



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1991

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LAB AGREES TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD TODAY (MONDAY) AGREED TO A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON CHARGES TO EMPLOYERS FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

AT ITS MEETING TODAY, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ACCEPTED THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE MODE OF OPERATION OF MODERN EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

SINCE THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WAS AMENDED IN JUNE LAST YEAR TO REMOVE THE WAGE CEILING OF NON-MANUAL LABOUR COVERED BY THE ORDINANCE, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS AND HEAD-HUNTING FIRMS HANDLING RECRUITMENTS OF SENIOR STAFF HAVE HAD TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LICENCES AND TO COMPLY WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THEIR OPERATION.

IT IS A COMMON PRACTICE FOR THESE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO RECOVER FROM EMPLOYERS BEFORE PROCURING AN EMPLOYEE THE AGREED EXPENSES AND OTHER PAYMENTS INCURRED IN CARRYING OUT SUCH ASSIGNMENTS AS ADVERTISING AND TRADE TEST, AND TO CHARGE PROFESSIONAL FEES AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS.

THIS TRADE PRACTICE IS ACCEPTABLE TO EMPLOYERS. HOWEVER, THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE ONLY ALLOWS AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY TO CHARGE AN EMPLOYER NOT MORE THAN \$35 ON FIRST REGISTRATION, AND \$20 ON RENEWAL OF SUCH REGISTRATION, PLUS A COMMISSION UPON SUCCESSFUL PROCUREMENT OF AN EMPLOYEE.

OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT EMPLOYERS ARE WELL CAPABLE OF NEGOTIATING A FAIR DEAL WITH EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES IN THIS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE TRADE.

REFERRING TO A SUGGESTION BY EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES TO UPGRADE THE STATUS OF THE LAB, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MR DARWIN CHEN, WHO IS ALSO THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO INTRODUCE ANY CHANGES AT PRESENT TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD WHOSE CURRENT MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR.

MR CHEN ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO REVIEW BOTH THE COMPOSITION AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE LAB AFTER THE CURRENT BOARD HAD BEEN IN SESSION FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

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UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR DEC-FEB  
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BOTH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL DURING THE PERIOD DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991, ACCORDING TO THE LATEST LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WAS 1.4%, WHICH WAS THE SAME AS THAT FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1990. THE RATE FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER WAS 1.5%.

THE DECREASE OF 0.1 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT BELOW THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT.

THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WAS ESTIMATED AT 40,500, COMPARED WITH 40,000 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1990 AND 40,800 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WAS 1.1%, COMPARED WITH 0.9% FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1990 AND 0.6% FOR THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER.

THE INCREASE OF 0.2 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS STATISTICALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT WHILE THE INCREASE OF 0.5 OF A PERCENTAGE POINT OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR EARLIER IS STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS IN DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 WAS 30,600, COMPARED WITH 25,100 IN THE THREE MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER 1990 AND 17,500 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

CONSISTENT WITH THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO), PERSONS WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS A WEEK DUE TO ECONOMIC REASONS (SUCH AS SLACK WORK, MATERIAL SHORTAGE, MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN AND INABILITY TO FIND FULL-TIME WORK) WERE REGARDED AS UNDEREMPLOYED ONLY IF THEY WERE EITHER SEEKING OR AVAILABLE FOR MORE WORK.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, THE COMMISSIONER FOR CENSUS AND STATISTICS SAID BECAUSE THE PROPORTION OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS (FOR EXAMPLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE JUST LEFT SCHOOL) VARIES FROM MONTH TO MONTH, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES THAT HAD BEEN SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VARIATIONS IN THE NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME JOB-SEEKERS SHOULD BE USED IN MAKING COMPARISONS OVER TIME.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID BASED ON A SYSTEM OF PROVISIONAL COUNTS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES COVERING THE LATEST THREE-MONTH PERIOD COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURVEY.

THESE PROVIDE AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT SITUATION.

/THE PROVISIONAL .....

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THE PROVISIONAL SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR JANUARY - MARCH 1991 WAS 1.7% AND THE PROVISIONAL UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 1.5%.

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

THE SURVEY FOR DECEMBER 1990 - FEBRUARY 1991 COVERED A QUARTERLY SAMPLE OF SOME 11,200 HOUSEHOLDS OR 40,000 PERSONS, SELECTED SCIENTIFICALLY TO REPRESENT THE LAND-BASED CIVILIAN NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION IN HONG KONG. PERSONAL AND LABOUR FORCE DATA WERE 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 ILO.

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 MARCH 1991 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND JUNE 20 AT \$13.50 PER COPY.

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#### UK RAILWAY INSPECTOR REVIEWS MTR SERVICE DISRUPTION

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THE UK DEPUTY CHIEF INSPECTING OFFICER OF RAILWAYS, MR ALAN COOKSEY, HAS CARRIED OUT INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY SERVICE DISRUPTION OF MARCH 11, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

MR COOKSEY WAS INVITED BY THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER A STANDING AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE UK RAILWAY INSPECTORATE, TO VISIT HONG KONG TO REVIEW THE INCIDENT.

IN HIS INITIAL FINDINGS, MR COOKSEY REPORTED THAT THE MTR SYSTEM WAS SAFE AND THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION'S EQUIPMENT AND STANDARDS OF MAINTENANCE.

HAVING REVIEWED THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE INCIDENT, MR COOKSEY HAS IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH COULD LEAD TO IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HANDLING OF LARGE-SCALE EMERGENCIES IN FUTURE.

THESE MEASURES ARE BEING FURTHER EXAMINED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MTRC.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MR COOKSEY WILL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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12 BILLS, MOTION DEBATE ON PADS ON LEGCO AGENDA  
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER 12 BILLS AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING ON WEDNESDAY (APRIL 17).

ONE OF THE BILLS IS THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1991 WHICH WILL BE GIVEN A SECOND READING WHEN REPLIES ARE SCHEDULED TO BE GIVEN ON VARIOUS POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS IN THE PREVIOUS BUDGET DEBATE. IT WILL THEN GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

SEVEN BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND DEBATE ON THEM WILL BE ADJOURNED.

THEY ARE THE MOTOR VEHICLES (FIRST REGISTRATION TAX) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, FEES INCREASE (1991 BUDGET) BILL 1991, BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1991, STAMP DUTY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, SECURITIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 AND CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

IN ADDITION TO THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1991, SECOND READING DEBATES WILL ALSO BE RESUMED ON FOUR OTHER BILLS AND EACH IS LATER DUE TO GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STAGE AND BE GIVEN A THIRD READING.

THE BILLS ARE THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, POLICE FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990, AND IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE MONEY LENDERS ORDINANCE WHILE THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS WILL MOVE A MOTION UNDER THE HONG KONG SPORTS INSTITUTE ORDINANCE.

THE HON MARTIN LEE WILL MOVE A MOTION CONCERNING THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. THE MOTION READS:

"THAT THIS COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE PUBLIC ALL THE DETAILS OF ANY AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE PRC GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE PROPOSED PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY; AND FURTHER URGES THE GOVERNMENT:

- (A) TO PROTECT THE HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY PRESENTLY ENJOYED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND WHICH OUGHT TO BE ENJOYED BY THE SAR GOVERNMENT AFTER 1997 AND REFUSE TO ALLOW PRC GOVERNMENT-NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON ANY EXECUTIVE OR ADVISORY BODY IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY;
- (B) TO RESPECT HONG KONG'S FINANCIAL AUTONOMY AND NOT AGREE TO SET ASIDE ANY PORTION OF HONG KONG'S FISCAL RESERVES IN TRUST FOR THE POST-1997 SAR GOVERNMENT, EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN ANNEX III OF THE JOINT DECLARATION IN RELATION TO THE "LAND FUND"; AND
- (C) TO ENSURE THAT CONSULTATION WITH THE PRC GOVERNMENT DOES NOT MEAN GIVING THE POWER OF VETO TO THE PRC GOVERNMENT ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF HONG KONG."

MR LEE WILL ALSO SPEAK ON THE CONSUMER COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1989-1990.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERIES. THEY MAY MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONING 844 0899.

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RATEPAYERS GIVEN REMINDER ON SECOND QUARTER PAYMENT

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RATEPAYERS SHOULD BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED DEMAND NOTES FOR RATES FOR THE QUARTER APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 1991 WHICH ARE DEMANDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RATING ORDINANCE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TREASURY SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE MAY BRING A RATES DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER AND MAKE PAYMENT AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- \* THE TREASURY HEADQUARTERS COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OFFICE, WANCHAI TOWER II, FIRST FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG;
- \* THE CENTRAL SUB-TREASURY, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES (WEST WING), 11 ICE HOUSE STREET, (SIDE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING IN ICE HOUSE STREET), HONG KONG;
- \* THE NORTH POINT SUB-TREASURY, ODEON BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 28 SHU KUK STREET, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG;
- \* THE SAI WAN HO SUB-TREASURY, EASTERN LAW COURTS BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, 29 TAI ON STREET, SAI WAN HO, HONG KONG;
- \* THE YAU MA TEI SUB-TREASURY, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES, FOURTH FLOOR, 405 NATHAN ROAD, (MARKET STREET ENTRANCE), KOWLOON;
- \* THE KOWLOON CITY SUB-TREASURY, MAN SANG COMMERCIAL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, 348-352 PRINCE EDWARD ROAD, (CORNER OF PRINCE EDWARD ROAD AND JUNCTION ROAD), KOWLOON.

ANY RATEPAYER WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A DEMAND NOTE AND CANNOT PRODUCE A RATES DEMAND NOTE FOR ANY PREVIOUS QUARTER SHOULD INQUIRE AT THE TREASURY RATES SECTION, WANCHAI TOWER II, 30TH FLOOR, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, HONG KONG.

NON-RECEIPT OF THE DEMAND NOTE DOES NOT ALTER THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE RATES MUST BE PAID BY 4 PM ON APRIL 30, 1991 AND UNLESS SO PAID MAY BE SUBJECT TO A SURCHARGE OF FIVE PER CENT IMPOSED UNDER SECTION 22 OF THE RATING ORDINANCE.

A FURTHER SURCHARGE OF 10 PER CENT MAY BE ADDED TO ACCOUNTS, INCLUDING THE NORMAL FIVE PER CENT SURCHARGE WHICH REMAIN UNPAID SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

RATEPAYERS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED A VALID DIRECT DEBIT AUTHORISATION SHOULD NOTE THAT PAYMENT SHOULD BE MADE BY POST OR IN PERSON AS STIPULATED IN THE DEMAND NOTE UNLESS THE WORDING "PAYMENT TO BE MADE BY AUTOPAY" IS SHOWN IN THE DEMAND NOTE.

IN THIS CASE THEIR PAYMENT OF RATES WILL BE MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT TO THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS ON APRIL 30, 1991. RATEPAYERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THEIR BANK ACCOUNTS CONTAIN THE NECESSARY FUNDS ON THAT DATE.

RATES ARE PAYABLE ON VACANT PROPERTIES BUT ARE REFUNDABLE UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 30 OF THE ORDINANCE.

UNDER SECTIONS 30(1A) AND (2A), HOWEVER, NO REFUNDS WILL BE PAYABLE IN THE CASE OF A VACANT TENEMENT LAST USED OR INTENDED TO BE USED WHOLLY OR PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OR FOR THE PARKING OF VEHICLES, UNLESS VACANT BY REASON OF AN ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

TO AVOID THE POSSIBLE INCONVENIENCE OF QUEUEING, RATEPAYERS ARE URGED TO PAY BY CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER SENT BY POST OR BY EARLY PERSONAL ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THE OFFICES LISTED ON THE BACK OF THE DEMAND NOTE.

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SHOUSON HILL AND REPULSE BAY OZP APPROVED

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD HAS PUBLISHED AN APPROVED OUTLINE ZONING PLAN FOR THE SHOUSON HILL AND REPULSE BAY AREA.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PLAN WAS TO ESTABLISH A STATUTORY LAND USE FRAMEWORK WHEREBY THE VARIOUS USES OF LAND IN THE PLANNING AREA COULD BE DEVELOPED OR REDEVELOPED IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.

THE PLAN WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 4 LAST YEAR.

THE PLAN COVERS AN AREA OF ABOUT 438 HECTARES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND.

IT IS BOUNDED BY THE CATCHWATER SOUTH OF MOUNT NICHOLSON, DEEP WATER BAY ROAD AND TAI TAM RESERVOIR ROAD TO THE NORTH; THE BOUNDARY OF TAI TAM COUNTRY PARK UP TO CHUNG HOM KOK ROAD TO THE EAST; MIDDLE ISLAND, DEEP WATER BAY, REPULSE BAY, SOUTH BAY AND CHUNG HOM WAN TO THE SOUTH; AND WONG CHUK HANG ROAD AND SOUTHERN APPROACH TO ABERDEEN TUNNEL TO THE WEST.

/THE PLANNING .....

THE PLANNING AREA IS GENERALLY HILLY WITH STEEP RAVINES COVERED BY RICH VEGETATION.

THE PROMINENT LAND USE IS GREEN BELT WHICH COVERS MAINLY HILLSLOPES THAT ARE UNSUITABLE FOR INTENSIVE URBAN-TYPE DEVELOPMENT.

IN THE PLAN, 0.2 PER CENT (0.63 HECTARES) OF THE AREA IS ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL USES, 22.8 PER CENT (99.79 HECTARES) FOR RESIDENTIAL USES INCLUDING BOTH HIGH-RISE AND LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, 1.5 PER CENT (6.63 HECTARES) FOR GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY USES, 4.1 PER CENT (18.12 HECTARES) FOR OPEN SPACE USES, 2.3 PER CENT (10.1 HECTARES) FOR OTHER SPECIFIED USES INCLUDING SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUBS, PETROL FILLING STATIONS AND BEACH FRONT SITES, AND 63.4 PER CENT (277.67 HECTARES) FOR GREEN BELT. THE REST OF THE AREA (24.95 HECTARES) IS ZONED FOR ROADS.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE APPROVED PLAN WAS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- \* PUBLIC ENQUIRY SUB-OFFICE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WEST WING ENTRANCE, HONG KONG; AND
- \* THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT, FOURTH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE APPROVED PLAN IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP AND PLAN SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON AT A COST OF \$10 EACH UNCOLOURED AND \$50 EACH COLOURED COPY.

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#### DISPENSARIES LOSE LICENCES

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TWO DISPENSARIES HAVE LOST THEIR APPEALS AGAINST A DECISION OF THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD NOT TO RENEW THEIR LICENCES AS AUTHORISED SELLERS OF POISONS.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (MONDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PHARMACY AND POISONS APPEAL TRIBUNAL SAID THEY ARE THE CHIU CHOW DISPENSARY IN KWUN TONG AND THE TAT ON DISPENSARY IN NGAU TAU KOK.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN THE COURSE OF ROUTINE INSPECTIONS BY PHARMACY INSPECTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1989, BOTH DISPENSARIES WERE FOUND TO HAVE FAILED TO LOCK UP PRESCRIBED DRUGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PHARMACY REGULATIONS.

THE INSPECTORS ALSO DISCOVERED LARGE QUANTITIES OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES WHICH HAD NOT BEEN RECORDED OR STORED AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

/THE TWO .....

THE TWO DISPENSARIES WERE THE FIRST TO BE REFUSED RENEWAL OF THEIR LICENCES SINCE THE REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT IN 1988.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE PHARMACY AND POISONS BOARD ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ABUSE OF SCHEDULED POSIONS, ESPECIALLY PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS AND WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK OUT FOR SUCH OFFENDERS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS  
\* \* \* \* \*

HKEF

	DATE ----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	13.4.91	480
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	15.4.91	+30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		-30
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 111.3 \*-0.1\* 15.4.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
91-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEI

ISSUE NUMBER -----	MATURING ON -----	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION -----	
Q115	10.7.91	400	+80
Q103	17.4.91	740.5	-260.5
Q104	24.4.91	725	-245
Q105	1.5.91	720	-240
Q106	8.5.91	593.5	-113.5
Q107	15.5.91	541	-61
Q108	22.5.91	480	+0
Q109	29.5.91	450	+30
Q110	5.6.91	340	+140
Q111	12.6.91	510	-30
Q112	19.6.91	540	-60
Q113	26.6.91	550	-70
Q114	3.7.91	470	+10

/HONG KONG .....

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
182-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEJ

ISSUE NUMBER -----	MATURING ON -----	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION -----	
H001	1.5.91	181	+79
H002	15.5.91	230	+30
H003	29.5.91	240	+20
H004	12.6.91	250	+10
H005	26.6.91	230	+30
H101	10.7.91	133	+127
H156	24.7.91	130	+130
H157	7.8.91	198	+62
H158	21.8.91	100	+160
H159	4.9.91	10	+250
H160	18.9.91	170	+90
H161	2.10.91	90	+170

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
364-DAY EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

HKEK

ISSUE NUMBER -----	MATURING ON -----	OUTSTANDING \$ MILLION -----	
Y187	26.2.92	180	+80
Y188	25.3.92	190	+70

AVERAGE DAILY TRANSFER FOR WEEK ENDING 12.4.91 WAS 3,201 MN

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GERMAN EXPERT PRAISES HK'S METHADONE PROGRAMME

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A GERMAN MEDICAL EXPERT TODAY (MONDAY) PRAISED THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE VOLUNTARY OUT-PATIENT METHADONE PROGRAMME FOR HEROIN ADDICTS IN HONG KONG.

PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH BSCHOR, FORMER HEAD OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN, IS HERE ON A TWO-DAY VISIT TO SEE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR DAVID WEEKS, HE VISITED THE ROBERT BLACK METHADONE CLINIC IN KOWLOON THIS MORNING.

/BEING A .....

BEING A KEEN ADVOCATE OF METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT PROGRAMME IN GERMANY, PROF BSCHOR SAID: "HONG KONG HAS SET AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE IN PROVIDING TREATMENT FACILITIES TO EVERY DRUG ABUSER. THIS IS A GOAL FOR GERMANY IN THE FUTURE."

HE WAS TOLD THAT THE LOCAL METHADONE CLINICS LAST YEAR CATERED FOR ABOUT THREE MILLION PATIENT-ATTENDANCES, WITH AN AVERAGE OF SOME 8,000 ADDICTS DAILY.

THIS REPRESENTS AROUND 60 PER CENT OF ABOUT 14,000 ABUSERS UNDERGOING SOME FORM OF TREATMENT, REHABILITATION AND AFTERCARE EACH DAY.

THE USE OF METHADONE FOR TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS ON AN OUT-PATIENT BASIS WAS STARTED IN HONG KONG IN LATE 1972. SINCE THEN THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND AND IS NOW THE LARGEST TREATMENT PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG.

PROF BSCHOR WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE METHADONE PROGRAMME PERMITS THE PATIENT TO ACHIEVE SOCIAL STABILITY AS A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY AND IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE FAILED REPEATEDLY IN OTHER FORMS OF TREATMENT.

"HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD THAT CAN PROVIDE EVERY ADDICT WITH A READILY ACCESSIBLE, LEGAL, MEDICALLY SAFE AND EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUED ILLICIT SELF-ADMINISTRATION OF HEROIN," HE ADDED.

HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF DRUG ABUSERS FOUND TO BE AIDS/HIV CARRIERS IN HONG KONG, IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION IN HIS COUNTRY WHERE THE HIV-SPREAD IN THE DRUG USER POPULATION HAS REACHED AROUND 20 PER CENT POSITIVE.

OF THE 214 REPORTED CASES OF AIDS/HIV UP TO FEBRUARY THIS YEAR ONLY FIVE WERE RELATED TO DRUG ADDICTS.

RESEARCH ELSEWHERE HAS SHOWN THAT METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT IS ONE OF THE EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF REDUCING INTRAVENOUS USE AND NEEDLE-SHARING BY HEROIN ADDICTS.

PROF BSCHOR ALSO PRAISED THE LONG-TERM, IN-DEPTH MONITORING OF THE OVERALL SITUATION RELATING TO DRUG ABUSE AND AIDS, WITH REFERENCE TO FACTORS SUCH AS CRIMINALITY, AGE DISTRIBUTION AND TRENDS IN DRUG ABUSE.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF UPDATING THE RESEARCH ON A CONTINUING BASIS, AND OF HAVING THE RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO STATISTICAL INDICATORS.

IN ADDITION, PROF BSCHOR COMMENDED HONG KONG'S PHILOSOPHY OF ACCEPTING AND PROMOTING EVERY KIND OF TREATMENT OF DRUG ABUSERS, AS OPPOSED TO THE SITUATION IN GERMANY, WHERE THE POLICY TENDS TO FAVOUR AND FINANCE ONE OR TWO TREATMENT MODALITIES ONLY.

"HONG KONG'S EXPERIENCE IN METHADONE TREATMENT DESERVES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S APPRECIATION AS IT HAS NOT ONLY MET THE NEED OF HEROIN ADDICTS BUT ALSO HELP HALT THE WIDE SPREAD OF AIDS," HE CONCLUDED.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1991

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ISLANDS AND NORTH DB CHAIRMEN RE-ELECTED

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MR LAM WAI-KEUNG OF THE ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD AND MR PANG HANG-YIN OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD WERE RE-ELECTED CHAIRMEN OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DB'S AT SEPARATE MEETINGS TODAY (MONDAY).

AS BOTH MR LAM AND MR PANG WERE UNCONTESTED, THEIR CHAIRMANSHIP WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICERS AT THE MEETINGS WHICH WERE THE FIRST OF THE 1991-94 TERM.

THE CHAIRMEN OF THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD'S FOUR WORKING COMMITTEES WERE ALSO ELECTED AT TODAY'S MEETING. THEY ARE:

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE:	MR TANG KUN-NIN
RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE:	MISS NG WAI-FUN
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:	MR TIK CHI-YUEN
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:	MR LAW CHAK-TONG

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MARICULTURE LIAISON GROUP MEMBERS VISIT FISH CULTURE ZONES

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SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARICULTURE CONSULTANCY RECOMMENDATIONS TODAY (MONDAY) TOURED SEVERAL FISH CULTURE ZONES IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES TO SEE THE EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFTS.

THE LIAISON GROUP WAS FORMED LAST DECEMBER FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF A GOVERNMENT-COMMISSIONED CONSULTANCY REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF MARINE FISH CULTURE IN HONG KONG.

IT COMPRISED FIVE REPRESENTATIVES FROM FISH CULTURE ZONES OF DIFFERENT REGIONS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD).

THE GROUP IS CHAIRED BY MR ANDREW WONG, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE AQUACULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (ACAF). IT HAS SO FAR MET THREE TIMES.

THE LIAISON GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISING WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARICULTURE CONSULTANCY RECOMMENDATIONS AS WELL AS THE MARICULTURE INDUSTRY TO COLLATE OPINIONS AND COMMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

/IT IS .....

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IT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR REPORTING TO ACAF ON ITS WORK AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROPRIATE REGARDING THE SUBJECT.

LED BY MR WONG AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE AFD'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FISHERIES), DR THOMAS YIP, THE GROUP FIRST WENT TO THE SHAM WAN FISH CULTURE ZONE.

THE VISITORS WERE BRIEFED ON THE PROGRESS OF AFD'S ENFORCEMENT WORK ON DWELLING AND OVERSIZED STRUCTURES ON FISH RAFTS, IN PARTICULAR THE SITUATION AT SHAM WAN WHERE THESE PROBLEMS WERE MORE PROMINENT.

IN THE AFTERNOON, MEMBERS VISITED THE KAU SAI FISH CULTURE ZONE, WHICH IN CONTRAST WITH THE SHAM WAN ZONE, HAS NO PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL STRUCTURES.

AT THE MA NAM WAT FISH CULTURE ZONE, THE GROUP INSPECTED THE OPEN SEA CAGE SYSTEM IMPORTED FROM JAPAN FOR THE TRIAL OF FISH CULTURE AT EXPOSED LOCATION.

THEY THEN VISITED A SITE OFF CLEAR WATER BAY IN OUTER PORT SHELTER WHICH HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS THE LOCATION FOR THE TRIAL. MEMBERS LEARNT THAT THE TRIAL, WHICH WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH A FISH FARMER, IS EXPECTED TO START EARLY NEXT MONTH.

IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF SUITABLE SHELTERED NEAR-SHORE SITES FOR FURTHER DESIGNATION AS FISH CULTURE ZONES, MARICULTURE IN THE OPEN SEA, IF PROVED SUCCESSFUL AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, WOULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY.

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#### MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS FORUMS

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AN ELECTION FORUM FOR CANDIDATES OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S SHAM SHUI PO (WEST) CONSTITUENCY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION SAID TODAY (MONDAY).

THE FORUM WILL BEGIN AT 8.15 PM AT THE CHEUNG SHA WAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 55 FAT CHEUNG STREET.

SIMILAR FORUMS WILL BE HELD IN 18 OTHER CONSTITUENCIES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS. THE DATES AND VENUES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

/HONG KONG ISLAND .....

HONG KONG ISLAND

<u>DATE AND TIME</u>	<u>CONSTITUENCY</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
APRIL 27 2.30 PM	WAN CHAI	ENTRANCE TO HOPEWELL CENTRE, WAN CHAI
APRIL 28 3 PM	EASTERN (SHAU KEI WAN CONSTITUENCY)	HENG FA CHUEN MTR STATION ROOF SQUARE
APRIL 28 3 PM	EASTERN (NORTH POINT CONSTITUENCY)	PARK OF PROVIDENT GARDEN
APRIL 28 3 PM	SOUTHERN	ABERDEEN CENTRE PLAZA, NAM NING STREET, ABERDEEN

KOWLOON

<u>DATE AND TIME</u>	<u>CONSTITUENCY</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
APRIL 18 8.30 PM	MONG KOK	T.S. LO HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH II YOUTH CENTRE, 10 YIM PO FONG STREET
APRIL 26 7.30 PM	YAU TSIM	HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL, 60 PUBLIC SQUARE STREET
APRIL 28 2.30 PM	KOWLOON CITY (EAST)	THE SOCIETY OF NATIVES OF CHIU LIN CHEUNG CHUK SHAN MEMORIAL SCHOOL, 22 SHEUNG HEUNG ROAD, TO KWA WAN
APRIL 28 4.15 PM	KOWLOON CITY (WEST)	PUI CHING PRIMARY SCHOOL, 80 WATERLOO ROAD
APRIL 29 8.30 PM	SHAM SHUI PO (EAST)	SHEK KIP MEI COMMUNITY HALL, BLOCK 42, SHEK KIP MEI ESTATE
APRIL 29 8.30 PM	KWUN TONG (EAST)	KWUN TONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, TSUI PING ROAD
APRIL 30 8.30 PM	KWUN TONG (WEST)	NGAU TAU KOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

/NEW TERRITORIES .....

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NEW TERRITORIES

DATE AND TIME	CONSTITUENCY	VENUE
APRIL 24 8 PM	KWAI CHUNG (WEST) AND TSING YI (FIRST FORUM)	TAI WO HAU ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE
APRIL 25 7.30 PM	SHA TIN (WEST) AND SHA TIN (EAST) (TWO CONSTITUENCIES)	EXHIBITION HALL, NEW TOWN PLAZA
APRIL 25 8 PM	KWAI CHUNG (EAST)	KWAI FONG COMMUNITY HALL
APRIL 26 8 PM	KWAI CHUNG (WEST) AND TSING YI (SECOND FORUM)	CHEUNG CHING ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE
APRIL 26 8.15 PM	TAI PO	AUDITORIUM, TAI PO CIVIC CENTRE
APRIL 28 2.30 PM	TUEN MUN (EAST) AND TUEN MUN (WEST) (TWO CONSTITUENCIES)	YAN OI SQUARE

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE CANDIDATES' FORUMS OF THE  
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS ELECTIONS.

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