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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1993

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1993

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LAND REGISTRY STATISTICS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 1993

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THE LAND REGISTRY REGISTERED 62,791 SALES AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

THE FIGURE REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 4.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS, BUT A DECREASE OF 16.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN THESE AGREEMENTS WAS \$157.86 BILLION, WHICH WAS UP BY ONE PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF THE SECOND HALF OF 1992, BUT DOWN BY 5.1 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT OF FIRST HALF OF LAST YEAR.

DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1993, 62,338 ASSIGNMENTS OF BUILDING UNITS, THE MAJORITY BEING RESIDENTIAL, WERE SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION.

WHEN COMPARED WITH 83,822 AND 74,098 RECORDED DURING THE SECOND AND FIRST HALVES OF 1992, THE FIGURE SHOWED A DECREASE OF 25.6 PER CENT AND OF 15.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED, TOTTALLING \$130.41 BILLION, ALSO INDICATES DECREASES WHEN COMPARED WITH THE TWO PRECEDING SIX-MONTH PERIOD.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES (OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES) WAS \$48.30 BILLION, SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 21.9 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF THE SECOND HALF OF 1992 BUT A DECREASE OF 1.2 PER CENT COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1993 TOTTALLED 1,570,300, UP BX 3.2 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THE FIGURE OF THE PRECEDING PERIOD BUT DOWN BY 6.8 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE FIRST HALF OF 1992.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS ROSE BY 2.4 PER CENT FROM 1,469,604 IN JUNE 1992 TO 1,505,003 IN DECEMBER 1992 AND AGAIN BY 1.8 PER CENT TO 1,532,459 IN JUNE 1993.

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LABOUR DEPT READY TO HELP RETRENCHED WORKERS

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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES ON ASSISTANCE TO RETRENCHED EMPLOYEES OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY LIMITED (CMB), A LABOUR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) AND THE LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE (LRS) WERE READY TO HELP.

"A SPECIAL OFFICE IN CHAI WAN, WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF YUE ON HOUSE, YUE WAN ESTATE, HAS BEEN SET UP TO HELP WORKERS SEEK ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

WORKERS CAN APPROACH THE OFFICE EITHER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE ON 557 3924.

THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED TO RETRENCHED WORKERS BY SENDING RESUMES OF THE WORKERS TO INTERESTED POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS AND ARRANGING JOB INTERVIEWS WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

"STAFF OF THE SPECIAL OFFICE WILL DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION LEAFLETS ON THE LES, VACANCIES AVAILABLE AND RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (INCLUDING THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SCHEME) TO THE RETRENCHED EMPLOYEES," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND LABOUR RELATIONS ISSUES, THEY ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT THE HONG KONG EAST LRS OFFICE, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, 29 TAI ON STREET, IN PERSON OR BY TEL ON 9222 7000, HE ADDED.

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PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE

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IN JUNE 1993, WHILE RE-EXPORTS STILL RECORDED A NOTABLE INCREASE, DOMESTIC EXPORTS FELL MARKEDLY, THE GROWTH IN IMPORTS ALSO SLOWED DOWN.

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

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN JUNE 1993 ROSE BY \$7,928 MILLION OR 13% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$67,041 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY \$2,602 MILLION OR 12% TO \$18,509 MILLION.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN JUNE 1993 GREW BY \$5,326 MILLION OR 6.6% OVER A YEAR EARLIER TO \$85,551 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$4,673 MILLION OR 5.5% TO \$89,295 MILLION.

AS THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS WAS SMALLER THAN THAT OF TOTAL IMPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$3,744 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN JUNE 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A DEFICIT OF \$4,396 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.2% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN JUNE 1992.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS AMOUNTED TO \$375,789 MILLION, WHICH WAS \$66,557 MILLION OR 22% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AT \$103,182 MILLION, WAS \$3,759 MILLION OR 3.5% LOWER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

TAKING RE-EXPORTS AND DOMESTIC EXPORTS TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, AT \$478,971 MILLION, WAS \$62,798 MILLION OR 15% HIGHER THAN A YEAR EARLIER.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY \$64,080 MILLION OR 15% TO \$506,726 MILLION.

A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$27,755 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.5% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993.

THIS COMPARED WITH A TRADE DEFICIT OF \$26,473 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.0% OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED A YEAR EARLIER.

THE SHARE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FURTHER ROSE TO 78% IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, COMPARED WITH 74% A YEAR EARLIER, REFLECTING THE STRUCTURAL SHIFT FROM DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO RE-EXPORTS. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF RETAINED IMPORTS GREW BY 4.5%.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN COMMENTED THAT THE TRADE PERFORMANCE AS REFLECTED IN THE JUNE FIGURES WAS SOMEWHAT BELOW EXPECTATIONS.

WHILE THE REDUCED GROWTH RATES WERE DUE IN PART TO A HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN JUNE LAST YEAR (IN JUNE 1992, THE YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH RATES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS WERE RATHER HIGH, AT 12% AND 40% RESPECTIVELY), THE WEAKER THAN EXPECTED DEMAND IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR MARKETS WAS ALSO LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTORY FACTOR.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1993.

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

MERCHANDISE: DOMESTIC EXPORTS :	\$18,509 MILLION
RE-EXPORTS :	\$67,041 MILLION
TOTAL EXPORTS :	\$85,551 MILLION
IMPORTS :	\$89,295 MILLION
TRADE BALANCE :	-\$ 3,744 MILLION

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	APR 93 TO	APR 92 TO	CHANGE	
	JUN 93	JUN 92	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	54,473	58,235	-3,762	-6.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.3%)	(25.6%)		
RE-EXPORTS	201,591	169,620	+31,971	+18.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	256,064	227,855	+28,209	+12.4
IMPORTS	273,672	244,690	+28,982	+11.8
TRADE BALANCE	-17,608	-16,835	-773	
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	JUNE	JUNE	CHANGE	
	1993	1992	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,509	21,111	-2,602	-12.3
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.6%)	(26.3%)		
RE-EXPORTS	67,041	59,114	+7,928	+13.4
TOTAL EXPORTS	85,551	80,225	+5,326	+6.6
IMPORTS	89,295	84,621	+4,673	+5.5
TRADE BALANCE	-3,744	-4,396	+652	
LAST MONTH	JUNE	MAY	CHANGE	
	1993	1993	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,509	18,149	+360	+2.0
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.6%)	(21.3%)		
RE-EXPORTS	67,041	66,935	+106	+0.2
TOTAL EXPORTS	85,551	85,084	+467	+0.5
IMPORTS	89,295	90,724	-1,429	-1.6
TRADE BALANCE	-3,744	-5,640	+1,896	
CALENDAR YEAR TO-DATE	JAN-JUN	JAN-JUN	CHANGE	
	1993	1992	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	103,182	106,941	-3,759	-3.5
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(21.5%)	(25.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	375,789	309,232	+66,557	+21.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	478,971	416,173	+62,798	+15.1
IMPORTS	506,726	442,646	+64,080	+14.5
TRADE BALANCE	-27,755	-26,473	-1,282	
LAST 12 MONTHS	JUL 92 TO	JUL 91 TO	CHANGE	
	JUN 93	JUN 92	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	230,364	233,062	-2,698	-1.2
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(23.3%)	(27.6%)		
RE-EXPORTS	757,387	610,960	+146,427	+24.0
TOTAL EXPORTS	987,751	844,022	+143,729	+17.0
IMPORTS	1,019,375	862,407	+156,968	+18.2
TRADE BALANCE	-31,624	-18,386	-13,238	

TSO SHIU-WAI ELECTED TO LEGCO

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MR TSO SHIU-WAI WAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION.

MR TSO WON A TOTAL OF 17 VOTES TO DEFEAT THREE OTHER CANDIDATES MR YEUNG FUK-KWONG (SIX VOTES), MR LAU KONG-WAH (FIVE VOTES) AND MR CHOW YICK-HAY (FIVE VOTES).

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SOUVENIR COVER MARKS STAMP EXHIBITION

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POST OFFICE WILL ISSUE A SPECIALLY DESIGNED SOUVENIR COVER ON AUGUST 16 TO COMMEMORATE ITS PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION IN SINGAPORE.

THE ACTING POSTMASTER GENERAL, MRS DORIS HO, SAID THE EXHIBITION - SINGPEX '93 - WILL BE HELD FROM AUGUST 21 TO 23.

THE SOUVENIR COVER, AT \$1 EACH, WILL BE ON SALE AT THE FOLLOWING SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES:

- BEACONSFIELD HOUSE POST OFFICE
- GENERAL POST OFFICE
- GRANVILLE ROAD POST OFFICE
- PEAK POST OFFICE
- SHA TIN CENTRAL POST OFFICE
- TSIM SHA TSUI POST OFFICE

ON AUGUST 21 WHEN THE EXHIBITION OPENS, A HAND-BACK SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE SIX PHILATELIC OFFICES FOR THE OFFICIAL SOUVENIR COVERS AND ANY PRIVATELY MADE COVERS BEARING AN INDICATION OF THE EXHIBITION.

A SPECIAL DATESTAMP AND A CACHET WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR THE PURPOSE.

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FISHERIES STUDY TOUR DEPARTS FOR MEXICO ON FRIDAY

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A 10-MEMBER DELEGATION, COMPRISING LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR LAU WAH-SUM AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DR LAWRENCE LEE, WILL DEPART FOR MEXICO ON FRIDAY (JULY 30) TO STUDY ITS FISHING INDUSTRY, PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING SYSTEMS.

TO MARK THE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE, DR LEE PRESENTED A BANNER TO ITS LEADER, MR WONG YUNG-KAN, AT A CEREMONY AT THE DEPARTMENT'S HEADQUARTERS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE CEREMONY, DR LEE SAID THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT AND THE FISH MARKETING ORGANISATION (FMO) HAD ARRANGED 11 SIMILAR OVERSEAS STUDY TOURS SINCE 1981.

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"COUNTRIES VISITED INCLUDED THE UNITED KINGDOM, NORWAY, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, GERMANY, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, SINGAPORE, CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES," HE SAID.

DR LEE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT EACH OF THESE TOURS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND THAT THE VISITS DID BENEFIT THE TERRITORY'S FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT.

THIS YEAR, A 10-DAY TOUR TO MEXICO HAS BEEN ARRANGED WITH THE HELP OF THE MEXICAN CONSULATE IN HONG KONG.

THE GROUP WILL VISIT WHOLESALE FISH MARKETS, SEAFOOD PROCESSORS, MARICULTURE OPERATIONS, LIVE FISH HANDLING FACILITIES AND MARKETING SYSTEMS.

IT WILL ALSO VISIT A LARGE-SCALE EXHIBITION - THE FISHING EXPO - MEXICO '93.

DR LEE HOPED THAT GROUP MEMBERS WOULD MAKE FULL USE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN UP-TO-DATE KNOWLEDGE AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER FISHERMEN TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY.

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270 VM'S RETURNED TODAY
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A GROUP OF 270 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 118 MEN, 68 WOMEN, 43 BOYS AND 41 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 158TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,392 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 30,704 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,810
REVERSAL OF LAF	+190
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-445
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,555
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.6 *-0.1* 28.7.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.40 PCT	13 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.57	3.85
1 MONTH	2.68 PCT	16 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.75	4.06
3 MONTHS	3.16 PCT	19 MONTHS	2502	4.75	100.74	4.30
6 MONTHS	3.48 PCT	22 MONTHS	2505	3.75	98.72	4.54
12 MONTHS	3.83 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 20,087 MN

CLOSED 28 JULY 1993

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