



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
PERVASIVE CORRUPTION THREATENS STABILITY: SIR DAVID	1
HOPEFUL SIGNS CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN RESTORED TO MARKETS - NENDICK	2
AG OUTLINES PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS	4
GOVERNOR VISITS VOLUNTEERS AT BORDER	8
MONETARY STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED	9
SWAC DISCUSSES SOCIAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS	14
BOARD TO DISCUSS NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE LAYOUT PLAN	14
FESTIVAL PROMOTES PARTICIPATION, UNDERSTANDING	15
SPORTIVE FORTNIGHT FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS	16
SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE HANDLES 4,894 ENQUIRIES A MONTH ...	18
EYE CARE CAMPAIGN ORGANISED FOR ELDERLY	18
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS	19
MEETING TO DISCUSS YOUTH SERVICES SURVEY	20
NEW BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES AT LOK MA CHAU	20
ROAD WORKS IN TUEN MUN PROPOSED	21
TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLYOVER RECONSTRUCTION	22
WATER STORAGE FIGURE	22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 1 -

PERVASIVE CORRUPTION THREATENS STABILITY: SIR DAVID

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PERVASIVE CORRUPTION IS AN EVIL THAT THREATENS THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE, SIR DAVID SAID NO SOCIETY COULD AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT ABOUT CORRUPTION, ADDING THAT ATTACK ON CORRUPTION REQUIRED VERY POSITIVE GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT AND A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY THAT CORRUPTION WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

"A CIVIL SERVICE THAT IS NOT TAINTED BY CORRUPTION AND A PRIVATE SECTOR WHERE MARKET FORCES ARE NOT DISTORTED BY CORRUPT PRACTICES ARE KEY PILLARS OF THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY THAT WE CHERISH.

"IN HONG KONG WE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WITH OUR EFFORTS TO CHECK AND COUNTER CORRUPTION WHEREVER IT APPEARS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT THE ICAC NOW ENJOYED A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, AS ILLUSTRATED BY THE INCREASE IN THE NON-ANONYMOUS REPORTS OF CORRUPTION FROM 35 PER CENT IN 1974 TO 65 PER CENT IN 1986.

THE RESULT WAS THE ELIMINATION OF SYNDICATED CORRUPTION IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND A REVERSAL OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES FROM PASSIVELY CONDONING TO ACTIVELY CONDEMNING CORRUPTION.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CORRUPTION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS HAD ALWAYS BEEN A WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM.

"AS WITH MANY OTHER FORMS OF CRIME, CORRUPTION NOW TRANSCENDS CITY, STATE AND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

"INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF THE CORRUPT OFTEN REQUIRE A HIGH DEGREE OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT POLICE FORCES AND AGENCIES," HE NOTED.

SIR DAVID SAID THAT TODAY'S GATHERING REPRESENTED ANOTHER POSITIVE STEP FORWARD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND HE SAW IT AS A NATURAL OUTCOME OF THE GROWING ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 2 -

HOPEFUL SIGNS CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN
RESTORED TO MARKETS - NENDICK

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THERE ARE HOPEFUL SIGNS THAT THE MEASURES THAT HONG KONG HAS TAKEN AND THOSE TAKEN IN OTHER MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRES HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING CONFIDENCE TO THE MARKET PLACE, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THOUGH THERE WAS STILL WORK TO BE DONE IN ENSURING THAT THE RECENT EVENTS DID NOT RECUR, APPROPRIATE RESPONSES MIGHT NOW BE WORKED OUT IN A CAREFUL AND ORDERLY FASHION WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS LEADING TO HASTY OR ILL-CONSIDERED MEASURES, MR NENDICK SAID WHEN OPENING AN ASIAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION SEMINAR.

IN PUTTING EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN CONTEXT, HE STRESSED THAT THE CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE WHICH SPREAD ACROSS WORLD MARKETS MUST BE SEEN AS UNPARALLELED IN THE LIFETIME OF VIRTUALLY ALL WHO WERE ATTENDING THE SEMINAR.

"THANKFULLY, THE POSITION NOW SEEMS TO BE CONTAINED AND CONFIDENCE IS RETURNING TO MARKETS, BUT A MAJOR LESSON WHICH I HOPE WILL BE LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS ARE INTER-RELATED...

"REMEDIAL MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN IN ALL THE MAJOR CENTRES IF THEY ARE TO PROVE LASTING," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD ATTRACTED SOME INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CRITICISM FOR CLOSING ITS FINANCIAL MARKETS BUT, EQUALLY, THERE WERE THOSE AT HOME AND ABROAD WHO SUPPORTED THE MOVE.

HE SAID: "THE DECISION TO SUSPEND TRADING WAS TAKEN AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF A VERY SUBSTANTIAL BACKLOG OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE FOLLOWING A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED TURNOVER, AND OF THE LIKELIHOOD, IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF HONG KONG, THAT HIGHLY VOLATILE AND DISORDERLY TRADING CONDITIONS WOULD EMERGE IF INVESTORS ACTED PRECIPITATELY.

"A PAUSE FOR WISER COUNSELS TO PREVAIL WAS SEEN AS VALUABLE. I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT, WHEN THE MARKET REOPENED, THE GENERAL PUBLIC DID REACT IN A SENSIBLE AND LEVEL HEADED MANNER, AND THERE WAS NO WHOLE-SALE ENCASHMENT OF UNIT TRUSTS OR PANIC ATTEMPTS TO REALISE STOCK EXCHANGE INVESTMENTS."

MR NENDICK SAID HE SAW THIS, OF ITSELF, AS A SIGNIFICANT JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SUSPENSION OF TRADING, BUT, WITH HINDSIGHT, THE CLOSING OF THE EXCHANGE ALSO BROUGHT VALUABLE BREATHING SPACE TO ARRIVE AT A SOLUTION TO A DIFFICULTY CENTRING ON THE FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET, WHICH ONLY EMERGED AFTER TRADING HAD BEEN SUSPENDED.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 3 -

AS A RESULT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL FALL IN THE PRICE OF THE SHARES COMPRISING THE HANG SENG INDEX, BROKERS TRADING IN THE FUTURES MARKET IN HANG SENG INDEX CONTRACTS WHO HAD "LONG" POSITIONS WERE CALLED UPON TO PUT UP VERY LARGE ADDITIONAL SUMS BY WAY OF VARIATION MARGIN.

"IT BECAME CLEAR THAT A NUMBER WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THEIR MARGIN REQUIREMENTS LEADING TO DEFAULT AND SUSPENSION FROM THE FUTURES EXCHANGE, AND THAT, IN TURN, THE GUARANTEE CORPORATION WHICH GUARANTEES TO MEET SUCH DEFICIENCIES MIGHT HAVE INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL," HE SAID.

"THIS WOULD, IN TURN, HAVE LED TO THE CLOSURE OF THE FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET AND OBLIGED THE FORCED SETTLEMENT OF ALL CONTRACTS AT AN ARBITRARY PRICE."

MR NENDICK SAID THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A CONSEQUENTIAL AND VERY SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL STOCK MARKET, AS THOSE WHO HAD BEEN ARBITRATING BETWEEN THE PHYSICAL AND FUTURES MARKETS (BEING "SHORT" IN THE FUTURES MARKET AND "LONG" IN THE STOCK MARKET) WOULD THEN HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO CLOSE OUT THEIR UNCOVERED "LONG" POSITIONS IN THE PHYSICAL MARKET.

"THE DAMAGE TO HONG KONG'S REPUTATION AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE WOULD HAVE BEEN IMMEASURABLE AND, BECAUSE THOSE MOST AFFECTED WOULD THEN TAKE THEIR BUSINESS ELSEWHERE, THE EXCHANGE RATE WOULD, I BELIEVE, HAVE COME UNDER SUSTAINED AND HEAVY PRESSURE."

IT WAS IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS THAT THE SUPPORT FACILITIES WERE PUT IN PLACE.

"IT MAY BE NOTED THAT THOSE WHO HAD MOST TO GAIN BY THE FINANCIAL FUTURES MARKET BEING KEPT IN BEING CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS, AS DID THOSE WHO ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HONG KONG'S CONTINUING WELL-BEING AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE," MR NENDICK SAID. THE SUPPORTIVE STANCE TAKEN BY CHINA, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECOND SUPPORT FACILITY MADE BY THE BANK OF CHINA, WAS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED.

MR NENDICK ADDED: "IT MAY BE NOTED, TOO, THAT THE SPECULATORS HAVE NOT BEEN 'RESCUED'. NONE OF THE FUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVIDED ARE TO BE PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THOSE WHO WERE 'LONG' IN THE FUTURES MARKET, AND THE GUARANTEE CORPORATION WILL TAKE WHAT IT CONSIDERS AS APPROPRIATE STEPS AGAINST THOSE WHO FAIL TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS."

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/4

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 4 -

AG OUTLINES PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR MICHAEL THOMAS, SAID TODAY (MONDAY) THAT CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST PLAY A LARGE PART IN THE PROCESS OF DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO BRING A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

FAR FROM BEING AN EXACT SCIENCE, THE PROCESS ENTAILED THE EXERCISE OF JUDGMENT AND DISCRETION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, TAKING A WIDE RANGE OF PUBLIC INTEREST CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT, HE SAID AT THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE.

SPEAKING ON ASPECTS OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN CORRUPTION CASES AS SEEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF AN ATTORNEY GENERAL, HE SAID THIS DISCRETION MUST BE EXERCISED IN A JUDICIAL AND NOT A HAPHAZARD MANNER, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CERTAIN PRINCIPLES.

HE OUTLINED SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES APPLIED AND DISCUSSED WHAT ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION EXISTED.

MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS ONE OF HIS FUNCTIONS, AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO BRING A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES.

"THAT IS TO SAY, IT IS FOR ME OR, WHERE I HAVE DELEGATED THE DECISION, ONE OF MY OFFICERS TO DECIDE AT THE END OF A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION WHETHER ANYONE SHALL BE PROSECUTED AND, IF SO, WHO AND ON WHAT CHARGES.

"BY THE SAME TOKEN I CAN DECIDE THAT A PERSON SHALL NOT BE PROSECUTED, EVEN IF THE EVIDENCE WOULD WARRANT A PROSECUTION. THIS ENABLES ME, FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE APPROPRIATE TO GRANT AN IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION TO PERSONS WHO ARE WILLING TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN CORRUPTION CASES," HE SAID.

MR THOMAS SAID THE DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PROSECUTE WAS THE FIRST AND MOST VITAL DECISION IN THE PROSECUTION PROCESS.

THERE WERE TWO MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IN DETERMINING THE INSTITUTION OR CONTINUATION OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDING. FIRST, WAS THE EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT? AND SECONDLY, DID THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRE A PROSECUTION TO BE INITIATED?

MR THOMAS SAID: "CONSIDERATION OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE MAY HAVE TWO STAGES.

"THE FIRST IS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE AVAILABLE AND ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE ESTABLISHES A PRIMA FACIE CASE THAT A CRIMINAL OFFENCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED; THAT IS, ON THE BASIS THAT THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE IS ACCEPTED WITHOUT RESERVATION BY A JURY IT COULD, ACTING REASONABLY, BE SATISFIED OF THE DEFENDANT'S GUILT BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT. IF THIS TEST IS NOT MET, A PROSECUTION SHOULD NOT BE BEGUN.

/ "EVEN A

"EVEN A PRIMA FACIE CASE, HOWEVER, IS NOT BY ITSELF USUALLY ENOUGH, THERE IS NORMALLY A SECOND STAGE WHICH CONSISTS OF TESTING THE EVIDENCE TO DECIDE WHETHER IT IS SUFFICIENT TO GIVE RISE TO A REALISTIC PROSPECT OF A CONVICTION."

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE ADEQUACY OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE ALSO TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS.

MR THOMAS EXPLAINED THAT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTS FOR CONVICTION OR ACQUITTAL REQUIRED AN OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF HOW STRONG THE CASE WAS LIKELY TO BE WHEN PRESENTED IN COURT. SEVERAL FACTORS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

ONE WAS THE AVAILABILITY AND CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES AND THE IMPRESSION THEY WERE LIKELY TO MAKE ON A JURY; ANOTHER WAS THE ADMISSIBILITY OF ANY ALLEGED CONFESSION; ANOTHER WAS WHETHER THERE WERE ANY OBVIOUS LINES OF DEFENCE OPEN TO THE ACCUSED, AND SO ON.

THE RANGE OF FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, WOULD DEPEND UPON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH CASE. ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE MIGHT BE DIFFICULT: OCCASIONALLY, IT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITH ANY CONFIDENCE THAT EITHER A CONVICTION OR AN ACQUITTAL WAS THE MORE LIKELY RESULT.

IF HAVING EVALUATED THE EVIDENCE THE PROSECUTOR WAS SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS A REASONABLE PROSPECT OF CONVICTION, HE MUST THEN CONSIDER THE MATTER FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

MR THOMAS SAID: "AS IT WAS PUT BY A FAMOUS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ENGLAND AND WALES SOME 40 YEARS AGO, HOWEVER GOOD THE EVIDENCE A PROSECUTION SHOULD NOT BE INITIATED UNLESS THE PROSECUTOR IS SATISFIED 'THAT THE OFFENCE OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS COMMISSION IS OR ARE OF SUCH A CHARACTER THAT A PROSECUTION IN RESPECT THEREOF IS REQUIRED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. THAT IS STILL THE DOMINANT CONSIDERATION'.

"HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT REGARD MUST BE HAD 'TO THE EFFECT WHICH THE PROSECUTION, SUCCESSFUL OR UNSUCCESSFUL AS THE CASE MAY BE, WOULD HAVE UPON PUBLIC MORALE AND ORDER, AND ANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING PUBLIC POLICY'."

MR THOMAS SAID THE POSITION WAS THE SAME IN HONG KONG. IN A MAJORITY OF CASES THE RESULT OF THIS PROCESS WOULD BE A DECISION THAT, IF THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE WAS UP TO THE STANDARD DESCRIBED, IT WOULD BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT A PROSECUTION SHOULD FOLLOW; AND THE CLEARER THE EVIDENCE, THE MORE LIKELY IT WAS THAT THAT WOULD BE THE DECISION.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THERE WERE, HOWEVER, CASES WHERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGESTED SOME COURSE OTHER THAN PROSECUTION MIGHT BE PREFERABLE.

/PERHAPS THE

PERHAPS THE MOST OBVIOUS EXAMPLE WAS THE TRIVIAL OR "TECHNICAL" NATURE OF THE PARTICULAR OFFENCE - THE COURTS WOULD SOON BE HOPELESSLY CLOGGED AND SUFFER INTERMINABLE DELAYS IF EVERY SUSPECTED CRIMINAL OFFENCE WERE AUTOMATICALLY THE SUBJECT OF PROSECUTION. IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT LAWYERS CALLED THE DE MINIMIS PRINCIPLE WAS APPLIED.

APART FROM THE CHARACTER OF THE OFFENCE, THERE WERE NUMEROUS OTHER FACTORS THAT MIGHT BE RELEVANT IN CONSIDERING WHETHER THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED A PROSECUTION.

"I HAVE REFERRED TO THE STRENGTH OF THE EVIDENCE AND DEGREE OF LIKELIHOOD OF A CONVICTION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IF A PROSECUTION WOULD BE LONG AND EXPENSIVE; IN SUCH A CASE THE PROSECUTOR MAY WELL DECIDE THAT THE BALANCE OF PUBLIC INTEREST DOES NOT FAVOUR A PROSECUTION UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING MORE THAN A 'REASONABLE' PROSPECT OF SUCCESS," HE SAID.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WERE THE PRESENCE OF MITIGATING OR AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES; THE YOUTH, AGE, PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER OR A WITNESS; WHETHER THE ALLEGED OFFENDER HAD A CRIMINAL RECORD OR WHETHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, A PROSECUTION WOULD DESTROY HIS REPUTATION; THE EFFECT ON PUBLIC ORDER AND MORALE; THE DEGREE OF CULPABILITY OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER AND THE AMOUNT OF HARM WHICH A PROSECUTION MIGHT DO TO HIM; THE LIKELY SENTENCE UPON CONVICTION; THE LENGTH OF TIME SINCE THE OFFENCE WAS COMMITTED; THE ATTITUDE OF THE COMPLAINANT (IF ANY), THE AVAILABILITY AND EFFICACY OF ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION AND SO ON.

"ANY ATTEMPT AT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF RELEVANT FACTORS WOULD INEVITABLY BE INCOMPLETE.

"THE VITAL ISSUE IN CONSIDERING THE PUBLIC INTEREST IS AN APPRECIATION THAT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF A CASE MUST BE ASSESSED ON ITS INDIVIDUAL MERITS.

"THE APPLICABILITY AND WEIGHT TO BE GIVEN TO RELEVANT PUBLIC INTEREST FACTORS VARIES FROM CASE TO CASE AND THE PROCESS OF WEIGHING THEM UP GIVES THE PROSECUTOR A WIDE DISCRETION NOT TO PROSECUTE EVEN WHERE THE EVIDENCE IS SUCH AS TO MAKE A CONVICTION LIKELY," MR THOMAS SAID.

TURNING TO THE SELECTION OF CHARGES, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID THAT IN MANY CASES THE SAME CONDUCT CONSTITUTED AN OFFENCE AGAINST SEVERAL DIFFERENT LAWS. THE CHARGE OR CHARGES MUST BE CHOSEN TO REFLECT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE CRIMINAL CONDUCT DISCLOSED BY THE AVAILABLE ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE AND PROVIDE THE COURT, IN THE EVENT OF CONVICTION, WITH AN APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR SENTENCE.

/IN GENERAL,

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 7 -

IN GENERAL, APPROPRIATE CHARGES WOULD NORMALLY BE THE MOST SERIOUS REVEALED BY THE EVIDENCE. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE OFFENCE CHARGED WAS NOT INAPPROPRIATE TO THE NATURE OF THE FACTS ALLEGED AND THE COURT'S SENTENCING POWERS WERE ADEQUATE, CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO A LESSER CHARGE IN THE LIGHT OF SUCH FACTORS AS SPEED OF TRIAL, MODE OF TRIAL, SUFFICIENCY OF PROOF AND PROBABLE LINES OF DEFENCE.

HE EXPLAINED THAT AN ELEMENT OF BARGAINING WITH THE ACCUSED MIGHT ENTER INTO THIS PROCESS, SINCE HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO PLEAD GUILTY TO LESSER CHARGES. BUT THAT WAS STRICTLY A MATTER BETWEEN THE PROSECUTION AND THE ACCUSED. THE COURTS REGARDED PLEA OR CHARGE-BARGAINING AS A QUESTIONABLE PRACTICE AND WOULD PLAY NO PART IN IT.

"PARTICULAR CARE HAS TO BE EXERCISED WHEN CONSPIRACY CHARGES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SUBSTANTIVE CHARGES SHOULD BE LAID. IT IS NOTORIOUS THAT CONSPIRACY TRIALS CAN BE COMPLEX AND LENGTHY.

"THERE ARE, HOWEVER, OCCASIONS WHEN A CONSPIRACY CHARGE IS THE ONLY ONE WHICH IS APPROPRIATE ON THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE AND ADEQUATELY REFLECTS THE CRIMINALITY OF THE CASE," MR THOMAS SAID.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF CAUTIONING, MR THOMAS SAID THE "ALL OR NOTHING" APPROACH - TO PROSECUTE OR TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION - WAS NOT ALWAYS SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALL OFFENCES AND ALL OFFENDERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF CORRUPTION.

"ACCORDINGLY, IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR, I APPROVED A FORMAL CAUTIONING SCHEME FOR OFFENCES INVESTIGATED BY THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION," HE SAID.

THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS SCHEME OWED A GREAT DEAL TO THE ICAC ITSELF.

THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ICAC CAUTIONING SCHEME REAFFIRMED THE PRINCIPLE THAT IN GENERAL, PROSECUTION SHOULD TAKE PLACE WHERE, FIRST, THERE WAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A PROSECUTION AND, SECONDLY, THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRED IT.

THERE WERE, HOWEVER, CASES WHICH WERE NOT MERELY OF A MINOR OR TRIVIAL NATURE BUT WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST DID NOT REQUIRE THAT A PROSECUTION SHOULD FOLLOW AS A MATTER OF COURSE. THESE WERE CASES WHERE, BY VIRTUE OF EITHER AN OFFENDER'S CIRCUMSTANCES OR THE NATURE OF THE OFFENCE, OR BOTH, THE PUBLIC INTEREST COULD BE ADEQUATELY SERVED BY A FORMAL CAUTION BEING GIVEN TO THE SUSPECT.

/"OFFICERS OF

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 8 -

"OFFICERS OF ICAC MAY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT A PARTICULAR CASE IS SUITABLE FOR A CAUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED GUIDELINES - BUT THE FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO PROSECUTE OR CAUTION RESTS WITH ME OR SENIOR OFFICERS OF MY CHAMBERS ON MY BEHALF," MR THOMAS SAID.

ONCE A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE THAT A PARTICULAR CASE WAS SUITABLE TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE SCHEME, THE ICAC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE CAUTION.

MR THOMAS WENT ON: "THE HOPE IS, OF COURSE, THAT THE FORMAL NATURE AND RECORDING OF ICAC CAUTIONS WILL DISSUADE OFFENDERS FROM COMMITTING FURTHER OFFENCES. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS WHETHER THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE MET.

"HOWEVER THE RATIONALE OF THE SCHEME IS TO PROVIDE A HUMANE, CONSIDERATE AND EQUITABLE METHOD OF DEALING WITH OFFENDERS WHERE THE PUBLIC INTEREST DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT THEY FACE THE TRAUMA OF A COURT APPEARANCE AND THE RECORDING OF A CRIMINAL CONVICTION."

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GOVERNOR VISITS VOLUNTEERS AT BORDER

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (MONDAY) VISITED THE ANNUAL BORDER CAMP OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) AND WAS IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE SAW -- MORE THAN 500 "PART-TIME" SOLDIERS CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES IN PREVENTING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CROSSING THE BORDER.

THE GOVERNOR FIRST FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO PAK HOK CHAU, WHERE HE WAS MET BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE REGIMENT, LT. COL. JEREMY HUTCHINS, AND BRIEFED ON THE REGIMENT'S DEPLOYMENT FOR THE BORDER CAMP, AND THE REGIMENT'S DUTIES AND OPERATIONS.

SIR DAVID WAS SHOWN A NIGHT-VISION DEVICE USED IN THE DETECTION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

SIR DAVID THEN VISITED THE OBSERVATION POSTS AT SANDY SPUR, PAK FU SHAN AND PAK KONG AU.

BEFORE DEPARTING, THE GOVERNOR VISITED THE REGIMENT'S D SQUADRON AT SHA TAU KOK WHERE HIGH-SPEED INFLATABLE CRAFT WERE DEPLOYED IN BORDER PATROL DUTIES.

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/9

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 9 -

MONETARY STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER RELEASED

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DEPOSITS IN HONG KONG DOLLAR GREW FASTER IN SEPTEMBER AS DOMESTIC CREDIT GROWTH ACCELERATED DURING THE MONTH, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH. FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS, HOWEVER, FELL SLIGHTLY.

HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS GREW FASTER IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN PREVIOUS MONTHS. HONG KONG DOLLAR M1, THE NARROW DEFINITION OF HONG KONG DOLLAR MONEY SUPPLY, GREW RAPIDLY IN SEPTEMBER, REFLECTING THE HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET.

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS CONTINUED TO GROW STRONGLY IN SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH THE RATE OF GROWTH WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THOSE IN THE PREVIOUS MONTHS. LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW FASTER IN SEPTEMBER THAN IN THE PREVIOUS MONTH. OFFSHORE LOANS ALSO CONTINUED TO INCREASE RAPIDLY, BUT LOANS TO FINANCE HONG KONG'S VISIBLE TRADE FELL SLIGHTLY.

TABLE 1 BEING SENT BY FACSIMILE SETS OUT SUMMARY FIGURES FOR SEPTEMBER 1987 AND COMPARISONS WITH EARLIER MONTHS. TABLE 2 ALSO BEING SENT BY FACSIMILE SETS OUT FIGURES FROM THE QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR.

DEPOSITS

IN SEPTEMBER, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEMAND AND SAVINGS DEPOSITS INCREASED RAPIDLY, BY 14.5 PER CENT AND BY 6.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. BUT TIME DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.7 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS ROSE BY 3.2 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER AFTER INCREASES OF 2.6 PER CENT IN JULY AND 1.8 PER CENT IN AUGUST. OVER THE YEAR (I.E. FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER), TOTAL HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 26.5 PER CENT.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER AFTER AN INCREASE OF 2.5 PER CENT IN JULY AND 1.4 PER CENT IN AUGUST. THESE DEPOSITS GREW BY 3.6 PER CENT OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO SEPTEMBER AND BY 25.8 PER CENT OVER THE YEAR. OF THE TOTAL, DEPOSITS IN U.S. DOLLARS ROSE BY 0.9 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER WHILE DEPOSITS IN OTHER FOREIGN CURRENCIES FELL BY 2.4 PER CENT.

/FOREIGN CURRENCY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 10 -

FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAP DEPOSITS DECREASED BY 1.9 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER. ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THESE DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR DEPOSITS GREW BY 2.6 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER WHILE ADJUSTED FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS FELL BY 0.2 PER CENT.

DEPOSITS (ALL CURRENCIES) WITH BANKS INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT. FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING SEPTEMBER, DEPOSITS WITH BANKS INCREASED BY 5.4 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 6.1 PER CENT. OVER THE YEAR, DEPOSITS WITH BANKS GREW BY 29.5 PER CENT WHILE THOSE WITH DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES INCREASED BY 0.1 PER CENT.

MONEY SUPPLY

REFLECTING THE RAPID INCREASE IN DEMAND DEPOSITS, HONG KONG DOLLAR M1 ROSE BY 9.1 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER. HONG KONG DOLLAR M2 AND M3 ALSO INCREASED RAPIDLY, BY 3.2 PER CENT AND 3.0 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN SEPTEMBER. OVER THE YEAR THE GROWTH IN HONG KONG DOLLAR M1, M2 AND M3 WERE 37.9 PER CENT, 30.5 PER CENT AND 26.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

TOTAL MONEY SUPPLY ON ALL DEFINITIONS ALSO INCREASED IN SEPTEMBER. TOTAL M1 GREW BY 6.8 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER AFTER AN INCREASE OF 1.8 PER CENT IN AUGUST. TOTAL M2 AND TOTAL M3, ON THE OTHER HAND, BOTH INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN SEPTEMBER COMPARED WITH AN INCREASE OF 1.6 PER CENT IN BOTH OF THEM IN AUGUST. OVER THE YEAR, TOTAL M1 GREW BY 39.2 PER CENT, TOTAL M2 BY 29.3 PER CENT AND TOTAL M3 BY 26.0 PER CENT.

LOANS AND ADVANCES

TOTAL OUTSTANDING LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED BY BANKS AND DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES CONTINUED TO GROW RAPIDLY IN SEPTEMBER, BY 4.0 PER CENT AFTER INCREASES OF 5.8 PER CENT IN JULY AND 4.9 PER CENT IN AUGUST. AS IN THE PREVIOUS FEW MONTHS, A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THIS INCREASE WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FAST GROWTH IN OFFSHORE LOANS. CONSISTENT WITH THIS, LOANS DENOMINATED IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES INCREASED BY 4.7 PER CENT, WHILE THOSE DENOMINATED IN HONG KONG DOLLARS GREW BY 3.2 PER CENT.

LOANS TO FINANCE THE VISIBLE TRADE OF HONG KONG FELL SLIGHTLY IN SEPTEMBER, BY 0.4 PER CENT; OVER THE YEAR THESE LOANS GREW BY 23.3 PER CENT. OTHER LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG GREW FASTER IN SEPTEMBER, BY 3.6 PER CENT FOLLOWING AN INCREASE OF 1.9 PER CENT IN AUGUST. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 29.9 PER CENT. LOANS FOR USE OUTSIDE HONG KONG GREW SLOWER IN SEPTEMBER, BY 0.1 PER CENT, BUT LOANS WHERE THE PLACE OF USE IS UNKNOWN INCREASED BY 29.3 PER CENT.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 11 -

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

IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1987, LOANS AND ADVANCES EXTENDED TO THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR ROSE BY 4.8 PER CENT AFTER INCREASES OF 4.3 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 2.0 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 17.9 PER CENT.

LOANS TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADES INCREASED MORE RAPIDLY THIS QUARTER, BY 10.3 PER CENT FOLLOWING INCREASES OF 0.1 PER CENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER AND 5.7 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 13.1 PER CENT.

LOANS TO THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR GREW BY 6.6 PER CENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER, AFTER FALLING BY 2.7 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS INCREASED BY 1.5 PER CENT.

LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY (OTHER THAN FLATS IN THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME) CONTINUED TO GROW, BY 5.9 PER CENT AFTER INCREASES OF 9.2 PER CENT AND 10.5 PER CENT IN THE PREVIOUS TWO QUARTERS. OVER THE YEAR, THESE LOANS GREW BY 37.5 PER CENT.

LOANS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN HOME PURCHASING GREW SLIGHTLY FASTER IN THE THIRD QUARTER. THESE LOANS ROSE BY 10.9 PER CENT AFTER AN INCREASE OF 10.4 PER CENT IN THE SECOND QUARTER.

LOANS TO FINANCIAL CONCERNS ALSO GREW RAPIDLY IN THE THIRD QUARTER, BY 44.6 PER CENT.

NUMBER OF REPORTING INSTITUTIONS

THE NUMBER OF REPORTING LICENSED BANKS AND LICENSED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 153 AND 35 RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THAT OF REPORTING REGISTERED DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES DECREASED BY 1 TO 238.

/TABLE 1

- 12 -
 TABLE 1 : MONETARY STATISTICS - SEPTEMBER 1987 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

	Sep 1987	Earlier months (% change to September 1987)		
		Aug 1987	Jun 1987	Sep 1986
(HK\$mn)				
Money Supply				
M1 - HK\$	62,876	57,619 (9.1 %)	57,157 (10.0 %)	45,603 (37.9 %)
Foreign currency	6,581	7,415 (-11.2 %)	8,437 (-22.0 %)	4,293 (53.3 %)
Total	69,456	65,033 (6.8 %)	65,594 (5.9 %)	49,896 (39.2 %)
M2 - HK\$	285,026	276,144 (3.2 %)	266,480 (7.0 %)	218,419 (30.5 %)
Foreign currency	332,932	334,270 (-0.4 %)	321,060 (3.7 %)	259,447 (28.3 %)
Total	617,958	610,415 (1.2 %)	587,541 (5.2 %)	477,866 (29.3 %)
M3 - HK\$	319,732	310,387 (3.0 %)	298,050 (7.3 %)	253,152 (26.3 %)
Foreign currency	362,031	363,351 (-0.4 %)	349,550 (3.6 %)	288,097 (25.7 %)
Total	681,763	673,737 (1.2 %)	647,601 (5.3 %)	541,248 (26.0 %)
Notes and coins in circulation	25,343	25,381 (-0.1 %)	24,185 (4.8 %)	21,260 (19.2 %)
of which held by public	22,287	22,158 (0.6 %)	21,126 (5.5 %)	18,451 (20.8 %)
Deposits				
Demand deposits	47,169	42,875 (10.0 %)	44,468 (6.1 %)	31,445 (50.0 %)
Savings deposits	148,736	142,313 (4.5 %)	141,408 (5.2 %)	113,219 (31.4 %)
Time deposits with banks	390,275	393,612 (-0.8 %)	370,350 (5.4 %)	307,873 (26.8 %)
Time deposits with dtcs	59,577	59,029 (0.9 %)	56,139 (6.1 %)	59,498 (0.1 %)
HK\$ deposits	289,980	280,927 (3.2 %)	268,996 (7.8 %)	229,292 (26.5 %)
US\$ deposits	224,197	222,099 (0.9 %)	213,562 (5.0 %)	193,509 (15.9 %)
Other foreign currency deposits	131,579	134,804 (-2.4 %)	129,807 (1.4 %)	89,235 (47.5 %)
All deposits	645,756	637,830 (1.2 %)	612,364 (5.5 %)	512,036 (26.1 %)
Foreign currency swap deposits	34,879	35,546 (-1.9 %)	33,058 (5.5 %)	30,375 (14.8 %)
Loans and advances				
To finance H.K.'s visible trade	42,429	42,584 (-0.4 %)	42,447 (0.0 %)	34,400 (23.3 %)
To finance merchandising trade not touching H.K.	7,908	5,564 (42.1 %)	5,497 (43.9 %)	6,857 (15.3 %)
Other loans for use in H.K.	340,534	328,855 (3.6 %)	310,044 (9.8 %)	262,058 (29.9 %)
Other loans for use outside H.K.	248,596	248,258 (0.1 %)	207,446 (19.8 %)	163,608 (51.9 %)
Other loans where the place of use is not known	56,372	43,588 (29.3 %)	37,076 (52.0 %)	29,192 (93.1 %)
Loans in HK\$	308,684	299,173 (3.2 %)	286,934 (7.6 %)	239,165 (29.1 %)
Loans in foreign currencies	387,156	369,677 (4.7 %)	315,576 (22.7 %)	256,949 (50.7 %)
Total loans and advances	695,839	668,849 (4.0 %)	602,510 (15.5 %)	496,114 (40.3 %)

TABLE 2 : QUARTERLY ANALYSIS OF LOANS FOR USE IN HONG KONG BY SECTOR - SEPTEMBER 1987

(HK\$mn)

	Sep 1987 -----	Earlier quarters (% change to September 1987)		
		Jun 1987 -----	Mar 1987 -----	Sep 1986 -----
Manufacturing	28,034	26,762 (4.6 %)	26,227 (6.9 %)	23,773 (17.9 %)
Transport and transport equipment	19,110	18,208 (5.0 %)	18,583 (2.8 %)	19,428 (-1.6 %)
Building, construction and property development	38,185	35,822 (6.6 %)	36,819 (3.7 %)	37,635 (1.5 %)
Wholesale and retail trade	39,270	35,593 (10.3 %)	33,688 (16.6 %)	34,708 (13.1 %)
Financial concerns*	35,610	24,621 (44.6 %)	23,975 (48.5 %)	22,424 (58.8 %)
Individuals:				
to purchase flats in the Home Ownership Scheme and Private Sector Participation Scheme	7,335	7,260 (1.0 %)	6,435 (14.0 %)	6,309 (16.3 %)
to purchase other residential property	54,782	51,744 (5.9 %)	46,848 (16.9 %)	39,835 (37.5 %)
other purposes	42,599	38,408 (10.9 %)	34,791 (22.4 %)	26,194 (62.6 %)
Others	75,609	71,626 (5.6 %)	65,786 (14.9 %)	51,752 (46.1 %)
Total	340,534	310,044 (9.8 %)	293,151 (16.2 %)	262,058 (29.9 %)

* This excludes funds advanced to banks and deposit-taking companies

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 14 -

SWAC DISCUSSES SOCIAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS

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THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SWAC) DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES, ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH, AT ITS MEETING TODAY (MONDAY).

A GREAT MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS FELT THAT THOSE AGED 70 APPLYING FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO INCOME DECLARATION AS THIS WAS CONTRARY TO THE CHINESE TRADITION OF "RESPECT FOR THE AGED".

ON THE EXTENSION OF OLD AGE ALLOWANCE DOWNWARDS TO THOSE AGED 65, MEMBERS ACCEPTED THAT THIS WAS A WELCOME PROPOSAL BUT THEIR VIEWS WERE DIVIDED ON WHETHER THOSE AGED 65 TO 69 SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE INCOME DECLARATION REQUIREMENT.

THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT EXTENSION DOWNWARDS WITHOUT THE INCOME DECLARATION REQUIREMENT WOULD BE TOO GREAT A BURDEN ON THE PUBLIC PURSE.

THEY ALSO FELT THAT THERE WAS A MORE URGENT NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS THE RATES OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND THE OLD AGE ALLOWANCE THAN INTRODUCING THIS DOWNWARD EXTENSION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MEMEBRS SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL THAT OLD AGE ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE INCREASED BY 10 PER CENT FROM \$255 TO \$280 PER MONTH.

THEY ALSO ENDORSED THE PROPOSAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE TWO LEVELS OF PAYMENT, ONE FOR THOSE AGED 65 TO 69 AND ONE FOR THOSE AGED 70 AND ABOVE.

THE VIEWS OF THE SWAC WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

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BOARD TO DISCUSS NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE LAYOUT PLAN

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WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO DISCUSS LAND USE PROPOSALS OF THE DRAFT NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE LAYOUT PLAN.

VIEWS OF LOCAL RESIDENTS WILL BE REFLECTED AT THE MEETING AS A CONSULTATION EXERCISE HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT OFFICE AND TWO DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS OF THE NGAU TSUEN AREA.

/THE NGAU

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 15 -

THE NGAU CHI WAN VILLAGE IS SITUATED AT THE NORTH OF THE LUNG CHEUNG ROAD. ITS SOUTHERN SECTION WAS COMPREHENSIVELY REDEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHOI HUNG MTR STATION WHILE THE NORTHERN VILLAGE REMAINED IN A STATE OF AN URBAN SLUM.

AT THE MEETING, MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA SITE AT MA CHAI HANG.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT, MR MOK YIU-KWONG, WILL PRESENT A PAPER AND BRIEF MEMBERS ON THE SITUATION OF TEMPORARY HOUSING SUPPLY IN URBAN KOWLOON AND IN THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT IN PARTICULAR.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE INFORMED ON THE LATEST SITUATION REGARDING DANGEROUS STRUCTURES IN CHUK YUEN UNITED VILLAGE AND THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DIAMOND HILL DEVELOPMENT.

REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR T.H. CHAU, WILL ALSO ATTEND THE MEETING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE FUNG MING HALL OF THE WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE.

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FESTIVAL PROMOTES PARTICIPATION, UNDERSTANDING

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NOW IN ITS 10TH YEAR, THE BIENNIAL TUEN MUN FESTIVAL CARRIED AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE WHICH MATCHED AN OLD CHINESE SAYING, "IT TAKES 10 YEARS TO GROW TREES BUT A HUNDRED TO REAR PEOPLE," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR KINGSLEY SIT, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE 1987 TUEN MUN FESTIVAL, MR SIT SAID AS A DEVELOPING NEW TOWN TUEN MUN HAD EVOLVED FROM A MARKET CENTRE OF 30,000 PEOPLE TO AN URBAN CENTRE OF MORE THAN 300,000 WITH ADEQUATE PROVISION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES FOR THE BURGEONING POPULATION.

HE BELIEVED THAT ANOTHER DECADE WOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIC SPIRIT SO THAT THE NEXT GENERATION WOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE IN A MORE WELL-EQUIPPED SOCIETY CHARACTERISED BY MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION.

/DURING THE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 16 -

DURING THE FESTIVAL FROM NOVEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 6, THERE WILL BE 47 LARGE, MEDIUM AND SMALL-SCALE CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THESE INCLUDE AN OPENING CEREMONY VARIETY SHOW, EXHIBITION, POP CONCERT, DRAMA COMPETITION, INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CONTEST, BEACH CARNIVAL, FILM SHOW AND A GYMNASTIC PERFORMANCE.

THE FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, IS SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD AND REGIONAL COUNCIL. THE ESTIMATED COST IS \$700,000.

MR SIT SAID HE HOPED THAT THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING COULD BE FOSTERED AMONG LOCAL PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT BODIES.

"ON THE CHARITABLE ASPECT, THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE ALSO PLANS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST AS PART OF THE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES TO MAKE IT MORE MEANINGFUL," HE ADDED.

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SPORTIVE FORTNIGHT FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS

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PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY IN KWUN TONG WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING THE KWUN TONG SPORTS FESTIVAL '87.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE KWUNG TONG DISTRICT BOARD, THE DISTRICT OFFICE, URBAN COUNCIL AND THE KWUN TONG SPORTS PROMOTION ASSOCIATION, THE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD BETWEEN NOVEMBER 8 AND 22.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPORTS FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MR RONNIE WONG, SAID THE FESTIVAL WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING A SPORTING INTEREST AMONG RESIDENTS AS WELL AS TO INSTALL A SENSE OF DISTRICT BELONGING.

MR WONG SAID FESTIVAL PROGRAMMES HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO CATER FOR DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND NEEDS.

"THERE WILL BE A TELE-MATCH DAY FOR WORKERS, A FUN DAY FOR THE DISABLED, A GAMES DAY FOR THE ELDERLY WHICH WILL INCLUDE A TAI-CHI DEMONSTRATION AND A MINI OLYMPICS FOR CHILDREN," HE SAID.

/YOUNG SPORTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 17 -

"YOUNG SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS WILL CERTAINLY ENJOY POPULAR EVENTS SUCH AS AN ATHLETIC MEET, SPORTS CAMP, BALL GAMES AND DEMONSTRATIONS, ROUND-THE-DISTRICT RACE, DISCO NITE AT SEA, ROLLER SKATING AND A TRAMPOLINING FUN DAY," HE ADDED.

THE SPORTS FESTIVAL WILL BE OPENED ON NOVEMBER 8 AT THE NEWLY-COMPLETED KOWLOON BAY RECREATION GROUND, WITH THE CEREMONY FEATURING LION AND DRAGON DANCES, BRASS BAND PERFORMANCE AND HOISTING OF A FLAG.

"TO ADD COLOUR TO THE OPENING, AN EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE WILL ALSO BE STAGED, INTRODUCING A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO DISTRICT SPORTS ACTIVITIES," MR WONG SAID.

TO MARK THE CLOSING ON NOVEMBER 22, HE SAID A CELEBRITY BASKETBALL MATCH AND A GO-KART RACE WOULD BE STAGED.

ALSO PRESENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE WERE THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDDY CHAN; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR LAM HANG-FAI; PRESIDENT OF THE SPORTS FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR YU SUN-SAY AND CHAIRMEN OF ITS SUB-COMMITTEES AS WELL AS THE DISTRICT RECREATION AND SPORTS OFFICER OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR CHOW SHIU-LUN.

MR CHAN SAID THE SPORTS FESTIVAL WAS THE RESULT OF CONCERTED EFFORTS BY MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

HE HOPED THAT KWUN TONG RESIDENTS, THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS, WOULD CULTIVATE A GREATER SENSE OF BELONGING AND BE ABLE TO DO MORE TOWARDS BUILDING THE COMMUNITY.

THE SPORTS FESTIVAL HAS A BUDGET OF \$500,000, OF WHICH \$300,000 COMES FROM THE DISTRICT BOARD, \$30,000 FROM THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE BALANCE FROM LOCAL PERSONALITIES.

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/18

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 18 -

SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE HANDLES 4,894 ENQUIRIES A MONTH
* * * * *

THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE'S ENQUIRY CENTRE HANDLES AN AVERAGE OF 4,894 ENQUIRIES AND 1,420 STATUTORY DECLARATIONS A MONTH, PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN SHA TIN, REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), DR JAMES HAYES, SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE MA ON SHAN SUB-OFFICE IN HENG ON ESTATE, DR HAYES SAID ENQUIRY SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SO THAT RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE A BETTER SENSE OF BELONGING TO AND KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

HE NOTED THAT HENG ON ESTATE, WHICH AT PRESENT ACCOMMODATED MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE, WAS THE LATEST PUBLIC HOUSING SCHEME ON STREAM IN MA ON SHAN.

"THE POPULATION IN MA ON SHAN WILL GROW TO ABOUT 200,000 BY THE MID-1990'S AND THE AREA WILL BECOME THE NINTH CONSTITUENCY OF SHA TIN IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION NEXT MARCH," HE SAID.

"THE SUB-OFFICE'S COMMUNITY CENTRE AND ENQUIRY CENTRE AT HENG ON ESTATE WILL GREATLY FACILITATE RESIDENTS IN MA ON SHAN," HE ADDED.

DR HAYES NOTED THAT VARIOUS VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WOULD MOVE INTO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR RESIDENTS.

"I HOPE LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL MAKE FULL USE OF THE COMMUNITY HALL IN THE CENTRE, WHICH IS OPEN TO BOOKING BY THE PUBLIC," HE ADDED.

ALSO ATTENDING TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY WERE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR VICTOR YUNG; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR NG CHAN-LAM AND DB MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT OFFICE.

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EYE CARE CAMPAIGN ORGANISED FOR ELDERLY
* * * * *

A THREE-WEEK EYE CARE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELDERLY WILL BE HELD FROM NOVEMBER 7 TO 27 IN WAN CHAI AND EASTERN DISTRICTS.

THE CAMPAIGN IS CO-ORGANISED BY THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD AND EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HONG KONG OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION.

/THE CAMPAIGN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 19 -

THE CAMPAIGN AIMS AT DISSEMINATING EYE-CARE KNOWLEDGE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS AND ALSO AT PROVIDING EYE-CARE SERVICES TO RESIDENTS IN WAN CHAI AND EASTERN DISTRICTS WHO ARE AGED OVER 60.

A PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

THE JOINT CHAIRMEN OF THE CAMPAIGN'S ORGANISING COMMITTEES, MRS ANNA TANG AND MR TO BOON-MAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, MRS THERESA LAU PO WING-KAM, WILL SPEAK AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 12 NOON AT CITYPLAZA HARBOUR RESTAURANT, CITYPLAZA PHASE II, TAIKOO SHING.

A LUNCH RECEPTION WILL BE HELD AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS

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A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS TO ORGANISE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES IN WAN CHAI WILL BE TABLED AT A MEETING OF THE DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THESE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE CARE FOR THE OLD CAMPAIGN, CHINESE FOLK DANCE VARIETY SHOW, COLOURING COMPETITION-CARNIVAL FOR CHILDREN, PRINTING OF PAMPHLETS ON RELIGIOUS CULTS AND A SEMINAR ON "DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 4 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR, TUNG WAH MANSION, 201 HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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/20

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 20 -

MEETING TO DISCUSS YOUTH SERVICES SURVEY

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THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY ON THE NEEDS OF YOUTH SERVICES AT A MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

THE SURVEY, SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, WAS AIMED AT FINDING OUT THE PATTERN OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES OF MONG KOK YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 15 AND 24, AS WELL AS THEIR NEEDS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE FINDINGS WILL BE USED AS REFERENCE BY LOCAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS FOR PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO BE BRIEFED ON REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE JOINT COUNCIL FOR THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED WILL PRESENT A PAPER AT THE MEETING.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, 157 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, KOWLOON.

NEW BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES AT LOK MA CHAU

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THE PROCESSING OF VISITORS AND CARGOES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA WILL BE SPEEDED UP BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR WITH THE COMPLETION OF NEW BORDER CONTROL FACILITIES IN LOK MA CHAU.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$58.9 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PROJECT AND WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED.

THE FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED INCLUDE A MAIN TERMINAL BUILDING, TWO CARGO EXAMINATION BUILDINGS, AN ANIMAL INSPECTION STATION, A WEIGH-BRIDGE, A HELICOPTER PAD AND A POLICE POST.

THE TERMINAL BUILDING WILL HAVE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 4,000 SQUARE METRES TO ACCOMMODATE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE.

/IN THE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 21 -

IN THE TWO SEPARATE INCOMING AND OUTGOING CARGO EXAMINATION BUILDINGS, THERE WILL BE 18 COUNTERS FOR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND 14 FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

THE ANIMAL INSPECTION STATION WILL BE STAFFED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOK MA CHAU CROSSING WILL BE ENHANCED WITH THE COMPLETION OF A NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE SHENZHEN RIVER AND A NEW TRUNK ROAD JOINING THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD, BOTH EXPECTED TO OPEN IN LATE 1988.

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ROAD WORKS IN TUEN MUN PROPOSED

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THE TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PROPOSING TO CARRY OUT A NUMBER OF ROAD WORKS NEAR WU KING TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA IN TUEN MUN TO SERVE THE FUTURE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

THESE INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD, MODIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF TWO EXISTING ROADS, AND FORMATION OF A LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT RESERVE.

THREE EXISTING FOOTBRIDGES NEARBY WILL ALSO BE EXTENDED.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS SCHEDULED TO START IN APRIL NEXT YEAR AND TAKE ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

ANY PERSON OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL SHOULD WRITE TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT BEFORE DECEMBER 29.

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/22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1987

- 22 -

TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLYOVER RECONSTRUCTION

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TO FACILITATE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN HO MAN TIN ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 4) AND FRIDAY (NOVEMBER 6) FROM 10 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT MORNING:

- * PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD SOUTHBOUND BETWEEN ARGYLE STREET AND PERTH STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
- * PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN PUI CHING ROAD AND ARGYLE STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC EXCEPT FOR LOCAL ACCESS.
- * DUNBAR ROAD BETWEEN PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD AND GULLANE ROAD WILL BE CONVERTED TO A TWO-WAY CUL-DE-SAC WITH ACCESS ONLY FROM GULLANE ROAD.
- * ALL VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND ON TO ARGYLE STREET WESTBOUND.
- * VEHICLES ON WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND GROUND-LEVEL CARRIAGEWAY AND ARGYLE STREET WESTBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD SOUTHBOUND WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WATERLOO ROAD, PUI CHING ROAD AND SHEUNG HING STREET TO REJOIN PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD. THOSE HEADING FOR DUNBAR ROAD AND PERTH STREET WILL HAVE TO TRAVEL VIA WATERLOO ROAD, PUI CHING ROAD, SHEUNG SHING STREET AND SHEK KU STREET.
- * VEHICLES ON PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR WATERLOO ROAD WILL HAVE TO USE THE SLIP ROAD TO PUI CHING ROAD AND WATERLOO ROAD.
- * KMB ROUTE NO. 7B ON ITS JOURNEY TO HUNG HOM WILL BE DIVERTED VIA WATERLOO ROAD, PUI CHING ROAD AND FAT KWONG STREET.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 68.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 399.002 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 384.522 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 65.6 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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