



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1993

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LOCALISATION PROGRESSES SATISFACTORILY: COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE EFFECT OF THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT, RELATING TO OVERSEAS AGREEMENT OFFICERS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS HENCEFORTH BEING ABLE TO APPLY FOR LOCAL TERMS OF SERVICE, IS BEING EXAGGERATED IN SOME QUARTERS.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT, OVERALL, THIS WILL HAVE A VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT," THE CHAIRMAN, MR AUGUSTINE K CHUI, SAID.

"THERE ARE ALTOGETHER 1,260 DIRECTORATE OFFICERS IN THE GOVERNMENT. OF THESE, ONLY 174 (14%) ARE ON OVERSEAS AGREEMENT TERMS.

"IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MANY OF THE LATTER WILL APPLY TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS. PROBABLY AT THE END OF THE DAY NOT VERY MANY WILL ACTUALLY TRANSFER, FOR VARIOUS REASONS. NOT ALL WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN ANY CASE."

MR CHUI ALSO SAID IN HIS VIEW LOCALISATION WAS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY ON THE WHOLE. OF 106 PROMOTIONS TO DIRECTORATE RANKS PROCESSED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1992/93, 74 (70%) WERE IN RESPECT OF LOCAL OFFICERS. MR CHUI STRESSED THAT PROMOTIONS ARE DECIDED SOLELY ON MERIT.

IN ADDITION, OF A TOTAL OF 11,322 NEW RECRUITS TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN 1992/93, ONLY 85 (LESS THAN 1%) WERE ON OVERSEAS TERMS. OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT HAS BEEN DECLINING AS THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED LOCAL CANDIDATES HAS IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS.

"FURTHERMORE, IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT LOCAL OFFICERS ARE INCREASINGLY FILLING THE SENIOR POSITIONS AT HEAD OF DEPARTMENT LEVEL OR ABOVE. THE LOCALISATION POLICY WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GOOD PROGRESS," HE SAID.

UNDER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MUST BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY CANDIDATE FOR EMPLOYMENT IS OFFERED OVERSEAS TERMS OF SERVICE.

"I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT, UNDER CIVIL SERVICE REGULATIONS, THE STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT (THAT IS, WHETHER THE PERSON IS TO BE APPOINTED ON LOCAL OR OVERSEAS TERMS) IS NOT AND NEVER HAS BEEN DECIDED ON GROUNDS OF RACE.

"THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE QUITE A FEW ETHNICALLY CHINESE OFFICERS ON OVERSEAS TERMS OF SERVICE, AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF NON-CHINESE OFFICERS ON LOCAL TERMS OF SERVICE."

"I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO SERVE HONG KONG BY BECOMING PERMANENT RESIDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO APPLY TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL TERMS, REGARDLESS OF RACE. THIS IS IN FACT IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE POLICY ALL ALONG AND I AM PLEASED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THIS ACTION."

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AG ON CHINA LIGHT AND POWER EXPLOSION

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS NOW UNDER PROCESS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FACTS ARE CONCERNING CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS MADE ON THE INQUEST INTO THE GAS EXPLOSION AT THE CASTLE PEAK POWER PLANT LAST AUGUST.

THE MATTER IS NOW UNDER SERIOUS REVIEW BUT IT IS PREMATURE TO DECIDE AT THIS POINT OF TIME WHETHER THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD EXERCISE HIS POWER UNDER SECTION 20 OF THE CORONERS ORDINANCE TO DIRECT FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND TO REQUIRE THE CORONER TO REOPEN THE INQUIRY.

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LAND REGISTRAR PLEDGES EFFICIENT AND COURTEOUS SERVICE

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THE LAND REGISTRAR, MR KENNETH PANG, TODAY (MONDAY) PLEDGED TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS WHEN HE LAUNCHED HIS DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES SCHEME.

OUTLINING THE LAND REGISTRY'S SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE PLEDGES AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, HE STRESSED: "MY STAFF ARE COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC WITHIN THE TARGET STANDARDS SET OUT IN THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES."

"IF THESE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACHIEVED, THE CUSTOMERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO A FULL AND PROMPT EXPLANATION."

THE MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED AT ITS URBAN REGISTRY AT QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND EIGHT DISTRICT REGISTRIES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ARE:

- * REGISTRATION OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO LAND UNDER THE LAND REGISTRATION ORDINANCE;
- * PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR SEARCH OF THE LAND REGISTER AND RELATED RECORDS BY THE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS;
AND
- * REGISTRATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS IN MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS UNDER THE BUILDING MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE.

MR PANG SAID FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD COVERING JULY 1992 TO JUNE 1993, THE LAND REGISTRY RECEIVED OVER 628,000 LAND DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR REGISTRATION AND HANDLED OVER 3,800,000 PUBLIC SEARCHES OF LAND RECORDS, REPRESENTING A WORK-FLOW OF 2,300 DEEDS REGISTRATION AND 14,000 LAND SEARCHES IN EACH WORKING DAY.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS REGISTRATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS, 256 APPLICATIONS FOR FORMATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS WERE PROCESSED DURING THE SAME PERIOD, HE SAID.

"WE PLEDGE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION OF A LAND DOCUMENT WITHIN FIVE WEEKS. FOR PUBLIC SEARCH OF LAND RECORDS, A COMPUTER PRINTOUT OF THE LAND REGISTER CAN BE SUPPLIED WITHIN 30 MINUTES; SIMILARLY, DIAZO COPIES OF MICROFILMED RECORDS OR PHOTOCOPIES OF LAND DOCUMENTS CAN BE PROVIDED WITHIN 30 MINUTES.

"THE TIME TAKEN IN DELIVERING SERVICES DEPENDS ON THE TYPE OF SERVICE REQUESTED, THE TIME OF DAY AND LOCATION OF THE REGISTRY VISITED. THE SERVICE TIME MAY VARY AMONG DIFFERENT REGISTRIES ACCORDING TO DEMAND AND THE WAITING TIME IS NORMALLY LONGER DURING PEAK HOURS AND AT PEAK PERIODS," MR PANG NOTED.

AS REGARDS THE REGISTRATION OF OWNERS CORPORATIONS, THE PROCESSING TIME RANGES FROM ONE TO THREE MONTHS DEPENDING ON THE COMPLEXITY OF EACH CASE, HE ADDED.

THE LAND REGISTRY'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGES ARE SET OUT IN AN INFORMATION PAMPHLET PUBLISHED TODAY. COPIES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT ANY OF THE LAND REGISTRY OFFICES AND THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT OFFICES.

THE LAND REGISTRY'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY AN IN-HOUSE PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE AND BY CUSTOMERS LIAISON GROUPS COMPRISING CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVES.

MR PANG SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CUSTOMERS WHO CAN CONTACT THE CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER ON TEL 867 2882.

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING OUR BEST TO MEET PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE," HE STRESSED.

MR PANG ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE LAUNCHING OF THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES COINCIDED WITH THE COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION OF THE LAND REGISTRY TRADING FUND WITH EFFECT FROM AUGUST 1.

THE LAND REGISTRY IS ONE OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS TO OPERATE ITS BUSINESS ON A SELF-FINANCING BASIS, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON MEETING PERFORMANCE TARGETS AND FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES.

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AFD ANNOUNCES PERFORMANCE PLEDGE

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED ITS PERFORMANCE PLEDGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S VARIOUS SERVICES.

AN AFD SPOKESMAN SAID FROM NOW ON, A NUMBER OF PUBLIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING ITS LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES, WOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

THESE SERVICES ARE RELATED TO A WIDE RANGE OF WORK WHICH COVER AMONG OTHER THINGS, LIVESTOCK, FISH, PESTICIDES AND PLANTS, HE SAID.

AMONG ITEMS OF FASTER SERVICES THE DEPARTMENT AIMS TO ACHIEVE INCLUDE: A 15-MINUTE WAITING TIME FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF PESTICIDES IMPORT/EXPORT LICENCES AND THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION TO REMOVE CATTLE, PIGS OR GOATS FROM ABATTOIRS, SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR SLAUGHTER, BOTH FOR APPLICATIONS MADE IN PERSON.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO SET THE TARGET TURN-AROUND TIME TO 30 MINUTES FOR THE ISSUE OF A MARINE FISH TRANSPORTATION PERMIT FOR AN APPLICATION MADE IN PERSON, HE SAID.

THE TIME ALLOWED FOR THE RENEWAL OF A MARINE FISH CULTURE LICENCE HAS ALSO BEEN SET AT ONE HOUR PROVIDED THAT THE APPLICATION IS MADE BY THE APPLICANT HIMSELF.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS AIMING AT A TARGET OF "ONE WORKING DAY" FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF AN ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE.

OTHER DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES WHICH ARE TARGETTED TO HAVE THEIR PROCESSING TIME SHORTENED TO "TWO WORKING DAYS" INCLUDE: APPLICATION FOR A QUARANTINE PERMIT TO IMPORT DOGS AND CATS; APPLICATION FOR A PAK TAM CHUNG BARRIER PERMIT AND THE RENEWAL OF A MARINE FISH TRANSPORTATION PERMIT AND SO ON.

THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES A TOTAL OF MORE THAN 30 ITEMS OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

SOME APPLICATIONS MAY NEED LONGER TIME TO PROCESS SINCE INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THE NECESSARY STANDARDS HAVE BEEN REACHED.

ANY PERSON WHO WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE AFD SERVICES, AVAILABLE AT ITS HEADQUARTERS AT THE CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON, CAN CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT'S ENQUIRY COUNTER BY TEL 733 2235.

ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON THE WAY IN WHICH THESE SERVICES ARE HANDLED WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IN OCCASIONAL CASES WHEN, DESPITE EFFORTS MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE SERVICES ARE UNABLE TO MATCH THE STANDARDS SET, THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO A FULL AND PROMPT EXPLANATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HE STRESSED

HE STRESSED THAT AFD IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN EFFICIENT, COURTEOUS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN A CLEAN, ORDERLY AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

TO HELP EFFECTIVELY MONITOR THE PERFORMANCES COVERED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S PLEDGE, IT HAS GOT THE SUPPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, COUNTRY PARKS BOARD AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT THE ASSESSMENT.

THESE COMMITTEES WILL BE SERVICED BY A SERVICES STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEADED BY A DIRECTORATE OFFICER IN THE DEPARTMENT.

THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WILL PUBLISH ANNUALLY PERFORMANCE RESULTS AGAINST TARGETS, HE ADDED.

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REVISED FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS AND HEAVIER SENTENCE
UNDER IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCE

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THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 AND THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (STRATEGIC COMMODITIES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993, WHICH REVISE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS AND IMPOSE HEAVIER SENTENCE FOR ILLEGAL TRADE IN MILITARY GOODS, WILL COME INTO EFFECT THIS FRIDAY (AUGUST 6).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID THERE WERE TWO PURPOSES OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

THEY WERE TO REMOVE OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES FACING THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN ENFORCING PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FORFEITURE OF SEIZED GOODS; AND TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO THE IMPORT AND EXPORT OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES.

"THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 SEEKS TO STREAMLINE EXISTING FORFEITURE PROCEDURES. THIS WILL SAVE STAFF TIME AND STORAGE SPACE WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE FAIRNESS OF THE SYSTEM TO THE PUBLIC," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE REVISED PROCEDURE IS SIMILAR TO THAT INTRODUCED BY THE RECENTLY COMMENCED DUTIABLE COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1993.

IT PROVIDES THAT NO NOTICE OF SEIZURE WILL BE GIVEN IF THE GOODS ARE SEIZED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SUSPECTED OFFENDER, THEIR OWNER OR THE OWNER'S EMPLOYEE OR AGENT, OR AN OWNER WHO DOES NOT HAVE A PERMANENT ADDRESS IN HONG KONG.

IF A NOTICE OF SEIZURE IS REQUIRED BUT IT CANNOT BE DELIVERED TO THE OWNER, THE NOTICE WILL BE EXHIBITED AT THE PUBLIC WAITING HALL OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT'S PERMIT OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE SEIZURE FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS.

THE AMENDED ORDINANCE ALSO SPECIFIES THE MANNER OF CLAIM, AND APPLICATION FOR AND CONDUCT OF FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS. A CLAIMANT SHOULD SUPPLY HIS OR HIS SOLICITOR'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS IN HONG KONG WHEN HE GIVES A NOTICE OF CLAIM TO THE COMMISSIONER.

WHERE THE SEIZED GOODS ARE OF A PERISHABLE NATURE, THE COMMISSIONER IS EMPOWERED TO ORDER THE GOODS TO BE SOLD OR DESTROYED.

IF THE GOODS ARE DIFFICULT TO STORE OR LIKELY TO DETERIORATE BEFORE THE CONCLUSION OF THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS, THE COMMISSIONER MAY APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR THE GOODS TO BE SOLD. THE PROCEEDS OF SALE WILL BE RETAINED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

IN EITHER CASE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY RELEASE THE GOODS TO THE OWNER OR A PERSON ENTITLED TO MAKE A CLAIM UPON PAYMENT TO THE COMMISSIONER OF A SECURITY NOT LESS THAN THE VALUE OF SUCH GOODS.

A MAGISTRATE WILL ORDER THE DISPOSAL OF SUCH PROCEEDS OF SALE OR SECURITY RETAINED BY THE COMMISSIONER UPON COMPLETION OF THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS.

AN OWNER OF A SEIZED VESSEL OR VEHICLE MAY ALSO APPLY TO A MAGISTRATE FOR THE TEMPORARY RELEASE OF THE SEIZED VESSEL OR VEHICLE BEFORE THE FORFEITURE HEARING.

HOWEVER, HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A SECURITY PAYMENT NOT LESS THAN THE VALUE OF THE VESSEL OR VEHICLE AND TO PAY THE COST FOR ASSESSING THE VALUE OF THE VESSEL OR VEHICLE AS ORDERED BY THE MAGISTRATE.

A CLAIMANT MAY PETITION THE GOVERNOR AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE COURT BY GIVING A NOTICE IN WRITING TO THE COMMISSIONER WITHIN SIX WEEKS OF THE DECISION AND THEREAFTER LODGES THE PETITION WITH THE CHIEF SECRETARY WITHIN 30 DAYS.

IF THE GOODS WERE SEIZED BEFORE THIS FRIDAY (AUGUST 6) AND THE COMMISSIONER CANNOT DISPOSE OF SUCH GOODS UNDER THE EXISTING PROCEDURE, HE WILL PUBLISH IN THE GAZETTE ON A DATE TO BE NOTIFIED INVITING ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO MAKE A CLAIM TO THE GOODS TO GIVE NOTICE OF CLAIM TO HIM.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE AMENDMENTS ALSO SOUGHT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATED TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES SO AS TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE IN WEAPONS AND GOODS WITH MILITARY APPLICATIONS.

IF CONVICTED ON INDICTMENT, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SUCH OFFENCES IS SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND AN UNLIMITED FINE, WHICH IN LINE WITH THE PENALTIES IN OTHER PLACES WHERE EXERCISE SIMILAR STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CONTROLS.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES ON SUMMARY CONVICTION WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED, THAT IS TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$500,000.

PEOPLE HAVING QUERIES ON THE NEW FORFEITURE PROCEDURE CAN CONTACT SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, MR MICHAEL LEE ON TEL 852 3303. THOSE HAVING QUESTIONS RELATED TO STRATEGIC COMMODITIES CAN CALL THE HEAD OF TRADE CONTROLS MR Y Y LEUNG ON TEL 852 3392.

RETAIL SALES FIGURES FOR MAY

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MAY, ESTIMATED AT \$15 BILLION, INCREASED 19% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE INCREASE WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE GROWTH IN SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, JEWELLERY AND WATCHES, AND CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES, AS WELL AS SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES.

SALES OF CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR REGISTERED THE LARGEST INCREASE IN MAY 1993 COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO, 46% IN VALUE AND 34% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF JEWELLERY AND WATCHES WENT UP BY 32% IN VALUE AND 30% IN VOLUME, WHILE SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES INCREASED 23% IN VALUE AND 22% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF DEPARTMENT STORES ALSO ROSE CONSIDERABLY BY 19% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR SALES OF SUPERMARKETS, 10% IN VALUE AND 3% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES OF FUELS DROPPED BY 5% IN VOLUME, DESPITE AN INCREASE OF 2% IN VALUE. SALES OF FOODSTUFFS REGISTERED A DECREASE OF 1% IN VALUE AND 6% IN VOLUME WHILE SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES DECREASED 11% IN VALUE AND 17% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MAY 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 13% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME.

COMPARED WITH APRIL 1993, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN MAY 1993 INCREASED 13% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE MAY 1993 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED TOTAL RETAIL SALES FIGURE FOR APRIL 1993 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURE FOR MAY 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES IN APRIL AND MAY 1993 FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS AND BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET, WITH AVERAGE RETAIL SALES FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

COMPARISONS OF THE MAY 1993 RESULTS WITH THOSE FOR APRIL 1993 AND WITH THOSE FOR MAY 1992, AS WELL AS COMPARISONS OF RETAIL SALES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MAY OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

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/TABLE 1 :

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for MAY 1993 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$14,978.6 million
for April 1993 (Revised Figure) = HK\$13,265.4 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF RETAIL SALES FOR APRIL 1993 AND MAY 1993

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

| Item | Index of Retail Sales | April | May | May 1993 compared with April 1993 | | May 1993 compared with May 1992 | | Jan-May 1993 compared with Jan-May 1992 | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| | | 1993 | 1993 | Points | % | Points | % | Points | % |
| (A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS | | | | | | | | | |
| | Value | 141.3 | 159.5 | +18.2 | +12.9 | +25.1 | +18.6 | +17.1 | +12.9 |
| | Volume | 119.8 | 133.1 | +13.2 | +11.0 | +15.6 | +13.2 | +10.2 | +8.7 |
| (B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET | | | | | | | | | |
| Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets) | Value | 120.7 | 117.2 | -3.5 | -2.9 | -0.9 | -0.8 | +4.7 | +4.0 |
| | Volume | 98.3 | 94.3 | -4.0 | -4.0 | -6.2 | -6.1 | +0.3 | +0.3 |
| Supermarkets ϕ | Value | 128.5 | 139.4 | +10.9 | +8.5 | +12.6 | +10.0 | +10.7 | +8.6 |
| | Volume | 99.2 | 107.4 | +8.2 | +8.3 | +3.4 | +3.3 | +1.7 | +1.6 |
| Fuels | Value | 133.3 | 144.0 | +10.6 | +8.0 | +2.6 | +1.8 | +7.5 | +6.0 |
| | Volume | 98.2 | 105.0 | +6.8 | +7.0 | -4.9 | -4.5 | +0.9 | +0.9 |
| Clothing, footwear and allied products | Value | 168.1 | 218.9 | +50.9 | +30.3 | +68.6 | +45.6 | +46.2 | +32.5 |
| | Volume | 128.7 | 162.8 | +34.1 | +26.5 | +41.1 | +33.7 | +27.1 | +22.1 |
| Consumer durable goods * | Value | 161.0 | 174.5 | +13.5 | +8.4 | +12.1 | +7.4 | +16.1 | +10.7 |
| | Volume | 142.1 | 153.1 | +11.0 | +7.7 | +6.9 | +4.7 | +10.6 | +7.8 |
| - Motor vehicles and parts | Value | 135.2 | 159.9 | +24.7 | +18.3 | -19.0 | -10.6 | -5.5 | -3.0 |
| | Volume | 106.6 | 124.9 | +18.3 | +17.2 | -26.3 | -17.4 | -14.3 | -9.2 |
| - Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts | Value | 179.7 | 185.0 | +5.4 | +3.0 | +34.6 | +23.0 | +31.8 | +24.6 |
| | Volume | 167.8 | 173.4 | +5.6 | +3.4 | +31.0 | +21.8 | +28.7 | +23.3 |
| Department stores | Value | 117.5 | 143.7 | +26.2 | +22.3 | +23.2 | +19.2 | +14.2 | +11.4 |
| | Volume | 93.0 | 110.6 | +17.6 | +18.9 | +10.5 | +10.5 | +4.3 | +3.9 |
| Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts | Value | 141.4 | 169.6 | +28.2 | +19.9 | +41.0 | +31.9 | +19.7 | +15.3 |
| | Volume | 147.9 | 171.8 | +23.9 | +16.1 | +39.9 | +30.3 | +24.5 | +18.7 |
| Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified | Value | 150.1 | 157.0 | +6.9 | +4.6 | +33.6 | +27.3 | +14.6 | +10.9 |
| | Volume | 124.1 | 129.0 | +4.9 | +3.9 | +22.2 | +20.8 | +5.5 | +4.6 |

NOTES : ϕ Not including supermarkets operating in department stores.

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1993

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SAI KUNG ELECTION FORUM

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RESIDENTS OF SAI KUNG ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A FORUM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) GIVEN BY THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN SAI KUNG CONSTITUENCY.

THE EVENT WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM IN KING LAM NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KING LAM ESTATE, TSUENG KWAN O.

THEY WILL ELABORATE ON THEIR ELECTION PLATFORMS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE.

SEVEN PEOPLE HAVE REGISTERED TO CONTEST A SEAT. THE BY-ELECTION WILL BE HELD FROM 7.30 AM TO 10.30 PM ON AUGUST 8 (SUNDAY).

THE CANDIDATES ARE MR FRANCIS CHAU, MR CHEUNG HON-TIN, MR LAM WING-YIN, DR LAW CHEUNG-KWOK, MR WAI HING-CHEUNG, MR WONG SHUI-SANG, AND MR WONG WAH-KEUNG.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE ELECTION FORUM WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 8 PM IN THE KING LAM NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE IN KING LAM ESTATE, TSEUNG KWAN O.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 75.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 439.856 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 504.821 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 86.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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| | \$ MILLION ----- |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,760 |
| REVERSAL OF LAF | +240 |
| BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF | 2,000 |
| NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY | NIL |
| EFFECT OF LAF TODAY | -20 |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,980 |
| LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER | TWI 112.5 *+0.0* 2.8.93 |

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

| TERMS | YIELD | TERM | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE | YIELD |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 WEEK | 2.34 PCT | 13 MONTHS | 2408 | 4.375 | 100.56 | 3.86 |
| 1 MONTH | 2.63 PCT | 16 MONTHS | 2411 | 4.625 | 100.74 | 4.07 |
| 3 MONTHS | 3.09 PCT | 19 MONTHS | 2502 | 4.75 | 100.71 | 4.31 |
| 6 MONTHS | 3.39 PCT | 22 MONTHS | 2505 | 3.75 | 98.71 | 4.56 |
| 12 MONTHS | 3.79 PCT | | | | | |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 29,870 MN

CLOSED 2 AUGUST 1993

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