



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR OPENS ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION	1
GOVERNOR ON A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT	2
STATEMENT ON APPOINTED SEATS	2
STATEMENT ON GOVT INFORMATION STUDY	3
LABOUR COMMISSIONER OUTLINES BETTER PLANS FOR WORKERS	3
OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES TO BE PHASED OUT EARLIER	5
AD HOC GROUP ON HIV INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS MEETS	7
PENSION SCHEMES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS MODERNISED	8
BORDER REVIEW TALKS	9
UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1992	9
HEAD OF GOVT FLYING SERVICE APPOINTED	10
NT CIRCULAR ROAD VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT	11
MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 GAZETTED	12

/HEALTH CHIEF

HEALTH CHIEF OUTLINES HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	13
RECLAMATION FOR NEW POWER STATION AUTHORISED	14
BEST LEGCO DECISION FOR HONG KONG	15
HIGH STANDARDS OF BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE ASSURED	16
ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS PLANNED FOR TUEN MUN	17
1993 HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW SET FOR MARCH	18
TENDERS INVITED FOR THREE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS	20
WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR SHAM TSENG	21
AESTHETIC AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT VITAL FOR CHILDREN	21
TSUEN WAN WELFARE OFFICES ON MOVE	22
RESIDENTS COMMENDED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES	22
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	23

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1993

- = 1 -

GOVERNOR OPENS ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) OFFICIALLY OPENED THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT'S ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION (IETS) - THE FIRST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION ON HONG KONG ISLAND.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID: "THE \$400 MILLION STATION REPRESENTS THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND IS A FURTHER STEP TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING ITS LONG-TERM WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN HONG KONG."

HE SAID UNDER THIS STRATEGY, A NETWORK OF TRANSFER STATIONS WOULD BE BUILT IN URBAN AREAS TO RECEIVE REFUSE COLLECTED BY THE URBAN SERVICES AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS.

THE WASTE WOULD BE CONTAINERISED IN THESE STATIONS AND THEN TRANSPORTED IN BULK TO THE LANDFILLS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER.

THE IETS IS THE SECOND TRANSFER STATION COMMISSIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS ON THE EASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

UNLIKE THE FIRST STATION AT KOWLOON BAY, THE IETS TRANSPORTS THE CONTAINERISED WASTE BY SEA INSTEAD OF BY ROAD. TWO PURPOSE-BUILT CONTAINER VESSELS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BULK TRANSPORTATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENT IS BOTH ENVIRONMENTALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE AND ALSO MORE ECONOMICAL THAN A ROAD-BASED TRANSFER SYSTEM."

"THE COMMISSIONING OF THE IETS WILL ENABLE THE CLOSURE OF THE KENNEDY TOWN INCINERATION PLANT IN MARCH THIS YEAR WHICH HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED A MAJOR SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE WESTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND," HE ADDED.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY WERE THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IETS CONTRACTORS - CHAIRMAN OF THE SWIRE GROUP IN HONG KONG, MR PETER SUTCH, AND GENERAL MANAGER OF THE SWIRE BFI WASTE SERVICES LTD, MR LIONEL KRIEGER.

DR REED SAID THE IETS WAS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN.

HE SAID THE STATION WOULD BE OPERATED TO VERY HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WHEREBY ALL AIR AND EFFLUENT EMISSIONS FROM THE FACILITY WOULD BE PROPERLY TREATED BEFORE DISCHARGE.

THE IETS PROJECT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED UNDER A DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE CONTRACT AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE FACILITY OVER A 15-YEAR OPERATING PERIOD.

/PROVISION IS

PROVISION IS MADE IN THE CONTRACT TO REDUCE THE PAYMENTS TO THE OPERATORS IF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FALL BELOW REQUIREMENTS.

THE STATION, WITH A DAILY DESIGN THROUGHPUT OF 1,200 TONNES OF REFUSE, HAS MODERNISED FACILITIES SUCH AS A COMPUTERISED WEIGHBRIDGES SYSTEM, AN EXHAUST VENTILATION SYSTEM, COMPLETE WITH ODOUR REMOVAL UNIT, A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, A VEHICLE WASH SYSTEM AND A CONTAINER WASH SYSTEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVERNOR ON A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (FRIDAY) COMMENDED THE ISLAND EAST REFUSE TRANSFER STATION FOR MAKING A REAL STEP ALONG THE ROAD TO A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE REFUSE TRANSFER STATION, MR PATTEN SAID THIS STATION WAS SIGNIFICANT FOR TWO REASONS.

FIRST, IT IS THE FIRST ONE ON THE ISLAND.

SECOND, IT IS THE FIRST ONE WHICH IS GOING TO TAKE THE COMPACTED WASTE BY SHIP TO THE LANDFILL SITES.

"THIS IS AN IMPORTANT DAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY HERE IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

HONG KONG PRODUCES ABOUT 7,000 TONNES OF SOLID WASTE EVERYDAY.

"AND WE'VE GOT A STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH THAT," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATEMENT ON APPOINTED SEATS

* * * * *

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE VIEWS OF DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAWING UP PROPOSALS FOR THE ABOLITION OF APPOINTED DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SEATS.

HOWEVER, OTHER VIEWS HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE BALANCE OF OPINION IN THE COMMUNITY SEEMS TO BE IN FAVOUR OF ABOLISHING APPOINTED SEATS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNOR WOULD BE REPLYING TO THE LETTER FROM 148 DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STATEMENT ON GOVT INFORMATION STUDY

* * * * *

IN RESPONSE TO PRESS ENQUIRIES ON THE CONSULTANCY STUDY ON THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION MACHINERY, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY):

"THE CONSULTANCY REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY. IT IS BEING STUDIED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. ALL STAFF CONCERNED WILL BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY ACTION IS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS."

- - - - 0 - - - -

LABOUR COMMISSIONER OUTLINES BETTER PLANS FOR WORKERS

* * * * *

WORKERS WHOSE EMPLOYERS BECOME INSOLVENT WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE IF THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 IS APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS KATHERINE FOK, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION TO REVIEW THE WORK OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST YEAR, MRS FOK SAID THE DEPARTMENT HAD PROPOSED TO RAISE THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT ON ARREARS OF WAGES AND WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE TO PROVIDE BETTER COVERAGE TO WORKERS.

"UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM LIMIT OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT IN RESPECT OF ARREARS OF WAGES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$8,000 TO \$18,000 PER APPLICANT WHILE WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE FROM SEVEN DAYS' WAGES UP TO \$2,000 TO ONE MONTH'S WAGES UP TO \$6,000," SHE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO REVISE THE AMOUNT OF ARREARS OF WAGES TO BE COVERED BY THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND WILL BE SIMPLIFIED.

"THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE POWER TO AMEND THE LAW BY RESOLUTION," SHE ADDED.

MRS FOK SAID THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY FUND BOARD, THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON MANPOWER HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

THE AMENDMENT BILL HAS RECENTLY BEEN APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR FIRST AND SECOND READING EARLY NEXT MONTH.

ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE TO THE WAGE SECURITY UNIT OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 834 6037.

TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE FOR EMPLOYEES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SAID OTHER PROPOSALS WILL BE MADE TO AMEND SOME OF THE EXISTING LABOUR LEGISLATION THIS YEAR.

"THESE INCLUDE ADJUSTING THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COMPENSATION UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS PAYABLE TO INJURED EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED WORKERS," MRS FOK SAID.

"EIGHT ADDITIONAL DISEASES ARE ALSO BEING PROPOSED TO BECOME COMPENSABLE UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, MAKING A TOTAL OF 44.

"MEANWHILE, THE OCCUPATIONAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS COMPENSATION SCHEME IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED LATER THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION TO THOSE PERSONS WHO SUFFER FROM HEARING LOSS DUE TO THEIR NATURE OF WORK.

"FOR PERSONS SUFFERING FROM PNEUMOCONIOSIS, A BILL UNDER THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN MARCH PROPOSING MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF COMPENSATION TO BE PAID TO PNEUMOCONIOSIS SUFFERERS UNTIL THEIR DEATH," SHE ADDED.

IN THE AREA OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT AMENDMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (SUSPENDED WORK PLATFORMS) REGULATION AND THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (LIFTING APPLIANCES AND LIFTING GEAR) REGULATION TO PROVIDE FOR BETTER STANDARDS ON THE SAFE USE OF SUSPENDED WORK PLATFORMS AND LIFTING APPLIANCES.

MRS FOK NOTED THAT TWO PIECES OF NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION AND 15 PIECES OF AMENDMENT LEGISLATION WERE ENACTED LAST YEAR.

"TO DISCOURAGE EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR WAGE DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS INCREASED TENFOLD TO \$100,000 AND \$200,000 RESPECTIVELY," MRS FOK SAID.

"THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE WERE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST VICTIMISATION OF WORKERS WHO GIVE INFORMATION OR EVIDENCE ABOUT WORK ACCIDENTS.

"WE ALSO EFFECTED CHANGES TO THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR DIRECT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS IN MINOR INJURY CASES," SHE ADDED.

REGARDING SERVICES BEING PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, MRS FOK SAID THE GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE, WHICH WAS ENHANCED LAST YEAR, HANDLED 172,500 PUBLIC ENQUIRIES ON THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY REGULATIONS, THE PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, AND MATTERS RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS.

"THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF NEARLY 150 PER CENT OF CALLS HANDLED AS COMPARED WITH 1991," SHE SAID.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1993

- 5 -

"IN VIEW OF INCREASING DEMANDS, THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING INTRODUCING AN INTERACTIVE VOICE PROCESSING SYSTEM TO FURTHER IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND WILL BE ENHANCING OUR GENERAL PUBLICITY IN AREAS OF GREATEST PUBLIC INTEREST.

ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR SAID THE DEPARTMENT SPARES NO EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WORKERS' SAFETY.

"THIS CAN BE REFLECTED IN THE DROP OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1992," MRS FOK SAID.

"UP TO SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THERE WERE 56,370 INDUSTRIAL AND NON-INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS WITH 204 FATALITIES.

"COMPARED WITH 72,310 ACCIDENTS AND 214 FATALITIES IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1991, THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE OVERALL SITUATION IS ENCOURAGING.

"BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE TO ENSURE OUR WORKERS CAN HAVE A BETTER AND SAFER WORKING ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY," SHE ADDED.

MRS FOK SAID 1993 WOULD LIKELY BE ANOTHER YEAR OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY.

"THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS READY FOR CHANGES IN OUR SOCIETY AND ECONOMY WHICH WILL BRING NEW EXPECTATIONS TO THE PEOPLE," SHE SAID.

"IN THIS, WE WILL FURTHER IMPROVE OUR PERFORMANCE AND IS COMMITTED TO MAKING OUR SERVICE WORTHY OF OUR CUSTOMERS," SHE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES TO BE PHASED OUT EARLIER

* * * * *

HONG KONG WILL COMPLY FULLY WITH THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ADVANCE THE DATES OF PHASING OUT OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDMENT TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

UNDER THE NEW SCHEDULE AGREED AT A MEETING IN COPENHAGEN LAST NOVEMBER, HALONS WILL BE COMPLETELY PHASED OUT BY THE YEAR 1994 AND CFCS BY 1996, INSTEAD OF 2000.

ANOTHER OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCE, TRICHOLOROETHANE, WILL NOW BE PHASED OUT BY 1996 INSTEAD OF 2005.

TO ENABLE HONG KONG TO COMPLY WITH THE PHASE-OUT PROGRAMME, THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993 WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

/THE BILL

THE BILL AUTHORISES THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO MAKE REGULATIONS TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER A COUNTRY OR PLACE COMPLIES WITH THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, TO DECLARE A SCHEDULED SUBSTANCE AS A CONTROLLED REFRIGERANT, TO APPROVE THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR RECOVERING OR RECYCLING AN OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCE AND TO SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH EQUIPMENT IS USED.

IN ADDITION, THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (CONTROLLED REFRIGERANTS) REGULATION AND THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION (PRODUCTS CONTAINING SCHEDULED SUBSTANCES) (IMPORT BANNING) REGULATION WILL BE MADE.

THE FORMER IS TO PROHIBIT THE INTENTIONAL VENTING OF CFC-BASED REFRIGERANTS FROM AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION PLANTS WHILE THE LATTER IS TO MEET THE CONTROL REQUIREMENT LAID DOWN IN THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL BY PROHIBITING THE IMPORT OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING CFCs AND HALONS FROM NON-PARTY COUNTRIES AND PLACES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH SAID IMPORT OF CFC SUBSTANCES INTO HONG KONG WILL BE REDUCED TO 25 PER CENT OF THE PRESENT LEVEL BY 1994 BEFORE IT IS PHASED OUT COMPLETELY BY 1996.

"IN VIEW OF THIS, AIR CONDITIONING PLANT OWNERS SHOULD NOW GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO MODIFY THEIR EXISTING PLANTS SO THAT THEY COULD OPERATE ON NON-CFC REFRIGERANTS.

"FOR PLANTS WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO USE CFC REFRIGERANTS FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, OWNERS SHOULD TAKE NOTE THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO CONSERVE THE REFRIGERANT CHARGE BY PREVENTING THE CFCs FROM ESCAPING INTO THE AIR DURING PLANT OVERHAUL OR MAINTENANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

CFCs ARE ALSO USED AS SOLVENTS AND BLOWING AGENTS FOR THE ELECTRONICS AND FOAM PLASTIC MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

OWING TO THE FORESEEABLE SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY AND POSSIBLY SHARP INCREASE IN CFC PRICES, OWNERS OF THESE INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS ARE ADVISED TO MAKE EARLY PLANNING FOR ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID SINCE THE IMPORT OF HALON INTO HONG KONG WILL NOT BE ALLOWED FROM JANUARY 1, 1994, OWNERS OF HALON TYPE FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS SHOULD NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDER REPLACING THEIR SYSTEMS WITH OTHER COMPATIBLE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS CARBON DIOXIDE, WATER SPRAY AND DRY POWDER.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE AIR CONTROL GROUP OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT WOULD BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THE PHASING OUT OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES BY TELEPHONE ON 594 6242 AND 594 6243 OR BY POST ADDRESSED TO THEIR OFFICE ON 33RD FLOOR, REVENUE TOWER, 5 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT CAN BE DIRECTED TO THE FIRE PROTECTION BUREAU OF THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TEL 733 7666.

AD HOC GROUP ON HIV INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS MEETS

* * * * *

THE RECENTLY-FORMED AD HOC GROUP ON HIV INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS THROUGH BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC GROUP, PROFESSOR M H NG, SAID: "THE PLIGHT OF HAEMOPHILIACS IN OUR SOCIETY DESERVED ALL OUR SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY. FOR THEM, TIMELY ADMINISTRATION OF FACTOR VIII IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH. THE REVELATION THAT SOME HAEMOPHILIACS MIGHT HAVE BEEN INADVERTENTLY INFECTED WITH THE HIV VIRUS HAS RAISED PUBLIC CONCERN."

UNDER ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE MAIN TASKS OF THE AD HOC GROUP ARE TO ESTABLISH THE FACTS REGARDING TREATMENT OF BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG FOR PREVENTING HIV TRANSMISSION AND TO RECOMMEND ANY SPECIAL COURSE OF ACTION APPROPRIATE TO HONG KONG FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF HAEMOPHILIACS WHO CONTRACTED HIV THROUGH TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

THE STUDY GROUP IS REASONABLY ASSURED THAT:

- * THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENCE OF INADVERTENT INFECTION OF HAEMOPHILIACS WITH HIV THROUGH BLOOD PRODUCTS ONLY OCCURRED BEFORE 1985;
- * SINCE 1985, HOWEVER, HIV SCREENING OF BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED; AND
- * FACTOR VIII USED IN HONG KONG WAS TESTED FOR HIV AT SOURCE AND HAS BEEN RENDERED SAFE FROM HIV CONTAMINATION BY HEAT TREATMENT OR TREATMENT WITH SOLVENT AND DETERGENT.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE COMMITTEE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE HIV INFECTION OF THE HAEMOPHILIACS IS MOST UNLIKELY TO OCCUR AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THE STUDY GROUP WOULD FOCUS ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING OF THE GROUP OF 61 INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INADVERTENTLY INFECTED WITH HIV.

THE GROUP ALSO EXAMINED CURRENT FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE TREATMENT OF HIV INFECTED HAEMOPHILIACS. ITS PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT:

- * THE MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE GENERALLY ADEQUATE, BUT:
- * THEY MAY BE BETTER ORGANISED TO BETTER TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS;
- * THERE MAY BE A NEED TO ENHANCE COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR THE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES;
- * THERE MAY BE A NEED TO BETTER ENSURE THAT SAFE FACTOR VIII IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL HAEMOPHILIACS IN HONG KONG.

"IN THIS LIGHT, OUR INITIAL VIEW IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING FOR PATIENTS.

"THE NETWORK OF SERVICES THROUGHOUT HONG KONG INCLUDING ALL THE PRIMARY AND TERTIARY CARE FACILITIES SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND CO-ORDINATED TO PROVIDE TREATMENT, PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING, HEALTH EDUCATION AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICE TO THE HIV INFECTED HAEMOPHILIACS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.

"THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THE SAFETY OF BLOOD PRODUCTS FOR PATIENTS. WE SHOULD ALSO STEP UP PUBLIC EDUCATION BOTH ON PREVENTION OF AIDS AND TO REMOVE PUBLIC PREJUDICE AGAINST AIDS VICTIMS," HE SAID.

IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND TAKING REFERENCE FROM OVERSEAS PRACTICES, THE GOVERNMENT MAY CONSIDER, ON COMPASSIONATE GROUNDS, GIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HIV INFECTED HAEMOPHILIACS, HE ADDED.

THE STUDY GROUP EXPECTS TO SUBMIT ITS INITIAL REPORT TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PENSION SCHEMES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS MODERNISED

* * * * *

THE PENSIONS MODIFICATION ORDINANCE 1993 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) WILL COME INTO FORCE ON FEBRUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE ORDINANCE INTRODUCES THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO MODERNISE PENSION SCHEMES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- * THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME WILL BE RETITLED THE SURVIVING SPOUSES' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME;
- * MALE PENSIONABLE CIVIL SERVANTS MAY ELECT TO OPT OUT OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSES' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME AND THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS PENSION SCHEME FROM FEBRUARY 1;
- * UNMARRIED OFFICERS WHO ELECT TO CEASE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEPENDANT PENSION SCHEMES WILL RECEIVE A REFUND OF THEIR PAST CONTRIBUTIONS, WITH INTEREST, BEFORE THE APPOINTED DAY;
- * MARRIED OFFICERS WILL HAVE THEIR ACCRUED BENEFITS PRESERVED, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY A CONTINGENT DEPENDANT PENSION FROZEN AT THE LEVEL IF AND WHEN THEY LEAVE THE SCHEME;
- * FEMALE OFFICERS, MODEL SCALE I STAFF AND CERTAIN DISCIPLINED SERVICES OFFICERS WHO HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXCLUDED, WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO JOIN THE VOLUNTARY SURVIVING SPOUSES' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS SCHEME;

- * THE PENSIONABLE AGE LIMIT FOR CHILDREN WILL BE STANDARDISED AT THE AGE OF 18 IRRESPECTIVE OF SEX, WHICH WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE AGE OF 23 IF THE CHILD IS IN FULL-TIME EDUCATION;
- * THE PROVISIONS MAKING A HUSBAND'S ENTITLEMENT TO A DEPENDANT PENSION SUBJECT TO FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY ON HIS WIFE ARE REPEALED;
- * PENSION RIGHTS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN FOR REASONS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND
- * ANNUAL PENSION ADJUSTMENT, ON THE BASIS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A), WILL BE MADE A STATUTORY RIGHT.

ALSO GAZETTED TODAY IS THE PENSIONS ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) ORDINANCE 1993, WHICH TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

THIS ORDINANCE MAINLY CONTAINS TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS AIMED AT IMPROVING AND CLARIFYING PREVIOUS PENSIONS LEGISLATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BORDER REVIEW TALKS
* * *

AT THE INVITATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, MR HUANG QUN, A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED BY THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR WILLIAM EHRMAN, WILL VISIT DONGGUAN, GUANGDONG, FROM JANUARY 17 TO 19 FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW.

TALKS WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 18 TO REVIEW LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND DISCUSS WAYS OF STRENGTHENING THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1992
* * * * *

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1992 WAS 2%, AND THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.9%, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1992 WAS 2.1%, WHILE THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 2.0%.

/THE LATEST

THE LATEST FIGURES SUGGEST THAT BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED GENERALLY STABLE IN RECENT MONTHS.

DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1992, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, ADJUSTED FOR VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS, WAS ESTIMATED AT 55,700, WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS WAS ESTIMATED AT 53,900.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS WERE OBTAINED FROM A CONTINUOUS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SURVEY FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1992 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,900 HOUSEHOLDS OR 41,100 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG.

RELEVANT DATA WAS OBTAINED IN THE SURVEY BY INTERVIEWING EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER AGED 15 AND ABOVE IN THE HOUSEHOLDS SAMPLED.

IN THE SURVEY, THE DEFINITIONS USED IN MEASURING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT FOLLOW CLOSELY THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IS GIVEN IN THE REPORT ON THE GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

THE NEXT REPORT COVERING THE QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 1992 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MARCH 29 AT \$15.50 A COPY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HEAD OF GOVT FLYING SERVICE APPOINTED
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF MR BRIAN CLUER AS THE FIRST CONTROLLER OF THE GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE (GFS).

MR CLUER, AGED 55, WILL HEAD THE GFS WHEN IT IS ESTABLISHED ON APRIL 1, 1993 AS THE SUCCESSOR ORGANISATION TO THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF).

HE IS CURRENTLY GENERAL MANAGER OPERATIONAL SERVICES WITH CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS LTD AND WAS SELECTED FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF WELL-QUALIFIED CANDIDATES.

"HE HAS THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF CIVIL OPERATING PROCEDURES.

/"I AM

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL DO AN EXCELLENT JOB," THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID, WHEN COMMENTING ON THE APPOINTMENT.

THE RHKAAF WILL BE DISBANDED AT THE END OF MARCH AND ALL ITS FUNCTIONS WILL THEN BE TAKEN OVER BY THE GFS, INCLUDING AIR SUPPORT TO THE POLICE ALONG THE BORDER AND IN ANTI-CRIME OPERATIONS, SEARCH AND RESCUE, EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION SERVICES, AIR SURVEY WORK AND OTHER FLYING SERVICES TO THE GOVERNMENT.

ON DISBANDMENT OF THE RHKAAF, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, WING COMMANDER P D YIP, WILL STEP DOWN BUT WILL BE HEADING THE VOLUNTEER SECTION IN THE GFS, AND THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, SQUADRON LEADER J G SHAWCROSS, WILL RETIRE.

MR ASPREY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE TWO FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION OVER THE YEARS.

HE NOTED THAT MR SHAWCROSS HAD JOINED THE RHKAAF IN 1962, AND HAD BEEN THE CHIEF STAFF OFFICER SINCE 1981 AND HAD DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB IN BUILDING UP THE RHKAAF AND PREPARING IT FOR ITS NEW CIVILIAN ROLE.

"THIS HAS BEEN A VERY DEMANDING TASK OVER MANY YEARS, INVOLVING THE TAKING ON OF NEW AND EXPANDED OPERATIONAL ROLES, THE BRINGING INTO OPERATION OF 16 NEW AIRCRAFT, THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF 150 ADDITIONAL STAFF, AND RETRAINING OF EXISTING STAFF.

"WE SHALL ALL MISS HIS ENTHUSIASM AND DEDICATION TO THE JOB," MR ASPREY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NT CIRCULAR ROAD VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT

* * * * *

THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES AND HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC LINKS WITH CHINA, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FROM AU TAU TO FAN KAM ROAD, MR LEUNG SAID THIS ROAD WOULD SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN NEW TOWNS AND FACILITATE THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC WITH CHINA.

"CONSTRUCTION OF THIS 12-KILOMETRE SECTION OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD BETWEEN AU TAU AND FAN KAM ROAD HAS BEEN A MAJOR UNDERTAKING REQUIRING EIGHT YEARS TO COMPLETE, AT A COST OF \$1 BILLION," MR LEUNG SAID.

THE ROAD HAS BEEN BUILT TO EXPRESSWAY STANDARDS AND INVOLVED THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE MAJOR INTERCHANGES, 15 HIGHWAY BRIDGES AND 12 FOOTBRIDGES.

PARALLEL SERVICE ROADS PROVIDE ACCESS AT THE INTERCHANGES FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND VILLAGES.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG SAID WITH A DESIGN SPEED OF 100 KILOMETRES PER HOUR, THIS NEW SECTION OF THE CIRCULAR ROAD WOULD REDUCE THE AVERAGE JOURNEY TIME FROM YUEN LONG TO SHEUNG SHUI FROM ONE HOUR TO LESS THAN 20 MINUTES AND SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED TRAFFIC CONDITIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW ROAD HAD A NEW DIRECT LINK FROM TIN SHUI WAI JOINING WITH CASTLE PEAK ROAD AT SHUI PIN WAI.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, MR LEUNG SAID THE YUEN LONG/TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR WAS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION BY AUGUST THIS YEAR AND THE YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS IN OCTOBER 1994.

"ALL THESE REPRESENT AN INVESTMENT OF \$2.7 BILLION IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES WHICH WILL PROVIDE A CONTINUOUS DUAL CARRIAGEWAY CIRCLING MOST OF THE NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG WAS JOINED BY LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS, MR LAU WONG-FAT, MR ZACHARY WONG WAI-YIN AND DR TANG SIU-TONG, IN UNVEILING A PLAQUE AT THE CEREMONY. ALSO PRESENT WAS THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR YEUNG KIM-CHOY.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CIRCULAR ROAD BEGAN IN 1984. PHASE I, II AND III OF THE PROJECT WERE COMPLETED IN 1987, 1989 AND 1991 RESPECTIVELY.

THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AU TAU TO FAN KAM ROAD SECTION HAS BEEN DESIGNED BY BINNIE CONSULTANTS LTD, WILBUR SMITH & ASSOCIATES AND HARRIS & SUTHERLAND (F.E.), CONSULTING ENGINEERS, WHO ALSO SUPERVISED THE WORKS ON BEHALF OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT.

THIS LAST PHASE OF THE ROAD WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (SATURDAY). MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO NOTE THE SPEED LIMITS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS AS DISPLAYED BY APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993 GAZETTED
* * * * *

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFETY) (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1993, WHICH WAS ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THIS ORDINANCE ALLOWS SURVEYS TO BE CONDUCTED ON FOREIGN REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS ENGAGED IN NON-INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES WHICH BEGIN AND END WITHIN THE WATERS OF HONG KONG WITHOUT CALLING AT ANOTHER PORT.

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE (SHIPPING), MR JOHN TSE YAN-CHI, SAID:

/"UNDER INTERNATIONAL

"UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE, FOREIGN REGISTERED PASSENGER SHIPS VOLUNTARILY ENTER HONG KONG AND USE IT AS THEIR BASE OF OPERATION ARE SUBJECT TO LOCAL LAW.

"THIS ORDINANCE PUTS BEYOND DOUBT THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE'S POWER TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF SUCH FOREIGN REGISTERED SHIPS."

THERE ARE THREE SUCH SHIPS BASED IN HONG KONG.

MR TSE SAID: "THE MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL LIAISE WITH THE OWNERS/OPERATORS OF THE THREE SHIPS WITH A VIEW TO REQUIRING THEM TO SUBMIT THEIR SHIPS FOR FULL SURVEYS AS SOON AS CONVENIENT."

MR TSE STRESSED THAT THE MARINE DEPARTMENT'S MAIN CONCERN WAS SAFETY.

"WE HAVE A CLEAR DUTY OF CARE TOWARDS PASSENGERS WHO GO ON SUCH SHIPS.

"WE MUST BE SATISFIED THAT THESE SHIPS ARE SAFE AND THAT THE OWNERS/OPERATORS ARE COMPILING FULLY WITH THE LAW AND GOOD PRACTICE," MR TSE SAID.

SURVEYORS OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAVE ALREADY INSPECTED TWO OF THE THREE SHIPS DURING ROUTINE PORT STATE INSPECTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HEALTH CHIEF OUTLINES HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

* * * * *

THE FIGHTING AGAINST HIV INFECTION IS A TOP PRIORITY IN HONG KONG'S PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME AND 1993 IS A YEAR OF MAJOR PUBLICITY AND EDUCATION ACTIVITY ON AIDS AND HIV INFECTION IN THE TERRITORY, THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S H LEE, SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE THIRD ASIAN DERMATOLOGICAL CONGRESS THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, DR LEE NOTED THAT HIV INFECTION AS SEEN IN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES HAD BECOME MORE AND MORE PREVALENT.

"IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS DISEASE WILL BECOME A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM IN ASIA UNLESS GREATER EFFORTS ARE SPENT AND MORE RESOURCES ARE MOBILISED IN ITS PREVENTION AND CONTROL," DR LEE SAID.

"OUR COLLEAGUES SPECIALISED IN DERMATOLOGY AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES (STD) NO DOUBT HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF HIV INFECTIONS," HE ADDED.

WHILE NOTING THAT THE ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES IN HONG KONG HAVE UNDERGONE MANY CHANGES SINCE THE FIRST CONGRESS IN 1986, THE DIRECTOR SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S SOCIAL HYGIENE AND SPECIAL SKIN SERVICE WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF STD, LEPROSY AND SKIN DISEASES WAS AN IMPORTANT AREA IN HONG KONG'S HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1993

- 14 -

"THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING FURTHER THIS SERVICE AND DUE EMPHASIS IS ALSO ATTACHED TO STAFF TRAINING AND INSTALLATION OF NEW FACILITIES SO AS TO KEEP PACE WITH ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY," DR LEE SAID.

THE DIRECTOR SAID ONE NEW DERMATOLOGY CENTRE WOULD BE OPENED IN CENTRAL KOWLOON LATER THIS YEAR.

HE SAID: "NEW AND SOPHISTICATED INSTRUMENTS IN DERMATOLOGY LIKE LASERS, PUVA MACHINES HAVE ALSO BEEN PROVIDED IN DERMATOLOGY CLINICS."

THE DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION AND SUPERVISED TRAINING PROGRAMME IN FAMILY MEDICINE FOR DOCTORS IN THE GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINICS (GOPD).

DR LEE HOPED THAT THE GOPD DOCTORS WITH IMPROVEMENT IN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS COULD HELP EASE SOME OF THE WORKLOAD IN THE SKIN CLINICS.

"THIS WILL ALLOW DERMATOLOGISTS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR RESOURCES TO DEVELOP FURTHER THE SPECIALITY AREA," HE ADDED.

ON LEPROSY, DR LEE SAID THERE HAD BEEN A GRADUAL FALL IN THE NUMBER OF INCIDENCE DURING THE LAST THREE DECADES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SKIN CLINICS WAS MORE THAN 8,000 WITH ONLY 26 NEW LEPROSY CASES REPORTED IN 1991.

THE THREE COMMON SKIN DISEASES ENCOUNTERED IN HONG KONG ARE ECZEMA, VERRUCA AND TINEA.

AS FOR STD, THE DIRECTOR NOTED THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 10,000 NEW CASES DIAGNOSED AT THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL HYGIENE CLINICS IN 1991.

THE INCIDENCE OF MOST COMMON STD SUCH AS GONORRHOEA, GENITAL WARTS, HERPES GENITALIS AND SYPHILIS HAVE STEADILY DECLINED, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RECLAMATION FOR NEW POWER STATION AUTHORISED

* * * * *

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS GIVEN AUTHORISATION FOR CHINA LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY TO CARRY OUT RECLAMATION AND DREDGING WORKS AT BLACK POINT, TUEN MUN, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW THERMAL POWER STATION.

THE AUTHORISATION WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE FIGURE OF ABOUT 923 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEABED REFERRED TO IN THE GAZETTE WAS A PROJECTION BASED ON THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR A LARGER COAL-FIRED POWER STATION.

HOWEVER, CURRENT PROPOSALS ARE FOR THE STATION TO BE FUELLED BY NATURAL GAS.

AS A RESULT, LARGE COAL STORAGE AREAS AND A MARINE ACCESS CHANNEL ARE NOT NEEDED, AND ONLY 23 HECTARES WILL BE RECLAIMED FOR PHASE I OF THE PROJECT.

MORE LAND MAY BE RECLAIMED LATER IF IT IS REQUIRED FOR FURTHER PHASES OF THE PROJECT.

TO ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE NEW POWER STATION, MEASURES WILL BE INCORPORATED IN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCES, AND TO KEEP THE IMPACT ON NEARBY SURROUNDINGS WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

THE EXTENT OF THE AREA AFFECTED IS DESCRIBED IN THE AUTHORISATION NOTICE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEABED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT MAY SEND A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE GAZETTE NOTICE, THAT IS ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 14, 1994.

THE NOTICE, IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE, TOGETHER WITH THE RELATED PLAN, CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG, AND AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

COPIES OF THE NOTICE AND PLAN CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE.

THE GAZETTE ALSO NOTIFIED THAT 34 LOTS OF PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 22,662.2 SQUARE METRES AND THREE PRIVATE BUILDING LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 44.3 SQUARE METRES WILL BE RESUMED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE THERMAL POWER STATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BEST LEGCO DECISION FOR HONG KONG
* * * * *

HONG KONG'S BEST INTERESTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN LEGISLATORS DEBATE THE GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL BLUEPRINT NEXT MONTH, THE TAI PO DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PO PUI-LEONG, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

SPEAKING AT A NEW YEAR SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY IN TAI PO, MR PO SAID THE PROPOSALS WERE FORMULATED TO ENSURE THE FUTURE PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR, HE SAID, WILL CONSULT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BEFORE PUTTING THEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

NOTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN HONG KONG WAS OPEN, CLEAR AND WELL-TRIED, MR PO SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE PACKAGE, TO AMEND IT, OR TO REJECT IT.

FOR THIS REASON, HE APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT.

"YOUR PARTICIPATION WILL CERTAINLY BE PROPITIOUS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND WILL ALSO GUARANTEE OUR FUTURE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS," MR PO SAID.

MR PO ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT PERSONALITIES WHO HAD GENEROUSLY SPONSORED MANY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HIGH STANDARDS OF BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE ASSURED

* * * * *

THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR JAMES BLAKE, CURRENTLY ON A DUTY VISIT TO EUROPE, WAS ASSURED BY LEADING BRITISH CONTRACTORS WORKING ON THE TSING MA BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE THAT THEIR WORK WOULD BE "VERY WELL EXECUTED TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS".

"HONG KONG CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE WORK IS IN VERY PROFESSIONAL HANDS. WE SET GREAT STORE BY THIS PROJECT WHICH WE ARE SURE WILL BE A SUCCESS," SAID MR RICHARD COVILL, COMMERCIAL MANAGER, DAVY INTERNATIONAL, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE BRITISH CONGLOMERATE TRAFALGAR HOUSE -- A LEADING MEMBER OF THE ANGLO-JAPANESE CONSORTIUM WHICH WON THE CONTRACT TO BUILD THE BRIDGE.

MR BLAKE, WHO WAS IN SHEFFIELD YESTERDAY AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, TOURED THE DAVY INTERNATIONAL PLANT WHERE HE SAW THE TOWER SADDLES, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS TO SUPPORT THE SUSPENSION CABLES FOR THE TSING MA BRIDGE, BEING MANUFACTURED.

HE TOLD SENIOR STAFF AT THE PLANT THAT THE JOB WAS HUGELY CHALLENGING AND HE WAS SURE THAT THEIR PROFESSIONAL PRIDE WOULD BE IN EVIDENCE IN WHATEVER THEY DID.

THE BRIDGE WAS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE AIRPORT PROJECT AND WAS VITAL FOR THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF HONG KONG. IT WOULD BE LOCATED IN WHAT COULD BE CALLED THE HUB OF ASIA AND WOULD OPEN UP THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN CHINA, HE SAID.

"WE WILL SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE CAN PUT THIS PROJECT IN PLACE AND IN DOING SO OPEN THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN CHINA TO PORT AND AIRPORT FACILITIES THAT WOULD BE UNSURPASSED," HE SAID.

/DURING HIS

DURING HIS VISIT, MR BLAKE ALSO TOURED THE STEELWORK FABRICATION PLANT AT CLEVELAND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING IN DARLINGTON WHERE STEEL-WORKS FOR THE BRIDGE-DECK IS BEING UNDERTAKEN, AND THE BRIDON WORKS IN DONCASTER WHERE THE GALVANISED HIGH TENSION WIRES FOR THE BRIDGE WERE BEING MANUFACTURED.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS' VISIT TO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND WAS TO MEET CONTRACTORS INVOLVED IN STEEL FABRICATION WORK AND TO OBSERVE THE MANUFACTURE OF COMPONENTS FOR THE BRIDGE.

IT ENABLED HIM TO OBTAIN A FIRST HAND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT.

MR BLAKE WAS GIVEN DETAILED BRIEFINGS AT EACH OF THE FACTORIES HE VISITED AND WAS ABLE TO VIEW THE VARIOUS STAGES OF PRODUCTION OF THESE COMPONENTS.

HE EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION AT THE DEDICATION OF BOTH THE MANAGEMENT AND THE WORKFORCE TOWARDS THE PROJECTS THAT WERE BEING UNDERTAKEN AND THE IMPORTANCE THAT THEY ATTACHED TO IT.

WHILE IN THE UK, MR BLAKE WILL ALSO DELIVER AN ADDRESS AT THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS IN LONDON ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME NEXT WEEK.

- - - - - 0 - - - - -

ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS PLANNED FOR TUEN MUN
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO FU TEI ROAD IN TUEN MUN, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE WORKS INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY TO REPLACE AN EXISTING PORTION OF FU TEI ROAD AND TWO FOOTPATHS ON THE SIDES OF THE NEW CARRIAGEWAY, AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTING A TURNABOUT AT THE END OF THE IMPROVED SECTION OF FU TEI ROAD.

A PLAN SHOWING THE PROPOSED WORKS CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL;
- * THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, TUEN MUN, SIXTH FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES; AND
- * THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, NEW TERRITORIES.

MEANWHILE, THE AMENDED ROAD WORKS FOR THE PROPOSED SALISBURY GARDEN UNDERGROUND SHOPPING ARCADE PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS WERE ALSO GAZETTED TODAY.

THE WORKS INVOLVE CONSTRUCTING THREE PEDESTRIAN SUBWAYS AND WIDENING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF EXISTING FOOTPATHS TO IMPROVE THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITIES ON SALISBURY ROAD.

THE PLAN AND SCHEME OF THE WORKS CAN BE INSPECTED AT THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, AND AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON WEST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON; AND THE YAU TSIM DISTRICT OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR, MIDDLE ROAD CARPARK BUILDING, 15 MIDDLE ROAD, KOWLOON.

OBJECTION TO BOTH ROAD WORKS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD NOT LATER THAN MARCH 16 THIS YEAR.

- - - - U - - - -

1993 HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW SET FOR MARCH

* * * * *

A WIDE VARIETY OF COLOURFUL FLOWERS AND PLANTS WILL BE ON DISPLAY IN MARCH AT THE SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK AND SHA TIN TOWN HALL DURING THE 1993 HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW.

THE SHOW WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY MRS PATTEN.

APART FROM SPECIAL FLORAL AND LANDSCAPE DISPLAYS BY LOCAL HORTICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, OTHER MAJOR ATTRACTIONS WILL BE UNIQUE EXHIBITS FROM CHINA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND CANADA.

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE REGIONAL AND THE URBAN COUNCILS, THE 10-DAY FLOWER SHOW WILL BE HELD BETWEEN MARCH 19 AND 28. ADMISSION FEES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED AT \$10 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS.

THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AIMS AT PROMOTING PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF PLANTS AND FLORAL ARTS, AS WELL AS ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEAUTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT.

SPEAKING AT A LAUNCHING CEREMONY TODAY (FRIDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL, MR CHEUNG YAN-LUNG, SAID SUPPORT FOR THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW HAD BEEN VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

"UP TO THE PRESENT MOMENT, MORE THAN 80 LOCAL AND OVERSEAS HORTICULTURAL GROUPS HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT," HE SAID.

"THEIR PRESENCE AND DISPLAYS WILL NOT ONLY MAKE THE SHOW ATTRACTIVE, BUT WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SHARING AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AMONG THESE PEOPLE AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL."

MR CHEUNG POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS, THE HONG KONG FLOWER SHOW HAD BEEN GROWING IN POPULARITY AND HAD BECOME A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENT OF THE YEAR FOR BOTH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND OVERSEAS HORTICULTURAL ORGANISATIONS.

"LAST YEAR, THE SHOW ATTRACTED MORE THAN 350,000 VISITORS," HE SAID.

"THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW IS 'FLOWERS ENHANCE YOUR LIFE'. I HOPE THIS THEME WILL HELP TO FURTHER PROMOTE INTEREST IN BEAUTIFYING OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE PLANTING OF MORE TREES AND FLOWERS WHICH WILL MAKE HONG KONG AN EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL AND COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE IN."

MR CHEUNG SAID IN ORDER TO FACILITATE VISITORS TO THE SHOW, ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE WITH THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION (KCR) AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION (MTR) FOR THE PRE-SALE OF ADMISSION TICKETS AT THEIR STATIONS.

"THE PRE-SALE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM MARCH 1 AT ALL THE EIGHT MTR TRAVEL SERVICES CENTRES AND THE TWO KCR CUSTOMER SERVICES CENTRES AT ITS KOWLOON AND SHA TIN STATIONS," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION, SOUVENIR PACKS EACH CONTAINING A KCR SOUVENIR TICKET AND A FLOWER SHOW ADULT TICKET WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AROUND MID-MARCH AT ALL KCR STATIONS EXCEPT LOWU STATION.

MR CHEUNG COMMENDED ALL THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND SUPPORT.

THE THANK-YOU MESSAGE WAS ECHOED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG.

ADDRESSING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY, DR LEUNG SAID APART FROM FLORAL DISPLAYS, 42 COMMERCIAL STALLS WOULD BE SET UP FOR THE SALE OF FLOWERS, HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND VEGETABLES.

"IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE FIVE STALLS DISPLAYING THE LATEST MODELS OF HORTICULTURAL MACHINERY AND PRODUCTS," HE SAID.

"VISITORS TO THE FLOWER SHOW WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ENJOY A FASCINATING DEMONSTRATION AND EXHIBITION OF IKEBANA, THE JAPANSE ART OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT, BY MRS SENSO ONAKA ON MARCH 21."

APART FROM THE MAJOR ATTRACTIONS, THERE WILL ALSO BE BAND CONCERTS, TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS, GROUP VISITS FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE HANDICAPPED, A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION, AS WELL AS GAMES FOR CHILDREN DURING THE SHOW PERIOD.

DR LEUNG CALLED ON FLORAL ENTHUSIASTS TO TAKE PART IN THE OPEN COMPETITION OF THE FLOWER SHOW.

THE COMPETITION WILL BE CATEGORISED INTO VARIOUS SECTIONS SUCH AS CUT FLOWERS, SCENTED CUT FLOWERS, ORCHIDS, CHINESE CYMBIDIUM, POT PLANTS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, BONSAI-TYPE PLANTS, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, SMALL GARDEN PLOT AND POTTED FLOWER GROWING.

ENTRY FORMS FOR THE COMPETITION ARE NOW READY FOR COLLECTION ON THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BUILDING, 1-3 PAI TAU STREET, SHA TIN.

THEY WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL SERVICES AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, ALL DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, THE URBAN COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS CENTRE IN THE CITY HALL AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS AT CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 6.

THE THEME FLOWER CHOSEN FOR THIS YEAR'S FLOWER SHOW IS CATTLEYA, A GENUS OF ORCHID COMPRISING SOME 40 SPECIES NAMED AFTER THE ENGLISH HORTICULTURIST WILLIAM CATTLEYA OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS INVITED FOR THREE PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM IN PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, SHA TIN.

THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CENTRAL AIR-CONDITIONING PLANT BUILDING WITH THREE CHILLERS AND ELECTRICAL AND FIRE SERVICES INSTALLATIONS.

THE CONTRACTOR IS ALSO REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT CONSIDERABLE CONNECTION AND MODIFICATION WORKS TO THE EXISTING CHILLED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN THE HOSPITAL.

WORKS OF THIS PROJECT ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN APRIL FOR COMPLETION IN ABOUT A YEAR.

MEANWHILE, TENDERS ARE BEING INVITED FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT FAT HING STREET, CENTRAL.

THE PROJECT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START IN MAY FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER, INVOLVES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PAVILION AND SEATING FACILITIES.

BESIDES, THE DEPARTMENT ALSO CALLS FOR TENDER SUBMISSIONS FOR THE DESIGN, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF CURTAIN WALLING AND CLADDING FOR PHASE II OF THE NEW POLICE HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX AT ARSENAL STREET, WAN CHAI.

THIS PROJECT WILL START IN EARLY JUNE AND IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 25 MONTHS TO FINISH.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS FOR THE FIRST TWO PROJECTS IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 12 WHILE THAT FOR THE THIRD ONE IS NOON ON FEBRUARY 19.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR SHAM TSENG

* * * * *

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CIVIL WORKS OF STAGE I OF SHAM TSENG TREATMENT WORKS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THE CONTRACT IS ONE OF THE SEVERAL CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED FOR A PROJECT TO PROVIDE TREATED WATER TO TSING LUNG TAU AND SHAM TSENG AREAS WHICH ARE RECEIVING A CHLORINATED WATER SUPPLY.

THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SHAM TSENG TREATMENT WORKS WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 23,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

HOWEVER, THE TREATMENT WORKS IS DESIGNED FOR FUTURE EXPANSION TO A FINAL CAPACITY OF 75,000 CUBIC METRES PER DAY.

THE CONTRACT INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF DISSOLVED AIR FLOTATION TANKS, FILTERS, CHEMICAL HOUSE, WASHWATER RETURN SUMP AND PUMP HOUSE, SLUDGE THICKENING TANK, ANCILLARY STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH FOR COMPLETION IN 22 MONTHS.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, 44TH FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

TENDER OFFER WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON FEBRUARY 12.

- - - - 0 - - - -

AESTHETIC AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT VITAL FOR CHILDREN

* * * * *

AESTHETIC AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG MINDS IS VITAL, MRS PATTEN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION (ESF) FIFTH ART EXHIBITION, MRS PATTEN SAID IN TODAY'S HARD TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD, WITH ITS INCREASING DEMAND FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED TECHNOCRATS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE, IT WAS ONLY TOO EASY TO PLACE LESS VALUE ON THE ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

"IT IS ESSENTIAL NOT TO GIVE IN TO SUCH PRESSURES AND I COMMEND THE FOUNDATION AND ALL ITS SCHOOLS FOR THE STRONG STAND IT TAKES IN THIS REGARD," MRS PATTEN SAID.

SHE NOTED THAT THE ESF HAD, OVER MANY YEARS, DEVELOPED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION FOR OFFERING A MODERN LIBERAL CURRICULUM, PROVIDING A GOOD ALL-ROUND EDUCATION.

"WHILE EMPHASIS IS QUITE RIGHTLY PLACED ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, I KNOW, AS AN ESF PARENT, THAT MUCH ATTENTION IS ALSO PLACED ON CREATIVITY, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTISTIC AND INTUITIVE SIDE OF EACH STUDENT'S POTENTIAL," SHE SAID.

/MRS PATTEN

MRS PATTEN THANKED THE FOUNDATION AND THE TEACHERS INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE ART EXHIBITION AND ALSO CONGRATULATED THE YOUNG ARTISTS WHOSE WORK WAS DISPLAYED IN THE EXHIBITION.

"I HOPE THAT THE SATISFACTION THEY RECEIVE FROM HAVING THEIR WORK EXHIBITED HERE WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO GO ON TO EVEN GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TSUEN WAN WELFARE OFFICES ON MOVE
* * * * *

THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST REGIONAL OFFICE, TSUEN WAN FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE AND TSUEN WAN SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL OPERATE FROM THEIR NEW OFFICES IN TSUEN WAN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 38 SAI LAU KOK ROAD FROM NEXT MONDAY (JANUARY 18).

ENQUIRY NUMBERS FOR THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT WILL BE 417 6313 AND 417 6315 RESPECTIVELY.

THE NEW TERRITORIES WEST REGIONAL OFFICE IS ON THE 10TH FLOOR. THE FAMILY SERVICES CENTRE AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT ARE ON THE 14TH FLOOR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

RESIDENTS COMMENDED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES
* * * * *

FIFTEEN WAN CHAI RESIDENTS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE IN THE COMMUNITY WILL BE HONOURED WITH THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARDS AT A CEREMONY TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE STUDENTS, MERCHANTS, OFFICE WORKERS, TECHNICIANS AND CIVIL SERVANTS. THE ELDEST IS A 75-YEAR-OLD RETIREE.

THE SCHEME, ORGANISED FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR BY THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD, AIMS AT GIVING DUE RECOGNITION TO RESIDENTS WHO HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES OR ON THE PROMOTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

WAN CHAI DISTRICT OFFICER, MR PETER MANN AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MRS PEGGY LAM, WILL PRESENT THE AWARDS AT THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM AT HOPEWELL CITY RESTAURANT, EIGHTH FLOOR, HOPEWELL CENTRE, 183 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST.

THE DISTRICT BOARD'S YEAR-END TEA PARTY WILL ALSO BE HELD AFTER THE CEREMONY.

- - - - -

ATTENTION NEW EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY CUM YEAR-END CELEBRATION GATHERING.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1993

- 23 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

* * * * *

	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,900
REVERSAL OF LAF	-400
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	1,500
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	+250
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,750

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 114.6 *+0.1* 15.1.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.20 PCT	13 MONTHS	2402	5.50	100.01	4.58
1 MONTH	3.33 PCT	16 MONTHS	2405	5.50	100.87	4.87
3 MONTHS	3.61 PCT	19 MONTHS	2408	4.375	99.04	5.07
6 MONTHS	3.86 PCT	22 MONTHS	2411	4.625	98.97	5.29
12 MONTHS	4.48 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 11,558 MN

CLOSED 15 JANUARY 1993

----- 0 -----