



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR OCTOBER 1991 RELEASED

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS AND THE BROADER DEFINITIONS OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY INCREASED DURING OCTOBER, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO RECORDED AN INCREASE IN OCTOBER.

DEPOSITS

HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS, GREW BY 0.5% IN OCTOBER FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 2.4% AND 2.9% IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE DEPOSITS, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND TIME DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.3% AND 1.4% RESPECTIVELY WHILE SAVINGS DEPOSITS ROSE BY 3.5% IN OCTOBER.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 13.3%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 1.8% IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.6% AND 0.4% RESPECTIVELY IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS AND NON-U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 1.4% AND 2.0% RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 7.9%.

DURING OCTOBER, DEPOSITS OF ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS ROSE BY 1.4% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 1.7% AND 3.3% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS INCREASED BY 11.8% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES FELL BY 3.1% AND 25.7% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1 DECREASED BY 0.4% WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 0.6% AND 0.4% RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER, COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES OF 5.4%, 2.8% AND 2.7% IN SEPTEMBER.

OVER THE YEAR, THESE MONETARY AGGREGATES ROSE BY 20.5%, 15.3% AND 13.2% RESPECTIVELY.

/TOTAL M1

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TOTAL M1 DECREASED BY 1.3% WHILE M2 AND M3 INCREASED BY 1.3% AND 1.1% RESPECTIVELY IN OCTOBER. THEIR CORRESPONDING GROWTH RATES IN SEPTEMBER WERE 7.1%, 1.3% AND 1.4%.

OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 GREW BY 19.4%, 11.5% AND 10.2% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 3.6% IN OCTOBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 2.4% AND 1.9% IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

OF THE TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS, THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLAR AND THOSE DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCY GREW BY 0.9% AND 4.9% RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 18.0% AND 23.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE EXTERNAL TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 0.6% IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.3% IN AUGUST AND A DECREASE OF 0.8% IN SEPTEMBER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 18.5%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW BY 0.7% IN OCTOBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 1.3% AND 1.9% RESPECTIVELY IN THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 17.1%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG ROSE BY 5.9% IN OCTOBER, AFTER INCREASES OF 3.4% AND 2.2% IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 39.0%.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY ONE AND TWO TO 161 AND 160 RESPECTIVELY. THE NUMBER OF REPORTING RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 50.

/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - OCTOBER 1991

	Oct 1991	Earlier months (% change to Oct 1991)			(HK\$mn)
		Sep 1991	Jul 1991	Oct 1990	
<u>Money Supply</u>					
M1 - HK\$	108,142	108,539 (-0.4)	99,773 (8.4)	89,728 (20.5)	
Foreign currency	15,964	17,221 (-7.3)	14,177 (12.6)	14,177 (12.6)	
Total	124,106	125,761 (-1.3)	113,951 (8.9)	103,905 (19.4)	
M2 - HK\$*	611,155	607,616 (0.6)	574,701 (6.3)	530,131 (15.3)	
Foreign currency*	706,650	693,450 (1.9)	687,406 (2.8)	651,404 (8.5)	
Total	1,317,804	1,301,066 (1.3)	1,262,107 (4.4)	1,181,535 (11.5)	
M3 - HK\$*	636,798	634,385 (0.4)	602,407 (5.7)	562,607 (13.2)	
Foreign currency*	748,809	736,043 (1.7)	729,219 (2.7)	694,874 (7.8)	
Total	1,385,607	1,370,428 (1.1)	1,331,627 (4.1)	1,257,480 (10.2)	
Notes and coins in circulation	46,097	46,638 (-1.2)	44,564 (3.4)	40,457 (13.9)	
of which held by public	40,082	40,257 (-0.4)	38,450 (4.2)	35,211 (13.8)	
<u>Total Deposits</u>					
Total Demand deposits	84,024	85,504 (-1.7)	75,501 (11.3)	68,694 (22.3)	
Total Savings deposits	291,009	281,731 (3.3)	253,897 (14.6)	225,163 (29.2)	
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	886,557	877,155 (1.1)	877,790 (1.0)	834,990 (6.2)	
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	39,693	40,395 (-1.7)	38,905 (2.0)	40,976 (-3.1)	
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	24,816	25,668 (-3.3)	27,500 (-9.8)	33,421 (-25.7)	
HK\$ deposits*	583,035	580,212 (0.5)	550,663 (5.9)	514,606 (13.3)	
US\$ deposits*	301,948	297,719 (1.4)	288,738 (4.6)	296,219 (1.9)	
Other foreign currency deposits*	441,115	432,522 (2.0)	434,193 (1.6)	392,419 (12.4)	
All deposits	1,326,099	1,310,453 (1.2)	1,273,594 (4.1)	1,203,244 (10.2)	
Foreign currency swap deposits	41,893	45,008 (-6.9)	61,156 (-31.5)	68,416 (-38.3)	
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>					
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	82,806	82,297 (0.6)	81,903 (1.1)	69,872 (18.5)	
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	11,569	11,866 (-2.5)	9,828 (17.7)	10,112 (14.4)	
Other loans for use in H.K.	787,995	782,172 (0.7)	757,808 (4.0)	672,947 (17.1)	
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,185,737	1,119,381 (5.9)	1,059,148 (12.0)	852,910 (39.0)	
Other loans where the place of use is not known	39,046	39,016 (0.1)	41,584 (-6.1)	125,893 (-69.0)	
Loans in HK\$	697,195	690,896 (0.9)	671,257 (3.9)	590,715 (18.0)	
Loans in foreign currencies	1,409,958	1,343,836 (4.9)	1,279,015 (10.2)	1,141,020 (23.6)	
Total loans and advances	2,107,153	2,034,732 (3.6)	1,950,272 (8.0)	1,731,734 (21.7)	

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

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

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HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS THE FOUNDATION
FOR BETTER HOSPITAL CARE: GOVERNOR

* * * * *

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE STANDARDS OF CARE IN HOSPITALS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE COMMUNITY LOOKED TO THE AUTHORITY TO BRING ABOUT MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOSPITAL SERVICES.

"I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE VOCATION IT IS TO PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES WILL RESPOND TO THIS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM MUST BE TO GIVE THE COMMUNITY A CARING, RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT HOSPITAL SERVICE IT NEEDED.

"BUT THE COST OF HEALTH CARE IS RISING ALL THE TIME. THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF INFLATION. IT REFLECTS THE FACT THAT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES ARE IMPROVING RAPIDLY," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MEDICAL OPTIONS WHICH WERE IMPOSSIBLE A DECADE AGO WERE NOW ALMOST MATTERS OF ROUTINE.

HE CITED THE EXAMPLES THAT ULTRASOUND (ULTRASONOGRAPHY) EXAMINATIONS WERE NOW THE STANDARD TECHNIQUE FOR MONITORING FOETAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENDOSCOPY HAD BECOME AN IMPORTANT DIAGNOSTIC AND SURGICAL TECHNIQUE.

"THESE ARE MAJOR ADVANCES. THEY ARE MUCH TO BE WELCOMED. BUT THEY ARE ALSO EXPENSIVE.

"SO WE NEED TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES. OTHERWISE WE CANNOT AFFORD THE MODERN MEDICAL TECHNIQUES WE WOULD LIKE TO USE," HE SAID.

AMONGST OTHER THINGS, THAT MEANT MAXIMISING EFFICIENCY IN THE HOSPITALS AND EFFICIENCY IN HOSPITALS TRANSLATED INTO BETTER CARE FOR PATIENTS, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THE TASK OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WHICH HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL HONG KONG'S PUBLIC AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS TWO DAYS AGO, WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

"IT COVERS 36 HOSPITALS; ABOUT 37,000 MEMBERS OF STAFF; AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF ABOUT \$10 BILLION; AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARING FOR 64,000 PATIENTS EVERY YEAR," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE AUTHORITY HAD BEEN PREPARING FOR THESE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A YEAR AND THE TAKE-OVER HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PLANNED AND SKILFULLY IMPLEMENTED.

/"BUT THE

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"BUT THE CHALLENGES WHICH LIE AHEAD ARE, IF ANYTHING, MORE DAUNTING THAN THOSE WHICH HAVE FACED THE AUTHORITY DURING THE PLANNING STAGE," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR PAID A WARM TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO HAD WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY A REALITY.

"A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS IS DUE TO SIR SZE-YUEN CHUNG WHO HAS NOW ADDED LAUNCHING THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TO HIS MANY OTHER NOTABLE SERVICES TO THIS COMMUNITY.

"DECEMBER 1, 1991 WAS A MAJOR LANDMARK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S HOSPITAL SERVICES. THE COMMUNITY'S HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS ARE A CHALLENGE WHICH I KNOW THE AUTHORITY WILL MEET," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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NEW ERA IN PUBLIC HOSPITAL SERVICES BEGINS

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THE TASK OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY IS TO INTRODUCE UP-TO-DATE MANAGEMENT METHODS AND A NEW CORPORATE CULTURE TO TRANSFORM THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS INTO MORE CARING AND MORE EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS.

THESE REMARKS WERE MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, SIR S.Y. CHUNG, AT A CEREMONY THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON TO MARK THE AUTHORITY'S FORMAL ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PUBLIC HOSPITAL SYSTEM AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN HONG KONG'S HOSPITAL SERVICES.

THE CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE WITH THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, OFFICIATING.

GUESTS WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNING BODIES AND HOSPITAL GOVERNING COMMITTEES OF THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AS WELL AS VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY. STAFF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL PUBLIC HOSPITALS WERE ALSO PRESENT.

ADDRESSING THE CEREMONY, SIR S.Y. SAID TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE OBJECTIVE, THE AUTHORITY INTENDED TO CREATE A PARTNERSHIP OF ALL THOSE INVOLVED - THE PATIENTS, THE STAFF, THE AUTHORITY BOARD AND ITS SENIOR MANAGEMENT, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

"RESULTS WILL NOT BE EASY TO ACHIEVE. AND WILL CERTAINLY NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, BUT WITH THE GOODWILL AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL CONCERNED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL SUCCEED IN OUR AIM TO PROVIDE QUALITY HOSPITAL CARE FOR ALL OUR PATIENTS," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A FIRM FOUNDATION HAD BEEN LAID FOR THE WORK OF TRANSFORMING OUR ALREADY GOOD HOSPITALS INTO AN EVEN BETTER SYSTEM.

/SIR S.Y.

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SIR S.Y. NOTED THAT MANY OF THE FORMER SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, AND HAVE EVOLVED THEIR OWN PHILOSOPHIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OVER THE YEARS.

"IT IS OUR STATED INTENTION TO ENABLE THESE HOSPITALS TO MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP THESE CHARACTERISTICS WITHIN THE OVERALL POLICIES OF THE AUTHORITY.

"TO ENABLE THIS TO BE DONE, WE WILL ESTABLISH A GOVERNING COMMITTEE FOR EACH HOSPITAL.

"THE GOVERNING COMMITTEES FOR THE FORMER SUBVENTED HOSPITALS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED AND WILL ENABLE THE SUBVENTED BOARDS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OPERATION OF THE HOSPITALS, TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE COMMUNITY."

IN CONCLUSION, SIR S.Y. THANKED ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE UP ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

THEY INCLUDE THE AUTHORITY MEMBERS AND ITS STAFF, THE GOVERNMENT, THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, AND THE STAFF IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS, AND MANY OTHERS.

AT THE CEREMONY TODAY, THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY, DR E.K. YEOH, ALSO DELIVERED A KEYNOTE SPEECH ON THE WORK OF THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED ON DECEMBER 1, 1990. SINCE THEN, A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK HAS BEEN DONE TO BUILD UP THE HEAD OFFICE ORGANISATION AND THE BASIC CORPORATE INFRASTRUCTURE AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP THE POLICIES AND SYSTEMS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITY TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, THE AUTHORITY FORMALLY BECAME RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF 38 HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WILL BE ONE OF THE LARGEST EMPLOYERS IN HONG KONG, AFTER THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF, WITH ABOUT 37,000 STAFF AND AN ANNUAL BUDGET APPROACHING \$10 BILLION.

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GOVT RESPONSE TO ASIA WATCH REPORT

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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS ISSUED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, IN RESPONSE TO A REPORT RELEASED BY THE ASIA WATCH ON THE TREATMENT OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS:

"THE ASIA WATCH REPORT RECOGNISES THAT THE COST TO HONG KONG OF THE BURDEN WE HAVE CARRIED FOR OVER 16 YEARS IS HIGH (OVER US\$100 MILLION A YEAR). IT RECOGNISES ALSO THAT WE HAVE BEEN OPEN AND POSITIVE IN RESPONSE TO ASIA WATCH'S OWN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO THE CAMPS. BOTH ARE TRUE.

"HOWEVER, THE ASIA WATCH REPORT ALSO CRITICISES HONG KONG'S POLICY OF DETENTION AND SCREENING, WITHOUT RECOMMENDING ANY ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WE HAVE FACED FOR 16 YEARS AND WHICH HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY OVER 20,000 NEW ARRIVALS THIS YEAR.

"IN RECOMMENDING THAT THE POLICY OF DETENTION TO CEASE, ASIA WATCH FAILS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF OUR OWN COMMUNITY, MANY OF WHOM REGARD OUR POLICY OF ASYLUM FOR VIETNAMESE AS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF RETURNING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO CHINA. THEY SEE A DOUBLE STANDARD IN FAVOUR OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

"IN CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SCREENING, ASIA WATCH FAILS TO TAKE ANY ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS A PROCESS WHICH DURING THREE AND A HALF YEARS OF OPERATION WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE AS THOROUGH AS WE CAN.

"WE, AND UNHCR, BELIEVE THAT OUR SCREENING PROCESS COMPARES WELL WITH THOSE OF MANY OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD.

"IN CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO CONDITIONS IN THE EXISTING CAMPS, ASIA WATCH FAILS TO TAKE ANY ACCOUNT OF THE LIMITS IN POLITICAL AND RESOURCE TERMS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR PEOPLE WHOSE FUTURE LIES IN VIETNAM BUT WHO REFUSE TO GO HOME.

"ASIA WATCH CALLS FOR VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO BE GIVEN 'A CHANCE TO REDUCE THE POPULATION OF DETENTION CENTRES'. IT IGNORES THE FACT THAT DURING THE SCHEME'S THREE YEARS' OPERATION IN HONG KONG IT HAS RETURNED SOME 13,000 PEOPLE, WHILE OVER THE SAME PERIOD WE HAVE HAD OVER 60,000 NEW ARRIVALS AND 6,000 BIRTHS IN THE CAMPS HERE. TO ALLOW THIS SITUATION TO CONTINUE WOULD BE TO INVITE CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS TO DETERIORATE RATHER THAN IMPROVE.

"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT, AS THE UNHCR-BACKED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION ENVISAGES, A VOLUNTARY SCHEME AND AN ORDERLY SCHEME TO RETURN THOSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO DO NOT VOLUNTEER ARE COMPLEMENTARY, AND INDEED MUTUALLY REINFORCE EACH OTHER.

"ASIA WATCH MAKES SEVERAL CLAIMS ABOUT THE CONDITIONS AND TREATMENT THAT AWAIT RETURNEES. THE FACT IS THAT 13,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY RETURNED HOME FROM HONG KONG. THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST AND CLOSE MONITORING BY INDEPENDENT AGENCIES. THERE HAS BEEN NOT A SINGLE SUBSTANTIATED CASE OF PERSECUTION OF ANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED."

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266 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 266 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 88 MEN, 60 WOMEN, 62 BOYS AND 56 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 79TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 6,617 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 12,913 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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HONG KONG WORKING TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND

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HONG KONG NEGOTIATORS ARE PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS TO DO THEIR BIT TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT TALKS, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE ZONTA CLUB OF NEW TERRITORIES TODAY (TUESDAY) MR CHAU SAID IN THIS ROUND, HONG KONG IS AIMING NOT ONLY TO ACHIEVE FURTHER TRADE LIBERALISATION BUT ALSO TO OVERHAUL GATT RULES, ESPECIALLY IN AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE BECOME INADEQUATE TO COPE WITH THE TRADING REALITIES OF THE 1990'S.

ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION IS THE EXTENSION OF STANDARD NEW INTERNATIONAL RULES TO THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AREA OF TRADE IN SERVICES, TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION, AND TO TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES, HE ADDED.

MR CHAU SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS NOW NO FORMAL DEADLINE FOR CONCLUDING THE URUGUAY ROUND TALKS, MOST PARTICIPANTS ARE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO WIND UP BY EARLY 1992.

"A SUCCESSFUL ROUND WOULD REAFFIRM INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO ABIDE BY GATT OBLIGATIONS, IMPROVE THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM, AND LEAD TO AN EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE," HE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT CONFIDENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM IS LIKELY TO BE UNDERMINED IF THE ROUND FAILED.

"THE ABILITY OF THE GATT TO RESOLVE BILATERAL TRADE FRICTIONS MIGHT BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.

"ENTHUSIASM FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND POSSIBLY EVEN FOR TRADING BLOCS IS LIKELY TO GATHER GREATER MOMENTUM," HE SAID.

TRADING BLOCS ARE LIKELY TO STIFFLE THE GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MR CHAU ADDED.

/"WE HAVE

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"WE HAVE THEREFORE MADE IT OUR TOP PRIORITY TO WORK TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL URUGUAY ROUND WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN BOTH THE GATT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THAT FOR A SMALL PLACE LIKE HONG KONG WHICH HAS LITTLE OR NO POLITICAL CLOUT, THE PROTECTION AFFORDED BY INTERNATIONAL RULES SUCH AS THOSE UNDER THE GATT IS VERY IMPORTANT.

HE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE FIRST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP WAS THE AGREEMENT ON HONG KONG'S SEPARATE STATUS IN THE GATT.

THIS STATUS WAS FIRMLY SECURED IN 1986 WHEN, THROUGH THE UK'S SPONSORSHIP, HONG KONG WAS TURNED INTO A FULL SEPARATE MEMBER OF THE GATT.

A CHINESE COMMUNICATION TO THE GATT AT THE SAME TIME GUARANTEED THAT, AFTER 1997, HONG KONG WOULD CONTINUE TO BE A MEMBER USING THE NAME OF "HONG KONG, CHINA".

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE HONG KONG OFFICE IN GENEVA BECAME A FREE-STANDING HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE, WHILE THE HEAD OF THE OFFICE BECAME HONG KONG'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GATT.

THESE CHANGES, MR CHAU NOTED, HAVE BEEN VERY BENEFICIAL.

"THEY MEAN THAT HONG KONG'S IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD TRADE CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED.

"OUR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA HAS ACCESS TO THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMAL GROUPS IN THE GATT. OUR REPRESENTATIVES CHAIR IMPORTANT GATT COMMITTEES.

"IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS SO VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE GATT, OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE ABLE TO PLAY A FULL AND OFTEN LEADING ROLE," HE SAID.

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JAPANESE INVESTORS CONFIDENT IN HK'S FUTURE * * * * *

THE INCREASING PRESENCE OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG SIGNIFIES THE CONFIDENCE OF JAPANESE INVESTORS IN THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT AN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION SEMINAR IN OSAKA, JAPAN, MR BARMA SAID THEIR PRESENCE WAS ALSO PROOF THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO FIND NICHE AREAS AND CONDUCT PROFITABLE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.

/MR BARMA

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MR BARMA SAID ACCORDING TO A RECENT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, JAPAN CONTINUED TO BE HONG KONG'S SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT, AND HAD INDEED FOR THE FIRST TIME OVERTAKEN THE UNITED STATES TO BE THE LEADING SOURCE COUNTRY OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT.

"IN 1990, THE CUMULATIVE VALUE OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING IN HONG KONG TOTALLED US\$1.25 BILLION, REPRESENTING 31.5 PER CENT OF TOTAL OVERSEAS INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"JAPAN'S CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT IN 1990 WAS MORE THAN TWO TIMES THE AMOUNT RECORDED IN 1986 (US\$514 MILLION).

"THE GROSS ADDITIONS TO FIXED ASSETS BY JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS IN 1990 WAS US\$131 MILLION, WHICH COMPARES FAVOURABLY WITH THE RECORD HIGH OF US\$132 MILLION IN 1988," HE SAID.

MR BARMA SAID THERE WERE 173 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG WITH JAPANESE INVESTMENT.

OF THESE, 99 (OR 57.2 PER CENT) ARE WHOLLY-OWNED BY JAPANESE INTERESTS, 67 (38.8 PER CENT) ARE JOINT VENTURES WITH LOCAL INTERESTS, AND SEVEN (FOUR PER CENT) ARE JOINT VENTURES WITH OTHER OVERSEAS PARTNERS.

TOGETHER THEY EMPLOY MORE THAN 25,000 STAFF, REPRESENTING SOME 3.7 PER CENT OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE.

THE INDUSTRIES WHICH ATTRACT THE MOST JAPANESE INVESTMENT INCLUDE ELECTRONICS, ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

JAPAN LEADS OTHER OVERSEAS INVESTORS IN ALL THESE FIELDS EXCEPT FOR THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY, IN WHICH JAPAN IS RANKED SECOND AFTER THE UNITED STATES.

MR BARMA SAID THE FIGURES RELEASED BY THE JAPANESE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ALSO BORE OUT THE GROWTH OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

"THEY SHOW THAT HONG KONG HAS, IN RECENT YEARS, RANKED FIRST AMONGST ASIAN COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT INVESTMENT FROM JAPAN.

"SO WE HAVE SEEN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF QUITE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS INVOLVING JAPANESE INVESTMENT.

"MORE RECENTLY, MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF UNDERTAKING EXPANSION PROGRAMMES FOLLOWING YEARS OF PROFITABLE OPERATION," HE SAID.

MR BARMA TOLD THE JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN THAT HONG KONG WELCOMED THE INTEREST THEY HAD IN HONG KONG AND THE CONFIDENCE THEY HAD SHOWN BY INVESTING IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE SECTORS.

"IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR AN EVEN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP IN BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT," HE SAID.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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USA 'HIT LIST' SCRUTINISED

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THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE, YESTERDAY (DECEMBER 2) OFFICIALLY RELEASED THE PROPOSED LIST OF CHINESE EXPORTED PRODUCTS WHICH MAY BE SUBJECT TO RETALIATORY TARIFFS UNDER THE SPECIAL 301 PROVISION.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT THE FULL LIST TO LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS TODAY (TUESDAY) INVITING INDUSTRY LEADERS AND TRADERS TO GIVE VIEWS ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE COVERAGE OF THE LIST AND ITS LIKELY IMPACT TO HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS.

IN THE COVERING LETTER, TRADE DEPARTMENT ASSURED TRADERS THAT OFFICIALS WERE MAKING AN EFFORT TO SCRUTINISE THE LIST.

"WE ARE WORKING ON THE LIST TO ASSESS THE INTENDED COVERAGE AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH HONG KONG'S TRADING INTERESTS MAY BE AFFECTED.

"HOWEVER, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN THE US AND HONG KONG HARMONIZED SYSTEM (HS) OF TRADE CLASSIFICATION WHICH CAUSE DIFFICULTIES IN CORRELATING CERTAIN US HARMONIZED SYSTEM PRODUCT CODES TO HONG KONG HARMONIZED SYSTEM PRODUCT CODES.

"THE HONG KONG HARMONIZED SYSTEM PRODUCT CODES ARE REQUIRED TO RETRIEVE HONG KONG RE-EXPORT DATA," THE LETTER SAID.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT PROMISED TRADERS THAT IT WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM AGAIN ONCE THERE WERE PROGRESS.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT BRIEFED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RELEVANT TRADE ASSOCIATIONS AND THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE LAST THURSDAY. TRADERS WERE TOLD THAT THE EXAMINATION PROCESS MIGHT TAKE SOMETIME BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES OVER THE PRECISE AMOUNT OF TRADE COVERED BY THE LIST.

THE USA 'HIT LIST' WILL BE REPRODUCED IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE TRADE DEPARTMENT COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR (CIC) TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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APPLICATION APPROVED TO ACQUIRE LAND IN WALLED CITY

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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TODAY (TUESDAY) ENDORSED AN APPLICATION BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS TO ACQUIRE THE LAND IN THE WALLED CITY OVER WHICH 33 PLAINTIFFS HAD CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD ACQUIRED POSSESSORY TITLE.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SPECIAL DUTIES), MR PHILIP CHOK, EXPLAINED THAT THE APPLICATION WAS MADE UNDER THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) ORDINANCE.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, HAVING DECIDED THAT THE ACQUISITION OF AN AREA OF LAND WITHIN WALLED CITY IS REQUIRED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE, THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS CAN MAKE AN ACQUISITION ORDER FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH AREA OF LAND.

"UPON EXPIRY OF ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF AFFIXING THE NOTICE OF THE ACQUISITION ORDER UPON THE LAND, THE AREA OF LAND CONCERNED WILL VEST IN GOVERNMENT FREE OF ALL INTERESTS, RIGHTS OR EASEMENTS OF ANY KIND AND GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENTER UPON AND TAKE POSSESSION OF IT," MR CHOK SAID.

"THE CLAIMS OF ANY PERSON CLAIMING POSSESSORY TITLE WILL BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

ON NOVEMBER 27, THE DAY BEFORE CLEARANCE ACTION OF PHASE I OF KOWLOON WALLED CITY WAS DUE TO COMMENCE UNDER THE CROWN LAND ORDINANCE, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WAS SERVED WITH A WRIT OF SUMMONS BY 35 OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES WITHIN THE WALLED CITY WHICH ARE NAMED AS THE 33 PLAINTIFFS IN THE WRIT CLAIMING THAT THEY HAD ACQUIRED POSSESSORY TITLE OVER THE PREMISES THEY OCCUPY.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE STEPS TO MINIMISE THE DELAY THIS MIGHT CAUSE TO THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE PROJECT, MR CHOK SAID.

IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO INVOKE THE LAND ACQUISITION (POSSESSORY TITLE) ORDINANCE AND TO SEEK EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO ACQUIRE THE AREA OF LAND CONCERNED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE.

ALL OTHER STRUCTURES UNDER PHASE I OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY CLEARANCE PROJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN BACK IN A TWO-DAY OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 28 AND 29.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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NEW LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME TAKES EFFECT

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (LONG SERVICE PAYMENT) ORDINANCE HAD COME INTO EFFECT LAST FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 29).

UNDER THE NEW ORDINANCE, AN EMPLOYEE BELOW 45 YEARS OF AGE WHO HAS COMPLETED FIVE YEARS' CONTINUOUS SERVICE WITH AN EMPLOYER IS ENTITLED TO LONG SERVICE PAYMENT ON DISMISSAL.

HIS ENTITLEMENT WILL INCREASE IN PROPORTION TO HIS LENGTH OF SERVICE, UNTIL HE GETS THE FULL RATE OF PAYMENT.

DETAILS OF THE PAYMENT SCHEME ARE SET OUT AS FOLLOWS:

AGE OF EMPLOYEE	YEARS OF SERVICE AND % OF ENTITLEMENT					
	5	6	7	8	9	10 OR ABOVE
BELOW 41	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
41	50%	60%	70%	80%	100%	100%
42	50%	60%	70%	100%	100%	100%
43	50%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%
44	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
45 OR OVER	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FOR INSTANCE, AN EMPLOYEE AGED 35 AND WITH FIVE YEARS' SERVICE SHOULD BE GIVEN 50 PER CENT OF HIS FULL ENTITLEMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AN EMPLOYEE AGED 42 AND WITH EIGHT YEARS' SERVICE WILL RECEIVE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT IN FULL.

THE SCHEME PROVIDES THAT AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE REQUIRED LENGTH OF SERVICE WILL BE GIVEN LONG SERVICE PAYMENT BY HIS EMPLOYER UPON DISMISSAL FOR REASONS OTHER THAN SUMMARY DISMISSAL OR REDUNDANCY.

THE AMOUNT OF LUMP SUM PAYMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE CALCULATED AT TWO-THIRDS OF THE EMPLOYEE'S LAST FULL MONTH'S WAGE FOR EVERY COMPLETE YEAR OF SERVICE, SUBJECT TO A MAXIMUM OF 12 MONTHS' WAGES.

FOR EMPLOYEES EARNING MORE THAN \$15,000 A MONTH, THEIR ENTITLEMENT WILL REMAIN TO BE CALCULATED AS IF THEY WERE EARNING \$15,000.

ENQUIRIES ON THE REVISED LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME CAN BE MADE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LABOUR RELATIONS SERVICE.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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42,000 PRIMARY 1 DISCRETIONARY PLACES ALLOCATED

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RESULTS OF ALLOCATION OF DISCRETIONARY PLACES UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM FOR THE 1992 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE RELEASED ON FRIDAY (DECEMBER 6) BY ALL GOVERNMENT AND AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ABOUT 42,000 OUT OF SOME 68,000 APPLICANTS WILL BE OFFERED A DISCRETIONARY PLACE.

PARENTS ARE ADVISED, WHETHER THEIR CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE SCHOOL OR NOT, TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THEY HAVE APPLIED FOR A PRIMARY 1 PLACE ON THAT DAY BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM, OR ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 7) BETWEEN 9 AM AND NOON TO FIND OUT THE RESULTS OF THEIR APPLICATION.

REGISTRATION OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 9 AND 10 (MONDAY AND TUESDAY) DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN OFFERED A PRIMARY 1 PLACE, THEY ARE ADVISED TO NOTE CAREFULLY THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES AND ANY REQUIREMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS, SUCH AS PARENT'S COPY OF THE APPLICATION FORM FOR PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION, THE NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND SO ON, TO BE BROUGHT ALONG TO THE SCHOOL FOR REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION OF THE CHILD WITH THE SCHOOL WILL BE REGARDED AS BINDING ON BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE PARENT.

PARENTS WHO CANNOT REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN WITH THE SCHOOL WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD SHOULD NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OR THROUGH THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION UNIT OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO. 572 4383) TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS - THEY WOULD BE DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN UP THE DISCRETIONARY PLACE OFFERED IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION SYSTEM, A GOVERNMENT OR AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL CAN ACCEPT CHILDREN TO FILL UP TO A MAXIMUM OF 65 PER CENT OF ITS TOTAL PRIMARY 1 PLACES AS DISCRETIONARY PLACES.

THE REMAINING 35 PER CENT OF PRIMARY 1 PLACES WILL BE RESERVED FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION AT A LATER STAGE.

AS SOME SCHOOLS ARE OVERSUBSCRIBED FOR THEIR DISCRETIONARY PLACES, IT IS NATURAL THAT SOME CHILDREN MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE A PRIMARY 1 PLACE AT THIS STAGE.

PARENTS OF THESE CHILDREN, TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO ONLY INTENDED TO TAKE PART IN THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION, WILL BE INFORMED BY LETTER SOME TIME IN MARCH NEXT YEAR TO GO TO A DISTRIBUTION/COLLECTION CENTRE IN THEIR HOME DISTRICT FOR THEIR CHOICE OF SCHOOLS.

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"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL THEN ALLOCATE A PRIMARY 1 PLACE TO THEIR CHILDREN WITHIN THEIR HOME DISTRICT, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARENTAL CHOICES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

DETAILED PROCEDURE OF THE CENTRAL ALLOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

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SURVEY COMPLETED IN PHASE II STAGE 2 LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AREA

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD) HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED THE PRE-OPERATIONAL SURVEY FOR LIVESTOCK FARMS IN PHASE II STAGE 2 CONTROL AREA UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

THE PHASE II STAGE 2 CONTROL AREA COVERS THE KAM TIN RIVER AREA.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE SURVEY SERVED TO FIND OUT THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE AREA AND ASSESS THE ELIGIBILITY OF FARMS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME.

OPERATORS OF ANY LIVESTOCK FARMS IN THE AREA THAT HAVE NOT BEEN SURVEYED SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 685 1111.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE STATUTORY DATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME IN PHASE II STAGE 2 CONTROL AREA WAS DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED AFFECTED FARMERS IN PHASE II STAGE 2 CONTROL AREA WHO WISH TO CEASE BUSINESS TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE.

APPLICATION LETTERS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO AFFECTED FARMERS.

THE LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL SCHEME IS CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED PREVIOUSLY THAT NO ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN IN THE KAM TIN RIVER AREA UNTIL THE REVIEW IS COMPLETED.

HOWEVER, ANY FARM OPERATORS WHO HAVE COLLECTED EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AND RESTART BUSINESS AFTERWARDS WILL BE SUBJECT TO LIVESTOCK WASTE CONTROL AND WILL BE PROSECUTED FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE CONTROL REGULATIONS.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1991

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SECOND NEW IDENTITY CARD RE-ISSUE EXERCISE COMPLETED

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE SECOND NEW IDENTITY CARD RE-ISSUE EXERCISE, WHICH STARTED IN MID-1987, COMPLETED LAST SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 30).

"AS A RESULT, ALL THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY CEASED TO PROVIDE SERVICES FROM YESTERDAY (MONDAY)," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"APPLICANTS FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS AT THESE OFFICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE DATE OF CARD COLLECTION AT SIX DESIGNATED REGISTRATION OF PERSONS OFFICES," HE ADDED.

THEY ARE:

- * REGISTRATION OF PERSONS - HONG KONG OFFICE
EIGHTH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD,
WAN CHAI
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE HONG KONG NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE)
- * IMMIGRATION KWUN TONG OFFICE
ROOM 54-60, SECOND FLOOR,
AMOY PLAZA, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD,
NGAU TAU KOK
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE EAST KOWLOON NEW
IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE)
- * REGISTRATION OF PERSONS - KOWLOON OFFICE
SECOND FLOOR, EMPIRE CENTRE
68 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE WEST KOWLOON NEW
IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICE)
- * REGISTRATION OF PERSONS - TSUEN WAN OFFICE
LEVEL 4, TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER,
TSUEN WAN WATERFRONT,
TSUEN WAN
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE TSUEN WAN NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE)
- * IMMIGRATION TAI PO OFFICE
THIRD FLOOR,
TAI PO GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING,
1 TING KOK ROAD, TAI PO
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE SHA TIN NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE AND THE SHEUNG SHUI NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE)

/* IMMIGRATION YUEN

* IMMIGRATION YUEN LONG OFFICE
THIRD FLOOR,
YUEN LONG GOVERNMENT OFFICES,
2 KIU LOK SQUARE,
YUEN LONG
(FOR APPLICATIONS MADE AT THE TUEN MUN NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE AND THE YUEN LONG NEW IDENTITY
CARD ISSUE OFFICE)

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THESE OFFICES ARE FROM 9 AM TO 4.30 PM,
MONDAY TO FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 12.30 PM ON SATURDAY.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE BY TELEPHONING 824 6111.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ISSUE OF NEW IDENTITY CARDS WAS TO TIE
IN WITH THE CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

"THE RE-ISSUE SCHEME, WHICH COMMENCED ON JULY 1, 1987, WAS
TARGETTED AT THE WHOLE ADULT POPULATION OF HONG KONG AS WELL AS
JUVENILES BORN IN 1975 AND 1976.

"THESE PEOPLE WERE REQUIRED TO RENEW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS
ISSUED BETWEEN MARCH 28, 1983 AND JUNE 30, 1987, AND WERE CALLED
FORWARD DURING THE PAST FOUR AND A HALF YEARS IN 32 PHASES BY
REFERENCE TO THEIR AGE AND SEX," HE ADDED.

A TOTAL OF 4.6 MILLION IDENTITY CARDS WAS REPLACED DURING THE
EXERCISE.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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SUSPECTED SYNDICATE SMASHED BY IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATORS * * * * *

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATORS HAVE SMASHED A SYNDICATE
SUSPECTED TO BE ENGAGED IN PROVIDING FALSE CONTRACTS AND SPONSORS TO
FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT VISAS IN HONG KONG.

THE INVESTIGATORS, AFTER TWO MONTHS' SURVEILLANCE AND
INVESTIGATIONS, SEARCHED TWO RESIDENTIAL FLATS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT
LAST WEEK AND ARRESTED THREE WOMEN AND A MAN.

TWO OF THE ARRESTED WOMEN WERE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE
SUSPECTED SYNDICATE WHICH PROVIDED FALSE CONTRACTS AND SPONSORS TO
FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING EMPLOYERS.

INSIDE THE PREMISES, INVESTIGATORS FOUND LARGE QUANTITIES OF
FORGED COMPANY CHOPS (TOTAL 103), EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND VISA
APPLICATIONS (ABOUT 1,000).

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TWO TYPEWRITERS AND A PRINTING SET FOR FORGING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WERE SEIZED.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SYNDICATE HAD OPERATED FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, AND IT CHARGED \$5,000 TO \$10,000 FOR EACH APPLICATION. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE SYNDICATE HAD PROCESSED AT LEAST 1,000 APPLICATIONS SINCE JULY LAST YEAR.

ANOTHER 13 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY IMMIGRATION OFFICERS TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH ARE STILL CONTINUING.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY TO RELEASE DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS, MR TANG CHIU-SHING, HEAD OF THE INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, POINTED OUT THAT UNDER THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, A FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPER WAS ONLY PERMITTED TO WORK FOR A SPECIFIC EMPLOYER UNDER A SPECIFIC EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT.

"DOMESTIC HELPERS SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT NON-HOUSEHOLD WORK," HE STRESSED.

MR TANG REITERATED THAT IT WAS AN OFFENCE TO FURNISH FALSE INFORMATION TO IMMIGRATION OFFICERS IN VISA APPLICATIONS.

"OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND THE MAXIMUM FINE IS \$50,000 AND IMPRISONMENT UP TO 14 YEARS.

"ANY AIDER AND ABETTOR IS ALSO LIABLE TO PROSECUTION AND PENALTY," MR TANG ADDED.

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38 NEW BUILDING PLANS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER

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THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT APPROVED 38 NEW BUILDING PLANS IN SEPTEMBER.

OF THESE, 17 WERE FOR HONG KONG, NINE FOR KOWLOON AND 12 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE APPROVED PLANS INCLUDED 24 FOR APARTMENT, APARTMENT/COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, FOUR FOR COMMERCIAL AND SHOP/OFFICE DEVELOPMENTS AND TWO FOR FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

DURING THE MONTH, THE OFFICE GAVE CONSENT FOR WORK TO START ON 49 PROJECTS, INVOLVING 58,100.5 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA AND 211,571.3 SQUARE METRES OF USABLE NON-DOMESTIC FLOOR AREA.

THE TOTAL DECLARED COST OF NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED DURING THE MONTH WAS ABOUT \$2,499 MILLION. USABLE FLOOR AREAS FOR DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC USES WERE ABOUT 206,978.4 SQUARE METRES AND ABOUT 133,395 SQUARE METRES RESPECTIVELY.

/ALSO DURING

ALSO DURING SEPTEMBER, THE OFFICE ISSUED 38 OCCUPATION PERMITS - 16 FOR HONG KONG ISLAND, 10 FOR KOWLOON AND 12 FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES.

IN ADDITION, 28 DEMOLITION CONSENTS AFFECTING 44 BUILDINGS WERE ISSUED.

THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION RECEIVED 603 COMPLAINTS ON ILLEGAL BUILDING WORKS, CARRIED OUT 1,004 INSPECTIONS AND ISSUED 366 REMOVAL ORDERS.

THE DANGEROUS BUILDINGS SECTION INSPECTED 628 BUILDINGS AND OBTAINED SEVEN EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDERS.

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GOVT COMMITTED TO IMPROVING RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING MORE COMMUNITY FACILITIES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL SO AS TO ENHANCE RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

MR SUEN MADE THE REMARK DURING A VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT -- THE SECOND STOP OF HIS FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME TO ALL 19 DISTRICTS IN THE TERRITORY.

HE SAID COMMUNITY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY HALLS IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS WERE GOOD EXAMPLES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.

AT WAH KWAI ESTATE, MR SUEN NOTED THAT THE FACILITIES THERE HAVE PROVIDED RESIDENTS WITH A FOCAL POINT FOR LOCAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES.

THE SIX-STOREY HIGH WAH KWAI COMMUNITY CENTRE HAS A CENTRE THAT OFFERS YOUTH SERVICES AND STUDY ROOM FACILITIES, AND ANOTHER ONE WHICH PROVIDES LEISURE AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A NURSERY EARLY NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN AGED FROM TWO TO SIX.

AT PRESENT, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION OPERATES 35 COMMUNITY CENTRES AND 34 COMMUNITY HALLS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

ON WAH KWAI ESTATE, MR SUEN LEARNT THAT THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECT IS BEING BUILT IN THREE PHASES AND WILL EVENTUALLY HOUSE SOME 20,000 PEOPLE UPON FULL COMPLETION NEXT YEAR.

HE WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE NEW ESTATE WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE NEARBY TIN WAN ESTATE BY TAKING IN MOST OF ITS TENANTS.

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DURING TODAY'S VISIT, WHICH ALSO COVERED ABERDEEN CENTRE, LEI TUNG ESTATE AND THE DISTRICT OFFICE'S HEADQUARTERS, MR SUEN WAS ALSO UPDATED ON THE DISTRICT'S LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND PROBLEMS.

HE WAS ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MRS ROSANNA URE.

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HONG KONG SOCIAL DANCE OPEN COMPETITION

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AMATEUR DANCERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE FOURTH HONG KONG SOCIAL DANCE OPEN COMPETITION AT THE MIRAMAR HOTEL IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 8).

THE CONTEST IS ORGANISED BY THE SHAM SHUI PO ARTS ASSOCIATION AS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD.

ENTRIES CAN NOW BE MADE AT THE ASSOCIATION'S CLUBHOUSE AT ROOM S14-15A, LAI FU HOUSE, LAI KOK ESTATE.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 361 6282.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS

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TENDER DATE	3 DEC 91	3 DEC 91
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q149	Y197
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD 1,402 MN	HKD 800 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD 500 MN	HKD 200 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	4.11 PCT	5.01 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	4.15 PCT	5.05 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 40 PCT	ABOUT 59 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	4.18 PCT	5.10 PCT

/HONG KONG

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 9 DECEMBER 1991 -

TENDER DATE	10 DEC 91	10 DEC 91
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q150	H179
ISSUE DATE	11 DEC 91	11 DEC 91
MATURITY DATE	11 MAR 92	10 JUN 92
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	500 + 100 MN	200 + 60 MN
COUPON	N.A.	N.A.

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

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	2.12.91	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	3.12.91	+70
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-70
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.8 *-0.1* 3.12.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.08 PCT	24 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.36	5.58
1 MONTH	4.22 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.05 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.16 PCT					
12 MONTHS	5.00 PCT					

TURNOVER - BILLS 4,220 MN, BONDS 0 MN

CLOSED 3 DECEMBER 1991

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