



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1993

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THREE-PRONGED ACTION PLAN OF HIV INFECTION OUTLINED  
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAVE WORKED OUT A THREE-PRONGED ACTION PLAN IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT REPORTS ON A DENTIST IN HONG KONG INFECTED WITH HIV AND ON HIV-INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS THROUGH TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE, SAID.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT THE YEAR-END BRIEFING TODAY (TUESDAY), DR LEE SAID THE THREE LINES OF ACTION COVERED EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY; HIV INFECTION IN HEALTH CARE SETTING; AND THE SETTING UP OF AN AD HOC GROUP ON HIV INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS THROUGH BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY, DR LEE SAID: "I PERSONALLY APPROACHED THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY ON AIDS TO INTENSIFY EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY EFFORTS ON AIDS."

THE COMMITTEE, DR LEE ADDED, AGREED AT YESTERDAY'S MEETING TO MOUNT A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON THE PREVENTION OF AIDS THIS YEAR.

AS FOR HIV INFECTION IN HEALTH CARE SETTING, DR LEE PROPOSED, AND THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AIDS ENDORSED, THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE GUIDELINES FOR HIV INFECTED HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND TO ADVISE ON STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING THAT HIV INFECTED HEALTH CARE WORKERS ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES.

IN ADDITION, DR LEE SAID AN AD HOC GROUP ON HIV INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS THROUGH BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN SET UP.

THE TERMS OF REFERENCES OF THIS AD HOC GROUP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- \* TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS REGARDING TREATMENT OF BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG FOR PREVENTING HIV TRANSMISSION;
- \* TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF SUCH TREATMENT, HAVING REGARD TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS AT THE TIME;
- \* TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH HAEMOPHILIACS IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN INFECTED BY HIV THROUGH TRANSFUSION OF SUCH PRODUCTS AND IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF SUCH INFECTION; AND
- \* IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, TO RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE ANY SPECIAL COURSE OF ACTION APPROPRIATE TO HONG KONG FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF HAEMOPHILIACS WHO CONTRACTED HIV THROUGH TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

DR LEE ALSO OUTLINED THE IMPLEMENTATION THIS YEAR OF SOME OF THE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO GENERAL OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT (GOPD) AND FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES (FHS), HEALTH EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, ORAL HEALTH AND NEW TARGET GROUPS.

ON GOPD AND FHS, THE DIRECTOR SAID THESE INCLUDED EXTENSION OF INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORD SYSTEM TO GOPD CLINICS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHASE II OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGE PROGRAMME.

/MEANWHILE, THE .....

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MEANWHILE, THE HEPATITIS B VACCINATION PROGRAMME TO PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN 1986 AND 1988 WILL REACH ITS THIRD STAGE WHILE INFANTS FIRST ATTENDING THE MATERNAL AND HEALTH CENTRES SINCE THIS MONTH WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A NEW CHILD HEALTH RECORD.

DURING THE YEAR, TWO NEW CLINICS AND TWO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES, IN TUEN MUN AND TIN SHUI WAI, WOULD COME INTO OPERATION, DR LEE SAID.

ON HEALTH EDUCATION, DR LEE SAID A NEW TSUEN WAN HEALTH EDUCATION CENTRE WOULD BE OPENED, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER TO FOUR.

IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUED PUBLICITY ON THE "HEALTHY MEMBERS, HAPPY FAMILY" AND THE "ORGAN DONATION" CAMPAIGNS, DR LEE SAID THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WOULD BE ON "ACCIDENT AND INJURY PREVENTION".

TURNING TO ORAL HEALTH, THE DIRECTOR SAID THIS SERVICE WOULD SEE GREAT AND REMARKABLE CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

A LARGE-SCALE ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CAMPAIGN FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS WILL BE LAUNCHED NEXT MONTH, THE THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME ENTITLED "BRIGHTER SMILES FOR THE NEW GENERATION" WILL BE HELD TO AROUSE THE ORAL HEALTH AWARENESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN.

"A TRANSFER SCHEME FOR CONTINUATION OF DENTAL CARE FOR STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL DENTAL CARE SERVICE WOULD BE FORMALISED WITH THE HONG KONG DENTAL ASSOCIATION," DR LEE SAID.

A PILOT SCHEME WILL ALSO BE ESTABLISHED IN TUEN MUN HOSPITAL DENTAL UNIT TO PROVIDE CURATIVE SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WITH SPECIAL ORAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

IN ADDITION, INFECTION CONTROL PROCEDURES WILL BE STREAMLINED AND STANDARDISED WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BEING PROVIDED TO BACK UP THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INFECTION CONTROL COMMITTEE IN SETTING UP GUIDELINES FOR INFECTION CONTROL IN THE DENTAL CLINICS.

OTHER ASPECTS FEATURE THE ADDITION OF A CONSULTANT IN CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY TO PROVIDE SPECIALIST COVER FOR THE ENTIRE SERVICE; THE REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF DENTAL CLINICS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVEMENT MEASURES; AND THE OPENING OF TWO NEW DENTAL CLINICS IN YAU MA TEI AND TSUEN WAN.

ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, THE DIRECTOR SAID AN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINIC IN KWUN TONG WOULD BE SET UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH A RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH.

THIS CLINIC, DR LEE ADDED, WILL PROVIDE MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS TO RADIATION WORKERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS IN HAZARDOUS OCCUPATIONS.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, DR LEE SAID MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN, ELDERLY AND STUDENTS WOULD BE THE NEW TARGET GROUPS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SERVICES.

/THESE SERVICES .....

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THESE SERVICES INCLUDED THE SETTING UP OF THE FIRST "WELL-WOMAN" CLINIC TARGETED AT WOMEN AGED 45 AND ABOVE AT LAM TIN POLYCLINIC, A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SETTING UP HEALTH CENTRES AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY FOR ELDERLY AGED 65 AND ABOVE, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE.

LOOKING BACK, DR LEE DESCRIBED THE GENERAL LEVEL OF HEALTH IN HONG KONG LAST YEAR AS GOOD.

"THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE HAS STAYED BELOW SEVEN PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS WHILE THE AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH WAS 80.6 YEARS FOR FEMALES AND 75.1 YEARS FOR MALES IN 1991," DR LEE SAID.

"THESE COMPARED FAVOURABLY WITH MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD," HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, DR LEE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG WAS SEEING MORE AND MORE CHRONIC DISEASES LIKE CANCERS, HEART DISEASES, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION AND CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES WITH THE AGEING POPULATION AND URBANISATION.

"THIS TREND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AS THE CHANGE IN DEMOGRAPHY CONTINUED," HE ADDED.

DR LEE SAID VIGILANT ANTI-EPIDEMIC MEASURES AND SURVEILLANCE HAD MANAGED TO KEEP MANY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES LOW IN THE COMMUNITY.

ON VIRAL HEPATITIS AND HIV INFECTION, DR LEE SAID HEPATITIS WAS AN IMPORTANT INFECTIONS DISEASE IN THE TERRITORY WHILE THE INFLUENCE EXERTED BY HIV INFECTION WAS INCREASING WORLDWIDE.

"AS THERE IS YET NO EFFECTIVE VACCINE AGAINST THE VIRUS, HIV INFECTION CONTINUED TO POSE A SERIOUS THREAT," DR LEE ADDED.

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STAR FERRY FARES REVISED

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED FARE INCREASES FOR THE STAR FERRY SERVICES TO COVER RISING COSTS.

THE NEW FARES WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 15 THIS YEAR. MOST COMMUTERS WILL PAY AN EXTRA 20 CENTS TO 30 CENTS.

FARES FOR CENTRAL TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE WILL RISE FROM \$1 TO \$1.20 FOR THE LOWER DECK AND FROM \$1.20 TO \$1.50 FOR THE UPPER DECK.

FOR THE CENTRAL TO HUNG HOM SERVICE, THE LOWER DECK FARE WILL RISE FROM \$1.20 TO \$1.50 AND THE UPPER DECK FARE FROM \$1.50 TO \$1.80.

/FARE FOR .....

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FARE FOR WAN CHAI TO TSIM SHA TSUI SERVICE WILL GO UP FROM \$1.20 TO \$1.50.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (TUESDAY) SAID THE INCREASE WOULD HAVE MINIMAL EFFECT ON INFLATION. IT IS ESTIMATED TO RAISE THE CONSUMER INDEX (A) BY 0.002 PER CENT.

"STAR FERRY'S SERVICES HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY OF A GOOD STANDARD, IN TERMS OF BOTH ADEQUACY AND QUALITY. IT HAS TAKEN REASONABLE STEPS TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. AGAINST A TREND OF LIMITED PATRONAGE GROWTH AND RISING COSTS, A GENERAL FARE INCREASE AT THE RATE APPROVED IS CONSIDERED JUSTIFIED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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OUTLINE OF WORK DONE BY OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY  
INTO LAN KWAI FONG INCIDENT UP TO 4.30 PM TODAY

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THESE INCLUDE:

1. TALKING TO POTENTIAL WITNESSES AND CONCERNED PERSONS;
2. REVIEWING, ANALYSING AND RAISING QUESTIONS ON THE FIRE SERVICES' PRELIMINARY REPORT;
3. STUDYING THE DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT FOR THE BOARD'S SPECIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 4, 1993, TO DISCUSS THE LAN KWAI FONG TRAGEDY;
4. DRAWING UP QUESTIONNAIRE AND SENDING COPIES OF IT TO HOSPITALS WHICH RECEIVED THE LAN KWAI FONG VICTIMS;
5. WRITING TO ACKNOWLEDGE PERSONS WHO HAVE WRITTEN IN OFFERING HELP;  
AND
6. PUBLISHING FORMAL NOTICE TO INVITE PERSONS AND ORGANISATIONS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE TRAGEDY.

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JEWELLERY SHOPS ADVISED OF SECURITY STANDARDS

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GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS ARE TO INTRODUCE THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SECURITY AND THE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL IN PURSUANT TO GUIDANCES FORMALLY ENDORSED BY THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE RECENTLY.

THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SECURITY THAT MEMBERS OF THE TRADE SHOULD FOLLOW WILL HAVE DETERRENT EFFECT ON ROBBERY ATTEMPTS AND, IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK, WILL HELP REDUCE THE VALUE OF LOSS.

/THESE INCLUDE .....

THESE INCLUDE THE USE OF ELECTRONICALLY OPERATED DOORS WHICH CAN ONLY BE OPENED FROM THE INSIDE BY A MEMBER OF STAFF TO SERVE AS AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ACCESS TO SHOP PREMISES.

OTHER ASPECTS, OUTLINED IN THE GUIDELINES ARE THE SAFE DISPLAY OF JEWELLERY AND VALUABLE ORNAMENTS, THE BEST MEANS OF SURVEILLANCE, THE INSTALLATION OF SAFES AND PROPER ALARMS SYSTEM, AND THE EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL.

THESE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF SECURITY WERE PART OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN A FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE SECURITY OF GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS.

THE WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (CRIME) MR TSANG YAM-PUI WAS FORMED IN MAY LAST YEAR IN RESPONSE TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ROBBERY ATTACKS ON GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS IN THE PERIOD FROM 1989 TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992.

IN THE COURSE OF ITS DELIBERATIONS, THE GROUP WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF ROBBERIES FROM 17 CASES IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1992 TO ONLY FIVE CASES IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

THIS REDUCTION WAS ACHIEVED BY ENHANCED POLICE OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS, UTILISATION OF INCREASED INTELLIGENCE ON CRIMINAL GANGS, AND IMPROVEMENT IN LIAISON WITH MAINLAND AUTHORITIES.

THE FORCE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AREAS OF LIAISON WITH THE MAINLAND AUTHORITIES, COLLATION AND UTILISATION OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE, AND STRATEGIES ON OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT.

THE GROUP WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT SINCE 1984, THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE SECURITY OF GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS, AND SUCH IMPROVEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY, COUPLED WITH THE ENHANCED ABILITY AND THE WILLINGNESS TO IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE SECURITY MEASURES.

HOWEVER, THE WORKING GROUP WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REGULATE THE SECURITY STANDARDS IN THE TRADE WAS UNWARRANTED AND INAPPROPRIATE AS IT WOULD REQUIRE MASSIVE USE OF RESOURCES, CONSIDERING THE VAST NUMBER OF GOLDSMITH AND GOLD WORKSHOPS IN THE TERRITORY.

INSTEAD, THE WORKING GROUP HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE VARIOUS SECURITY MEASURES IDENTIFIED SHOULD BEST BE CARRIED OUT ON A SELF-REGULATORY BASIS THROUGH A "SECURITY MEASURE GROUP" ALREADY ESTABLISHED BY THE TWO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE LIAISON, PROMOTION AND MONITORING OF THE PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AMONG THEIR MEMBERS.

THE WORK OF THE "SECURITY MEASURE GROUP" WILL BE MONITORED AND REVIEWED BY WAYS OF PERIODICAL REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE EVERY SIX MONTHS, COMMENCING IN MID-1993.

AT PRESENT, THE TWO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENT SOME 90 PER CENT OF MEMBER OPERATORS, OPERATING THE MAJORITY OF THE GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS IN HONG KONG.

FOR THE MINORITY IN THE TRADE WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO EITHER OF THE TWO TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, THE WORKING GROUP SUGGESTED THAT CRIME PREVENTION OFFICERS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE DEPLOYED TO VISIT GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS ON A BROAD SCALE WHEREBY SMALL BUSINESSES ARE TO BE COVERED, TO ADVISE OPERATORS OF MATTERS OF SECURITY.

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RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR OCTOBER

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1992, ESTIMATED AT \$13.5 BILLION, INCREASED BY 15% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1991, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES REFLECTED A CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND TOURISTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 10% IN VOLUME TERMS.

STRONG GROWTH WAS SEEN IN THE SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, FUELS, MOTOR VEHICLES, CONSUMER DURABLES AND JEWELLERY.

SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS REGISTERED THE LARGEST YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN OCTOBER, BY 30% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF FUELS WENT UP MARKEDLY BY 22% IN VALUE AND 15% IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF MOTOR VEHICLES ALSO RECORDED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 20% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY BY 17% IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

THOSE OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS WENT UP BY 15% IN VALUE AND 17% IN VOLUME. THE LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS A RESULT OF THE FALL IN THE PRICES OF JEWELLERY ITEMS.

IN COMPARISON, SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES INCREASED MORE MODERATELY BY 12% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME, WHILE SALES IN SUPERMARKETS WENT UP BY 8% IN VALUE AND 1% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF OTHER FOODSTUFFS REGISTERED A 2% DECREASE IN VALUE AND A 6% DECREASE IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1992 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 19% IN VALUE AND 13% IN VOLUME.

/COMPARING WITH .....

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COMPARING WITH SEPTEMBER 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN OCTOBER 1992 DECREASED BY 3% IN VALUE AND 4% IN VOLUME.

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES ARE DERIVED FROM FIGURES ON THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER HAVING ADJUSTED FOR PRICE CHANGES.

THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS INDICATORS OF PRICE CHANGES.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE OCTOBER 1992 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

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/TABLE 1 .....

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for October 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$13,492.9 million  
 for September 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$13,927.8 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR SEPTEMBER 1992 AND OCTOBER 1992

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	September 1992	October 1992	October 1992 compared with September 1992		October 1992 compared with October 1991		Jan-Oct 1992 compared with Jan-Oct 1991	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
<b>(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS</b>									
	Value	148.3	143.7	-4.6	-3.1	+19.2	+15.4	+21.7	+18.5
	Volume	129.5	124.8	-4.6	-3.6	+11.5	+10.1	+13.6	+12.5
<b>(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET</b>									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	123.3	121.2	-2.1	-1.7	-2.0	-1.6	+4.7	+4.1
	Volume	99.5	101.5	+2.1	+2.1	-6.7	-6.2	-3.0	-3.0
Supermarkets	Value	136.8	124.5	-12.3	-9.0	+9.2	+8.0	+11.9	+10.3
	Volume	110.5	100.2	-10.4	-9.4	+0.7	+0.8	+1.9	+1.9
Fuels	Value	150.4	162.4	+12.0	+8.0	+29.7	+22.4	+13.5	+11.0
	Volume	115.2	124.7	+9.6	+8.3	+16.3	+15.1	+3.8	+3.7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	149.7	160.2	+10.6	+7.1	+37.2	+30.2	+30.1	+25.2
	Volume	123.9	130.8	+6.9	+5.6	+20.3	+18.4	+15.4	+13.9
Consumer durable goods *	Value	182.8	162.4	-20.4	-11.2	+25.4	+18.5	+38.8	+31.4
	Volume	162.8	145.6	-17.2	-10.6	+19.2	+15.2	+30.4	+26.3
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	234.2	182.8	-51.3	-21.9	+30.3	+19.8	+69.5	+57.0
	Volume	196.1	152.9	-43.3	-22.1	+18.3	+13.6	+52.7	+48.0
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	145.7	147.7	+2.0	+1.4	+21.8	+17.4	+16.6	+13.3
	Volume	138.7	140.4	+1.6	+1.2	+19.8	+16.5	+14.3	+11.9
Department stores	Value	125.0	129.9	+4.9	+3.9	+13.5	+11.6	+17.4	+15.7
	Volume	105.0	107.5	+2.5	+2.4	+3.1	+3.0	+6.4	+6.2
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	146.6	135.7	-10.9	-7.4	+17.5	+14.8	+21.0	+18.3
	Volume	153.9	140.5	-13.4	-8.7	+20.0	+16.6	+26.0	+22.9
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	158.6	157.7	-0.9	-0.6	+28.2	+21.8	+23.1	+19.0
	Volume	135.6	134.2	-1.4	-1.1	+17.1	+14.6	+11.4	+9.9

NOTE : \* This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

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NAFTA AND EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET GENERATE OPPORTUNITIES

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THE IMMINENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET ARE SEEN AS "OPPORTUNITIES, AND NOT AS OBSTACLES TO FREE TRADE" BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR ALAN LAI.

SPEAKING AT A SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE CHINESE GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY (TUESDAY), MR LAI SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BUSINESSMEN IN HONG KONG, WHO WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR FLEXIBILITY AND INGENUITY, WOULD BE ABLE TO OPTIMISE ON THESE CHANGES.

HE SAID CONCERNS THAT THESE REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT LEAD TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIVERSION WERE LEGITIMATE.

"NO ONE COULD CLAIM THAT REGIONAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY ALTER EXISTING TRADE PATTERNS. HOWEVER, THE INCOME-GENERATING EFFECT OF SUCH ARRANGEMENT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

"INCREASED INVESTMENT AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES ARISING AS A RESULT OF RATIONALISED PRODUCTION AND ENHANCED MARKETS WILL MORE THAN OFFSET ANY LOSSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIVERSIONS," MR LAI SAID.

AS IN THE CASE OF NAFTA, PRELIMINARY STUDIES CONDUCTED BY THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG FIRMS BOTH IN TERMS OF A MORE PROSPEROUS MARKET FOR HONG KONG CONSUMER GOODS AND THE PROSPECTS OF MANUFACTURING IN LOW-COST MEXICO TO ACCESS NOT ONLY THE GROWING MEXICAN MARKET, BUT ALSO THE U.S. AND CANADA.

ACCORDING TO TRADE DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, THERE WAS POTENTIAL FOR TRADE DIVERSION FROM HONG KONG IN SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AS A RESULT OF TARIFF PHASE-OUTS IN THE LONGER TERM, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE SIGNIFICANT IN THE SHORTER TERM.

"FOR EXAMPLE, IN RESPECT OF TOYS AND CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, SIGNIFICANT AND IMMEDIATE TRADE DIVERSION WILL UNLIKELY OCCUR, SINCE MOST OF THESE PRODUCTS NOW ENTER THE U.S. AT LOW TARIFF RATES," MR LAI SAID.

NAFTA PROVIDED FOR TEXTILE AND APPAREL MANUFACTURED IN MEXICO TO BE ENTITLED TO PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT AND ITS RULE OF ORIGIN REQUIRED MOST TEXTILE AND APPAREL GOODS BE PRODUCED FROM YARN MADE IN A NAFTA COUNTRY.

"THESE ARRANGEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE A RESTRAINING EFFECT ON IMPORT, BUT GIVEN THE EXISTING PRODUCTION CAPABILITY IN NORTH AMERICA, OUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS WILL UNLIKELY RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT TRADE DIVERSION IN THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL SECTOR.

"DEMAND FOR TEXTILE AND APPAREL IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG FIRMS SHOULD CONTINUE," HE SAID.

/AS REGARDS .....

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AS REGARDS THE SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET, MR LAI SAID: "LIKE NAFTA, WE HOLD A CAUTIOUS VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH NON-COMMUNITY ECONOMIES."

"IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE STILL PROMISING SIGNS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT CREATION," HE SAID.

HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN WERE ENCOURAGED TO TRY TO REAP THE BENEFITS FLOWING FROM THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SINGLE MARKET.

MR LAI ASSURED THEM THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DILIGENT IN MAKING SURE THAT ANY FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD CONFORM FULLY WITH THE RELEVANT GENERAL AGREEMENT OF TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT) PROVISIONS, AND WERE NOT PURSUED AS A PROTECTIONIST MEASURE.

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#### BETTER FIRE PROTECTION FOR SHA TIN RESIDENTS

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY IMPROVING ITS SERVICES.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (HEADQUARTERS), MR TSANG KWONG-YU, WHEN OFFICIALLY OPENING THE SIU LEK YUEN FIRE STATION TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE SAID FIREMEN THERE HAD RESPONDED TO MORE THEN 500 FIRE CALLS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS SINCE THE STATION OPENED IN LAST MAY.

THEY MANAGED TO REACH WITHIN THE TARGET RESPONSE TIME 84 PER CENT OF THE CALLS WHICH IS HIGHER THAN THE OVERALL RESPONSE PERCENTAGE OF PAST YEARS.

"SUCH REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE WILL HELP THE DEPARTMENT MEET THE NEW TARGET OF 85 PER CENT," MR TSANG SAID.

HE PRAISED THE STAFF OF THE STATION FOR THEIR EFFICIENCY WHICH NOT ONLY BRING MERIT TO THE DEPARTMENT, BUT ALSO ASSURE THE PUBLIC OF A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.

SHA TIN, HE SAID, HAD DEVELOPED RAPIDLY OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS FROM A RURAL TOWNSHIP TO A MAJOR NEW TOWN WHICH WOULD HAVE A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 600,000 WHEN FULLY DEVELOPED.

TO COPE WITH THE EXPANSION, THE NEW FIRE STATION WAS BUILT TO PROVIDE THE APPROVED STANDARD OF FIRE SERVICES TO AREAS FALLING OUTSIDE THE COVERAGE OF THE EXISTING STATIONS, HE ADDED.

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MALCOLM RIFKIND VISITS FAR EAST

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MR MALCOLM RIFKIND LEAVES LONDON TODAY FOR HIS FIRST VISIT AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE TO HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA.

HONG KONG WILL BE THE FIRST STOP ON HIS TOUR AND WHILE HERE HE WILL HAVE TALKS WITH THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN.

HE WILL ALSO VISIT UNITS OF THE HONG KONG GARRISON AND MEET MEMBERS OF ALL THREE ARMED SERVICES.

FROM HONG KONG MR RIFKIND WILL FLY TO SINGAPORE AND THEN ON TO MALAYSIA. IN BOTH COUNTRIES HE WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT MINISTERS.

DURING HIS VISITS TO HONG KONG UNITS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (JANUARY 7 AND 8), MR RIFKIND WILL BE WINCHED DOWN FROM A ROYAL AIR FORCE WESSEX HELICOPTER ON TO A ROYAL NAVY PATROL CRAFT (HMS STARLING) DEPLOYED ON ANTI-SMUGGLING DUTIES.

HE WILL ALSO LOOK AT THE GARRISON'S ARMY AND RAF HELICOPTER SQUADRONS AT SEK KONG; VISIT A GURKHA BATTALION ON A LIVE-FIRING EXERCISE ON CASTLE PEAK TRAINING AREA; SEE THE NEW ROYAL NAVY BASE ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND; AND THE HONG KONG MILITARY SERVICE CORPS.

BEFORE LEAVING FOR HONG KONG, MR RIFKIND SAID:

"I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY OF VISITING HONG KONG AS DEFENCE SECRETARY AND MEETING SOME OF OUR SERVICEMEN STATIONED THERE.

"SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA ARE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE HAD CLOSE DEFENCE LINKS OVER MANY YEARS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENT, AND MY DISCUSSIONS THERE WILL HELP BUILD ON THOSE RELATIONSHIPS."

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YANTIAN DELEGATION VISITS MARINE DEPARTMENT

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A SIX-MEMBER DELEGATION OF THE SHENZHEN DONG PENG INDUSTRIAL COMPANY LIMITED FROM YANTIAN THIS (TUESDAY) MORNING PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

LED BY THE COMPANY'S GENERAL MANAGER, MR CHENG YUK-HANG, THE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DIRECTORATE AT MARINE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

THE GROUP WAS BRIEFED ON THE PORT'S OPERATION, THE DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF FOREIGN SHIPS ENTERING AND CLEARING PROCEDURES, CARGO IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS WHICH APPLIED TO THE PORT OF HONG KONG, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ORGANISATION.

/IN RETURN .....

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IN RETURN, THE DELEGATION TOLD HONG KONG OFFICIALS THE COMPANY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE YANTIAN PORT WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR.

THE GROUP ALSO TOURED THE DEPARTMENT'S VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE AND THE MARITIME RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CENTRE.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
TENDER RESULTS  
\* \* \* \* \*

TENDER DATE	5 JANUARY 93	5 JANUARY 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q301	H355
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 2,955MN	HKD 1,110MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 800MN	HKD 300MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.69 PCT	3.92 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.70 PCT	3.95 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 65 PCT	ABOUT 36 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.75 PCT	3.98 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 11 JANUARY 93 -

TENDER DATE	12 JANUARY 93
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q302
ISSUE DATE	13 JANUARY 93
MATURITY DATE	14 APRIL 93
TENOR	91 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD 800+160 MN

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
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	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,500
REVERSAL OF LAF	NIL
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-330
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,170

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.6 \*+0.2\* 5.1.1993

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS				HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS		
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.11 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	101.14	4.49
1 MONTH	3.39 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.99	4.80
3 MONTHS	3.65 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	98.96	5.11
6 MONTHS	3.84 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.92	5.30
12 MONTHS	4.42 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,810 MN

CLOSED 4 JANUARY 1993

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