



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1994

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CONTROL OVER PLUG AND ADAPTOR SAFETY PROPOSED

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THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EMSD) HAS MADE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF PLUGS AND ADAPTORS.

DETAILS ARE SET OUT IN A CONSULTATION PAPER ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) TO MORE THAN 50 INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS, INVITING THEIR COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED PLUGS AND ADAPTORS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS.

EXPLAINING THE PROPOSALS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGISLATION ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE OBJECTIVE OF THE PROPOSALS WAS TO ENSURE THAT PLUGS AND ADAPTORS ON SALE LOCALLY WERE SAFE.

"MANY PLUGS AND ADAPTORS ON THE LOCAL MARKET HAVE FAILED TO PASS SAFETY TESTS AND IT IS NOW ESSENTIAL THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION," HE ADDED.

THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS WILL REQUIRE PLUGS AND ADAPTORS FOR HOUSEHOLD USE IN HONG KONG TO COMPLY WITH THE APPLICABLE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN THE RELEVANT BRITISH STANDARDS.

"THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE UP TO AN ADEQUATE SAFETY STANDARD AND OF DIMENSIONS AND CONFIGURATION MATCHING THE SOCKET AND WIRING SYSTEM OF HONG KONG," MR CHAN SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE SALE OR HIRE OF THOSE NOT MEETING THESE REQUIREMENTS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. THIS COVERS THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

- * TWO-PIN PLUGS, EXCEPT THOSE FOR CONNECTION TO SHAVER SUPPLY UNITS;
- * TWO-PIN ADAPTORS; AND
- * MULTI-PURPOSE ADAPTORS WHICH ADAPT SEVERAL SIZES OF TWO-PIN AND THREE-PIN PLUGS SIMULTANEOUSLY TO A SINGLE SOCKET.

UNDER THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS, HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS FOR USE IN HONG KONG AND DESIGNED TO BE CONNECTED TO A SOCKET WILL HAVE TO BE FITTED WITH A PLUG OF CORRECT RATING WHICH COMPLIES WITH THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY STANDARDS.

THE SALE OR HIRE OF HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS NOT MEETING WITH THIS REQUIREMENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

HOWEVER, MR CHAN NOTED THAT AFTER THE REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT, THE USE OF ANY PLUG OR ADAPTOR WHICH DID NOT MEET THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY STANDARDS, AND ANY HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCT WHICH WAS NOT FITTED WITH A PLUG COMPLYING WITH THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY STANDARDS WOULD NOT CONTRAVENE THE REGULATIONS.

"ENFORCEMENT OF A PROVISION AGAINST USE OF SUCH PRODUCTS WOULD BE QUITE IMPRACTICAL CONSIDERING THE LARGE NUMBER CURRENTLY IN USE," HE EXPLAINED.

/MR CHAN

MR CHAN ADDED THAT EMSD WOULD PUBLICISE THE RISKS OF CONTINUING TO USE SUCH PRODUCTS AND ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO REPLACE THEM WITH THOSE MEETING THE PRESCRIBED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

"HOWEVER, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT A CERTAIN PRODUCT POSES UNACCEPTABLE RISKS TO THE USER, THE DIRECTOR MAY ACT TO PROHIBIT ITS USE, SALE OR HIRE UNDER THE RELEVANT SECTION OF THE ELECTRICITY ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

THE PLUGS AND ADAPTORS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED IN MID-1994 AND BROUGHT INTO EFFECT AFTER A SIX-MONTH GRACE PERIOD TO ALLOW TIME FOR IMPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS, SUPPLIERS AND CONSUMERS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPLYING WITH THE NEW LEGISLATION.

"THEY WILL BE REPEALED WHEN THE PROPOSED ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS (SAFETY) REGULATIONS, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL OVER THE SAFETY OF ALL HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS, COME INTO EFFECT IN 1996," MR CHAN SAID.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATION PAPER MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES (DEMS) (ATTENTION TO MR T H TAI), 98 CAROLINE HILL ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY.

REQUESTS CAN ALSO BE MADE ON TEL 895 8803 OR BY FAX 895 4929.

INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO DEMS BY FEBRUARY 28.

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STATEMENT ON ICAC DISMISSAL CASE

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IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ABOUT A DECISION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SECURITY PANEL TO RESUME THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE REASONS FOR THE DISMISSAL OF THE FORMER INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, MR ALEX TSUI, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY):

"AS WE HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR THE COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL BE VERY WILLING TO ATTEND THE HEARING BUT HE WILL NOT DISCLOSE THE REASONS FOR THE DISMISSAL."

"IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE SCOPE OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WILL BE KEPT WITHIN PROPER BOUNDS AND THAT THE HEARING WILL NOT PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR MAKING SWEEPING AND UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS."

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO NOTED THAT THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MRS ANSON CHAN, ONLY LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED A WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF THE POWERS OF THE ICAC AND OF ITS PRESENT SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.

THE REVIEW COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE FULL ACCESS TO ALL OF THE RELEVANT INFORMATION; AND ITS REPORT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC, HE ADDED.

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A GOOD YEAR FOR PUBLIC WORK

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THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, SAID 1993 HAD BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR PUBLIC WORKS WITH PERFORMANCE UPLIFTED, WORKSITE SAFETY IMPROVED AND GREATER EFFICIENCY IN WORKS GROUP.

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TODAY (MONDAY), MR BLAKE SAID HE EXPECTED THE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE FOR THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

"THERE WILL BE SOME REAL SAVINGS BECAUSE TENDERING REMAINS VERY COMPETITIVE. BUT, THE PROBLEMS OF UNDERSPENDING IN THE PAST TWO YEARS ARE NOW BEHIND US AFTER WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE NEW PROCEDURES TO UPLIFT THE PERFORMANCE.

"OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS, THE WORKS GROUP HAS BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH CONSULTANTS IN DIAGNOSING PROBLEMS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND WHERE POSSIBLE, ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IMMEDIATELY.

NEW PROCEDURES ADOPTED IN THE YEAR INCLUDE:

- * PLANNING AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE NOW REQUIRED TO SET DOWN PROJECT DETAILS AT CATEGORY C;
- * PROJECT ACTION TEAM SET UP TO REVIEW HIGH IMPACT PROJECTS AND LARGE CATEGORY B PROJECTS TO ENSURE WORK ON THESE PROJECTS WILL START ON TIME;
- * MAJOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME ARE LINKED BY A COMPUTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COST CONTROL;
- * THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN RESTRUCTURED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE FORUM TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES; AND
- * ENTRUSTING WORK TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT KEEPING FIRM CONTROL ON THE PROJECTS - THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO ENTRUST THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE EXTENSION OF THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE TO THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

ON WORK SITE SAFETY, MR BLAKE SAID: "MUCH HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST YEAR TO REPLACE THE CULTURE OF CARELESSNESS WITH THE CULTURE OF SAFETY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

"THE SAFETY CULTURE WE HAVE DEVELOPED FOR ACP (AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME) PROJECTS IS DIFFUSING TO NON-ACP WORKSITES. WE HAVE PUBLISHED CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY MANUALS AND SET UP A SAFETY MANAGEMENT UNIT TO STEP UP CHECKS AT BOTH ACP AND NON-ACP CONSTRUCTION SITES.

"THE TEAM WILL BRING TO ME PERSONAL ATTENTION ANY SERIOUS EXCEPTION THEY HAVE FOUND."

MOREOVER, THE

MOREOVER, THE CENTRAL TENDER BOARD CLOSELY SCRUTINISES SAFETY ASPECTS WHEN CONSIDERING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AWARD OF TENDERS.

"WE HAVE BEGUN A PILOT SCHEME WHICH ALLOWS CONTRACTORS TO RECEIVE PAYMENT UPON IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC SAFETY MEASURES IDENTIFIED IN A CONTRACT."

THE MOVE IS TO ENSURE THAT CONTRACTORS WOULD NOT REDUCE THEIR SAFETY COMMITMENT IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR BID MORE COMPETITIVE IN TENDERING.

"I AM ALSO CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND CONTRACTORS FROM BIDDING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS IN THE EVENT THEY EXCEED A SPECIFIED NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF SAFETY REGULATIONS.

"I ALSO PLAN TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION LATER THIS YEAR TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS OVER THE USE OF BUILDER'S LIFTS AND LIFTING PLATFORMS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

"WE WILL ALSO START SPECIAL TRAINING IN MAY FOR STAFF OF WORKS DEPARTMENTS THAT WOULD INCREASE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN CONSTRUCTION SITE SAFETY," MR BLAKE SAID.

HE NOTED THAT THE OVERALL ACCIDENT RATES FOR ACP AND NON-ACP CONTRACTS CONTINUED TO DROP AND WERE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

ON EXTENDING COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE INTO THE WORKS GROUP, MR BLAKE SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO SET UP A TRADING FUND IN THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT LATER THIS YEAR THAT WOULD GIVE THE GENERAL MANAGER GREATER FLEXIBILITY TO MANAGE ALL SEWERAGE PROJECTS AND SEWAGE OPERATIONS.

"WE ARE ALSO LOOKING INTO THE OPTIONS OF SETTING UP TRADING FUND IN THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT," MR BLAKE SAID.

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TWO LOTS SOLD FOR \$491 MILLION

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TWO LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$491 MILLION AT THE PUBLIC LAND AUCTION HELD BY THE LANDS DEPARTMENT THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE LOT AT AP LEI CHAU WEST WAS BOUGHT BY BEST LIAISON LTD AT \$415 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$220 MILLION.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 5,756 SQUARE METRES, IT IS INTENDED FOR INDUSTRIAL OR GODOWN USE, EXCLUDING OFFENSIVE TRADES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 32,809 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1998.

THE OTHER LOT, IN AREA 16, TUEN MUN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,804 SQUARE METRES. IT WAS SOLD TO MARNAV HOLDINGS LTD AT \$76 MILLION, WITH BIDDING OPENED AT \$38 MILLION.

IT CAN BE USED AS GODOWNS, EXCLUDING STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 12,000 SQUARE METRES BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, AND WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR LEUNG LOK-YIU.

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GONDOLA FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION

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IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES ON THE TRAGIC FIRE IN WHICH TWO WORKERS WERE KILLED WHILE WORKING ON A GONDOLA OUTSIDE A BUILDING IN YUEN LONG LAST SATURDAY, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT SAID A TEAM OF FACTORY INSPECTORS LED BY A DIVISIONAL FACTORY INSPECTOR WAS STILL INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT.

CHIEF FACTORY INSPECTOR, MR CHAN TAT-KING, SAID FACTORY INSPECTORS WOULD LOOK INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE TRAGEDY TO SEE IF ANY OFFENCE UNDER THE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES REGULATION AND THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE (FIUO) HAD BEEN COMMITTED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHENEVER INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES WERE USED BY THE PROPRIETOR OF AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING, ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN THE REGULATION.

THE DUTIES OF THE PROPRIETOR UNDER THE REGULATION INCLUDE LABELLING OF THE FLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES, PROVISION OF PROPER CONTAINERS, PROVISION OF SAFETY INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS, TRAINING, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND ADOPTION OF THE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS INCLUDING MEASURES AGAINST FIRE OR EXPLOSION IF ANY INFLAMMABLE OR EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCE IS IN USE.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EMPLOYEES SHOULD CO-OPERATE BY NOT MISUSING OR INTERFERING WITH THE LABEL, FOLLOW THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN, AND OBSERVE THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS INDICATED ON THE LABEL," MR CHAN SAID.

AN EMPLOYER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGAL PROVISIONS WILL BE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$50,000 WHILE AN EMPLOYEE WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$10,000.

MR CHAN RE-ITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SAFETY WHEN WORKING ON A GONDOLA WITH INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES, ADDING THAT THE QUANTITY SHOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM APART FROM OBSERVING ALL THE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

"THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS EXPRESS DUTIES OF PROPRIETORS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED IN GENERAL TERM AND SUCH DUTIES ARE APPLICABLE TO ALL TYPES OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES AND SITUATIONS," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROVISIONS WERE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE PROPRIETORS AND PERSONS EMPLOYED TO TAKE A WIDER VIEW OF THEIR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK.

PROPRIETORS CONTRAVENING THE GENERAL DUTIES PROVISIONS OF THE FIUO WILL FACE A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$200,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

A PERSON EMPLOYED AT AN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKING WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS ALSO COMMITS AN OFFENCE AND IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$50,000 AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR SIX MONTHS.

MR CHAN STRESSED THAT THE TRAGEDY ON SATURDAY WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A FIRE ARISING FROM UNCONTROLLED AND UNPROTECTED USE OF INFLAMMABLE SUBSTANCES CARRIED IN A GONDOLA.

"IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MECHANICAL OPERATION OF THE GONDOLA, NOR WAS THERE ANY APPARENT FAULT FOUND IN THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GONDOLA," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE STATUTORY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF LIFTING APPLIANCES, INCLUDING GONDOLAS.

MR CHAN SAID THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF BRINGING IN A MORE SPECIFIC PIECE OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE SAFE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL SUSPENDED WORKING PLATFORMS, INCLUDING GONDOLAS.

"THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ARE AIMED AT COVERING ALL ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF SAFETY WHICH, NEEDLESS TO SAY, WILL INCLUDE FIRE SAFETY," HE ADDED.

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MONETARY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 1993

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HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS DECREASED NOTABLY DURING DECEMBER 1993, MAINLY DUE TO THE REFUNDING OF SHARE SUBSCRIPTION MONIES, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS, THE BROADEST HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY, HK\$M3, DECLINED IN DECEMBER. HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS AND ADVANCES ALSO DECREASED DURING THE MONTH.

DEPOSITS

INFLUENCED BY THE HIGH COMPARISON BASE IN NOVEMBER AS A RESULT OF THREE FLOTATION EXERCISES, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS (ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE SWAP DEPOSITS) FELL BY 14.3% IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 11.7% AND 15% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. AMONG THESE DEPOSITS, TIME DEPOSITS FELL BY 25.4%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, DEMAND DEPOSITS AND SAVING DEPOSITS RECORDED INCREASES OF 4.4% AND 4.5% RESPECTIVELY DURING THE MONTH. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 25.5%.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS WITH AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS INCREASED BY 0.2% IN DECEMBER, AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.6% IN OCTOBER AND A DECREASE OF 0.2% IN NOVEMBER.

/OF THESE

OF THESE DEPOSITS, U.S. DOLLAR DEPOSITS INCREASED BY 2.2% WHILE NON-U.S. DOLLAR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS FELL BY 1.6%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS GREW BY 5.5%.

DURING DECEMBER, DEPOSITS IN ALL CURRENCIES WITH LICENSED BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY 7.9% AND 1.4% RESPECTIVELY WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS INCREASED BY 3.8%. YEAR-ON-YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH LICENSED BANKS GREW BY 15.6% WHILE DEPOSITS WITH RESTRICTED LICENCE BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECLINED BY 14.8% AND 10.5% RESPECTIVELY.

MONEY SUPPLY

HK\$M1 INCREASED BY 4.7% WHILE HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 DECREASED BY 13.2% AND 13% RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER.

THEIR CORRESPONDING RATES OF CHANGE IN NOVEMBER WERE -21.1%, +14.2% AND +14% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, HK\$M1, HK\$M2 AND HK\$M3 INCREASED BY 20.8%, 26.9% AND 25.2% RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL M1 INCREASED BY 4.4% WHILE TOTAL M2 AND M3 DECREASED BY 7.3% AND 6.9% RESPECTIVELY IN DECEMBER. IN NOVEMBER, THEIR CORRESPONDING RATES OF CHANGE WERE -19.3%, +7.3% AND +7.3% RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, TOTAL M1, M2 AND M3 ROSE BY 20.6%, 16% AND 15.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS DECREASED BY 4.2% IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.6% AND 3.6% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY.

AMONG THESE LOANS, HONG KONG DOLLAR LOANS FELL CONSIDERABLY BY 12.1%, MAINLY DUE TO THE REPAYMENT OF LOANS FOR THE SHARE SUBSCRIPTIONS. FOREIGN CURRENCY LOANS INCREASED BY 0.3%. COMPARED WITH A YEAR EARLIER, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 17.9% AND 14.6% RESPECTIVELY.

LOANS TO FINANCE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG INCREASED BY 0.3% IN DECEMBER, AFTER A DECREASE OF 0.1% EACH IN BOTH OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER. YEAR-ON-YEAR, SUCH LOANS GREW BY 15.7%.

OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG FELL BY 10.6% IN DECEMBER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 5.2% AND 8.6% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 18.2%.

LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG INCREASED BY 0.3% IN DECEMBER, AFTER A DECREASE OF 2.1% IN OCTOBER AND AN INCREASE OF 0.3% IN NOVEMBER. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 14.5%.

LOANS TO FINANCE TRADE NOT TOUCHING HONG KONG DECREASED BY 6.5% DURING DECEMBER, AFTER DECREASES OF 2% AND 0.7% IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS DECREASED BY 5.6%.

QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES
FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR

DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, TOTAL LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG (EXCLUDING THOSE FOR TRADE FINANCING) INCREASED BY 2.1%.

OF THESE, LOANS FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING DECREASED BY 0.9%, FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 6.9% IN THE SECOND QUARTER AND A DECREASE OF 0.3% IN THE THIRD QUARTER. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 15.7%.

LOANS TO BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT SECTOR ROSE BY 5.3% DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER, FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 8.3% AND 8.6% DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 27.9%.

LOANS TO WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE DECREASED BY 3.1% DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER, COMPARED WITH INCREASES OF 6% AND 3.9% DURING THE PRECEDING TWO QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 12.6%.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS (EXCLUDING AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS) INCREASED BY 10.6% THIS QUARTER, FOLLOWING A DECREASE OF 0.5% DURING THE SECOND QUARTER AND AN INCREASE OF 3.5% DURING THE THIRD QUARTER. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 24.7%.

THE GROWTH OF LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) SLOWED DOWN TO 1.4% THIS QUARTER, COMPARED WITH 6% AND 5.9% IN SECOND AND THIRD QUARTERS. YEAR-ON-YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 15.1%.

QUARTERLY HONG KONG DOLLAR EXTERNAL CLAIMS
AND LIABILITIES TO BANKS OUTSIDE HONG KONG

AS AT END-DECEMBER, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR EXTERNAL CLAIMS ON AND LIABILITIES TO BANKS OUTSIDE HONG KONG AMOUNTED TO HK\$95.9 BILLION AND HK\$129.4 BILLION RESPECTIVELY.

OF THESE, HONG KONG DOLLAR EXTERNAL CLAIMS ON AND LIABILITIES TO BANKS IN CHINA AMOUNTED TO HK\$37.1 BILLION AND HK\$67.1 BILLION RESPECTIVELY.

THE NET HONG KONG DOLLAR LIABILITIES TO BANKS IN CHINA DECLINED BY 32.1% FROM HK\$44.2 BILLION AS AT END-SEPTEMBER TO HK\$30 BILLION AS AT END-DECEMBER.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 168. THE NUMBER OF RESTRICTED LICENCE BANK DECREASED BY ONE TO 57 WHILE THAT OF DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY TWO TO 140.

TABLE 1 SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 1993 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 PRESENTS FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - DEC 1993

	(HK\$mn)			
	Dec 1993	Earlier months (% change to Dec 1993)		
		Nov 1993	Sep 1993	Dec 1992
<u>Money Supply</u>				
M1 - HK\$	168,440	160,842 (4.7)	155,162 (8.6)	139,479 (20.8)
Foreign currency	19,168	18,776 (2.1)	20,044 (-4.4)	16,078 (19.2)
Total	187,608	179,618 (4.4)	175,206 (7.1)	155,557 (20.6)
M2 - HK\$*	922,417	1,062,851 (-13.2)	839,114 (9.9)	726,992 (26.9)
Foreign currency*	839,452	838,561 (0.1)	829,505 (1.2)	791,785 (6.0)
Total	1,761,870	1,901,411 (-7.3)	1,668,619 (5.6)	1,518,777 (16.0)
M3 - HK\$*	939,491	1,079,356 (-13.0)	855,680 (9.8)	750,276 (25.2)
Foreign currency*	881,071	876,695 (0.5)	861,769 (2.2)	823,989 (6.9)
Total	1,820,562	1,956,051 (-6.9)	1,717,450 (6.0)	1,574,265 (15.6)
Notes and coins in circulation	71,874	67,958 (5.8)	69,215 (3.8)	61,157 (17.5)
of which held by public	63,354	60,207 (5.2)	61,013 (3.8)	52,172 (21.4)
<u>Total Deposits</u>				
Total Demand deposits	124,255	119,411 (4.1)	114,193 (8.8)	103,385 (20.2)
Total Savings deposits	422,282	410,823 (2.8)	397,090 (6.3)	353,878 (19.3)
Total Time deposits with licensed banks	1,129,408	1,288,551 (-12.4)	1,075,580 (5.0)	992,126 (13.8)
Total Time deposits with restricted licence banks	29,479	28,399 (3.8)	26,276 (12.2)	34,611 (-14.8)
Total Time deposits with deposit-taking companies	17,099	17,334 (-1.4)	17,662 (-3.2)	19,107 (-10.5)
HK\$ deposits*	858,241	1,001,685 (-14.3)	779,682 (10.1)	684,055 (25.5)
US\$ deposits*	420,508	411,644 (2.2)	405,708 (3.6)	387,901 (8.4)
Other foreign currency deposits*	443,773	451,190 (-1.6)	445,412 (-0.4)	431,150 (2.9)
All deposits	1,722,522	1,864,518 (-7.6)	1,630,802 (5.6)	1,503,107 (14.6)
Foreign currency swap deposits	71,800	68,608 (4.7)	66,620 (7.8)	58,690 (22.3)
<u>Total Loans and advances</u>				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	103,244	102,975 (0.3)	103,113 (0.1)	89,265 (15.7)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	11,218	11,997 (-6.5)	12,324 (-9.0)	11,883 (-5.6)
Other loans for use in H.K.	1,075,184	1,202,391 (-10.6)	1,052,591 (2.1)	909,907 (18.2)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	1,626,415	1,621,291 (0.3)	1,651,266 (-1.5)	1,420,648 (14.5)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	40,829	45,005 (-9.3)	42,401 (-3.7)	37,855 (7.9)
Loans in HK\$	957,323	1,089,573 (-12.1)	930,740 (2.9)	812,087 (17.9)
Loans in foreign currencies	1,899,567	1,894,087 (0.3)	1,930,957 (-1.6)	1,657,471 (14.6)
Total loans and advances	2,856,890	2,983,660 (-4.2)	2,861,697 (-0.2)	2,469,558 (15.7)

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

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

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - DEC 1993

<u>Sectors</u>	<u>Dec 1993</u>	<u>Earlier quarters</u> (% change to Dec 1993)		(HK\$mn)
		<u>Sep 1993</u>	<u>Jun 1993</u>	<u>Dec 1992</u>
Manufacturing	73,719	74,373 (-0.9)	74,589 (-1.2)	63,731 (15.7)
Transport and transport equipment	62,262	64,067 (-2.8)	62,586 (-0.5)	58,076 (7.2)
Building, construction, property development and investment	181,836	172,704 (5.3)	159,024 (14.3)	142,185 (27.9)
Wholesale and retail trade	99,288	102,445 (-3.1)	98,569 (0.7)	88,152 (12.6)
Financial concerns *	156,096	141,109 (10.6)	136,344 (14.5)	125,191 (24.7)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	34,740	32,181 (8.0)	26,357 (31.8)	21,628 (60.6)
to purchase other residential property	233,205	230,018 (1.4)	217,112 (7.4)	202,630 (15.1)
other purposes	102,979	100,595 (2.4)	95,276 (8.1)	88,342 (16.6)
Others	131,059	135,099 (-3.0)	131,091 (-0.0)	119,972 (9.2)
Total	1,075,184	1,052,591 (2.1)	1,000,948 (7.4)	909,907 (18.2)

* This excludes funds advanced to authorized institutions.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1994

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MANUFACTURERS URGED TO VIE FOR GOVERNOR'S AWARD

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THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY IS THE HIGHEST RECOGNITION AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRY. WINNING IT THROUGH TOUGH COMPETITION IS A PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR OF LASTING VALUE.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MISS DENISE YUE, MADE THIS REMARK TODAY (MONDAY).

"I URGE MANUFACTURERS TO ENTER INTO COMPETITION OF THIS AWARD SCHEME SO THAT THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS CAN BE RECOGNISED," SHE SAID.

ESTABLISHED IN 1989 AND EXPANDED OVER THE YEARS, THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY AIMS AT ENCOURAGING AND RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL PERFORMANCE.

THERE ARE SIX CATEGORIES UNDER THE SCHEME. EACH CATEGORY IS RUN BY A DIFFERENT ORGANISATION.

THE CONSUMER PRODUCT DESIGN AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES TO RECOGNISE INNOVATIVE DESIGN IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DESIGN AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG TO RECOGNISE INNOVATIVE DESIGN IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

THE PRODUCTIVITY AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE HONG KONG PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL TO RECOGNISE PRODUCTIVITY ACHIEVEMENTS IN A MANUFACTURING OPERATION.

THE QUALITY AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNISE QUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS IN A MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO RECOGNISE ATTENTION TO PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN MANUFACTURING.

THE EXPORT MARKETING AWARD CATEGORY IS RUN BY THE HONG KONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO RECOGNISE ACHIEVEMENTS IN EXPORTS OF HONG KONG PRODUCTS.

ENTRIES ARE INVITED EVERY YEAR AND THE BEST ENTRY IN EACH AWARD CATEGORY WILL BE PRESENTED WITH THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INDUSTRY.

APART FROM THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD, ORGANISERS OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES MAY ALSO GIVE THEIR OWN AWARDS IN EACH AWARD CATEGORY OR CONFER CERTIFICATES OF MERIT ON DESERVING ENTRIES.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES THIS YEAR IS MAY 2. THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE ON OCTOBER 31.

/AS REGARDS

AS REGARDS THE QUALITY AWARD ORGANISED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, MISS YUE SAID: "ALL COMPANIES LOCATED IN HONG KONG AND, IN THE YEAR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES, MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS WHICH QUALIFY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF HONG KONG ORIGIN ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE COMPETITION."

ENTRIES FOR THE QUALITY AWARD WILL BE EVALUATED ON TWO MAIN CRITERIA.

THE FIRST IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH A COMPANY'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IS APPLIED TO DESIGN, MATERIALS SOURCING, PRODUCTION AND TESTING; AND HOW FAR IT ELIMINATES DELAYS AND REJECTIONS DURING THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS AND CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AFTERWARDS.

THE SECOND IS THE QUALITY OF THE COMPANY'S PRODUCTS, IN TERMS OF FITNESS FOR PURPOSE, CONSISTENCY OF PERFORMANCE, APPEARANCE, VALUE FOR MONEY AND SAFETY.

ENTRY FORMS AND BROCHURES ON THE QUALITY AWARD ARE OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT OR BY TELEPHONING 737 2306.

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LÉGCO DEBATES COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

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THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL DEBATE A MOTION ON THE COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE THIS WEDNESDAY.

THE MOTION WILL BE MOVED BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN.

DEBATE ON ANOTHER MOTION, TO BE PROPOSED BY THE HON HOWARD YOUNG, IS ON THE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL.

IN THE MEETING, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER WILL TABLE ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 1992/93 OF HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC, CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG, HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE AND LINGNAN COLLEGE.

THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL PRESENT URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCILS' ESTIMATES OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1994/95; AND THE REVISED ESTIMATES OF THE TWO COUNCILS FOR 1993/94.

MEMBERS WILL ASK A TOTAL OF 20 QUESTIONS AND CONSIDER FOUR BILLS.

THREE OF THE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. DEBATE ON THEM ARE DUE TO BE ADJOURNED.

THE BILLS ARE: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (POWERS AND PRIVILEGES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 AND COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994.

DEBATES ON HONG KONG SPORTS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WILL BE RESUMED AND IS DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY. THEY MAY RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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RELOCATION OF MALE SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINIC

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (MONDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT THE ASHLEY ROAD MALE SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINIC IN TSIM SHA TSUI WOULD BE MOVED INTO YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB POLYCLINIC ON FEBRUARY 8 (TUESDAY).

THE CLINIC, RENAMED AS YAU MA TEI MALE SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINIC, WILL BE LOCATED ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF POLYCLINIC AT 145 BATTERY STREET, KOLWOON.

THE TIME OF REGISTRATION REMAINS UNCHANGED:

MONDAY TO SATURDAY	9 AM TO NOON
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY	2 PM TO 4 PM (ADDITIONAL HOURS)
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY	5 PM TO 6 PM (ADDITIONAL HOURS)

TO FACILITATE THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE RELOCATION, THE ASHLEY ROAD MALE SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINIC WILL BE CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 5 (SATURDAY) AND FEBRUARY 7 (MONDAY).

DURING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE CLINIC, PATIENTS WITH URGENT NEEDS MAY ATTEND THE YUNG FUNG SHEE SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINIC ON THE FOURTH FLOOR, YUNG FUNG SHEE MEMORIAL HEALTH CENTRE, CHA KWO LING ROAD, KWUN TONG.

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WATER CUT IN SAI KUNG

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SAI KUNG WILL GO OFF FROM 10 AM TO 4 PM ON WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 2) TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES IN TAI LAM WU, NGAU LIU, NGAU PUI WO, MAN WO, KAU TSIN UK, KAI HAM, TIN LIU, CHUK YUEN AND WONG KENG TEI.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 66.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 389.472 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 313.489 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 53.5 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	6,755
REVERSAL OF LAF	-79
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	6,676
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	-2,676
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-395
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,605
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	311.94
TWI 126.8	*-0.1*

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.84	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.18	3.64
1 MONTH	2.86	19 MONTHS	2508	4.265	101.26	3.81
3 MONTHS	2.97	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.30	4.01
6 MONTHS	3.07	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.33	4.51
12 MONTHS	3.40	36 MONTHS	3701	4.60	100.18	4.59

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 33,023 MN

CLOSED 31 JANUARY 1994

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