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Governor welcomes Appeal Court decision

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Wednesday) welcomed the decision of the Court of Appeal to reverse a High Court ruling under which three Vietnamese migrants (VMs) were released from detention. The Governor was speaking to the media after a visit to the Sau Mau Ping Estate in the afternoon.

He said that the Government would be getting in touch with the lawyers of the VMs to discuss their re-detention as soon as reasonable and possible.

"But we will do that in as humane a way as possible," he added.

On the VM problem, Mr Patten said that every community recognised that it had to limit those who came and lived in it, particularly when they had come for economic rather than political reasons.

"If they come illegally, it is perfectly reasonable and recognised as such by the international community that they should be detained until they can be returned to their country of origin.

"That is done in many countries around the world . There are few countries which have handled such a difficult problem as humanely as Hong Kong has done.

"Of course we have our problems from time to time . We've learnt from those problems.

"We've continued to handle the issue firmly, but with I think considerable humanity," he said.

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Transcript of Governor's media session

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The following is a transcript of the Governor the Rt Hon Christopher Patten's media session after his visit to Sau Mau Ping Estate today (Wednesday).

Question: Some said that the new government secretaries are not experienced or too young to take over the job. What do you feel?

Governor: I think we have got wonderful civil servants in Hong Kong. The people who have been promoted and appointed to their new jobs have got a great deal of professional commitment. Given their years, they have got a great deal of experience and they've got a great deal of drive. I am delighted that we have got so much strength in depth in our civil service. Obviously, it's sad to see the retirement of outstanding public servants like James So and Michael Leung. Michael Leung, whose retirement was announced yesterday, has given over 30 years of outstanding service to Hong Kong I've enjoyed working with him, particularly closely while he's been Secretary for Education and Manpower. I think he has done an extremely good job. But I am pleased that we've got other civil servants coming up behind to take over those posts.

Question: Is it true that more and more senior officials are going to retire and the musical chair will continue before 1997?

Governor: I very much hope that we will be able to retain as many of our outstanding civil servants as possible. Just as I hope we will be able to retain others in the public service, for example police officers. I've said again and again that we are doing everything we can before 1997 to retain our excellent staff, people who have done an outstanding job for Hong Kong and I hope that Chinese officials will realise that they have their part to play, to give reassurances about what happens after 1997. It's not provocative to note that where there are concerns, they are not usually related to what happens before 1997. So we need to see reassurance not only in words but also in deeds. One of the ways we could see that reassurance is by greater progress in the issues on which we all want to co-operate, for example those issues that are covered by the Joint Liaison Group.

Question: This morning's verdict on the VBPs. From a humanitarian or from a morality point of view, can you justify why the Government should continue to hold people who are essentially not criminals.

Governor: First of all, I would like to say very clearly that we welcome the decision by the Court of Appeal. Obviously, we would want to study the judgement in detail. We will be getting in touch with the lawyers of the Vietnamese migrants to discuss their re-detention as soon as is reasonable and possible. But we will do that in as humane a way as we can. But I repeat, we welcome the decision taken by the Appeal Court. Every community recognises that it has to limit those who come and live in it. Particularly where they come not for any political reasons, but for economic reasons. If they come illegally, it is perfectly reasonable and recognised as such by the international community that they should be detained until they can be returned to their country of origin. That is done in many countries around the world. There are very few countries, there are very few communities which have handled such a difficult problem as humanely as Hong Kong has done. Of course we have our problems from time to time, we've learnt from those problems. But we've continued to handle the issue firmly, but with I think considerable humanity. That is what we will continue to do. I don't think that there is anybody who can reasonably give us lectures about how to deal with the difficult problem like this.

Question: What do you have to say to the Vietnamese who wonder how much longer they have to stay in there?

Governor: I'll say to them that they do not have to stay any longer at all. They can all return to Vietnam as rapidly as possible. You and I both know that Vietnam is starting to pick up speed economically, not least thanks to substantial investments from Hong Kong. Hong Kong is just about the biggest investor in Vietnam now. Not only in terms of absolute cash, but also in terms of the number of projects. It makes no sense at all for people to stay in camps in Hong Kong at the expense of our people rather than to return to Vietnam where they've got a life to lead and a contribution to make to the further development of the Vietnamese economy. So we will continue to return Vietnamese migrants as rapidly as possible and nobody should be in any doubt that that is our firm and clear intention. We intend to see it through.

Question: After Mr James So's retirement, the Secretary for Education and Manpower has also retired. Do you think the Government has decided to apply responsibility for their own job, like, for example, the one for James So about the playground, and also about Lau Chin-shek's resignation. Do you think the Government has started to do this kind of system?

Governor: No, I think that both resignations come at the end of long and distinguished public careers. During the course of any career, as a civil servant or as a public official like me, you have occasionally to get involved in controversial decisions and you carry them out as well and as competently as you can. But both Michael and James did an outstanding job over the years and I think we should be grateful for the contribution they've made. We do, all of us, have lessons to learn from time to time, when things don't go as well as we would've liked. We said we intended to learn lessons from the report that we've had on the building and commissioning of the Hong Kong Stadium. There are lessons that we have to learn from the COMAC report on unauthorised building works. As the COMAC said, it's a complex and difficult problem, one we have been tackling at the rate of about twenty thousand structures a year. But we obviously can learn about how to do things better and how to co-ordinate our activities more successfully.

Question: Now you almost have the team for transition because they are young now. And so how would you expect the Chinese side to respond about your team of administration?

Governor: I said when I came to Hong Kong that I wanted to have in place as rapidly as I could a team of local officials and we've delivered on that promise. And I think the whole community recognises that that team is an outstandingly capable one, efficient, competent, young but also experienced. There is nothing wrong, there is no crime in being young, as I am sure, all of you would agree. I doubt whether there is a better, more qualified, more committed public service anywhere in the world. And I hope that China recognises that and I hope that Chinese officials would recognise that people in Hong Kong are promoted on merit and that is going to continue to be the case. Last question.

Question: Is the government prepared to fight the Vietnamese case in the Privy Council?

Governor: Well, if anybody takes the case to the Privy Council, if they are able to do so, and I am sure they would want to study the terms of the judgment before making that decision. We would obviously wish to contend whatever they were saying even if it went to the Privy Council, but it's difficult for me to say whether that is possible or likely until we've actually had a chance of studying the precise terms of the Court of Appeal's decision. All I would say, again, is that we welcome that decision. We think it's a judgment which makes sense and I very much hope that our contacts with the Vietnamese migrants' lawyers will mean early re-detention.

Question: The Legco members have drafted a human right report, so why did the government not include them in the first place?

Governor: Well, we are having a dialogue with Legislative Council members about the content of the report that we submit under the international covenant and that's what happens in every other community as far as I know. And what we are doing in Hong Kong shows, perhaps a more open dialogue about this matters than happens elsewhere.

Question: Will they be forcibly re-detained?

Governor: I very much hope that we'll be able to work sensibly with their lawyers and see their peaceful re-detention as soon as possible. Throughout this case, we have behaved with maximum care, and maximum concern for judicial process and I think we should expect that the lawyers of the Vietnamese migrants will co-operate, now that the Court of Appeal has made the decision clear.

Question: When will you visit Vietnam?

Governor: That is a decision which hasn't been made. I've been invited, I've been invited to a lot of places. But we have to work these things out in a reasonable order. There was a recent visit, as you know, to Vietnam by our Secretary for Security which I know he found very useful. One reason why it would make sense for me to go to Vietnam at some stage is because of the close economic and trade relationship that we have with Vietnam. As I said, we are just about the biggest investor in Vietnam and there's a lot of commercial and economic business to discuss with them. Thank you very much.

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Governor visits Sau Mau Ping Estates

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Wednesday) visited Sau Mau Ping (I) and (II) Estates to look at changes taking place under the redevelopment programme and the social services provided in the area.

Accompanied by Director of Housing Mr Fung Tung, the Governor was briefed on the different phases of redevelopment and the on-going 'CARE' (condition, appraisal, repair, examination) programme which is a cyclical maintenance system to provide improved services to tenants.

The party then visited a family of seven which had moved to Block 24 of Sau Mau Ping II Estate as a result of relief of overcrowding. The family now occupied two units with a total internal floor area of 47.8 square metres.

Next stop was the Ho Ping Social Centre for the Elderly run by Sik Sik Yuen in the same block and Mr Patten watched the elderly enjoying the wide range of recreational activities organised by the centre. He also stopped at the Mutual Aid Committee office of that block where he was met by the chairman.

On arrival at Sau Mau Ping I Estate, the Governor visited a family of five in Sau Fu House. The family had moved to this two-bedroom flat through the pre-redevelopment transfer exercise in 1994.

Mr Patten finally visited the Chan Han Day Nursery of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals at Sau Fu House. He was told that the nursery provided full day care for children aged two to six.

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Court of Appeal judgment on VMs welcomed

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The Court of Appeal today (Wednesday) reversed a High Court decision under which three Vietnamese migrants (VMs) were released from detention earlier this year.

It also dismissed their lawyers' claim that the detention of all VMs in Hong Kong was illegal.

A Government spokesman said the Administration obviously welcomed the Court of Appeal decision.

"We shall be in contact with the VMs' lawyers on the early re-detention of their clients," the spokesman added.

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Insider Dealing Tribunal

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The Government has proposed to amend the Securities (Insider Dealing) Ordinance to provide for divisions of the Insider Dealing Tribunal to conduct more than one inquiry concurrently.

Explaining the purpose of the proposed amendments, a Government spokesman said today (Wednesday) that the Insider Dealing Tribunal was presently constituted under section 15 of the Securities (Insider Dealing) Ordinance.

"The Ordinance, as it now stands, does not permit differently constituted tribunals to operate at the same time."

He said the present Tribunal, chaired by Mr Justice Stock, had conducted two inquiries over the past year.

"There are now two pending cases and it is envisaged that investigations by the Securities and Futures Commission into suspected insider dealing will generate more cases in the next two years.

"The proposed amendments would enable divisions of the Tribunal to be set up to handle more insider dealing cases," he said.

The spokesman said the Bill also sought to make some other minor amendments to the Securities (Insider Dealing) Ordinance to improve the operation of the Tribunal.

Details of the proposed amendments are contained in the Securities (Insider Dealing) (Amendment) Bill 1995 which will be gazetted tomorrow (Thursday).

The Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council on April 26.

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Judicial review of seizure of patient cards dismissed

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In response to press enquiries, a spokesman for the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) said:

"The motions for judicial review of the seizure of the patient cards have been dismissed today by consent.

"Under the agreement reached with Dr Shiu, the Commissioner will be permitted to make copies of all patient cards seized which he considers are necessary for him to discharge his duties and exercise his powers under the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

"The Commissioner will take steps not to copy from the cards information which is not necessary for this purpose. This would include medical history, clinical and other diagnostic aids pertaining to the health, well being or otherwise of patients.

"Under the terms of the consent order representatives of Dr Shiu are permitted to be present when the copying takes place.

"The Commissioner is pleased that agreement has now been reached. As he has said previously, the IRD has no interest in the medical history of the patients. The only interest it has in the cards is the information they may contain which provides evidence in ascertaining the income of the doctor."

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Director of Public Prosecutions returns from Guangdong

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A group of government lawyers, led by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Peter Nguyen, returned to Hong Kong today (Wednesday) after an eight-day visit to Guangdong Province.

The visit is a general familiarisation visit by Mr Nguyen and six Crown Counsel working in the Prosecutions Division and the China Law Unit.

During their stay in China, the delegation visited Guangzhou, Foshan, Dongguan and Shenzhen and had useful meetings with officials involved in the legal and judicial system of Guangdong Province.

Members of the delegation were briefed by the authorities in Guangdong about the legal and judicial systems in China.

The organisations they visited include the People's Procuratorates at the provincial and municipal levels, Department of Justice, the People's Court, Department of Public Security, Customs and Shenzhen Municipal Legislative Affairs Bureau.

At the provincial level, the delegation met senior officials of the Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate including the Deputy Chief Procurator Zhang Xuejun, and had an interesting discussion with the Anti-Corruption and Bribery Bureau and the Criminal Procuratorial Department.

They also met representatives from the Department of Public Security, Higher People's Court, Department of Justice and Law Institute of Guangdong Province.

At the municipal level, the delegation also had useful meetings with officials from the Municipal People's Procuratorate of Guangzhou, Foshan, Dongguan and Shenzhen.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Peter Nguyen, said on his return today: "The delegation acquired a good understanding of the work of the various legal and judicial institutions in Guangdong Province.

"There is a clear wish on both sides to increase contacts and to further improve this understanding."

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First BEC public consultation meeting

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The Boundary and Election Commission (BEC) will hold its first public consultation meeting tomorrow (Thursday) on the proposed guidelines on election-related activities in respect of the Legislative Council elections.

During the one-hour session, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr Justice Woo Kwok-hing, will meet a member of the public, Mr Chu Kun-keung, to discuss matters including whether the distribution of election publicity materials and canvassing activities should be prohibited on the polling day.

The meeting will be held at 2.30 pm in the BEC conference room, 10th floor, Harbour Centre, Wan Chai.

Another session is scheduled to meet Legislative Council member, Ms Emily Lau, on April 21. The meeting will be held at the same venue at 9.30 am.

Attention News Editors:

All public consultation meetings are open. You are welcome to cover the events and will be informed if more meetings are scheduled.

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External trade statistics classified by
country and commodity for February 1995

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Detailed statistics on external trade with breakdown by country/territory and commodity for February 1995 released by the Census and Statistics Department today (Wednesday) showed that the value of re-exports continued to increase substantially, by 18% over a year earlier to \$70.0 billion in February 1995.

Comparing February 1995 with February 1994, increases were recorded in the value of re-exports to China (+38%), Singapore (+30%), South Korea (+21%), Taiwan (+19%), Canada (+16%), Japan (+14%), the United States (+9.8%) and the Netherlands (+2.9%).

However, the value of re-exports to the United Kingdom and Germany decreased by 12% each.

Changes in the value of Hong Kong's re-exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 1.

The value of re-exports in the first two months of 1995 was \$153.2 billion, 21% higher than that in the same period in 1994.

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of re-exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Singapore (+30%), Canada (+28%), Taiwan (+28%), China (+26%), South Korea (+25%), Japan (+25%), the United States (+20%), the Netherlands (+19%) and the United Kingdom (+2.0%).

However, the value of re-exports to Germany decreased marginally by 0.9%.

Table 2 shows changes in the value of re-exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases of various magnitudes were recorded in the value of re-exports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$5.7 billion or 45%); electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$5.4 billion or 51%); textiles (by \$3.3 billion or 34%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$3.3 billion or 23%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$2.3 billion or 47%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$1.4 billion or 25%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of re-exports was recorded for clothing (by \$1.6 billion or 11%).

The value of domestic exports in February 1995, at \$14.8 billion, increased by 9.6% over a year earlier.

Comparing February 1995 with February 1994, increases were recorded in the value of domestic exports to Taiwan (+26%), Japan (+26%), China (+25%), Singapore (+15%), France (+7.6%) and the United States (+5.5%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Netherlands decreased by 23%, 10%, 5.4% and 5.2% respectively.

Changes in the value of domestic exports to 10 main destinations are shown in Table 3.

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of domestic exports to most main destinations showed increases of various magnitudes: Japan (+37%), France (+36%), Singapore (+22%), the Netherlands (+17%), China (+15%), Taiwan (+15%), the United States (+11%), Canada (+9.8%) and the United Kingdom (+2.8%).

However, the value of domestic exports to Germany decreased slightly by 2.4%.

Taking all destinations together, the value of domestic exports in the first two months of 1995, at \$32.9 billion, increased markedly, by 14% over the same period in 1994.

Table 4 shows changes in the value of domestic exports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases in the value of domestic exports were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$1.1 billion or 34%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$941 million or 41%); clothing (by \$563 million or 6.1%); photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$417 million or 20%); and telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$267 million or 18%).

Over the same period, decreases in the value of domestic exports were recorded for textiles (by \$20 million or 1.0%); and manufactures of metals (by \$9 million or 1.4%).

The value of imports continued to increase substantially, by 26% over a year earlier to \$99.7 billion in February 1995.

Changes in the value of imports from 10 main suppliers are shown in Table 5.

Comparing February 1995 with February 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+101%), South Korea (+51%), Malaysia (+45%), Japan (+37%), Taiwan (+37%), Singapore (+37%), the United States (+23%), Germany (+20%), China (+14%) and the United Kingdom (+11%).

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, the value of imports from all main suppliers showed increases of various magnitudes: France (+136%), Singapore (+55%), South Korea (+40%), Malaysia (+37%), Japan (+29%), the United States (+29%), Taiwan (+28%), Germany (+24%), China (+22%) and the United Kingdom (+21%).

The value of imports in the first two months of 1995, at \$204.6 billion, increased markedly, by 28% over the same period in 1994.

Table 6 shows changes in the value of imports of 10 principal commodity divisions.

Comparing the first two months of 1995 with the same period in 1994, increases were recorded in the value of imports of most principal commodity divisions.

More notable increases were registered for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, and electrical parts thereof (by \$8.2 billion or 48%); telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment (by \$6.4 billion or 42%); textiles (by \$4.3 billion or 31%); office machines and automatic data processing machines (by \$2.9 billion or 50%); miscellaneous manufactured articles consisting mainly of baby carriages, toys, games and sporting goods (by \$2.2 billion or 21%); and photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, optical goods, watches and clocks (by \$2.0 billion or 27%).

Over the same period, a decrease in the value of imports was recorded for clothing (by \$500 million or 3.8%).

All the trade statistics described here are measured at current prices and no account has been taken of changes in prices between the periods of comparison.

A separate analysis of the volume and price movements of external trade for February 1995 will be released in early May 1995.

Detailed trade statistics analysed by commodity and by country/ territory are published in trade statistics reports.

The February 1995 issue of the "Hong Kong External Trade" with detailed analyses on the performance of Hong Kong's external trade in February 1995 will be available for sale at \$122 per copy around April 22.

The report can be purchased either at the Government Publications Centre, ground floor, Low Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong, or the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th Floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

Enquiries regarding regular subscription to this report may be directed to the Publications Sales Section, 28th Floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong on tel 2598 8194 and enquiries on trade statistics to the Census and Statistics Department on tel 2582 4915.

TABLE 1 : RE-EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	25,796	+ 37.6	51,793	+ 26.2
UNITED STATES	13,125	+ 9.8	31,265	+ 19.7
JAPAN	4,029	+ 14.3	9,154	+ 24.5
GERMANY	2,802	- 11.7	6,692	- 0.9
UNITED KINGDOM	1,655	- 12.3	4,054	+ 2.0
TAIWAN	1,894	+ 18.9	4,003	+ 27.7
SINGAPORE	1,626	+ 30.3	3,581	+ 30.2
SOUTH KOREA	1,405	+ 21.4	2,851	+ 25.2
CANADA	1,084	+ 15.9	2,488	+ 28.3
NETHERLANDS	1,029	+ 2.9	2,466	+ 19.4

TABLE 2 : RE-EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	8,365	+ 49.7	18,183	+ 45.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	6,785	+ 2.8	17,175	+ 23.4
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	7,937	+ 59.4	15,869	+ 51.2
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,309	- 24.4	13,079	- 10.8
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	6,210	+ 42.4	12,775	+ 34.4
FOOTWEAR	4,284	+ 6.3	9,777	+ 15.0
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	3,467	+ 53.9	7,213	+ 46.9
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	3,158	+ 14.7	6,905	+ 25.3
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS	1,727	- 12.1	4,880	+ 12.6
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND MACHINE PARTS	1,992	+ 24.1	4,033	+ 25.1

TABLE 3 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO TEN MAIN DESTINATIONS

DESTINATION	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	4,049	+ 25.1	8,489	+ 15.1
UNITED STATES	3,607	+ 5.5	8,166	+ 11.1
SINGAPORE	947	+ 14.7	2,064	+ 21.9
JAPAN	819	+ 25.9	1,868	+ 36.9
GERMANY	712	- 22.6	1,832	- 2.4
UNITED KINGDOM	650	- 10.1	1,503	+ 2.8
TAIWAN	479	+ 26.0	1,012	+ 14.9
NETHERLANDS	312	- 5.2	793	+ 16.5
CANADA	296	- 5.4	674	+ 9.8
FRANCE	196	+ 7.6	481	+ 36.1

TABLE 4 : DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	4,114	- 5.8	9,805	+ 6.1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	2,088	+ 31.0	4,237	+ 34.5
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	1,506	+ 41.8	3,235	+ 41.0
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY JEWELLERY, GOLDSMITHS' AND SILVERSMITHS' WARES)	1,245	+ 3.8	2,766	+ 7.3
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	1,014	+ 1.7	2,514	+ 19.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	874	+ 0.1	1,964	- 1.0
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	822	+ 34.9	1,714	+ 18.4
PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS	342	+ 28.6	679	+ 43.3
MANUFACTURES OF METALS	304	- 4.1	634	- 1.4
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS	194	+ 51.4	408	+ 46.8

TABLE 5 : IMPORTS FROM TEN MAIN SUPPLIERS

SUPPLIER	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
CHINA	30,822	+ 14.4	72,591	+ 21.6
JAPAN	17,866	+ 37.1	31,774	+ 29.1
TAIWAN	8,617	+ 36.7	17,163	+ 28.4
UNITED STATES	7,634	+ 22.8	15,078	+ 29.1
SINGAPORE	5,157	+ 36.6	11,074	+ 54.9
SOUTH KOREA	5,462	+ 51.3	10,249	+ 39.7
FRANCE	2,143	+101.3	4,969	+135.8
GERMANY	2,504	+ 19.6	4,688	+ 24.1
UNITED KINGDOM	2,089	+ 11.2	4,208	+ 21.2
MALAYSIA	1,999	+ 45.1	3,858	+ 37.2

TABLE 6 . IMPORTS OF TEN PRINCIPAL COMMODITY DIVISIONS

COMMODITY DIVISION	FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	FEB 95 OVER FEB 94 (% CHANGE)	JAN-FEB 1995 (HKD Mn.)	JAN-FEB 95 OVER JAN-FEB 94 (% CHANGE)
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES, AND ELECTRICAL PARTS THEREOF	13,214	+ 51.7	25,415	+ 47.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND SOUND RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT	10,650	+ 56.2	21,772	+ 41.9
TEXTILE YARN, FABRICS, MADE-UP ARTICLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS	9,164	+ 34.0	18,207	+ 30.5
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES (MAINLY BABY CARRIAGES, TOYS, GAMES AND SPORTING GOODS)	5,789	+ 15.4	12,768	+ 21.3
ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES	5,239	- 16.9	12,747	- 3.8
PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPTICAL GOODS, WATCHES AND CLOCKS	4,369	+ 13.9	9,186	+ 27.3
OFFICE MACHINES AND AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING MACHINES	4,390	+ 68.3	8,548	+ 50.5
FOOTWEAR	3,561	+ 3.8	8,253	+ 15.4
ROAD VEHICLES	3,506	- 14.6	6,697	+ 3.1
NON-METALLIC MINERAL MANUFACTURES	3,277	+ 12.4	6,281	+ 12.3

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995

December 1994 employment and vacancies statistics

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Comparing December 1994 with December 1993, there was continued growth in employment in various service sectors, but employment in the manufacturing sector declined further.

Meanwhile, employment on construction sites registered a large increase.

Vacancies in the manufacturing sector continued to fall compared with a year earlier, while those on construction sites registered a substantial increase.

Over the same period, vacancies in the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector also increased.

According to the figures released today by the Census and Statistics Department, there were 423,000 persons engaged in the manufacturing sector in December 1994, representing a decrease of 12.5% from December 1993.

Employment in the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector, at 1,021,900 in December 1994, was 7.7% higher than in December 1993.

Employment in the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector, at 369,600, was up by 9.3% over a year earlier.

Employment on construction sites (manual workers only), at 63,100, was 12.9% higher than in December 1993.

The employment figures for December 1994 in selected major industry sectors, compared with the corresponding figures for December 1993 and September 1994, are as follows:

Selected major industry sector	Persons engaged (employment)			Percentage change	
	Dec 93	Sep 94	Dec 94	Dec 94 over Dec 93	Dec 94 over Sep 94
Manufacturing	483,600	438,400	423,000	-12.5	-3.5
Construction sites (manual workers only)	55,900	60,400	63,100	+12.9	+4.4
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	948,900	1,051,200	1,021,900	+7.7	-2.8
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	338,100	361,100	369,600	+9.3	+2.4

The above statistics for selected major industry sectors in December 1994 were derived from the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies and the Quarterly Employment Survey of Construction Sites conducted by the department.

In the former survey, employment in the retail trade excluded hawkers and persons working at retail pitches but included those working in market stalls.

The two surveys mentioned above also provide the vacancy statistics for selected major industry sectors. The vacancy figures, together with a comparison with the corresponding figures for December 1993 and September 1994, are as follows:

Selected major industry sector	Number of reported vacancies			Percentage change	
	Dec 93	Sep 94	Dec 94	Dec 94 over Dec 93	Dec 94 over Sep 94
Manufacturing	11,890	12,090	10,520	-11.5	-12.9
Construction sites (manual workers only)	540	980	860	+61.1	-11.7
Wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels	27,500	34,650	29,650	+7.8	-14.4
Financing, insurance, real estate and business services	10,440	12,270	10,410	-0.3	-15.2

Comparing December 1994 with December 1993, vacancies in the manufacturing sector fell by 11.5%, while those in the financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector were little changed.

Vacancies in the wholesale, retail and import/export trades, restaurants and hotels sector increased by 7.8%. Vacancies on construction sites also recorded a substantial increase of 61.1% in December 1994 over a year earlier.

The remarkable increases in employment and vacancies on construction sites reflected the heavy demand for construction workers in the new airport projects and some private building projects.

Detailed breakdowns of the above statistics are available from the Quarterly Report of Employment, Vacancies and Payroll Statistics, December 1994 and the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies at Construction Sites, December 1994. They will be available at \$24 per copy and \$13 per copy respectively at the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, Ground Floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong and at the Publications Section of the Census and Statistics Department on the 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995

ED Automatic Telephone Enquiry System suspended

The Education Department's 24-Hour Automatic Telephone Enquiry System 2891 0088 will be suspended from 5 pm tomorrow (Thursday) until 8.30 am next Tuesday (April 18).

A spokesman for the Education Department today (Wednesday) said the suspension was due to examination works to the electricity supply system in Wu Chung House during the Easter holidays.

End/ Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Junior Leaders Corps Easter camp

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The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Junior Leaders Corps will conduct its last series of military style field exercises for its members in Sha Tau Kok from April 13 to 16.

About 100 members of the Junior Corps will take part in the exercise and the main area of activity will be in Gallipoli Camp.

The programme includes map reading, radio communication, campcraft, fieldcraft, obstacle crossing, weapon training, shooting, night patrolling and orienteering.

The Junior Leaders Corps, under the aegis of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, was founded in 1970. The youth programme provides an environment in which boys aged between 14 and 17 years selected from the community can develop their character, leadership skills and a sense of community awareness.

Over the years, Junior Corps has grown into a strength of 300 boys.

With the disbandment of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment this September, the J Corps will lose not only its financial support but also its permanent premises. So this Easter camp will be the last field exercise for the boys.

A Royal Hong Kong Regiment spokesman, however, revealed that as an evolutionary expansion to the old Junior Corps, a company named the Hong Kong Adventure Corps has already been formed recently.

"As it is quite clear that not only there is a demand for a successor for the J Corps but that a successor can continue the highly successful character and leadership development programme that has been benefiting the Hong Kong community for years", he said.

He pointed out that girls would also be recruited as to enjoy the same type of training as much as the boys.

Attention News Editors:

You are invited to cover the programme scheduled for the J Corps members on Sunday (April 16).

A press coach will leave CGO for Gallipoli Camp, Sha Tau Kok Road, at 9 am sharp on Sunday (April 16) and GIS officers will be on hand to assist.

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Two NT lots to let

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The Lands Department is inviting tenders for the short-term tenancies of two pieces of Government land in the New Territories.

With an area of 6,400 square metres, the first lot is located in Area 30A, Sheung Shui, for use as a car park or for repair/maintenance of vehicles, equipment and machinery.

The tenancy is for two years, renewable quarterly.

The second lot situated in Ping Che, New Territories, has an area of 2,886 square metres for use as open storage of tenant's goods excluding containers, container trailers and tractors, vehicles, cement/sand, scrap metal, chemical products and dangerous goods.

The tenancy is also for two years, renewable quarterly.

Closing date for submission of tenders for the two lots is noon on April 28.

Tender forms, tender notice and conditions may be obtained from the District Lands Office, North, the District Lands Offices Kowloon, 10th floor, Yau Ma Tei Car Park Building, 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon and the Lands Department, 14th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road.

Tender Plans can also be inspected at the offices.

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Disciplined Services Medals awarded to 27 customs officers

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The Commissioner of Customs & Excise Department, Mr Don Watson, today (Wednesday) presented the Hong Kong Disciplined Services Medals to 27 officers at a ceremony held at the department's Senior Officers' Mess.

Among them, 16 received the First Clasp medals while one was awarded a Second Clasp medal.

At the ceremony, Mr Watson also presented a meritorious certificate issued by the World Customs Organisation to the former Commissioner, Mr Clive Oxley, in recognition of his excellent services rendered to the organisation.

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	\$ million	Time (hours)	Cumulative change (\$million)
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Opening balance in the account	2,134	0930	+563
Closing balance in the account	2,165	1000	+563
Change attributable to :		1100	+576
Money market activity	+538	1200	+538
LAF today	-507	1500	+538
		1600	+538

LAF rate 4.25% bid/6.25% offer TWI 118.8 *-0.2* 12.4.95

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes/Hong Kong Government bonds				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.24	13 months	2605	6.35	100.35	6.10
1 month	5.23	22 months	2702	7.50	101.76	6.58
3 months	5.42	27 months	3707	6.95	100.55	6.79
6 months	5.64	33 months	3801	8.00	102.67	7.04
12 months	6.02	59 months	5003	7.75	101.22	7.59

Total turnover of bills and bonds - \$20,830 million

Closed April 12, 1995

End/Wednesday, April 12, 1995