



Received by PRO  
on 16 AUG 1993

## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

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GOVT SENSITIVE TO LOCAL OFFICERS' VIEWS ON LOCALISATION

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THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE VIEWS OF LOCAL OFFICERS ON THE LOCALISATION ISSUE AND IT HAS NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING THE NEW EXPATRIATE ARRANGEMENTS TO SLOW DOWN THE PACE OF LOCALISATION, ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"INDEED, WHERE THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN SOME DEPARTMENTS OVER LOCALISATION, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE AND I MYSELF ARE TALKING TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS WITH A VIEW TO SPEEDING UP THE PROCESS.

"AND SO WE ARE COMMITTED TO LOCALISATION AND NO DECISION THAT WE HAVE MADE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO BE ANY CONTRARY TO THAT," HE STRESSED.

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL SUMMER CAMP 93 AT PO LEUNG KUK HOLIDAY CAMP IN PAK TAM CHUNG, SAI KUNG.

HE SAID IT SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED THAT EXPATRIATE OFFICERS WHO APPLIED FOR NATURALISATION AND NEW CONTRACTS WOULD BE GRANTED AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

"EVERY CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERIT. WE WILL LOOK AT THE MERITS OF THE OFFICER CONCERNED," HE SAID.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING FOR 1997 AND THE PROVISIONS IN THE BASIC LAW, IT MUST MAKE SURE THAT LOCAL CHINESE OFFICERS WHO ARE READY TO TAKE OVER THOSE SENIOR POSITIONS WOULD BE IN PLACE.

"HAVING THEM IN PLACE IN 1997 MEANS THAT WE MUST GIVE THEM THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE NOW AND SO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE WILL ALSO BE A KEY FACTOR IN DECIDING WHETHER EXPATRIATE OFFICERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE THEIR CONTRACTS RENEWED AS WELL AS MERITS AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AS WELL."

SIR DAVID ALSO STRESSED THAT ARRANGEMENTS TO ALLOW EXPATRIATE CIVIL SERVANTS TO SWITCH TO LOCAL TERMS WERE VERY MUCH TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS.

SIR DAVID ALSO HOPED THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE DID NOT RESORT TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION TO PRESS AHEAD THEIR CAUSE.

"AND I'D VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TALKING. WE CAN CONTINUE DISCUSSING WITH THE UNIONS AND WITH THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED HOW TO FIND THE BEST WAY FORWARD."

HE ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 10 OUT OF OVER 70 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WOULD LIKELY BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW POLICY.

"SO WE ARE TALKING ABOUT FIRST OF ALL A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND AS I EMPHASISED WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO LET THIS AFFECT THE PACE OF LOCALISATION AS WE HAVE BEEN PURSUING. AND I THINK OUR RECORD IF ANYBODY CARES TO EXAMINE IS VERY GOOD IN THAT RESPECT."

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JUVENILE OFFENDERS ARRESTED FALL

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THE NUMBER OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS ARRESTED WAS REDUCED FROM 7,000 IN 1991 TO 6,500 LAST YEAR, AND THE OVERALL CRIME RATE DECREASED FROM 1,540 TO 1,450 PER 100,000 PERSONS IN THE SAME PERIOD UNDER COMPARISON.

THE ACTING GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID FORD, TOLD AN AUDIENCE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL (JPC) ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP AT THE PO LEUNG KUK PAK TAM CHUNG HOLIDAY CAMP, SAI KUNG TODAY (THURSDAY) .

SIR DAVID THANKED THE JPC FOR ITS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN HELPING THE POLICE TO FIGHT CRIME OVER THE PAST YEARS, WITHOUT WHICH, HE SAID, THE FIGHT CRIME CAMPAIGNS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL.

"AS MEMBERS OF THE JPC, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED NOT ONLY TO ASSIST THE POLICE IN FIGHTING CRIME, BUT ALSO TO TAKE PART IN A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE POLICE, SUCH AS FLAG-SELLING AND OTHER FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

"BY JOINING THE JPC, YOU HAVE ALL TAKEN A POSITIVE STEP IN DEVELOPING INTO RESPONSIBLE AND CARING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE," HE TOLD THE 1,500 CAMPERS THERE.

THE JPC SUMMER CAMP IS AN ANNUAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH TO PROVIDE HEALTHY ACTIVITIES FOR JPC MEMBERS DURING THEIR SUMMER VACATION.

"THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S CAMP IS: PREVENT CRIME; REPORT CRIME; AND FIGHT CRIME," SIR DAVID SAID.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1974, THE JUNIOR POLICE CALL HAS GROWN INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST POPULAR ORGANISATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

FOR THE PAST 19 YEARS, OVER 600,000 YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE JOINED THE SCHEME, AND THERE IS AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN 2,000 APPLICATIONS COMING IN EVERY MONTH.

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BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME

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APPLICATIONS FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME WILL BE INVITED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

TO QUALIFY FOR APPLYING UNDER THE SCHEME, A NON-BRITISH NATIONAL MUST APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS A BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZEN (BDTC) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 13 THIS YEAR.

UNDER THE SCHEME INTRODUCED IN DECEMBER 1990, UP TO 50,000 HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS MAY BE REGISTERED AS BRITISH CITIZENS WITHOUT HAVING TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY.

ABOUT 12,000 PLACES REMAINING UNUSED AT THE END OF THE FIRST PHASE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION IN THE FINAL PHASE RUNNING FROM JANUARY 3, 1994 TO JUNE 30, 1997.

IN A DIRECTION ISSUED TO THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW CUT-OFF DATE FOR NON-BRITISH NATIONALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME TO APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS BDTC'S.

"THE SCHEME IS OPEN TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF BRITISH NATIONALS ONLY, SUCH AS BDTC'S AND BRITISH NATIONALS (OVERSEAS). TO QUALIFY, NON-BRITISH NATIONALS, SUCH AS HOLDERS OF CERTIFICATES OF IDENTITY, MUST APPLY FOR NATURALISATION AS BDTC'S ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 13, 1993," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"THIS CUT-OFF DATE WILL NOT APPLY TO PEOPLE HAVING NO PLANS TO APPLY UNDER THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME," HE ADDED. THE PUBLIC MAY CALL 824 6111 FOR ENQUIRIES.

AN INFORMATION BOOKLET GIVING DETAILS OF THE FINAL PHASE OF THE SCHEME, INCLUDING THE REVISED POINTS SYSTEM AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES, WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, ALL DISTRICT OFFICES AND IMMIGRATION OFFICES FREE OF CHARGE FROM TOMORROW.

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DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR FOR COMMENTS ON LEGAL AID PAPER

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO COMMENT ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON LEGAL AID TO ACT PROMPTLY AS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS WAS NEXT MONDAY (AUGUST 16).

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON THE FINDINGS OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP WHICH HAS REVIEWED THE LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE GOVERNING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

THE WORKING GROUP HAS PROPOSED SOME MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES. ITS FINDINGS ARE SET OUT IN THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON LEGAL AID.

"COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ARE AVAILABLE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, AT THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF ALL DISTRICT OFFICES. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OFFER THEIR COMMENTS ON THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COPIES OF THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICES. THEY INCLUDE THE BAR ASSOCIATION, LAW SOCIETY, LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, LAW SOCIETY LEGAL ADVICE AND DUTY LAWYER SCHEMES.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR MR SIMON IP MOVED A MOTION DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JULY 21 URGING FOR THE SETTING UP OF AN INDEPENDENT STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LEGAL AID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, NOTED THAT THE VARIOUS OPTIONS OF ENHANCING THE INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL AID ADMINISTRATION WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER AND THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WOULD FORM PART OF FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER ON LEGAL AID.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL FORMULATE THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

COMMENTS ON THE CONSULTATIVE PAPER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION ON FIFTH FLOOR, MAIN WING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, CENTRAL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID LATE SUBMISSIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTED IF NOTICE WAS SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

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SECOND QUARTER BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS RELEASED

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MANUFACTURERS GENERALLY REPORTED SEASONAL IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS EXPECT CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FIRMS FROM THE TRADES OF REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES EXPERIENCED A SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EXPECTED GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993. THIS IS DUE TO THE RECENT BUOYANCY IN THE PROPERTY MARKET.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE FIRMS GENERALLY EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

THE BANKING INDUSTRY ALSO EXPERIENCED IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF STAFF AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER ALLEVIATED IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, THE BANKS EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HIGH WAGE RATES CONTINUED TO BE THE BUSINESS PROBLEM MOST CITED BY THE MANUFACTURERS AND WILL STILL BOTHER THEM IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER. IN ADDITION, PRICE COMPETITIONS FROM LOCAL AND OVERSEAS COMPETITORS STILL REMAINED KEEN.

FOR INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE WEARING APPAREL INDUSTRY REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993, ALTHOUGH THE IMPROVEMENT WAS BELOW WHAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED.

PRICE COMPETITION AND SHORTAGE OF LABOUR REMAINED THE MAJOR PROBLEMS REPORTED BY MANUFACTURERS FROM THE INDUSTRY. LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE INDUSTRY GENERALLY EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN THE BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY ALSO REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS ALLEVIATED AND IS EXPECTED TO FURTHER IMPROVE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, BROADLY THE SAME BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEM OF PRICE COMPETITION FROM OVERSEAS COMPETITORS ALLEVIATED WHILE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR BECAME SERIOUS.

LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS FROM THE INDUSTRY GENERALLY EXPECT FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF GENERAL LABOUR AND HIGH STAFF TURNOVER HAD SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROBLEM OF PRICE COMPETITION FROM OVERSEAS FIRMS STILL BOTHERED THE INDUSTRY AND THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES DETERIORATED.

HOWEVER, LOOKING AHEAD, MANUFACTURERS FROM THIS INDUSTRY EXPECT THAT BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

MANUFACTURERS FROM THE FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION ALLEVIATED WHILE THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS ORDERS INTENSIFIED IN THE QUARTER.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE MAJORITY OF MANUFACTURERS FROM THE INDUSTRY EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION.

IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION WAS REPORTED BY MANUFACTURERS FROM THE ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND APPLIANCES INDUSTRY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

THOUGH THE PROBLEM OF HIGH WAGE RATES WAS STILL A MAJOR PROBLEM, THERE WAS ALLEVIATION IN THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED LABOUR. LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE PRINTING INDUSTRY, WHILE THERE WAS IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993, IT WAS LOWER THAN WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

THE PROBLEMS OF LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION, HIGH LABOUR TURNOVER AND HIGH WAGE RATES CONTINUED TO BOTHER THE INDUSTRY.

NEVERTHELESS, THE PROBLEM OF LABOUR SHORTAGE SEEMED TO HAVE ALLEVIATED IN THE QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, THE BUSINESS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

THE PROBLEM OF LOCAL PRICE COMPETITION HAD SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED BUT STILL REMAINED THE MOST CITED PROBLEM IN THE SECTOR. THE PROBLEM OF HIGH MATERIAL PRICES WAS EMERGING IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

BUT LOOKING AHEAD, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION ARE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE.

FOR THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND IMPORT/EXPORT TRADES, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION ALSO REMAINED BROADLY THE SAME IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED KEEN WHILE THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER HAD SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED. LOOKING AHEAD, FIRMS FROM THESE TRADES EXPECT IMPROVEMENT IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION.

THE MAJORITY OF RESTAURANT OPERATORS REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION DETERIORATED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THIS YEAR. THE DIP WAS, HOWEVER, LARGELY SEASONAL.

THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS INTENSIFIED IN THE QUARTER BUT IS EXPECTED TO ALLEVIATE AGAIN IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER. LOOKING AHEAD, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION WILL IMPROVE IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER AS THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS ENTERS INTO A SEASONAL PEAK.

THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION OF THE HOTEL INDUSTRY IMPROVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993. THE PROBLEM OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER HAS EASED SOMEWHAT WHILE PRICE COMPETITION REMAINED THE BUSINESS PROBLEM MOST CITED BY HOTEL OPERATORS.

LOOKING AHEAD, THE MAJORITY OF HOTEL OPERATORS EXPECT SEASONAL DETERIORATION IN BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IN THE FOLLOWING QUARTER.

FOR THE TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES, BOTH THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND CAPACITY UTILISATION IMPROVED IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

WHILE THE PROBLEMS OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER AND PRICE COMPETITION CONTINUED TO BOTHER THE INDUSTRY, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROBLEM OF INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS WAS REPORTED. LOOKING AHEAD, FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS SITUATION IS EXPECTED.

ABOUT 500 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES AND TRADES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATED IN THE SURVEY.

THEY WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCES AND EXPECTATIONS AS WELL AS THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS THEY FACED.

THE RESULTS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR MAKING A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HONG KONG FROM A SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE.

IN THE SURVEY, PARTICIPATING FIRMS WERE ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, THE GENERAL BUSINESS SITUATION AND THE LEVEL OF CAPACITY UTILISATION HAD 'IMPROVED', 'REMAINED THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATED' IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 AS COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER.

THEY WERE ALSO ASKED TO INDICATE WHETHER THE SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO 'IMPROVE', 'REMAIN THE SAME' OR 'DETERIORATE' IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993.

THE OPINIONS OF RESPONDENTS WERE THEN ANALYSED AND THE SUMMARY FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN THE "REPORT ON QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY, SECOND QUARTER 1993".

MOREOVER, THE SURVEY REPORT CONTAINS A SECTION ON THE BUSINESS PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED AND EXPECTED BY FIRMS IN THE DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SECTORS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE THE RESULTS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED WITH CAUTION AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPONDENTS' RECOLLECTION OF THE PAST AND PERCEPTION OF THE FUTURE ACCORDED WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY BUY THE REPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, OR FROM THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$12.5 A COPY.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 839 3223.

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#### DRAINAGE SYSTEMS BEING UPGRADED

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THE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN HONG KONG ARE BEING UPGRADED TO MAKE THE TERRITORY FREE OF MARINE WATER POLLUTION AND FLOODING AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$20 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE SERVICES, MR SIU CHUEN, AT A LUNCHEON OF THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF HONG KONG TODAY (THURSDAY).

OUTLINING THE SERVICES OF THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR SIU SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS TASKED TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE SEWAGE AND FLOODING PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG.

"THEREFORE, ITS RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE SEWERAGE, SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL, AND LAND STORMWATER DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE TERRITORY.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO A PROGRAMME OF WORKS TO UPGRADE THESE SYSTEMS TO MAKE HONG KONG FREE OF MARINE WATER POLLUTION AND FLOODS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ABOUT \$20 BILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS," HE NOTED.

POINTING OUT THAT DRAINAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, MR SIU SAID PROOF OF THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM'S GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS LAY IN THE FACT THAT THE STREETS WERE FREE OF SEWAGE AND STORMWATER DRAINS FILLED RAPIDLY IN HEAVY RAIN.

"THE MAJOR STEPS TAKEN IN RECENT TIMES HAVE BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SEWERAGE MASTER PLANS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY TO STRENGTHEN THE SEWAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM.

"A STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME AIMING AT AN OCEANIC DISPOSAL OF TREATED SEWAGE, AWAY FROM OUR HARBOUR AND BATHING WATER, IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED FOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMENCING IN 1994.

"A MASSIVE DRAINAGE SCHEME TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEMS OF FLOODING IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES IS NOW IN HAND," HE SAID.

MR SIU POINTED OUT THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WAS ENDEAVOURING TO PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICES POSSIBLE.

"OUT PLEDGE IS TO EXPEDITIOUSLY ATTEND TO PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ON DRAINAGE MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, BY CLEARING BLOCKED DRAINS AND PROCESSING THE APPLICATIONS FOR DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS PROMPTLY," HE CONCLUDED.

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#### EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS FOR JUNE

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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) RELEASED DETAILED STATISTICS ON EXTERNAL TRADE WITH BREAKDOWN BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY AND COMMODITY FOR JUNE THIS YEAR.

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN JUNE 1993, AT \$67,041 MILLION, SHOWED AN INCREASE OF 13% OVER JUNE 1992, WHEREAS THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS, \$18,509 MILLION, DECREASED BY 12% ON THE SAME BASIS OF COMPARISON.

COMPARING JUNE 1993 WITH JUNE 1992, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, SINGAPORE, GERMANY, JAPAN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY, BY 28%, 17%, 17%, 17%, 16%, 12% AND 11% RESPECTIVELY. THAT TO CANADA INCREASED SLIGHTLY BY 2.9%.

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA DECREASED BY 19% AND 1.3% RESPECTIVELY.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

/THE VALUE .....

THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WAS \$375,789 MILLION, BEING 22% HIGHER THAN THAT IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO MOST OF THE MAJOR DESTINATIONS : CHINA (+36%), SINGAPORE (+25%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (+24%), GERMANY (+22%), THE UNITED STATES (+22%), FRANCE (+19%), JAPAN (+15%), CANADA (+10%) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+3.9%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO TAIWAN DECREASED BY 18%.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$10,483 MILLION OR 168%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$7,207 MILLION OR 31%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$6,862 MILLION OR 29%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$6,605 MILLION OR 42%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$5,398 MILLION OR 13%); CLOTHING (BY \$4,736 MILLION OR 14%); AND TEXTILES (BY \$678 MILLION OR 2.1%).

AS REGARDS DOMESTIC EXPORTS, INCREASES OF 3.6% AND 1.6% IN VALUE WERE RECORDED FOR THOSE TO MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE RESPECTIVELY WHEN COMPARING JUNE 1993 WITH JUNE 1992.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR DESTINATIONS : TAIWAN (-26%), JAPAN (-21%), THE NETHERLANDS (-20%), THE UNITED STATES (-16%), THE UNITED KINGDOM (-16%), CHINA (-8.0%), GERMANY (-5.6%) AND CANADA (-4.7%).

THE DECLINES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES WERE HOWEVER PARTLY AFFECTED BY HIGH BASE OF COMPARISON IN JUNE LAST YEAR.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA AND CHINA INCREASED BY 15%, 15% AND 7.6% RESPECTIVELY.

HOWEVER, DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO OTHER MAJOR DESTINATIONS : THE UNITED KINGDOM (-14%), JAPAN (-11%), THE NETHERLANDS (-11%), CANADA (-9.8%), TAIWAN (-8.9%), THE UNITED STATES (-8.9%) AND GERMANY (-8.2%).

FOR ALL DESTINATIONS TAKEN TOGETHER, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993, AT \$103,182 MILLION, DECREASED BY 3.5% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

TABLE 4 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE REGISTERED FOR ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$1,602 MILLION OR 17%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$657 MILLION OR 11%); AND MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES (BY \$229 MILLION OR 15%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE RECORDED FOR CLOTHING (BY \$2,666 MILLION OR 8.3%); MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES (BY \$1,338 MILLION OR 12%); PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS (BY \$1,154 MILLION OR 13%); AND OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES (BY \$937 MILLION OR 9.7%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN JUNE 1993 WAS \$89,295 MILLION, INCREASING BY 5.5% OVER THAT IN JUNE 1992.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 5.

COMPARING JUNE 1993 WITH JUNE 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM MOST OF THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS: ITALY (+17%), GERMANY (+14%), JAPAN (+10%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+8.0%), MALAYSIA (+5.2%), TAIWAN (+4.3%), CHINA (+3.8%) AND SINGAPORE (+3.3%).

HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM DECREASED BY 8.2% AND 4.1% RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM ALL THE MAJOR SUPPLIERS INCREASED: MALAYSIA (+25%), THE UNITED STATES (+21%), SINGAPORE (+21%), GERMANY (+21%), ITALY (+19%), JAPAN (+17%), CHINA (+12%), TAIWAN (+10%), THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (+8.7%) AND THE UNITED KINGDOM (+7.0%).

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WAS \$506,726 MILLION, AN INCREASE OF 14% OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992.

TABLE 6 SHOWS THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

COMPARING THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1992, INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MOST MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS.

MORE NOTABLE INCREASES WERE REGISTERED FOR ROAD VEHICLES (BY \$16,196 MILLION OR 124%); ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF (BY \$9,275 MILLION OR 22%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT (BY \$5,892 MILLION OR 17%); FOOTWEAR (BY \$5,305 MILLION OR 38%); CLOTHING (BY \$4,405 MILLION OR 12%); AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES CONSISTING OF MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS (BY \$3,638 MILLION OR 11%).

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, A DECREASE IN THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS RECORDED FOR TEXTILES (BY \$2,081 MILLION OR 4.1%).

ALL THE TRADE STATISTICS DESCRIBED HERE ARE MEASURED AT CURRENT PRICES AND NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE CHANGES IN PRICES BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF COMPARISON.

A SEPARATE ANALYSIS OF THE VOLUME AND PRICE MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE FOR JUNE 1993 WILL BE RELEASED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

DETAILED TRADE STATISTICS ANALYSED BY COMMODITY AND BY COUNTRY/TERRITORY ARE PUBLISHED IN TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

THE JUNE 1993 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE" WITH DETAILED ANALYSES ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IN JUNE 1993 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$68.50 A COPY AROUND AUGUST 24.

THE REPORT CAN BE BOUGHT AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON THE 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, HONG KONG (TEL 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE STATISTICS TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL 582 4915).

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	23,520	+ 28.4	129,354	+ 35.9
UNITED STATES	15,103	+ 12.4	78,080	+ 22.2
JAPAN	3,199	+ 16.7	18,724	+ 14.7
GERMANY	3,203	+ 16.8	18,275	+ 22.2
TAIWAN	1,669	- 19.0	10,846	- 18.1
UNITED KINGDOM	2,034	+ 16.2	10,226	+ 24.1
SINGAPORE	1,362	+ 17.1	8,102	+ 25.5
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	1,105	- 1.3	7,160	+ 3.9
FRANCE	1,018	+ 10.7	6,192	+ 18.8
CANADA	1,060	+ 2.9	5,670	+ 10.2

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	8,675	+ 2.2	45,513	+ 13.5
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,128	+ 6.6	39,204	+ 13.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	5,999	- 5.7	33,396	+ 2.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	6,044	+ 28.8	30,825	+ 30.5
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	5,304	+ 18.6	30,582	+ 28.9
FOOTWEAR	4,086	+ 30.7	22,174	+ 42.4
ROAD VEHICLES	2,742	+118.9	16,734	+167.7
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,067	+ 19.8	16,493	+ 20.8
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,062	+ 15.4	12,763	+ 33.2
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	2,317	+ 5.3	12,652	+ 9.4

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE 10 MAJOR DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	5,355	- 8.0	30,660	+ 7.6
UNITED STATES	5,035	- 16.3	25,550	- 8.9
GERMANY	1,357	- 5.6	6,329	- 8.2
SINGAPORE	853	+ 1.6	5,455	+ 15.1
UNITED KINGDOM	915	- 15.8	4,840	- 13.7
JAPAN	706	- 20.7	4,754	- 11.4
TAIWAN	395	- 26.4	2,875	- 8.9
NETHERLANDS	390	- 19.8	2,111	- 10.9
CANADA	423	- 4.7	2,111	- 9.8
MALAYSIA	205	+ 3.6	1,372	+ 14.7

/TABLE 4 .....

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	6,404	- 9.0	29,555	- 8.3
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	1,794	+ 1.6	10,844	+ 17.3
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,692	- 14.3	9,391	- 12.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,148	- 39.7	8,690	- 9.7
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	1,332	- 16.6	8,141	- 3.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,270	- 21.2	7,705	- 13.0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	1,172	- 3.0	6,717	+ 10.8
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	360	- 17.6	2,216	- 7.6
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	361	+ 3.7	1,755	+ 1.7
MACHINERY SPECIALISED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	263	+ 9.6	1,749	+ 15.0

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM THE 10 MAJOR SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	32,324	+ 3.8	180,554	+ 11.9
JAPAN	15,619	+ 10.0	88,162	+ 16.6
TAIWAN	7,904	+ 4.3	45,047	+ 10.3
UNITED STATES	6,426	- 8.2	38,998	+ 21.2
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4,367	+ 8.0	24,026	+ 8.7
SINGAPORE	3,946	+ 3.3	22,288	+ 21.0
GERMANY	2,172	+ 14.2	12,245	+ 20.6
UNITED KINGDOM	1,671	- 4.1	9,966	+ 7.0
ITALY	1,317	+ 16.6	7,923	+ 19.2
MALAYSIA	1,251	+ 5.2	7,482	+ 24.7

TABLE 6 : IMPORTS OF THE 10 MAJOR COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JUN 93 OVER JUN 92 (% CHANGE)	JAN-JUN 1993 (HK\$ MN)	JAN-JUN 93 OVER JAN-JUN 92 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	9,300	+ 9.0	52,406	+ 21.5
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	8,461	- 9.1	49,009	- 4.1
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	7,187	+ 18.0	39,711	+ 17.4
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	7,103	+ 3.7	39,673	+ 12.5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,607	- 1.3	35,289	+ 11.5
ROAD VEHICLES	5,415	+134.0	29,283	+123.8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,068	+ 1.0	22,897	+ 6.7
FOOTWEAR	3,484	+ 30.8	19,439	+ 37.5
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	2,870	- 1.0	17,354	+ 25.4
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	2,743	- 10.4	16,975	+ 8.2

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

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STAGE III OF FORM 6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE BEGINS TOMORROW

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STAGE II OF THE SECONDARY 6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE ENDED AT 3.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY) AND STAGE III WILL BEGIN TOMORROW.

A TOTAL OF 4,575 SECONDARY 5 LEAVERS SCORING 14 POINTS OR MORE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING MOST OF 9,687 SECONDARY 6 PLACES LEFT OVER FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 23,200 PLACES AVAILABLE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE STILL 5,112 SECONDARY 6 PLACES AVAILABLE.

THE SPOKESMAN REMINDED DAY-SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH RESULTS THAT SATISFIED THE MINIMUM A-LEVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS THAT THEY MAY APPLY TO THEIR OWN OR LINKED SCHOOL IF IT STILL HAD VACANCIES BEFORE 3.30 PM TOMORROW.

APPLICATION RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE SAME DAY.

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PAST STUDENTS SHOULD NOT APPLY AT THIS STAGE, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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MORE ENQUIRIES ON HKCEE RECEIVED

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UP TO 5.30 PM TODAY (THURSDAY), THE CAREERS AND GUIDANCE SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED 453 VISITORS AND HANDLED 209 TELEPHONE ENQUIRIES ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE RELEASE OF THE HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATION RESULTS, AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS BRINGS TO 1,538 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS AND 923 CALLERS WHO TELEPHONED THE CENTRE SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE RESULTS ON TUESDAY (AUGUST 10).

THE CAREERS EDUCATION CENTRE IN ROOM 206 OF THE MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT 30 LUEN WAN STREET, MONG KOK, PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH MATERIALS ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER STUDIES AND TRAINING, AND INFORMATION ON VARIOUS PROFESSIONS.

THE CENTRE WILL EXTEND ITS OPENING HOURS WITHOUT A BREAK FROM 8.45 AM TO 5.30 PM UNTIL TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT'S 24-HOUR AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE ENQUIRY SERVICE HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 5,500 CALLERS SINCE MONDAY (AUGUST 9) - ONE DAY BEFORE THE START OF STAGE I OF THE SECONDARY 6 ADMISSION PROCEDURE.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

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COURT OF INT'L TRADE'S DECISION ON SWEATER IMPORTS

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COMMENTING ON THE U.S. COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE'S DECISION YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) TO UPHOLD THE DETERMINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION (ITC) THAT IMPORTS OF MAN-MADE FIBRE SWEATERS FROM HONG KONG, SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN DID NOT INJURE THE U.S. SWEATER INDUSTRY, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR PETER S T PANG, SAID TODAY: "THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS FOR HONG KONG."

"IT REFLECTS THE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT MADE BY THE HONG KONG SWEATER TRADE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT, TO DEFEND HONG KONG'S TRADE INTERESTS. IT BRINGS US ONE STEP CLOSER TO THE ABOLITION OF THE ANTI-DUMPING DUTY."

"THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE CASE YET," HE ADDED. "THE PETITIONER MAY TAKE THE CASE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEAL FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT WITHIN 60 DAYS."

MR PANG SAID IN THE MEANTIME, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC) WOULD CONTINUE ITS ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCEEDINGS.

HE SAID: "THE DOC IS EXPECTED TO ISSUE THE PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FIRST REVIEW ANY DAY NOW. BOTH THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE SWEATER INDUSTRY WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR TRADING INTERESTS IF THE RESULTS ARE UNREASONABLE."

IN SEPTEMBER 1990, DOC ISSUED AN ANTI-DUMPING ORDER REQUIRING U.S. IMPORTERS OF MAN-MADE FIBRE SWEATERS FROM HONG KONG TO PAY ANTI-DUMPING DUTY AT A RATE OF 5.86 PER CENT.

IN JULY 1992, THE U.S. COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (CIT) HANDED DOWN A RULING ON THE CONSOLIDATED APPEALS BROUGHT BY HONG KONG, TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA COMPANIES AGAINST ITC'S INJURY DETERMINATION.

THE CIT'S DECISION WAS THAT THE ITC'S INJURY DETERMINATION WAS NOT SUPPORTED BY SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OR OTHERWISE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

THE ITC WAS MANDATED TO REVIEW THE INJURY DETERMINATION AND IT SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED A "NO INJURY" DETERMINATION TO CIT IN NOVEMBER 1992. CIT UPHELD THIS "NO INJURY" DETERMINATION YESTERDAY.

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JOB BAZAAR ATTRACTS 1,400 JOB-SEEKERS

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MORE THAN 1,400 JOB-SEEKERS VISITED THE JOB BAZAAR ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN TSUEN WAN TOWN HALL WHICH HELPS WORKERS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS LOOK FOR JOBS UNDER THE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING SCHEME (OJT) SET UP BY THE EMPLOYEES RETRAINING BOARD (ERB).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE BAZAAR PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYERS AND POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT AND DISCUSS ABOUT JOB VACANCIES AND EMPLOYMENT.

"AT THE BAZAAR, VACANCIES OFFERED BY THE 153 OJT EMPLOYERS WERE ALSO MADE AVAILABLE BY THE STAFF OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (LES) TO HELP JOB-SEEKERS SELECT THEIR JOBS," HE SAID.

THE LES STAFF ALSO GAVE TALKS ON RELATED TRADES AND PROVIDED JOB COUNSELLING TO ABOUT 400 JOB-SEEKERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID TWO ROOMS WERE ARRANGED FOR THE 18 PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS TO CONDUCT SELECTION INTERVIEWS.

"A TOTAL OF 900 REFERRALS WERE MADE ON-THE-SPOT FOR JOB-SEEKERS TO MEET THEIR POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE NEXT JOB BAZAAR WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL ON AUGUST 31.

EMPLOYERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE CAN CONTACT THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON 604 7916-9 FOR DETAILS.

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BEACH WATER GRADES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE SYSTEM FOR GRADING BEACH WATER QUALITY IS:

- \* GRADE "1" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS GOOD. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 24 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED RISK OF MINOR ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS IS UNDETECTABLE.
- \* GRADE "2" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS FAIR. THE E. COLI COUNT IS NO MORE THAN 180 PER 100 MILLILITRES AT EACH BEACH SO GRADED, AND THE EXPECTED HEALTH RISK IS NO MORE THAN 10 CASES OF MINOR ILLNESS PER 1,000 SWIMMERS.
- \* GRADE "3" INDICATES THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS POOR. 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 VERY 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 ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CLOSE A BEACH TO SWIMMERS IS BASED ON A JUDGMENT OF WHAT DEGREE OF POLLUTION IS ACCEPTABLE.

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

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

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

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

THE GRADES ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY OF VARIOUS BEACHES TODAY ARE LISTED BELOW:

BEACH -----	PREVIOUS GRADING ----- (AS AT 29.7.93)	PRESENT GRADING ----- (AS AT 12.8.93)
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SAI KUNG DISTRICT  
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CAMPERS	1	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH	2	1
CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH	2	1
HAP MUN BAY	1	1
KIU TSUI	1	1
PAK SHA CHAU	1	1
SILVERSTRAND	2	2
TRIO (HEBE HAVEN)	2	1

ISLANDS DISTRICT  
-----

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

HONG KONG SOUTH  
-----

BIG WAVE BAY	3	2
CHUNG HOM KOK	1	1
DEEP WATER BAY	2	2
HAIRPIN	3	2
MIDDLE BAY	2	2
REPULSE BAY	1	1
SHEK O	3	3
SOUTH BAY	1	1
ST STEPHEN'S	1	1
TURTLE COVE	2	2
STANLEY MAIN	2	2
ROCKY BAY	X	X
TO TEI WAN*	2	2

TUEN MUN DISTRICT  
-----

OLD CAFETERIA	X	X
NEW CAFETERIA	3	3
CASTLE PEAK	X	X
KADOORIE	4	4
BUTTERFLY	3	3

TSUEN WAN DISTRICT  
-----

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

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

THE FOLLOWING BEACHES HAVE CHANGED GRADING ON THIS OCCASION:

BIG WAVE BAY, HAIRPIN, SILVERMINE BAY AND TUNG WAN, MA WAN FROM "3" TO "2"; CLEAR WATER BAY 1ST BEACH, CLEAR WATER BAY 2ND BEACH AND TRIO (HEBE HAVEN) FROM "2" TO "1"

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

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT MR K F TANG ACTING PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICER ON TEL 835 1234.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1993

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,330
REVERSAL OF LAF	+670
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-530
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,470
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 112.5 *+0.0* 12.8.93	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.28 PCT	12 MONTHS	2408	4.375	100.72	3.68
1 MONTH	2.96 PCT	15 MONTHS	2411	4.625	100.98	3.85
3 MONTHS	3.10 PCT	18 MONTHS	2502	4.75	101.00	4.10
6 MONTHS	3.26 PCT	21 MONTHS	2505	3.75	99.00	4.39
12 MONTHS	3.71 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 13,012 MN

CLOSED 12 AUGUST 1993

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