



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HK ECONOMY UNDERGOES UNIQUE TRANSFORMATION

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HONG KONG HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH A DRAMATIC STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN ITS ECONOMY OVER THE DECADE OR SO SINCE CHINA OPENED ITS ECONOMIC DOORS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IT HAS ENABLED US TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING WHICH AS FAR AS I KNOW IS UNIQUE - TRANSFORMATION FROM A PREDOMINANTLY MANUFACTURING TO A PREDOMINANTLY SERVICE ECONOMY, WITH UPGRADING IN THE QUALITY OF BOTH, WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME INCURRING THE PAIN OF UNEMPLOYMENT," HE SAID.

ADDRESSING THE LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE NORDIC BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS, HE NOTED THAT RELATED TO THIS, TWO IMPORTANT CHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE, NAMELY MARKET DIVERSIFICATION AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF LINKS WITH CHINA.

ON MARKET DIVERSIFICATION, HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, CHINA HAD SURPASSED THE U.S. AS HONG KONG'S NUMBER ONE BUYER AND THE SAME TREND APPLIED TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC).

"THAT SAID, THE U.S. AND THE EC STILL REMAIN VERY IMPORTANT TO US, BEING OUR SECOND AND THIRD LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS RESPECTIVELY," HE SAID.

ON LINKS WITH CHINA, MR MACLEOD SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW CHINA'S LARGEST SOURCE OF DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL.

HE ADDED THAT HONG KONG'S EFFECT ON GUANGDONG PROVINCE WAS NATURALLY PARTICULARLY DRAMATIC.

"THROUGH INVESTMENT, MANAGEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, DESIGN AND MARKETING SERVICES, HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN INITIATE, SHAPE AND INFLUENCE MUCH OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN CHINA AND BEYOND - TO BOTH PLACES' MUTUAL BENEFIT," HE SAID.

AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTHERN CHINA, THE MAKE-UP OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE HAD ALSO CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.

"IN 1981, EXPORTS OF GOODS MADE IN HONG KONG ACCOUNTED FOR TWO-THIRDS OF OUR TOTAL EXPORTS, WHILE RE-EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY A THIRD.

"TEN YEARS LATER, THE BALANCE HAD ALMOST EXACTLY REVERSED, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS DOWN TO ONLY 30 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPORTS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND SOUTHERN CHINA, AND PARTICULARLY, THE PEARL RIVER DELTA WAS ONE OF GROWING ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE.

"NEITHER COULD EXPECT TO PROGRESS AT THEIR PRESENT RATE WITHOUT THE OTHER.

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"THIS CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP HAS COME ABOUT LARGELY IN A NATURAL, SPONTANEOUS, AND UNPLANNED FASHION AND THROUGH MARKET FORCES WITHOUT PROMPTING BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

TURNING TO THE PACIFIC RIM, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT AS DOMESTIC INVESTMENT AND CONSUMER SPENDING INCREASED, ASIA LOOKED POISED FOR CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH.

ASIA HAD OVERTAKEN THE EC TO BECOME THE LARGEST MARKET FOR U.S. EXPORTS, WITH ITS SHARE RISING FROM 20 PER CENT IN 1980 TO ALMOST 30 PER CENT TODAY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT HOPEFULLY THIS FACT MIGHT GRADUALLY HELP TO BLUNT PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES.

ON HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, MR MACLEOD SAID THE LATEST STATISTICS SHOWED THAT ON A PER CAPITA BASIS, THE NORDIC COUNTRIES IMPORTED ABOUT ONE AND A HALF TIMES MORE FROM HONG KONG THAN DID THE EC AND JAPAN.

AND HONG KONG IMPORTED FOUR TIMES MORE FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES THAN DID THE U.S. AND JAPAN, HE ADDED.

CONCLUDING, MR MACLEOD SAID ONE OF THE KEY REASONS FOR HONG KONG'S SUCCESS WAS ITS READINESS TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE OF ALL SORTS, WHETHER BY THE PRIVATE OR THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

"I SEE THIS AS A CONTINUING VITAL ROLE - SPENDING MONEY ON A NEW CONTAINER PORT, ON ROUTE 3, ON EXTENDING THE CONVENTION CENTRE - OR ON A NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - AND OF COURSE ON A NEW AIRPORT - THESE ARE ALL VITAL INVESTMENTS IN OUR FUTURE GROWTH AND WELLBEING - AND IN THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF COMPANIES SUCH AS THOSE PRESENTED HERE.

"WE ARE JUST AS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING INFRASTRUCTURAL INVESTMENT AS WE ARE TO A LOW AND PREDICTABLE TAX REGIME," HE SAID.

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AIR TRAFFIC TO BENEFIT FROM
CHINA FLIGHT LEVEL ASSIGNMENT CHANGE

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HONG KONG'S FLIGHT MOVEMENTS REQUIRING PASSAGE THROUGH THE AIRSPACE OVER CHINA WILL SOON BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM A CHANGE IN FLIGHT LEVEL ASSIGNMENT IN CHINA FROM MID-OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

THE CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF CHINA (CAAC) HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE SYSTEM OF ALLOCATING FLIGHT LEVEL WITHIN THE CHINESE AIRSPACE WILL BE CHANGED BEGINNING AT 1600 HOURS CO-ORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14 (HONG KONG TIME MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15).

THE CHANGE WILL GREATLY ENHANCE TOTAL TRAFFIC HANDLING CAPACITY IN THE CHINESE AIRSPACE. POTENTIALLY 50 PER CENT MORE FLIGHTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED.

/CONSEQUENT ON

CONSEQUENT ON THE NEW PRACTICE, CAAC HAS PROPOSED TO AMEND THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRES OF HONG KONG AND GUANGZHOU REGARDING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CO-ORDINATION PROCEDURES.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE ABOUT 600 FLIGHTS A WEEK SERVING BETWEEN HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AIRPORTS IN CHINA, REPRESENTING ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF HONG KONG'S WEEKLY FLIGHT MOVEMENTS.

AIR TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND EUROPEAN AIRPORTS AND BETWEEN HONG KONG AND OTHER AIRPORTS SUCH AS THOSE LOCATED IN MIDDLE EAST, INDIA AND KOREA WHICH REQUIRE PASSAGE THROUGH THE CHINESE AIRSPACE TOTAL ABOUT 250 FLIGHTS A WEEK.

IN ADDITION, FLIGHTS OVERFLYING BOTH THE CHINESE AND HONG KONG AIRSPACE WITHOUT LANDING AT EITHER TERRITORY AVERAGE ABOUT 110 MOVEMENTS A WEEK.

THE MOVEMENTS OF AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM THIS FIRST PHASE IN THE ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS DURING A TIME WHEN HONG KONG IS EXPERIENCING A RAPID GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS INCLUDING THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN TRAFFIC BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA.

THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR PETER LOK KUNG-NAM, AND THE AIR TRAFFIC GENERAL MANAGER, MR ALBERT LAM KWONG-YU, ATTENDED A BRIEFING IN BEIJING ON THE NEW FLIGHT LEVEL ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM BETWEEN MAY 18 AND 20 THIS YEAR.

ALSO ATTENDING THE BRIEFING WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM JAPAN, KAZAKSTAN, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, PAKISTAN, RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND VIETNAM.

DURING THE VISIT, MR LAM AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF GUANGZHOU AIR CONTROL CENTRE, MR WANG LYIA, CONCLUDED THE REQUIRED AMENDMENTS TO THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HONG KONG AND GUANGZHOU AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTRES.

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MEASURES TO CUT DRIVING TEST WAITING TIME

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THE WAITING TIMES FOR DRIVING TESTS FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED AS A RESULT OF AN ACCELERATED PROGRAMME TO RESCHEDULE TEST APPOINTMENTS AND CONDUCTING MORE TESTS AT WEEKENDS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THE MEASURE, INTRODUCED IN MARCH THIS YEAR, WAS AIMED AT REDUCING WAITING TIMES OF DRIVING TESTS FOR ARTICULATED VEHICLES, BUS AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES.

"IF NECESSARY, DRIVING TESTS WILL BE SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS OR EVEN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS SO AS TO CUT SHORT THE WAITING TIME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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"IN THE CASE OF BUS DRIVING TESTS, THE WAITING TIME HAS BEEN REDUCED BY AS MUCH AS FOUR MONTHS," HE SAID.

THESE MEASURES ARE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE THE SUPPLY OF DRIVERS TO PUBLIC BUSES AND CONTAINER VEHICLES. THE DEMAND FOR THE LATTER IN PARTICULAR, HAS BEEN INCREASING FAST.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THROUGH INTERNAL DEPLOYMENT, FOUR DRIVING EXAMINERS WOULD REINFORCE THE EXISTING TEAM OF EIGHT DRIVING EXAMINER I TO CONDUCT DRIVING TESTS FOR THESE VEHICLES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY, THEREBY BOOSTING THE OUTPUT BY 50 PER CENT.

HOWEVER, THE TEST WAITING TIMES FOR OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES INCLUDING PRIVATE CARS, MOTORCYCLES AND MEDIUM GOODS VEHICLES, ARE LESS THAN SIX MONTHS.

AT PRESENT, SOME SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS WERE NOT TAKEN UP BECAUSE SOME CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TESTS AT SHORT NOTICE. THESE EMPTY SLOTS HAVE WASTED A LOT OF DRIVING EXAMINER RESOURCES.

TARGETING AT THIS PHENOMENON, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HAS SINCE AUGUST LAST YEAR BEEN FILLING UP AS MANY EMPTY SLOTS AS PRACTICABLE, BY ALLOCATING SUCH TIME SLOTS TO CANDIDATES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN PLACED AT THE END OF THE QUEUE IF THEY WISHED TO APPLY FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TESTS.

UTILISATION RATE HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM FOUR PER CENT TO 40 PER CENT DESPITE MANY EMPTY SLOTS CANNOT BE REUSED OWING TO SHORT NOTICE BEING GIVEN BY CANDIDATES OR THE OFFERS FOR EARLY TEST APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINED.

"AS A STEP FORWARD TO MAKING FULL USE OF THE EMPTY SLOTS, THE FEASIBILITY OF OFFERING EARLY TEST APPOINTMENTS, INSTEAD OF END-OF-APPOINTMENTS, TO REPEATERS ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, WITH THE HELP OF A COMPUTERISED APPOINTMENT SYSTEM, THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON DOUBLE-BOOKING OF TEST APPOINTMENTS BY DISHONEST CANDIDATES.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CANDIDATES INVOLVED COULD BE REGARDED AS HAVING VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, AND UPON CONVICTION, WERE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$5,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

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SMOOTH RETURN OF VIETNAMESE WELCOMED

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE SMOOTH REPATRIATION OF 59 VIETNAMESE NON-REFUGEES UNDER THE ORDERLY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME (ORP).

"TODAY'S FLIGHT, WHICH IS THE 11TH FLIGHT SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE ORP AGREEMENT ON OCTOBER 29, 1991, HAS AGAIN BEEN UNEVENTFUL.

"WE HAVE RETURNED A TOTAL OF 572 NON-REFUGEES TO VIETNAM ON THESE ORP FLIGHTS," HE SAID.

TODAY'S GROUP COMPRISED 19 MEN, 25 WOMEN, SEVEN BOYS AND EIGHT GIRLS FROM GREEN ISLAND RECEPTION CENTRE, CHI MA WAN (UPPER) DETENTION CENTRE AND NEI KWU CHAU DETENTION CENTRE.

ALL HAD BEEN SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES.

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LAYOUT-DESIGN (TOPOGRAPHY) OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS BILL

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THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MRS REGINA IP, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE LAYOUT-DESIGN (TOPOGRAPHY) OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS BILL WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JUNE 9.

"THE BILL AIMS TO PROVIDE STATUTORY PROTECTION FOR THE LAYOUT-DESIGNS (TOPOGRAPHIES) OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS," SHE SAID.

"THIS WILL ENCOURAGE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AS WELL AS INVESTMENT IN, AND DEVELOPMENT OF, THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT INDUSTRY," MRS IP SAID.

THE BILL SEEKS TO REFLECT THE INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS IN THIS FIELD AS LAID DOWN IN THE TREATY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN RESPECT OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS (THE WASHINGTON TREATY 1989) AND THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDER GATT (THE GATT-TRIPS AGREEMENT).

ITS MAJOR PROVISIONS ARE MODELLED ON THE UK AND AUSTRALIAN LEGISLATION.

"THE BILL WILL DEMONSTRATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HONG KONG'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF LAYOUT-DESIGNS (TOPOGRAPHIES) OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS," SHE SAID.

"THIS WOULD ALSO ENABLE HONG KONG TO DISCHARGE ANY FUTURE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE DRAFT GATT-TRIPS AGREEMENT," MRS IP ADDED.

AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT IS A VERY SMALL ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHICH IS USED IN THE OPERATION OF A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL, MEDICAL, COMMERCIAL AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

/IT FORMS

IT FORMS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND HAS ACQUIRED A GROWING ECONOMIC AND TRADE SIGNIFICANCE OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS.

THE STRUCTURE OF AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT IS DETERMINED BY THE LAYOUT-DESIGN WHICH IS THE RESULT OF A COMPLICATED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS REQUIRING MUCH CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND INTELLECTUAL EFFORT.

ONCE THE LAYOUT-DESIGN IS DEVELOPED, IT CAN BE REPRODUCED EASILY AND THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT MASS PRODUCED AT A FRACTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT COST.

UNDER THE BILL, A LAYOUT-DESIGN WILL BE PROTECTED AUTOMATICALLY UPON ITS CREATION AND UPON FIRST COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION.

THE TERM OF PROTECTION WILL BE 10 YEARS AFTER A LAYOUT-DESIGN WAS FIRST COMMERCIALY EXPLOITED.

IF THERE IS NO COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION, THE TERM WILL BE 15 YEARS AFTER THE LAYOUT-DESIGN WAS CREATED.

LAYOUT-DESIGNS WILL ONLY BE PROTECTED IF THEIR OWNERS ARE QUALIFIED OWNERS, THAT IS, THEY HAVE A RIGHT OF ABODE OR HAVE A REAL AND EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE CREATION OF LAYOUT-DESIGNS OR THE PRODUCTION OF INTEGRATED CIRCUITS IN HONG KONG OR A QUALIFYING COUNTRY, TERRITORY OR AREA.

A QUALIFIED OWNER HAS THE RIGHTS TO REPRODUCE HIS LAYOUT-DESIGN AND TO COMMERCIALY EXPLOIT THE LAYOUT-DESIGN. THE BILL PROVIDES CIVIL REMEDIES FOR INFRINGEMENT OF SUCH RIGHTS.

THE BILL PERMITS CERTAIN NON-INFRINGING ACTS. THESE INCLUDE THE REPRODUCTION OF LAYOUT-DESIGNS FOR PRIVATE PURPOSE AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATION, ANALYSIS, RESEARCH OR TEACHING. THEY ARE IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THESE EXCEPTIONS WOULD ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN INTEGRATED CIRCUITS TECHNOLOGY," MRS IP SAID.

THE BILL ENABLES THE GOVERNOR TO DESIGNATE A COUNTRY, TERRITORY OR AREA AS A QUALIFYING COUNTRY, TERRITORY OR AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING RECIPROCAL PROTECTION, IF HE CONSIDERS THAT ITS LAW HAS GIVEN ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO HONG KONG OWNERS.

"THIS WILL FACILITATE HONG KONG TO ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES," SHE SAID.

"THE BILL ALSO ALLOWS GOVERNMENT USE OF A LAYOUT-DESIGN WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF ITS OWNER IN PERIODS OF EXTREME URGENCY DECLARED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL. THIS IS NECESSARY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY IN EXTREME URGENCY," SHE SAID.

"THE INTEREST OF THE OWNER WILL BE PROTECTED BECAUSE THE USE IS SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION," SHE ADDED.

THE BILL WILL BE GAZETTED NEXT FRIDAY (MAY 28).

DSD TO SPEND \$7.3 BILLION ON SEWAGE PROGRAMME

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL SPEND \$7.3 BILLION FROM NOW UNTIL 1997 ON IMPLEMENTING ITS SEWAGE STRATEGY PROGRAMME.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON, THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, SAID THE SEWAGE STRATEGY CONSISTS OF TWO COMPONENTS - THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS AND THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS AIM AT IMPROVING THE SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM OF ALL THE CATCHMENT AREAS. THE PLANS INCLUDE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RECTIFICATIONS OF WRONG CONNECTIONS THAT RESULT IN UNTREATED SEWAGE GOING INTO THE SEA ALONG THE DRAINS BUILT TO CARRY ONLY STORMWATER.

THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME IS A CENTRALISED SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEM FOR THE URBAN AREAS, WITH SEWAGE FROM KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND TO BE CONNECTED INTO THE SCHEME BY A SERIES OF TUNNELS, DEEPER AND LONGER THAN THE TUNNELS IN THE MTR, AND DISCHARGED, AFTER TREATMENT, INTO THE WATER CURRENTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

MR SIU EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS, THE WHOLE TERRITORY HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO 16 AREAS FOR STUDYING IN DETAIL THE ADEQUACY OF THE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS SERVING EACH AREA.

THE STUDIES HAVE IDENTIFIED MAJOR POLLUTION AREAS AND RECOMMENDED ADVANCED WORKS TO ACHIEVE EARLY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF SUCH WORKS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FELT FROM THE IMPROVEMENT OF WATER QUALITY AT SOME BEACHES, SUCH AS THOSE IN REPULSE BAY AND SOUTH BAY, WITH THE WATER BEING CLEANER AND MORE SAFE FOR BATHING THAN BEFORE.

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS NOW TAKEN UP THE IMPLEMENTATION WORKS OF SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS IN EIGHT AREAS - PORT SHELTER, YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN, TUEN MUN, EAST KOWLOON, HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH, TOLO HARBOUR, TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING AND NORTH WEST KOWLOON.

THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE WORKS ARE:

- * CONSTRUCTING NEW RELIEF SEWERS IF THE EXISTING SEWERS HAVE INADEQUATE CAPACITY;
- * EXTENDING THE SEWER NETWORK TO AREAS NOT YET SERVED BY PUBLIC SEWERS;
- * REPLACING OR REPAIRING DEFECTIVE OLD SEWERS EVEN IF THEY HAVE THE RIGHT CAPACITY;

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- * CONSTRUCTING NEW SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES; AND
- * RECTIFYING WRONG CONNECTIONS ONCE AND FOR ALL AND RE-DIRECTING WASTEWATER TO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM AFTER THE ABOVE IMPROVEMENT WORKS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

MR SIU SAID COMPLETING ALL THE MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS WOULD TAKE ABOUT \$8 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS.

"WE ARE CONCENTRATING OUR INITIAL EFFORTS ON HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH BECAUSE OF THE RECREATIONAL VALUE OF ITS COASTLINE AND BATHING BEACHES.

"IN THIS AREA OF SCENIC NATURAL BEAUTY, CONSTRUCTION WORK STARTED IN 1990 AND IS STILL IN PROGRESS IN REPULSE BAY, DEEP WATER BAY, TAI TAM, AND HERE IN STANLEY.

"CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE SHEK O SEWAGE TREATMENT SCHEME WILL START TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR AND A COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH WILL BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF 1995," HE ADDED.

MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT A NOTEWORTHY FEATURE OF THE STANLEY SCHEME IS THAT THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS CONSTRUCTED UNDERGROUND IN A CAVERN - THE VENUE OF HIS MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION.

"WE NEED A SITE IN STANLEY AND ONE ALTERNATIVE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO RECLAIM TWEED BAY. THE COST INVOLVED WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPARABLE BUT AN ABOVE GROUND PLANT WOULD HAVE GIVEN RISE TO AN ADVERSE VISUAL IMPACT ON THE IMPRESSIVE NATURAL COASTLINE IN STANLEY," HE NOTED.

THE TWO MAIN TREATMENT STREAMS OF THE STANLEY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT ARE EACH ABOUT 120 METRES LONG, 12 METRES WIDE AND 11 METRES HIGH, AND CONTAINS THE AERATION TANKS AND THE FINAL SETTLING TANKS.

THE SERVICE AREAS WILL BE AT TWO LEVELS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE SHEER SIZE OF THE EXCAVATED CAVERN, AND A TWO-KILOMETRE SUBMARINE OUTFALL HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.

ALTHOUGH THE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT IS ENTIRELY UNDERGROUND, IT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE FROM WONG MA KOK ROAD, AND ITS FUTURE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ARE NOT SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS.

EXCAVATION WORK IS ALMOST COMPLETED AND STRUCTURAL AND MACHINERY INSTALLATION WORKS WILL TAKE ANOTHER YEAR OR SO.

THE TREATMENT PLANT SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN IS IN HAND FOR THE OTHER SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS AREAS, NAMELY NORTH WEST KOWLOON, TSUEN WAN/KWAI TSING, TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG, AND CONSTRUCTION SHOULD START TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE RAINY SEASON, MR SIU BRIEFED THE MEDIA ON HIS DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS ON FLOOD MITIGATION AND CONTROL.

/HE POINTED

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MAJOR FLOOD-PRONE AREAS IN HONG KONG ARE IN YUEN LONG AND THE NORTH DISTRICTS OF THE NEW TERRITORIES, INCLUDING TIN SHUI WAI, KAM TIN, NGAU TAM MEI, SAN TIN, YUEN LONG AND SHEUNG SHUI.

THESE AREAS ARE THE NATURAL FLOOD PLAINS OF THE MAJOR RIVERS DRAINING INTO DEEP BAY, AND IN RECENT YEARS FLOODING HAS BECOME MORE SERIOUS DUE TO LAND USE CHANGES AND BLOCKAGE OF NATURAL WATERCOURSES.

THE FLOOD PREVENTION WORKS UNDERTAKEN IN THESE AREAS ARE THE CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT OF DRAINAGE CHANNELS, AND CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES FOR LOW-LYING VILLAGES.

THE VILLAGES ARE SURROUNDED BY BUNDS TO PROTECT THEM FROM FLOODS AND THE RAINWATER THAT FALLS INSIDE THEM IS PUMPED OUT.

EXISTING RIVERS AND DRAINAGE CHANNELS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED IN AN EXERCISE CALLED RIVER TRAINING WORKS BY STRAIGHTENING THEM AND LINING THEM WITH CONCRETE TO INCREASE THEIR WATER FLOW.

SEVEN KILOMETRES OF RIVER CHANNELS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND SEVEN FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES ARE IN OPERATION IN THESE AREAS.

THE MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNELS AND THE FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES IN THE TIN SHUI WAI CATCHMENT HAVE RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED.

TRAINING OF MAIN DRAINAGE CHANNELS TO MITIGATE THE FLOOD HAZARD IN THE YUEN LONG AND KAM TIN CATCHMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN 1993/94 AND THE WORKS ARE ESTIMATED TO COST AROUND \$1.6 BILLION IN TWO STAGES.

THE WORKS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN SEVERAL PHASES, STARTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM ENDS OF THE SHAN PUI AND KAM TIN RIVERS AND PROCEEDING UPWARDS.

FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES COSTING ABOUT \$45 MILLION ARE BEING PLANNED FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT YEAR IN SHA PO.

THE PROPOSED WORKS TO PREVENT FLOODING IN NGAU TAM MEI AND SAN TIN INCLUDE RIVER TRAINING AND FIVE FLOOD PUMPING SCHEMES AT A COST OF ABOUT \$760 MILLION, AND CONSTRUCTION IS PROGRAMMED TO START IN 1994/95.

WITH REGARD TO THE NORTH DISTRICT, MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHENZHEN MUNICIPALITY ON THE SHENZHEN RIVER IMPROVEMENT SCHEME ARE IN PROGRESS.

THIS SCHEME INVOLVES TRAINING 17 KILOMETRES OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER IN STAGES. AS THESE WORKS MAY HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE MAI PO MARSHES AND INNER DEEP BAY, AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE CONSTRUCTION.

THE DESILTING OF NATURAL RIVERS HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUED BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE FLOOD-PRONE AREAS, MR SIU SAID.

IN 1992/93, \$3.5 MILLION WAS SPENT ON DESILTING WORKS INVOLVING THE REMOVAL OF SOME 42,000 CUBIC METRES OF SILT.

HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT'S EFFORT TO CARRY OUT THIS KIND OF WORK IS OFTEN FRUSTRATED BY THE PROBLEM OF GAINING ACCESS TO RIVERS THROUGH PRIVATE LAND.

TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, A LAND ORDINANCE BILL IS BEING DRAFTED TO EMPOWER GOVERNMENT TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE MAIN RIVERS TO CARRY OUT MAINTENANCE.

A BILL IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITHIN THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE YEAR.

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TRADE ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE POLITICISED: STI

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TRADE ISSUES SHOULD NOT BE POLITICISED AND MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) STATUS IS THE WRONG TOOL TO ACHIEVE OTHER POLICY OBJECTIVES, HOWEVER MERITORIOUS, SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE DALLAS COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, MR CHAU SAID MFN WAS, AFTER ALL, THE NORMAL CONDITION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND NOT A PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

MR CHAU POINTED OUT THAT IN CHINA, IT WOULD BE THE SOUTH - WHICH WAS IN THE VANGUARD OF REFORM, OF OPENING UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD - WHICH WOULD BE HARDEST HIT IF MFN WAS WITHDRAWN.

"WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO STOP OR REVERSE THE PROGRESS OF CHINA'S ECONOMIC REFORM OR TO ISOLATE CHINA," HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID HONG KONG WOULD STAND TO LOSE A SIZEABLE CHUNK OF RE-EXPORT TRADE IF CHINA LOST MFN, AS 70 PER CENT OF CHINA'S EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WERE ROUTED THROUGH HONG KONG.

"AND OUR MANUFACTURING INVESTMENTS IN CHINA, MANY OF WHICH ARE PRODUCING FOR THE U.S. MARKET, WOULD BE HARD-HIT.

"THERE WOULD BE KNOCK-ON EFFECTS ON OTHER PARTS OF OUR ECONOMY AND BUSINESS CONFIDENCE GENERALLY WOULD BE BADLY AFFECTED," HE ADDED.

AND U.S. BUSINESS INTERESTS WOULD SUFFER TOO, MR CHAU SAID.

"THOSE IN HONG KONG AND CHINA WOULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED IN THE SAME WAY AS LOCAL HONG KONG COMPANIES.

"MOREOVER, BUSINESSES IN THE U.S. ITSELF WOULD ALSO BE HURT IF CHINA RETALIATED AND CUT BACK ON U.S. IMPORTS.

/"U.S. EXPORTS

"U.S. EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE VALUED AT ABOUT US\$7.5 BILLION IN 1992. EVERY US\$1 BILLION WORTH OF EXPORTS CREATE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 JOBS. THE LOSS OF EXPORTS TO CHINA CONSEQUENT ON MFN REVOCATION COULD PUT UP TO 150,000 AMERICAN JOBS AT RISK," HE SAID.

ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, MR CHAU SAID THE MUTUAL BENEFIT WHICH HONG KONG AND CHINA DERIVED FROM EACH OTHER PROVIDED A STRONG GUARANTEE OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE AS A HIGHLY AUTONOMOUS SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF CHINA.

"I BELIEVE THAT HONG KONG, BY REMAINING AS AN AUTONOMOUS TRADING PARTNER AND A SEPARATE ECONOMIC ENTITY, WILL RETAIN ITS VITALITY AND DYNAMISM.

"CONSEQUENTLY, IT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS CURRENT ROLE AND CONTINUE TO BE OF BENEFIT TO CHINA, TO THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE REST OF THE WORLD," MR CHAU SAID.

MR CHAU, WHO IS CURRENTLY VISITING U.S., WILL ATTEND THE JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HK/U.S. AND U.S./HK ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION IN NEW YORK TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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STATISTICS ON TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA,
FOURTH QUARTER 1992

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IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, 48% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 73% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 42% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 75% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 77% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991 WERE 53% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 75% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 45% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 72% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 77% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

IN 1992, 52% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 74% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 46% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 72% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 78% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN 1991 WERE 55% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 77% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 48% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 68% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 74% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

THE DECREASES IN THE PROPORTION OF EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AS RECORDED IN 1992 REFLECT THAT HONG KONG'S EXPORTS FOR MEETING DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA, VIZ. EXPORTS TO CHINA NOT DESTINED FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, INCREASED AT A FASTER PACE THAN OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE DURING THE PERIOD.

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE SUSTAINED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CHINA FOR IMPORTED GOODS.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA INITIATED 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 INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS 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.

STARTING FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS FURTHER BEEN EXTENDED SO AS TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WHICH ARE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1992 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, \$38,241 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 22% OVER THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1991.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 7% TO \$11,968 MILLION AND BY 31% TO \$26,273 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 21% TO \$72,904 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$82,989 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 21%.

IN 1992, \$141,639 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 24% OVER 1991. THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 10% TO \$44,271 MILLION AND 32% TO \$97,368 MILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 29% TO \$254,013 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$299,833 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 35%.

THE ESTIMATES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND THE WHOLE YEAR OF 1992 AND THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991 ARE SUMMARISED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, 4TH QUARTER OF 1992 AND THE WHOLE YEAR 1992

	4TH	PERCENTAGE	1992	PERCENTAGE
	QTR	CHANGE		CHANGE OVER
	1992	OVER 4TH	1992	CHANGE OVER
	(HKD MN)	QTR 1991	(HKD MN)	1991
		(%)		(%)
TOTAL TRADE VALUE * :				
TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	79,070	+33.2	270,503	+31.7
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	16,411	+ 9.6	59,557	+12.9
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	62,659	+41.1	210,946	+38.3
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	96,619	+15.0	352,136	+20.7
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	107,203	+20.7	382,833	+28.1

ESTIMATED VALUE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA :

TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	38,241	+22.3	141,639	+24.3
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	11,968	+ 7.1	44,271	+ 9.7
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	26,273	+30.7	97,368	+32.4
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	72,904	+21.1	254,013	+28.7
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	82,989	+21.1	299,833	+35.4

ESTIMATED PROPORTION INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA :

	4TH	4TH	1992	1991
	QTR	QTR		
	1992	1991	1992	1991
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	48.4	52.7	52.4	55.5
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	72.9	74.6	74.3	76.5
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	41.9	45.3	46.2	48.2
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	75.5	71.6	72.1	67.6
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	77.4	77.2	78.3	74.1

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

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-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 HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE RE-EXPORTS OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IN INTERPRETING THE STATISTICS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VALUE AND PROPORTION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA REFER TO THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GOODS INSTEAD OF JUST THE VALUE ADDED CONTRIBUTED BY OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

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

THE SPOKESMAN 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," HE SAID.

THE ABOVE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE MARCH 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE". THIS REPORT WILL BE ON SALE BY THE END OF MAY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI AT \$52 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 582 5037.

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1993

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REMINDER TO RATEPAYERS:
OBJECTIONS MUST BE LODGED BY MAY 31
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A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED RATEPAYERS THAT IF THEY WISH TO MAKE A PROPOSAL TO ALTER THE RATEABLE VALUE OF THEIR PROPERTY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR STARTING APRIL 1, 1993, THEY MUST SERVE A PROPOSAL ON THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, MAY 31, 1993.

HE STRESSED THAT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE RATING ORDINANCE, IF A PROPOSAL IS SERVED AFTER MAY 31 IT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS VALID.

ALSO RATEPAYERS SHOULD NOTE THAT SERVICE OF PROPOSAL BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS VALID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD BE MADE ON THE SPECIFIED FORM (FORM R20A) WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AT HENNESSY CENTRE, 17TH FLOOR, 500 HENNESSY ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG AND ALSO FROM DISTRICT OFFICES.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES RATEPAYERS CAN TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT ON 805 7666.

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HONG KONG NEEDS TO CARE FOR ENVIRONMENT

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WITH LAND SO SCARCE IN HONG KONG, HONG KONG PEOPLE HAVE TO TAKE SPECIAL ACCOUNT OF THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

ADDRESSING THE CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE "PLANT FOR THE EARTH" ORGANISED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (FOE), MRS PATTEN SAID THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG AND ITS OBVIOUS SPACE CONSTRAINTS PROVIDED IT WITH PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES THAT FEW OTHER COMMUNITIES HAD TO FACE.

"SO WE NEED TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF OUR VALUABLE COUNTRY PARKS," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THE TREE PLANTING PROJECT EMPHASISED THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE.

THROUGH DRAWING TOGETHER EMPLOYEES FROM A NUMBER OF CORPORATIONS - COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL, BIG AND SMALL - TO PLANT SOME 10,000 TREES IN HONG KONG'S COUNTRY PARKS, SHE SAID THE PROJECT HAD HELPED RAISE THE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO PROTECT THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THE PUBLIC ALSO LEARNED THE NEED TO BEAUTIFY IT; NOT TO POLLUTE IT BY LEAVING LITTER BEHIND; AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNTRYSIDE IN HONG KONG IS A PRECIOUS AND VERY LIMITED COMMODITY.

/SHE SAID

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SHE SAID THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROJECT INDICATED THAT THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS.

"THEIR DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATES THEIR GROWING COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

"IT IS VITAL THAT SUCH CO-OPERATION AND COMMITMENT INCREASES IN FUTURE," SHE SAID.

SHE PRAISED THE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH FOR MAKING A GREAT CONTRIBUTION OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS IN BRINGING ABOUT THE NEW AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COMMITMENT TO THE PUBLIC.

"I HOPED THAT THE GOOD EXAMPLE WHICH IT SETS IN PROMOTING THE ENVIRONMENT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE PUBLIC AT LARGE," MRS PATTEN ADDED.

ALSO ADDRESSING THE CEREMONY, THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, DR LAWRENCE LEE, SAID THE GREENING PROGRAMME THIS YEAR WAS BENEFICIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME.

DR LEE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE 16 COMPANIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME BY SPONSORING SOME 800 OF THEIR EMPLOYEES TO PLANT 2,000 TREES IN THE SAI KUNG AND LANTAU COUNTRY PARKS.

HE STRESSED THAT THE COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING SCHEME COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THAT SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ORGANISATIONS LIKE FOE AND THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CONSERVATION-MINDED PEOPLE.

THE SCHEME WAS LAUNCHED SINCE 1957. IT IS ONE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S MAJOR ANNUAL TREE-PLANTING PROGRAMMES.

ONE OF THE AIMS IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURE CONSERVATION AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNGER GENERATION, TO BE INVOLVED IN PLANTING AND CARING OF TREES IN THE COUNTRY PARKS.

THE DEPARTMENT RAISES SOME 800,000 TREE SEEDLINGS EACH YEAR FOR COMMUNITY PLANTING.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OF LOCAL MONUMENTS NOW ON

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A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION OF ALL DECLARED AND DEEMED MONUMENTS IN THE TERRITORY ENTITLED "THE HERITAGE OF HONG KONG" IS NOW ON DISPLAY IN THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE (AMO) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, 136 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON.

LOOKING AROUND HONG KONG, ONE MIGHT THINK THAT IT HAS NO HERITAGE, AND THAT FEW BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED BEFORE THE LAST WAR REMAIN.

IN FACT, THERE IS A SURPRISING NUMBER OF BUILDINGS DATING FROM THE QING DYNASTY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AS OLD AS 6,000 YEARS.

SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE IN 1976, THERE HAS BEEN A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMME TO PROTECT SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND PLACES IN HONG KONG.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY (THAT IS SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE) MAY, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR, DECLARE A BUILDING, STRUCTURE, OR PLACE TO BE A MONUMENT.

UP TO THE PRESENT, EIGHT ROCK CARVINGS, FOUR FORTS, FOUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, TWO HISTORICAL SITES, TWO TRADITIONAL VILLAGES, 13 TRADITIONAL CHINESE STRUCTURES AND 15 WESTERN-STYLE BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN PROTECTED UNDER THE LAW.

ALTHOUGH THE ORDINANCE ALLOWS FOR A PLACE OR STRUCTURE TO BE DECLARED A MONUMENT AGAINST THE WILL OF THE OWNER, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN THE OWNER'S PROPERTY RIGHTS.

IN SOME CASES, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH A COMPROMISE, WHEREBY THE OWNER UNDERTAKES TO PRESERVE THE STRUCTURE INTACT FOR A GIVEN PERIOD AND THE GOVERNOR MAY DEEM IT TO BE A MONUMENT.

WHILE THIS DOES NOT AFFORD ANY LEGAL PROTECTION, IT DOES ENABLE PUBLIC FUNDS TO BE APPLIED TO RESTORATION WORK.

IT ALSO ENABLES REASONABLE ACCESS BY THE PUBLIC.

SEVEN HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PRESERVED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT.

THE EXHIBITION, PRODUCED BY THE AMO, SHOWS THE LOCATIONS OF ALL THE DECLARED AND DEEMED MONUMENTS.

IT ALSO INTRODUCES, WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS, THEIR HISTORY, ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS.

THE EXHIBITION IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND ADMISSION IS FREE. OPENING HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY - FRIDAY	9.30 AM - 12.30 PM
	2.00 PM - 4.30 PM
SATURDAY	9.30 AM - NOON
SUNDAY & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	CLOSED

A SERIES OF INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ON SOME OF THE MONUMENTS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION AT THE EXHIBITION HALL. THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED TO VISIT THE HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS CAN EASILY PAY A VISIT WITH THE HELP OF THE INFORMATION PAMPHLETS.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1993

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GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF ALL BATHING BEACHES IN HONG KONG.

THE PURPOSE IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THE GRADING WOULD BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATER WAS USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN ITS ROUTINE MONITORING PROGRAMME.

AS WITH LAST YEAR, THE GRADING ALSO INCLUDES AN ESTIMATE OF THE RISK OF SUFFERING SOME MINOR SKIN OR GASTROINTESTINAL COMPLAINTS AS A RESULT OF SWIMMING AT A BEACH THAT HAS SOME DEGREE OF POLLUTION.

THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON A VERY LARGE BODY OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION GATHERED IN HONG KONG IN RECENT BATHING SEASONS.

THE GRADING OF SOME BEACHES MAY VARY DURING THE SUMMER. THIS REPRESENTS A NATURAL FLUCTUATION IN THE BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF BATHING WATERS IN MOST CASES, AS RAIN AND TIDES BRING MORE OR LESS POLLUTION TO THE BEACHES.

HOWEVER, THE GRADES GIVE A GOOD GENERAL PICTURE OF THE WATER QUALITY AT BATHING BEACHES AT THE TIME OF REPORTING AND FORM THE BEST AVAILABLE FORECAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

"BEACHES WITH HIGHLY DEVELOPED HINTERLANDS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE POLLUTED THAN THE GRADES SUGGEST DURING AND AFTER HEAVY RAIN.

"BATHERS SHOULD AVOID SUCH BEACHES FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER A STORM, LONGER IF THE WEATHER REMAINS OVERCAST OR LESS IF THERE IS STRONG SUNSHINE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS AS FOLLOWS:

- * GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- * GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- * GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

/* GRADE "4"

* GRADE "4" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS MORE THAN 610 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS MORE THAN 15 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGEMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

NORMALLY, THE CLOSURE OF A BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A GRADE "4" OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS.

THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTE. THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THE TWO BEACHES.

IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING BY THE URBAN COUNCIL. THESE THREE BEACHES ARE IDENTIFIED BY AN "X" IN THE FOLLOWING LIST.

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES IN HONG KONG AS AT TODAY ARE:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 6.5.93)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 20.5.93)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	3	3
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	2
DEEP WATER BAY	1	2
HAIRPIN	2	2
MIDDLE BAY	1	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	2	2
TURTLE COVE	1	1
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	1	1
TUEN MUN DISTRICT -----		
OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	2	3
BUTTERFLY	2	3

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	2
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	2

ISLANDS DISTRICT

CHEUNG SHA UPPER	1	1
CHEUNG SHA LOWER	1	2
DISCOVERY BAY*	2	2
HUNG SHING YEH	1	2
KWUN YAM WAN	2	2
TONG FUK	1	1
LO SO SHING	1	1
PUI O	1	1
SILVERMINE BAY	2	3
TUNG WAN, CHEUNG CHAU	2	2
TUNG O*	2	2

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

ANGLERS'	3	3
APPROACH	3	4
CASAM	3	3
GEMINI	3	3
HOI MEI WAN	3	3
LIDO	3	3
TING KAU	3	4
TUNG WAN, MA WAN	2	2

NOTE: "X" THE BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING.
* NON-GAZETTED BEACH.

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

CHUNG HOM KOK, DEEP WATER BAY, CHEUNG SHA LOWER, HUNG SHING YEH, CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST AND TRIO (HEBE HAVEN) "1" TO "2"; SILVERMINE BAY, KADOORIE AND BUTTERFLY FROM "2" TO "3"; APPROACH AND TING KAU FROM "3" TO "4".

THE CHANGES ARE WITHIN THE NORMAL RANGE OF FLUCTUATION OF THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF THESE BEACHES.

THE VERY POOR WATER QUALITY AT APPROACH AND TING KAU BEACHES IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE RECENT HEAVY RAINFUL WHICH WOULD HAVE CAUSED THE POLLUTANTS IN THE BEACH HINTERLAND TO BE FLUSHED INTO THE SEA WATER.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT DR M J BROOM,
PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER ON 835 1234.

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COOL AND CLOUDY IN APRIL

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A MONTHLY WEATHER REPORT PUBLISHED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY SHOWED THAT APRIL WAS RELATIVELY COOL AND CLOUDY WITH THE NORTHEAST MONSOON RATHER ACTIVE LATE IN THE SEASON.

THERE WAS A NINE-DAY SPELL IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH WHEN THE COOL NORTHEAST MONSOON WAS PARTICULARLY PERSISTENT.

IT WAS ALSO QUITE HUMID WITH FREQUENT MIST AND FOG IN THE LATTER HALF OF APRIL.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ONLY SEVEN RAIN-FREE DAYS DURING THE MONTH, THE RAINFALL AMOUNT REMAINED ON THE LOW SIDE FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH.

WITH ONLY 136.3 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN, THE TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH WAS 16 PER CENT BELOW THE APRIL NORMAL OF 161.5 MILLIMETRES.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SINCE JANUARY 1 WAS 219.8 MILLIMETRES, 27 PER CENT BELOW THE NORMAL OF 299.8 MILLIMETRES FOR THE PERIOD.

THE INTRUSION OF A MOIST MARITIME AIRSTREAM AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL LED TO THE FORMATION OF MIST AND COASTAL FOG. THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY WITH PATCHES OF LIGHT RAIN AND DRIZZLE FOR THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF THE MONTH.

BUT ONCE THE FOG LIFTED ON APRIL 3 AND 4, THERE WERE LONG PERIODS OF SUNSHINE DURING THE DAY.

CLOUDS RETURNED AS EASTERLY WINDS STRENGTHENED IN THE EARLY MORNING ON APRIL 5. LIGHT RAIN FELL FOR SEVERAL HOURS FOLLOWING THE ONSET OF THE EASTERLY SURGE AND BECAME MORE PERSISTENT THE NEXT DAY.

WINDS TURNED NORTHEASTERLY ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 6 AND BROUGHT IN EVEN COOLER AIR FROM THE INLAND AREAS OF GUANGDONG.

TEMPERATURES DROPPED BY MORE THAN 13 DEGREES FROM THE MAXIMUM ON APRIL 3 TO THE MONTH'S LOWEST OF 14.6 DEGREES ON APRIL 7.

AN OUTBREAK OF HEAVIER RAIN ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 7 WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THUNDERSTORMS. WINDS VEERED TO EASTERLY ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 8.

WITH FURTHER REPLENISHMENTS OF THE NORTHEAST MONSOON, FRESH WINDS AND RELATIVELY COOL WEATHER WERE MAINTAINED TILL APRIL 13.

MEANWHILE, DRIER AIR OF CONTINENTAL ORIGIN CONTINUED TO SPREAD TOWARDS THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS, BRINGING FINE AND SUNNY WEATHER FROM APRIL 12 TO 16.

THE WEATHER TURNED CLOUDY AND MISTY WITH FREQUENT LIGHT RAIN ON APRIL 17 AS EASTERLY WINDS FRESHENED IN THE MORNING.

AFTER AN OUTBREAK OF HEAVIER RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS ON APRIL 18, RAIN STARTED TO EASE OFF LATER IN THE DAY.

CLOUDS AND MIST ON APRIL 19 THICKENED INTO WIDESPREAD FOG THE NEXT MORNING. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

FOUR CASES OF MINOR FLOODING WERE REPORTED DURING THE DOWNPOUR. AFTER A LULL THAT NIGHT, RAIN CLOUDS BECAME ACTIVE AGAIN ON APRIL 21, LEADING TO ANOTHER EPISODE OF RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS FROM DAYBREAK TILL LATE AFTERNOON.

OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS, THE INCREASINGLY ACTIVE SOUTHWEST MONSOON BROUGHT SOME SHOWERS IN THE EARLY PART OF THE DAY BUT ALSO WARMER AND BRIGHTER WEATHER LATER IN THE DAY.

WITH WINDS TURNING SOUTHEASTERLY EARLY ON APRIL 25, FOGGY WEATHER AFFECTED THE COASTAL AREAS AND OFFSHORE WATERS. POOR VISIBILITY WAS BLAMED FOR THE COLLISION BETWEEN A CATAMARAN AND A FISHING BOAT OFF TSING YI ISLAND.

THE WARMING TREND CONTINUED AS TEMPERATURES CLIMBED TO THE MONTH'S HIGHEST OF 29.8 DEGREES ON APRIL 25.

THE BALMY WEATHER SOON CAME TO AN END AS A STRONG EASTERLY AIRSTREAM ARRIVED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON APRIL 25. BETWEEN MIDDAY AND MIDNIGHT, THERE WAS A TEMPERATURE DROP OF NEARLY 10 DEGREES.

RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS ARRIVING WITH THE EASTERLY SURGE PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE EVENING.

AFTER THE MODERATION OF THE EASTERLIES THE NEXT DAY, WINDS GRADUALLY TURNED SOUTHERLY.

APART FROM ONE FINE DAY ON APRIL 28, THE WEATHER TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH WAS MOSTLY CLOUDY AND HUMID WITH MORNING OR EVENING FOG PATCHES OFFSHORE.

CONDITIONS ALSO BECAME MORE UNSETTLED WITH RAIN DEVELOPING ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 29.

THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY WAS WIDESPREAD IN THE VICINITY OF HONG KONG AND LIGHTNING FLASHES LIGHTED UP THE NIGHT SKY WITH MENACING STORM CLOUDS.

AGAINST SUCH A STORMY BACKGROUND, THE ACTUAL RAINFALL AMOUNT WAS SURPRISINGLY SCARCE.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING NIGHT THAT TORRENTIAL RAIN STARTED TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY.

NO TROPICAL CYCLONE ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN APRIL.

SEVEN AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DURING THE MONTH, MOSTLY AS A RESULT OF FOGGY CONDITIONS EARLY ON APRIL 3.

DETAILS OF THE ISSUANCE/HOISTING AND CANCELLATION/LOWERING OF VARIOUS WARNINGS/SIGNALS IN THE MONTH ARE SUMMARISED IN TABLE 1.1.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL ARE TABULATED IN TABLE 1.2.

TABLE 1.1 WARNINGS AND SIGNALS IN APRIL 1993

WARNINGS / SIGNALS	EFFECTIVE DATE AND TIME

STRONG MONSOON SIGNALS	APR 5 0600 - APR 5 1400
	APR 11 2300 - APR 12 0740
	APR 12 2300 - APR 13 0750
	APR 25 1605 - APR 26 0915

RAINSTORM ALERT/WARNINGS	
GREEN	APR 20 1130 - APR 22 0845

FLOOD WARNING	APR 20 1530 - APR 20 2100

THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS	APR 7 2025 - APR 8 0700
	APR 17 2305 - APR 18 0800
	APR 20 1130 - APR 20 2100
	APR 20 2300 - APR 21 1530
	APR 22 2300 - APR 23 0700
	APR 23 1500 - APR 23 1900
	APR 25 2040 - APR 26 0630
	APR 27 1005 - APR 27 1305
	APR 27 1530 - APR 27 1930
	APR 29 0030 - APR 29 0630
APR 29 0945 - APR 29 1345	
APR 29 1925 - APR 30 0630	

FIRE DANGER WARNINGS	
YELLOW	APR 4 0600 - APR 5 1800

TABLE 1.2 FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL - APRIL 1993

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	81.2 HOURS; 27.7 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	10.35 MJ/SQM; 2.79 MJ/SQM BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	136.3 MM; 25.2 MM BELOW NORMAL
MEAN CLOUD AMOUNT	85 % ; 7 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	86 % ; 3 % ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	24.2 DEGREES; 0.7 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	21.8 DEGREES; 0.4 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.9 DEGREES; 0.3 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	19.3 DEGREES; 0.3 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	65.6 MM; 41.3 MM BELOW NORMAL

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SOCIAL WELFARE DIRECTOR MEETS WELFARE GROUP

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MEMBERS OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PO LEUNG KUK TODAY (THURSDAY) PAID A COURTESY CALL TO THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, TO DISCUSS WELFARE SERVICES PLANNED BY THE KUK IN THE COMING YEAR.

THE KUK'S CHAIRMAN, MR TONG CHOR-NAM, SAID THE PROJECTS INCLUDED TWO GROUP HOMES AT PAK TIN AND TUNG TAU, TWO NURSERIES AT LAM TIN AND HUNG HOM AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF WELFARE FACILITIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND MENTALLY RETARDED.

THE ORGANISATION WOULD ALSO PROCEED WITH THE EXTENSION SCHEME FOR ITS HEADQUARTERS AT WELFARE BUILDING ON LEIGHTON ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

MR STRACHAN COMMENDED THE KUK FOR ITS EFFORTS IN PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND ASSURED BOARD MEMBERS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH THEM TO IMPLEMENT THESE SERVICES.

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1993

- 25 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,605
REVERSAL OF LAF	+545
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-730
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,420
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	TWI 112.3 *-0.2* 20.5.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.51 PCT	15 MONTHS	2408	4.375	101.01	3.56
1 MONTH	2.84 PCT	18 MONTHS	2411	4.625	101.34	3.73
3 MONTHS	2.95 PCT	21 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.46	3.91
6 MONTHS	3.11 PCT	24 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.47	4.07
12 MONTHS	3.41 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,057MN

CLOSED 20 MAY 1993

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