



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1991

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR BEGINS FIRST AUSTRALIAN VISIT WITH BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS	1
DEMANDS FOR EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE ON THE INCREASE	2
NO COMMENT ON WONG'S RESIGNATION	4
PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY	4
HK SHIFTS TO CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES .	9
PENSION BENEFITS FOR VTC STAFF	10
BILL TO ENABLE PRIVATISATION OF GOVT TUNNELS	11
NEW UK SHORT-TERM MULTIPLE ENTRY CLEARANCE	11
TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL TO BE RESTORED	12
CHAIRMEN OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DB COMMITTEES ELECTED	13
CHAIRMEN OF SHA TIN DB COMMITTEES ELECTED	14
TUEN MUN DE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ELECTED	14
GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY	15
SUPPLY OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT PARTICULARS	18
UNAUTHORISED BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO TO BE CLOSED	19
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	19

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1991

- 1 -

GOVERNOR BEGINS FIRST AUSTRALIAN VISIT WITH BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (THURSDAY) HAD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING BUSINESSMEN AT THE START OF AN INTENSIVE SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRALIA - THE FIRST BY A GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID AND LADY WILSON ARRIVED IN MELBOURNE THIS MORNING AFTER AN OVERNIGHT FLIGHT FROM HONG KONG. AFTER MEETING THE GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, DR DAVIS MCCAUGHEY, SIR DAVID WENT STRAIGHT INTO A LUNCHEON MEETING IN THE BOARDROOM OF ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S TOP COMPANIES, THE AMP SOCIETY, WHICH HAS INVESTMENTS WORLDWIDE.

THE LUNCH WAS HOSTED BY SIR JAMES BALDERSTONE, THE CHAIRMAN OF AMP, WHO HAD INVITED CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF A NUMBER OF COMPANIES, INCLUDING BHP, WOODSIDE PETROLEUM, COLES MYER LTD (AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST RETAIL TRADING GROUP) AND J.B. WERE & SON, A LEADING STOCKBROKING HOUSE.

AFTER THE LUNCH, THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS VERY GOOD.

"THE POINT THAT CAME ACROSS MOST STRONGLY WAS THAT THEY DO SEE A GREAT INTEREST IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION IN GENERAL. AND WHEN THEY LOOK AT HONG KONG, THEY LOOK BOTH AT THE TERRITORY AND THE LONG TERM PROSPECTS IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

"I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT PEOPLE IN THE GROUP WERE THINKING LONG TERM - BEYOND 1997 AND NOT THINKING 1997 WAS THE END OF ANY PARTICULAR PERIOD."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS A GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT POLITICS IN HONG KONG AND THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT GET THE FEELING THAT THERE WERE ANY OVERWHELMING CONCERNS ABOUT 1997.

HE ADDED THAT THE AIRPORT WAS DISCUSSED VERY BRIEFLY, BUT IT WAS ONE OF MANY SUBJECTS THAT CAME UP.

FOLLOWING THE LUNCH, SIR DAVID SPENT SOME TIME WITH THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA, MRS JOAN KIRNER, AT HER OFFICE IN THE VICTORIAN STATE PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

HE DESCRIBED THE VISIT OF A HONG KONG GOVERNOR TO AUSTRALIA AS LONG OVERDUE CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO CENTRES.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA HAD GROWN BY FIVE TIMES.

TOMORROW, THE GOVERNOR WILL HOLD ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH ANOTHER GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN HEADED BY MR BRIAN LOTON, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST COMPANY, BHP LTD. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIA (CEDA), BEFORE MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN MELBOURNE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/2

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1991

- 2 -

DEMANDS FOR EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE ON THE INCREASE

* * * * *

THE MORE CONSERVATIVE LENDING POLICY OF COMMERCIAL BANKS IN SOME MARKETS, COUPLED WITH THE OPENING OF NEW MARKETS, HAVE INCREASED THE DEMAND FOR SUPPLIER CREDITS AND INSURANCE PROTECTION, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A KOWLOON ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON, SIR PIERS SAID THIS IMPROVED BUSINESS PROSPECT HOWEVER CARRIED WITH IT A HIGHER LEVEL OF CREDIT RISKS.

"TO CAPITALISE ON THE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, THE HONG KONG EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (ECIC) WILL IMPROVE ITS ACCESS TO UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF OVERSEAS BUYERS, AS WELL AS ON THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES," SIR PIERS SAID.

"MEANWHILE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASED CREDIT RISKS, ECIC WILL KEEP ABREAST OF MODERN UNDERWRITING TECHNIQUES WHILE MAINTAINING A PRUDENT CREDIT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.

"IN LINE WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ECIC HAS UPGRADED ITS COMPUTER SYSTEM, WITH THE INSTALLATION OF MODERN ELECTRONIC DEVICES WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF PROVIDING ON-LINE ACCESS TO STATUS REPORTS AND EXCHANGING BUYER DATA WITH OTHER CREDIT INSURERS.

"ECIC ALSO INTENDS TO MAKE EXTENSIVE USE OF ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE TECHNIQUES, THEREBY FULFILLING THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS SERVICES TO EXPORTERS."

SIR PIERS SAID IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, ECIC HAD BEEN PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF CREDIT AND INVESTMENT INSURERS, OR THE BERNE UNION, OF WHICH IT HAD BEEN A MEMBER SINCE 1969.

"THROUGH REGULAR EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION IN UNDERWRITING TECHNIQUES AND SO ON WITH MEMBERS OF ALL LEADING EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES IN THE WORLD AND ATTENDANCE OF REGULAR WORKSHOPS ON VARIOUS TECHNICAL ASPECTS, ECIC HAS BEEN TRYING ITS BEST TO EQUIP ITSELF WITH THE LATEST TECHNIQUES IN EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE SO AS TO MEET ANY UPCOMING CHALLENGES," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY COMMITTED IN SUPPORTING ECIC'S SERVICES TO THE EXPORT SECTOR, ADDING THAT TO COPE WITH ECIC'S ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN BUSINESS, THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY APPROVED TO RAISED ITS STATUTORY MAXIMUM LIABILITY FROM \$6 BILLION TO \$7.5 BILLION.

THE ECIC WAS CREATED BY STATUTE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROVIDING, ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BEHALF, A WAY TO OBTAIN INSURANCE COVER FOR EXPORTERS AGAINST THE RISKS OF NON-PAYMENT BY OVERSEAS BUYERS FOR GOODS EXPORTED OR SERVICES RENDERED.

/THE GOVERNMENT

THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED A TOTAL CAPITAL OF \$20 MILLION AND A 100 PER CENT GUARANTEE OF ALL MONEYS THE CORPORATION WAS LIABLE TO PAY, SIR PIERS SAID.

HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ECIC WAS THE ONLY STATUTORY ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE SERVICES, IT DID NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY IN THE PROVISION OF SUCH SERVICE.

"OTHER FIRMS ARE FREE TO ENTER THE MARKET. CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANIES, INSURANCE BROKERS AND FACTORING COMPANIES HAVE BEEN, OVER THE YEARS, OFFERING ALTERNATIVES FOR SHOULDERING EXPORT CREDIT RISKS TO EXPORTERS.

"TO ECIC, THIS IS, IN FACT, A WELCOMING TREND SINCE COMPETITION ENHANCES EXPORTERS' AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE, GENERATES GREATER DEMAND FOR INSURANCE COVER AND CREATES A LARGER MARKET," HE SAID.

"IN THE FACE OF SUCH COMPETITIVE PRESSURE, ECIC WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND STRENGTHEN ITS CO-OPERATION WITH BANKS, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN ORDER TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF THE EXPORT SECTOR IN THE DAYS AHEAD," HE ADDED.

LOOKING AT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SCENE, SIR PIERS SAID THE 1990'S WOULD BE A DECADE OF CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION.

"THE PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE HAS BEEN ONE OF SLOW GROWTH," HE SAID.

"NEVERTHELESS, THE OPENING OF EASTERN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA, AS WELL AS THE FORMATION OF A SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET IN 1992, WILL BRING ABOUT NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH.

"THERE IS ALSO THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DRAMATIC POLITICAL CHANGES WHICH HAVE RENDERED THE WORLD A MORE CLOSELY INTEGRATED PLACE."

SIR PIERS SAID THE IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES ON THE EXTERNALLY-ORIENTED ECONOMY OF HONG KONG WOULD PRESENT BOTH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

"TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE, MUCH EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE ON THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT FRONT.

"THIS INCLUDES THE OPENING UP OF NEW MARKETS, THE DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORTS AND THE UPGRADING OF PRODUCT QUALITY," HE SAID.

THE ECIC WAS FORMED 25 YEARS AGO WHEN HONG KONG WAS STILL A BUDDING ECONOMY WITH A STRONG NEED TO EXPAND ITS EXPORT TRADE.

OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF ECIC POLICYHOLDERS HAS INCREASED FROM 250 EXPORTERS SELLING TO 1,000 BUYERS IN 1967 TO ABOUT 2,000 EXPORTERS SELLING TO 15,000 BUYERS TODAY.

THE CORPORATION HAS BEEN GROWING AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF SOME 20 PER CENT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS. ITS TOTAL INSURED BUSINESS AMOUNTS TO \$98 BILLION TODAY.

NO COMMENT ON WONG'S RESIGNATION

* * * * *

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT HE HAD NO COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE RESIGNATION OF DR PHILIP WONG FROM THE STOCK EXCHANGE COUNCIL.

ASKED ABOUT HIS REACTION TO THE INCIDENT, SIR PIERS SAID: "DR WONG HAS MADE HIS OWN DECISIONS. THERE IS NOTHING MORE I CAN SAY. I DON'T THINK IT REFLECTS BADLY ON HONG KONG AS A FINANCIAL CENTRE."

IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ABOUT THE LACK OF INFORMATION FROM GOVERNMENT ON THE RECENT EVENTS WITHIN THE STOCK EXCHANGE COUNCIL, SIR PIERS SAID IT WAS REALLY UP TO THE STOCK EXCHANGE ITSELF TO PUT OUT INFORMATION ABOUT ITS OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

HE SAID IT WAS NOT FOR GOVERNMENT TO SPEAK FOR THE STOCK EXCHANGE. HE BELIEVED INFORMATION HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION WHERE APPROPRIATE.

ASKED ABOUT THE TOBACCO TAX DEBATE TO BE HELD IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEEK, SIR PIERS SAID HE WOULD BE MOVING A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT, BUT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS.

HE SAID THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF HAVING A DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TO HEAR VIEWS THAT WERE EXPRESSED AND IF NECESSARY RESPOND TO THEM IN PARTICULAR WAYS.

ON THE RENEWAL OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA, SIR PIERS SAID THIS WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO HONG KONG BECAUSE A LOT OF THE TERRITORY'S BUSINESS INVOLVED CHINA OR WERE CONNECTED WITH PROCESSINGS CARRIED ON IN CHINA.

"IT WOULD HAVE A VERY GRAVE EFFECT ON OUR BUSINESS. SO WE'VE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN WHERE IT COUNTS," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS WAS SPEAKING TO MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AFTER HIS ADDRESS TO THE KOWLOON ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON MEETING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE IN FEBRUARY

* * * * *

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCREASED BY 10%, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 31% IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1991 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1990, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL INCREASE OF 23% IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS INCREASED BY 25% IN VOLUME TERMS.

/THE GROWTH

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS BOTH ROSE BY 2%, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 4%. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) DECREASED BY 1%.

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IN ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR FEBRUARY ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS WHICH OCCURRED IN LATE JANUARY LAST YEAR, BUT IN MID-FEBRUARY THIS YEAR.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 6% AND 26% RESPECTIVELY. TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 18%. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS GREW BY 7%.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2% AND 3% RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 4%.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF SOME COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990, INCLUDING METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+52%); CLOTHING (+37%); ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+28%); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+20%); AND RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+10%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN FOOTWEAR (-34%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (-26%); TEXTILE FABRICS (-15%); WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-8%); AND TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-7%).

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990.

THESE INCLUDED FOOTWEAR (+7%); RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (+7%); METAL MANUFACTURES (+4%); TEXTILE FABRICS (+4%); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+3%); CLOTHING (+3%); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+2%); AND METAL ORES AND SCRAP (+1%).

HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WAS RECORDED IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (-1%), WHILE THOSE OF TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES; WATCHES AND CLOCKS; AND DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES WERE VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 8% IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990. IN PARTICULAR, SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF TEA AND COFFEE; SUGAR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS. INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF SWINE; ANIMALS OF THE BOVINE SPECIES; LIVE POULTRY; AND FRUIT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 16%. COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED FOOTWEAR; HOUSEHOLD TYPE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES; AND CLOTHING. HOWEVER, A DECREASE IN IMPORT VOLUME WAS RECORDED FOR WATCHES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES WAS ABOUT THE SAME IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990.

DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; AND YARN OF WOOL AND MIXTURES. HOWEVER, SIGNIFICANT INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; AND THERMIONIC CATHODE VALVES AND TUBES, DIODES, TRANSISTORS AND ELECTRICAL MICROCIRCUITS.

IMPORTS OF FUELS DECREASED BY 7% IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME INCREASED BY 11% IN FEBRUARY 1991 OVER FEBRUARY 1990. SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED IN TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT; ELECTRICAL MACHINERY; AND OFFICE MACHINES. THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, THE IMPORT PRICES OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+43%); CAPITAL GOODS (+5%); FOODSTUFFS (+5%); CONSUMER GOODS (+4%); AND RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1991 WITH FEBRUARY 1990, THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS; AND CAPITAL GOODS INCREASED BY 53% AND 17% RESPECTIVELY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF FUELS; RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND FOODSTUFFS DECREASED BY 40%, 5% AND 4% RESPECTIVELY.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1991 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1990: FUELS (+50%); FOODSTUFFS (+3%); CONSUMER GOODS (+3%); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+2%); AND CAPITAL GOODS (+1%).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE FEBRUARY 1991 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MAY 15 AT \$4 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 823 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING FEB 1991 WITH FEB 1990			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1991 WITH JAN-FEB 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	41	3	37	17	3	14
TEXTILE FABRICS	-12	4	-15	2	3	-1
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	-25	2	-26	-5	1	-6
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	20	*	20	-16	*	-16
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	17	7	10	-7	5	-11
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	27	1	28	53	-1	55
FOOTWEAR	-29	7	-34	-19	6	-23
METAL MANUFACTURES.	3	4	*	8	4	4
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	53	1	52	33	-1	35
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	-8	*	-8	2	*	2
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-4	3	-7	-7	2	-9
DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-1	*	-1	14	*	14
ALL COMMODITIES	8	2	6	12	2	10

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING FEB 1991 WITH FEB 1990			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1991 WITH JAN-FEB 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-4	5	-8	7	4	3
CONSUMER GOODS	20	4	16	33	3	29
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	2	2	*	25	2	23
FUELS	33	43	-7	69	38	22
CAPITAL GOODS	17	5	11	37	4	32
ALL COMMODITIES	11	4	7	30	4	25

* LESS THAN 0.5%

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

END-USE CATEGORY	COMPARING FEB 1991 WITH FEB 1990			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1991 WITH JAN-FEB 1990		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	-1	3	-4	9	3	6
CONSUMER GOODS	57	3	53	47	3	43
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	-3	2	-5	20	2	18
FUELS	-10	50	-40	11	49	-25
CAPITAL GOODS	18	1	17	30	1	29
ALL COMMODITIES	29	3	26	35	2	31

HK SHIFTS TO CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE
MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES

* * * * *

APART FROM EVOLVING INTO A REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTRE FOR MANUFACTURING, HONG KONG IS ASSERTING ITS POSITION AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE OF ITS OWN RIGHT BY SHIFTING TO CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY-INTENSIVE MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR WILFRED WONG, SAID THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE OPENING OF HONG KONG'S FIRST COPPER FOIL FACTORY AT YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE OPERATED BY NIKKO GOULD FOIL (HONG KONG) LIMITED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES IN TANDEM TO COPE WITH THE CHANGES AHEAD:

- * THE FIRST-YEAR INTAKE OF TERTIARY ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 7,500 AT PRESENT TO 15,000 BY 1994/95;
- * THE NEW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD BEGIN TO TAKE IN STUDENTS LATER THIS YEAR;
- * THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND TRAINING CENTRES PROVIDED BASIC OR UPDATING TRAINING FOR 25,000 TRAINEES A YEAR AT MANY DIFFERENT SKILL LEVELS;
- * THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES TRAINING SCHEME TO ENABLE MANAGERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS TO UNDERGO LOCAL OR OVERSEAS TRAINING IN NEW TECHNOLOGIES WOULD SOON BE LAUNCHED; AND
- * OUR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITY WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY INSTITUTES, AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, AND THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTRE.

"WE FULLY RECOGNISE THAT MANUFACTURERS PLAY AN EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE, IMPORTANT PART IN UNDERPINNING HONG KONG'S MOVE TOWARDS MORE SOPHISTICATED MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES," MR WONG SAID.

NIKKO GOULD'S COPPER FOIL PROJECT WOULD, LIKE MANY FAR-SIGHTED OVERSEAS INVESTMENT PROJECTS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY.

"THE COPPER FOIL THAT THE COMPANY PRODUCES WILL NO DOUBT FIND A READY MARKET IN THE LOCAL ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY AND, ONCE ESTABLISHED HERE, I AM SURE THE COMPANY WOULD BE ABLE TO CAPITALISE ON THE MANY STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES THAT WE HAVE TO OFFER," HE SAID.

MR WONG SAID THE NEW COPPER FOIL FACTORY, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND ESTABLISHED BY THE NIPPON MINING GROUP IN ASIA PACIFIC, SERVED TO TESTIFY THE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES WHICH HONG KONG, AS A REGIONAL MANUFACTURING CENTRE, OFFERED TO OVERSEAS INVESTORS.

"HERE, ONE WILL FIND AN EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, HIGH QUALITY MANPOWER RESOURCES, AND A STRATEGIC LOCATION, BOTH AS THE GATEWAY TO CHINA AND AS THE HUB OF ASIA PACIFIC," HE SAID.

HE SAID IN RECENT YEARS SOME HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS HAD RELOCATED MORE LABOUR INTENSIVE OPERATIONS TO SOUTHERN CHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RELATIVELY CHEAP LAND AND LABOUR AVAILABLE THERE.

SUCH OUTWARD PROCESSING OPERATIONS HAD LED HONG KONG TO ASSUME THE NEW ROLE OF SUPPLYING QUALITY LINKAGE MATERIALS AND PARTS, AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING (DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT), PRODUCT TESTING, QUALITY CONTROL AND MARKETING SERVICES, MR WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PENSION BENEFITS FOR VTC STAFF

* * * * *

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS GIVEN APPROVAL FOR THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) (VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL) BILL 1991 TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ANNOUNCING THIS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BILL WAS REQUIRED TO ENABLE CERTAIN OFFICERS TRANSFERRING FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) TO OPT TO HAVE THEIR ACCRUED PENSION RIGHTS PRESERVED.

IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED A PACKAGE OF BRIDGING-OVER ARRANGEMENTS TO ENABLE STAFF OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT TO TRANSFER TO THE VTC.

"ONE OF ITS OPTIONS IS TO TRANSFER WITH MIXED SERVICE PENSION BENEFITS, THAT IS, THE STAFF WILL CONTINUE TO EARN CIVIL SERVICE PENSION BENEFITS AS IF THEY WERE SERVING CIVIL SERVANTS DURING THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE VTC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"UNDER THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE VTC, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BEAR THE LIABILITY FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO THE TRANSFERRED OFFICERS, BUT THE PENSION ON-COSTS FOR THESE OFFICERS WILL BE REIMBURSED TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE VTC.

"A CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ORDINANCE IS INTRODUCED TO EMPOWER THE VTC TO MAKE SUCH PAYMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT."

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1991

- 11 -

BILL TO ENABLE PRIVATISATION OF GOVT TUNNELS

* * * * *

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THAT LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRIVATISATION OF GOVERNMENT ROAD TUNNELS MANAGEMENT.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) EXPLAINED THAT THE STATUTORY BACKING FOR THE PRIVATISATION MEASURE WAS NECESSARY BEFORE THE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT COULD START.

TO THIS EFFECT THE ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MAY 29.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ABERDEEN TUNNEL WOULD BE THE FIRST GOVERNMENT TUNNEL TO BE PRIVATISED. HE STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL RETAIN ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER THE LEVEL OF TOLLS UNDER THE PRIVATISATION SCHEME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW UK SHORT-TERM MULTIPLE ENTRY CLEARANCE

* * * * *

THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT A NEW UK SHORT-TERM MULTIPLE ENTRY CLEARANCE VALID FOR SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE WILL BE INTRODUCED FROM MAY 16.

THE PRESENT DOUBLE ENTRY CLEARANCE FOR THE UK WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED AFTER MAY 15.

"THE FEE FOR A SIX-MONTH MULTIPLE ENTRY CLEARANCE WILL BE 30 POUNDS, THE SAME AS THAT OF A DOUBLE ENTRY CLEARANCE," A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

"SINGLE ENTRY CLEARANCE FOR THE UK WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE AT 20 POUNDS (10 POUNDS FOR THOSE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE).

"HOWEVER, FOR VISITORS WHO OPT FOR A SINGLE ENTRY CLEARANCE BUT LATER DECIDE TO MAKE MORE THAN ONE ENTRY INTO THE UK, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO APPLY FOR A FURTHER VISA AT A UK ENTRY CLEARANCE POST OUTSIDE THE UK IN ORDER TO RETURN," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

ALL FEES ARE TO BE CHARGED ON A PER CAPITA BASIS AND COLLECTED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS CONVERTED FROM THE POUND STERLING AT A CURRENT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE.

AS FROM MAY 16, A NEW VISA EXEMPTION SCHEME WILL ALSO BE INTRODUCED.

/"UNDER THE

"UNDER THE NEW SCHEME, ANY VISA NATIONAL, INCLUDING A HOLDER OF HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY OR HONG KONG DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY, WHO IS SETTLED IN THE UK AND RETURNS AFTER AN ABSENCE OF NOT MORE THAN TWO YEARS, OR HAS BEEN GRANTED A LIMITED LEAVE OF MORE THAN SIX MONTHS FOR WORK, STUDY OR OTHER LONG-TERM PURPOSES AND RETURNS BEFORE THE EXPIRY OF THAT LEAVE WILL BENEFIT FROM VISA EXEMPTION," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"SUCH PEOPLE THEREFORE WILL NOT NEED TO APPLY FOR ANOTHER VISA BEFORE RETURNING TO THE UK. THEY WILL HOWEVER BE LIABLE TO EXAMINATION AT THE PORT OF ENTRY TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THEY STILL MEET IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS," HE ADDED.

VISITORS AND OTHERS GRANTED LEAVE OF SIX MONTHS OR LESS WILL NOT BE VISA EXEMPT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL TO BE RESTORED

* * * * *

THE TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL IN LUNG YEUK TAU, FANLING WILL BE RESTORED IN THE NEXT NINE MONTHS, WITH A DONATION OF \$2.35 MILLION FROM THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

SITUATED IN TSZ TONG TSUEN OF LUNG YEUK TAU, THE TANG CHUNG LING ANCESTRAL HALL IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT ANCESTRAL HALLS IN THE TERRITORY.

IT IS THE MAIN ANCESTRAL HALL OF THE TANG LINEAGE BUILT IN 1525 IN HONOUR OF THEIR FOUNDING ANCESTOR TANG CHUNG-LING (1302-1387).

WITH TWO INTERNAL OPEN COURTYARDS, THE THREE-HALL BUILDING IS UNUSUAL IN THAT IT HAS NO SIDE AISLES. ITS SCREEN DOOR IS AT THE CENTRAL HALL WHILST THREE ANCESTRAL ALTARS ARE ARRANGED AT THE MAIN HALL.

THE WOODCARVINGS OF THE BRACKETS, BEAMS AND EAVES WERE EXQUISITELY DONE AND THE ROOF RIDGES WERE DECORATED WITH SHIWAN CERAMIC FISHES AND LIONS.

THE BUILDING WAS CONFERRED DEEMED MONUMENT STATUS BY THE GOVERNOR LAST YEAR ON THE GROUNDS OF ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

IN THE PAST YEARS, THE ANCESTRAL HALL WAS REPAIRED AND RENOVATED MANY TIMES WHICH UNFORTUNATELY OBLITERATED SOME OF THE DECORATIVE FEATURES, PARTICULARLY THE WALL PAINTINGS AND PLASTER MOULDINGS.

"THE CONDITION OF THE BUILDING HAS BEEN DETERIORATING RAPIDLY AND EXTENSIVELY, AND AN INTENSIVE RESTORATION IS NECESSARY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE PROJECT WILL TAKE NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE AND WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE ANTIQUITIES SECTION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE," HE ADDED.

THE RESTORATION WORK WOULD COST ABOUT \$2.65 MILLION. THE MAJOR PORTION WILL BE BORNE BY THE JOCKEY CLUB AND \$0.3 MILLION WILL COME FROM THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH.

THIS IS THE FOURTH HISTORICAL BUILDING BEING RESTORED IN HONG KONG THROUGH THE GENEROUS DONATION OF THE JOCKEY CLUB. THE OTHER THREE ARE THE MAN LUNG FUNG ANCESTRAL HALL AND TAI FU TAI IN SAN TIN, AND THE KUN TING STUDY HALL IN PING SHAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHAIRMEN OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN DB COMMITTEES ELECTED
* * * * *

THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTED THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR THE BOARD'S VARIOUS COMMITTEES AT A CLOSED-DOOR MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY).

THEY ARE:

COMMITTEE -----	CHAIRMAN -----	VICE-CHAIRMAN -----
COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SERVICES	MR PETER LEE SHUNG-TAK	MR SAMMY POONE
ENVIRONMENT AND WORKS	MR IP KWOK-HIM	MISS VIVIAN CHIH WAN-WAN
FINANCE	MR WONG HONG-HIN	MR ALEXANDER CHANG YAU-HUNG
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT	MR LAM KIN-LAI	MR CHAN CHIT-KWAI

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHAIRMEN OF SHA TIN DB COMMITTEES ELECTED
* * * * *

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD ELECTED THE CHAIRMEN FOR ITS COMMITTEES AND A WORKING GROUP AT A MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THEY ARE:

- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: DR FANNY CHEUNG
- CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE: MR WONG PO-MING
- DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE: MR CHAN HON-YING
- FINANCE AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: MR WONG LUEN-KIN
- TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: MR CHING CHEUNG-YING
- HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE COMMITTEE: MR WONG HONG-CHUNG
- CONCERN GROUP ON WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE: MR LAU KONG-WAH

- - - - 0 - - - -

TUEN MUN DB COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ELECTED
* * * * *

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S WORKING COMMITTEES WERE ELECTED AT A SPECIAL DB MEETING THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING.

THEY ARE:

- SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE: MISS WAN SHUI-LING
- COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE: MR YIP HING-CHUNG
- FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: MR YING YU-HING
- CULTURE, RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE: MS LEE YING
- TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: MR SO SHIU-SHING
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: MR YIM TIN-SANG

- - - - 0 - - - -

GRADING OF BEACH WATER QUALITY

* * * * *

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

THE EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SYSTEM IS TO INFORM SWIMMERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC ABOUT THE STATE OF BACTERIOLOGICAL POLLUTION AT VARIOUS BEACHES.

THE GRADING WILL BE ANNOUNCED BIWEEKLY DURING THE BATHING SEASON, TO COINCIDE WITH THE FREQUENCY AT WHICH BEACH WATERS ARE USUALLY SAMPLED.

THE GRADING IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT E. COLI DATA OBTAINED BY THE EPD 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 WHICH 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," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"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 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"

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" 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 OR REGIONAL COUNCIL IF A "4" GRADE OCCURRED REPEATEDLY, SO THAT THE AVERAGE HEALTH RISK OVER THE BATHING SEASON EXCEEDED 15 CASES PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.

SIMILARLY, THE REOPENING OF A CLOSED BEACH WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF A "3" GRADE OR BETTER WERE CONSISTENTLY OBTAINED.

AT PRESENT, TWO BATHING BEACHES, NAMELY CASTLE PEAK AND OLD CAFETERIA, HAVE BEEN DECLARED UNSUITABLE FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES, BASED ON THE WATER QUALITY DURING PAST SEASONS. THEY ARE POLLUTED BY FAECAL WASTES AND FAIL TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENTLY THE HONG KONG STANDARDS.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO SWIM IN THE WATER AT THESE TWO BEACHES. IN ADDITION, ROCKY BAY BEACH HAS BEEN CLOSED FOR SWIMMING PURPOSES 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 LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 25.4.91)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 9.5.91)
HONG KONG SOUTH -----		
BIG WAVE BAY	2	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	1	1
HAIRPIN	1	1
MIDDLE BAY	1	1
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	2	2
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	1
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	2
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	3	2
BUTTERFLY	2	2

SAI KUNG DISTRICT

CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	1	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	3	3
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	1	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT

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

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT

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

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

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

ANGLERS', FROM "2" TO "3"; GEMINI, HOI MEI WAN, NEW CAFETERIA AND KADOORIE, FROM "3" TO "2"; TING KAU, FROM "4" TO "3".

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

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER (WATER POLICY) OF EPD, MR P.R. HOLMES, ON TEL. 835 1234.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUPPLY OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT PARTICULARS

* * * * *

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT MAINTAINS A COMPREHENSIVE AND UP-TO-DATE COMPUTERISED CENTRAL REGISTER OF AROUND 350,000 ESTABLISHMENTS IN HONG KONG TO SERVE MAINLY AS THE SAMPLING FRAME FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC SURVEYS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

MANY OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ALSO MAKE USE OF THE REGISTER FOR PUBLICITY, SURVEY AND RESEARCH WORK.

A SAMPLE LISTING CONTAINING 20 PER CENT OF THE RECORDS RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THE CENTRAL REGISTER WILL BE CREATED FOR USE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THEIR MARKET RESEARCH, STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND BUSINESS OR PRODUCT PROMOTION.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF A PHOTOCOPY OR A MAGNETIC TAPE OF THE LISTING OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL PARTICULARS SUCH AS THE NAME, THE ADDRESS, THE MAJOR TYPE OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND THE EMPLOYMENT SIZE CLASS OF INDIVIDUAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THIS 20 PER CENT SAMPLE LISTING CAN BE MADE TO THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

A CHARGE WILL BE LEVIED FOR THIS SERVICE, AND THE RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- \$4 PER PAGE OF PHOTOCOPY; AND
- A MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$400 FOR A JOB REQUIRING UP TO 20 CRU'S (COMPUTER RESOURCES UNIT) PLUS \$20 FOR EACH CRU IN EXCESS OF 20 CRU'S, IF THE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED ON MAGNETIC TAPES. THE MAGNETIC TAPES ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY APPLICANTS.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE CENTRAL REGISTER SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4760.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNAUTHORISED BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO TO BE CLOSED

* * * * *

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING ON THE ROOF OVER THE FIFTH FLOOR OF 35 NAM CHEONG STREET IN SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT IT CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON AUGUST 8 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

DEMOLITION WORK IS EXPECTED TO START ONCE THE ORDER IS ISSUED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

* * * * *

	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	8.5.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.5.91	+169
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-169
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.5 *+0.2* 9.5.91		

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
-----	-----	-----	-----
Q115	10.7.91	340	+140
Q116	17.7.91	350	+130
Q117	24.7.91	378.5	+101.5
Q118	31.7.91	450	+30
Q119	7.8.91	420	+60
Q107	15.5.91	391	+89
Q108	22.5.91	450	+30
Q109	29.5.91	550	-70
Q110	5.6.91	420	+60
Q111	12.6.91	434	+46
Q112	19.6.91	610	-130
Q113	26.6.91	480	+0
Q114	3.7.91	480	+0

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
-----	-----	-----	-----
H002	15.5.91	227.5	+32.5
H003	29.5.91	210	+50
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	143	+117
H156	24.7.91	150	+110
H157	7.8.91	209.5	+50.5
H158	21.8.91	150	+110
H159	4.9.91	170	+90
H160	18.9.91	150	+110
H161	2.10.91	110	+150
H162	17.10.91	74	+186
H163	30.10.91	181.5	+78.5

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
-----	-----	-----	-----
Y187	26.2.92	230	+30
Y188	25.3.92	180	+80
Y189	22.4.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 3.5.91 WAS 5,080 MN

ISSUE NUMBER	MATURING ON	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION	
-----	-----	-----	-----
			0
0114	2.7.91	180	+0
0113	26.6.91	180	+0
0112	19.6.91	180	+0
0111	12.6.91	180	+0
0110	5.6.91	180	+0
0109	29.5.91	180	+0
0108	22.5.91	180	+0
0107	15.5.91	180	+0
0106	8.5.91	180	+0
0105	1.5.91	180	+0
0104	24.4.91	180	+0
0103	17.4.91	180	+0
0102	10.4.91	180	+0
0101	3.4.91	180	+0
0100	26.3.91	180	+0
0099	19.3.91	180	+0
0098	12.3.91	180	+0
0097	5.3.91	180	+0
0096	26.2.91	180	+0
0095	19.2.91	180	+0
0094	12.2.91	180	+0
0093	5.2.91	180	+0
0092	28.1.91	180	+0
0091	21.1.91	180	+0
0090	14.1.91	180	+0
0089	7.1.91	180	+0
0088	31.12.90	180	+0
0087	24.12.90	180	+0
0086	17.12.90	180	+0
0085	10.12.90	180	+0
0084	3.12.90	180	+0
0083	26.11.90	180	+0
0082	19.11.90	180	+0
0081	12.11.90	180	+0
0080	5.11.90	180	+0
0079	28.10.90	180	+0
0078	21.10.90	180	+0
0077	14.10.90	180	+0
0076	7.10.90	180	+0
0075	30.9.90	180	+0
0074	23.9.90	180	+0
0073	16.9.90	180	+0
0072	9.9.90	180	+0
0071	2.9.90	180	+0
0070	26.8.90	180	+0
0069	19.8.90	180	+0
0068	12.8.90	180	+0
0067	5.8.90	180	+0
0066	28.7.90	180	+0
0065	21.7.90	180	+0
0064	14.7.90	180	+0
0063	7.7.90	180	+0
0062	30.6.90	180	+0
0061	23.6.90	180	+0
0060	16.6.90	180	+0
0059	9.6.90	180	+0
0058	2.6.90	180	+0
0057	26.5.90	180	+0
0056	19.5.90	180	+0
0055	12.5.90	180	+0
0054	5.5.90	180	+0
0053	28.4.90	180	+0
0052	21.4.90	180	+0
0051	14.4.90	180	+0
0050	7.4.90	180	+0
0049	31.3.90	180	+0
0048	24.3.90	180	+0
0047	17.3.90	180	+0
0046	10.3.90	180	+0
0045	3.3.90	180	+0
0044	26.2.90	180	+0
0043	19.2.90	180	+0
0042	12.2.90	180	+0
0041	5.2.90	180	+0
0040	28.1.90	180	+0
0039	21.1.90	180	+0
0038	14.1.90	180	+0
0037	7.1.90	180	+0
0036	31.12.89	180	+0
0035	24.12.89	180	+0
0034	17.12.89	180	+0
0033	10.12.89	180	+0
0032	3.12.89	180	+0
0031	26.11.89	180	+0
0030	19.11.89	180	+0
0029	12.11.89	180	+0
0028	5.11.89	180	+0
0027	28.10.89	180	+0
0026	21.10.89	180	+0
0025	14.10.89	180	+0
0024	7.10.89	180	+0
0023	30.9.89	180	+0
0022	23.9.89	180	+0
0021	16.9.89	180	+0
0020	9.9.89	180	+0
0019	2.9.89	180	+0
0018	26.8.89	180	+0
0017	19.8.89	180	+0
0016	12.8.89	180	+0
0015	5.8.89	180	+0
0014	28.7.89	180	+0
0013	21.7.89	180	+0
0012	14.7.89	180	+0
0011	7.7.89	180	+0
0010	30.6.89	180	+0
0009	23.6.89	180	+0
0008	16.6.89	180	+0
0007	9.6.89	180	+0
0006	2.6.89	180	+0
0005	26.5.89	180	+0
0004	19.5.89	180	+0
0003	12.5.89	180	+0
0002	5.5.89	180	+0
0001	28.4.89	180	+0