



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SELECTION OF NEW AIRPORT TERMINAL DESIGN EXPLAINED

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THE OVER-RIDING CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT IN SELECTING A CONSULTANT FOR THE CHEK LAP KOK AIRPORT TERMINAL DESIGN IS TO HAVE ONE THAT IS MOST ABLE TO COME UP WITH A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR BLAKE SAID THE RATIONALE FOR A WEIGHTING, TO BE APPLIED FOR COMBINING TECHNICAL MERIT SCORES WITH FEE PROPOSALS, WHICH ALSO MIRRORED THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH, WAS THAT AN ELEMENT OF FEE COMPETITION WAS IMPORTANT, BUT SHOULD NOT BE DOMINANT.

REPLYING TO A WRITTEN QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG, THE SECRETARY SAID:

"IN THE CASE OF THE TERMINAL, THIS HAD TO BE THE DESIGN THAT BEST SATISFIED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS AND FUTURE NEEDS OF A TECHNICALLY DEMANDING PROJECT, WHILST AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT THE DESIGN COULD BE BUILT WITHIN BUDGET AND ON TIME."

OF THE THREE FINALISTS, HE SAID, BASED UPON TECHNICAL APPRAISAL INCLUDING A REVIEW BY THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY'S FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE CHOSEN CONSULTANT TECHNICALLY WAS CLEARLY AHEAD OF THE NEXT CONSULTANT, WHOSE FEE WAS SIMILAR.

THE REMAINING FINALIST WHOSE FEE PROPOSAL WAS THE LOWEST OF ANY RECEIVED, WAS THIRD BOTH IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL MERIT AND ALSO WHEN COMBINED WITH FEES.

MR BLAKE SAID ONLY ONE OF THE THREE FINALISTS WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER IN FEE. TWO OF THE FINALISTS, INCLUDING THE CONSULTANT AWARDED THE BID, WERE EXTREMELY CLOSE IN TERMS OF FINAL FEE.

THE OVERALL METHOD OF SELECTION WAS IN FACT VERY SIMILAR TO THAT CURRENTLY USED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALL ENGINEERING AND ASSOCIATED CONSULTANCIES.

ALL BIDDING CONSULTANTS WERE IN FACT CONSORTIA OF SEVERAL FIRMS, AND EACH OF THE EIGHT BIDDING CONSORTIA HAD INVOLVEMENT OF OVERSEAS FIRMS BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR SPECIALIST EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

CONVERSELY, MR BLAKE SAID, HONG KONG EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WERE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT, AND WERE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN ASSESSMENT SUBMISSIONS. ALL CONSORTIA INCLUDING THE APPOINTED CONSULTANT HAD INVOLVEMENT OF HONG KONG BASED FIRMS.

GOVT TO REVIEW QUOTAS BEFORE SECOND NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME
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THE GOVERNMENT WILL REVIEW THE QUOTAS FOR THE VARIOUS CLASSES AND OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS BEFORE APPLICATIONS FOR THE BRITISH NATIONALITY SELECTION SCHEME ARE INVITED FOR THE SECOND PHASE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR ASPREY SAID THE QUOTAS FOR THE VARIOUS CLASSES AND OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS HAD BEEN SET BY THE BRITISH NATIONALITY (HONG KONG) (SELECTION SCHEME) ORDER 1990.

"THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THE ORDER FOR THE UNUSED QUOTA IN ONE OCCUPATIONAL GROUP TO BE REALLOCATED TO ANOTHER."

HE SAID ANY UNUSED PLACES WOULD BE CARRIED FORWARD TO THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SCHEME.

MR ASPREY SAID AS AT MARCH 21 THIS YEAR, 12,078 PERSONS, INCLUDING 4,087 PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS AND THEIR 7,991 DEPENDENTS, HAD BEEN REGISTERED AS BRITISH CITIZENS UNDER THE SCHEME.

CORRESPONDINGLY, 3,141 APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN REJECTED BECAUSE THE APPLICANTS DID NOT SCORE SUFFICIENT POINTS TO BRING THEM WITHIN THE QUOTA OF THEIR SELECTED OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

A BREAKDOWN OF THE PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES BY CLASS AND BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP IS AS FOLLOWS:

	NO. OF PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES -----
GENERAL OCCUPATIONAL CLASS -----	1,375
MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS	50
INFORMATION SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS	24
NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS	93
MEDICAL DOCTORS	331
PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS	25
NURSES AND MIDWIVES	417
LEGAL PROFESSIONALS	113
TEACHING PROFESSIONALS (POST-SECONDARY)	138

/EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS	97
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS	29
STATISTICAL ASSISTANTS	34
TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS	24
DISCIPLINED SERVICES CLASS -----	1,145
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT	205
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT	260
FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT	537
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION	57
ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE	3
GARRISON	83
SENSITIVE SERVICE CLASS -----	1,511
ENTREPRENEURS CLASS -----	56
TOTAL	4,087 =====

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ASSESSMENT SYSTEM OF PUBLIC HOUSING RATES IS WORKING WELL

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THE SYSTEM OF ASSESSING THE RATEABLE VALUE OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES HAS WORKED WELL AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY (HA) TO COMMISSION AN INDEPENDENT SURVEYOR TO UNDERTAKE THE APPRAISAL WORK.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR YEUNG KAI-YIN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR YEUNG SAID THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT HAD ESTATE SURVEYORS WHO APPRAISED THE GOVERNMENT'S VALUATION BEFORE THE RATES ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES WAS FINALISED.

/WHERE NECESSARY

WHERE NECESSARY, THE SECRETARY SAID THEY WOULD SEEK CLARIFICATION AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FROM THE RATING AND VALUATION DEPARTMENT (RVD), AND ADJUSTMENTS IN RESPECT OF CASES THAT WERE JUSTIFIED WERE MADE AS A RESULT OF THOSE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

"EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT LIAISON BETWEEN THE TWO DEPARTMENTS HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE," HE SAID.

MR YEUNG SAID UNTIL RECENTLY, NEITHER THE HA NOR THE RVD HAD RECEIVED ANY OBJECTIONS OR APPEALS AGAINST RATES FROM PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS.

HE SAID THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RENT INCREASE FOR 69 POST-1973 ESTATES HAD GENERATED SOME CONCERN OVER THE RATES ISSUE.

"IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN DECIDED THAT THE RATES NOTICE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES WILL BE DISPLAYED WITHIN EACH HOUSING BLOCK FROM MARCH 1992 ONWARDS, SO AS TO GIVE TENANTS SUFFICIENT NOTICE AND TO ENABLE THEM TO LODGE AN OBJECTION, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER IT WOULD BRING ABOUT ANY DIRECT GAIN TO THEM IN RELATION TO THEIR INCLUSIVE RENT," HE SAID.

IF INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS FELT AGGRIEVED, THE SECRETARY SAID THEY MIGHT TAKE THEIR OBJECTION TO THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION IN APRIL AND MAY EACH YEAR.

"IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY, IN ITS CAPACITY OF A LANDLORD, TO LODGE AN APPEAL AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S FINAL ASSESSMENT SINCE ITS VIEWS HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," MR YEUNG SAID.

IN ASSESSING THE RATES OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, THE COMMISSIONER OF RATING AND VALUATION FOLLOWS THE SAME PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA AS IN ASSESSING PROPERTIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

MR YEUNG EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE RATING ORDINANCE, THE RATEABLE VALUE OF A PROPERTY WAS AN ESTIMATE OF ITS OPEN MARKET RENTAL VALUE.

"THIS REMAINS THE SAME REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE PROPERTY IS ACTUALLY OWNER-OCCUPIED, RENTED AT FULL MARKET RENT OR AT CONCESSIONARY RENT, OR SUBJECT TO STATUTORY CONTROL," HE NOTED.

IN ARRIVING AT AN ASSESSMENT, MR YEUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSIONER TOOK INTO ACCOUNT FACTORS WHICH AFFECTED THE RENTAL VALUE OF THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION, FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND MANAGEMENT.

NO POWER OVER EARLY RELEASE OF HK RESIDENTS IMPRISONED OVERSEAS

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD NO POWER TO FACILITATE EARLY RELEASE OF PERSONS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT OVERSEAS.

"HOWEVER, IN LIAISON WITH BRITISH CONSULAR POSTS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, WE PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS IN RELATION TO PETITIONS FOR PARDON OR EARLY RELEASE," HE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LAU CHIN-SHEK, HE SAID THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT WAS INFORMED IN EACH CASE AND, IF THE DETAINEE ASKED THAT HIS NEXT-OF-KIN BE INFORMED, THIS WAS DONE BY THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT.

MR ASPREY SAID ASSISTANCE WAS ALSO GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT TO FACILITATE VISITS TO THE DETAINEES BY THEIR NEXT-OF-KIN.

THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF 394 HONG KONG RESIDENTS BEING DETAINED OR SERVING SENTENCES OF IMPRISONMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG AS AT MARCH 18 THIS YEAR.

MR ASPREY SAID THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT HAD A LIST OF NAMES OF THESE PERSONS WHICH WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

A COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS BEING DETAINED OR SERVING SENTENCES OVERSEAS IS AS FOLLOWS:

COUNTRY	NO. OF RESIDENTS BEING DETAINED	NO. OF RESIDENTS SERVING SENTENCES	TOTAL NO.
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1. AUSTRALIA	1	9	10
2. AUSTRIA	4	9	13
3. BELGIUM	4	9	13
4. CANADA	2	0	2
5. CHINA	0	34	34
6. DENMARK	1	0	1
7. FRANCE	8	3	11
8. GERMANY	2	7	9
9. GREECE	2	1	3
10. INDONESIA	0	1	1

/11. ITALY

11. ITALY	0	4	4
12. JAPAN	10	35	45
13. KOREA	6	5	11
14. MALAYSIA	0	1	1
15. MEXICO	0	2	2
16. NETHERLANDS	2	3	5
17. PHILIPPINES	17	4	21
18. SINGAPORE	8	14	22
19. SOUTH AFRICA	5	0	5
20. SPAIN	7	0	7
21. SWEDEN	3	1	4
22. SWITZERLAND	6	3	9
23. TAIWAN	5	5	10
24. THAILAND	18	109	127
25. USA	7	14	21
26. RUSSIA	0	1	1
27. VANUATU	0	1	1
28. VIETNAM	0	1	1
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TOTAL	118	276	394

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IMPORTANCE OF NT POSTAL SERVICES STRESSED
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THE ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO PROVIDING POSTAL SERVICES TO THE NEW TERRITORIES AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY TO ASCERTAIN IF AND WHEN IMPROVEMENTS ARE NECESSARY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

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IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, MRS CHAN SAID AT PRESENT, MAIL WAS COLLECTED AT LEAST ONCE A DAY FROM ALL POSTBOXES.

"OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT THIS LEVEL OF SERVICE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS ACCEPTABLE BY THE MAJORITY OF NT RESIDENTS," SHE SAID.

ALL POSTBOXES ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED TO SERVE THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

THE PLANNING STANDARD APPLIED IN BUILT UP AREAS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IS THAT NOBODY SHOULD LIVE FURTHER THAN 0.4 KILOMETRE FROM THE NEAREST POSTBOX.

IN RURAL AREAS, THE STANDARD IS 0.8 KILOMETRE.

"WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THIS PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF COVERAGE," MRS CHAN SAID.

ON DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY OF LETTER MAIL, MRS CHAN SAID THIS SERVICE WAS PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UNNUMBERED BUILDINGS AND REMOTE AREAS WHERE A POSTMAN CARRYING A MAIL POUCH WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY GAINING ACCESS.

IN THESE CASES THE POST OFFICE MAKES ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE RESIDENTS CONCERNED SO THAT THEY CAN RECEIVE MAIL EITHER FROM NEST LETTER BOXES (A GROUP OF LETTER BOXES, EACH SERVING A HOUSEHOLD), A COMMUNAL BOX OR ACCOMMODATION ADDRESSES.

MRS CHAN ALSO SAID THERE WERE ABOUT 950 VILLAGES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES FOR WHICH BUILDING NUMBERS WERE REQUIRED.

OF THESE ABOUT 700 WERE ALREADY NUMBERED AND 250 REMAIN UNNUMBERED.

A PROGRAMME IS NOW BEING DEvised TO REVIEW BUILDING NUMBERING IN ALL NEW TERRITORIES VILLAGES, INCLUDING THOSE WHERE A NUMBERING SCHEME HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AS SOME UPDATING IS REQUIRED TO INCLUDE NEW HOUSES.

"PRIORITY WILL HOWEVER BE GIVEN TO THOSE IDENTIFIED AS BEING MOST IN NEED OF NUMBERING DUE TO OUTSTANDING REQUESTS FOR DIRECT MAIL DELIVERY," SHE SAID.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON BCC COMPLAINTS

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, EXPLAINED WHY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS RAISED TWO QUESTIONS WITH THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS IN RELATION TO THE COMMISSIONER'S INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS OVER THE CLOSURE OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE (HK).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR MATHEWS SAID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS WAS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS ON A MEMORANDUM DATED OCTOBER 4, 1991 FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS.

AS A RESULT TWO QUERIES WERE RAISED WITH THE COMMISSIONER. THE FIRST CONCERNED JURISDICTION AND RELATED TO SECTION 10 OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS ORDINANCE AND THE SECOND CONCERNED SECTION 12(6) OF THAT ORDINANCE.

ON THE QUESTION OF JURISDICTION, MR MATHEWS POINTED OUT THAT SECTION 10 OF THE ORDINANCE PROVIDED THAT THE COMMISSIONER SHOULD NOT UNDERTAKE OR CONTINUE AN INVESTIGATION IF THE COMPLAINT RELATED TO ACTION IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE COMPLAINANT HAD A REMEDY BY PROCEEDINGS IN COURT UNLESS THE COMMISSIONER WAS SATISFIED THAT IN THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS NOT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE COMPLAINANT TO RESORT TO THAT REMEDY.

THE SECTION WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSIONER BECAUSE SHORTLY AFTER THE COMPLAINTS WERE MADE TO THE COMMISSIONER, A BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE DEPOSITOR ISSUED COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING SEEKING DAMAGES FOR HIS LOSS.

MR MATHEWS NOTED THAT THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS HAD RECOMMENDED IN HIS DRAFT REPORT THAT IF THE COMPLAINANT WISHED TO PURSUE A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION, HE MIGHT TAKE THE MATTER TO COURT.

ON NOVEMBER 4, 1991, THE COMMISSIONER STATED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT HE HAD JURISDICTION TO UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE COMPLAINT.

THE SECOND QUESTION RELATED TO SECTION 12(6) OF THE ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES THAT IF DURING THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, IT APPEARS TO THE COMMISSIONER THAT THERE MAY BE SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR HIM TO MAKE ANY REPORT THAT MAY CRITICISE OR ADVERSELY AFFECT ANY OFFICER, HE SHALL GIVE THE OFFICER AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.

"ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSIONER HAD SAID ON OCTOBER 4 THAT HE HAD COMPLETED HIS INVESTIGATION, HE HAD NOT AT THAT STAGE INTERVIEWED THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING OR INDEED HAD ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH HIM.

"ON OCTOBER 31, 1991 THE CROWN SOLICITOR ACCORDINGLY DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSIONER TO THE REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 12(6).

"FOLLOWING THIS LETTER BOTH THE COMMISSIONER OF BANKING AND THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINTS AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING REPRESENTATIONS," MR MATHEWS SAID.

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REGULATION OF FRINGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE FIRMS BEING CONSIDERED

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AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP IS WORKING ON A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK TO REGULATE FRINGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPANIES THROUGH LICENSING AND CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE LEVEL AT WHICH THE LICENSING CRITERIA WOULD BE PITCHED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO, MR NENDICK SAID THE APPROACH WAS EXPECTED TO REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE LICENSING, SUPERVISION AND ENFORCEMENT WORK, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSESSED AS USUAL THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE HONG KONG FUTURES EXCHANGE WAS WORKING ON AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WHICH WOULD INVOLVE ESTABLISHING UNDER ITS AUSPICES A RETAIL CURRENCY MARKET AIMED AT PROVIDING A MORE PRUDENT ALTERNATIVE TO INVESTORS THAN THE EXISTING FRINGE MARKET.

"THE FUTURES EXCHANGE IS DRAWING UP THE DETAILS OF ITS PROPOSAL AND EXPECTS TO COMPLETE THIS WORK WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, WHEN IT WILL CONSULT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION," HE SAID.

AT PRESENT, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 300 TO 400 FRINGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPANIES IN HONG KONG.

THEY ARE NOT SUBJECT TO LICENSING OR REGISTRATION AND FALL OUTSIDE EXISTING FIELDS OF SUPERVISION AND REGULATION.

THERE ARE THEREFORE NO SPECIFIC MEASURES TO MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. ON RECEIPT OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC, THE POLICE WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION ACTIONS.

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF THE COMMERCIAL CRIME BUREAU OF THE POLICE, A TOTAL OF 80 COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AGAINST SUCH COMPANIES.

THE REPORTED GRIEVANCES COVER A WIDE RANGE OF MALPRACTICES. THESE INCLUDE:

- * CHURNING, UNDER WHICH A COMPANY MAKES MANY MORE TRANSACTIONS THAN COMMERCIAL PRUDENCE WOULD DICTATE, IN ORDER TO BOOST THEIR PROFITS FROM COMMISSION;
- * IN-HOUSE TRADING WITHOUT CARRYING OUT ACTUAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS;
- * DISHONOURED CHEQUES;
- * OUTRIGHT FRAUD SUCH AS FLY-BY-NIGHT COMPANIES;
- * COLLAPSE OF COMPANIES DUE TO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES;
- * INABILITY OF CLIENTS TO CONTACT THEIR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES, AND
- * COMPANIES IGNORING THE CLIENTS' BUYING OR SELLING INSTRUCTIONS, THEREBY PREVENTING THE CLIENTS FROM REALISING PROFITS OR CUTTING LOSSES, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

MR NENDICK SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO ISSUE WARNINGS FROM TIME TO TIME THROUGH THE MEDIA ABOUT THE RISKS IN INVESTING THROUGH FRINGE FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATORS AND ADVISING THEM AT THE SAME TIME TO USE AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE BANKING ORDINANCE.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO EXERCISE UTMOST CARE AND PRUDENCE WHEN ENTERING INTO ANY INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENT IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

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GOVT TAKES LEAD IN EMPLOYING DISABLED

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AS THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF DISABLED PERSONS IN HONG KONG, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN PLACING DISABLED PERSONS IN APPROPRIATE JOBS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON. ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, MR WIGGHAM EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE IS TO PLACE THEM IN APPROPRIATE JOBS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

"AS WITH ABLE-BODIED PERSONS, DISABLED PERSONS APPLYING FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE HAVE TO COMPLY WITH ANY STIPULATED ENTRY REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

/"IF THEY

"IF THEY ARE FOUND SUITABLE FOR APPOINTMENT, THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE DEGREE OF PREFERENCE FOR APPOINTMENT OVER OTHER CANDIDATES.

"A DISABLED PERSON FOUND SUITABLE TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF A PARTICULAR POST MAY BE RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT EVEN THOUGH HE MAY NOT BE ABLE, ON ACCOUNT OF HIS DISABILITY, TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF EVERY POST IN THE SAME RANK."

AS WITH OTHER PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS, ORGANISATIONS TAKING ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMER GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENT'S LEAD IN EMPLOYING DISABLED PERSONS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL HAVE ADOPTED A SIMILAR POLICY TO THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE SELECTIVE PLACEMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WHICH PROVIDES FREE SERVICES TO DISABLED PERSONS SEEKING OPEN EMPLOYMENT IN BOTH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, HAD SUCCESSFULLY PLACED MORE THAN 1,000 DISABLED PERSONS LAST YEAR.

MR WIGGHAM SAID THE GREEN PAPER ON REHABILITATION PUBLISHED RECENTLY FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION HAD RECOMMENDED THAT OPTIONS SHOULD BE EXPLORED TO FACILITATE OPEN EMPLOYMENT FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

IT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT ORGANISATIONS IN RECEIPT OF PUBLIC FUNDS, PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES AND BIG COMMERCIAL FIRMS SHOULD BE URGED TO ADOPT A MORE POSITIVE POLICY TOWARDS THE EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS AND SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN MAKING A STATEMENT IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORTS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT POLICY FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

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NO PLAN TO CHANGE ALLOWABLE WAGE DEDUCTIONS PROVISION

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THERE WAS NO PLAN TO INCREASE THE AMBIT OF THE CURRENT PROVISION IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE ON ALLOWABLE WAGE DEDUCTIONS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG, MR CHAN SAID IMPORTED WORKERS ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME PROTECTION UNDER HONG KONG LAW AS LOCAL WORKERS, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF WAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMOUNT STIPULATED IN THEIR CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT.

"ALLOWABLE WAGE DEDUCTIONS ARE SPELT OUT IN THE RELEVANT SECTION OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND DO NOT INCLUDE FEES CHARGED ON AN EMPLOYEE BY AUTHORITIES IN HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN," HE SAID.

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CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES CONTINUES

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ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES WHICH CONSTITUTE A DANGER OR POSE SERIOUS SANITARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL NUISANCE ARE BEING AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE REMOVED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CONRAD LAM AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN ADDITION, MR BARNES SAID ANY PERSON FOUND ERECTING A NEW ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURE WOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR CARRYING OUT BUILDING WORKS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL AND CONSENT OF THE BUILDING AUTHORITY.

"PERSONS WHO ARE MADE HOMELESS AS A RESULT OF THE CLEARANCE OF ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES ARE REHOUSED ACCORDING TO THEIR ELIGIBILITIES BY THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT," HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO THE 1991 POPULATION CENSUS, THERE WERE 3,086 ROOFTOP STRUCTURES WITH 9,985 PEOPLE ENUMERATED.

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NT ORDINANCE UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE WITH A VIEW TO MAKING IT MORE RELEVANT TO PRESENT-DAY NEEDS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR SUEN SAID THERE WERE PROVISIONS IN THE ORDINANCE WHICH ENABLE THOSE HOLDING AN INTEREST IN LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TO CIRCUMVENT THE EFFECT OF CUSTOMARY LAW, FOR EXAMPLE, BY SEEKING AN EXEMPTION TO THE LAND IN QUESTION FROM THE APPLICATION OF PART II OF THE ORDINANCE.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON STEPHEN NG MING-YUM, MR SUEN EXPLAINED THAT MATTERS CONCERNING SUCCESSION WERE GENERALLY GOVERNED BY THE WILLS ORDINANCE, THE INTESTATES' ESTATES ORDINANCE AND THE DECEASED'S FAMILY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE.

THESE LAWS APPLIED TO ALL HONG KONG RESIDENTS IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GENDER AND SOCIAL ORIGIN.

HOWEVER, MR SUEN SAID IN RELATION TO INHERITANCE OF LAND, THERE WERE CERTAIN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OBSERVED BY THE INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WHICH LAID DOWN RULES FOR THE INHERITANCE OF ANCESTRAL LAND ALONG THE MALE LINE.

/"THESE RULES

"THESE RULES ARE GIVEN RECOGNITION IN THE NEW TERRITORIES ORDINANCE WHICH PROVIDES THAT SUCCESSION TO ANCESTRAL LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL GENERALLY BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOMARY LAW," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS ORDINANCE ON SUCH CUSTOMARY LAW, MR SUEN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION HAD STUDIED SUCH IMPLICATIONS PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

"AS THE COUNCIL WAS INFORMED DURING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS BILL 1990 ON JULY 25, 1990, THE FACT THAT CUSTOMARY LAW IN THE NEW TERRITORIES TREATS WOMEN IN A WAY DIFFERENT TO MEN DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE LAW IS NECESSARILY DISCRIMINATORY UNDER THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

"THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HAS OBSERVED THAT IT IS NOT MERELY DIFFERENTIATION OF TREATMENT THAT CONSTITUTES DISCRIMINATION.

"IF THE REASONS FOR THE DIFFERENTIATION IN TREATMENT ARE REASONABLE AND OBJECTIVE AND THE PURPOSE IS ONE WHICH DOES NOT CONTRAVENE THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS THEN SUCH TREATMENT WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATORY," HE ADDED.

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SIZE OF LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS EXPLAINED

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THE SIZE OF THE "LOWER INCOME GROUP" WOULD INCREASE DIRECTLY IN PROPORTION TO THE INCREASE IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON LAM KUI-CHUN, MRS CHAN SAID THERE WAS NO GENERALLY AGREED DEFINITION OF "LOWER INCOME GROUP".

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REPLY, THE "LOWER INCOME GROUP" REFERRED TO THE BOTTOM 60 PER CENT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE INCOME DISTRIBUTION.

IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE OF 1.5 PER CENT PER YEAR IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE SIZE OF THE GROUP ALSO INCREASED AT THE SAME RATE, MRS CHAN SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE INCOME OF THE GROUP HAD BEEN INCREASING FASTER THAN INFLATION AS MEASURED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

BETWEEN 1988 AND 1991, THE MEDIAN MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THIS GROUP INCREASED BY 48 PER CENT, BASED ON DATA OBTAINED FROM THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY, WHILE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT, SHE SAID.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1992

- 14 -

MAINS WATER SUPPLY IN VILLAGES KEPT UNDER REVIEW

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FOR THE REMOTE VILLAGES WITHOUT MAINS WATER SUPPLY, THE VILLAGERS USE WELL OR STREAM WATER WHICH IS REGULARLY MONITORED BY THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE WATER QUALITY IS ACCEPTABLE.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON WONG WAI-YIN, THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT OF THE 171 VILLAGES WITHOUT MAINS WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, IT WAS PLANNED THAT 67 VILLAGES WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH MAINS WATER SUPPLY.

"PROVISION OF MAINS WATER SUPPLY TO THE OTHER VILLAGES WILL NEVERTHELESS BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR REPLIES ON BUDGET AMENDMENTS

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, HAS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REPLIED TO TWO GROUPS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ARE SEEKING TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE MEASURES CONTAINED IN THE BUDGET. UNDER THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS, ANY SUCH AMENDMENTS REQUIRE THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION.

THE GOVERNOR HAS DECLINED TO RECOMMEND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WOULD UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF THE BUDGET AND COMPROMISE THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR MANAGING THE TERRITORY'S PUBLIC FINANCES.

LORD WILSON EXPLAINED THAT THE BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE ARE A REFLECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAREFULLY CONSIDERED STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN THE FORECAST PERIOD OF THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THE GOVERNMENT'S PRUDENT APPROACH REFLECTS THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT RESERVES TO COPE WITH ANY ADVERSE CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO EITHER THE EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE PROPOSALS CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY BECAUSE THEY WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THAT STRATEGY. THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE BUDGET AS A WHOLE.

ON THE EXPENDITURE MEASURES, THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IF HE WERE TO ALLOW ONE PROPOSAL TO BE TABLED TO INCREASE RECURRENT EXPENDITURE IN SPECIFIED AREAS, HE WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO REFUSE SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHER MEMBERS. MANY MEMBERS MIGHT WISH TO SPECIFY AREAS WHERE THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE EXPENDITURE. IT MUST BE THE ADMINISTRATION'S TASK TO TRY TO BALANCE EXPENDITURE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

SIMILARLY, ON THE REVENUE SIDE, LORD WILSON THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY TO ALLOW A SITUATION IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS TO REDUCE PARTICULAR ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING REVENUES. SUCH ADJUSTMENT SHOULD, LORD WILSON CONCLUDED, COME FROM THE GOVERNMENT AS HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE CASE.

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POLICE FORCE DESERVES FULL SUPPORT

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE AND THE POLICE FORCE HAVE BEEN DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB AND DESERVE A FULL SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE VISIT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, TO PEKING WAS A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AUTHORITY THERE.

COMMENTING ON THE RECENT ARMED ROBBERIES, LORD WILSON SAID: "THESE ARE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT WE MUST GET ON TOP OF."

ASKED ABOUT THE BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE BUDGET IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME."

"THAT ALL GOES TOGETHER AS A PACKAGE. IT IS VERY UNUSUAL INDEED FOR PROPOSALS TO BE PUT FORWARD TO REDUCE THE INCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT OR TO INCREASE EXPENDITURE."

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GOVERNOR VISITS TUEN MUN

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THE GOVERNOR, LORD WILSON, VISITED TUEN MUN DISTRICT TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR ALBERT LAM AND TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER LEUNG, THE GOVERNOR BEGAN HIS VISIT BY TAKING A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE DISTRICT FROM THE ROOF TOP OF THE SUN TUEN MUN CENTRE.

"I AM IMPRESSED TO SEE THAT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WERE ONLY PLANS ON THE DRAWING BOARD WHEN I LAST VISITED THE DISTRICT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO ARE NOW IN PLACE," LORD WILSON SAID.

"TUEN MUN NOW HAS A LOT TO OFFER TO ITS RESIDENTS - A BEAUTIFUL TOWN PARK, A MODERN HOSPITAL AND A FULL RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES."

THE GOVERNOR THEN WENT ON FOR A RIDE ON THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT TRAIN TO KIN SANG ESTATE WHERE HE VISITED THE GUIDEPOSTS KINDERGARTEN. STUDENTS WELCOMED HIM WITH A SONG.

LORD WILSON ALSO VISITED KAI MAN PATH, THE BUSIEST STREET IN TUEN MUN TOWN AND STOPPED TO CHAT WITH THE SHOPKEEPERS.

BEFORE CONCLUDING HIS VISIT, LORD WILSON ATTENDED A TEA RECEPTION WHERE HE MET DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES.

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IMPROVED SERVICES FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO EXTINGUISH THE EXISTING SHORTFALL IN HOSTEL AS WELL AS DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE FACILITIES FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALLAN CHOW, SAID.

MR CHOW GAVE THIS ASSURANCE WHEN HE MET A GROUP OF PARENTS OF SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY, THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND A FEW NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.

MR CHOW SAID THE NUMBER OF HOSTEL PLACES INCREASED FROM 488 IN 1988-89 TO 896 IN 1991-92, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 84 PER CENT. THE NUMBER OF PLACES IN DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES ALSO INCREASED BY 50 PER CENT TO 600 DURING THE SAME PERIOD.

"THE FIGURES TESTIFY TO THE HARD WORK PUT IN BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS OVER THE YEARS IN EXPANDING SERVICES FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS," MR CHOW SAID.

"AND BETWEEN 1992-93 AND 1995-96, A TOTAL OF 489 ADDITIONAL HOSTEL PLACES AND 120 CARE AND ATTENTION PLACES HAVE BEEN PLANNED."

ON THE SHORTAGE OF PLACES FOR THOSE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS REQUIRING MEDICAL CARE, MR CHOW SAID WITH THE EXPECTED COMPLETION OF THE PAMELA YOUDE HOSPITAL IN 1992-93 AND THE SIU LAM EXPANSION PROJECT IN 1993-94, AN ADDITIONAL 100 AND 300 PLACES WILL BE PROVIDED RESPECTIVELY.

THE PARENTS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF THE OPTIONS BEING EXPLORED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HOSTEL PLACES. THESE INCLUDE THE PROCUREMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS AND THE PROPOSED BOUGHT PLACE SCHEME.

IN THE MEANTIME, A WIDE RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES IS BEING PROVIDED TO THOSE AWAITING HOSTEL PLACEMENT INCLUDING HOME-BASED TRAINING SERVICE, HIGHER DISABILITY ALLOWANCE AND THE RESPITE SERVICE.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SECURE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERESTED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO SET UP PARENTS RESOURCES CENTRES.

MR CHOW ALSO TOLD THE PARENTS THAT THE EXISTING DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES WERE ALSO CATERED FOR SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

LATEST STATISTICS SHOW THAT OVER HALF OR 58 PER CENT OF THE ENROLLED TRAINEES IN GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES ARE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS.

"TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM EFFECTIVELY, THERE IS A NEED FOR CONCERTED EFFORT BY GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE," MR CHOW SAID.

HK TO SEEK TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY REVIEW
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THE TRADE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO REFER A CASE CONCERNING A NEW U.S. CLASSIFICATION GUIDELINE FOR KNIT TIGHTS TO THE TEXTILES SURVEILLANCE BODY (TSB) FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION.

AN OFFICIAL REQUEST WAS SUBMITTED BY HONG KONG'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO GATT IN GENEVA TODAY.

A TRADE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID: "THE NEW GUIDELINE INTRODUCED BY THE U.S. CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR AND HAS RESULTED IN RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN KNIT TIGHTS AS TROUSERS.

"UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE HONG KONG/U.S. TEXTILES AGREEMENT, TIGHTS HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO THE U.S. UNDER EXPORT AUTHORISATION CATEGORIES, BUT TROUSERS REQUIRE QUOTA FROM SPECIFIC LIMIT CATEGORIES. BECAUSE TROUSERS QUOTA IS FULLY UTILISED, THE CHANGE HAS DISRUPTED HONG KONG'S EXPORTS OF KNIT TIGHTS TO THE U.S.," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT HONG KONG HAD HELD THREE ROUNDS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN A BID TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE.

BOTH SIDES HAD MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO FIND A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. UNFORTUNATELY A SOLUTION HAD NOT SO FAR BEEN POSSIBLE.

"THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES ARE AT STAKE, AND THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG TO REFER THE CASE TO THE TSB FOR REVIEW. WE CAME TO THIS DECISION AFTER CONSULTING THE LOCAL TIGHTS TRADE AND THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS CASE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY TSB AT ITS NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9 AND 10.

ABOUT HK\$390 MILLION WORTH OF KNIT TIGHTS WERE EXPORTED FROM HONG KONG TO THE U.S. LAST YEAR.

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SEMINAR TO PROMOTE HK-CANADA FILM AND TV CO-PRODUCTION
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A SEMINAR ON HONG KONG-CANADA FILM AND TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE HELD IN THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS AT 2.15 PM ON FRIDAY (MARCH 27).

THE SEMINAR IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE CERTIFYING BODY FOR HONG KONG-CANADA FILM AND TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTION THIS YEAR.

/IT WILL

IT WILL BE OPENED BY THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA, MR JOHN HIGGINBOTHAM.

THE SEMINAR WILL BE PRESENTED BY EXPERTS IN FINANCE, TAX CONSULTANTS AND LAWYERS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AS WELL AS PROMINENT LOCAL FILM DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS.

SPEAKERS IN THE SEMINAR WILL EXPLAIN THE HONG KONG OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL FILM FINANCE, TAX-ADVANTAGED FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG AND CANADA CO-PRODUCTIONS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION AND THE FILM ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FILMING EXPERIENCE IN CANADA.

SPEAKERS IN THE SEMINAR WILL BE MR PHILIP MARCOVICI, MR STEPHEN SHIN, MR LAWRENCE CHENG, MR TOMMY LEUNG AND MISS ANNE CHAN.

THE CERTIFYING BODY IS ALSO PLANNING TO HOLD A SEMINAR LATER THIS YEAR IN CANADA AS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD UNDER THE BANNER OF THE FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92.

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POSTCARDS TO BUILD UP FRIENDSHIP ACROSS PACIFIC

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HONG KONG STUDENTS ARE NOW INVITED TO BRING A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP TO CANADIANS BY JOINING "OPERATION POSTCARD" - A COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT HELD UNDER THE BANNER OF FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92.

FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92, WITH THE THEME OF "HONG KONG AND CANADA: BRIDGE ACROSS THE PACIFIC", WILL BE THE BIGGEST OVERSEAS PROMOTION HONG KONG HAS EVER LAUNCHED.

THE FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE IN VANCOUVER, CALGARY, TORONTO, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

IT WILL SHOW TO CANADIANS THE CULTURE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND ENERGY OF THE PEOPLE IN HONG KONG.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE FESTIVAL OFFICE, RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH, AND THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB (CYC) OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, "OPERATION POSTCARD" AIMS TO HELP PROMOTE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND BUILD UP FRIENDSHIP IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA.

"THE IDEA IS TO INVITE HONG KONG YOUNGSTERS TO WRITE MESSAGES OR PRODUCE DRAWINGS ON PRE-PRINTED POSTCARDS WHICH WILL SERVE AS A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE GREETING," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

/"COMPLETED POSTCARDS

"COMPLETED POSTCARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND STUDENTS IN THE FIVE MAIN CANADIAN CITIES WHERE THE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD," HE ADDED.

AN APPEAL LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO ABOUT 1,100 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE TERRITORY AND POSTCARDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE END OF NEXT MONTH. STUDENTS FROM PRIMARY IV TO FORM VII ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE OPERATION.

COMPLETED CARDS SELECTED BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS SHOULD BE RETURNED IN BULK TO THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE JUNE 1 THIS YEAR.

SOUVENIRS WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH SCHOOL FOR AWARD TO OUTSTANDING ENTRIES.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ENQUIRIES, SCHOOLS CAN CONTACT THE CYC OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 2376 OR THE FESTIVAL OFFICE ON TEL. 827 4455 EXT. 56.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER
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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCIES ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE FIRST SITE, LOCATED IN AREA 14, TUEN MUN NEW TOWN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1.26 HECTARES.

IT IS EARMARKED FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC VEHICLE PARK FOR PARKING MOTOR VEHICLES CURRENTLY LICENSED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER SITE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 11,790 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED IN AREA 4B, SHEUNG SHUI.

THE LAND IS FOR A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC VEHICLE PARK FOR THE PARKING OF LICENSED PRIVATE CARS, GOODS VEHICLES, CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

/TENDERS WILL

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TENDERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON APRIL 10.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, SIXTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN; THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, NORTH, SIXTH FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING; THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET.

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPENS FOR COMMUNITY CHEST

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE GARDENS AND PRINCIPAL ROOMS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHILE SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY CHEST ON SUNDAY (MARCH 29).

GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC ON MARCH 15 AS AN ANNUAL TRADITION.

THE ADDITIONAL "OPEN DAY", FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM, WILL GIVE VISITORS A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY CHEST BY DONATING A MINIMUM OF \$10 PER PERSON.

LAST YEAR THIS EVENT ATTRACTED OVER 18,000 VISITORS, RAISING WELCOME FUNDS FOR THE COMMUNITY CHEST.

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268 VOLUNTARY RETURNEES BACK TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 268 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 105 MEN, 67 WOMEN, 43 BOYS AND 53 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 96TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 2,854 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 16,833 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1992

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	24.3.92	700
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	25.3.92	+151
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-151
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		+500 *

* LATE O/N ASSISTANCE,
TO BE REVERSED ON 26.3.92

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.8 *+0.0* 25.3.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.06 PCT	20 MONTHS	2311	6.25	100.34	6.11
1 MONTH	4.01 PCT	23 MONTHS	2402	5.50	98.65	6.36
3 MONTHS	4.05 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.41 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.82 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 7,455 MN

CLOSED 25 MARCH 1992

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