



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Governor's transcript of media session

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Following is the transcript of the media session by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, after the Governor's 2nd Summit on Drugs this (Thursday) afternoon:

Governor: Good afternoon. I'm delighted that we've had another extremely constructive summit on drugs. Last year, I think the whole community was becoming extremely alarmed about the increase in drug abuse particularly among the young. We've seen an increase of about 250 per cent in the figures, an alarming increase from 1990s and 94. And while some of our other crime and law and order figures were going in the right direction, the figures for drug abuse were going very much in the wrong direction. I think we all believe that it was important to act before it became too late, to act with the determination to save young lives from the wreckage of drug abuse and to save the community and all the families in the community from the pain and torment of an increase in drug abuse.

I think the summit last year was really useful in pooling expertise and knowledge and in bringing the community together in a joint effort to beat drugs. We put forward as you know as a result of last year's summit and then as a result of the ideas which came forward in the summit, we put forward a programme of measures which we've been implementing ever since on the law enforcement front, in the field of preventive education, in rehabilitation and treatment and finally in research so that we know more about the nature of the problem and more about what's going on. And you'll know the progress that we've made in implementing that programme. I think today a number of new good ideas came up which we'll be examining, but in any event we'll be implementing a further programme of measures costing about 30 million over the coming year to build on what we've already started to do. And in the autumn, probably in September, we'll be announcing the first slice of project which will be funded the beat drugs fund which I announced last year, the 350 million dollar fund which is helping to fund, helping to support lots of individual projects.

Now as I said in the summit, there is no room for even the smallest amount of complacency. But it's worth noting that the figures have started to come down rather than head remorselessly up. And that should encourage us to work harder and to do more to try to get the figures further down. I think that it comes over again and again during these summits how important it is to get the message across to young people, to get the message across to their parents, to get the message across with and through their teachers who do such an excellent job in this area, and I'm sure that that's an area that we're going to have to give increasing imaginative attention to in the years ahead. So I regard this is another very useful meeting bringing the community together to beat drugs and I'm grateful for the interest which the media have shown in the issue.

Question: A large part of your new measures announced today covers drug education in school, but actually a speaker who is also a principal in the conference earlier said that the measures, actually some sort of a teaching materials are very hard to promote in school. How will you respond to that?

Governor: We'll be listening very hard to what he and other professionals have to say and I know that Helen Yu, the Director of Education, was interested in following up with him the particular proposals that he had. The people who can tell you most about the effectiveness of drug education materials are first of all the teachers who use them and secondly the pupils who are educated or are not educated as a result. So I always thought that in developing curriculum materials, in developing software, in developing teaching aids and so on, it's absolutely vital to do so hand in hand with the teaching profession and with people like the head teacher who spoke so eloquently today.

Question: Why does it take such a long time to figure out how to use the beat drugs fund?

Governor: We've been giving people the time to put forward proposals and I don't think it's taken all that long. But in any event, come this September we will have, I think, completed our survey of all the different ideas that have been put forward and we'll be able to announce the first slice of recommendations that we're prepared to support.

Question: Mr Patten, I would like to ask a different topic ...?

Governor: Can we answer any more on drugs first and then I'll answer a couple of other questions?

Question: A couple of things that came out in the summit was that one-off publicity campaign, one-off activity ... are of limited use and what was needed was ...?

Governor: I think as Peter said, the fact that the work of the Narcotics Division comes under Security doesn't mean that the only aspect of the problem we look at is law enforcement. I think that we spend probably when we talk about these matters more time talking about rehabilitation and treatment, more time talking about preventive education. But obviously the law enforcement side is very important too. One of the things we really do have to stop particularly in this part of the world so close to the golden triangle, one of the things we do have to stop is the transit of drugs through Hong Kong and the trafficking of drugs in Hong Kong because we're obviously much closer to sources than some other international cities. But you're right to say that one of the things that were stressed again and again was the importance of the positive side of a sensible healthy anti-drugs campaign, the importance of the youth and community services, the importance of youth groups, the importance of life style education, the importance of all those things to help give people a positive image of themselves and to help ensure that people don't have idle time or idle minds which might encourage them to abuse themselves in the way that concerns us so much. So I accept that one of the important messages was that it's that side of things which has to have as much attention and focus and priority as possible.

Question: (on new young drug abusers)

Governor: I think it's true in every community that what concerns people most is that even in a more affluent age, even when we're extending educational opportunities more than ever before that the number of young people who experiment with drugs, sometimes fatally, continues to be alarming. At least we can point to one year now when the figures even for young abusers have come down. But it's still worrying that so many of those who are recorded as abusers are young people. So that's why we've got to give increasing attention to preventive education. That's why the LEAP programme which one of the speakers talked about today is so important, starting, and I've seen it myself, starting in primary schools trying at that stage to teach young people to be concerned about their body, to have a good self image, to have proper self esteem and to have a proper regard for how best to develop their full potential. I think it will be a long time before we're able to be at all content about the progress that we're making in these fields, but we've started and the really important thing while I accept that you don't want quick one-off campaign and then forget about it, the important thing is to try to mobilise the community's conscience, mobilise the community's concern so that this remains a really top priority. Because when you look at other cities where there're problems got out of control, that's not a fate that we want for Hong Kong. One of the things I said last year was that unlike a lot of cities in Europe and North America we don't, thank heavens, have a big youth unemployment problem. In Europe and North America very often they've associated drug abuse among the young with youth unemployment. Here we are with pretty good employment opportunities for young people, but we still have the beginnings of a drug problem. So that should give us cause for considerable concern and cause for continuing to act as vigorously as we possibly can.

Question: (on the reward scheme)

Governor: Perhaps the Commissioner could tell you about that afterwards. Is that all right?

Question: The counter proposal from the civil servants union, do you think that nine per cent pay rise is reasonable?

Governor: We've got as you know an established way of dealing with public service pay, with civil service pay, basing our conclusions on the pay trend survey every year and I think on the whole people in both the public sector and the private sector, our excellent civil service and our admirable tax payers think that it's a pretty fair system. Now we're going through the system in the customary manner and eventually a recommendation will come to the Executive Council and the Executive Council will have to form a view. But I think that it's important that the system that we've got should be retained; nobody's questioned its integrity, but of course we'll listen to what the civil service unions have to say and in listening to what they say we'll convey to them our view that the present system of determining pay is a very good one. We have an excellent civil service in Hong Kong. It's right that the civil service should be properly rewarded, but it is also right that the civil service should recognise what people outside the civil service are getting paid in comparable jobs, and that we should try as far as possible to be fair in the judgements that we make as well as prudent about public expenditure.

Question: Are you worried that the morale of the civil servants will be affected ...?

Governor: I think what our excellent civil service wants is a fair pay deal and I think it recognises that the rest of the community regards the existing mechanism for determining civil service pay as the best way of achieving that fairness.

Question: A five-year-old girl has spent 10 days in Victoria Prison taken from Whitehead among the group of the so-called trouble makers. Do you have any comment on that?

Secretary for Security, Mr Peter Lai: The first I've heard of this report was this morning and since I've heard it, I have asked the Refugee Co-ordinator to investigate whether there is any truth to that, and if so, that we should take immediate action to ensure that it doesn't happen. Since I was out of the office the whole of the afternoon, I'm not quite sure how far he's got with it, but I'm sure that he'll be able to answer that at a later position on that very quickly if you would care to ring.

End

Governor's opening statement at second Summit on Drugs

\* \* \* \* \*

Following is a transcript of the Governor's opening statement at the 2nd Summit on Drugs today (Thursday):

It doesn't seem a year since the last one but I think that is increasingly the way the years roll past as one gets older. It is good to see so many familiar faces, and I think there are some new faces here as well.

We are all brought here by a common aim: to tackle and beat the problem of drugs in Hong Kong. And we can do it. Unlike a number of other cities round the world, we are fortunate that the drugs problem here is not out of control. It is serious. I stress that point. But it is not beyond our grasp and if we work at it together, I think we can beat it.

As last year, we have here at this meeting representatives of many parts of our community: members of the Legislative Council, District Boards, District Fight Crime Committees, voluntary agencies, educators, social workers, parents, government officials, people whose work in one way or another brings them into contact with young people and with the problem of illicit drugs. I want to thank you all for taking the time and the trouble to come. Fighting drugs needs the support of all of you, and it needs the support as well of all the people that you represent.

Last year we had a fruitful and a constructive discussion. At the meeting, I announced the Government's 26-point Forward Action Plan to beat drugs. And to follow up the proposals put forward at that meeting, we drew up - largely as a result of the comments and recommendations that you made - we drew up another 42 initiatives on the advice of ACAN. Altogether these add up to 68 items. The Government and concerned organisations have been vigorously carrying out this comprehensive programme of action over the past year.

Of these 68 initiatives, we have completed 46, about two-thirds of the total. We are on schedule and making progress on 11. And we are pressing ahead with another 11 which are on-going commitments. Just to remind ourselves of a few of the areas where we have made progress:

- \* we have strengthened our legislation and increased our manpower and capability to suppress the illicit supply of drugs;
- \* we have stepped up our training for teachers, our resource support to schools, and our advice to parents;

- \* we have provided more resources and facilities to help the treatment and rehabilitation of those who have fallen prey to drug abuse; and
- \* more research studies have been undertaken to give us a better understanding of drug abuse and the characteristics of drug abusers.

We have also established a \$350-million Beat Drugs Fund. This provides a substantial additional source of funding for worthwhile anti-drug projects. I hope that the community can make the best use of the Fund to launch as many worthwhile projects and programmes as possible.

I believe it is due to the commendable efforts of all of you represented here, as well as the hard work of government departments, that we are able to observe in 1995 a downward trend in the number of drug abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse. Comparing statistics for 1995 with the previous year, there has been a decrease of 8.3 per cent for all reported young drug abusers, and a bigger drop of 27.5 per cent for newly reported young drug abusers.

This is good news, particularly after the figures for the early 1990s - from 1990-1994 - when we saw a steep rise in the figures. I think they went up by about 250 per cent in four years. Good news but not news that in any way should make us complacent. Youngsters are still making up a high proportion of the newly reported cases. This remains a matter of particular concern. We will need to give a further boost to the Beat Drugs campaign and to look for further initiatives to reduce the drugs problem. I hope that the meeting this afternoon will help us to do this and that you will share your experience and your ideas with us.

I propose to divide our discussion this afternoon into four separate sessions: protecting the community from drugs, helping young people to resist drugs, reintegration into the community, and understanding the drug problem.

Each session will begin with a number of short prepared presentations and then I will throw the topic open to contributions from the floor.

I want your ideas and I want your advice, both about what the Government can do, but also about what the community as a whole, or sectors of the community, or groups at the district level, can do to contribute to our Beat Drugs campaign. When I call for comments from the floor please feel free to put up your hands. I will ask our staff to pass you a wireless microphone so that you can speak from where you are seated.

I hope that when people speak they will do their best to keep their comments short - can I repeat that - to keep their comments short and to the point, simply so that as many people as possible will have a chance to speak.

If we do run out of time and we do not have time to hear everybody, there is a box on the reception table outside, into which you can place any written views that you would like to contribute.

At the end of the meeting, I will try to pull the strands together and suggest how we might move forward.

End

#### Governor announces stepped up campaign to beat drugs

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The Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, today (Thursday) announced a fresh package of initiatives to step up the campaign against drug abuse.

The \$30 million package, containing 32 separate proposals covering law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation, and research, was outlined by the Governor at the end of his second Drugs Summit held at the Cultural Centre.

Included in the latest package is a commitment to introduce tougher sentencing for adults who exploit young persons in the illegal drug trade; an international conference on drug education in schools; and two key surveys in 1996-97, one on drug abuse among secondary school students and the other to identify the risk factors leading to drug abuse among the young.

The Summit was attended by more than 270 Government officials, members of Legislative Council, Action Committee Against Narcotics (ACAN), district boards, District Fight Crime committees, voluntary agencies, teachers, social workers, parents and young people.

The new measures will be implemented this year to reinforce the wide ranging action plan which was introduced as a result of the Governor's first Summit on Drugs held in March last year.

Concluding the three-hour Summit, where speakers debated issues covering every aspect of the drugs problem in Hong Kong, Mr Patten said the participants had made a crucial contribution towards welding the community together to beat a menace which threatened all levels and sectors of society.

He was particularly impressed by the contribution made by a number of young people who had attended the Summit to share their experience and concerns.

Mr Patten revealed that the spiralling trend of drug abuse had been reversed last year, according to the number of drug abusers reported to the Central Registry of Drug Abuse.

Comparing statistics for 1995 with the previous year, he noted a decrease of 8.3 per cent for all reported young drug abusers and a bigger drop of 27.5 per cent for newly reported young drug abusers. However, Mr Patten warned against complacency as youngsters were still making up a high proportion of the newly reported cases.

"This remains a matter of particular concern," the Governor said.

He added: "The package of Government measures I have announced today is essential if we are to maintain the momentum we established last year in binding the community together to tackle the evil of drug abuse. "We simply can't afford to drop our guard for a second, because there are unscrupulous people who will take every opportunity to exploit the young and the vulnerable in particular.

"This is a battle the Government cannot fight alone. We need the community with us - and the summit today shows that the community is determined to win this battle."

Mr Patten emphasised that the Forward Action Plan he announced today set out only the Government's contribution.

"There have been other concerns, other ideas, other proposals raised today, which are not covered in our Forward Action Plan," he said.

"I was very impressed by the thought and concern that went into these ideas and I want to follow up on them."

To do so, Mr Patten also announced that he had asked the Chairman of ACAN, Professor Chen Char-nie, and the Commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Raymond Wong, to re-convene a special action group to review as a matter of urgency all of the constructive proposals that had been put forward at the summit.

"I have asked for a report to be submitted to me within three months with recommendations as to what future action is to be taken on them," the Governor said.

The progress report on the measures which had resulted from the first Governor's Drugs Summit was published and distributed to all Summit participants.

Mr Patten said the publication of the report was important both in terms of the Government's accountability to the public and its credibility and sincerity in tackling the drugs problem.

The report showed that in addition to the Government's 26-point Forward Action Plan announced last year to beat drugs, the Government drew up another 42 initiatives based on recommendations by ACAN Special Action Group which had arisen from the first Summit.

"Of those 68 initiatives, we have completed 46, about two thirds of the total," the Governor said.

"We are on schedule and making progress on 11 and we are pressing ahead with another 11 which are on-going commitments."

End

Governor's closing remarks at the second Drugs Summit

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Following is a transcript of the closing remarks by the Governor, the Rt Hon Christopher Patten, at the 2nd Summit on Drugs held today (Thursday):

I had better respond, at least on one of those points, in just a minute. We have had about 2.45 hours so maybe at the end of a long and wide-ranging debate I should try to summarise what we have discussed this afternoon and where we have got to.

I have certainly found this afternoon extremely useful. I hope others have found it useful as well. And I want to place on record how grateful I am, how grateful we all are to all those who have participated. We are grateful to all who have shared your knowledge and expertise with us, your knowledge and your experience, both from the table of panellists and from the floor.

Let me try to sum up and suggest where we might go after today. As I did before the last summit, I asked my officials again this year to work together to draw up a new Forward Action Plan setting out concrete actions which the Government will be taking in the year ahead. Some of these actions are in the pipeline, others are completely new initiatives. Some have obtained funding support through our budgetary process already and for others we hope to secure funding from other sources, such as the Beat Drugs Fund. Together they add up to a total package of measures costing some \$30 million.

I will go over some of these measures in a moment. We will make available a full list to whoever wants one at the end of the meeting.

The plan sets out the Government's contribution but there have been other concerns, other ideas, other proposals, raised during the course of this afternoon's discussion and they are not covered in our Forward Action Plan. I am therefore going to ask the Chairman of ACAN, and the Commissioner for Narcotics, once again, to set up a Special Action Group from within ACAN to review as a matter of urgency all the constructive proposals put forward at this discussion today, and to report to me personally within three months with recommendations as to what future action should be taken. Again, we will ensure that everybody who has participated at the summit is kept fully informed of progress.

Let me now turn to the main items in the Government's Forward Action Plan, and we have grouped these into the same four categories as the discussion here this afternoon.

First of all law enforcement, and I must say during the course of the discussion I was impressed, as ever, by the number of references there were to the District Fight Crime Committees and there are obviously a number of ideas that were put forward then by Mr Ko and by others which we will need to consider in the next few months.

On law enforcement we will be adding three Pharmacist Inspectors to the Department of Health in 1997-98. This will increase the number of pharmacist inspections from 700 to 800 per month and help to clamp down on the illegal sale of controlled drugs. We will be introducing amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance in the 1996-97 Legislative Session to provide for enhanced sentencing for drug offences where adults exploit young people in the illegal drugs trade.

We will be adding 22 posts to the Customs and Excise Department in 1996-97 to establish investigative and intelligence units to strengthen the licensing control system on precursor chemicals. We will be introducing amendments to revamp the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance in the 1996-97 Legislative Session to enable the public to gain a better understanding of which statutory requirements are relevant to different types of pharmaceutical products.

Let me next turn to preventive education, on which we heard a number of positive and interesting proposals once again, and I must say that among the elements that came out in the discussion the ones that impressed me most were the relevance and importance of our youth and community services to tackling this issue, this problem, and the more that needs to be done in that area. And I was also impressed, as I am sure we all were during Mr Wong's contribution, by the reminder of the important role which parents have to play.

On preventive education we will be setting up a Task Group involving voluntary agencies, teachers, social workers and young people to review and improve our preventive education strategy. We will organise, as Helen Yu said, an International Conference on Drugs Education for schools. This will involve 300 local educators, voluntary agencies and experts from Pacific-rim countries, and it will discuss ways of improving drugs education in schools.

We will be organising education camps for students and youth to disseminate anti-drug messages. We will be organising anti-drug roving exhibitions in all districts in collaboration with District Fight Crime Committees. We will be advertising anti-drug messages on students' common-stored value tickets with the sponsorship of the MTRC. We will be organising a major publicity campaign in 1996-97 to promote an anti-drug culture among young people, using extensive media advertisements, posters, leaflets and souvenirs.

On treatment and rehabilitation - where we had I think some outstanding contributions which left me with a feeling, I must say, of greater hope - on treatment and rehabilitation the Social Welfare Department will set up a second team of specially trained social workers in October this year to help young people who have been experimenting with drugs. We will be organising workshops and seminars to strengthen training for health care professionals involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-abusers. We will be deploying 15 additional social workers to strengthen the counselling service at methadone clinics.

Finally, on research, we will be conducting a survey in 1996-97 on drug-abuse among secondary school students, and another study will be undertaken over the next year to identify the risk factors leading to drug-abuse among the young, and the protective factors which can help prevent the onset and continuance of drug abuse.

These are just some of the items in our Forward Action Plan. So you can see that we have another busy year ahead. We very much hope that these actions and measures, coupled with follow up action on the other proposals coming from our discussion today, will give further impetus to our campaign. And I would like to remind you that if there is anything that you wanted to say this afternoon but were not able to say or felt a bit shy about saying, please write it down and put it in the box which is available, or after this meeting write to me or to Peter or the Commissioner, and we promise we will include your ideas in the review which ACAN will conduct.

Let me finally make this point once again. I called the first of these summits a year ago because like many of you, in a community which has by and large been spared some of the ills which have wrecked urban life elsewhere, and in a community where by and large - which is not to be complacent - but by and large the crime figures are incomparably better than in comparable cities in other countries and continents, despite those good things, I was concerned and you were concerned about one line on the graph paper which continued to head north, one line which continued to go up, the line on drug-abuse, the figures for drug-abuse, the figures for drug-abuse particularly by the young.

I mentioned earlier the huge increase, the almost exponential increase in those figures, in the first four years of this decade. So we called last year's summit so that we could try to focus the community's attention on the problem and try to mobilise as much interest, action and concern as possible. To try to do what not many other communities have been successful in doing, which is to push the figures down again.

We may have been lucky in the first year. The figures have edged down a bit. But that is no reason for us resting on our laurels, that is no reason for us becoming complacent, for us relaxing. We have still got a long way to go and we will only achieve our objective if we work together, if we help one another, if we learn from one another, and if we set ourselves the priority of beating drugs in Hong Kong.

Drugs - as we have heard from some contributors today - drugs wreck lives, drugs wreck families, drugs cast away all the good things in life and prevent people achieving their potential as citizens and as individuals. They cost the whole community so much waste. So it really is in our interest here in Hong Kong to do everything we can to beat drugs. I am grateful for your attendance today as part of that campaign, and I know we will go out from this summit determined over the next year to continue the fight in our individual and collective ways.

I know you are all busy. I am grateful for your attendance today, I am grateful for the time that you have given to this Summit, and I can assure you that we will be taking your ideas forward as enthusiastically and vigorously as possible. Thank you all very much indeed.

End

Parents urged to help beat drugs

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The Director of the Education, Mrs Helen C P Lai Yu, today (Thursday) called on parents and the community to join schools and the Government in their effort to beat drug abuse.

Addressing the Governor's second Summit Meeting on Drugs, Mrs Yu said: "Preventive education is not a ready panacea. We need commitment, not just of schools or Government but also of parents and the entire community. "We appeal to parents in particular, to dedicate extra efforts to the guidance of our young. Young people with firm family support are less likely to fall prey to drug abuse.

"As for us in Education Department, we pledge to do more. We aim to do better still," she said.

Mrs Yu noted that the department since the last Summit Meeting in March 1995 has devoted efforts to enhance awareness of the need for schools and parents to impress upon the young people the harms from drugs and the importance of healthy living.

The programme undertaken by the department in the past year included the running of drug education training courses for over 400 teachers, launching of a pilot scheme on school-based drug education courses in 21 schools and the provision of a grant to the Life Education Activity Programme.

In addition, the department has also developed model programmes for parents, staged a roving exhibition, set up a home-school link enquiry service in three pilot schools and opened a drug education resource centre.

Education programmes have also been introduced in 12 drug treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug abusers aged 18 or below, and research was initiated on the use of peer support and life skill counsellors to beat drugs. Mrs Yu assured that in the coming school year, more schools will be offering drug education programmes and joining forces against drug abuse.

The department, aiming to have at least one teacher capable of handling drug abuse problems in every secondary school by 1997, will review and where appropriate improve its in-service teacher education programme.

"We plan to organise an international conference on drug education next year: to share experience with neighbouring experts in the Pacific Rim and to exchange ideas on further initiatives to combat the problem," Mrs Yu added. She said the department is working with RTHK on the production of a TV series for young people, featuring healthy living and positive attitude towards life.

End

Prime Minister's reply to letter by business groups

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Following is a letter by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Major, in response to the views expressed by seven business groups towards the Governor:

Dear Sirs,

I was surprised to receive your letter of May 20. I have to say that I find your criticisms misplaced.

The Governor's visit to North America seems to me to have been a formidable success. In 11 speeches, 13 press briefings and dozens of other meetings with Government leaders, including President Clinton and Prime Minister Chretien, the Governor vigorously promoted and defended Hong Kong's interests - not least the interests of the business community which you represent.

In Canada, the Governor argued hard for visa free access for SAR passport holders. As you know, freedom of movement is vital to your own business activities. While he was there, the Canadian Government expressed its willingness in principle to grant visa free access.

In the United States, the Governor made the case - the Hong Kong case - as forcefully as he possibly could for MFN renewal. It is hard to think of a decision more vital to the interests of your members.

In all his talks and meetings the Governor set out the reasons for his optimism about Hong Kong's future. He spoke of the talents and resilience of Hong Kong people. He paid tribute to their entrepreneurial flair. He stressed how, since 1984, Hong Kong had proved the doomsters wrong.

But throughout his trip, the Governor had to tackle serious scepticism about Hong Kong's future. He was repeatedly asked about the Joint Declaration and the future of the rule of law in Hong Kong. I notice that neither are mentioned in your letter. He was asked about the future of the Legislative Council. About the civil service. About the judiciary. In short, he was asked sceptical questions which were triggered directly by recent statements by Chinese officials and members of the Preparatory Committee, statements which have seriously damaged confidence overseas in Hong Kong's future. The Governor has been doing his best to put things right.

The Governor underlined throughout his visit the relationship between Hong Kong's free way of life and its success as a business centre. The two are fundamentally and inextricably linked. Nobody need be in any doubt about the Governor's and the British Government's commitment to stand by the Joint Declaration and to defend Hong Kong's freedoms and its rule of law upon which, like your fellow Hong Kong citizens, you as businessmen and women depend.

I was encouraged to see from your letter that you intend to stand steadfastly behind Hong Kong. But this has to mean more than support for the Territory's economic fundamentals, important as they are. It would be helpful if, when statements are made threatening Hong Kong's legislature, its Bill of Rights, the independence of the judiciary and the political neutrality of the civil service, the leadership of your Chambers could make its voice heard on these issues too - just as you have to me about remarks inaccurately attributed to the Governor.

The Governor has always been a strong admirer and energetic advocate of the great contribution which the business community has made to Hong Kong's spectacular economic success. I suggest that you rather owe him gratitude for working so hard to make your case.

Nonetheless, I am sure that you will want to discuss these matters further with the Governor over the coming weeks and months. The business community has a vital role to play in the transition. No-one is more conscious of that than the Governor. His door is always open to you and your members.

Yours sincerely,  
John Major

End

New definitive stamps to be issued

\* \* \* \* \*

Agreement has been reached between the British and Chinese sides on the issue by the Hong Kong Post Office of a new set of definitive stamps in early 1997. These stamps will replace the existing ones which bear the Queen's portrait.

The new design of the definitive stamps comprise a set of 16 denominations from 10 cents to \$50.

The whole set when placed together features a composite view of the whole of the famed harbour side of Hong Kong Island.

The British and Chinese sides have also agreed on new franking machine dies to replace those currently in use, which display a Crown.

End

#### Stamps and franking machine dies transitional arrangements

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The Postmaster General, Mr Robert Footman, welcomed the agreement announced today (Thursday) by the British and Chinese sides of the Joint Liaison Group on the issue by the Hong Kong Post Office of a new set of definitive stamps which will be valid for use before and after July 1, 1997.

The new stamps will be issued in early next year and the current definitive stamps will then be withdrawn from sale at the counters.

"This agreement is good news. It means that postal services can continue uninterrupted, and in a simple way, across the transition," Mr Footman said in a press briefing today.

He said it had been agreed that all Hong Kong postage stamps bearing the Queen's portrait or the Royal Cypher will cease to be valid after June 30, 1997. Arrangements would be made to enable any such unused stamps to be exchanged for stamps in the new definitive series once these are issued.

Mr Footman said it had also been agreed that the existing franks of private franking machines, which display a Crown, would cease to be valid after June 30, 1997.

Franking machine licensees would need to replace the existing dies by the agreed new design, which would be valid for use before and after July 1, 1997, he said.

The Post Office is liaising with the three companies which supply franking machines to ensure that the new arrangements are implemented smoothly and it will also inform franking machine licensees of the new requirements. The new definitive stamps, comprising a set of 16 denominations from 10 cents to \$50, have a neutral design with no connotation of sovereignty.

The whole set when placed together features a continuous stretch of the waterfront of Hong Kong. Thirteen low value stamps in small format depict the day scene while the three highest value stamps in larger format depict the night scene.

End

New Port Development Board Chairman announced

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hong Kong Government today (Thursday) announced the appointment of Mr Peter Thompson as Chairman of the Hong Kong Port Development Board (PDB) with effect from June 1, 1996, for a period of two years.

Mr Thompson will take over from Mr John Gray who has been the Chairman since PDB was formed in April 1990. Mr Gray will retire from the PDB on May 31.

Appointed as a member of PDB since its inauguration in 1990, Mr Thompson has served as the Chairman of PDB's Mid Stream Operations Committee and is Chairman of the Lantau Port Liaison Group and Sub-Committee on Mid Stream Operations. A lawyer by profession, Mr Thompson has practised maritime law for almost 30 years.

He is a member of the Public Service Commission and was Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association and a member of the steering group on the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

Fourteen members will be re-appointed to PDB also with effect from June 1. They are:

- \* Mr Edward Ho Sing-tin
- \* Dr Frank Chao
- \* Mr Raymond Kwok
- \* Mr Anthony Nightingale
- \* Mr Benjamin Wong
- \* Mr David Wong Shou-yeh
- \* Mr Gerry Forsgate
- \* Mr Li Ke-jun
- \* Mr Tung Chee-chen
- \* Mr Canning Fok
- \* The Secretary for Economic Services (Ex Officio)
- \* The Secretary for Planning, Environment and Lands (Ex Officio)
- \* The Director of Marine (Ex Officio)
- \* The Director of Planning (Ex Officio)

At the same time, the term of office of Mr Gerry Forsgate and Mr Li Ke-jun has been extended to May 31, 1998.

Two new members will also be appointed to PDB with effect from June 1 for a period of two years. They are:

- \* Mr Vincent Cheng Hoi-chuen
- \* Mr Chan Wing-kee

Having been appointed as a member of PDB in April 1990, Mr Simon Murray will retire from the Board with effect from May 31.

The Hong Kong Port Development Board is a non-statutory advisory body to advise the Governor of Hong Kong, through the Secretary for Economic Services, on all aspects of port planning and development for the Port of Hong Kong.

The PDB appointments will be published in the Government Gazette tomorrow (Friday).

End

#### Case of VM girl's detention explained

\* \* \* \* \*

In response to press enquiries on the detention of a Vietnamese migrant (VM) girl in Victoria Prison, a spokesman for the Security Branch today (Thursday) gave the facts of this case as follows:

"On May 10, the girl in question was apprehended by the Police in Sha Tin and she was transferred to Victoria Prison together with other escapees from the Whitehead Detention Centre. At the time, she was with two other children and a woman who was assumed to be her mother.

"In Victoria Prison, the woman and the girl declined to identify themselves. Efforts were made to establish their identity.

"On May 18, the little girl told a welfare officer in Victoria Prison that the woman was not her mother and her parents were in Whitehead. Efforts were then made to establish who the child's parents were. They had never reported that she was missing.

"The parents were finally identified and the child was reunited with her parents on May 22."

End

Stormwater drainage master plan study commissioned

\* \* \* \* \*

The Drainage Services Department has commissioned a feasibility study on stormwater drainage master plan in Northern Hong Kong Island with an aim to reducing flooding in the area.

A \$7.8 million consultancy agreement was signed today (Thursday) between the Department and Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited.

Speaking after the signing of the agreement, the Assistant Director of the department, Mr Victor H Bradley, said the 18-month study would make a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the stormwater drainage system in the northern part of Hong Kong Island which includes Chai Wan, Shau Kei Wan, Quarry Bay, North Point, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, Central, Sheung Wan and Kennedy Town.

"Apart from recommending short and long-term measures for improvement, the study will also develop a computerised management information system to facilitate future planning, management and operation of the drainage system," he said.

Mr Bradley said some of the drains in the study area were built in the pre-war period and were grossly under-capacity.

"Intensive urbanisation and rapid developments have led to numerous piecemeal extensions and modifications to the original system.

"As a result, some parts of the drainage system cannot meet the current flood protection standard and flooding occurs during severe rainstorms," he said.

The study is the second one in a new programme of seven drainage master plan studies initiated by the department early this year. The first one, already commenced in January, covers Yuen Long, Kam Tin, Ngau Tam Mei and Tin Shui Wai.

End

### Grading of beach water quality

\* \* \* \* \*

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (Thursday) announced the grading of Hong Kong's beaches, based on their bacteriological water quality, for the 1996 swimming season.

The purpose of the grading system is to inform swimmers and the general public about the state of bacteriological pollution at various beaches.

The grading, based on the most recent E coli data obtained by EPD in its routine monitoring programme, will be announced biweekly during the bathing season to coincide with the frequency at which beach waters are usually sampled.

As with last year, it also includes an estimate of the risk of contracting some minor skin or gastrointestinal complaints as a result of swimming at a beach which 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 waters 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," Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Mr Patrick Lei, said.

The system for grading beach water quality is as follows:

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 whether or not to close a beach to swimmers is based on a judgement of what degree of pollution is acceptable.

Normally, the closure of a beach would only be considered by the Urban 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 five gazetted beaches, namely Anglers', Approach, Castle Peak, Rocky Bay and Ting Kau, are closed to swimmers, while Old Cafeteria is re-opened.

The decision to open or close the beaches has been made by the Regional and Urban Councils on the basis of beach water quality monitoring data for 1995. The public are advised not to swim at the closed beaches. They are identified by an "X" in the following list.

The grades of the bacteriological water quality of various beaches in Hong Kong today are listed below:

Beach	Previous Grading (as at 9.5.96)	Present Grading (as at 23.5.96)
<u>Hong Kong South</u>		
Big Wave Bay	2	3
Chung Hom Kok	1	1
Deep Water Bay	1	1
Hairpin	1	2
Middle Bay	1	1
Repulse Bay	1	1
Shek O	2	3
South Bay	1	1
St. Stephen's	2	3
Turtle Cove	1	1
Stanley Main	2	2
Rocky Bay	X	X
To Tei Wan*	2	2

Tuen Mun District

Golden Beach	2	3
Old Cafeteria	2	3
New Cafeteria	3	3
Castle Peak	X	X
Kadoorie	3	3
Butterfly	3	3

Sai Kung District

Campers*	1	1
Clear Water Bay 1st Beach	2	2
Clear Water Bay 2nd Beach	2	2
Hap Mun Bay	1	1
Kiu Tsui	1	1
Pak Sha Chau*	1	1
Silverstrand	3	3
Trio (Hebe Haven)	2	2

Islands District

Cheung Sha Upper	1	1
Cheung Sha Lower	2	2
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	2	2
Tung Wan, Cheung Chau	2	2
Tung O*	1	1

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers'	X	X
Approach	X	X
Casam	3	4
Gemini	4	4
Hoi Mei Wan	3	3
Lido	4	3
Ting Kau	X	X
Tung Wan, Ma Wan	2	2

Note: "X" The beach has been closed for swimming purposes.

\* Non-gazetted beaches.

The following beaches have changed grading on this occasion: Lido from "4" to "3"; Hairpin from "1" to "2"; Big Wave Bay, Shek O, St. Stephen's, Old Cafeteria and Golden Beach from "2" to "3"; Casam from "3" to "4".

The changes are within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of these beaches.

End

Corrected tentative land sales programme 1996-97

\* \* \* \* \*

Below is the corrected Tentative Land Sales Programme 1996-97, for Private Sector Participation Scheme cash tenders. The dates indicated in the handout issued at the press conference on May 17 were the tender invitation dates and not the closing dates.

Closing Date	Lot Number	Location	Use	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
23 August 96	TMTL 405	Area 18, Tuen Mun	Private Sector Participation Scheme	35,900
27 September 96	AIL 436 #	Aberdeen Praya Road	Private Sector Participation Scheme	4,360
29 November 96	SIL 839	Aldrich Bay Reclamation	Private Sector Participation Scheme	23,300
27 December 96	AIL 435 #	Shum Wan Road, Aberdeen	Private Sector Participation Scheme	15,520
	NKIL 6233	Hammer Hill Road	Private Sector Participation Scheme	25,800

# Denotes planning issues to be resolved before disposal

End

### Consumer price indices for April

\* \* \* \* \*

The Census and Statistics Department today (Thursday) released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for April 1996 from both the new 1994/95-based Index (CPI) series as well as the old 1989/90-based series.

Since the new series has only been compiled starting from October 1995 and is therefore not long enough for producing year-on-year comparison of price movements, the old series will continue to be used for this purpose for the time being. It will continue to be compiled and published until March 1997.

The year-on-year rate of change in the 1989/90-based CPI(A) increased by 6.9% in April 1996. This was slightly higher than the 6.7% increase recorded in March.

The rate of change in the Consumer Price Index (B) also increased marginally, from 7.3% in March to 7.4% in April. On the other hand, the rate of increase in Hang Seng CPI, at 7.7% in April, was slower than the corresponding increase of 8.2% in March.

Composite CPI, which is compiled based on the combined expenditure pattern of all households, showed an increase of 7.3% in April 1996, same as in both February and March.

A government spokesman said the slightly faster increase in CPI(A) in April than in March was mainly due to higher prices of some food items, including vegetables and live poultry.

On the other hand, the prices of durable goods, transport fares, and charges for miscellaneous consumer services rose more moderately. The prices of miscellaneous goods continued to record a year-on-year decline.

While most of the major components in CPI(B) showed similar movements as those in CPI(A), the rate of increase in Hang Seng CPI was alleviated by a less rapid increase in private housing rentals and in prices of meals away from home.

Analysed by component, relatively faster year-on-year price increases than the overall average were recorded in April for housing (10% in CPI(A), 11.3% in CPI(B), 12.7% in Hang Seng CPI and 11.4% in Composite CPI); and food (excluding meals bought away from home) (8.7%, 8.4%, 7.9% and 8.5%).

Meanwhile, those components with relatively slower year-on-year price increases than the overall average were durable goods (1.2% in CPI(A), 1.3% in CPI(B), 4.5% in Hang Seng CPI and 2.2% in Composite CPI); fuel and light (4.4%, 4.3%, 4.2% and 4.3%); meals bought away from home (4.4%, 4.2%, 2.2% and 3.8%); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (4.6%, 4.6%, 4.1% and 4.5%); and transport (6.7%, 6.6%, 6.2% and 6.5%).

Taking the first four months together, the increase in CPI(A) and CPI(B) averaged at 6.5% and 7.2% respectively over a year earlier. The corresponding increases for Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI were 8% and 7.2% respectively.

For the 12 months ended April 1996, CPI(A) and CPI(B) were, on average, higher by 7.7% and 8.3% respectively than the preceding 12-month period. The corresponding increases for Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI were 8.9% and 8.3% respectively.

The new 1994/95-based CPI series, though not long enough for year-on-year comparison, can be used to analyse the short-term month to month price movements. Comparing April 1996 with March 1996, the 1994/95-based CPI(A), CPI(B), Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI all increased by 1.2%.

The seasonally adjusted monthly rate of increase in the 1994/95-based CPI(A) and CPI(B) averaged 1% and 0.9% respectively during the three months ended April 1996. The corresponding increases for Hang Seng CPI and Composite CPI were 0.7% and 0.9% respectively.

Further details are shown in Tables 1 and 2 and Charts 1 to 4.

More details are given in the Consumer Price Index Report for April 1996, which is on sale at \$37 per copy from the Government Publications Centre, Queensway Government Offices, Low Block, ground floor, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong. It is also available from the Publications Unit of the Census and Statistics Department, 19th floor, Wanchai Tower, 12 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For local and overseas mailings, contact should be made with the Information Services Department, 28th floor, Siu On Centre, 188 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.

For enquiries about the indices, please telephone the Consumer Price Index Section of the Census and Statistics Department on 2805 6403.

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Table 1 Consumer Price Indices and Rates of Increase for April 1996  
(Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

Component	CPI(A)		CPI(B)		Hang Seng CPI		Composite CPI	
	Index for Apr 96	% change over Apr 95	Index for Apr 96	% change over Apr 95	Index for Apr 96	% change over Apr 95	Index for Apr 96	% change over Apr 95
Food	159.4	+6.4	160.5	+5.8	160.9	+4.1	160.1	+5.7
Meals bought away from home	168.2	+4.4	167.3	+4.2	165.9	+2.2	167.3	+3.8
Food, excluding meals bought away from home	150.8	+8.7	151.1	+8.4	152.4	+7.9	151.2	+8.5
Housing	199.0	+10.0	205.9	+11.3	214.4	+12.7	206.5	+11.4
Fuel and light	140.7	+4.4	140.2	+4.3	138.5	+4.2	140.1	+4.3
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	206.8	+4.6	195.2	+4.6	189.3	+4.1	200.2	+4.5
Clothing and footwear	165.2	+8.0	169.5	+8.6	171.4	+6.3	169.0	+7.6
Durable goods	118.2	+1.2	118.4	+1.3	125.7	+4.5	120.5	+2.2
Miscellaneous goods	137.6	-2.5	136.8	+0.1	137.5	+1.9	137.2	-0.4
Transport	166.3	+6.7	165.6	+6.6	163.9	+6.2	165.4	+6.5
Miscellaneous services	188.6	+9.6	180.2	+8.9	164.7	+7.2	178.1	+8.6
All items	168.5	+6.9	171.1	+7.4	174.8	+7.7	171.1	+7.3

Monthly consumer price indices are compiled on the basis of (a) expenditure patterns of relevant households and (b) prices collected currently in the month. The expenditure patterns underlying the 1989/90-based consumer price indices are based on those patterns derived from the 1989/90 Household Expenditure Survey. The CPI(A) is based on the expenditure pattern of about 50% of households in Hong Kong, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$2,500-\$9,999 in 1989/90 (equivalent to \$4,000-\$15,999 in 1994/95). The CPI(B) is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 30% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$10,000-\$17,499 in 1989/90 (equivalent to \$16,000-\$29,999 in 1994/95). The Hang Seng CPI is based on the expenditure pattern of the next 10% of households, which had an average monthly expenditure of \$17,500-\$37,499 in 1989/90 (equivalent to \$30,000-\$59,999 in 1994/95).

Whereas the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI are based on the expenditure patterns of groups of households with different magnitudes of household expenditure, the Composite CPI is compiled based on the expenditure pattern of all these households taken together. Thus, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and Hang Seng CPI show the impact of consumer price changes on different groups of households, the Composite CPI shows the impact of consumer price changes on the household sector generally.

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices and Year-on-year Rates of Change for  
 April 1993 - April 1996  
 (Oct. 89 - Sep. 90 = 100)

<u>Year/month</u>		<u>CPI(A)</u>		<u>CPI(B)</u>		<u>Hang Seng CPI</u>		<u>Composite CPI</u>		
		<u>Index</u>	<u>Year-on-year rate of change (%)</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year-on-year rate of change (%)</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year-on-year rate of change (%)</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year-on-year rate of change (%)</u>	
1993	April	133.5	7.7	133.9	8.5	134.5	9.5	133.9	8.5	
	May	134.5	8.5	134.8	8.8	136.3	9.8	135.1	8.9	
	June	136.0	8.6	135.9	8.7	137.1	9.5	136.3	8.8	
	July	135.8	8.2	136.1	8.5	136.9	9.2	136.2	8.6	
	August	136.3	8.5	136.6	8.5	137.4	9.2	136.7	8.7	
	September	138.4	7.9	138.3	8.1	139.2	9.2	138.6	8.3	
	October	140.0	9.0	139.6	8.7	140.7	9.4	140.0	9.0	
	November	139.4	8.4	139.9	8.4	142.2	9.5	140.3	8.7	
	December	140.4	8.6	140.9	8.5	143.3	10.2	141.3	9.0	
	1994	January	140.0	6.2	140.7	6.9	143.4	9.0	141.1	7.2
		February	142.7	7.8	142.9	8.1	144.9	9.8	143.3	8.4
		March	142.5	8.0	143.0	8.2	145.3	9.2	143.4	8.4
April		143.8	7.7	144.8	8.2	147.9	9.9	145.2	8.4	
May		145.0	7.8	146.1	8.4	150.0	10.0	146.7	8.6	
June		146.2	7.5	146.9	8.1	151.0	10.1	147.7	8.4	
July		147.3	8.5	147.9	8.6	150.5	9.9	148.3	8.9	
August		149.6	9.8	149.6	9.5	151.7	10.4	150.1	9.8	
September		150.3	8.6	150.8	9.0	153.4	10.2	151.3	9.2	
October		151.1	7.9	152.2	9.0	155.3	10.5	152.6	9.0	
November		151.4	8.6	153.1	9.5	157.3	10.6	153.5	9.5	
December		153.0	8.9	154.3	9.5	158.1	10.3	154.8	9.5	
1995	January	154.1	10.1	155.3	10.4	158.2	10.3	155.6	10.3	
	February	155.4	8.9	156.6	9.6	159.0	9.7	156.7	9.4	
	March	156.1	9.5	157.4	10.0	159.7	9.9	157.5	9.8	
	April	157.6	9.6	159.2	9.9	162.3	9.8	159.4	9.8	
	May	158.1	9.1	159.9	9.5	164.2	9.5	160.4	9.3	
	June	159.2	8.9	161.1	9.6	165.6	9.7	161.6	9.4	
	July	159.8	8.5	161.5	9.2	165.7	10.1	161.9	9.2	
	August	162.0	8.3	163.1	9.0	166.6	9.8	163.6	9.0	
	September	163.7	8.9	164.5	9.1	168.5	9.8	165.2	9.2	
	October	163.8	8.4	165.6	8.8	170.0	9.4	166.1	8.8	
	November	163.8	8.2	165.8	8.3	171.2	8.9	166.5	8.4	
	December	163.1	6.6	165.5	7.3	170.6	7.9	165.9	7.2	
1996	January	163.2	5.9	166.0	6.8	170.7	7.9	166.2	6.8	
	February	165.6	6.6	168.0	7.3	171.9	8.2	168.1	7.3	
	March	166.5	6.7	168.8	7.3	172.8	8.2	169.0	7.3	
	April	168.5	6.9	171.1	7.4	174.8	7.7	171.1	7.3	

Chart 1 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in CPI(A)

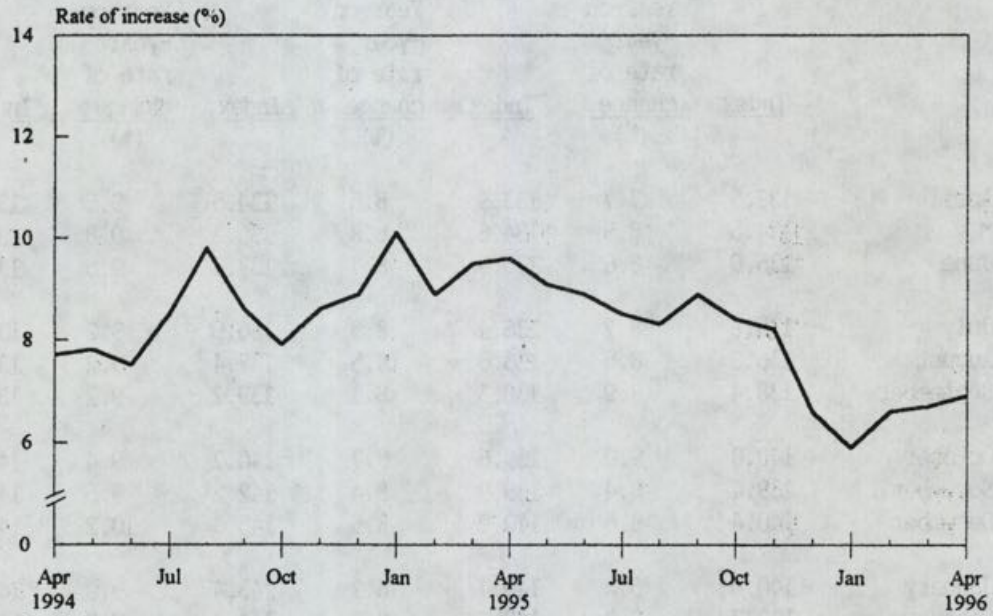


Chart 2 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in CPI(B)

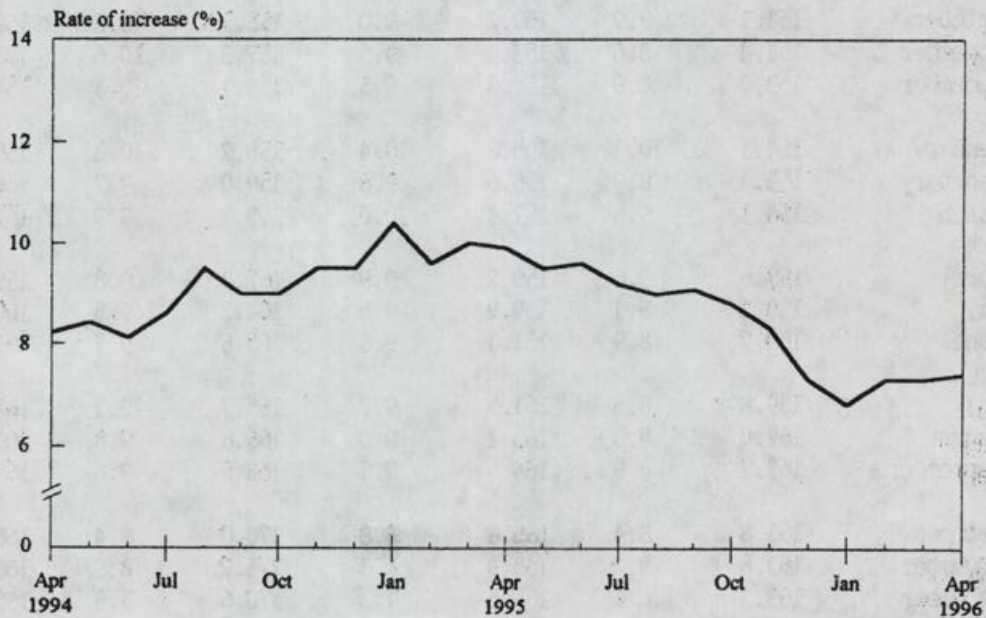


Chart 3 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Hang Seng CPI

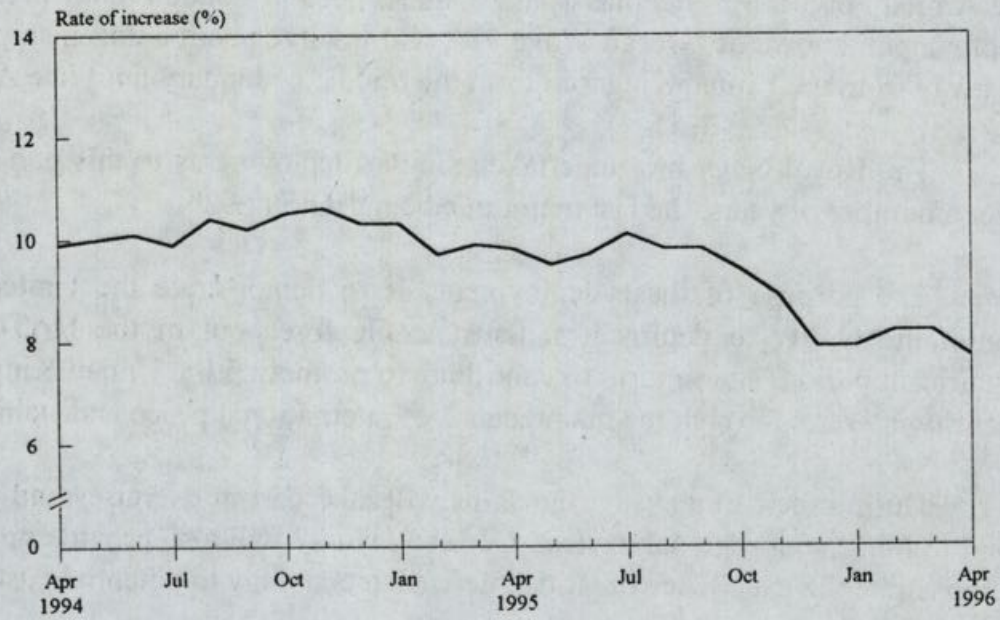
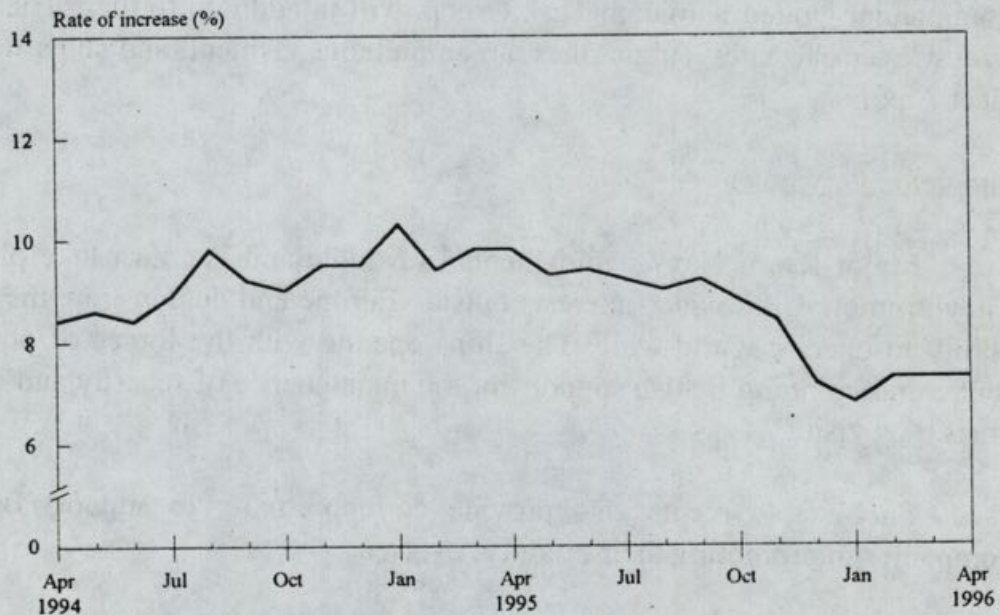


Chart 4 Year-on-year Rates of Increase  
in Composite CPI



## Royal Navy Task Group to visit Asia

\* \* \* \* \*

A Royal Navy Task Group led by the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious, is to deploy to the Far East and Australasia at the beginning of 1997, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mr Nicholas Soames, announced in London today (Thursday). The deployment, known as "Ocean Wave 97", will involve about a dozen ships which will be away from the United Kingdom from the middle of January until late August 1997.

The Royal Navy has undertaken similar deployments to this part of the world over a number of years, the last major one being "Orient 92".

The purpose of these deployments is to demonstrate the United Kingdom's continuing ability to deploy a self-sustainable force out of the NATO area for a significant period, and in turn, to contribute to promoting the United Kingdom's wider security interests through the maintenance of international peace and stability.

During their time away, the ships will take part in exercises and participate in joint training with regional navies. Ocean Wave 97 will also provide opportunities to demonstrate the excellence of British defence technology to potential customers.

Vessels of the Task Group will pay some 40 courtesy visits to ports throughout the area, and, on current plans, two or three of them will be available to help withdraw the last elements of the British garrison from Hong Kong on the transfer of sovereignty in June 1997.

The deployment, to be commanded by Rear Admiral Alan West, the Commander United Kingdom Task Group, will in addition to the carrier, be made up of destroyers, frigates, submarines, an amphibious element, and ships from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

### Supplementary notes

Major Royal Navy deployments to Middle and Far East take place regularly. They promote UK's wider interests outside Europe and demonstrate the Royal Navy's ability to operate world-wide. The ships operate with the forces of other nations en route, underpinning British support for the maintenance of security and stability in the areas they visit.

Such deployments also provide an opportunity to support British defence companies in promoting their products overseas.

Last major deployment was in 1992 (Orient 92). A smaller deployment to Australasia and the Pacific took place last summer (Australasia 95).

End

Eleven candidates passed licentiate examination

\* \* \* \* \*

The Licentiate Committee of the Medical Council of Hong Kong today (Thursday) announced that a total of 11 candidates had passed Part II of the Licentiate Examination for unregistrable doctors - English for professional use paper this year.

The 1996 Part II Examination was held in March and May respectively to allow candidates a choice of examination dates, and to give those who failed in March an opportunity of another attempt in the same year.

Ten out of 12 candidates who took the Part II Examination in March passed, while one out of two who took it in May passed.

All those who have passed the Part II Examination this year are eligible to take the Part III Examination scheduled for July.

The Part III Licentiate Examination is an oral test on candidates' ability to apply professional knowledge to clinical problems.

Each candidate will be given an oral examination in each of the three disciplines of Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

End

Non-graduate teacher qualifications assessment results

\* \* \* \* \*

The Education Department said today (Thursday) that 69 out of 131 candidates had passed in the fourth cycle of the Non-graduate Teacher Qualifications Assessment (NGTQA) Examinations held from February to March this year. The passing rate was 52.7 per cent.

A Senior Education Officer, Miss Ding Wan-yuk, said letters of notification of examination results had been sent to both successful and unsuccessful candidates. Miss Ding said out of 69 successful candidates, 10 were qualified to use both Chinese and English as their media of instruction, while 59 can use Chinese only. Thirteen passed all three parts of the assessment and 56 passed parts I and II.

Part I of the assessment tests candidates on general education, Part II on the medium of instruction and Part III professional training.

Miss Ding said the NGTQA Scheme was introduced in accordance with the recommendations of the Education Commission Report No. 5 with a view to identifying a wider pool of potential non-graduate teachers with qualifications and training obtained outside Hong Kong.

Miss Ding said a candidate failing in only one subject in a sitting may apply to resit the examination twice on that subject in the subsequent two years. However, a candidate failing in two or more subjects in one sitting or failing in the same subject repeatedly in the subsequent two years will not be allowed to resit the subject(s).

Regarding the employment situation of successful NGTQA candidates, Miss Ding said 175 successful candidates had so far reported to have obtained teaching appointments.

Among the successful candidates who passed the three parts of the NGTQA examinations in previous cycles, 19 had been accorded the status of Qualified Teacher after successful completion of the Supervised Teaching Period. For the present school year, eight eligible successful candidates are undergoing Supervised Teaching practice.

On the whole, the teaching performance of teachers qualified through the NGTQA Scheme was found to be satisfactory, Miss Ding said.

End

#### Deadline for submission of proposal to alter rateable value

\* \* \* \* \*

A spokesman for the Rating and Valuation Department today (Thursday) reminded the public that if they wish to make a proposal to alter the rateable value of their property from April 1, 1996, they must serve a proposal on the Commissioner of Rating and Valuation on or before May 31 (Friday).

He stressed that, under the provisions of the Rating Ordinance, proposals served after May 31 cannot be accepted as valid. Proposals can be served by post or by hand, but their transmission by facsimile machine is not acceptable.

The spokesman added that a proposal should be made on the specified form, Form R20A. Copies of this form are obtainable from the Department at Hennessy Centre, 17th floor, 500 Hennessy Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong and also from district offices.

For further enquiries, members of the public can telephone the Department on 2805 7666.

End

Hong Kong Monetary Authority money market operations

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	<u>\$ million</u>	<u>Time (hours)</u>	<u>Cumulative change (\$million)</u>
Opening balance in the account	1,961	0930	NIL
Closing balance in the account	2,140	1000	NIL
Change attributable to :		1100	NIL
Money market activity	-1	1200	-1
LAF today	+180	1500	-1
		1600	-1

LAF rate 4.00% bid/6.00% offer TWI 124.1 \*\*+0.0\* 23.5.96

Hong Kong Monetary Authority

EF bills		EF notes				
Terms	Yield	Term	Issue	Coupon	Price	Yield
1 week	5.18	2 years	2805	6.30	100.59	6.07
1 month	5.09	3 years	3904	6.30	99.61	6.55
3 months	5.14	5 years	5103	6.75	98.58	7.23
6 months	5.22	7 years	7302	6.02	92.40	7.61
12 months	5.53	5 years	M502	7.30	100.05	7.42

Total turnover of EF bills and notes - \$13,176 million

Closed May 23, 1996

End