



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1993

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DISBANDMENT OF RHKAAF MARKS A NEW BEGINNING

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON OFFICIATED AT THE DISBANDMENT PARADE OF THE 44-YEAR-OLD ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE, AN OCCASION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS MARKING "NOT SO MUCH IN ENDING, BUT A METAMORPHOSIS OR A NEW BEGINNING".

"I DON'T OVER-LABOUR THAT METAPHOR IF I SAY THAT THE CHRYSALIS OF THE AUXILIARY AIR FORCE WILL NOW EMERGE AS THE BUTTERFLY OF THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE," HE SAID.

"THE CHANGE IS TRULY ONE MORE OF FORM THAN OF SUBSTANCE."

THE GOVERNOR WAS ADDRESSING 500 SERVING AND PAST MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE WHICH WILL BE DISBANDED AT THE END OF MARCH AND REPLACED BY THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE.

"LIKE THE AUXILIARIES, THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE WILL COMPRISE A PERMANENT CORE OF PROFESSIONAL FLYERS, SUPPORTED BY A DEDICATED BODY OF VOLUNTEERS," HE SAID.

"THE SAME DISCIPLINE, THE SAME SKILL AND THE SAME COURAGE WILL CONTINUE TO INFUSE THE SPIRITS OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE PART OF IT, AND THEY WILL BE THE SAME INDIVIDUALS AS THOSE WHO ARE SERVING TODAY BUT THE ORGANISATION WILL BE A CIVILIAN RATHER THAN A MILITARY ONE.

"WHILST THIS MEANS THAT NEW STANDARDS AND PRACTICES WILL BE INTRODUCED, THE CHANGE IS AN EVOLUTIONARY, NOT A REVOLUTIONARY STEP."

MR PATTEN CONCLUDED HIS ADDRESS BY THANKING ALL PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE FOR WHAT THEY HAD DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

"MANY PEOPLE ALIVE TODAY OWE THEIR LIVES TO YOUR DEDICATION, TO YOUR SKILL AND TO YOUR BRAVERY," HE ADDED.

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SPENDING ON EDUCATION UP BY 7 PER CENT

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THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO SPEND \$20,246 MILLION ON THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND \$645 MILLION ON THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME IN THE 1993/94 FINANCIAL YEAR.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE FUNDS EARMARKED FOR THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPRESENTED A REAL INCREASE OF \$1.4 BILLION OR 7.3 PER CENT OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR 1992/93 WHILE THAT FOR THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME REMAINED AT ROUGHLY THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST YEAR.

/THE TOTAL

THE TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR THE TWO PROGRAMMES IS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS:

* TERTIARY EDUCATION	-	\$ 6,641 MILLION
* SCHOOL EDUCATION	-	\$12,894 MILLION
* TECHNICAL EDUCATION	-	\$ 711 MILLION
* EMPLOYMENT	-	\$ 645 MILLION

"BY ITSELF, EDUCATION REMAINS THE LARGEST SINGLE COMPONENT OF GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET - 20.8 PER CENT IN TERMS OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE AND 16.2 PER CENT IN TERMS OF TOTAL PUBLIC EXPENDITURE," MR CHAN SAID.

ON TERTIARY EDUCATION, THE \$6,641 MILLION REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF \$772 MILLION (13.2 PER CENT) COMPARED WITH 1992/93.

OUT OF THE INCREASE, \$650 MILLION IS GEARED TO MEET THE GROWTH IN STUDENT NUMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPANSION PROGRAMME; \$53 MILLION IS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME; \$38 MILLION IS TO PROVIDE AN OPTION TO UNIVERSITY CLINICAL MEDICAL DOCTORS TO TRANSFER TO HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TERMS; AND \$31 MILLION IS ENHANCED FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH.

MR CHAN SAID THE NUMBER OF FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE PLACES IN INSTITUTIONS FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE (UPGC) WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 11,000 THIS YEAR TO 12,500 IN THE 1993/94 ACADEMIC YEAR.

AS A RESULT, THE TOTAL FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENT POPULATION IN THE INSTITUTIONS WILL GO UP FROM 48,800 TO 52,400.

"WE ARE WELL ON THE WAY TO ACHIEVING OUR TARGET OF 14,500 FIRST-YEAR FIRST-DEGREE PLACES OR 18 PER CENT OF THE RELEVANT AGE GROUP BY 1994/95," MR CHAN SAID.

"UPGC IS UNDERTAKING A REVIEW ON OUR TERTIARY EDUCATION AND WILL ADVISE ON FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE POST-1994 PERIOD."

TURNING TO SCHOOL EDUCATION, THE SECRETARY SAID THE \$12,894 MILLION EARMARKED FOR THIS SECTOR REPRESENTED AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS OF \$599 MILLION, OR 4.9 PER CENT, OVER THE FIGURE FOR 1992/93.

HE SAID THE INCREASE WAS MORE SIGNIFICANT WHEN VIEWED AGAINST A 2.4 PER CENT DROP IN ENROLMENT IN THE PRIMARY SECTOR.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO DELIVER, IN TIME AND ON TARGET, ON ALL THE NEW INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS IN OCTOBER.

MR CHAN SAID THE \$599 MILLION INCREASE FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION WAS MAINLY EARMARKED FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

* OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL SIXTH FORM CLASSES	-	\$185 MILLION
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* PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TEACHERS TO BISSESSIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS	-	\$ 50 MILLION
* REDUCING CLASS SIZE IN PRIMARY ONE	-	\$ 34 MILLION
* IMPROVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO 10 CAPUT SCHOOLS	-	\$ 18 MILLION
* TRAINING FOR SCHOOL-BASED REMEDIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME	-	\$ 12 MILLION
* IMPLEMENTING TARGETS AND TARGET-RELATED ASSESSMENTS	-	\$ 12 MILLION
* INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAMME FOR SIXTH FORM CHINESE MEDIUM STUDENTS	-	\$ 11 MILLION
* IMPROVEMENT MEASURES RELATING TO PROVISION OF STUDENT GUIDANCE OFFICERS	-	\$ 10 MILLION
* ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE PROPOSED HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION	-	\$ 8 MILLION
* FUNDING FOR THE NEW COMMITTEE ON HOME-SCHOOL COOPERATION	-	\$ 5 MILLION
* IMPROVED TEACHER:CLASS AND SENIOR TEACHER RATIOS FOR 30 ADDITIONAL WHOLE DAY PRIMARY SCHOOLS	-	\$ 5 MILLION

MR CHAN SAID: "THESE MEASURES CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE AND COHERENT PACKAGE OF QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED IN THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORTS 4 AND 5.

"WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THESE MEASURES WILL NO DOUBT MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE QUALITY OF OUR SCHOOL EDUCATION."

TECHNICAL EDUCATION WILL GET AN ESTIMATED \$711 MILLION, ABOUT \$73 MILLION OR 11.4 PER CENT MORE THAN THAT OF LAST YEAR.

THE ADDITIONAL PROVISION IS TO ENABLE THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL (VTC) TO TAKE OVER SUB-DEGREE COURSES TRANSFERRED FROM THE POLYTECHNICS.

WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE TWO TECHNICAL COLLEGES AT TSING YI AND CHAI WAN, THE VTC WILL START ITS FIRST INTAKE OF SUB-DEGREE STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER 1993.

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AS A RESULT, THE STUDENT ENROLMENT FOR SUB-DEGREE COURSES IS EXPECTED TO BUILD UP FROM 2,250 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT IN 1993/94 TO 6,750 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT IN 1996/97.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDES INDUSTRIAL TRAINING, ACTIVITIES OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND REGISTRY OF TRADE UNIONS, THE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR 1993/94 IS ESTIMATED TO BE \$645 MILLION - ROUGHLY THE SAME AS LAST YEAR.

HOWEVER, MR CHAN SAID ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$3.5 MILLION A YEAR HAD BEEN INCLUDED FOR THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STAFF TO COPE WITH INDUSTRIAL SAFETY WORK ARISING FROM THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

SUMMING UP, MR CHAN SAID THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$1.4 BILLION IN THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME DID NOT REPRESENT THE SUM-TOTAL OF IMPROVEMENTS TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1993/94.

"THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH AND ITS DEPARTMENTS HAVE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GREATER PRODUCTIVITY AND VALUE FOR MONEY THROUGH REDEPLOYMENT OF BASELINE SAVINGS," MR CHAN SAID.

"IN ADDITION, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT SUBSTANTIAL ONE-OFF INJECTIONS OF FUNDS WERE MADE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS - \$300 MILLION FOR EMPLOYEES RETRAINING FUND AND \$150 MILLION FOR THE OPEN LEARNING INSTITUTE.

"IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT SOME IMPROVEMENTS MAY NOT INVOLVE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, SUCH AS IMPROVEMENTS IN SOME AREAS OF LABOUR LEGISLATION," MR CHAN ADDED.

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WORKERS BETTER PROTECTED ON INSOLVENCY

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WORKERS WHOSE EMPLOYERS BECOME INSOLVENT WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED ON ARREARS OF WAGES AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE WITH THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 CAME INTO EFFECT LAST FRIDAY.

UNDER THE ORDINANCE, THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$8,000 TO \$18,000 PER APPLICANT AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE FROM SEVEN DAYS' WAGES UP TO \$2,000 TO ONE MONTH'S WAGES UP TO \$6,000.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MR ALFRED CHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY):

"WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO SEE THAT WITH THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDED ORDINANCE, IMPROVED COVERAGE WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE ENTITLEMENT OF THE WORKERS."

/MR CHAN

MR CHAN SAID THE AMENDMENT WOULD APPLY TO EMPLOYEES WHO HAD THEIR EMPLOYMENT TERMINATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 26.

"FOR EXAMPLE, AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS HIS EMPLOYMENT TERMINATED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 26 AND WAS OWED WAGES OF \$10,000 BY HIS EMPLOYER WILL NOW BE FULLY COVERED BY THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENT BY THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND," HE SAID.

BEFORE THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, THE EMPLOYEE WAS ONLY ENTITLED TO A MAXIMUM OF \$8,000 IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES.

"AS REGARDS WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE, AN APPLICANT WILL NOW BE GIVEN EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE FROM ONE MONTH'S WAGES UP TO \$6,000 IF HIS EMPLOYMENT IS TERMINATED BY HIS EMPLOYER INSTEAD OF THE PREVIOUS SEVEN DAYS' WAGES UP TO \$2,000," MR CHAN ADDED.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE WAGE SECURITY UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 834 6037.

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QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

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THE QUALITY OF AT LEAST THREE AREAS OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES - PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, YOUTH AT RISK AND FAMILY - WILL BE IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE COMING YEAR, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE 1993/94 BUDGET, MR STRACHAN SAID HE HAD HEARD CRITICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PUTTING ALL ITS MONEY INTO INCREASING THE QUANTITY OF SERVICE IN SOCIAL WELFARE BUT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE INCREASES IN QUALITY.

HE STRESSED THAT WHILE TRYING VERY HARD TO MEET THE AMBITIOUS TARGETS IN SOCIAL WELFARE AS SET BY THE GOVERNOR LAST OCTOBER, THE QUALITY OF SERVICES MUST NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

HE SAID THERE WOULD BE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF MANY SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES. HE GAVE THREE EXAMPLES.

ELDERLY SINGLE PEOPLE, WHO ARE THE LARGEST NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS UNDER THE EXISTING SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME, WILL GET AN INCREASE IN REAL TERMS OF BETWEEN 10 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT AND FOR FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS ABLE BODIED, THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE OF 32 PER CENT.

"IN THE AREA OF YOUTH AT RISK THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE OF AT LEAST 19 PER CENT IN THE NUMBER OF PROBATION OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE PROBATION SERVICE.

"THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THE COMING YEAR WILL ALSO BE INCREASED BY 12 PER CENT," HE SAID.

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MR STRACHAN SAID THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WAS CREATING CARE FOR THE FAMILY IN A FAMILY SETTING.

HE SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS SEEKING TO BREAK LARGE INSTITUTIONS AND KEEP CHILDREN IN SMALL GROUP HOMES.

"NEXT YEAR WE WILL SEE A SIGNIFICANT 100 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SMALL GROUP HOMES AND FOSTER CARE PLACES ARE ALSO GOING TO BE INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT," HE SAID.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO PLANNING OTHER INCREASES IN THE PROVISION OF FAMILY SERVICES.

"THE NUMBER OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS WILL INCREASE BY 30 PER CENT NEXT YEAR," HE ADDED.

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HK LOOKS FOR CLEANER FUELS

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HONG KONG EXPECTS TO BE IN THE FORTUNATE POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO USE ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM COALS, OIL, NATURAL GAS, NUCLEAR AND HYDROELECTRIC SOURCES, WITH THE NUCLEAR AND HYDROELECTRIC SOURCES BEING IN SOUTHERN CHINA.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (MONDAY) AT A SYMPOSIUM ON PERSPECTIVES OF SUPPLY AND USE OF FUELS IN HONG KONG.

MRS CHAN SAID HONG KONG HAD TO LOOK FOR CLEANER FUELS AND THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE USE OF SUCH FUELS FOR THE TERRITORY'S LONG-TERM INTEREST.

"WE ARE MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION," SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF A NEW THERMAL POWER STATION WOULD BE COMMISSIONED AT BLACK POINT, TUEN MUN IN 1996.

COMBINED CYCLE GENERATING UNITS WHICH CAN ACHIEVE HIGHER THERMAL EFFICIENCY WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE NEW POWER STATION. THE UNITS WILL BE FUELLED BY NATURAL GAS, A MUCH CLEANER FUEL THAN COAL AND OIL, FROM A GAS FIELD OFF HAINAN ISLAND.

SHE SAID THIS MODE OF ELECTRICITY GENERATING WOULD BRING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND ALSO ECONOMICALLY ATTRACTIVE.

TURNING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARDS THE SUPPLY AND USE OF FUELS, MRS CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO ENSURE THAT HONG KONG HAD SUFFICIENT FUEL AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME TO MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS IN THE DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD AHEAD.

IT ALSO HAD TO ENSURE THAT FUELS WERE USED WITH DUE REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES.

/"TO FACILITATE

"TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT MAKES AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY LAND, PROVIDES BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE, ARRANGES WITH FUEL SUPPLIERS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF MINIMUM LEVELS OF RESERVES OF CERTAIN FUELS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND LAYS DOWN A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF FUELS," SHE SAID.

SHE SAID ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT AVOIDED INTERFERING IN THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS OPERATIONS OF FUEL SUPPLIERS, IT DID MONITOR CLOSELY THE SUPPLY, CONSUMPTION AND PRICES OF VARIOUS TYPES OF FUEL FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS PURPOSES.

"IT WOULD ONLY BE IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR DISRUPTION TO SUPPLY - ONE LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ECONOMY AND THE COMMUNITY - THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER INVOKING RESERVE POWERS TO CONTROL FUEL SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION," MRS CHAN SAID.

SHE SAID IN 1982 HONG KONG'S TWO POWER COMPANIES, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, BEGAN TO SWITCH FROM OIL TO COAL AS A FUEL FOR POWER GENERATION.

MRS CHAN SAID CONSIDERABLE SAVINGS IN FUEL COSTS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS AFTER THE TWO POWER COMPANIES SWITCHED TO COAL, WHICH REMAINED CHEAPER THAN OIL ON AN EQUIVALENT HEAT BASIS.

"THIS HAS BEEN OF GREAT BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS IN THAT ELECTRICITY TARIFFS ARE NOW MUCH LOWER THAN THOSE IN 1983 IN REAL TERMS," SHE SAID.

"THE MUCH REDUCED DEPENDENCE ON OIL HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A HIGHER DEGREE OF SECURITY OF THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, WHICH IS IMPORTANT CONSIDERING THAT ELECTRICITY ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 38% OF THE TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMED IN HONG KONG," SHE ADDED.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG SHARED THE INCREASING GLOBAL CONCERN OVER THE THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT POSED BY THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS, MRS CHAN SAID MUCH WORK HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE BY THE POWER COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT TO MINIMISE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF SUCH EMISSIONS FROM EXISTING POWER STATIONS.

"ALL NEW GENERATING UNITS FUELLED BY COAL OR OIL WITH A HIGH SULPHUR CONTENT ARE REQUIRED TO BE FITTED WITH FLUE GAS DESULPHURISATION FACILITIES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO REMOVE 90% OF THE SULPHUR DIOXIDE PRODUCED BEFORE DISCHARGE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

"IN ADDITION, THEY MUST EMIT REDUCED LEVELS OF NITROGEN OXIDES. THESE POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES HOWEVER INVOLVE SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN STRESSED THAT PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT JUST THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IT REQUIRES THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY FROM THE SUPPLIERS TO THE CONSUMERS.

CONSUMERS NEED TO ECONOMISE IN THEIR USE OF ENERGY WHILE SUPPLIERS NEED TO PRODUCE MORE EFFICIENTLY.

"OUR PLANNING AND POLICY FORMULATION MUST STRIKE AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES SO THAT WE CAN ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN WAYS THAT DO NOT PREJUDICE OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH," SHE SAID.

A LESSON LEARNED FROM THE OIL CRISES OF THE PAST, NOW REINFORCED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WAS HONG KONG MUST DO MORE TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND USE IT MORE EFFICIENTLY, MRS CHAN SAID.

"ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IMPERATIVES. ENERGY SAVING MEASURES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED, AND ARE ACTIVELY PROMOTED, BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE APPROACH TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY," SHE STRESSED.

"TO THIS END, THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN APRIL 1991 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGHOUT HONG KONG AND TO FORMULATE A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY FOR THE LONGER TERM.

"THE COMMITTEE HAS DRAWN UP A PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY.

"A PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY WILL COMMENCE IN MARCH. A SERIES OF ADVISORY NOTES ON GOOD ENERGY HOUSEKEEPING WILL BE PUBLISHED TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AND MAINTENANCE PRACTICES."

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE UTILITY COMPANIES THEMSELVES. THE FIRST OF THESE, THE ADVISORY NOTE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL BUILDING MANAGERS IN PARALLEL WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

A SEPARATE ADVISORY NOTE ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, SHE SAID.

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON SAFETY MEASURES FOR HONG KONG COLISEUM

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CERTIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL BE PRESENT DURING FUTURE PERFORMANCES INVOLVING A SIZEABLE AUDIENCE IN THE HONG KONG COLISEUM (HKC) AND REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL GIMMICKS INVOLVING AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINISED AND MONITORED BY THE STADIUM MANAGEMENT.

SUCH MEASURES WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO THE URBAN COUNCIL'S ENTERTAINMENT SELECT COMMITTEE AT TODAY'S (MONDAY) MEETING AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT IN WHICH A 17-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS FOUND COLLAPSED DURING A POP CONCERT ON FEBRUARY 13. THE YOUNG MAN DIED IN HOSPITAL ON FEBRUARY 21.

REPORTING ON THE TRAGEDY WHICH OCCURRED DURING ONE OF THE SHOWS IN THE "ANDY LAU IN CONCERT", ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR PANG CHUNG, TOLD THE MEETING THAT HIRERS OF THE HONG KONG COLISEUM WOULD BE ASKED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRST AID PERSONNEL TO BE ON DUTY DURING SIMILAR EVENTS IN FUTURE.

"PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS ON AUDIENCE SAFETY WILL BE MADE BEFORE THE PERFORMANCES WHILE ADDITIONAL SIGNAGES ON SAFETY MEASURES WILL BE PUT UP IN MORE PROMINENT POSITIONS NEAR THE STAGE," HE SAID.

THE STADIUM MANAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS REGULAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE HIRERS ON SPECIAL EFFECTS AND SAFETY ASPECTS PROPOSED DURING THE PERFORMANCES.

HE TOLD THE MEETING THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY 13, THE GIMMICK REGARDING RELEASING BALLOONS FROM THE CEILING HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE HIRER HAD AGREED TO THE REQUEST TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE FROM FEBRUARY 16 UNTIL THE CONCERT ENDED ON FEBRUARY 22.

"MORE BILINGUAL WARNING SIGNAGES HAD BEEN PUT UP NEAR THE STAGE WHILE SECURITY GUARDS AND USHERS HAD BEEN ALERTED TO EXERCISE TIGHTER CROWD CONTROL SINCE THE INCIDENT," MR PANG SAID.

IN LIGHT OF THE LAN KWAI FONG INCIDENT ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, STAFF OF THE HKC HAD BEEN REMINDED TO TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AND MEASURES TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, MR PANG SAID, ADDING THAT SEVERAL OPERATIONAL MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD WITH THE HIRER BEFORE THE "ANDY LAU IN CONCERT".

HE ALSO SAID A REQUEST FOR ANDY LAU TO GO AROUND THE GANGWAY TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE AUDIENCE DURING THE PERFORMANCES HAD BEEN REJECTED BY THE STADIUM MANAGEMENT AS IT WAS CONSIDERED THAT THIS ACTION MIGHT CREATE A CHAOTIC SITUATION AND COMMOTION AMONG THE AUDIENCE.

THE REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF BALLOONS FROM THE CEILING WAS ONLY AGREED BY THE STADIUM MANAGEMENT ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY WERE DROPPED FROM ABOVE THE MAIN GANGWAY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE SAFETY ASPECTS.

/RECALLING THE

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RECALLING THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT, MR PANG SAID IT WAS ONLY FIVE MINUTES INTO THE SHOW THAT EVENING WHEN THE BALLOONS WERE RELEASED FROM THE CEILING AND SOME OF THE AUDIENCE LEFT THEIR SEATS TO GO DOWN TO THE GANGWAY TO PICK UP THE BALLOONS.

A MAN WAS FOUND LYING UNCONSCIOUS NEAR AISLE 41 AFTER THE AUDIENCE RETURNED TO THEIR SEATS AND THE AMBULANCE SERVICE WAS SUMMONED IMMEDIATELY, HE SAID.

"MEANWHILE, A SECURITY GUARD WHO IS A PHYSIOTHERAPIST AND IS CAPABLE OF GIVING FIRST AID TREATMENT APPLIED MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION AND HEART PRESSES TO THE YOUNG MAN," MR PANG SAID.

HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL WHERE HE DIED EIGHT DAYS LATER.

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1992 DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS
CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN
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LAST YEAR, THE THREE MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUPS OF TEXTILES, WEARING APPAREL AND CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR 57% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEXTILES INCREASED BY 4% TO \$51.8 BILLION IN 1992 AS COMPARED WITH 1991. ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF WEARING APPAREL DECREASED BY 2% TO \$42.8 BILLION IN 1992; THOSE OF CONSUMER ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS ALSO DROPPED BY 4% TO \$38.2 BILLION.

AS FOR THE OTHER INDUSTRY GROUPS, MORE SIGNIFICANT ABSOLUTE INCREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE FOUND IN THE GROUPS OF MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, APPARATUS, PARTS AND COMPONENTS (+\$3,401 MILLION OR +15%); PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING (+\$875 MILLION OR +13%); AND CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS (+\$306 MILLION OR +5%).

ON THE OTHER HAND, INDUSTRY GROUPS WHICH RECORDED THE MORE NOTABLE ABSOLUTE DECREASES IN THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS INCLUDED PROFESSIONAL AND OPTICAL EQUIPMENT (-\$1,563 MILLION OR -8%); AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS (-\$1,389 MILLION OR -17%). FOR THE FOOTWEAR AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT INDUSTRIES, ALTHOUGH THE ABSOLUTE VALUES OF THE CHANGES WERE NOT AS LARGE, MARKED DECLINES OF 30% AND 25% RESPECTIVELY WERE REGISTERED.

/THE ABOVE

THE ABOVE STATISTICS ON DOMESTIC EXPORTS ANALYSED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN ARE DERIVED BY RE-GROUPING THE MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS ORIGINALLY GROUPED UNDER THE EXTERNAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THESE MERCHANDISE ITEMS ARE NORMALLY PRODUCED. TRANSACTIONS IN GOLD AND SPECIE ARE EXCLUDED.

THE INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION USED IS THE HONG KONG STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (HSIC). THE HSIC IS TO BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC) USED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS REPORTS.

IN COMPARISON, THE HSIC IS MORE RELATED TO PRODUCTION PROCESSES WHEREAS THE SITC IS MORE GEARED TO END USES OF PRODUCTS.

CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHEN REFERRING TO THESE DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN. THERE MAY BE SEVERAL INTERMEDIATE PROCESSING STAGES IN THE PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN MERCHANDISE EXPORT ITEMS.

IN COMPILING THE ABOVE STATISTICS, THE TOTAL VALUE OF SUCH AN ITEM HAS HOWEVER BEEN WHOLLY RELATED TO THE INDUSTRY IN WHICH THE ITEM IS FINALLY PRODUCED.

DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS OF A PARTICULAR INDUSTRY PRODUCED ABOVE MAY INCLUDE PRODUCTS WHICH ARE PRODUCED AS SECONDARY PRODUCTS BY ESTABLISHMENTS BELONGING TO OTHER INDUSTRIES.

A TABLE SHOWING MORE DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF SIMILAR STATISTICS FOR MAJOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE REPORT "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE, DECEMBER 1992".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

FURTHER DETAILS OF MERCHANDISE DOMESTIC EXPORT STATISTICS CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRIAL ORIGIN MAY BE FOUND IN A TABLE, WHICH IS OBTAINABLE FROM THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL NO. 839 3223).

Domestic exports of manufactured goods classified by industrial origin
for the whole year of 1992

(Value in HK\$ million)

Industrial origin of the commodities exported	Merchandise domestic exports			
	1992 whole year	1991 whole year	Value change	% change
Food	2,278	2,053	+224	+10.9
Beverages	437	415	+23	+5.4
Tobacco manufactures	2,610	2,613	-2	-0.1
Textiles (including knitting)	51,777	49,590	+2,187	+4.4
Wearing apparel, except footwear	42,831	43,805	-974	-2.2
Leather and leather products, except footwear and wearing apparel	1,718	1,537	+181	+11.8
Footwear, except rubber, plastic and wooden footwear	402	572	-169	-29.6
Wood and cork products, furniture and fixtures	488	550	-63	-11.4
Paper and paper products, printing and publishing	7,673	6,798	+875	+12.9
Chemicals and chemical products	6,552	6,246	+306	+4.9
Products of petroleum and coal	14	12	+2	+18.7
Rubber products	120	114	+6	+5.2
Plastic products	6,860	8,249	-1,389	-16.8
Non-metallic mineral products, except products of petroleum and coal	465	484	-20	-4.1
Basic metals and fabricated metal products	9,513	9,564	-51	-0.5
Machinery, equipment, apparatus, parts and components	25,873	22,473	+3,401	+15.1
Consumer electrical and electronic products	38,224	39,811	-1,586	-4.0
Transport equipment	204	270	-66	-24.6
Professional and optical equipment	18,546	20,109	-1,563	-7.8
Other manufacturing industries	14,823	13,816	+1,007	+7.3
Total	231,406	229,080	+2,326	+1.0

Notes : 1. Individual entries of a column may not add up exactly to the corresponding total due to rounding. All percentage changes are calculated from unrounded figures.

2. The above statistics are derived by re-grouping the merchandise export items under the external trade classification system according to the industries in which these items are normally produced. As from 1992, the Third Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC R3) has been adopted in place of the Second Revision (SITC R2) for the classification of trade statistics. To facilitate year-on-year comparison, statistics for the same period in 1991 have been re-compiled in terms of SITC R3 as far as possible. The above statistics may not be strictly comparable with those published for earlier years due to the change in trade classification.

Industrial Research Section,
Census & Statistics Department,
Hong Kong.

Tel. : 839 3223

March 1993

WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT PLEDGES OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY
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THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) LAUNCHED A PERFORMANCE PLEDGES SCHEME TO PROVIDE "A RELIABLE AND CUSTOMER-ORIENTED SERVICES IN A CLEAN AND GOOD ENVIRONMENT".

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR HU MAN-SHIU, POINTED OUT THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME WAS TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO CUSTOMERS BY "ENHANCING OPENNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND BY DEVELOPING A CLIENT-BASED CULTURE" IN HIS DEPARTMENT.

"THE PUBLIC WILL KNOW, THROUGH OUR PERFORMANCE PLEDGES, WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE; WHAT STANDARDS HAVE BEEN SET; WHETHER THESE STANDARDS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED; AND WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY ARE NOT.

"OUR STAFF WILL ALSO PLACE EMPHASIS ON PROVIDING SERVICES IN A COURTEOUS AND HELPFUL MANNER," HE ADDED.

THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES COVER MAINLY ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN RELATION TO WATER ACCOUNTS AND DAILY WATER SUPPLY MATTERS, AND ARE BASED ON CURRENT ACHIEVABLE TARGETS HAVING REGARD TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, STAFF SUGGESTIONS AND OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE, MR HU SAID.

IN THE WATER ACCOUNT CATEGORY, THE PLEDGES COVER TARGET TURNROUND TIMES FOR SUCH SERVICES AS APPLICATION FOR TAKING UP CONSUMERSHIP, REFUND OF WATER DEPOSIT, AND APPLICATION FOR METER TEST.

FOR COUNTER SERVICES, TARGETS ARE SET IN QUEUING TIME EXPECTED.

FOR DAILY WATER SUPPLY SERVICES, THE PLEDGES SET THE TARGET ACHIEVEMENTS FOR ESSENTIAL MATTERS, SUCH AS WATER QUALITY, ACCURACY OF WATER METERS, AND RESPONSE TIME FOR FAULT COMPLAINTS, MR HU ADDED.

UNDER THE SCHEME, NEW ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PUT INTO PRACTICE SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR FOR HANDLING PUBLIC ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS, MR HU SAID.

"IN DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC, OUR STAFF ARE IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES BY NAMES. WE ARE ANSWERING CORRESPONDENCES FROM THE PUBLIC WITH AT LEAST AN INTERIM REPLY WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE REVIEWING FORMS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS DEALING WITH THE PUBLIC TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY AND ARE AS SIMPLE AND USER-FRIENDLY AS POSSIBLE."

MR HU SAID UNDER THE SCHEME, COMPLAINT CHANNELS HAD BEEN STREAMLINED.

IN THE EVENT OF CERTAIN TARGETS NOT BEING MET, HE SAID, THE PUBLIC COULD ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION BY WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER/ENQUIRIES FOR WATER ACCOUNT MATTERS OR TO THE CUSTOMER RELATIONS OFFICER FOR DAILY WATER SUPPLY MATTERS.

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THE ADDRESSES OF THESE OFFICERS ARE SHOWN IN THE LEAFLET CONTAINING THE PERFORMANCE PLEDGES.

THE PUBLIC MAY USE THE DEPARTMENT'S ENQUIRY HOTLINE AND APPROACH ONE OF ITS SEVEN CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS ON MATTERS RELATING TO WATER ACCOUNTS.

FOR GENERAL FAULT COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRIES, THE PUBLIC MAY USE TWO 24-HOUR COMPLAINT HOTLINES, ONE FOR HONG KONG AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS, AND THE OTHER FOR KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE HOTLINE NUMBERS AND THE ADDRESSES OF THE CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES ARE ALSO CONTAINED IN THE LEAFLET.

MR HU ADDED THAT THE ENQUIRY SERVICE WOULD BE FURTHER ENHANCED BY A 24-HOUR COMPUTERISED TELEPHONE INFORMATION SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED LATER THIS YEAR.

"UNDER THIS SYSTEM, THE PUBLIC CAN OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE MORE COMMON AND ROUTINE MATTERS ABOUT WATER ACCOUNTS AND DAILY WATER SUPPLY MORE QUICKLY ANY TIME OF THE DAY," HE SAID.

TO PROVIDE A MORE PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT TO CUSTOMERS, IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO PUBLIC SERVICE AREAS, SUCH AS CUSTOMER ENQUIRY CENTRES, WILL BE CARRIED OUT PROGRESSIVELY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, MR HU SAID.

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EEC ANNOUNCES 1993 GSP SCHEME

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A COMMERCIAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR PUBLISHED BY THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (MONDAY) SETS OUT THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC) GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) SCHEME FOR 1993, WHICH IS, IN ESSENCE, A STRAIGHT ROLL-OVER OF THE 1992 SCHEME, WITH SOME MINOR CHANGES.

IMPORTS INTO THE EEC UNDER THE 1993 GSP SCHEME OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS FALLING WITHIN CHAPTER 1 TO 97 OF THE COMMON CUSTOMS TARIFF FROM DESIGNATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING HONG KONG, ARE ACCORDED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF REDUCED OR ZERO RATES OF DUTY.

THE 1993 EEC GSP INCLUDES A NEW PROVISION WHICH STATES: "WHEN PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE SCHEME BECOME THE SUBJECT OF ANTI-DUMPING MEASURES, THE PRODUCTS AND COUNTRIES CONCERNED SHALL NOT BE GRANTED ACCESS TO PREFERENCES UNLESS IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THE SAID MEASURES HAVE BEEN BASED ON A PRICE WHICH TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDED TO THE COUNTRY CONCERNED."

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRADE DEPARTMENT SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ISSUE SEPARATE CIRCULARS TO INFORM TRADERS SHOULD PRODUCTS ORIGINATING FROM HONG KONG BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EEC GSP.

/THERE IS

THERE IS NO CHANGE IN PREFERENTIAL PROVISIONS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS IN THE 1993 SCHEME WHEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR 1992, EXCEPT THAT THE PREVIOUS FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL TARIFF QUOTAS WILL BE REPLACED BY COMMUNITY-WIDE, FIXED DUTY-FREE AMOUNTS.

NORMAL DUTY WILL BE RE-INTRODUCED AS SOON AS THE FIXED DUTY-FREE AMOUNT IS EXHAUSTED OR MAY BE RE-INTRODUCED AT ANY TIME AFTER THE TARIFF CEILING HAS BEEN REACHED.

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COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE APPOINTED

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THE JUDICIARY ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT MR JUSTICE BOKHARY HAS BEEN APPOINTED A COURT OF APPEAL JUDGE WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (MONDAY).

HE FILLS THE VACANCY WHICH AROSE UPON THE RETIREMENT OF SIR DEREK CONS.

MR JUSTICE BOKHARY WAS BORN IN HONG KONG ON OCTOBER 25, 1947 AND ATTENDED ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE AND KING GEORGE V SCHOOL.

HE RECEIVED HIS LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WAS CALLED TO THE BAR OF ENGLAND AND WALES BY THE HONOURABLE SOCIETY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE IN 1970.

IN 1971, MR JUSTICE BOKHARY WAS ADMITTED TO PRACTISE AS A BARRISTER IN HONG KONG AND APPOINTED QUEEN'S COUNSEL IN 1983. HE WAS THE HON SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE BAR FROM 1977 TO 1979 AND A MEMBER OF THE BAR COMMITTEE IN 1976 AND FROM 1980 TO 1984.

HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE HIGH COURT IN MARCH 1989. HE RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE LAN KWAI FONG TRAGEDY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

MR JUSTICE BOKHARY IS MARRIED TO JUDGE VERINA BOKHARY. THEY HAVE THREE DAUGHTERS.

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CUSTOMS REVISE SCALE OF REWARDS

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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT THE SCALE OF REWARDS BEING OFFERED UNDER THE DUTIABLE COMMODITIES AND IMPORT AND EXPORT ORDINANCES WOULD BE INCREASED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT SAID THE EXISTING SCALE OF REWARDS HAD BEEN FIXED 10 YEARS AGO AND HENCE HAD BECOME UNATTRACTIVE TO INFORMERS.

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"IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT PREVALENCE OF ORGANISED SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES AND INFLATION OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO INCREASE THE SCALE OF REWARDS TO REGAIN ITS INDUCEMENT VALUE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASES ARE THOSE REWARDS LEADING TO CONVICTION AND FORFEITURE OF DUTIABLE CIGARETTES AND DIESEL OIL.

AS FROM TODAY, REWARDS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT DUTIABLE CIGARETTES WOULD BE INCREASED BY 350%, AND DIESEL OIL BY 200%.

INFORMATION ON SMUGGLING OFFENCES MAY BE REWARDED BY UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$100,000 DEPENDING ON THE VALUE OF GOODS SEIZED.

"THE WORLD OF SMUGGLING HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT YEARS AND IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT EVERY POSSIBLE ENFORCEMENT MEASURE TO MEET THE CHANGE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID INFORMERS MAY TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S 24-HOUR HOTLINE ON 545 6182 OR WRITE TO GPO BOX 1166. INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

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FS TO DELIVER BUDGET SPEECH ON WEDNESDAY

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HONG KONG'S BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1993/94 WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 3).

THE PROCEEDINGS WILL START AT 2.30 PM AND THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WILL MOVE THE FIRST AND SECOND READINGS OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993, AND OUTLINE THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1993/94.

THE HEADS OF EXPENDITURE WERE SET OUT IN THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1993 WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE LAST FRIDAY.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WILL BE ADJOURNED UNTIL MARCH 24 AND 25, WHEN MEMBERS WILL GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THE BUDGET PROPOSALS.

OFFICIALS WILL GIVE THEIR REPLIES ON MARCH 31.

ON MARCH 17, 18 AND 19, THERE WILL ALSO BE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE DRAFT ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

GIS WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH 3) TO ENABLE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO START WORK EARLY ON THE BUDGET.

/MEDIA MEMBERS

MEDIA MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN ADVANCE COPIES OF THE BUDGET SPEECH AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AT NOON.

THEY MUST STAY IN THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO WORK ON THEIR COPIES AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE UNTIL AFTER THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH.

CONTACTS OF ANY KIND WITH OUTSIDE, SUCH AS TELEPHONE OR COMPUTER LINKS, ARE PROHIBITED DURING THE CLOSED WORKING SESSION. ALSO, MOBILE TELEPHONES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE CONFERENCE ROOM.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE FINANCE BRANCH WILL BE ON HAND TO OFFER HELP TO MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM FROM 12.30 PM. THEY WILL NOT GIVE INTERVIEWS AND THEY SHOULD NOT BE QUOTED.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MEET THE MEDIA AT THE GIS PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AROUND 4 PM TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUDGET AFTER HIS DELIVERY OF THE SPEECH IN THE LEGCO.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 53 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 310.585 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 183.324 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 31.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,505
REVERSAL OF LAF	+645
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-340
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,810
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.2	*+0.1* 1.3.93

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS		HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS				
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.25 PCT	15 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.40	3.49
1 MONTH	2.58 PCT	18 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.24	3.53
3 MONTHS	2.83 PCT	21 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.59	3.69
6 MONTHS	3.02 PCT	24 MONTHS	2502	4.625	101.63	3.92
12 MONTHS	3.39 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 9,456 MN

CLOSED MARCH 1, 1993

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