



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1992

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GOVERNOR VISITS POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON OF TILLYORN, TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND SAW OFFICERS AT WORK USING SOME OF THE MODERN EQUIPMENT RECENTLY ACQUIRED BY THE FORCE.

THE GOVERNOR TOURED THE HONG KONG ISLAND REGIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE WHICH USED ADVANCED COMPUTER AND RADIO SYSTEMS TO DEAL WITH POLICING SITUATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

HE WAS ALSO SHOWN HOW THE STAFF USE COMPUTERS TO TASK PATROL OFFICERS MORE EFFICIENTLY, PARTICULARLY IN RESPONDING TO "999" CALLS.

THE GOVERNOR WAS THEN BRIEFED ON THE COMPUTER ASSISTED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

THIS HI-TECH AND POWERFUL TOOL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY USED IN OVER 480 CASES SINCE IT CAME INTO OPERATION IN MAY LAST YEAR.

HE ALSO VISITED THE BALLISTIC AND FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION BUREAU WHERE HE SAW HOW ADVANCED FORENSIC TECHNIQUES ARE USED FOR INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING GUNS.

LORD WILSON WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON THE WORK OF THE CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF THE FORCE, IN PARTICULAR THE PERSONNEL SECTION.

BEFORE THE DEPARTURE HE MET A CROSS SECTION OF CIVILIAN AND DISCIPLINED STAFF AT A TEA RECEPTION.

THE GOVERNOR COMMENTED: "I AM GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I HAVE SEEN TODAY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A LARGE INVESTMENT IN FIRST-CLASS EQUIPMENT TO HELP THE POLICE IN THEIR WORK, AND I CAN SEE THAT THEY ARE PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE."

"I ALSO ENJOYED MEETING AND SPEAKING WITH POLICE OFFICERS AND FORCE CIVILIANS. THEIR COMMITMENT TO THEIR WORK IS IMPRESSIVE. WE CAN BE PROUD OF THEM AND THE JOB THEY DO."

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NEED TO OPTIMISE HUMAN POTENTIAL STRESSED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING ITS INVALUABLE HUMAN RESOURCES WHICH HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY ARE VERY MUCH DEPENDENT ON, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO '92 AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MR CHAN SAID HONG KONG IS NOW GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING.

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"TO MEET THE CHALLENGES PRESENTED BY THESE CHANGES, WE NEED TO OPTIMISE OUR HUMAN POTENTIAL MORE THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN OUR HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

"WE RECOGNISE THAT EDUCATION AND TRAINING ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE IN MAINTAINING A SUPPLY OF QUALITY PERSONNEL.

"THE GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY TO THE EXPANSION OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AS WELL AS TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS."

TO MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, MR CHAN FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE PROPER CAREERS GUIDANCE TO MEET YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS IN FINDING CAREERS RELEVANT TO THEIR TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HAS IN THE PAST 19 YEARS ORGANISED ANNUAL CAREERS EXHIBITIONS WHICH WERE ALL WELL-RECEIVED.

THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HAS ALSO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE FIRST EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO IN 1990.

MR CHAN DESCRIBED THE FOUR-DAY EDUCATION AND CAREERS EXPO '92 AS THE LARGEST EXHIBITION ON CAREERS, ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES EVER ORGANISED IN HONG KONG.

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE SOME 100 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES AND 64 ORGANISATIONS COVERING A CROSS SECTION OF HONG KONG'S TRADES, PROFESSIONS AND SERVICES.

VISITORS CAN ALSO TAKE PART IN THE 42 TALKS ON ADVANCED EDUCATION AND 22 CAREERS TALKS AND VIDEO SHOWS PRESENTED BY THE ORGANISERS.

RUNNING CONCURRENTLY IN THE SAME VENUE IS THE THIRD BRITISH EDUCATION EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

"IT IS INDEED A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS WORKING ADULTS TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON FURTHER EDUCATION AND CAREERS," THE SECRETARY SAID.

"I HOPE THAT THOSE WHO ARE PLANNING FOR THEIR FUTURE OR SEEKING A BETTER CAREER WILL MAKE THE BEST USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY."

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JOINT ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION MOUNTED

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A TERRITORY-WIDE ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION OPERATION JOINTLY MOUNTED BY THE POLICE, THE LABOUR AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENTS RECENTLY HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 100 PERSONS.

THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO GET RID OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

OF THE ARRESTED PERSONS, 11 WERE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT AT THE BORDER. THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO SAN UK LING FOR REPATRIATION.

THE REMAINING 89 HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING HIMSELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE JOINT OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

AS A RESULT, A TOTAL OF 9,044 PERSONS, 1,329 VEHICLES AND 269 VESSELS WERE STOPPED FOR IDENTIFICATION CHECKS.

SEVEN PERSONS WERE SUMMONSED AND FOUR PERSONS CHARGED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PROPER PROOF OF IDENTITY.

ON THE LABOUR FRONT, INSPECTORS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT VISITED 3,146 ESTABLISHMENTS TO WEED OUT ANY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO MAY BE WORKING, AND TO CHECK THAT EMPLOYERS FULFIL THEIR LEGAL OBLIGATION OF KEEPING PROPER RECORDS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

A TOTAL OF 10,968 EMPLOYEES HAD THEIR PROOF OF IDENTITY CHECKED DURING THE OPERATION.

TWENTY-NINE ESTABLISHMENTS WERE FOUND NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTION A RECORD OF EMPLOYEES.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THEY COULD BE FINED UP TO \$50,000 AND JAILED FOR UP TO ONE YEAR IF THEY WERE FOUND TO BE EMPLOYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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BULK ACQUISITION OF MAINFRAME SYSTEMS FOR DEPARTMENTS

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE A STEP FURTHER TO STANDARDISE THE USE OF MAINFRAME COMPUTER BY ISSUING FOR THE FIRST TIME A TENDER FOR BULK ACQUISITION OF MAINFRAME COMPUTERS.

THIS FOLLOWS THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE DAISY REPORT WHICH HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR POLICY GROUP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE IN MARCH, 1989.

NORMALLY, THE GOVERNMENT PURCHASED MAINFRAME COMPUTERS ON PROJECT BASIS AND ISSUE TENDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DAISY REPORT IS TO STANDARDISE THE TYPES OF MAINFRAME COMPUTERS TO BE PURCHASED FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SO AS TO ENHANCE CONTROL OF USAGE BY THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT (ITSD) AND ECONOMISE TRAINING RESOURCES.

THE TENDER FOR THE BULK ACQUISITION OF S/370 MAINFRAME COMPUTERS WILL BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY). LOCAL COMPANIES INTERESTED ARE WELCOME TO BID.

THE MAINFRAME SYSTEMS/ITEMS OBTAINED WILL BE CONFIGURED BY THE ITSD TO FORM WORKING SYSTEMS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL END-USER'S COMPUTING NEEDS. ON-SITE INSTALLATION WORK AND BACK-UP MAINTENANCE SERVICE ARE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TENDER.

AFTER ENTERING INTO THE CONTRACT, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PAY A NOMINAL CONSIDERATION OF ONE HK DOLLAR TO THE CONTRACTOR AND THE CONTRACTOR WILL AGREE TO MAKE A STANDING OFFER TO SELL SUCH COMPUTER HARDWARE AND/OR LICENSE SUCH SOFTWARE AS AND WHEN REQUIRED BY THE GOVERNMENT AT AN AGREED PRICE ON THE AGREED TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

DURATION OF THE STANDING OFFER IS 24 MONTHS. THE QUANTITY DRAWN UNDER THIS STANDING OFFER IS NOT LIMITED.

THE GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, DOES NOT BIND ITSELF TO RESTRICT ITS PURCHASE OF MAINFRAME COMPUTERS ONLY THROUGH THIS INTENDING CONTRACT AS IT IS STILL FREE TO SEPARATELY TENDER FOR MAINFRAME COMPUTERS IF THE REQUIREMENTS ARE OF VERY DIVERTING CONFIGURATION OR SPECIFICATION FROM THOSE AVAILABLE IN THE CONTRACT.

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EMPLOYMENT CRITERIA FOR LOCAL WORKERS MUST BE FAIR
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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT APPROVAL TO IMPORT FOREIGN LABOUR WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO FIRST TAKE ON LOCAL WORKERS.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT SOME EMPLOYERS HAD SET EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA FOR LOCAL JOB APPLICANTS WHEN REGISTERING THEIR VACANCIES WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES), ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR ALFRED CHAN SAID THE REQUIREMENTS MUST BE REASONABLE AND RELEVANT TO THE NATURE OF THE JOBS OFFERED.

"WE WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE JOB SPECIFICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS IN EACH CASE TO SEE IF THEY MATCH AND WILL INCORPORATE OUR ASSESSMENT IN OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EMPLOYMENT VISA CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (EVCC) FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION," MR CHAN SAID.

"IF AN EMPLOYER DELIBERATELY SETS EXCESSIVELY RESTRICTIVE CRITERIA NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE NATURE OF THE JOB FOR LOCAL WORKERS, OR REFUSES TO TAKE ON LOCAL WORKERS WITHOUT GOOD REASONS, HIS APPLICATION FOR QUOTA ALLOCATION UNDER THE GENERAL LABOUR IMPORTATION SCHEME MAY BE REJECTED BY THE EVCC," HE REMINDED.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT UNDER THE SCHEME, EMPLOYERS WERE REQUIRED FIRST TO TAKE ON SUITABLE LOCAL WORKERS REFERRED TO THEM BY THE LES BEFORE THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR QUOTA ALLOCATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

THE LES HAS SO FAR RECEIVED 70,685 VACANCIES FROM EMPLOYERS UNDER THE SCHEME, AND APPLICATION FOR QUOTA ALLOCATION WILL CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 28.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO MEET ON MONDAY
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THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON "PLANNING AND FINANCIAL CONTROL BY THE GOVERNMENT ON BUILDING THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY" ON MONDAY (FEBRUARY 24) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER. IT WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

INVITED TO THE HEARING WILL BE CHIEF SECRETARY SIR DAVID FORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO CHIEF SECRETARY MS EMMA LAU, SIR GORDON MACWHINNIE, MAJOR GENERAL GUY WATKINS, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, MR I.F.C. MACPHERSON, SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER MR JOHN CHAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER MISS CHRISTINE CHOW, MR K.Y. YEUNG, MR M. PAGLIARI, MR JOSE LEI AND DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES MR P.J. CORSER.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO RESERVE SEATS IN THE PUBLIC GALLERY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER BY TELEPHONING 869 9492.

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HK'S TRADE WITH CHINA OF OUTWARD PROCESSING NATURE, 3RD QUARTER 1991
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IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF LAST YEAR, SOME 68% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WAS RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME 57% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WAS FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 77% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 49% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990 WERE 62% FOR IMPORTS, 60% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, 78% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND 53% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991, SOME 66% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WAS RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME 57% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WAS FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 77% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 49% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1990 WERE 62% FOR IMPORTS, 58% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS, 79% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND 50% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY AS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 TO DISTINGUISH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO CHINA - BOTH DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS - INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS ALSO BEEN EXTENDED AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, SOME \$54,070 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 38% OVER THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1990.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 28% TO \$31,181 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 13% TO \$10,930 MILLION AND 39% TO \$20,251 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991, SOME \$137,201 MILLION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 34% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990.

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OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 27% TO \$82,653 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 12% TO \$29,191 MILLION AND 38% TO \$53,462 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

THE ESTIMATES FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 AND JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991 AND THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990 ARE SUMMARISED IN THE TABLE BELOW:

TOTAL VALUE OF TRADE WITH CHINA AND ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING NATURE, 3RD QUARTER OF 1991 AND JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 1991

	3RD QTR. 1991 (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER 3RD QTR. 1990 (%)	JAN.-SEP. 1991 (HKD MN.)	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER JAN.-SEP. 1991 (%)

TOTAL TRADE VALUE * :				

IMPORTS FROM CHINA	79,288	+25.9	207,805	+25.4
TOTAL EXPORTS				
TO CHINA	55,172	+37.0	145,947	+31.6
DOMESTIC EXPORTS				
TO CHINA	14,188	+13.8	37,772	+13.9
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	40,984	+47.4	108,175	+39.1

ESTIMATED VALUE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE :				

IMPORTS FROM CHINA	54,070	+37.9	137,201	+34.3
TOTAL EXPORTS				
TO CHINA	31,181	+28.2	82,653	+27.5
DOMESTIC EXPORTS				
TO CHINA	10,930	+12.5	29,191	+12.0
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	20,251	+38.5	53,462	+37.9

/ESTIMATED PROPORTION

ESTIMATED PROPORTION OF OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE IN TRADE WITH CHINA :

	3RD QTR. 1991 ----- (%)	3RD QTR. 1990 ----- (%)	JAN.-SEP. 1991 ----- (%)	JAN.-SEP. 1990 ----- (%)
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	68.2	62.3	66.0	61.7
TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	56.5	60.4	56.6	58.5
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	77.0	77.9	77.3	78.6
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	49.4	52.6	49.4	49.9

* THE VALUE EXCLUDES COMMODITIES AND TRANSACTIONS NOT CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO KIND.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES ARE UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA (IMPORTS FROM CHINA, DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA) IS SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, ARE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE.

THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

"THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, HOWEVER, FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS."

THE ABOVE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN PART I OF THE DECEMBER 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE", WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AROUND FEBRUARY 21 AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AT \$33.5 PER COPY.

REARING HANDICAPPED CHILDREN A GREAT PROBLEM

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TEACHING PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN POSES GREAT CHALLENGES TO TEACHERS, BUT BRINGING UP PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IS AN EVEN GREATER PROBLEM FOR THEIR PARENTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY LADY WILSON TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA RED CROSS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL.

SHE SAID APART FROM COPING WITH STRESS AND STRAIN, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS HAD TO FIND SPECIAL COURAGE IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THEIR LIVES.

"THEIR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT SHOULD BE, AND OFTEN IS, A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR THOSE OF US WHO DO NOT HAVE TO FACE SUCH PROBLEMS IN OUR DAILY LIVES, BUT WHO WATCH HOW MUCH CAN BE ACHIEVED WITH LOVE, CARE AND IMMENSE PATIENCE."

THE REWARDS, SHE SAID, COULD BE TREMENDOUS.

"EACH STEP IS A MOUNTAIN CLIMBED, BUT THE EFFORT AND COMMITMENT HAS TO BE CONSTANT, AND IS THEREFORE VERY DEMANDING," SHE SAID.

LADY WILSON SAID SHE WAS ENORMOUSLY IMPRESSED BY THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE EXCELLENT FACILITIES THERE.

BUT SHE ADMITTED THAT HER THOUGHTS TODAY WERE WITH THE CHILDREN ATTENDING THE SCHOOL, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR TEACHERS.

APART FROM CONGRATULATING ALL THE TEACHERS AT THE SCHOOL FOR THE EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT, LADY WILSON ALSO CONGRATULATED ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE RED CROSS, AND ALL OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL IN WHATEVER CAPACITY.

"THE DEDICATION AND LOVE FROM PARENTS AND STAFF, THE COURAGE AND EFFORT OF THE CHILDREN, AND THE SUPPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, SUPERVISORS, AND THOSE WHO HELP ADVISE THE SCHOOL FROM GOVERNMENT AND ELSEWHERE, ARE ALL REASONS WHY THE SCHOOL HAS COME SO FAR, AND BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL," SHE ADDED.

ORIGINALLY AN ORPHANAGE FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, KNOWN AS THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA RED CROSS CHILDREN'S HOME, THE SCHOOL WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1962 WITH A DONATION FROM THE WORLD REFUGEE YEAR FUND.

THE PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE EDUCATION AND CARE FOR 60 PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN THREE PRIMARY CLASSES.

OVER THE YEARS, THE SCHOOL HAS EXPANDED A GREAT DEAL TO MEET AN EVER GROWING DEMAND.

IT STARTED ITS FIRST CLASS FOR MULTIPLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN 1969, AND ITS FIRST SECONDARY CLASS IN 1983.

WITH THESE NEW FACILITIES, THE SCHOOL IS NOW RUNNING 18 CLASSES FROM PREPARATORY LEVEL TO SECONDARY 5, WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 180 PLACES.

THE OLD PREMISES WHICH ARE LOCATED VERY CLOSE TO THE NEW BUILDING HAVE ALSO BEEN CONVERTED INTO DORMITORIES FOR 66 BOARDERS.

"THIS REPROVISIONING PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A MOST WELCOME, MORE SPACIOUS AND VERY PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT FOR THE STAFF AND CHILDREN OF THE SCHOOL."

LADY WILSON SAID EVERY SPECIAL SCHOOL NEEDED DEDICATED TEACHERS TO LOOK AFTER ITS PUPILS, AND THIS WAS EVEN MORE SO IN SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED.

SHE SAID SHE WAS GLAD TO SEE THAT THE NEW SCHOOL HAD ALREADY PREPARED ITS PUPILS TO SIT FOR THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION.

"THEIR EXAMINATION RESULTS ARE ENCOURAGING AND HAVE DEMONSTRATED HOW THE DEGREE OF ABILITY CAN BE MAXIMISED, GIVEN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT, AND SUPPORT," SHE SAID.

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STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECYCLING EXPANDED

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS EXPANDED THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY ON RECYCLING OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEIVED AT LANDFILLS TO INCLUDE OVERSEEING A PILOT SCHEME FOR CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECYCLING.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID A PILOT SCHEME FOR CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECYCLING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN MARCH THIS YEAR BY CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT'S CONTRACTOR AT TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL FOR A SIX-WEEK PERIOD.

THE PILOT SCHEME WILL ASSESS THE APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECYCLING UNDER LOCAL CONDITIONS.

CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEIVED AT LANDFILLS IS CURRENTLY ABOUT 16,000 TONNES PER DAY WHICH AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 70 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ARISING IN HONG KONG.

CONSTRUCTION WASTE INCLUDES VARIOUS COMPONENTS, SUCH AS BUILDING DEBRIS, TIMBER, SITE CLEARANCE MATERIALS, ROCK, RUBBLE AND MIXED SOFT MATERIALS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF THE ORIGINAL STUDY, ABOUT 60 PER CENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEIVED AT LANDFILLS COULD BE RECYCLED FOR REUSE.

THE PILOT SCHEME WILL INVOLVE SEPARATING TIMBER FROM THE IN-COMING CONSTRUCTION WASTE AND BREAKING UP OF LARGE PIECES OF CONCRETE TO GENERATE ONE STREAM OF MATERIALS THAT IS SUITABLE FOR USE FOR RECLAIMING LAND AND ANOTHER THAT IS MORE APPROPRIATELY DISPOSED OF AS WASTE AT A LANDFILL SITE.

THE SCHEME WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES ON A TRIAL BASIS TO RECYCLE 1,000 TONNES PER DAY OF CONSTRUCTION WASTE RECEIVED AT LANDFILL.

THE EXPANDED SCOPE OF THE STUDY WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE, CO-ORDINATION AND REPORTING ON THE PILOT SCHEME AND WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPROPRIATE CONSTRUCTION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT.

THE COST OF THE STUDY IS HK\$350,000. AN AGREEMENT TO COVER THIS PILOT SCHEME WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN EPD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (WASTE AND WATER POLICY) MR MIKE STOKOE AND THE DIRECTOR OF DONOHUE/JRP ASIA PACIFIC LTD., MR T.E. SIEBERS.

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TAC MEMBERS VISIT BORDER CROSSINGS

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MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (THURSDAY) VISITED LO WU, MAN KAM TO AND LOK MA CHAU TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AT THE BORDER CROSSINGS.

LED BY THE TAC CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR LEUNG CHI-KEUNG, MEMBERS FIRST TOURED THE LO WU TERMINAL. THEY THEN VISITED THE MAN KAM TO CROSSING, WHICH PROVIDED THE MOST DIRECT LINK BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SHENZHEN CITY CENTRE.

AT PRESENT, THE DAILY TWO-WAY TRAFFIC THROUGH MAN KAM TO IS ABOUT 10,000 VEHICLES, OF WHICH 96 PER CENT ARE GOODS VEHICLES AND CONTAINER TRUCKS WHILE THE OTHERS ARE COACHES AND PRIVATE CARS.

MEMBERS WERE BRIEFED ON THE MEASURES TO TACKLE THE CONGESTION PROBLEM AT THE MAN KAM TO CROSSING.

THESE MEASURES INCLUDED SPEEDING UP THE PROCESSING TIME FOR VEHICLES, FURTHER DIVERSION OF VEHICLES TO THE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING AND THE ISSUE OF NEW CLOSED-ROAD PERMITS ONLY FOR LOK MA CHAU.

SINCE NOVEMBER 19 LAST YEAR, OFFICIALS AT BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER HAVE BEEN PROCESSING VEHICLES AT MAN KAM TO AT THE SAME RATE OF ABOUT 200 TO 250 PER HALF HOUR, REDUCING THE AVERAGE QUEUE LENGTH AT PEAK PERIODS FROM 800 VEHICLES TO ABOUT 400 VEHICLES AND THE MAXIMUM WAITING TIME FROM TWO HOURS TO ONE HOUR.

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IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT ABOUT 3,000 VEHICLES HAD BEEN DIVERTED FROM MAN KAM TO TO LOK MA CHAU CROSSING SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LATTER ON DECEMBER 29, 1989.

ABOUT 200 MORE GOODS VEHICLES WOULD BE SO DIVERTED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

AT THE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING, MEMBERS TOURED THE CONTROL POINT, INCLUDING THE BRIDGE, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FACILITIES.

MEMBERS NOTED THAT SINCE THE OPERATING HOURS OF THE LOK MA CHAU BORDER CROSSING WERE EXTENDED ON AUGUST 8 LAST YEAR FROM 9 AM - 5 PM TO 7.30 AM - 8 PM DAILY, THE NUMBER OF VEHICULAR CROSSINGS HAD INCREASED FROM UNDER 5,000 TO MORE THAN 5,500 PER DAY, OF WHICH 99 PER CENT WERE GOODS VEHICLES AND CONTAINER TRUCKS.

AT PRESENT, THE UTILISATION RATE OF THIS CROSSING IS ABOUT 35 PER CENT.

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NEW IMMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN HK AND ARGENTINA

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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT, WITH EFFECT FROM FEBRUARY 24 THIS YEAR:

- * HONG KONG BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN PASSPORT HOLDERS AND BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT HOLDERS MAY BE PERMITTED TO VISIT ARGENTINA WITHOUT VISA FOR A PERIOD OF NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS; AND
- * SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WILL BE MADE FOR ARGENTINE PASSPORT HOLDERS VISITING HONG KONG ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE INTENDED TO FACILITATE TRAVEL BETWEEN THE TWO TERRITORIES, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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YAU TSIM FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY

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A CARNIVAL TO SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE WILL BE HELD AT THE PIAZZA OF THE KOWLOON PARK IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 23) BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARNIVAL.

/THE CARNIVAL

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THE CARNIVAL IS ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD.

IT WILL FEATURE PERFORMANCES BY POPULAR SINGERS AND A POLICE BAND.

THERE WILL ALSO BE GAMESTALLS, QUIZ ON COMBATING CRIME, DISPLAYS OF CRIME PREVENTION INSTALLATIONS AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATIONS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE HANDICRAFT.

MEANWHILE, FREE COUPONS FOR TAKING PART IN THE STALL GAMES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, AND THE YAU MA TEI HENRY G. LEONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TELEPHONE 301 2160.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON SUNDAY (FEBRUARY 23) AT THE PIAZZA OF THE KOWLOON PARK, TSIM SHA TSUI.

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FIRST BATCH OF PENSIONERS' WELFARE FUND DISTRIBUTED
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SEVEN PERSONS RECEIVED THE FIRST DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH'S PENSIONERS' WELFARE FUND TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FUND AIMS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PENSIONERS, OR THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED PENSIONERS, IN CASES OF GENUINE HARDSHIP.

RECEIVING A SUM OF \$5,000 EACH FROM THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE (STAFF MANAGEMENT), MRS ALICE LAI, WERE FOUR PENSIONERS AND WIVES OF THREE DECEASED PENSIONERS.

RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS OR THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED PENSIONERS CAN APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND TO COVER MEDICAL EXPENSES INCLUDING EXPENSES FOR SPECIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND FUNERAL EXPENSES.

PENSIONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN DISTRESS CAN ALSO APPLY FOR SPECIAL GRANTS.

ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND IS IN THE FORM OF A ONE-OFF GRANT AND THE NORMAL DISBURSEMENT FOR EACH APPLICATION IS \$5,000.

/THE PENSIONERS'

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THE PENSIONERS' WELFARE FUND IS ONE OF THE NEW SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE BRANCH TO HELP RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS.

THE BRANCH HAS ALSO ARRANGED WITH THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A REGISTER TO ASSIST PENSIONERS TO SECURE EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

ON PRODUCTION OF HIS OR HER PENSIONER CARD, A PENSIONER CAN NOW REGISTER AT THE LES BRANCH OFFICE NEAR THEIR HOME FOR EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ON A BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON SO THAT THEY CAN BE CLOSED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED STRUCTURES ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF FLAT E ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF 444-450 CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON APRIL 30 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	19.2.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	20.2.92	+59
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-59
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.5 *+0.1*	20.2.92	

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.90 PCT	21 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.37	5.48
1 MONTH	3.90 PCT	24 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.00	5.58
3 MONTHS	3.96 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.10 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.55 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 3,719 MN

CLOSED 20 FEBRUARY 1992

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