



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HOSTILITIES IN GULF CAUSE NO DIREST THREAT TO HK: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO DIRECT THREAT TO HONG KONG AS A RESULT OF THE GULF WAR.

"THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE SHORTAGES OF OIL AND NO IMMEDIATE SHORTAGES OF FOOD. BUT PEOPLE WILL, I'M SURE, WISH TO KNOW THAT WHENEVER CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE NECESSARY THAT THOSE CONTINGENCY PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP."

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS BEFORE ATTENDING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

"THE OTHER POINT IS THAT WHERE THERE ARE SECURITY MEASURES THAT ARE NECESSARY, JUST IN CASE THERE ARE CONTINGENT PROBLEMS, THOSE SECURITY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN. THE ONE OBVIOUS EXAMPLE THAT PEOPLE WILL FIND IS AT THE AIRPORT WHERE THERE IS INCREASED SECURITY AND INCREASED CHECKING," HE SAID.

"THAT MAY MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE MORE TIME TAKEN SOMETIMES TO GET THROUGH SOME OF THE CHECKS AT THE AIRPORT, BUT I'M SURE THAT EVERYBODY WILL WELL UNDERSTAND THE REASON FOR THAT AND THEY WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THAT PARTICULAR NEED," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS A TRAGEDY THAT ALL THE EFFORTS THAT HAD BEEN MADE TO GET A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO GET IRAQ TO WITHDRAW PEACEFULLY FROM KUWAIT HAD MET NO RESPONSE.

"NOW THAT HOSTILITIES HAVE STARTED WE MUST ALL HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE CONCLUDED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE," HE ADDED.

ASKED WHETHER IRAQIS IN HONG KONG WOULD BE ARRESTED, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF JUST ARRESTING PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY HAPPEN TO HAVE A PARTICULAR NATIONALITY.

"THE NUMBER OF IRAQIS IN HONG KONG CAN BE COUNTED ON LESS THAN THE FINGERS OF ONE HAND," HE SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE LONG TERM EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY, SIR DAVID SAID: "CLEARLY A CONFLICT WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE WORLD ECONOMY. ALREADY THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE."

"BUT WE DON'T GET AS DIRECTLY AFFECTED AS SOME OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND IN THAT SENSE WE ARE FORTUNATE; AND WE DON'T GET DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH OIL SUPPLIES AS SOME OTHER PLACES," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT THE GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY IN HONG KONG DEPENDED ON COAL AND NOT OIL, SIR DAVID SAID THE REAL ANSWER WOULD DEPEND ON HOW LONG THE CONFLICT LASTED: "AND NOBODY AT THIS STAGE CAN PREDICT HOW LONG THAT WILL BE."

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COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES' STATEMENT ON GULF CRISIS

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THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG, MAJOR GENERAL PETER DUFFELL, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON:

"YOU WILL BE AWARE THAT HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF STARTED THIS MORNING WITH THE ALLIED AIR AND MISSILE ATTACK ON IRAQI INSTALLATIONS. HEADQUARTERS BRITISH FORCES ARE MONITORING EVENTS AS CLOSELY AS WE CAN BUT AT THIS EARLY STAGE WE HAVE FEW DETAILS BEYOND MEDIA REPORTS.

"WE ARE AWARE THAT BRITISH FORCES, PARTICULARLY ROYAL AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT AND THEIR CREW WERE INVOLVED. AS MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH SERVICES WE NATURALLY FEEL A DEEP INTEREST IN THE PROGRESS AND OUTCOME OF THE HOSTILITIES AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOME 200 MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG GARRISON.

"AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE HOSTILITIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN LARGELY LIMITED TO AIR AND MISSILE ACTIVITY AND IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY OF THE HONG KONG GARRISON HAS YET BEEN INVOLVED.

"OUR SERVICEMEN INVOLVED IN THE GULF AND ALL THEIR FAMILIES ARE VERY MUCH IN OUR THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME. WE SHALL KEEP THE MEDIA INFORMED OF ANY EVENTS WHICH PARTICULARLY AFFECT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MEN OF THE HONG KONG GARRISON DEPLOYED IN THE GULF.

"HERE IN HONG KONG AS HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED, A NUMBER OF PRUDENT SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN, SOME OF WHICH INVOLVE THE GARRISON. IT WOULD NOT BE SENSIBLE TO ELABORATE ON THESE BUT THEY ARE BEING KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW TO MEET ANY PERCEIVED THREAT."

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OIL SUPPLIES REMAIN NORMAL IN HK

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WITH THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF, THE DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, TODAY (THURSDAY) GAVE AN ASSURANCE THAT OIL SUPPLIES REMAINED NORMAL AND "THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN".

SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR OF OIL SUPPLIES, MR BARMA SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE OIL COMPANIES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE STATISTICS ON LOCAL STOCKS AND THE DATES OF SHIPMENTS TO HONG KONG.

HE SAID SINCE STOCKS BOTH LOCALLY AND IN THE REGION WERE ADEQUATE TO MEET NORMAL DEMAND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR PEOPLE TO BUY MORE FUEL THAN WAS NECESSARY. HE ALSO REMINDED THE PUBLIC THAT STORING FUELS SUCH AS PETROL WAS DANGEROUS.

"IN VIEW OF THE SUPPLY SITUATION, THE RETAIL PRICE OF OIL PRODUCTS LOCALLY IS STABLE AND, EVEN IF THERE IS A SUDDEN INCREASE IN WORLD PRICES BECAUSE OF THE GULF WAR, IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE EFFECTS, IF ANY, WOULD BE FELT IN HONG KONG," MR BARMA SAID.

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HE SAID HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR SUPPLIES AND PRICES.

HE CONFIRMED THAT THE OIL DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE COMPRISING OIL COMPANY AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET REGULARLY TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.

"FURTHER UPDATES WILL BE PROVIDED AS NECESSARY," MR BARMA SAID.

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AIR MAIL SERVICES TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES SUSPENDED

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ALL AIR MAIL SERVICES INCLUDING SPEEDPOST TO A NUMBER OF MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES ARE SUSPENDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

THESE COUNTRIES ARE:

BAHRAIN (STATE OF)	CYPRUS
GAZA AND KHAN YUNIS	IRAN
IRAQ	ISRAEL
JORDAN	KUWAIT
LEBANON	OMAN, SULTANATE OF
QATAR (DOHA AND UMM SAID)	SAUDI ARABIA
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	TURKEY
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	YEMEN (REPUBLIC OF)

IN ADDITION, AIR PARCEL, SMALL PACKET AND SPEEDPOST MERCHANDISE SERVICES TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND ALL CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE SUSPENDED DUE TO RESTRICTIVE AIRLINE PROVISION.

SPEEDPOST AND AIR LETTERS CONTAINING ONLY PERSONAL OR BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE TO THESE PLACES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTED.

AS A RESULT OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN BY AIRLINES IN RESPONSE TO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GULF AREA, THE PUBLIC MAY EXPECT SOME DELAY IN AIR MAIL SERVICES TO ALL DESTINATIONS OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST.

SURFACE MAIL TO MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES EXCEPT IRAQ AND KUWAIT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED FOR THE TIME BEING.

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE HIGH COURT AND DISTRICT COURT

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THE JUDICIARY TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENTS OF A HIGH COURT JUDGE AND FIVE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES.

JUDGE THOMAS MITCHELL GALL WAS APPOINTED A HIGH COURT JUDGE WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 14, 1991.

BORN IN BURRA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, IN 1942, MR GALL RECEIVED HIS LEGAL EDUCATION IN ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY FROM 1960 TO 1965. HE BECAME BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA IN 1966.

MR GALL WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE FROM 1966 TO 1973 WHEN HE JOINED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG AS A CROWN COUNSEL. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1976, AND TO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1981. HE WAS APPOINTED A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE IN 1982.

OF THE FIVE APPOINTMENTS OF JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT, THREE WERE FROM WITHIN THE JUDICIARY AND TWO FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE APPOINTMENTS OF MISS LEAH CANNON, MISS CLARE MARIE BEESON AND MR MICHAEL PETER BURRELL, ALL FORMERLY PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATES, TOOK EFFECT FROM JANUARY 14, 1991.

MISS CANNON WAS BORN IN GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, IN 1937. SHE STUDIED IN UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO FROM 1962 TO 1968, WAS ADMITTED AS SOLICITOR IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1968 AND AS BARRISTER THE FOLLOWING YEAR. SHE WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE BETWEEN 1969 AND 1981.

IN 1982, MISS CANNON WAS APPOINTED A MAGISTRATE IN HONG KONG AND WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE IN 1987.

BORN IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1948, MISS BEESON OBTAINED LL.B DEGREE IN UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND IN 1971. SHE WAS ADMITTED AS BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW ZEALAND IN 1972.

MISS BEESON WAS A SOLICITOR IN NEW ZEALAND BETWEEN MARCH 1973 AND MARCH 1975. SHE JOINED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT IN HONG KONG AS A CROWN COUNSEL IN APRIL 1975 AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1980. SHE WAS APPOINTED A MAGISTRATE IN 1984 AND PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE IN 1990.

MR BURRELL WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1948. HE ATTENDED CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FROM 1967 TO 1970 AND WAS CALLED TO THE BAR IN 1971.

BETWEEN 1972 AND 1986, MR BURRELL PRACTISED AS A BARRISTER IN LIVERPOOL. HE WAS APPOINTED A MAGISTRATE IN HONG KONG IN 1986, AND WAS PROMOTED TO PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE IN 1990. HE IS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG MAGISTRATES ASSOCIATION.

THE APPOINTMENTS OF MR COLIN GRAHAM JACKSON AND MR BERNARD WHALEY, BOTH FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WILL TAKE EFFECT ON COMPLETION OF THEIR PRESENT DUTIES.

BORN IN ENGLAND IN 1945, MR JACKSON OBTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE AT LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY IN 1967. HE WAS ADMITTED AS A SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1970 AND AS A BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA IN 1982.

MR JACKSON JOINED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AS CROWN COUNSEL IN JANUARY 1981. HE WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1982, TO DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1986, AND TO PRINCIPAL CROWN COUNSEL IN 1989.

MR WHALEY, BORN IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA IN 1944, OBTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN IN 1967. HE WAS A PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA, FROM 1970 TO 1972, AND WAS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE HIGH COURT OF RHODESIA BETWEEN 1972 AND 1983.

IN JUNE 1983, MR WHALEY JOINED THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT AS CROWN COUNSEL AND WAS PROMOTED TO SENIOR CROWN COUNSEL IN 1984.

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SOUTHERNERS RETURN TO VIETNAM

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, A SPECIAL STOP WAS MADE IN SOUTH VIETNAM TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE LATEST OF THE REGULAR FLIGHTS CARRYING VIETNAMESE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO GO HOME.

THIS WAS TO ALLOW 29 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE TO DISEMBARK IN HO CHI MINH CITY.

WELCOMING THE DEVELOPMENT, THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR CLINTON LEEKS, SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME A GROUP OF SOUTHERNERS HAD RETURNED HOME FROM HONG KONG UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

A FEW INDIVIDUAL SOUTHERNERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY GONE BACK BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR SMALL NUMBERS, THEY HAVE RETURNED VIA HANOI ON THE REGULAR UNHCR FLIGHTS.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN LARGE ENOUGH TO FORM A GROUP FOR RETURN, AND THEREFORE TO ARRANGE A SEPARATE STOP IN HO CHI MINH CITY.

MR LEEKS SAID THIS INDICATED THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE GETTING THE MESSAGE THAT THERE WAS NO FUTURE FOR NON-REFUGEES STUCK IN DETENTION CENTRES IN HONG KONG.

"LIKE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE BEFORE THEM, SOUTHERNERS ARE NOW REALISING THAT FOR THE GREAT MAJORITY WHO WILL BE SCREENED OUT AS NON-REFUGEES, HONG KONG IS NOT A SHORT CUT TO A NEW LIFE IN THE WEST.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR US AS MOST OF OUR ARRIVALS IN 1990 AND SO FAR IN 1991 HAVE COME FROM SOUTH VIETNAM," HE SAID.

MR LEEKS POINTED OUT THAT SOME 6,400 VOLUNTEERS HAD ALREADY GONE BACK IN ORDER TO BUILD NEW LIVES FOR THEMSELVES IN VIETNAM OR TO APPLY TO EMIGRATE LEGALLY UNDER THE ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAMME.

"WE HOPE THAT MANY OF THE OTHER THOUSANDS OF SOUTHERNERS ALREADY IN DETENTION CENTRES WILL FOLLOW SUIT, RATHER THAN WASTE THEIR TIME LANGUISHING IN A DETENTION CENTRE IN HONG KONG WITHOUT ANY HOPE OF RESETTLEMENT.

"OUR MESSAGE TO ANY OTHERS CONSIDERING SETTING OUT FOR HONG KONG IS FOR THEM TO THINK AGAIN, IN VIEW OF THE BLEAK PROSPECTS THEY FACE," HE SAID.

A TOTAL OF 123 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE LEFT ON TODAY'S REPATRIATION FLIGHT.

THE 29 SOUTHERNERS WERE MADE UP OF 19 MEN, FOUR WOMEN, TWO BOYS AND FOUR GIRLS.

THE 94 OTHERS IN THE GROUP COMPRISED 40 MEN, 19 WOMEN, 20 BOYS AND 15 GIRLS.

THIS WAS THE 47TH FLIGHT UNDER THE UNHCR PROGRAMME, BRINGING TO 6,510 THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE RETURNED TO VIETNAM SINCE THE PROGRAMME BEGAN IN MARCH 1989.

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ARRANGEMENT FOR INT'L VALUE ADDED SERVICES
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FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS, VALUE ADDED DATA AND FACSIMILE SERVICES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S. MAY NOW BE PROVIDED TO THIRD PARTIES USING INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE LEASED CIRCUITS (IPLC'S), A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"THE SERVICES INVOLVED WILL BE PROVIDED ON IPLC'S LEASED AT THE NORMAL FLAT RATES FROM HONG KONG TELECOM INTERNATIONAL LTD AT THE HONG KONG END AND FROM THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS AT THE U.S. END.

"IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL OPEN THE WAY FOR THE COMPETITIVE PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF AFFORDABLE INTERNATIONAL VALUE ADDED SERVICES TARGETTED AT THE SOPHISTICATED BUSINESS USER," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE SAID THE ARRANGEMENT APPLIED ONLY TO VALUE ADDED SERVICES PROVIDED BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE U.S.

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"HOWEVER, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITH OTHER LIKEMINDED TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE," HE ADDED.

INDUSTRY ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF SERVICES COVERED BY THE ARRANGEMENT AND THE LICENSING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE IN HONG KONG SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, HONG KONG POST OFFICE, FIFTH FLOOR, SINCERE BUILDING, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

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AMENDMENTS TO DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN THE WAY DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE SOLD AND CONSUMED ILLEGALLY, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES CERTAIN CHANGES TO THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ORDINANCE.

THE DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), IS TO REMOVE UNRELIABLE PROVISIONS AND IMPROVE INADEQUATE ONES RELATING TO THE PRESUMPTION THAT POSSESSION OF MORE THAN SPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF DANGEROUS DRUGS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAFFICKING.

"THE SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN THE PURITY OF NO. 3 HEROIN AND THE EMERGENCE OF HIGH PURITY NO. 4 HEROIN AT STREET LEVEL IN RECENT YEARS HAVE RADICALLY CHANGED THE LOCAL DRUG ABUSE PATTERN, LEADING MORE ADDICTS TO CONSUME NO. 4 HEROIN OR A MIXTURE OF NO. 3 AND NO. 4 HEROIN," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IN ADDITION TO PACKETS, HEROIN IS NOW SOLD IN SEALED DRINKING STRAW SEGMENTS, OR EVEN ALREADY MADE UP IN SYRINGES.

"THERE ARE ALSO MIXTURES CONTAINING A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF VARIOUS DANGEROUS DRUGS ABUSED BY ADDICTS."

THE BILL IS TO AMEND SECTION 46 OF THE ORDINANCE BY RAISING THE PRESUMPTION OF POSSESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAFFICKING WHERE A PERSON IS IN POSSESSION OF MORE THAN FIVE "CONTAINERS" OF DANGEROUS DRUGS OR IN POSSESSION OF ONE OR MORE DANGEROUS DRUGS WEIGHING HALF A GRAM OR MORE.

UNDER THE EXISTING LAW A PERSON IS PRESUMED TO HAVE POSSESSION OF DRUGS FOR TRAFFICKING IF HE HAS MORE THAN A SPECIFIED QUANTITY OF A MIXTURE CONTAINING DANGEROUS DRUGS.

BECAUSE NO. 3 HEROIN IS NOW SUCH A WEAK MIXTURE - LESS THAN THREE PER CENT PURE COMPARED WITH 30 PER CENT PURE A DECADE AGO - THIS IS NO LONGER A RELIABLE YARDSTICK.

IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED TO CHANGE THE LAW SO THAT THE PRESUMPTION IS RAISED WHEN THE ACTUAL WEIGHT OF THE DANGEROUS DRUGS - NOT THE MIXTURE IN WHICH IT IS CONTAINED - EXCEEDS A SPECIFIED LEVEL.

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ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNLAWFUL TRAFFICKING FACES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 MILLION. HIS PROCEEDS FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING MAY ALSO BE CONFISCATED.

THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 30.

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POTENTIAL CANDIDATES URGED TO SUBMIT NOMINATION FORMS EARLY

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POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE 1991 DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ARE REMINDED THAT THE NOMINATION PERIOD WILL CLOSE ON MONDAY (JANUARY 21).

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID: "THE CLOSING TIME OF DISTRICT OFFICES IN THE URBAN AREA IS 5.30 PM AND THAT OF NEW TERRITORIES OFFICES IS 5.15 PM."

"CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO HAND IN THEIR NOMINATION FORMS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT ANY ANOMALY CAN BE RECTIFIED BY THE CLOSE OF PLAY ON MONDAY."

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HK ENTERS NEW PHASE IN IMO AFFAIRS

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WITH THE COMING INTO OPERATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER, HONG KONG ENTERS A NEW PHASE IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION (IMO) AFFAIRS, THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR MICHAEL C.C. SZE, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A HONG KONG SHIPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON MEETING, MR SZE SAID HONG KONG WAS NOW SOLELY RESPONSIBLE TO THE OWNERS OF HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS FOR ENSURING THAT THEIR INTERESTS WERE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN THE FORMULATION OF SHIPPING POLICY AND THE CREATION OF NEW OBLIGATIONS BY THE IMO.

"IN ORDER TO DISCHARGE THIS VERY IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY EFFECTIVELY I HAVE RE-ORGANISED THE FORMER TECHNICAL POLICY DIVISION, MARINE DEPARTMENT SO THAT REPRESENTATION AT THE IMO HAS BECOME THE DIVISION'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY," HE SAID.

THE DIVISION HAS BEEN RENAMED THE MULTILATERAL POLICY DIVISION AND ITS OBJECTIVES ARE:

- * TO SECURE (AT ANY IMO OR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS) THE BEST ATTAINABLE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER OUTCOMES FOR THE GENERAL BENEFIT OF HONG KONG;

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- * TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HONG KONG'S PORT AND SHIPPING INTERESTS AND THE SHIPPING SERVICES HONG KONG PROVIDES IN ITS POSITION AS A MAJOR PORT AND WORLD SHIPPING CENTRE;
- * TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HONG KONG HAS A RESPONSIBLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION WITH STRONG PROFESSIONAL BACK-UP WHICH IS CONCERNED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS FOR SAFETY AT SEA AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT;
- * TO PROMOTE AND TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE REGISTER; AND
- * TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH OWNERS OF HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS TO ENSURE THE INTERESTS OF SUCH OWNERS ARE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN ALL THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES.

AS REGARDS LIAISON WITH OWNERS OF HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS, MR SZE SAID HE WAS IN FAVOUR OF A STANDING COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE ON MATTERS RELATING TO HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION AT THE IMO AND THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE REGISTER.

MR SZE SAID: "WE WILL NEED TO HAVE ON THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION. EQUALLY, WE MUST HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF OWNERS OF HONG KONG REGISTERED SHIPS.

"THESE WILL BE CHOSEN NOT NECESSARILY ON THE BASIS OF REGISTERED TONNAGE BUT ON ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING POLICY."

MR SZE THANKED THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SHIPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP THE AUTONOMOUS HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER.

THE SHIPPING REGISTER, WHICH BEGAN OPERATIONS ON DECEMBER 3 LAST YEAR, IS BACKED UP BY A POOL OF QUALIFIED MARINE PROFESSIONALS, MASTER MARINERS, ENGINEERS AND SHIP SURVEYORS.

IN ADDITION, HONG KONG'S FIRST PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IMO WAS APPOINTED IN 1987 AND BASED IN LONDON. THIS GAVE HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE FULL RANGE OF IMO BUSINESS.

APART FROM THE IMO THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ALSO PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY IN NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BODIES.

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GOVT GRADUATE TEACHERS URGED TO MAINTAIN PROFESSIONALISM

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THE FOLLOWING IS ISSUED TODAY (THURSDAY) IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE UNION OF GRADUATE OFFICERS IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS' REACTION TO THE RECENT REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TODAY APPEALED TO GRADUATE TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND AVOID TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD DISRUPT THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS UNDER THEIR CARE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED THE STANDING COMMISSION'S REPORT AND THAT ANY RECONSIDERATION WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THE TEACHERS COULD PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL NEW ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CASE.

HOWEVER, IF THEIR CONCERNS DID NOT FALL WITHIN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSION, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS THESE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEACHERS' UNION CONCERNED.

"WE HOPE THAT THE TEACHERS WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THEIR CONCERNS WITH THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH EXISTING CHANNELS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESSMEN IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED EFFORT IN IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND POLICY COMMITMENT MADE IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION HAS GIVEN RISE TO MANY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 1990'S, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THE PRIVATE SECTOR EXPENDITURE ON ENVIRONMENT-RELATED PRODUCTS OVER THE NEXT DECADE WOULD BE AT LEAST EQUIVALENT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECTED BUDGET FOR THE PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES WHICH WAS ABOUT \$20 BILLION AT 1988 PRICES.

DR REED TOLD MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AT ITS LUNCHEON MEETING THAT THROUGH VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES, THEY COULD CONTRIBUTE BOTH PERSONALLY AND THROUGH THE OPERATION OF THEIR COMPANIES TO HALT THE EXPLOITATION OF HONG KONG'S LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS.

HE SAID THIS COULD BE DONE BY PROVIDING SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FIELD TO SUPPORT THE VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN HAND, AND BY MAKING SURE THAT ANY PRODUCTS THEY INTRODUCED TO THE HONG KONG MARKET WERE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY.

/"FOR EXAMPLE

"FOR EXAMPLE, I BELIEVE THAT FRANCE EXPORTED TO HONG KONG OVER \$100 MILLION OF PAPER AND PAPER BOARD LAST YEAR. I HOPE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THIS WAS OF THE RECYCLED VARIETY.

"WE IN EPD ARE CERTAINLY VERY KEEN TO PROMOTE THE USE OF RECYCLED PAPER WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND ELSEWHERE IN HONG KONG AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SCHEMES UNDERWAY AT PRESENT INVOLVING EITHER WASTE PAPER COLLECTION OR TRIALS OF RECYCLED PRODUCTS.

"ALSO, I HOPE THAT VEHICLE IMPORTERS WILL BE READY TO IMPORT THE VERSIONS FITTED WITH CATALYTIC CONVERTERS SHORTLY AFTER WE INTRODUCE UNLEADED PETROL ON APRIL 1, 1991 AND IN ADVANCE OF THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENT IN EARLY 1992 FOR NEW CARS TO BE FITTED WITH CATALYTIC CONVERTERS."

DR REED SAID ANOTHER WAY THAT MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION COULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENT WAS WHERE THEY WERE RESOURCING FRENCH IMPORTS FROM HONG KONG.

"YOU CAN DO THIS BY TAKING A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE EFFECT THAT THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH ITEMS HAS ON THE HONG KONG ENVIRONMENT," HE SAID.

"YOU MAY FEEL THAT I AM BEING UNREALISTIC IN SUGGESTING TO YOU THAT YOU DON'T SOURCE THESE GOODS FROM FACTORIES THAT PUSH OUT WAVES OF BLUE AND ORANGE DYES INTO THE NEW TERRITORIES STREAMS AND OUR COASTAL WATERS," HE SAID, "ALTHOUGH I KNOW OF ONE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CLOTHING CHAIN IN HONG KONG WHICH IS CONSIDERING DOING JUST THAT."

HONG KONG EXPORTED AND RE-EXPORTED TO FRANCE OVER \$1 BILLION WORTH OF CLOTHING IN 1990.

DR REED SAID MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO GAIN COMMERCIALY AND FINANCIALLY FROM HONG KONG'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES.

OUTLINING THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES FOR PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT OVER THE COMING DECADE, DR REED SAID "ENVIRONMENT" WOULD BE A MAJOR BUSINESS GROWTH AREA FOR THE YEARS TO COME IN HONG KONG.

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UPWARD TREND IN NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES IN 1990

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NINETEEN NINETY WAS THE FIRST YEAR SINCE 1986 WHICH SHOWED AN UPWARD TREND IN THE NUMBER OF NEW INSOLVENCIES REACHING THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE, THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST YEAR SINCE 1985 THAT NEW COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS WERE MORE THAN NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES.

"THERE WERE 286 NEW COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 209 NEW PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING FIGURES OF 158 AND 177 IN 1989, AN INCREASE OF 47.76 PER CENT," MR GLEESON SAID.

"HOWEVER, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW CASES AT 495 WAS ONLY 71 PER CENT OF THE HIGHEST EVER TOTAL FIGURE OF 699 WHICH WAS RECORDED IN 1985," HE ADDED.

THE BUSINESSES MAINLY AFFECTED BY BANKRUPTCIES AND COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS INCLUDED GARMENT AND KNITTING MANUFACTURING AND TRADING, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, COMPANY DIRECTORS GIVING PERSONAL GUARANTEES, CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING AND RESTAURANTS AND CANTEENS.

PETITIONS WERE FILED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID (50 PER CENT), TRADE CREDITORS (25 PER CENT), BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (20 PER CENT) AND OTHERS (FIVE PER CENT).

MORE COMPLICATED OR SIGNIFICANT INSOLVENCIES DURING THE YEAR WERE MAGNIFICENT GARMENTS LTD, GRAND UNION LIFE ASSURANCE LTD, ARMOUR INSURANCE CO. LTD, NATIONAL EMPLOYERS' MUTUAL GENERAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION LTD, VAN SHUN DYEING FACTORY LTD, SANG LEE INVESTMENT CO. LTD, COIN HOUSE LTD, AND PAUL NG ALSO KNOWN AS NG TSE MO.

TOTAL DIVIDENDS DECLARED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER DURING 1990 AMOUNTED TO \$54.8 MILLION IN 253 INSOLVENCIES, AS AGAINST \$139.9 MILLION IN 308 INSOLVENCIES IN 1989.

MR GLEESON NOTED THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL PAY-OUT IN ONE LARGE INSOLVENCY DURING 1989.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE INSOLVENCY CASES BEING HANDLED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE AT THE END OF THE YEAR WAS 1,573, REPRESENTING 870 COMPULSORY COMPANY LIQUIDATIONS AND 703 PERSONAL BANKRUPTCIES, AS AGAINST A TOTAL OF 1,608 AT THE END OF 1989.

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER AT THE END OF THE YEAR TOTALLED \$1,004 MILLION AS AGAINST \$1,297 MILLION AT THE END OF 1989, A DECREASE OF 22.5 PER CENT.

HE ALSO ADMINISTERED A SUM OF US\$7.8 MILLION TOGETHER WITH A JOINT LIQUIDATOR.

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CUSTOMS AND POLICE JOINT OPERATION AT LO WU CARGO YARD
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THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE TODAY (THURSDAY) CONTINUED THEIR CLAMP-DOWN ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON BOARD FREIGHT WAGONS COMING FROM CHINA.

IN AN OPERATION CONDUCTED AT THE LO WU CARGO YARD, OFFICERS SEARCHED THE WAGONS TO DETECT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA AND CONTRABAND CONCEALED AMONG CARGOES, IN PARTICULAR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CUSTOMS CONTROL POINTS COMMAND, MR LEUNG HO, SAID THE OPERATION WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS IN CURBING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT OCCUR ON BOARD FREIGHT WAGONS.

"THERE WILL BE NO LET-UP IN OUR EFFORTS AND SIMILAR OPERATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN FUTURE," MR LEUNG SAID.

TODAY'S OPERATION WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS. POLICE OFFICERS FIRST SEARCHED ALL FREIGHT WAGONS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA. THEN CUSTOMS OFFICERS TOOK OVER AND SEARCHED THE CARGO.

EIGHT POLICE DETECTOR DOGS WERE ALSO USED TO ASSIST IN THE OPERATION.

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF THREE TONS OF FIREWORKS BY THE POLICE AT TAI PO, MR LEUNG TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE PUBLIC NOT TO BRING FIREWORKS, SUCH AS FIRECRACKERS, INTO HONG KONG ON THEIR RETURN FROM CHINA.

"UNDER THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE, ANY PERSON CONVICTED OF STORING DANGEROUS GOODS WITHOUT A LICENCE IS LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$25,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT," HE SAID.

THE PUBLIC ARE ALSO REMINDED NOT TO BRING INTO HONG KONG OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS, SUCH AS DANGEROUS DRUGS, ANTIBIOTICS AND PART I POISONS. CONTRAVENTION WILL BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER RELEVANT ORDINANCES.

THE QUANTITIES OF DUTIABLE GOODS IMPORTED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS IN THEIR BAGGAGE FOR THEIR OWN USE WHICH MIGHT BE EXEMPTED FROM DUTY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- LIQUOR - ONE LITRE OF STILL WINE
- TOBACCO - 100 CIGARETTES OR 25 CIGARS OR 125 GRAMS OF SMOKERS' TOBACCO
- PERFUME - 60 MILLILITRES
- TOILET WATER - 250 MILLILITRES

"PASSENGERS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO BRING IN LIQUOR OR TOBACCO," HE ADDED.

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FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENT PRINTING FACTORY SMASHED

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CONTINUED EFFORTS BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CRACKED A SUSPECTED FORGED TRAVEL DOCUMENT PRINTING FACTORY IN CENTRAL TODAY (THURSDAY), WITH THE ARRESTS OF FIVE PEOPLE, ONE OF WHOM BELIEVED TO BE THE FACTORY'S OPERATOR.

THE OPERATION WAS JOINTLY CONDUCTED BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE'S ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE SCENE, THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT'S INVESTIGATION DIVISION, MR P.K. LEUNG, SAID THE OPERATION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL.

"THE PRODUCTION MACHINERY OF THE FORGERY SYNDICATE, WHICH WAS SMASHED TWO DAYS AGO, HAD BEEN SEIZED," HE SAID.

THE SEIZURE INCLUDED TWO PRINTING MACHINES, ELECTROPLATES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH HONG KONG PASSPORTS, AND FINISHED COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS.

THE FIVE SUSPECTS ARE STILL UNDER IMMIGRATION CUSTODY.

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CHILDREN NEED REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

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THERE IS A NEED TO MAKE CHILDREN IN HONG KONG PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES SO THAT A HEALTHY EXERCISE HABIT CAN BE DEVELOPED AND SUSTAINED THROUGHOUT THEIR ADULTHOOD, THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE SCHOOL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD SCHEME, MR LI ALSO POINTED OUT TO PARENTS AND SCHOOL HEADS THAT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH HAD INDICATED THAT MODERATE EXERCISE ENABLED INDIVIDUALS TO DO BETTER IN VARIOUS ACADEMIC TESTS.

ATTENDING WERE LADY WILSON AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG CHILDHEALTH FOUNDATION, DR HENRIETTA IP.

MR LI SAID PHYSICAL EDUCATION PLAYED A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN INCLUDED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS, MENTAL WELL-BEING AND SPORTSMANSHIP.

"THEY NEED ALSO TO BE ENCOURAGED TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PERSONAL AND PUBLIC HYGIENE AND TO MAKE WORTHY USE OF THEIR LEISURE BY TAKING PART IN SUITABLE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

/MR LI

MR LI SAID A RECENT STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE HONG KONG CHILDHEALTH FOUNDATION INDICATED THAT THE PHYSICAL FITNESS LEVEL OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD GONE DOWN.

HE SAID IT WAS EASY TO UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE, IN LIVING IN ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED AREAS IN THE WORLD, CHILDREN IN HONG KONG HAD LIMITED SPACE TO EXERCISE THEMSELVES.

BUT, MR LI ADDED, AS FROM LAST SEPTEMBER, 22 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND MORE THAN 8,000 CHILDREN WERE NOW PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD SCHEME.

"THE SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST ALL CHILDREN TO IMPROVE THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

"PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO CONTINUED ASSESSMENTS DESIGNED TO MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR PHYSICAL FITNESS," HE SAID.

MR LI HOPED THAT THROUGH THESE PROCESSES, CHILDREN WOULD COME TO APPRECIATE THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND LEARN HOW TO PLAN A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME FOR THEMSELVES, FINALLY CULTIVATING THE HABIT OF EXERCISING REGULARLY.

LADY WILSON, ACCOMPANIED BY DR IP AND THE SUPERVISOR OF SHANGHAI ALUMNI PRIMARY SCHOOL, MRS PEGGY LAM, LATER VIEWED AN EXHIBITION OF THE FOUNDATION'S LATEST WORK AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS OF THE AWARD SCHEME BY STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW
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THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS FROM THE CHAMBER'S PUBLIC GALLERIES AND THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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PRE-WAR BUILDING IN KENNEDY TOWN DECLARED DANGEROUS

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY TODAY (THURSDAY) DECLARED THE BUILDING AT 36 HAU WO STREET, KENNEDY TOWN TO BE DANGEROUS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED THIS MORNING, THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR SAID THE THREE-STORY PRE-WAR BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED OF LOAD-BEARING BRICKWALLS WITH TIMBER FLOORS, STAIRS AND ROOF.

A RECENT INSPECTION OF THE BUILDING INDICATED THAT PART OF THE MAIN ROOF HAD COLLAPSED WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE ROOF TIMBERS IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF DETERIORATION.

THERE WAS ALSO EXTENSIVE CRACKING TO THE FRONT AND REAR WINDOW ARCHES AND THE CANTILEVERED BALCONY SLABS ON EVERY UPPER FLOOR.

HE SAID RECENT MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE REAR MAIN WALL AND THE PARTY-WALL WITH 38 HAU WO STREET WAS ALSO NOTED, AND THE TIMBER STAIRS BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THE SECOND FLOORS WERE IN A POOR CONDITION.

THE BUILDING IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE DETERIORATED TO THE EXTENT THAT IT IS CONSIDERED DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE CLOSED AND DEMOLISHED.

A NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER IN THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 14 WAS POSTED ON THE BUILDING TODAY.

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1990 HK ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS ON SALE

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THE 1990 EDITION OF THE HONG KONG ANNUAL DIGEST OF STATISTICS, PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, IS NOW ON SALE.

THIS ANNUAL PUBLICATION IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SOURCE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS, BRINGING TOGETHER IN ONE VOLUME UP-TO-DATE STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF HONG KONG.

THE REPORT COVERS STATISTICS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS, LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES, TRANSPORT AND SERVICES, EXTERNAL TRADE, GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, PUBLIC FINANCE, MONEY AND BANKING, PRICES AND HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE, FOOD SUPPLIES, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, EDUCATION, MEDICAL AND HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, LAW AND ORDER, AND CULTURE AND RECREATION.

/ALTOGETHER THERE

ALTOGETHER THERE ARE ABOUT 300 TABLES IN 20 SECTIONS, COVERING WHEREVER POSSIBLE A 10-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1980-1989.

THE REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT \$98 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AND THE PUBLICATIONS SALE COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI.

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CHINESE VERSION OF CRIME REPORT AVAILABLE

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THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT ON THE 1990 CRIME VICTIMISATION SURVEY IS NOW AVAILABLE.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT DETAILED FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, ALONG WITH THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT, HAD BEEN RELEASED IN NOVEMBER, LAST YEAR.

THE FINDINGS WERE BASED ON A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN JANUARY 1990 BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE.

THE MAIN FINDINGS WERE THAT THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME VICTIMISATION DECREASED BY 30 PER CENT IN 1989 COMPARED WITH 1986, THAT THE CRIME REPORTING RATE INCREASED FROM 32 PER CENT TO 34 PER CENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD, AND THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE POPULATION AGED 18 AND ABOVE CONSIDERED THAT THE DEATH SENTENCE SHOULD NOT BE ABOLISHED.

COPIES OF THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE REPORT HAVE BEEN ON SALE SINCE NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AND THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICE OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

COPIES OF THE CHINESE VERSION ARE NOW ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THESE TWO OUTLETS.

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FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL IN YAU TSIM

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A CARNIVAL TO SPREAD THE FIGHT CRIME MESSAGE WILL BE HELD AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, ON SUNDAY (JANUARY 20).

IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM AND WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW, POLICE BAND PERFORMANCE, STALL GAMES, A QUIZ, LUCKY DRAW AND DISPLAY OF CRIME PREVENTION EQUIPMENT.

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A SIMULATED REPORT ROOM WITH A ONE-WAY VIEW IDENTIFICATION PARADE FACILITY WILL BE SET UP TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO REPORT CRIME AND TO COME FORWARD AS WITNESSES WHEN REQUIRED.

CARDS WITH TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF POLICE STATIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SHOP OWNERS AND RESIDENTS.

ORGANISED BY THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE AND SPONSORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, THE CARNIVAL IS ONE OF THE MAJOR ACTIVITIES BEING HELD IN THE DISTRICT TO ENLIST PUBLIC SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CARNIVAL WILL BE THE YAU TSIM POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR PETER FERRY; DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG; AND DISTRICT BOARD CHARIMAN, MR YIP WAH.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY (JANAURY 20) AT THE URBAN COUNCIL CENTENARY GARDEN, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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CENSUS EXHIBITION IN TAIKOO SHING

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A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE WEST BRIDGE EXHIBITION AREA, SECOND FLOOR, CITYPLAZA 2, TAIKOO SHING.

ORGANISED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND DESIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES, THE EXHIBITION IS AIMED AT REMINDING THE PUBLIC OF THE FORTHCOMING POPULATION CENSUS AND TO CALL FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION.

APART FROM SETTING OUT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT, THE EXHIBITION ELUCIDATES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS AND GRAPHICS THE ENUMERATION METHODS TO BE USED IN THE CENSUS AND HOW THE DATA COLLECTED WILL BE KEPT IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

"THE SELF-ENUMERATION METHOD, IN PARTICULAR, WILL BE USED IN HONG KONG FOR THE FIRST TIME," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SIX OUT OF SEVEN HOUSEHOLDS WOULD BE ENUMERATED THIS WAY WHILE THE OTHER ONE-SEVENTH HOUSEHOLDS WOULD BE ENUMERATED BY THE TRADITIONAL INTERVIEWING METHOD.

THOSE SELECTED FOR SELF-ENUMERATION WOULD RECEIVE A SIMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE MAILED TO THEM BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CENSUS.

"THE HOUSEHOLD HAS TO COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE ACCORDINGLY AND THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE WOULD BE COLLECTED BY THE ENUMERATOR PERSONALLY DURING THE CENSUS.

"IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO GAIN A FAIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE DIFFERENT METHODS THROUGH VISITING THE EXHIBITIONS," HE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION AT CITYPLAZA IS THE FIFTH IN A SERIES OF 11 MOBILE EXHIBITIONS TO BE HELD IN PROMINENT LOCATIONS SUCH AS SHOPPING ARCADES AND MTR STATIONS SO THAT THE MESSAGE CAN BE EFFECTIVELY CONVEYED TO THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM DAILY UNTIL JANUARY 20. THE EXHIBITS WILL THEN BE MOVED TO THE CHINA HONG KONG CITY IN TSIM SHA TSUI ON JANUARY 25.

THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND 24.