



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1988

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CS: 1997 NOT A SIGNAL FOR DRAMATIC CHANGE

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THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL OVER THE YEARS HOPEFULLY BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HONG KONG PEOPLE ALREADY KNOW -- THAT 1997, ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT, IS NOT A SIGNAL FOR A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE TERRITORY'S ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL SYSTEM OR ITS LIFESTYLE, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID IN BOSTON ON WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 7).

"SOME PEOPLE REMAIN WORRIED, SOME PEOPLE WILL LEAVE BUT THE VAST MAJORITY LOVE THE PLACE AND THE LIFESTYLE AND ARE DETERMINED TO STAY AND MAKE THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WORK," SIR DAVID SAID.

ADDRESSING A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE BOSTON WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL, THE CHIEF SECRETARY NOTED THAT WHILE SOME FORMAL CHANGES WOULD OCCUR IN 1997, THERE WOULD BE CONTINUITY FOR MANY YEARS AFTERWARDS.

THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE HAD AGREED ON TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD BE DEMONSTRATED IN 1997 -- THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY FROM BRITAIN TO CHINA, AND CONTINUITY, SIR DAVID SAID.

"BOTH SIDES, IN PRACTICE, WANT HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO FUNCTION JUST AS IT DOES NOW, BUT THE CHINESE QUITE PROPERLY WANT CLEAR RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT HONG KONG WILL NO LONGER BE BRITISH BUT CHINESE," HE ADDED.

"THE FLAGS WILL CHANGE. THE GOVERNOR WILL DEPART, TO BE REPLACED BY A HONG KONG RESIDENT OF CHINESE NATIONALITY AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

"THE BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY WILL WITHDRAW, AND WILL BE REPLACED BY A CHINESE PLA GARRISON.

"BRITISH CITIZENS WILL NO LONGER BE SEEN IN THE MOST SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. HONG KONG CHINESE WILL OCCUPY THE 20 OR SO MOST PROMINENT POSTS, THOUGH THIS PROCESS IS LIKELY TO HAVE DEVELOPED SO CONSIDERABLY WELL BEFORE 1997 THAT THERE WILL BE LITTLE VISIBLE CHANGE IN PERSONALITIES," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

"MUCH, MUCH MORE WILL NOT CHANGE," SIR DAVID EMPHASISED.

HE SAID THE PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE ENTIRELY UNAFFECTED.

"AS IT IS, MOST FOREIGN CORPORATIONS OPERATING IN HONG KONG EMPLOY MANY LOCALS, OFTEN IN SENIOR POSITIONS, FOR THE VERY GOOD REASON THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE SIMPLY THE BEST FOR THE JOB.

"BUT THERE ARE MANY EXPATRIATES, AND THEIR POSITION WILL NOT BE AFFECTED ONE IOTA BY THE CHANGE IN SOVEREIGNTY," SIR DAVID SAID.

/THE CHIEF

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THE CHIEF SECRETARY REITERATED THAT THE JUDICIARY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM, BASED UPON BRITISH COMMON LAW, WOULD REMAIN INTACT AND BASICALLY UNALTERED BY THE CHANGEOVER.

"A LARGE NUMBER OF EXPATRIATE JUDGES WILL REMAIN IN THE TERRITORY AFTER 1997," HE SAID.

ON JULY 1, 1997, THE LEGISLATURE WOULD TAKE A NEW OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF HONG KONG, BUT UNDER ARRANGEMENTS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN CHINA, THE INDIVIDUALS WOULD NOT CHANGE, SIR DAVID SAID.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT CHANGE, NOR WOULD THE VAST MAJORITY OF ITS OFFICIALS, HE NOTED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT ALREADY MANY SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS IN POSITIONS OF THE HIGHEST RESPONSIBILITY WERE CHINESE, AND THAT THE PRESENT TREND WAS TOWARDS A GRADUAL DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF EXPATRIATES IN THE GOVERNMENT.

"NOT THAT THE EXPATRIATES WILL IN ANY SENSE BE UNWELCOME AFTER 1997: THE CHINESE HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO EMPHASISE, FOR INSTANCE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, HOW MUCH THEY VALUE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE EXPATRIATES, AND HOW THEY HOPED THAT THEY WILL STAY ON," SIR DAVID SAID.

"WE ESTIMATE THAT A SIZEABLE PROPORTION OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WILL BE EXPATRIATE FOR MANY YEARS AFTER 1997," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY ALSO NOTED THAT SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE AS BEFORE.

THE BORDER WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY HONG KONG'S IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT; VEHICLES WOULD CONTINUE TO TRAVEL ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD; THE HONG KONG DOLLAR WOULD REMAIN A FREELY CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY INDEPENDENT OF THE RMB; AND HORSE RACING WOULD REMAIN A FEATURE OF HONG KONG LIFE, SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE JOINT DECLARATION GUARANTEED THE PRESS THE SAME FREEDOMS AFTER 1997 AS BEFORE.

"I HAVE MENTIONED THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HONG KONG AFTER 1997 WILL BE A HONG KONG PERSON, RATHER THAN A CADRE FROM PEKING.

"THIS PRINCIPLE APPLIES ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THIS MEANT HONG KONG PEOPLE WOULD RULE HONG KONG, HE ADDED.

/"THERE WILL

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"THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE AN OFFICIAL CHINESE PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, RELATED TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THIS WILL BE QUITE PROPER -- BUT IT WILL NOT BE PART OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IN FORMAL TERMS, HONG KONG WILL IN FACT ENJOY A FAR GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FROM PEKING THAN IT HAS EVER FROM LONDON.

"THIS IS IN RECOGNITION, OF COURSE, OF THE REALITY THAT LONDON IN PRACTICE GRANTS HONG KONG PRETTY COMPLETE FREEDOM IN THE HANDLING OF ITS OWN AFFAIRS.

"THE WHOLE IDEA IS THAT AUTONOMY WILL CONTINUE, UP TO AND BEYOND JULY 1, 1997," HE ADDED.

TURNING TO TRADE, SIR DAVID SAID THAT MORE THAN EVER BEFORE HONG KONG WAS THE SPRINGBOARD TO DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA.

HE SAID HONG KONG PROVIDED MORE DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CHINA THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD PUT TOGETHER.

"CHINA IS NOW HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER - THAT TRADE WAS WORTH US\$26 BILLION IN 1987," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT MOST OF THE BUSINESSMEN IN HONG KONG WERE THEMSELVES CHINESE, WESTERN-ORIENTED AND TRAINED, SIR DAVID SAID THEY WERE PERFECT PARTNERS FOR WESTERN BUSINESSES SEEKING TO BREAK INTO THE CHINA MARKET.

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PRIORITY SET FOR LAW TRANSLATION
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THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT FOR 1989 PRIORITY ATTENTION IN LAW TRANSLATION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO TWO MAJOR GROUPINGS - CRIMINAL LAWS AS WELL AS EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR LAW.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED THAT PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE TRANSLATION OF ORDINANCES WHICH ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE CONSULTED BY LARGE SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC AND TO BE USED IN THE LOWER COURTS IN HONG KONG.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, DR DANIEL TSE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE REPORTED ON THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PLAN.

/DR TSE

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DR TSE SAID THE RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWED A REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE OF A LIST CONTAINING 24 MAJOR GROUPINGS OF EXISTING ORDINANCES PREPARED BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION.

"THERE ARE 39 ORDINANCES WITHIN THESE TWO MAJOR GROUPS," HE SAID.

"HOWEVER, HAVING REGARD TO THE LIMITED STAFF RESOURCES AND COMPLEXITY OF THESE ORDINANCES, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT 10 OF THEM SHOULD BE TRANSLATED WITHIN 1989."

THESE ARE THE CRIME ORDINANCE, SUMMARY OFFENCES ORDINANCE, OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSONS ORDINANCE, PREVENTION OF BRIBERY ORDINANCE, CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE, PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE, SOCIETIES ORDINANCE, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND LABOUR TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE.

THE BILINGUAL LAWS ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR IN OCTOBER TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON MATTERS RELATED TO THE PUBLICATION OF LAWS IN CHINESE.

AT ITS FIRST MEETING ON NOVEMBER 29, THE COMMITTEE NOTED THE PROGRESS OF LAW TRANSLATION BY THE GOVERNMENT AND AGREED ON PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE.

DR TSE SAID: "THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT THERE ARE 31 VOLUMES OF THE LAWS OF HONG KONG, CONSISTING OF 523 PUBLIC ORDINANCES, TOTTALLING ABOUT 20,000 PAGES.

"TRANSLATION OF THESE ORDINANCES ARE BEING DEALT WITH BY A TEAM CONSISTING OF FOUR SINOPHONE COUNSEL, ONE CHIEF AND ABOUT 10 SENIOR CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICERS WORKING IN THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBER.

"SO FAR, TRANSLATION OF 17 ORDINANCES HAS BEEN COMPLETED."

ON THE PROGRAMME OF TRANSLATION BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION, DR TSE SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD NOTED THAT HAVING REGARD TO THE PRESENT STAFFING SITUATION IN THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION, IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THE DIVISION TO EMBARK ON AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME.

AS TO WORKING PROCEDURES, HE SAID THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERED THAT ITS PRIME TASKS WERE:

- TO SCRUTINISE THE TRANSLATED TEXTS OF EXISTING ORDINANCES PRODUCED BY THE LAW DRAFTING DIVISION;
- TO ENDORSE, AFTER DELIBERATION, THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TRANSLATED TEXTS;
- AND TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON THE PUBLICATION IN CHINESE OF THE EXISTING LAWS ENACTED IN ENGLISH.

/EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

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"EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY WILL BE ENSURED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHO ARE EXPERTS IN LAW AND LANGUAGE," HE SAID.

"THE VIEWS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG AND THE HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION WILL BE REFLECTED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THEIR RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEE."

LOOKING AHEAD, DR TSE SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED THAT ONE OF ITS FIRST TASKS WAS TO CONSIDER THE TRANSLATED TEXT OF THE INTERPRETATION AND GENERAL CLAUSES ORDINANCE.

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KAI TAK CAPABLE OF FURTHER EXPANSION

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THE RECENTLY COMPLETED CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE ULTIMATE DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL OF KAI TAK AIRPORT CONFIRMS THAT DESPITE SITE CONSTRAINT, FURTHER EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS WOULD ENABLE IT TO COPE WITH TRAFFIC WELL INTO THE 1990'S, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

MRS CHAN WAS ADDRESSING A GATHERING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS AT A DINNER CO-HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE.

SHE SAID THE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED ENHANCEMENT OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM, ADDITIONAL APRON PARKING FACILITIES FOR AIRCRAFT, MEASURES TO OPTIMISE USAGE OF THE SINGLE RUNWAY, AND IMPROVED ROAD ACCESS.

"OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS THE EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING WHICH WILL INCREASE HANDLING CAPACITY FROM THE EXISTING 14.4 MILLION TO 20 MILLION PASSENGERS PER ANNUM," SHE SAID.

"THE NEW TERMINAL BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO BE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC BY DECEMBER 15, 1988 THOUGH IT WILL TAKE A FEW MONTHS FOR THE VARIOUS FACILITIES TO GEAR UP FOR FULL SERVICE.

"THE TOTAL PUBLIC AREA OF THE TERMINAL WILL BE INCREASED BY ALMOST 50 PER CENT AND THE NEW FACILITIES WILL INCLUDE THREE NEW RESTAURANTS, TWO EXTRA ARRIVAL BAGGAGE RECLAIM LOOPS, TWO NEW CHECK-IN ISLANDS, A NEW GROUP BAGGAGE HANDLING FACILITY AND A NEW DEPARTURE BAGGAGE HANDLING COMPUTER SYSTEM.

/"WE FULLY

"WE FULLY EXPECT THAT THESE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES WILL OFFER THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AN IMPROVED AND MORE COMFORTABLE STANDARD OF SERVICE THAT WILL COMPARE FAVOURABLY WITH BUSY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS ELSEWHERE," SHE NOTED.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE MEANTIME IMPROVEMENTS TO AIRCRAFT PARKING AND CARGO HANDLING AREAS AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING WERE PROCEEDING.

"THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION NEXT TO REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES AS WELL AS LONGER TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO PROVIDE BETTER ACCOMMODATION FOR AIRCRAFT PASSENGER AND CARGO HANDLING," SHE SAID.

PROJECTS COMMITTED BETWEEN NOW AND 1992-1993 AMOUNTED TO A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$550 MILLION, SHE SAID, ADDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS EXAMINING THE PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONSULTANTS TO PROLONG THE LIFE OF KAI TAK, AT A TOTAL COST OF ABOUT \$2.4 BILLION.

MRS CHAN ALSO MENTIONED THAT HOTEL SERVICES CONTRIBUTED TO THE ABILITY OF HONG KONG TO ATTRACT FIRST TIME VISITORS AND THOSE MAKING A RETURN TRIP.

"IN MANY WAYS, HONG KONG HAS BECOME A GREAT METROPOLIS OF THE EAST. THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS BECOMING MORE MOBILE AND MORE AND MORE TRAVELLERS ARE FINDING THEIR WAY TO HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

HONG KONG'S HOTELS RANKED AMONGST THE FINEST IN THE WORLD AND INVESTMENT IN THE HOTEL SECTOR HAD REMAINED STRONG IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEMOLITIONS, THE NUMBER OF HOTELS INCREASED FROM 51 AT THE END OF 1985 TO 58 AT THE END OF JUNE 1988. SIX NEW HOTELS ARE DUE TO COMMENCE BUSINESS LATER THIS YEAR," SHE SAID.

"THE SUPPLY OF HOTEL ROOMS WILL INCREASE FROM JUST UNDER 21,000 ROOMS IN 1988 TO OVER 36,000 IN 1992," SHE SAID.

WHILE THE SUPPLY OF HOTEL ROOMS WAS VERY SATISFACTORY, MRS CHAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL CONCERN OVER HONG KONG'S ABILITY TO STAFF THE VARIOUS FACILITIES BECAUSE OF THE PRESENT TIGHT LABOUR SITUATION.

TO ENSURE A STEADY SUPPLY OF SKILLED LABOUR, SHE SAID THE HOTEL INDUSTRY, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, WAS MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO TRAIN AND RETAIN STAFF AND TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PRODUCTIVITY.

UNDER THE REGISTERED HOTEL CAREER TRAINEE SCHEME LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR, ABOUT 300 TRAINEES WERE ALREADY UNDERGOING TRAINING IN SOME 30 MEMBER HOTELS OF THE HONG KONG HOTELS ASSOCIATION.

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MEANWHILE, THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC HAD FOR YEARS BEEN RUNNING A FULL-TIME HIGHER DIPLOMA COURSE IN INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING STUDIES AND A PART-TIME HIGHER CERTIFICATE COURSE IN HOTEL CATERING AND INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT.

THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE HAD ALSO SET ASIDE A SUBVENTION OF \$11.5 MILLION FOR THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC TO INTRODUCE A NEW BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE COURSE IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT THIS YEAR, MRS CHAN SAID, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST DEGREE COURSE OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG.

THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL ALSO OFFERED HOTEL TRAINING FOR OVER 1,200 STUDENTS A YEAR, AND RAN DIPLOMA COURSES THAT EQUIPPED SERVING MEMBERS OF THE HOTEL INDUSTRY FOR PROMOTION TO SUPERVISORY LEVELS.

TURNING TO THE NEWLY INAUGURATED HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, MRS CHAN SAID IT MARKED THE COMING OF AGE OF HONG KONG AS THE LEADING EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION DESTINATION IN ASIA.

THE GENERATION OF MORE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION BUSINESS TO HONG KONG WOULD ENHANCE HONG KONG'S INTERNATIONAL TRADING IMPORTANCE AND WOULD HELP INCREASE TOURISM RECEIPTS BY LENGTHENING THE AVERAGE STAY OF VISITORS AND THEREFORE THEIR SPENDING IN HONG KONG, SHE ADDED.

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TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME LAUNCHED

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THE GOVERNMENT'S TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME COMES INTO OPERATION TODAY (THURSDAY) ALLOWING PEOPLE TO RENOUNCE THEIR TRIAD INVOLVEMENT AND ENABLING RENOUNCERS TO BE FREE FROM PROSECUTION FOR PREVIOUS OFFENCES RELATING TO TRIAD MEMBERSHIP.

ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MISS NANCY LAW, SAID THE SCHEME WOULD ALLOW A TRIAD MEMBER OR A PERSON, WHO BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE A TRIAD MEMBER, TO FORMALLY RENOUNCE HIS TRIAD MEMBERSHIP, FREE HIMSELF FROM THE TAIN OF TRIAD INVOLVEMENT, AND START AFRESH IN SOCIETY.

"IT WILL BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

MISS LAW ALSO ANNOUNCED THE SETTING UP OF A TRIAD RENUNCIATION TRIBUNAL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MR KENNETH MOK WAH-KO AS THE CHAIRMAN.

/ "THE TRIAD

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"THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION TRIBUNAL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATING THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME," SHE SAID.

"IT IS AN INDEPENDENT BODY, WHOSE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER SECTION 26B OF THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

"THE TRIBUNAL IS NOT LINKED TO EITHER THE POLICE OR THE JUDICIARY. IT IS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT BODY WITH POWER TO DETERMINE ITS OWN PROCEDURES.

"IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF APPLICANTS FOR RENUNCIATION, THE TRIBUNAL'S PROCEEDINGS AND RECORDS WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, AND RECORDS WILL ONLY BE RELEASED IN SPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES.

"ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL, INCLUDING THE CHAIRMAN AND STAFF OF THE TRIBUNAL SECRETARIAT, ARE SUBJECT TO STRICT SECRECY PROVISIONS."

MISS LAW STRESSED THAT THE AIM OF THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME WAS NOT TO GET INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL TRIAD MEMBERS, NOR WAS IT AN ATTEMPT TO CATCH MORE TRIAD MEMBERS.

"IT IS A SCHEME WHICH OFFERS A CHANCE TO ANY PERSON WHO HAS BECOME INVOLVED WITH TRIADS TO WIPE AWAY THE SMEAR OF TRIAD INVOLVEMENT AND MAKE A CLEAN START IN SOCIETY," SHE SAID.

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION TRIBUNAL, MR KENNETH MOK, TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE HE WAS A FIRM BELIEVER IN GIVING A PERSON AT LEAST ONE CHANCE IN HIS LIFE.

"FROM THIS MOMENT ONWARDS, I SHALL THROW OUR DOORS OPEN TO ALL TRIAD MEMBERS OR PERSONS WHO BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE TRIAD MEMBERS TO COME FORWARD TO RENOUNCE THEIR TRIAD CONNECTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS," HE SAID.

MR MOK REITERATED THAT THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION TRIBUNAL WAS AN INDEPENDENT BODY AND NOT A GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT AND HE WAS ONLY RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GOVERNOR.

"AS CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL, I SHALL BE ASSISTED BY A PANEL OF LAY ASSESSORS COMPRISING COMMUNITY LEADERS, EXPERTS IN RELEVANT FIELDS AND PERSONS FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE," HE ADDED.

HE GAVE THE ASSURANCE THAT STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY WOULD BE OBSERVED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL AND ITS STAFF.

"FAILURE TO DO SO WILL LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION," HE SAID.

"ALL UNREQUIRED RECORDS, SUCH AS FINGER-PRINTS WILL BE DESTROYED AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW.

/"TO FACILITATE

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"TO FACILITATE OUR EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION WITH POTENTIAL RENOUNCERS, A HOTLINE 5-8582111 AND A G.P.O. BOX 3888 HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

"THESE FACILITIES WILL BE FUNCTIONAL AS FROM THIS AFTERNOON."

THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION SCHEME IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ORDINANCE 1988 ENACTED IN JULY.

TO RENOUNCE HIS TRIAD MEMBERSHIP, A PERSON IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM, WHICH WILL BE ASSESSED BY THE TRIBUNAL WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING TRIAD MEMBERSHIP AND HE WILL BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL FOR A HEARING.

A PERSON WHO APPEARS BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION, BUT PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING TO RENOUNCE INVOLVEMENT WITH TRIADS MAY ATTEND THE HEARING.

ONCE THE TRIBUNAL IS SATISFIED THAT TRIAD MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, IT WILL ADMINISTER AN OATH OF RENUNCIATION TO THE SUCCESSFUL RENOUNCER.

THE SPECIFIED OFFENCES RELATING TO TRIAD MEMBERSHIP ARE THOSE DESCRIBED IN SECTIONS 19, 20, 21, 22 AND 23 OF THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE. BRIEFLY, THEY ARE:

- (A) BEING AN OFFICE-BEARER OR CLAIMING TO BE AN OFFICE-BEARER OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY;
- (B) ACTING AS A MEMBER OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY, OR ATTENDING A MEETING OF OR PAYING MONEY TO AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY;
- (C) BEING A MEMBER OF A TRIAD SOCIETY, CLAIMING TO BE A MEMBER OF A TRIAD SOCIETY, ATTENDING A MEETING OF A TRIAD SOCIETY OR POSSESSING ANY BOOKS OR ACCOUNTS, WRITING, LISTS OF MEMBERS, SEALS, BANNERS OR INSIGNIA OF ANY TRIAD SOCIETY;
- (D) ALLOWING THE MEETING OF AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY TO BE HELD IN ANY HOUSE OR BUILDING;
- (E) INCITING OR INDUCING ANOTHER PERSON TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ANY UNLAWFUL SOCIETY;
- (F) PROCURING SUBSCRIPTION OR AID FOR ANY UNLAWFUL SOCIETY.

HAVING RENOUNCED, FORMER TRIAD MEMBERS WILL BE FREE FROM PROSECUTION FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO TRIAD MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO HIS RENUNCIATION UNDER THE SOCIETIES ORDINANCE.

/PERSONS WISHING

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PERSONS WISHING TO RENOUNCE TRIAD MEMBERSHIP MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORM FROM VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES OR FROM THE TRIAD RENUNCIATION TRIBUNAL BY WRITING TO G.P.O. BOX 3888 OR CALLING THE HOTLINE (NO. 5-8582111)

TO PUBLICISE THE SCHEME, THE GOVERNMENT IS ORGANISING A LARGE-SCALE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WHICH BEGINS TODAY.

LEAFLETS GIVING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE TRIBUNAL AND FROM THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE COUNTERS OF VARIOUS DISTRICT OFFICES. POSTERS PROMOTING THE SCHEME WILL ALSO BE PUT UP THROUGHOUT HONG KONG.

IN ADDITION, TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS WILL RUN REGULAR ANNOUNCEMENTS DRAWING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO THE SCHEME AS WILL CINEMAS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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GROWING PROSPERITY BECOMES PROBLEM FOR HK: HAMISH MACLEOD

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HONG KONG HAS ITS PROBLEMS - BUT THEY ARE MAINLY PROBLEMS OF PROSPERITY.

THIS WAS SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD, WHO ADDRESSED A MEETING IN MONTREAL OF THE HONG KONG CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

"THE FUNDAMENTALS OF HONG KONG ARE GOING REMARKABLY WELL," HE SAID. "PROBLEMS CERTAINLY EXIST BUT THEY MUST BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE. OUR MAIN PROBLEMS ARE THOSE OF OUR GROWING PROSPERITY."

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT A VERY HEALTHY GROWTH RATE OF SIX PER CENT WAS EXPECTED THIS YEAR.

"PROPERTY AND SERVICES ARE BOOMING, HOTELS ARE FULL. ONE RESULT IS THAT WE HAVE A VERY ACTIVE ECONOMY WHICH ENTAILS PROBLEMS WITH LABOUR SUPPLY, INFLATION AND POLLUTION," HE SAID.

"THERE IS, OF COURSE, A BRIGHT SIDE. OUR ECONOMY IS CHANGING AND SERVICES ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.

"IN 1986, 60 PER CENT OF OUR GDP WAS REPRESENTED BY THE SERVICES SECTOR - NOW IT IS 75 PER CENT. MANUFACTURERS ARE UPGRADING THEIR OPERATIONS AND THERE IS INCREASING OVERSEAS INVESTMENT," HE ADDED.

/MR MACLEOD

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT THE CHINA LINK WAS A KEY ELEMENT IN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY.

SINCE 1978 HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE HAS INCREASED NEARLY 20 TIMES, TO US\$26 BILLION IN 1987.

CHINA IS HONG KONG'S LARGEST TRADING PARTNER AND VICE VERSA, AND IS THE LARGEST SOURCE OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN HONG KONG.

CANADA IS HONG KONG'S 13TH LARGEST TRADING PARTNER ACCOUNTING FOR 1.3 PER CENT OF THE TERRITORY'S TOTAL TRADE.

MR MACLEOD SAID THAT IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CANADA GREW BY 30 PER CENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE TERRITORY'S EXPORTS TO CANADA GREW BY SEVEN PER CENT.

THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR GROWTH IN BILATERAL TRADE, HE SAID.

ON THE URUGUAY ROUND OF GATT TASKS MR MACLEOD SAID THAT HONG KONG WAS COMMITTED TO THE REINVIGORATION OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM. THEREFORE IT WAS KEEN TO SEE THE ROUND SUCCEED.

"WE ADOPT A FREE TRADE, OPEN MARKET, NO SUBSIDY PHILOSOPHY," HE SAID.

"ALTHOUGH WE ARE IN THE TOP DOZEN OR SO IN THE WORLD IN EXPORTS, WE ARE EQUALLY AN IMPORTER - OUR GLOBAL TRADE IS IN BALANCE," HE ADDED.

"OUR DEPENDENCE ON OVERSEAS TRADE MAKES US VULNERABLE TO PROTECTIONISM. HENCE THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON THE GATT, AND ON THIS EFFORT TO BOTH IMPROVE THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND THE SPIRIT - THE WILLINGNESS TO OBSERVE THOSE RULES," MR MACLEOD SAID.

"KEY ISSUES FOR US INCLUDE TEXTILES, SAFEGUARDS, STANDSTILL AND ROLLBACK, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND SERVICES. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED AT ABUSES IN OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS ANTI-DUMPING AND ORIGIN RULES," HE ADDED.

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REVISION OF RENT LEVEL

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TODAY (THURSDAY) APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE RENT LEVELS OF NEW URBAN FLATS COMING ON STREAM BETWEEN MAY AND JULY NEXT YEAR BY FOUR PER CENT TO \$23.50 PER SQUARE METRE.

THIS REVISION TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE RATE OF INFLATION AND THE GENERAL REVALUATION OF RATEABLE VALUE IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES.

THE PROPOSAL WILL AFFECT MORE THAN 5 700 NEW FLATS, INCLUDING SINGLE PERSON AND TWO-PERSON FLATS, THAT ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR LETTING DURING THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

THE UNITS WILL BE IN FOUR ESTATES: LOWER WONG TAI SIN, TAI WO PHASE IV IN TAI PO, TAI PING IN SHEUNG SHUI AND TIN KING PHASE IV IN TUEN MUN.

A HOUSING SPOKESMAN SAID THAT AT THE LAST RENT SETTING EXERCISE, THE RENT LEVEL FOR NEW ESTATES IN THE URBAN AREA WAS REVISED TO \$22.8 PER SQUARE METRE.

"BASED ON THE MINIMUM ALLOCATION STANDARD OF 4.5 SQUARE METRE LIVING AREA PER PERSON AND THE REPORTED INCOME OF THE MAJORITY OF ELIGIBLE WAITING LIST APPLICANTS TOGETHER WITH OTHER REHOUSING CATEGORIES, THE MEDIAN RENT-INCOME RATIO FOR THIS GROUP OF FLATS IS ESTIMATED TO BE 13.9 PER CENT," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"EVEN WITH HIGHER ALLOCATION STANDARD OF FIVE SQUARE METRE LIVING AREA PER PERSON WHICH IS PREFERRED BY MOST PROSPECTIVE TENANTS, THE RATIO IS 14.1 PER CENT. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DOMESTIC RENT POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE IN 1986 THAT THE MEDIAN RENT-INCOME RATIO SHOULD NOT EXCEED 15 PER CENT.

"IN ACTUAL FACT, THE ABOVE MEDIAN RENT-INCOME RATIO WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER AT THE TIME OF INTAKE BECAUSE THE INCOME TAKEN INTO CALCULATION IS THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT'S FAMILY INCOME FOR THE PAST NINE MONTHS AND RENTS ARE FIXED SOME SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED COMPLETION OF THE BLOCKS.

"THEREFORE, BY THE TIME THE APPLICANTS MOVE IN, MANY OF THEM WOULD HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED HIGHER INCOME," HE SAID.

FURTHERMORE, THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED, THE TENANTS' HOUSEHOLD INCOME WAS LIKELY TO INCREASE FROM YEAR TO YEAR, THUS REDUCING THE RENT-INCOME RATIO.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE NOT MOVING INTO NEW ESTATES ON ACCOUNT OF HIGH RENT CONTINUED TO BE LOW. BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, THE RATE WAS LESS THAN ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OFFERS MADE.

"THIS INDICATES THAT THE GENERAL RENT LEVELS ADOPTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY ARE ACCEPTABLE TO PROSPECTIVE TENANTS, BUT SHOULD ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS CONSIDER THE RENTS OF THESE NEW FLATS BEYOND THEIR AFFORDABILITY, THEY CAN ALWAYS BE OFFERED CHEAPER ACCOMMODATION," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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FRUITFUL RESULT IN COMBATTING PIRACY, COUNTERFEITING
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HONG KONG HAS ACHIEVED A FRUITFUL RESULT IN COMBATTING COPYRIGHT PIRACY AND COUNTERFEITING, THE HEAD OF THE TRADING STANDARDS INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, MR H.Y. LI, HAS REPORTED.

ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, MR LI SAID YESTERDAY THAT OVER 90 PER CENT OF THE ILLEGAL TRADE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED, LEAVING ABOUT LESS THAN 10 PER CENT WHICH WAS NOW FORCED TO OPERATE UNDERGROUND.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE 1,290 SEIZURES OF COUNTERFEIT AND INFRINGING GOODS LAST YEAR, 961 PERSONS/FIRMS WERE PROSECUTED, AND FINES AMOUNTED TO OVER \$5 MILLION, MR LI SAID.

THE REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ENACTMENT OF STRONG LEGISLATION AND THE EFFICIENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"HONG KONG HAS DEVELOPED COMPREHENSIVE LAWS COVERING TRADE MARKS, TRADE DESCRIPTIONS, COPYRIGHT, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND PATENTS; AND HAS COMMITTED SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES TO THEIR VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT," HE SAID.

THE EFFORT MADE IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN ACCORDED INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM AS THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED COMMENDATIONS FROM THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS, AND MANY OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERS, HE SAID.

MR LI STRESSED THAT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ON THE ALERT FOR MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS OF COUNTERFEIT AND INFRINGING GOODS.

ENFORCEMENT PRESSURE ON PIRATES AND COUNTERFEITERS WOULD BE KEPT UP SO AS TO PROTECT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

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CUSTOMS MOBILE X-RAY UNITS IN OPERATION SOON

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TWO TAILOR-MADE MOBILE X-RAY UNITS FOR CARGO INSPECTION, WHICH COST \$1.6 MILLION EACH, WILL BE JOINING THE FLEET OF VEHICLES AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT VERY SOON.

AT A HANDING-OVER CEREMONY TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MR K.S. TONG, OFFICIALLY RECEIVED ONE OF THE TWO VEHICLES FROM JEBSEN AND COMPANY LTD. THE OTHER VAN WILL BE DELIVERED LATE THIS MONTH.

WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THESE TWO NEW VEHICLES, MR TONG SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT CARGO EXAMINATIONS CARRIED OUT BY CUSTOMS OFFICERS WOULD BE SPED UP.

"THESE MOBILE UNITS CAN OPERATE 24 HOURS A DAY AND GO EVERYWHERE; IT MEANS TIME, COST AND MANPOWER SAVINGS FOR BOTH THIS DEPARTMENT AND PARTIES CONCERNED," HE SAID.

MR TONG SAID THE GROWTH OF DOOR-TO-DOOR CARGO DELIVERY SERVICES HAD PROMPTED THE NEED FOR MOBILE X-RAY INSPECTION UNITS.

HE SAID HE WAS PROUD THAT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, COULD SPECIFY A MACHINE THAT COULD MEET LOCAL OPERATIONAL AND WEATHER REQUIREMENTS.

THE MOBILE X-RAY VAN IS NOT AN OFF-THE-FACTORY-LINE VEHICLE.

THE CHASSIS IS MADE IN JAPAN WHILE THE X-RAY SCANNER IS SUPPLIED BY A GERMAN COMPANY. IT IS FULLY AIR-CONDITIONED AND ITS SPACIOUS COMPARTMENT CAN CARRY UP TO SIX STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDING THE DRIVER.

ACCORDING TO MR TONG, IT TOOK THE DEPARTMENT A TOTAL OF 30 MONTHS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT AS THE ASSEMBLY WORK WAS ALL DONE IN HONG KONG.

THE X-RAY SCANNER WAS HIGHLY EFFICIENT IN EXAMINING CARGOES AND LUGGAGE, AND COULD EVEN PROVIDE AN AUTO-RECORD SERVICE, HE ADDED.

"WITH THE USE OF THESE MOBILE X-RAY VANS, WE ANTICIPATE THAT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OF CARGO AND GOODS CAN BE REDUCED TO A MINIMUM WHICH MEANS AN IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THIS DEPARTMENT," MR TONG SAID.

THE MOBILE X-RAY VAN IS 8.15 METRES LONG, THREE METRES HIGH AND 2.5 METRES WIDE. IT IS PAINTED IN "CUSTOMS GREY" WITH A STRIKING GREEN AND YELLOW BAND AND AN ORANGE TOP.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING A LOOK AT THIS LATEST ADDITION TO THE CUSTOMS' FLEET OF VEHICLES ARE INVITED TO VISIT EDINBURGH PLACE OUTSIDE THE CITY HALL ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10) WHEN THE MOBILE X-RAY VAN WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT A CAREERS EXHIBITION ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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HKU VICE CHANCELLOR TO HEAD EPCOM

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THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR WANG GUNGWU, HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EPCOM) FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM FROM DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR, IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

NEW MEMBERS INCLUDE THE RECENTLY-APPOINTED CONVENER OF THE OMELCO ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS PANEL, MR MARTIN LEE, AND MRS PEGGY LAM AND MR KINGSLEY SIT.

MRS LAM AND MR SIT, TOGETHER WITH THE REAPPOINTED MR CHENG HON-KWAN, ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE OMELCO PANEL.

THREE PROMINENT MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT GROUPS HAVE ALSO BEEN APPOINTED TO EPCOM.

THEY ARE: MR FUNG SHIU-WING, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION; MISS LINDA SIDDALL OF FRIENDS OF THE EARTH; AND MR JOHNNY CHAN OF GREEN POWER.

AN URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR MAN SAI-CHEONG, A LECTURER AT THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, DR LAM KIN-CHE, AND MR HENRY CHIU OF THE PRODUCTIVITY COUNCIL HAVE ALSO BEEN APPOINTED.

OTHER REAPPOINTED MEMBERS ARE DR PANG HOK-TUEN, MR WILLIAM COURTAULD, AND MR TONY VAIL.

MR SUNG SHEUNG-HONG AND MR STANLEY FUNG HAVE BEEN REAPPOINTED AS NOMINEES OF THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CHINESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION RESPECTIVELY.

MR MICHAEL RUSHWORTH JOINS AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATION OF HONG KONG INDUSTRIES.

ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR TO NOVEMBER 30, 1990.

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NEW LAW EFFECTS VOLUNTARY CLOSURE OF 101 UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES

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A TOTAL OF 101 UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES IN THE URBAN AREAS HAVE CEASED OPERATION AFTER THE "NEW" CLOSURE ORDER LEGISLATION AGAINST UNLICENSED FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TOOK EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1.

"THIS SHOWS AN OVERALL DECREASE OF ABOUT 17.6 PER CENT IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS, AND THE NUMBER OF UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES IS NOW ESTIMATED AT AROUND 470," THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN SERVICES, MR TSE TAK-KAN, SAID TODAY.

"OF THE 101 SHUTDOWN FOOD PREMISES, 60 WERE GENERAL RESTAURANTS AND 41 WERE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS OTHER THAN RESTAURANTS.

"THEY ALSO INCLUDE 19 ILLEGAL FOOD PREMISES WHICH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST SERIOUS CASES AND THE FIRST BATCH TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE NEW 'CLOSURE ORDER' LEGISLATION.

"WE BELIEVE THIS SIGNIFICANT DROP IS ATTRIBUTED MAINLY TO THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE NEW LEGISLATION, WHICH HAS GRADUALLY FULFILLED ITS INTENDED PURPOSE OF PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

"OUR NEXT STEP NOW IS TO SHUT ANOTHER 40 ILLEGAL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS FOR CLOSURE ORDER ACTION AND THE MORE SERIOUS CASES WILL AGAIN BE DEALT WITH FIRST," SAID MR. TSE.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) ORDINANCE, CAP. 132, WHICH CAME INTO FORCE LAST OCTOBER, IS AIMED AT FURTHER SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. IT EMPOWERS THE URBAN COUNCIL TO APPLY TO THE COURT FOR A CLOSURE ORDER TO LOCK AND SEAL PERSISTENTLY OFFENDING UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES OR VESSELS.

UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE, A CLOSURE ORDER MAY BE MADE FOLLOWING THE BREACH OF A PROHIBITION ORDER.

APPLICATION FOR A PROHIBITION ORDER IS MADE TO THE COURT WHEN THE OPERATORS OF UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES HAVE BEEN CONVICTED FOR CONTINUING WITH ILLEGAL FOOD BUSINESSES.

ANY PERSON WHO ENTERS OR REMAINS IN ANY PREMISES UNDER A CLOSURE ORDER WILL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$60 000 AND 12 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT PLUS A DAILY FINE OF \$1 000.

UPON THE COMING INTO FORCE OF A CLOSURE ORDER, THE COUNCIL MAY DISCONNECT ALL WATER, GAS AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND RECOVER THE COST OF SUCH DISCONNECTION WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LEGISLATION.

THE COUNCIL MAY ALSO TAKE POSSESSION OF ANY FOOD, ARTICLE OR THING WHICH IS LIKELY TO CREATE A FIRE HAZARD OR CONSTITUTE A DANGER TO LIFE OR HEALTH IF LEFT IN OR ON THE PREMISES.

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FIRST WHOLESALE MARKET IN NT

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MARKET FACILITIES FOR WHOLESALING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHEN A TEMPORARY WHOLESALE MARKET OPENS AT LUEN WO HUI, FANLING, EARLY NEXT YEAR.

THE PURPOSE-BUILT TEMPORARY WHOLESALE MARKET, WHICH IS IN ITS FINAL STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION IN ON KUI STREET, FANLING, WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT PRIVATELY-RUN ON-STREET MARKET IN LUEN WO HUI.

THIS IS DUE TO BE CLEARED TO MAKE WAY FOR A GOVERNMENT SEWERAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW MARKET BEGAN IN APRIL AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED NEXT MONTH. THE MARKET WILL START OPERATION IN FEBRUARY.

BUILT AT A COST OF \$3.6 MILLION, THE NEW MARKET OCCUPIES AN AREA OF 12,500 SQUARE METRES.

THIS AREA INCLUDES A TRADING FLOOR OF 3,600 SQUARE METRES, UNLOADING AND STORAGE SPACE, MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND A LARGE LORRY PARKING AREA WHICH IS CAPABLE OF ACCOMMODATING MORE THAN 160 VEHICLES.

THE SENIOR ECONOMICS AND MARKETING OFFICER OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, MR H.C. TSOI, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE NEW MARKET WOULD PROVIDE PROPER AND ORDERLY MARKETING FACILITIES FOR TRADERS AND FARMERS IN THE NORTH DISTRICT.

"APART FROM ITS CENTRAL LOCATION, ITS LARGE LORRY PARKING AREA WILL PROVE TO BE OF GREAT CONVENIENCE TO THOSE MARKET USERS REQUIRING LORRY TRANSPORT FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY," HE SAID.

THE LORRY PARKING AREA WILL BE OPEN DURING THE MARKET'S BUSINESS HOURS, WHICH WILL BE FROM 2 AM TO 8 AM DAILY. ALL VEHICLES WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE LORRY PARK AFTER 8 AM.

THE CHARGE FOR A MONTHLY PASS IS FIXED AT \$200 WHILE THE CHARGE FOR A TEMPORARY PASS, WHICH IS VALID FOR ONE ADMISSION ONLY, IS \$7.

MR TSOI SAID THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE PROPER ALLOCATION OF THE MARKET'S PARKING SPACE, CIRCULAR LETTERS WERE BEING SENT TO POTENTIAL MARKET USERS, INVITING THEM TO MAKE APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE ON THE PRESCRIBED FORMS WHICH WILL BE OBTAINABLE FROM NEXT MONDAY FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S MARKETING DEVELOPMENT SECTION AT ROOM 1253, 12TH FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393, CANTON ROAD, KOWLOON AND FROM THE KO PO AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICE IN FANLING.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAIL TO THE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT SECTION BEFORE DECEMBER 28.

MR TSOI

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MR TSOI SAID THE NEW TEMPORARY WHOLESALE MARKET IS THE FIRST OF THE LATEST SERIES OF WHOLESALE MARKET PROJECTS BEING PLANNED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

OTHER PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE INCLUDE TWO WHOLESALE MARKET COMPLEXES, ONE AT WESTERN RECLAMATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND THE OTHER AT THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION IN CHEUNG SHA WAN, KOWLOON.

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FIRST PERMANENT INTEGRATED WHOLESALE MARKET

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THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED FOR TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PERMANENT INTEGRATED WHOLESALE MARKET, TO BE BUILT IN KENNEDY TOWN, WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

PROJECT ARCHITECT, MR STEPHEN HO, SAID THERE WOULD BE FACILITIES FOR A VARIETY OF PRODUCE SUCH AS FISH, FRUIT, EGGS, POULTRY AND VEGETABLES.

"AN IMPORTANT FEATURE WILL BE THAT RESPECTIVE MARKET TRADING AREAS WILL EACH BE EQUIPPED WITH AN INDEPENDENT DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND A CENTRALISED SCREENING PLANT.

"THE MARKET'S LOCATION AT WESTERN RECLAMATION WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT MANY OF THE TRAFFIC AND POLLUTION PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN OTHER MARKETS COULD BE AVOIDED," MR HO SAID.

THE TWO-STOREY COMPLEX WILL COMPRISE SIX LEVELS WHICH WOULD GIVE IT A HEIGHT OF A SIX-STOREY CONVENTIONAL BUILDING.

IT WILL BE BUILT IN TWO PHASES - WITH PHASE I TAKING UP TWO-THIRDS OF THE 6.32-HECTARE SITE ON WESTERN RECLAMATION, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES TO HANDLE FISH, FRUIT AND EGGS.

PHASE II WILL HAVE FACILITIES TO HANDLE POULTRY AND VEGETABLES.

"WHEN FULLY OPERATIONAL, THE MARKET WILL POSSIBLY HANDLE THE HIGHEST THROUGHPUT TONNAGE IN TERMS OF PER UNIT AREA," MR HO SAID.

PHASE I WORKS WILL ALSO INVOLVE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE PIERS, EACH EQUIPPED WITH MECHANICAL LIFTING EQUIPMENT OR CONVEYOR BELTS, ACCOMMODATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT STAFF, A RESTAURANT AND A SNACK KIOSK.

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE I IS EXPECTED TO START NEXT FEBRUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN OR BEFORE JANUARY 1991, TO BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY PHASE II.

TENDERS FOR PHASE I WORKS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE 12 NOON ON JANUARY 6, 1989.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1988

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CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON CAREERS GUIDANCE

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MORE THAN 150 SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS WILL ATTEND THE FOURTH CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON CAREERS GUIDANCE, ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, WHICH BEGINS TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE TWO-DAY CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT THE MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE OF THE HONG KONG LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE, HO MAN TIN, BEGINNING AT 9 AM.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SERVICES), MR LUCAS CHAN, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF CAREERS MASTERS AND GUIDANCE MASTERS, MR CHAN JOE-CHAK, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY.

THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE IS "EXPERIENCE-BASED APPROACHES TO CAREERS GUIDANCE".

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CAREERS EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING IN BRITAIN, MR A.G. WATTS, WILL GIVE A TALK ON "NEW DIRECTIONS IN CAREERS EDUCATION".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ON CAREERS GUIDANCE AT MARTHA BOSS COMMUNITY CENTRE, HONG KONG LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE, 89 CHUNG HAU STREET, HO-MAN TIN, KOWLOON, BEGINNING AT 9 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

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FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN STARTS SATURDAY

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A CEREMONY TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S "1988 FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN" WILL BE HELD AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10).

IT WILL FEATURE A VARIETY SHOW AND A MOBILE EXHIBITION PUBLICISING THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN THEME - "LOVE AND CARE HELP BUILD UP A HAPPY FAMILY".

OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE (FAMILY WELFARE), MR ALFRED CHUI; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING (TELEVISION), MISS MARIA WAN; AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE (AGENCY SERVICE), MISS VIRGINIA CHAN.

/A SERIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1988

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A SERIES OF PUBLICITY AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN ORGANISED JOINTLY BY GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AT BOTH DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE LEVELS TO PROMOTE THE CAMPAIGN THEME.

THESE ACTIVITIES WILL BE PRESENTED IN PROGRAMMES BY THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA - INCLUDING DRAMA, DISCUSSIONS, AND RADIO PHONE-IN SESSIONS HOSTED BY SOCIAL WORKERS, AND A 13-EPIISODE TELEVISION SERIES JOINTLY PRODUCED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

ANOTHER PUBLICITY DRIVE IS A FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION MUSIC COMPETITION JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WHICH COMPRISES REPRESENTATIVES FROM SWD AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, AND THE MUSIC OFFICE.

AFTER LOK FU, THE MOBILE EXHIBITION WILL BE MOUNTED AT SEVEN OTHER PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, NAMELY, LOK WAH (NORTH), CHUK YUEN (SOUTH), OI MAN, LEI TUNG, HANG ON, FU SHIN AND BUTTERFLY.

THE EXHIBITION IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND RTHK.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IS A LONG-TERM AND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT WHICH AIMS TO PUBLICISE THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY LIFE, TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF FAMILY LIFE, TO PROMOTE THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS, SO AS TO PREVENT FAMILY BREAK-UPS AND TO HELP BUILD A GOOD FAMILY LIFE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE "1988 FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN" AND VARIETY SHOW AND EXHIBITION AT LOK FU SHOPPING CENTRE ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10). THE CEREMONY WILL START AT 3 PM.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1988

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JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENT READING AWARD SCHEME

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THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS), MR SO FAI-CHO, TODAY (THURSDAY) CALLED ON ALL SECONDARY 1 TO 3 STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE 1989 READING AWARD SCHEME WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THIS MONTH AND APRIL NEXT YEAR.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE MANDARIN HOTEL, MR SO SAID THE AWARD SCHEME WAS AGAIN ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE ADVISORY INSPECTORATE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND SPONSORED BY THE HONG KONG TAI PING SHAN LIONS CLUB.

THE AIM OF THE READING AWARD SCHEME WAS TO HELP STUDENTS TO DEVELOP GOOD READING HABITS, IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS AND TO MAKE GOOD USE OF SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCES, MR SO SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT MORE THAN 25,000 JUNIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS FROM 186 SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE READING AWARD SCHEME LAST YEAR.

TO ENABLE MORE STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM LAST YEAR'S SCHEME, THE TAI PING SHAN LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG SPONSORED THE PUBLICATION OF A BOOKLET CONTAINING WINNING BOOK REPORTS FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THE BOOKLET WAS PRESENTED TO MR SO AT A BRIEF CEREMONY TODAY.

IN THE CURRENT READING AWARD SCHEME, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO READ NO FEWER THAN 10 LIBRARY BOOKS INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE ENGLISH AND THREE CHINESE BOOKS.

THEY WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE A BOOK READING RECORD AND TO PRESENT AN ESSAY TYPE REPORT ON ONE OF THE BOOKS READ.

BOOK COUPONS RANGING FROM \$1,000 TO \$2,000 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE FIRST THREE WINNERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS IN BOTH THE CHINESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE CATEGORIES. THE WINNING STUDENTS WILL ALSO BE PRESENTED WITH TROPHIES.

OTHER PRIZES WILL INCLUDE BOOK COUPONS OF \$400 EACH AND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT FOR PARTICIPANTS WHOSE ENTRIES ARE HIGHLY COMMENDED. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT WILL BE AWARDED TO ENTRANTS WHOSE BOOK REPORTS ARE OF GOOD QUALITY.

STUDENTS ARE ADVISED TO SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES TO THE LIBRARY SECTION OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE MAY 10 NEXT YEAR. ALL ENTRIES WILL BE ASSESSED BY A PANEL OF JUDGES AND AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED IN JUNE OR JULY NEXT YEAR.

ALSO ATTENDING THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY WERE THE PRESIDENT OF THE TAI PING SHAN LIONS CLUB OF HONG KONG, MR CHONG WING-CHAM AND HIS FELLOW MEMBERS, MR SO CHUN-YU, MR CHAO KING-LIN AND MR WU PO-LING.

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AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRE REGULATIONS ON DB AGENDA
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THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD WILL MEET TOMORROW (FRIDAY) TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE LIMIT FOR ADMISSION TO AN ADULT AMUSEMENT GAMES CENTRE FROM 16 TO 18 YEARS.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WILL ALSO ENQUIRE ABOUT METHODS TO PREVENT UNDER AGED PEOPLE FROM WATCHING A CATEGORY III FILM.

THEY WILL ASK WHAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RELIEVE THE STRAIN ON GOVERNMENT DOCTORS OWING TO A STAFF SHORTAGE, THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND LIMITED PROSPECTS OF PROMOTION.

IN ADDITION, THEY WILL VET PROGRESS REPORTS BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES, AND REPORTS ON THE MEET-THE-PUBLIC SCHEME AND THE SITUATION REGARDING DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD MEETING BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, 490 NATHAN ROAD.

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TAXI OPERATION IN MA ON SHAN ON AGENDA
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MEMBERS OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD'S TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WILL EXPRESS VIEWS AT A SPECIAL MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) ON WHETHER NEW TERRITORIES TAXIS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SERVE MA ON SHAN.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS A TRAFFIC STUDY OF TAI PO MARKET.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE TAI PO DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF TAI PO COMMERCIAL CENTRE, 152 KWONG FUK ROAD TOMORROW. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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SEMINAR ON SECURITY FOR GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS

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A SEMINAR ON SECURITY FOR GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE HONG KONG DIAMOND EXCHANGE BUILDING IN CENTRAL.

THE SEMINAR IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE WITH THE AIM OF STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF SECURITY IN GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS.

SPEAKING AT THE SEMINAR WILL BE THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER, MISS LAI PO-YIN; SENIOR INSPECTOR OF POLICE FROM THE REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE, MR SIU PING-MING; AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, MR C.P. POON.

THERE WILL BE A DISCUSSION ON CRIME PREVENTION MEASURES AND THE LATEST ANTI-CRIME TECHNOLOGIES FOR GOLDSMITH AND JEWELLERY SHOPS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SEMINAR BEGINNING AT 12.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE HONG KONG DIAMOND BOURSE LTD., HONG KONG DIAMOND EXCHANGE BUILDING, 8-10 DUBDELL STREET, FIFTH FLOOR, CENTRAL.

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SOUTHERN TO HOLD KEEP HK CLEAN PARADE ON SUNDAY

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A KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PARADE WILL BE HELD IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11) TO AROUSE RESIDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANLINESS IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

SPONSORED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, THE PARADE IS ORGANISED BY THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN SUPPORT OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, URBAN COUNCILLORS AND STAFF OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE WILL TAKE PART IN THE PARADE WHICH WILL TOUR AROUND THE DISTRICT IN A DECORATED OPEN-TOP DOUBLE-DECKER TO PUBLICISE THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN MESSAGE.

/THE 'PITCHING

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THE 'PITCHING IN' THEME SONG WILL BE BROADCAST AND PUBLICITY ITEMS SUCH AS LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DURING THE PARADE.

RESIDENTS WILL BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A STALL GAME FEATURING THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN MESSAGE.

THE PARADE PARTY WILL ALSO TAKE PART IN STREET SWEEPING AND REFUSE COLLECTION OPERATIONS IN SOME OF THE STOPS.

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE PARADE, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 12 NOON AT THE ABERDEEN CENTRE IN NAM NING STREET. OFFICIATING AT THE CEREMONY WILL BE SOUTHERN ASSISTANT DISTRICT OFFICER, MR DAVID LEUNG AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MR CHAN YAU-YUE.

THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT ALSO INCLUDED A CLEAN BUILDING CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER, AND A CLEAN HARBOUR - REFUSE COLLECTION PROGRAMME AS WELL AS A SERIES OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN SQUATTER AREAS TO BE ORGANISED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN PARADE WHICH WILL BE LAUNCHED WITH A BRIEF CEREMONY STARTING AT 12 NOON IN ABERDEEN CENTRE, NAM NING STREET, THIS SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11). INFORMATION OFFICER, MR ALEX LI, WILL BE ON HAND TO ASSIST.

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YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL OPENS

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THE NINTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BE LAUNCHED TOMORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING WITH A MUSICAL "CINDERELLA" BY THE YUEN LONG CHILDREN CHOIR AT LUT SAU HALL.

PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY (NEW TERRITORIES), MR MICHAEL SUEN, WILL OFFICIATE AT AN OPENING CEREMONY.

IN THE FOLLOWING WEEKS, SOME 36 PROGRAMMES FEATURING OPERAS, DRAMAS, FILM SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES WILL BE STAGED AT VARIOUS VENUES IN THE DISTRICT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

/TICKETS FOR

- 25 -

TICKETS FOR THE PERFORMANCES OF THE FESTIVAL ARE NOW ON SALE AT YUEN LONG TOWN HALL AND THE HONG KONG BANK'S BRANCH OFFICE AT 150 CASTLE PEAK ROAD, YUEN LONG.

THEY INCLUDE THE MUSICAL "CINDERELLA" BY THE YUEN LONG CHILDREN CHOIR AT TOMORROW'S OPENING CEREMONY; VARIOUS CANTONESE AND CHIU CHOW OPERAS; POP CONCERTS AND THE CHILDREN PLAY "A STORY OF DRAGONBALL" BY THE CHUNG YING THEATRE COMPANY.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NINTH YUEN LONG ARTS FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.30 PM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT LUT SAU HALL, TAI TUK ROAD, YUEN LONG. A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE YUEN LONG SPORTS ASSOCIATION OPPOSITE THE HALL AT 6.30 PM PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY.

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KWUN TONG FESTIVAL CLOSES ON SATURDAY

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THE THREE-WEEK KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '88 WILL CONCLUDE WITH A FUN-FILLED CARNIVAL AT THE HONG NING ROAD PLAYGROUND ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10) AFTERNOON.

THE CLOSING CARNIVAL WILL FEATURE A WIDE VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT.

INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME ARE A PIPE BAND PERFORMANCE, PONY AND MINI-TRAIN RIDES, AN INFLATABLE DINOSAUR MODEL FOR CHILDREN AND PERFORMANCES BY WELL-KNOWN SINGERS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A DISPLAY OF ARMY VEHICLES, AN EXHIBITION STAGED BY EIGHT LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF CHINESE FOLK ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS.

BEFORE THE CARNIVAL BEGINS, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL LEUNG, WILL OFFICIATE AT A TAKE-OFF CEREMONY FOR A HELIUM BLIMP CARRYING A PUBLICITY BANNER TO MARK THE CLOSING OF THE FESTIVAL.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WILL BE THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHRIS WAN; LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLOR, MR POON CHI-FAI; URBAN COUNCILLOR, MR STEPHEN LAU; PRESIDENT OF THE KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '88 ORGANISING COMMITTEE, MR YU SUN-SAY; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, MADAM YEUNG KAM-CHUN.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE KWUN TONG FESTIVAL '88 AND CARNIVAL TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10) AT THE HONG NING ROAD PLAYGROUND. IT WILL BEGIN AT 2 PM.

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EASTERN DISTRICT CIVIC EDUCATION CAMP

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ABOUT 150 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 16 AND 35 ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN A TWO-DAY CAMP ON CIVIC EDUCATION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT LEI YUE MUN PARK ON DECEMBER 17 AND 18.

THE CAMP IS ORGANISED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD'S CIVIC EDUCATION PROMOTION WORKING GROUP AND IS AIMED AT CULTIVATING A GREATER SENSE OF CIVIC AWARENESS AND DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE DISTRICT.

THE CAMP PROGRAMME INCLUDES A SIMULATED DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF CIVIC AWARENESS ON THE FIRST DAY AND A TOUR OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION VILLAGE ON THE SECOND DAY.

THERE ARE STILL SOME VACANCIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO JOIN THE CAMP, AND THE FEE FOR EACH PERSON IS \$25.

APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SUB-OFFICES, CHANG ZHANG FANG OF BRADBURY CENTRE, YMCA CHAI WAN CENTRE, LAI TAK YOUTH CENTRE AND CARITAS SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRE AT CHAI WAN.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS DECEMBER 13.

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR POSTAL ARRANGEMENT

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THE POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES THAT THE LATEST DATE FOR POSTING CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR LOCAL DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1988.

POSTINGS AFTER THIS DATE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO POST AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID A LAST MINUTE RUSH.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE.

BUSINESS WILL BE CONDUCTED AS USUAL ON CHRISTMAS EVE (DECEMBER 24) AND NEW YEAR'S EVE (DECEMBER 31).

ALL POST OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25, DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 1.

/ON DECEMBER

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ON DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2, 42 POST OFFICES WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM 9 AM TO NOON.

THEY INCLUDE THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ON HONG KONG ISLAND, KOWLOON CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI IN KOWLOON, AND TSUEN WAN AND TAI PO IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, SPECIAL DELIVERIES OF LETTERS AND PARCELS HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, BOXING DAY DECEMBER 26, AND ALSO JANUARY 2.

THERE WILL BE NO DELIVERIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, DECEMBER 27 AND NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1.

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM INDIVIDUAL POST OFFICES OR FROM THE POST OFFICE ENQUIRY BUREAU AT 5-231071.

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FESTIVE LIGHTING REFLECTS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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THE STAGING OF FESTIVE LIGHTING IN MONG KOK REFLECTS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BY RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT, THE ACTING REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR PAUL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE SWITCH-ON CEREMONY FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR LIGHTING IN MONG KOK, MR LEUNG SAID THE DECORATIVE LIGHTING WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIME AND MONEY BY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE DISTRICT.

HE SAID THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES SPONSORING THE DECORATIVE LIGHTING INCREASED FROM 10 LAST YEAR TO 14 THIS YEAR AND THE COST HAD DOUBLED TO \$700,000.

SOME BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE DISTRICT ALSO PUT UP THEIR OWN DECORATIVE LIGHTING TO BRING ABOUT A BETTER EFFECT, HE ADDED.

MR LEUNG SAID THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, HOPED TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST THE ATMOSPHERE OF FESTIVITY IN, AND TO BRING ABOUT MORE PROSPERITY TO, THE DISTRICT.

HE ADDED THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD ALSO HOPED, THROUGH THE EVENT, TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH BUSINESS CONCERNS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DISTRICT WITH A VIEW TO MAKING LOCAL RESIDENTS FEEL PROUD OF BELONGING TO MONG KOK, AND TO MAKE THEM MORE INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

/"ALL THESE

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"ALL THESE OBJECTIVES MATCH THE SPIRIT OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PROMOTING ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN RECENT YEARS," HE NOTED.

THE IDEA OF PUTTING UP DECORATIVE LIGHTING ALONG NATHAN ROAD BEGAN LAST YEAR AS A JOINT PROJECT AMONG THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD, THE 1987-88 MONG KOK FESTIVAL CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.

IT RECEIVED A VERY GOOD RESPONSE AND THE PROJECT THIS YEAR COVERS A LARGE AREA AND A LONGER PERIOD.

COLOURFUL LIGHT BULBS HAVE BEEN MOUNTED ALONG PORTIONS OF NATHAN ROAD AND ARGYLE STREET.

A FOCAL DECORATION HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT THE JUNCTION OF ARGYLE STREET AND NATHAN ROAD WITH LIGHT BULBS FORMING DECORATIVE PATTERNS.

THE LIGHTING WILL BE ON FOR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FROM TODAY UNTIL JANUARY 15; AND FROM JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 20 FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

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SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN OF HOMES

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A GROUP OF 150 CHILDREN FROM HOMES RUN BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND TWO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES HAD A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

THEY JOINED THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN OFFICIATING AT THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY AT THE LANDMARK AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG LAND PROPERTY COMPANY LTD.

THE CHILDREN ARE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S KAI CHI CHILDREN'S CENTRE, PUI CHI BOYS' HOME, O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, THE MARK MEMORIAL HOME OF THE HONG KONG STUDENT AID SOCIETY AND THE ST CHRISTOPHER'S HOME OF SHENG KUNG HUI.

BEFORE THE CEREMONY, THEY WERE TREATED TO A CHRISTMAS MEAL AND PERFORMANCE BY CLOWNS.

THEN THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHILDREN, TOGETHER WITH MRS WONG AND THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HONG KONG LAND, MR ALASDAIR MORRISON PRESSED A BUTTON TO SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS AMID THE CHEERS OF GUESTS AND MUSIC BY THE SALVATION ARMY BAND.

/MRS WONG

- 29 -

MRS WONG SAID THAT SHE WAS TOUCHED BY THE OCCASION.

"CHRISTMAS IS A SEASON FOR SPREADING LOVE AND JOY.

"I AM TOUCHED THAT THESE CHILDREN, WHO FOR VARIOUS REASONS HAVE TO BE UNDER INSTITUTIONAL CARE, ARE PROVIDED WITH AN OPPORTUNITY NOT ONLY TO ENJOY THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO TO FEEL THE GOODWILL AND WARMTH EXTENDED TO THEM THROUGH THE INVITATION TO THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION.

"IT DEMONSTRATES THAT HONG KONG IS TRULY A CARING SOCIETY," SHE SAID.

FATHER CHRISTMAS WAS ON HAND TO BID THE CHILDREN FAREWELL AND PRESENTED EACH CHILD WITH A GIFT.

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FUNDS RAISED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

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IN ADDITION TO ORGANISING CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DISTRICT, THE YAU MA TEI (NORTH AND SOUTH) YIN NGAI SOCIETY ALSO PARTICIPATES ACTIVELY IN VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICES, YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICER, MR NG HON-WAH, SAID TONIGHT (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO OPEN THE SOCIETY'S FUND-RAISING CANTONESE OPERATIC PERFORMANCE AT THE SHA TIN TOWN HALL, MR NG SAID THE SOCIETY'S COMMUNITY SERVICES INCLUDE RAISING FUNDS FOR THE HELPING HAND AND THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE, VISITING HOMES FOR THE AGED AND SPONSORING CHILDREN IN THE PO LEUNG KUK.

HE COMMENDED MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR CONTEMPORARY WOMEN THROUGH THEIR SERVICE TO COMMUNITY.

FUNDS RAISED BY TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE USED TO EXPAND THE SOCIETY'S SERVICES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE FUNCTION WERE CHAIRMAN OF THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT BOARD, MR YIP WAH REPRESENTING THE DB WHICH IS ONE OF THE SOCIETY'S SPONSORS; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER (YAU MA TEI), MR LAU YUK-KUEN; PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, MR AUGUSTINE CHENG; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY, MS TSANG WAI-FONG.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL, SHEUNG WAN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN CENTRAL AND SHEUNG WAN FROM 10 AM ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC CIRCULATION:

- * HILLIER STREET BETWEEN CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL AND WING LOK STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND.
- * WING LOK STREET BETWEEN BONHAM STRAND AND HILLIER STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY EASTBOUND.
- * BONHAM STRAND BETWEEN WING LOK STREET AND CLEVERLY STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY WESTBOUND.
- * BONHAM STRAND BETWEEN CLEVERLY STREET AND HILLIER STREET WILL BE RE-ROUTED TWO-WAY.
- * ALL VEHICLES EXCEPT TRAMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM MORRISON STREET TO CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS WILL BE DESIGNATED DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIODS BELOW:

- * FROM 7 AM TO 10 AM DAILY - THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL EASTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CLEVERLY STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 30 METRES TO THE EAST.
- * DURING PEAK HOURS (7 AM - 10 AM AND 4 PM - 7 PM) - THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WING LOK STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH DES VOEUX ROAD WEST TO A POINT ABOUT 20 METRES TO THE EAST; THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WING LOK STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH BONHAM STRAND TO A POINT ABOUT 45 METRES TO THE WEST; AND THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF WING LOK STREET BETWEEN DES VOEUX ROAD WEST AND BONHAM STRAND.
- * FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY - HILLIER STREET FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH WING LOK STREET; AND WING LOK STREET FROM A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES EAST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH HILLIER STREET TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES TO THE WEST.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS IN MID-LEVELS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT TO FACILITATE THE LAYING OF WATER MAINS, TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE MID-LEVELS FROM SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10).

THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM 2 PM TO MIDNIGHT DAILY ON DECEMBER 10 AND 17:

* ROBINSON ROAD WESTBOUND NEAR ITS JUNCTION WITH ALBANY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

* THE RIGHT-TURN FROM ALBANY ROAD TO ROBINSON ROAD WESTBOUND WILL BE BANNED.

VEHICLES TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HOUSE NO. 1 ROBINSON ROAD AND VEHICLES ON ALBANY ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR ROBINSON ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA OLD PEAK ROAD, HORNSEY ROAD, CONDUIT ROAD AND GLENEALY.

IN ADDITION, THE SLIP ROAD LEADING FROM ROBINSON ROAD EASTBOUND TO ALBANY ROAD WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM DAILY FROM DECEMBER 12 TO 16.

AFFECTED VEHICLES WILL BE DIVERTED VIA ROBINSON ROAD FLYOVER, GARDEN ROAD, UPPER ALBERT ROAD AND GLENEALY.

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TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD FLYOVER WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 PM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 10) TO 10 AM THE NEXT DAY FOR FLYOVER RECONSTRUCTION WORK.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON WATERLOO ROAD SOUTHBOUND HEADING FOR PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD ARE ADVISED TO USE WATERLOO ROAD AT THE GROUND LEVEL.

AS CONGESTION MAY OCCUR ON WATERLOO ROAD AND PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES.

MEANWHILE, A 300-METRE STRETCH ALONG THE EASTBOUND KERBSIDE LANE OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD NEAR BEACON HILL COURT WILL BE CLOSED FROM 10 AM ON THE SAME DAY (SATURDAY) TO 7 AM NEXT TUESDAY FOR REPAIR WORKS.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE IN THIS SECTION OF LUNG CHEUNG ROAD.

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SUSPENSION OF PARKING SPACES

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE PARKING SPACE NOS. 92 TO 111 AT THE MURRAY BARRACKS CARPARK IN CENTRAL WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 8 AM TO MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY (DECEMBER 11) BECAUSE OF ROAD WORKS.

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