISITS ORGANISED BY THE OMELCO OFFICE FOR ITS MEMBERS TO ENABLE THEM TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OPERATIONS OF VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE MEMBERS WERE DR HENRIETTA IP, MR CHAN YING-LUN, MR POON CHI-FAI, MR TAM YIU-CHUNG, MR EDWARD HO AND MR KINGSLEY SIT.

THEY WERE MET ON ARRIVAL BY THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR JOHN MARCH; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MR LAM CHEK-YUEN; AND CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR PETER CHEUNG.

THE MEMBERS FIRST ATTENDED A BRIEFING AND WATCHED A SLIDE SHOW INTRODUCING THE DEPARTMENT.

THE SERVICE HAS OVER 7,000 UNIFORMED FIRE SERVICES AND AMBULANCE STAFF, SUPPORTED BY ABOUT 700 NON-UNIFORMED MEMBERS, TO OPERATE 64 FIRE STATIONS, 24 AMBULANCE DEPOTS, SIX FIRE BOATS AND THE AIRPORT FIRE CONTINGENT AT THE AIRPORT.

THE DEPARTMENT RESPONDED TO 23,299 FIRE CALLS IN 1990.

APART FROM FIGHTING FIRES, OMELCO MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE SERVICE ALSO PROVIDES EMERGENCY SERVICES IN A WIDE RANGE OF SITUATIONS WHERE LIFE IS IN PERIL.

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES IN 1990 WAS 15,637.

THE MAJORITY OF SUCH CALLS INVOLVED TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, PEOPLE TRAPPED BY MACHINERY OR THREATENING TO JUMP, LIFT INCIDENTS AND LOCK-IN CASES.

AFTER THE BRIEFING, MEMBERS WENT TO THE FIRE SERVICES COMMUNICATION CENTRE (FSCC) ON THE 11TH FLOOR OF THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING WHERE THEY SAW THE \$100 MILLION "SECOND GENERATION MOBILISING SYSTEM" WHICH WAS PUT INTO USE LAST NOVEMBER.

THE HANDLING OF FIRE, SPECIAL SERVICE AND AMBULANCE CALLS OF THE HONG KONG AND KOWLOON COMMANDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE FSCC AT TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATION COMPLEX TO THIS NEW CENTRE.

THE NEW TERRITORIES COMMAND IS EXPECTED TO TRANSFER TO THIS CENTRE NEXT MONTH. THE OPERATION OF THE "SECOND GENERATION MOBILISING SYSTEM" HAS PROVEN TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

THE MEMBERS THEN VISITED THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (FIRE PROTECTION), MR CHAN HOI, AND SENIOR STAFF OF THE BUREAU.

MR CHAN TOLD THE MEMBERS THAT ONE MAJOR ASPECT OF THE BUREAU'S WORK IS THE VETTING OF BUILDING PLANS OF ALL NEW BUILDINGS SO THAT REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT CAN BE STIPULATED.

THE BUREAU ALSO CONDUCTS INSPECTIONS OF RESTAURANTS, GUESTHOUSES, PRIVATE CLUBS AND OTHER PLACES OF ASSEMBLY, SCHOOLS, CHILDREN CENTRES, DANGEROUS GOODS STORES AND VEHICLES, AND VENTILATION SYSTEM IN VARIOUS BUILDINGS.

A TOTAL OF 67,150 INSPECTIONS WERE MADE IN 1990.

THE MEMBERS THEN MET THE CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER, MR PANG TAK-SUM, AND HIS SENIOR STAFF.

THEY WERE SHOWN A DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEWLY ACQUIRED HEART RESUSCITATION "DEFIBRILLATOR" WHICH WAS INTRODUCED TO SIX AMBULANCE AID MOTORCYCLES AND SIX AMBULANCES IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

THE AMBULANCE COMMAND RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 432,940 CALLS AND HANDLED 535,905 PATIENTS IN 1990.

BEFORE CONCLUDING THE VISIT, THE OMELCO MEMBERS WENT TO THE TSIM TUNG FIRE STATION WHERE THEY MET THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (KOWLOON), MR CHEUNG SHU-SHING, AND VIEWED FIRE AND AMBULANCE DEMONSTRATIONS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1991

- 22 -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES AT THE SIDE LANE OF 2-16A BOWRINGTON ROAD, WAN CHAI, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON JUNE 6 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

IN ADDITION, THE AUTHORITY SEEKS TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT FLAT A ON THE THIRD FLOOR, AND ON THE ROOF OVER FLAT B ON THE 21ST FLOOR OF FAI HON BUILDING, 13-17 NGAN MOK STREET IN CAUSEWAY BAY.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDERS FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MAY 2 WERE ALSO POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY.

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDERS ARE ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	17.4.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	18.4.91	-50
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+50
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX	111.4 *+0.3* 18.4.91	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION
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Q115	10.7.91	390 +90
Q116	17.7.91	400 +80

Q104	24.4.91	635	-155
Q105	1.5.91	700	-220
Q106	8.5.91	613.5	-133.5
Q107	15.5.91	581	-101
Q108	22.5.91	420	+60
Q109	29.5.91	470	+10
Q110	5.6.91	340	+140
Q111	12.6.91	500	-20
Q112	19.6.91	550	-70
Q113	26.6.91	550	-70
Q114	3.7.91	470	+10

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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H001	1.5.91	180	+80
H002	15.5.91	237.5	+22.5
H003	29.5.91	240	+20
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	133	+127
H156	24.7.91	140	+120
H157	7.8.91	189.5	+70.5
H158	21.8.91	110	+150
H159	4.9.91	10	+250
H160	18.9.91	170	+90
H161	2.10.91	50	+210
H162	17.10.91	200	+60

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
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Y187	26.2.92	180	+80
Y188	25.3.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 12.4.91 WAS 3,201 MN