



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL.: 842 8777

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

| | |
|---|----|
| GOVERNOR TO BRIEF LEGCO ON CHINA VISIT | 1 |
| CHINA-TAIWAN LINKS BRING NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES | 1 |
| MORE PARKING SPACES FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES | 3 |
| GOVT WILL NOT ALLOW HK BE USED BY OUTSIDERS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES | 3 |
| MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH UNREGISTERED SCHOOLS | 4 |
| WAYS TO AWARD CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS UNDER STUDY | 5 |
| ADEQUATE INFORMATION SHOULD BE DISCLOSED TO PROPERTY BUYERS | 5 |
| ALTERNATIVES TO PRINTED TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES WILL BE CONSIDERED | 6 |
| NO PLANS TO SCRAP ABSENCE RULES FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS | 6 |
| AMPLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL AND SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES | 7 |
| STEERING GROUPS TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF COMPANY INSPECTIONS | 8 |
| REVIEW GROUP ON URBAN RENEWAL SOON TO COMPLETE FIRST TASK . | 9 |
| TSEUNG KWAN O INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TO OFFER SITES IN 1994 | 9 |
| MEASURES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE SECURITY | 10 |
| NO CASUAL LINK BETWEEN SCHOOL BAG WEIGHT AND SPINAL DEFORMITIES | 11 |
| IMPROVEMENTS TO JOINT STUDENT ADMISSION SYSTEM UNDER WAY .. | 12 |
| MORE FUNDS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES | 13 |

/TWENTY-SEVEN

| | |
|--|----|
| TWENTY-SEVEN CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETIES DISSOLVED | 14 |
| SUBVENTION TO ESF USED TO MEET TEACHER SALARIES | 14 |
| TRADE LICENSING PROCEDURES SIMPLIFIED WITHOUT SACRIFICING CONTROL | 15 |
| DEMOLITION WORK IN WING ON STREET TO COMPLETE IN THREE WEEKS | 17 |
| INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF EXTRA AIR SERVICES OVER CHINESE NEW YEAR AGREED | 18 |
| EYES OPEN TO HK FASHIONS AND ARTS | 19 |
| YOUTHS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN BUILDING FOR TOMORROW | 20 |
| TWO LAND LOTS TO LET BY TENDER | 20 |
| PEARL RIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE A SUCCESS | 21 |
| EXHIBITION ON BUILDING SAFETY | 22 |
| SEMINAR ON CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PRE-HISTORIC CHINESE PETROGLYPHS OF HUMAN - VISAGED DIVINITIES | 22 |
| SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON EAST | 23 |
| HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .. | 23 |

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 1 -

GOVERNOR TO BRIEF LEGCO ON CHINA VISIT

* * * * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) PASSED A MOTION TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO BRIEF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ABOUT HIS VISIT TO CHINA AND TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS AT A SITTING ON SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24).

THE GOVERNOR SAID AT THE SITTING OF THE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 8 THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET MEMBERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM CHINA TO BRIEF THEM ABOUT HIS VISIT AND TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.

MOVING THE MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS 11 AND 12, THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID THE GOVERNOR, AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, HAD NOW APPOINTED OCTOBER 24 FOR A SITTING FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE NECESSARY AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THIS COUNCIL SO AS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS THIS COUNCIL AND TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS TO AVOID THE NEED TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS EVERY TIME WE HAVE A SITTING FOR SUCH PURPOSE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CHINA-TAIWAN LINKS BRING NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

* * * * *

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN SHOULD STIMULATE NEW TRADING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE REGION IN THE LONGER TERM, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HENRY TANG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS BOSHER SAID TOGETHER WITH A GENERALLY MORE PROSPEROUS SOUTH CHINA, THIS SHOULD BRING MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HONG KONG.

IN THE SHORT TERM, IT IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO A SLOW-DOWN IN THE GROWTH RATE OF ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER, SHE SAID GIVEN THAT ANY CHANGE WAS UNLIKELY TO HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, THERE WOULD BE TIME FOR HONG KONG TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO ANY SHORT-TERM ADVERSE IMPACTS.

IN THE FIELD OF TRADE, HONG KONG SERVES BOTH AS AN ENTREPOT FOR INDIRECT TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN AND AS A TRANSHIPMENT CENTRE FOR GOODS SOURCED FROM OR DESTINED FOR CHINA AND TAIWAN.

/LAST YEAR,

LAST YEAR, INDIRECT TRADE PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG AMOUNTED TO HK\$45 BILLION OR SOME 8.4% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL RE-EXPORTS.

ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OR 4 MILLION TONNES OF THE TRANSHIPMENT CARGO HANDLED BY HONG KONG INVOLVED CHINA AS EITHER THE SOURCE OR THE DESTINATION, WHILE THE FIGURE FOR TAIWAN WAS 7 % OR 1.2 MILLION TONNES.

IF DIRECT LINKS ARE ESTABLISHED, PART OF THE EXISTING ENTREPOT TRADE PASSING THROUGH HONG KONG IS LIKELY TO BE CHANNELLED DIRECTLY TO CHINESE PORTS, MRS BOSHER SAID.

FURTHER, A PROPORTION OF CHINA-RELATED TRANSHIPMENT CARGO IS LIKELY TO BE DIVERTED AWAY FROM HONG KONG TO PORTS IN TAIWAN WHICH CURRENTLY HAVE A COMPARATIVE COST ADVANTAGE, SHE ADDED.

"THESE TWO DEVELOPMENTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THE EFFECT OF SLOWING DOWN GROWTH IN PORT THROUGHPUT IN THE SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM.

"HOWEVER, GIVEN HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A LEADING CENTRE FOR FINANCIAL, TRADE-RELATED AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, IT IS LIKELY TO REMAIN ATTRACTIVE AS A TRANSPORTATION HUB," SHE SAID.

AS REGARDS TOURISM AND AIR LINKS, SHE SAID HONG KONG WAS AN IMPORTANT GATEWAY FOR TAIWANESE TRAVELLING TO CHINA.

OF THE SOME 1.3 MILLION TAIWANESE WHO VISITED HONG KONG LAST YEAR, SOME 450,000 WENT ON INTO CHINA AFTER THEIR STAY IN HONG KONG.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIRECT AIR LINKS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT IN SOME OF THOSE 450,000 TAKING DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM TAIWAN TO CHINA," SHE SAID.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MRS BOSHER SAID HONG KONG'S ATTRACTION TO TAIWANESE VISITORS AS A TOURIST AND BUSINESS DESTINATION IN ITS OWN RIGHT CONTINUED TO INCREASES.

"IN THE LONGER TERM, THEREFORE, IT IS LIKELY THAT A SHORT TERM LOSS IN TRANSFER TRAFFIC WOULD BE OFFSET BY CONTINUING REAL GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF VISITORS DESTINED FOR HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

ON MAIL TRAFFIC, SHE SAID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT LINKS WAS EXPECTED TO HAVE ONLY MINIMAL IMPACT.

MORE PARKING SPACES FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

* * * * *

ABOUT 2,000 PARKING SPACES FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES WILL BE PROVIDED IN TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI IN THE COMING YEAR, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LEE WING-TAT, MR EASON SAID THREE SITES COVERING 6.7 HECTARES HAD JUST BEEN OR WOULD SOON BE LET ON SHORT-TERM TENANCY.

THESE SITES WILL PROVIDE 750 PARKING SPACES AND OTHER SITES ARE UNDER PLANNING, HE ADDED.

"ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACES WILL ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT MEASURES," HE SAID.

ON PARKING FACILITIES AT CONTAINER TERMINALS 8 AND 9, MR EASON SAID 52 HECTARES OF BACK-UP LAND WOULD BE AVAILABLE THERE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

THIS WILL INCLUDE LAND DESIGNATED FOR HEAVY GOODS VEHICLE PARKING.

"LAND RESERVED FOR OTHER CONTAINER-RELATED USES MAY BE ALLOCATED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PARKING, IF NECESSARY," HE SAID.

CITING AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID ABOUT 14 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL LAND NEXT TO CONTAINER TERMINAL 9, WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN 1996, MIGHT BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE BEFORE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BEGAN.

IN ADDITION, CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATORS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE SPACES WITHIN THE TERMINALS FOR OVERNIGHT PARKING.

ONE OPERATOR HAS ALREADY AGREED TO DESIGNATE ABOUT 300 SPACES FOR THIS PURPOSE, MR EASON SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT WILL NOT ALLOW HK BE USED BY OUTSIDERS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT IT WILL NOT ALLOW HONG KONG TO BE USED BY OUTSIDERS FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES.

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

MR ASPREY SAID IF ALLOWING A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL TO ENTER THE TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG, THE DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION MIGHT EXERCISE HIS AUTHORITY TO REFUSE THAT PERSON PERMISSION TO LAND.

HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE AND THE RIGHT TO LAND IN THE TERRITORY, HE SAID.

THEREFORE, MR ASPREY ADDED THAT HONG KONG PERMANENT RESIDENTS MIGHT NOT BE REFUSED ENTRY.

"BUT ALL PERSONS SEEKING ENTRY MUST PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THEIR IDENTITY AND STATUS (I.E. NATIONALITY, PERMANENT RESIDENCY, AND SO ON) BEFORE BEING ADMITTED," THE SECRETARY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO DEAL WITH UNREGISTERED SCHOOLS

* * * * *

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS STEPPED UP INSPECTIONS OF SUSPECTED PREMISES FOLLOWING A 75 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SUSPECTED UNREGISTERED SCHOOLS, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW, MR CHAN SAID A TOTAL OF 113 INSPECTIONS OF 49 PREMISES WERE MADE THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 14 INSPECTIONS OF 11 PREMISES LAST YEAR.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING THE EDUCATION ORDINANCE TO SEE WHETHER THE EXISTING PROVISIONS ARE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE PRUDENTIAL CONTROL OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR PRIVATE TUTORIAL CENTRES, HE SAID.

UNDER THE EXISTING ORDINANCE, THE PENALTIES FOR FAILING TO REGISTER A SCHOOL ARE A FINE OF \$25,000 AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TWO YEARS.

"THESE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENT," MR CHAN SAID.

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS ESTABLISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL WITH A VIEW TO DISCLOSING THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PURPORTED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE FOUND NOT TO HAVE BEEN REGISTERED AS SCHOOLS, HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICES KEEP A LIST OF ALL REGISTERED SCHOOLS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC EITHER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WAYS TO AWARD CONTAINER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS UNDER STUDY
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXAMINING THE MOST APPROPRIATE METHOD FOR THE DISPOSAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL NUMBER 9, THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MRS BOSHER SAID A DECISION WOULD BE REACHED IN TIME FOR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO BE GRANTED BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

SHE SAID THE PREFERRED APPROACH WOULD BE DETERMINED IN THE LIGHT OF CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF HOW BEST TO ENSURE TIMELY COMPLETION OF THE TERMINAL, OPTIMUM EFFICIENCY IN THE THROUGHPUT OF CONTAINERS AND THE NEED FOR COMPETITION IN THE PORT.

"AS NO CONCLUSION HAS YET BEEN REACHED, IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO SPECULATE ON WHICH METHOD OF DISPOSAL MAY BE SELECTED OR THE REVENUE WHICH MIGHT BE GENERATED," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ADEQUATE INFORMATION SHOULD BE DISCLOSED TO PROPERTY BUYERS
* * * * *

THE ADMINISTRATION SEES THE NEED TO PROVIDE PROSPECTIVE PROPERTY BUYERS WITH ADEQUATE INFORMATION ON FLATS THEY WISH TO BUY, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON HUANG CHEN-YA, MR EASON SAID THE REGISTRAR GENERAL (LAND OFFICER) ALREADY OPERATED A CONSENT SCHEME REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IN THE SALE OF MANY UNCOMPLETED FLATS COMING ONTO THE MARKET.

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ALSO EXAMINING, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING THE POSITION THROUGH LEGISLATION.

"I UNDERSTAND THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION INTENDS TO CONDUCT A SIMILAR STUDY ON THE SUBJECT AND WILL ENSURE THAT THE COMMISSION IS PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION WHICH WILL ASSIST IT," HE ADDED.

DURING THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON ESTATE AGENTS IN MAY, MR EASON CONFIRMED THAT, LOOKING BEYOND THE TRADE'S OWN CURRENT IDEAS ON SELF-REGULATION, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE EXAMINING POSSIBLE REGULATORY CONTROLS TO SUIT HONG KONG'S SITUATION.

"SINCE THEN, WE HAVE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH TRADE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CONSUMER COUNCIL AND THE LATTER HAS AGREED TO PRESENT PROPOSALS ON THE MATTER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER.

"WE WILL STUDY THESE WHEN THEY ARE READY," MR EASON SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

ALTERNATIVES TO PRINTED TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES WILL BE CONSIDERED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY PROPOSALS FROM THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COST-EFFECTIVE, CUSTOMER-ORIENTED ALTERNATIVES TO REDUCE FURTHER THE DEMAND FOR PRINTED TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ELIZABETH BOSHER, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON SAMUEL WONG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"WHILST AS AN ELEMENT IN OVERALL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES THE COMMUNITY TO REDUCE USE OF AND, WHERE PRACTICAL, TO RECYCLE PAPER, IT IS NOT PRESENT POLICY TO TARGET SPECIFIC PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES," MRS BOSHER SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MAINTAIN RECORDS OF THE NUMBER OF TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES PRINTED OR DISTRIBUTED BY THE HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY LTD.

"HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEMAND FOR PRINTED TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES IS ON THE DECLINE," SHE SAID.

MRS BOSHER SAID TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES HAD LONG BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PUBLIC TELEPHONIC SERVICE PROVIDED BY HONG KONG TELEPHONE COMPANY UNDER ITS EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE.

TO PRESS THE COMPANY TO CEASE PROVIDING DIRECTORIES WOULD IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE OVERALL TELECOMS POLICY OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING THAT THE WIDEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AT REASONABLE COST, MRS BOSHER ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO PLANS TO SCRAP ABSENCE RULES FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS

* * * * *

THE NEW 180 DAYS OF PERMITTED ABSENCE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS WOULD ALLOW ELDERLY PEOPLE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OUTSIDE HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID.

HOWEVER, IF THE ABSENCE RULE WAS TO BE ABOLISHED, ANY ELDERLY PERSON WHO FULFILLS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA WOULD RECEIVE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE EVEN IF HE IS SETTLED PERMANENTLY ELSEWHERE, SHE SAID.

"THIS WOULD CREATE A TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL BURDEN TO TAXPAYERS IN HONG KONG," SHE SAID.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON CHIM PUI-CHUNG IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MRS WONG SAID SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES IN HONG KONG WERE NON-CONTRIBUTORY AND WERE FINANCED BY TAXPAYERS' MONEY.

"AS SUCH, THEY ARE ONLY INTENDED FOR THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED OF FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE," SHE SAID.

IT WILL ALSO BE IMPRACTICABLE TO LIFT THE ABSENCE RULE ALTOGETHER IF AN ELDERLY PERSON IS ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, AS HIS ELIGIBILITY HAS TO BE REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME.

MRS WONG ALSO DISMISSED THE SUGGESTION OF PAYING THE SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCES IN THE FORM OF AN ANNUAL LUMP SUM OWING TO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES.

"FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF OVERPAYMENT SHOULD THE RECIPIENTS' ELIGIBILITY CHANGE DURING THE YEAR," SHE SAID.

"RECIPIENTS MIGHT ALSO SUFFER IF THEY EXHAUST THE LUMP SUM EARLY IN THE YEAR."

MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO SUBVENT HONG KONG WELFARE AGENCIES TO OPERATE HOMES FOR THE AGED IN CHINA FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AMPLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL
AND SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THERE ARE AMPLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES IN MEDICINE, SOCIAL WORK AND VARIOUS PARAMEDICAL STUDIES.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY DR THE HON CONRAD LAM KUI-SHING, MR CHAN SAID:

"HAVING REGARD TO THE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES ANNOUNCED IN THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS ON 7 OCTOBER 1992, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THERE WILL BE A REQUIREMENT FOR ABOUT 1,270 MEDICAL, 3,100 SOCIAL WORK AND 1,250 PARA MEDICAL GRADUATES AND DIPLOMATES BETWEEN NOW AND 1996/97 TO MEET SERVICE NEEDS AND PROJECTED WASTAGE IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR."

HE SAID THE ADMINISTRATION REGULARLY REVIEWS AND UPDATES ITS FORECASTS OF REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

IT ALSO MAINTAINS REGULAR LIAISON WITH THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE PUBLIC SECTOR'S MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS FOR THESE PROFESSIONAL GROUPS.

AT PRESENT, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ARE REVIEWING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

THE ADVICE OF THE HEALTH AND MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL BE SOUGHT ON THE FINDINGS WHEN AVAILABLE.

/IN ADDITION,

IN ADDITION, THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL WORK TRAINING AND MANPOWER PLANNING CONDUCTS REGULAR REVIEWS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.

"THE OUTCOME OF THESE STUDIES SHOULD PROVIDE USEFUL REFERENCE FOR ACCURATE PLANNING FOR MANPOWER TRAINING IN THESE PROFESSIONS," MR CHAN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STEERING GROUPS TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF COMPANY INSPECTIONS

* * * * *

STEERING GROUPS HAVE BEEN SET UP TO MONITOR PROGRESS OF THE INSPECTIONS AS WELL AS THE WORK OF THE INSPECTORS IN THE TWO ON-GOING INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER SECTIONS 142 AND 143 OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

THE INSPECTIONS ARE OF THE AFFAIRS OF ALLIED GROUP LIMITED AND RELATED COMPANIES, AND OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTRE GROUP LIMITED AND TOMSON PACIFIC LIMITED.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN EACH CASE THE STEERING GROUP, WHICH IS CHAIRED BY ONE OF MY DEPUTIES, COMPRISES EXPERIENCED OFFICERS WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF COMPANY AFFAIRS FROM THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION AND THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH," MR NENDICK SAID.

THE GROUPS MEET REGULARLY TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE RESPECTIVE INSPECTORS AND CONSIDER WITH THE INSPECTORS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT WAY OF PROCEEDING WITH THE INSPECTIONS.

THE SECRETARY SAID FOR THOSE INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE TWO SECTIONS OF THE ORDINANCE, THE ADMINISTRATION MAINTAINED DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE INSPECTORS TO ENSURE THAT EACH INSPECTION WAS CARRIED OUT AS SMOOTHLY AND AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

IN ADDITION TO THE TWO CASES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION, EIGHT OTHER INSPECTIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS UNDER THE ORDINANCE. ONE OF THESE CASES INVOLVED EIGHT COMPANIES.

"IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH INSPECTIONS IS TO INVESTIGATE SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS OR SERIOUS PROBLEMS PERCEIVED TO EXIST IN LISTED COMPANIES," HE SAID.

THE EFFICACY OF SUCH INSPECTIONS CANNOT SOLELY BE JUDGED BY THE NUMBER OF ADVERSE FINDINGS AND SUBSEQUENT SANCTIONS IMPOSED, HE SAID.

"AN INSPECTION CAN THEREFORE IN SOME INSTANCES BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING BEEN SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED EVEN IF IT ESTABLISHES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ABUSE OF FIDUCIARY DUTY OR THAT A PARTICULAR COMPLAINT IS NOT SUBSTANTIATED," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 9 -

REVIEW GROUP ON URBAN RENEWAL SOON TO COMPLETE FIRST TASK
* * * * *

A REVIEW GROUP TO EXAMINE THE URBAN RENEWAL PROCESS WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE ROLE OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WILL COMPLETE ITS INITIAL TASK BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON JAMES TO KUN-SUN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR EASON SAID THE REVIEW GROUP, LED BY THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED AND THE CORPORATION, WAS SET UP IN JULY.

THE POSITION OF OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS, INCLUDING TENANTS, AFFECTED BY REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE REVIEW, HE SAID.

FOLLOWING ITS INITIAL TASK, IT WOULD THEN REVIEW OTHER ASPECTS OF THE REDEVELOPMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TSEUNG KWAN O INDUSTRIAL ESTATE TO OFFER SITES IN 1994
* * * * *

THE FIRST FULLY-SERVICED SITES AT HONG KONG'S THIRD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN TSEUNG KWAN O ARE EXPECTED TO BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1994, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR CHAU TAK-HAY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, MR CHAU SAID THE NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WAS, LIKE THE EXISTING TWO ESTATES IN TAI PO AND YUEN LONG, INTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIES.

AS THE ESTATE HAS DEEP SEA ACCESS, JETTIES AND PIPE PATHS HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO ACCOMMODATE INDUSTRIES REQUIRING THESE FACILITIES, HE SAID.

MR CHAU SAID THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION INTENDED TO ADOPT THE SAME BROAD CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF LESSEES AS HAD BEEN ADOPTED FOR THE TAI PO AND YUEN LONG ESTATES.

"THE CORPORATION HAS ALREADY INVITED APPLICATIONS AND A DEPOSIT HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM ONE COMPANY FOR A SITE.

ON TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR THE NEW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MR CHAU SAID THE TSEUNG KWAN O ROAD TUNNEL LINKED THE NEW TOWN TO EAST KOWLOON, AND A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY JOINED THE NEW TOWN AND THE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.

/"ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY

"ADDITIONAL HIGHWAY CAPACITY WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PLANNED WEST COAST ROAD FROM KWUN TONG TO TSEUNG KWAN O AND BY THE PROVISION OF A BRIDGE ACROSS TSEUNG KWAN O WHICH WILL ALLOW INDUSTRIAL TRAFFIC TO BE DIVERTED FROM THE TOWN CENTRE," HE SAID.

TURNING TO MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE DEMAND FOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE SITES, MR CHAU SAID THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT PUBLICISED THE ESTATES TO OVERSEAS MANUFACTURERS THROUGH ITS INWARD INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMME.

HE ADDED THAT THE HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION HAD SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE DEMAND FOR SITES AT THE YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE BY ADVERTISING IN INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE JOURNALS LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS AND THROUGH PARTICIPATION BY ITS STAFF IN OVERSEAS CONFERENCES.

SEVENTY HECTARES AND 44 HECTARES OF LAND HAVE BEEN GRANTED IN THE TAI PO AND YUEN LONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATES RESPECTIVELY.

WHILE TWO HECTARES REMAIN TO BE GRANTED AT TAI PO WHICH ARE UNDER A RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL TO AN EXISTING GRANTEE, 22 HECTARES REMAIN TO BE GRANTED AT YUEN LONG, OF WHICH FOUR ARE UNDER RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL BY EXISTING GRANTEES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MEASURES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE SECURITY

* * * * *

THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION (CNTA) HAS INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY IN COMMUNITY CENTRES, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR SUEN SAID FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF ON-SITE STAFF, CNTA CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF SECURITY IN COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS AND THE HONG KONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

"THE REVIEW IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF MEASURES WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED IN SOME OR ALL COMMUNITY CENTRES TO IMPROVE SECURITY," HE SAID.

THESE INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION OF ROLLER SHUTTERS AT MAIN ENTRANCES AND REAR EXITS, FITTING HEAVY-DUTY LOCKS ON ALL MAIN GATES, FITTING SECURITY BARS ON WINDOWS AS WELL AS INSTALLING ANTI-CLIMB SPIKES AND COILED BARBED WIRES.

"THESE MEASURES ARE BEING PROGRESSIVELY INTRODUCED IN FACILITIES WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO VANDALISM OR BURGLARIES," MR SUEN SAID.

BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SECURITY OF PUBLIC PREMISES WAS ALWAYS RATHER DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN.

"IT IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN ALLOWING FREE AND UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC, WHICH INCREASES THE RISK OF VANDALISM AND OTHER PROBLEMS, AND BEING TOO RESTRICTIVE.

"I BELIEVE WE HAVE ACHIEVED A REASONABLE BALANCE WHICH ALLOWS RELATIVELY FREE ACCESS WHERE REQUIRED, BUT WITH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE PREMISES, USERS AND TENANTS ALIKE.

"AS A FURTHER STEP, COMMUNITY CENTRE TENANTS HAVE BEEN URGED TO CO-OPERATE BY TAKING REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS THEMSELVES TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THESE PREMISES," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NO CASUAL LINK BETWEEN SCHOOL BAG WEIGHT AND SPINAL DEFORMITIES

* * * * *

NO CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP WAS FOUND BETWEEN THE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS AND SPINAL DEFORMITIES, ACCORDING TO A RESEARCH REPORT JOINTLY PUBLISHED BY THE HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND THE DUCHESS OF KENT HOSPITAL IN MAY 1988.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON ERIC LI IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THE RESEARCH WAS BASED ON A SAMPLE WHERE THE AVERAGE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS WAS 4.6 KILOGRAMS.

ANOTHER SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN 1987 REVEALED THAT SCHOOL BAGS CARRIED BY PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS WEIGHED 3.4 KILOGRAMS ON AVERAGE AND THAT THIS WEIGHT INCLUDED TEXTBOOKS, WORKBOOKS, WATER-BOTTLES AND PENCIL CASES.

MR CHAN SAID THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ISSUED GUIDELINES TO SCHOOLS AT REGULAR INTERVALS SUGGESTING PRACTICAL WAYS TO REDUCE THE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS.

FOR EXAMPLE, PARENTS AND PUPILS ARE REMINDED TO PACK THE MINIMUM OF TEXTBOOKS.

TEACHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGN THEIR TIME-TABLE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID PUPILS HAVING TO BRING TOO MANY TEXTBOOKS AND WORKBOOKS ON ANY PARTICULAR DAY.

SCHOOLS ARE URGED TO PROVIDE ITEMS SUCH AS DICTIONARIES AND STATIONERY FOR COMMON USE.

"THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT ITS ADVICE TO SCHOOLS TO MINIMISE THE WEIGHT OF SCHOOL BAGS IS SUFFICIENT," MR CHAN SAID.

"LOCKERS ARE NOT ESSENTIAL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS AS THEY ARE COSTLY TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN AND REQUIRE CLOSE SUPERVISION IN THEIR USE," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 12 -

IMPROVEMENTS TO JOINT STUDENT ADMISSION SYSTEM UNDER WAY
* * * * *

THE JOINT UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC ADMISSION SYSTEM (JUPAS) HAS ON THE WHOLE ACHIEVED THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE OF GIVING STUDENTS MORE CHOICE OF PROGRAMME AND MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE THEIR CHOICE.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON MRS SELINA CHOW IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IT HAS ALSO ELIMINATED THE PROBLEM OF WASTAGE OF PLACES RESULTING FROM MULTIPLE ENROLMENTS, HE ADDED.

MR CHAN SAID STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING ADMISSION PROCEDURES IN THE LIGHT OF WORKING EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR.

"WITH THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG CHANGING OVER TO POST-SECONDARY 7 ENTRY IN 1994, THE JUPAS SYSTEM WILL BE GREATLY SIMPLIFIED," HE NOTED.

"IT WILL OPERATE ON A ONE-YEAR CYCLE, USING AN ITERATIVE COMPUTER PROGRAMME TO MATCH STUDENTS AND PROGRAMMES WITH A VIEW TO GIVING EACH STUDENT THE OFFER BEST SUITED TO HIM OR HER.

"STUDENTS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THEIR CHOICES OF STUDY PROGRAMMES UNTIL NOVEMBER OF THEIR YEAR IN SECONDARY 7.

"THE WHOLE ADMISSION PROCEDURE WILL BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR, LEAVING AMPLE TIME FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE PART IN ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES AND OTHER PRE-TERM ACTIVITIES."

UNDER THE EXISTING SYSTEM, SOME STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED AT THE END OF SECONDARY 6 TO THE FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMMES OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, WHILE SOME OTHERS RECEIVE CONDITIONAL OFFERS OF PLACES ON DEGREE PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY THE OTHER FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY AND POLYTECHNIC GRANTS COMMITTEE TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED SUCH CONDITIONAL OFFERS AND WHO SATISFY THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS ARE GIVEN THE OPTION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE OFFERS AT THE END OF SECONDARY 7.

"THIS IS FOLLOWED BY TWO FURTHER ROUNDS OF OFFERS WHICH ARE MADE ON THE BASIS OF APPLICANTS' ACADEMIC RESULTS AND COURSE PREFERENCES," MR CHAN SAID.

"A THIRD ROUND OF OFFERS IS THEN MADE BY INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTIONS DIRECT TO REMAINING APPLICANTS IF PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE."

MR CHAN ADMITTED THAT SOME CONFUSION HAD ARISEN UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM LARGELY BECAUSE MANY STUDENTS WHO HAD NOT RECEIVED CONDITIONAL OFFERS AT THE END OF SECONDARY 6 CHOSE TO APPROACH THE INSTITUTIONS DIRECT AND, IN THE PROCESS, SOMETIMES GAINED THE WRONG IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN PLACES.

/ANOTHER COMMON

ANOTHER COMMON MISUNDERSTANDING IS DUE TO THE BELIEF OF STUDENTS THAT ADMISSION IS SOLELY DEPENDENT ON THE GRADES ACHIEVED IN THE CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION AND ADVANCED LEVEL EXAMINATIONS.

IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, NO CANDIDATES CAN BE ADMITTED DIRECT BY A TERTIARY INSTITUTION OUTSIDE THE JUPAS SYSTEM UNTIL THE FINAL STAGE AND THAT ADMISSION DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON EXAMINATION RESULTS BUT ALSO ON OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS PERFORMANCE AT INTERVIEWS, THE RESULTS OF APTITUDE TESTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MORE FUNDS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

* * * * *

SOME \$50 MILLION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN 1993/94 TO STRENGTHEN THE RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO CATER FOR FAMILY NEEDS.

THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF MORE CHILD CARE CENTRES, FOSTER CARE HOMES, SMALL GROUP HOMES, HOME HELP TEAMS, FAMILY CASEWORK AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO THE HON LI WAH-MING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS WONG SAID: "IN DEVELOPING THESE SUPPORT SERVICES, ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, MADE IN RESPONSE TO POPULATION CHANGES AND THE CONDITIONS OF INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS.

"THE PLANNING RATIOS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF SERVICES ARE APPLIED FLEXIBLY HAVING REGARD TO THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND THE EXISTING FACILITIES OF INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS."

AT PRESENT, CLOSE LIAISON AND CO-ORDINATION AMONG CONCERNED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS ARE MAINTAINED THROUGH DISTRICT SERVICE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEES, INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE STRENGTHENED, IF NECESSARY, TO ENSURE A SMOOTH AND COST-EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES," MRS WONG SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWENTY-SEVEN CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETIES DISSOLVED

* * * * *

TWENTY-SEVEN SOCIETIES UNDER THE CIVIL SERVANT CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SCHEME HAVE BEEN DISSOLVED RESULTING IN THE TITLES OF 459 FLATS BEING TRANSFERRED TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

OF THESE FLATS, 66 HAVE BEEN SOLD IN THE OPEN MARKET FOLLOWING PAYMENT OF A LAND PREMIUM TO REMOVE THE ALIENATION RESTRICTION IN THE TITLE.

AND SO FAR ONLY ONE APPLICATION FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF ONE SITE INVOLVING 20 FLATS HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON J D MCGREGOR IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE, MR STUART HARBINSON, EXPLAINED THAT THE MODIFICATION PREMIUM WAS DETERMINED ON THE STANDARD BASIS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRESENT MARKET VALUE AND THE ASSESSED MARKET VALUE OF THE SITE AS A RESULT OF MODIFICATION TO THE PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL.

"SINCE THE SOLE APPLICATION FOR REDEVELOPMENT IS STILL BEING POSSESSED, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON THE AMOUNT OF PREMIUM AND AVERAGE RATE PER SQUARE METER AT THIS STAGE," HE ADDED.

MR HARBINSON ALSO SAID SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY SCHEME IN 1952, 238 SOCIETIES HAD BEEN FORMED PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 5,702 FLATS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SUBVENTION TO ESF USED TO MEET TEACHER SALARIES

* * * * *

THE PAYMENT MADE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SECRETARY OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION (ESF) IS MET BY THE FOUNDATION ITSELF, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID.

HE SAID THE PAYMENT WAS MADE AS A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ESF AND ONE OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND THE REASONS FOR THE LEVEL OF PAYOUT WERE ALREADY ANNOUNCED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUNDATION ON SEPTEMBER 16.

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON EMILY LAU WAI-HING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY), MR CHAN EXPLAINED THAT IT HAD BEEN A LONG ESTABLISHED ARRANGEMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT SUBVENTION TO THE ESF TO GO TOWARDS MEETING TEACHER SALARIES ONLY.

"CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT MADE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND SECRETARY REFERRED TO IN THE QUESTION, ARE MET BY THE FOUNDATION ITSELF," HE SAID.

MR CHAN ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ESF WAS A STATUTORY BODY WHICH REGULATED ITSELF, THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXAMINED ITS ANNUAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS TO ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY WAS PROPERLY SPENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 15 -

TRADE LICENSING PROCEDURES SIMPLIFIED WITHOUT SACRIFICING CONTROL
* * * * *

AFTER A RECENT REVIEW ON LICENSING PROCEDURES, THE TRADE DEPARTMENT FOUND THAT IT COULD ACTUALLY SERVE ITS CLIENTS BETTER BY ASKING LESS OF THEM.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR DONALD TSANG, AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MR TSANG SAID A CAREFUL LOOK HAD BEEN TAKEN IN ALL AREAS OF LICENSING ACTIVITY IN WHICH THE TRADE DEPARTMENT WAS INVOLVED AND THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT THE DEPARTMENT COULD SIMPLIFY THE LICENSING PROCEDURES IN SOME AREAS WITHOUT SACRIFICING EFFECTIVE CONTROL.

"WE ARE NOW DRAWING UP DETAILED PLANS TO DO AWAY WITH SEVERAL CATEGORIES OF LICENCES IN SO FAR AS THIS WILL NOT COMPROMISE HONG KONG'S STATUS AS A LEADING AND MATURE TRADING CENTRE OF THE WORLD," HE SAID.

MR TSANG REVEALED THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES TO A NEW CONTROL SYSTEM FOR LICENSING TEXTILE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS TO NON-RESTRAINED MARKETS.

HE EMPHASISED THE WORD "NON-RESTRAINED" AND ADDED THAT THE LICENSING PROCEDURES AND THE CONTROLS FOR DOMESTIC TEXTILE EXPORT TO THE RESTRAINED MARKETS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED, AS FULL CONTROL THROUGH LICENSING COULD NOT DISPENSED WITH, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD HONG KONG'S INTERESTS AND TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER VARIOUS BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS.

HE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS, AS WELL AS FOR SHIPPERS AND FORWARDERS.

"THOSE REGISTERED WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR INDIVIDUAL LICENCES TO COVER CONSIGNMENT. WHAT THEY NEED IS TO KEEP PROPER BOOKS AND RECORDS.

"THIS REQUIREMENT GOES NO FURTHER THAN IS REQUIRED IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF BUSINESS.

"A REGISTERED TRADER WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO DECLARE THE DETAILS OF EACH CONSIGNMENT IN A SPECIFIED FORMAT TO THE DEPARTMENT.

"THE DECLARATION WILL BE LODGED WITH THE SHIPPER BEFORE SHIPMENT AND WILL PROVIDE THE STATISTICAL DATA WE NEED. NO LICENSING WILL BE REQUIRED," MR TSANG EXPLAINED.

HE ASSURED TRADERS THAT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO FILL IN THE DECLARATION FORM WOULD BE NO MORE THAN WHAT WAS REQUIRED FOR INCLUSION IN AN IMPORT OR EXPORT LICENCE APPLICATION.

THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF GRANTING IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES FOR TEXTILES GOODS GOING TO NON-RESTRAINED MARKETS WOULD BE ABOLISHED.

/THE PRESENT

THE PRESENT PRACTICE OF EXEMPTING TEXTILES AND GARMENTS FROM LICENSING IN RESPECT OF THOSE TRANSHIPPED THROUGH HONG KONG WOULD ALSO DISCONTINUE.

"WE ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIAL COST AND TIME SAVING FOR IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS. THERE WILL NO LONGER BE LONG QUEUES FOR THESE LICENCES IN THE TRADE DEPARTMENT. NOR WILL THERE BE A NEED TO COME TO THE TRADE DEPARTMENT FOR EVERY CONSIGNMENT," MR TSANG SAID.

"AT THIS TIME OF LABOUR SHORTAGE IN HONG KONG I HOPE THIS WILL COME AS WELCOME NEWS," HE ADDED.

AS TEXTILES AND GARMENTS WERE STILL HONG KONG'S LARGEST EXPORT, SOME 3.6 MILLION TEXTILES LICENCES INVOLVING IMPORT, ALL RE-EXPORT AND EXPORT TO NON-RESTRAINED MARKETS WERE ISSUED EVERY YEAR.

MR TSANG REMINDED TRADERS THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATIONS TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER TRADE IN CERTAIN RESTRAINED COMMODITIES, MAINLY TEXTILES AND GARMENTS, UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS TO WHICH HONG KONG WAS A PARTY.

"WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF LESSENING OUR EFFORT TO STAMP OUT ILLICIT TRANSHIPMENT OF GOODS THROUGH HONG KONG. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PUTTING IN PLACE ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO ENHANCE OUR CONTROL IN THIS RESPECT.

"ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL LICENCES MAY NO LONGER BE REQUIRED UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS DESTINED FOR NON-RESTRAINED COUNTRIES, CHECKS ON SHIPMENTS WILL BE STEPPED UP BY OUR CUSTOMS COLLEAGUES. THIS WILL BE IN ADDITION TO THE PHYSICAL CHECKS CONDUCTED ON ENTRY OR EXIT POINTS.

"WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE LENIENT TO THOSE WHO DELIBERATELY FLOUT OUR CONTROL MEASURES AND BRING OUR SYSTEM TO DISREPUTE IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMMUNITY," MR TSANG SAID.

HE SAID HE SHOULD HAVE NO HESITATION IN SUSPENDING THE REGISTRATION OF ANY REPEATED OFFENDER AND THUS DISQUALIFYING HIM FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE SIMPLIFIED LICENSING SCHEME.

"I MAY EVEN CONSIDER DENYING HIM OF OTHER LICENSING FACILITIES," HE SAID.

AS FOR NON-TEXTILES LICENCES, MR TSANG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING A ONE-STOP UNIT FOR HANDLING SPECIAL IMPORT OR EXPORT LICENCES REQUIRED FOR HEALTH OR PUBLIC SAFETY REASONS.

AT PRESENT, AN APPLICANT FOR THIS KIND OF LICENCE WAS REQUIRED TO APPROACH MORE THAN ONE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

"MORE DETAILS OF THE RATIONALISED SYSTEM WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER, AS I SAID, WE CANNOT SACRIFICE CONTROL.

"FOR THIS REASON THERE WILL BE CHANGES IN LAW TO PROVIDE FOR PROPER CONTROLS UNDER THE SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURES I HAVE PROPOSED.

- 17 -

"INSTRUCTIONS FOR THESE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ARE BEING DRAFTED. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE THE NEW SIMPLIFIED SYSTEM NEXT YEAR, ONCE LEGAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN GRANTED," MR TSANG SAID.

HE ALSO INFORMED HIS AUDIENCE THAT THESE CHANGES HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD.

- - - - 0 - - - -

DEMOLITION WORK IN WING ON STREET
TO COMPLETE IN THREE WEEKS

* * * * *

EMERGENCY DEMOLITION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT ON PRE-WAR BUILDINGS IN WING ON STREET IN CENTRAL WHICH COLLAPSED ON SUNDAY WILL BE COMPLETED WITHIN THREE WEEKS.

OCCUPANTS OF AFFECTED PREMISES NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE COLLAPSED BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR PROPERTY. A DECISION WILL BE MADE ON PERMITTING THE REMAINING OCCUPANTS TO RETURN WHEN DEMOLITION WORK IS FURTHER ADVANCED.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (WEDNESDAY) BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

MEANWHILE, AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING CARRIED OUT TO ESTABLISH THE CAUSES LEADING TO THE COLLAPSE OF THE BUILDING, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE APPEALED FOR EYE-WITNESSES TO THE COLLAPSE OR ANY PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT TO CONTACT THE BOO ON TEL 525 1743.

THE BUILDINGS, PART OF A TERRACE OF STRUCTURALLY DEPENDENT BUILDINGS COMPRISING NOS 22-30, WERE VACANT. THEY WERE CLOSED AS A RESULT OF A FIRE AT NO. 30 LAST YEAR PENDING DEMOLITION.

THE BUILDINGS ARE SITUATED IN THE AREA BOUNDED BY QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL AND JUBILEE STREET TO BE REDEVELOPED BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

THE BOO IS TO CARRY OUT A REVIEW OF THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTIES IN THE AREA AND EXAMINE THE PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE STATUTORY DEMOLITION OF PRIVATELY OWNED BUILDINGS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE INTERVAL BETWEEN CLOSURE AND CLEARANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 18 -

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF EXTRA AIR SERVICES OVER
CHINESE NEW YEAR AGREED

* * * * *

THE HONG KONG AIRPORT SCHEDULE CO-ORDINATOR HAS ASSESSED THAT OVER THE COMING CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD, ONLY AROUND 360 APPLICATIONS TO RUN EXTRA SERVICES BY AIRLINES AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OUT OF A TOTAL OF 794 APPLICATIONS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED.

THIS FOLLOWED A NUMBER OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SCHEDULE CO-ORDINATOR AND AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE APPROACHED THE PROBLEM IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WITH THE AIM OF AVOIDING INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC.

A CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID THE SHORTAGE OF CAPACITY AT KAI TAK WAS DUE TO THE INCREASE IN REGULAR SCHEDULED SERVICES.

"DURING LAST CHINESE NEW YEAR, THERE WERE AROUND 4,400 REGULAR SERVICES," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE NUMBER FOR THE COMING CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD IS 4,900 OR AN INCREASE OF 12 PER CENT."

HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS HAD GREATLY REDUCED THE UNUSED CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR EXTRA SERVICES, SUCH AS AD HOC CHARTER OPERATIONS.

AS A RESULT, ONLY AROUND 360 APPLICATIONS COULD BE INITIALLY ALLOCATED WITH SLOTS TO OPERATE EXTRA SERVICES DURING JANUARY 19 TO FEBRUARY 1, 1993 WHEN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD FALLS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE SCHEDULE CO-ORDINATION PROCESS, UNDER WHICH CAPACITY IS ALLOCATED, IS CARRIED OUT BY THE HONG KONG SCHEDULE CO-ORDINATOR ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT, FOLLOWING AS FAR AS IS PRACTICABLE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED PRACTICES.

"SUBJECT TO THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION OF SAFETY, THE BASIC AIM OF THE POLICY IS TO MAKE FAIR AND OPTIMAL USE OF RUNWAY CAPACITY," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT ALL AIRLINES CONCERNED HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF THE PROBLEM CAUSED BY THE SHORTAGE OF CAPACITY.

THE SYSTEM HAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THAT AIRLINES MAY NEGOTIATE EXCHANGE OF ALLOCATED CAPACITY FOLLOWING THE INITIAL ALLOCATION, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 19 -

EYES OPEN TO HK FASHIONS AND ARTS
* * * * *

A SPECTACULAR AND COLOURFUL GALA PRESENTATION OF HONG KONG FASHIONS BEGAN AFTER THE EYES OF A "LION" WERE OPENED AT A DEPARTMENT STORE IN VANCOUVER YESTERDAY (TUESDAY) NIGHT.

HUNDREDS OF GUESTS WERE ABLE TO SEE TOP CANADIAN MODELS PRESENTING A WIDE VARIETY OF STYLES CREATED BY HONG KONG'S NEW GENERATION OF DESIGN TALENT AND PRODUCED BY HONG KONG'S GARMENT MANUFACTURERS.

THE FASHION SHOW WAS ONE OF THE MAIN EVENTS OF FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92 IN CANADA WHICH AIMED AT STRENGTHENING CULTURAL AND BUSINESS LINKS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA.

SPEAKING BEFORE OFFICIATING AT THE EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY, ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, MR BARRIE WIGGHAM, SAID THE TRADE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CANADA WOULD CONTINUE TO GROW, AND CONSUMERS IN BOTH PLACES WOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THIS CLOSE PARTNERSHIP.

"THIS IS NO SHORT-TERM AFFAIR EITHER," HE SAID. "WHEN HONG KONG BECOMES A SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE ZONE OF CHINA IN LESS THAN FIVE YEARS' TIME, IT WILL REMAIN A FREE MARKET ECONOMY, WITH ITS CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND LIFE STYLE GUARANTEED FOR 50 YEARS, AND AS ANXIOUS AS EVER TO DO BUSINESS WITH ITS FRIENDS AROUND THE PACIFIC RIM."

EARLIER, MR WIGGHAM VISITED VANCOUVER ART GALLERY WHERE HE WAS INVITED TO DOT THE EYES OF A DRAGON TO MARK THE OPENING OF AN EXHIBITION OF INK PAINTINGS FEATURING 49 PIECES OF CONTEMPORARY WORKS FROM THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART.

PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE MR DAVID LAM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MRS BECKIE HARCOURT, WIFE OF PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, MR JAMES SO, SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, DR RONALD LEUNG, URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1992

- 20 -

YOUTHS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

* * * * *

A PROPOSAL BY THE GOVERNOR TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE TO 18 SHOWS HIS PERSONAL CONFIDENCE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CAN PLAY A MAJOR PART IN SHAPING HONG KONG'S FUTURE, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ROSE GOODSTADT, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MRS GOODSTADT WAS ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF TSUEN WAN AND KWAI TSING OUTREACHING SOCIAL WORK TEAM OF THE HONG KONG PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION.

"OUR YOUTHS WILL HAVE A FULL VOICE IN CHOOSING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MAKE OUR LAWS AND CONTROL OUR FINANCES IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL," SHE SAID.

MRS GOODSTADT SAID THIS REFLECTED THE GOVERNOR'S DETERMINATION TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE GREATER PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY LIFE.

"WE ARE PUTTING HIGH PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE'S POTENTIAL TO THE FULL AS THE CONTINUED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG DEPENDS ON THEIR CONTRIBUTION," SHE ADDED.

OUTREACH SOCIAL WORK HELPED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PERSONAL AND FAMILY PROBLEMS AND FOR MANY, PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THEM FROM FALLING FOUL OF THE LAW, SHE SAID.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT 11 NEW CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES WOULD BE OPENED NEXT YEAR.

"EXPENDITURE ON YOUTH SERVICES WILL INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT \$477 MILLION TO AN ESTIMATED \$545 MILLION IN 1996/97, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 14 PER CENT IN REAL GROWTH IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS," SHE ADDED.

"SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPROVED, TO MEET THE TARGET OF ONE TO 2,000 MANNING RATIO AS STATED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON SOCIAL WELFARE," MRS GOODSTADT SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TWO LAND LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

* * * * *

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND.

THE FIRST SITE, WITH AN AREA OF 4,700 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED BETWEEN PAK WAN STREET AND PAK TIN STREET, KOWLOON.

IT IS INTENDED FOR FEE-PAYING PARKING AREA FOR PRIVATE CARS, LIGHT VANS AND COACHES (EXCLUDING GOODS VEHICLES AND CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH THEIR CHASSIS/TRAILERS ATTACHED) CURRENTLY LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

/THE TENANCY

THE TENANCY IS FOR THREE YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER SITE IS AT ON LOK MUN STREET, ON LOK TSUEN, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,204 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE AND LOADING AND UNLOADING OF TENANT'S GOODS INCLUDING CONTAINERS ON TRAILERS, VEHICLES AND/OR CONSTRUCTION PLANT AND EQUIPMENT BUT PROHIBITING STUFFING AND DE-STUFFING OF CONTAINERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS AND QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON NOVEMBER 6.

FORMS OF TENDERS, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

AS FOR THE SITE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, FORMS OF TENDER AND CONDITIONS MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, NORTH, SIXTH FLOOR, NORTH DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 3 PIK FUNG ROAD, FANLING, NEW TERRITORIES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PEARL RIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE A SUCCESS

* * * * *

THE 1992 PEARL RIVER SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE CO-ORDINATED BY THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IS A SUCCESS AND HAS ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVES IN TESTING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RESCUE TECHNIQUES BETWEEN CHINA, MACAU AND HONG KONG.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR IAN DALE, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTER A WASH-UP MEETING ATTENDED BY 20 REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL AGENCIES WHO TOOK PART IN THE EXERCISE.

"THE EXERCISE WAS OF GREAT VALUE IN TESTING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS, RESPONSE TIME BY AGENCIES, AND PERSONNEL AND CRAFT INVOLVED IN THE EVACUATION OF 'SURVIVORS'.

"THE ONLY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED DURING THE EXERCISE WAS THE BREAKDOWN OF ONE OF THE RADIO CHANNELS ON THE 'ON SCENE' COMMANDER'S LAUNCH. THIS DELAYED THE TRANSMISSION OF SOME INSTRUCTIONS AND MESSAGES.

"THIS LED TO THE INITIAL CONFUSION ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE RESCUE HELICOPTER BUT WAS QUICKLY RECTIFIED," MR DALE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXHIBITION ON BUILDING SAFETY

* * * * *

A TWO-DAY EXHIBITION ON BUILDING SAFETY WILL BE HELD AT HENNESSY CENTRE IN CAUSEWAY BAY FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY).

THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF A BUILDING SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED LAST MONTH BY THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE (BOO) OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

THE CAMPAIGN ADOPTS AN EDUCATIONAL APPROACH IN REMINDING PROPERTY OWNERS THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR PROPERTY IN GOOD CONDITION AT ALL TIMES.

THE TWO-DAY EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD IN THE ENTRANCE HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HENNESSY CENTRE AT 500 HENNESSY ROAD IN CAUSEWAY BAY, HONG KONG.

IT WILL BE OPEN BETWEEN 10 AM AND 8 PM.

OFFICERS OF BOO WILL BE ON HAND TO HELP VISITORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO BUILDING SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE.

IN ADDITION, A 24-HOUR ENQUIRY HOTLINE (848 2222) ON BUILDING SAFETY MATTERS HAS BEEN INSTALLED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SEMINAR ON CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PRE-HISTORIC CHINESE
PETROGLYPHS OF HUMAN - VISAGED DIVINITIES

* * * * *

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS ARE INVITED TO A SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE LECTURE HALL OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE (AMO) AT 136 NATHAN ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON THIS SATURDAY (OCTOBER 24).

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE AMO AND THE JOINT PUBLISHING (HONG KONG) CO LTD, THE SEMINAR WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PUTONGHUA BY PROFESSOR SONG YAOLIANG OF THE EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY OF SHANGHAI.

PROFESSOR SONG HAS DEVOTED A GREAT DEAL OF RESEARCH IN CHINESE PETROGLYPHS IN RECENT YEARS AND HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY TO PETROGLYPHS SITES IN CHINA.

PROFESSOR SONG WILL SPEAK ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF PETROGLYPHS IN CHINA, THEIR TYPES AND THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THEIR PATTERNS WITH THOSE OF THE INSCRIPTIONS ON BONE OR TORTOISE SHELLS OF THE SHANG DYNASTY (16-11TH CENTURY B.C.).

HE WILL ALSO COMPARE PREHISTORIC CHINESE PETROGLYPHS WITH THOSE FOUND IN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

THERE ARE GROUPS OF ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS SCATTERED ALONG THE COASTLINE OF HONG KONG AND ITS OUTLYING ISLANDS.

ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS IN HONG KONG ARE BASICALLY GEOMETRIC IN PATTERN, WITH HINT HERE AND THERE OF HUMAN OR ANIMAL IMAGES.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH WHEN, WHY, HOW AND BY WHOM THE CARVINGS WERE MADE.

PROFESSOR SONG'S LECTURE MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHTS ON THE ORIGINS OF THESE ROCK CARVINGS.

ADMISSION TO THE SEMINAR IS FREE OF CHARGE. FOR RESERVATION PLEASE CALL 721 2326 OR 523 0105.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SALT WATER CUT IN KOWLOON EAST

* * * * *

SALT WATER SUPPLY TO ALL PREMISES IN KOWLOON EAST WILL GO OFF FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 23) TO 10 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL PREMISES IN SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON BAY, NGAU TAU KOK, KWUN TONG, SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN AND CHA KWO LING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

| | \$ MILLION |
|--|------------|
| | ----- |
| OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 1,500 |
| REVERASL OF LAF | NIL |
| BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF | 1,500 |
| NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY | NIL |
| EFFECT OF LAF TODAY | +1,200 |
| CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT | 2,700 |
| LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 111.5 *+0.4* 21.10.92 | |

/HONG KONG

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

| EF BILLS | | | HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| TERMS | YIELD | TERM | ISSUE | COUPON | PRICE | YIELD |
| 1 WEEK | 2.78 PCT | 13 MONTHS | 2311 | 6.25 | 102.33 | 4.05 |
| 1 MONTH | 3.03 PCT | 16 MONTHS | 2402 | 5.50 | 101.45 | 4.40 |
| 3 MONTHS | 3.32 PCT | 19 MONTHS | 2405 | 5.502 | 101.47 | 4.57 |
| 6 MONTHS | 3.46 PCT | 22 MONTHS | 2408 | 4.375 | 99.52 | 4.70 |
| 12 MONTHS | 3.99 PCT | | | | | |

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 16,055 MN

CLOSED 21 OCTOBER 1992