



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1991

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HK GOING THROUGH THREE CRUCIAL CHANGES: GOVERNOR

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON THAT HONG KONG IS GOING THROUGH THREE CRUCIAL CHANGES WHICH ARE SHAPING OUR FUTURE AND ALL OF THEM RAISE THE ISSUE OF HOW TO MANAGE THE TRANSITION TO 1997.

THESE THREE CHANGES WERE IN CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIETY BY THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY AND THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

THE GOVERNOR, IN HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS TO OPEN THE 1991/92 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SAID: "FOR THE FIRST TIME, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL HAS BEEN ELECTED. THIS IS A LANDMARK IN THE PROCESS OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

"AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE OVER HALF-WAY BETWEEN THE SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE REVERSION OF HONG KONG TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC HAD ENTERED A NEW, CLOSER AND MORE SIGNIFICANT STAGE.

SIR DAVID SAID THE HONG KONG SOCIETY WAS ITSELF UNDERGOING A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION. INCREASED EDUCATION AND RISING PROSPERITY BROUGHT HIGHER EXPECTATIONS.

"WE HAVE ALREADY LAUNCHED MAJOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE TERRITORY ON WHICH THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE COMMUNITY DEPENDS," HE SAID.

THESE PROGRAMMES, HE ADDED, WERE DESIGNED TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE ONE OF ASIA'S LEADING CITIES OF THE NEXT CENTURY WHICH WAS PROSPEROUS; PEACEFUL; AND PROTECTIVE OF ITS DISADVANTAGED MEMBERS, ITS CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WOULD REVIEW IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS HOW THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED TO MANAGE THESE THREE CHANGES.

SIR DAVID WELCOMED ALL MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL, BOTH THOSE WHO WERE NEW TO THIS CHAMBER AND THOSE WHO HAD RETURNED AFTER PREVIOUS SERVICE.

"TO ALL OF YOU, BECAUSE THE COUNCIL WORKS AS A WHOLE REGARDLESS OF WHICH DOOR MEMBERS HAVE ENTERED BY, I SHOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE IN ALL THE THREE AREAS OF CHANGE I HAVE JUST MENTIONED," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE PUBLIC LOOKED TO MEMBERS TO ENSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION REMAINED IN THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY - WITH ITS ANXIETIES AS WELL AS ITS ASPIRATIONS.

/"THE ADMINISTRATION .....

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL LOOK TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THE IMPORTANT TASK OF RUNNING HONG KONG IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE.

"WE ALL - TOGETHER - SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES REFLECT THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTERESTS AND ENJOY THE COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT," SIR DAVID SAID.

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CO-OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ADMINISTRATION AND LEGCO NEEDED  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

WITHOUT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION IN THE SMOOTH HANDLING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TERRITORY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE QUALITY AND CHOICE OF SERVICE THAT THE PEOPLE EXPECTED AND DESERVED, SIR DAVID SAID, WHEN OPENING THE NEW SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"FOR ITS PART, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST ADAPT ITS OWN PROCEDURES TO THE MORE REPRESENTATIVE FORM OF GOVERNMENT WE NOW HAVE," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT UNDER HONG KONG'S PRESENT CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM, THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION.

NEITHER COULD IT LAUNCH ITS OWN POLITICAL PARTY, SUPPORTED BY ITS OWN MEDIA AND CONSTITUENCY APPARATUS.

ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, AT A TIME OF ELECTIONS, THE ADMINISTRATION MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL.

"ITS TASK IS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TAKE PART, BOTH AS CANDIDATES AND VOTERS, AND THEN TO SEE FAIR PLAY.

"THIS ROLE IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF A GOVERNING PARTY IN A WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRACY," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID TO PASS LEGISLATION AND OBTAIN FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR ITS PROGRAMMES, THEREFORE, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF LEGCO MEMBERS.

"THIS MEANS BUILDING UP A CO-OPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNCIL.

"THE ADMINISTRATION WILL PLAY ITS PART BY PRESENTING THE COUNCIL WITH MEASURES WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE PRACTICAL, PRUDENT AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

/"AND WE .....

"AND WE WILL PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH ALL THE INFORMATION AND EXPLANATION THEY NEED TO ASSESS AND, I HOPE, SUPPORT OUR PROPOSALS."

SIR DAVID SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS DETERMINED TO MEET THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND, IN SO DOING, TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE SUGGESTIONS AND CRITICISMS OF ALL LEGCO MEMBERS.

TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, HE SAID CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD HAVE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MEMBERS.

"FROM TODAY, ONLY THREE OFFICIALS WILL HOLD SEATS IN THIS COUNCIL. IN THE LAST SESSION, THERE WERE 10; SIX YEARS AGO, THERE WERE 22," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID THE SMALL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS NOW IN THE LEGCO COULD NOT POSSIBLY CARRY THE BURDEN OF EXPLAINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS IN EVERY AREA, LET ALONE PROVIDING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBERS ON MATTERS OF DETAIL.

IN ORDER TO HELP THE LEGCO HAVE A FULL AND DIRECT VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES IN THE GREAT RANGE OF AREAS THESE COVERED, AND TO HELP BUILD UP AN EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBERS, THE GOVERNOR SAID HE WOULD NOMINATE OTHER OFFICIALS TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AT APPROPRIATE TIMES.

"THESE OFFICIALS WILL HAVE THE TASK OF PRESENTING BILLS; EXPLAINING EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS; ANSWERING MEMBERS' QUESTIONS; AND REPLYING TO DEBATES," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THEY WOULD PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN CREATING EFFECTIVE DAY-TO-DAY LINKS SO THAT MEMBERS COULD BEST DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PUBLIC.

"A NEW STRUCTURE REQUIRES NEW PROCEDURES. I AM SURE YOU WILL WELCOME THE CONTRIBUTION THESE OFFICIALS CAN MAKE, AND THAT YOU WILL HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE," HE SAID.

EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE IMPORTANT, WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEGCO AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

UNDER THE HONG KONG SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, SIR DAVID SAID THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE, THE KEY POLICY-MAKING BODY IN HONG KONG.

"ITS MEMBERS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY - AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE - BOTH IN REFLECTING THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND IN EXPLAINING THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS TO YOU AND TO A WIDER PUBLIC.

"THIS WILL HELP US TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE WORKING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO GIVE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS MORE TIME TO CONSIDER POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS, AND NOT ALLOW MEETINGS TO BECOME CLUTTERED WITH ROUTINE BUSINESS.

"A THOROUGH REVIEW HAS BEEN MADE OF HOW TO DO THIS.

"THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S PROCEDURES ARE BEING STREAMLINED TO ALLOW ITS MEMBERS TO CONCENTRATE MORE, AND EARLIER, ON THE ESSENTIAL ISSUES," HE SAID.

ON THE LEGCO MEMBERS' WISH TO REVIEW THE WAY IN WHICH THE COUNCIL ITSELF WAS ORGANISED AND CONDUCTED ITS BUSINESS, THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO MEMBERS THEMSELVES TO DECIDE ON THE LEGCO'S STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURES.

"BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL HAVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S FULL CO-OPERATION IN THE SEARCH FOR NEW OR IMPROVED WAYS OF CARRYING OUT YOUR LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

SIR DAVID SAID THESE CHANGES WHICH HE HAD OUTLINED WERE ONLY THE IMMEDIATE AGENDA.

FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN 1995.

THE ENTIRE COUNCIL WOULD THEN BE ELECTED, AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF THEM BY DIRECT ELECTION.

"MEMBERS WILL CHOOSE THEIR OWN PRESIDENT. THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTED MEMBERS WILL CEASE. THERE WILL BE NO CIVIL SERVANT MEMBERS.

"THE NUMBER OF DIRECTLY ELECTED SEATS WILL BE INCREASED: SO WILL THE NUMBER OF FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES. SOME MEMBERS WILL BE RETURNED BY AN ELECTION COMMITTEE," HE CONTINUED.

TO PREPARE FOR 1995, THE GOVERNOR SAID A REVIEW OF THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL SYSTEM WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN. IT SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR.

AMONG THE MAIN ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

"A COMMISSION OF THIS SORT COULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGULATING ELECTORAL PROCEDURES INCLUDING CANVASSING RULES, THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS AND THE QUESTION OF ELECTION EXPENSES," HE SAID.

THERE WERE OTHER KEY QUESTIONS TO BE TACKLED.

"OUR ELECTORAL RULES ARE NOW SCATTERED THROUGHOUT A VARIETY OF ORDINANCES. WE NEED A COHESIVE FRAMEWORK OF ELECTORAL LEGISLATION," SIR DAVID SAID.

DECISIONS WERE ALSO NEEDED ON SUCH IMPORTANT ISSUES AS FIXING ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES AND THE AGE AT WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

"LATER, WHEN WE HAVE BUILT UP EXPERIENCE OF HOW THE COUNCIL IN ITS NEW FORM OPERATES, WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER TO DISCUSS FURTHER WITH CHINA THE PRECISE COMPOSITION OF THE DIFFERENT ELECTED ELEMENTS IN 1995," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

/FURTHER, HE .....

FURTHER, HE SAID THAT MOST OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LEGCO OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR JOHN SWAINE, THE FIRST DEPUTY PRESIDENT EVER TO BE APPOINTED.

"MR SWAINE WOULD HAVE THE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF ENSURING THAT THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED IMPARTIALLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

"HIS APPOINTMENT IS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN OUR EVOLUTION TOWARDS A WHOLLY-ELECTED COUNCIL IN 1995," HE SAID, ADDING THAT IT UNDERLINED THE DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT ROLE WHICH THE COUNCIL WOULD PLAY IN THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

"MR SWAINE'S DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE, COUPLED WITH HIS EXPERIENCE AS A MEMBER OF THIS COUNCIL, MAKE HIM PARTICULARLY WELL-SUITED TO BE YOUR FIRST DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE WORK OF THE LEGCO HAD IN THE PAST BEEN CHARACTERISED BY A SPIRIT OF PRAGMATISM AND A RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF OTHERS.

"WE MUST RETAIN THESE TRADITIONS OF TOLERANCE, COMMON SENSE AND HONEST DEBATE.

"THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WILL BEST BE SERVED BY A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH FOCUSES ON ISSUES, DECISIONS AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, CONSENSUS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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HARMONIOUS AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HK AND CHINA IMPORTANT  
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IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO ESTABLISH A HARMONIOUS AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS AT ALL LEVELS IN CHINA, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN HIS POLICY SPEECH, SIR DAVID SAID IN LESS THAN SIX YEARS, CHINA WOULD RESUME SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG AND THIS SIMPLE NUMBER DEMONSTRATED WHY MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSITION TO 1997 WAS OF THE GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE.

HE SAID HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF CHINA.

"PARTLY FOR THIS REASON, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN AS SMOOTH AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED," HE SAID.

"BECAUSE HISTORY HAS GIVEN HONG KONG A DIFFERENT STYLE OF RUNNING ITS AFFAIRS, POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC, WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT OUR WAY OF DOING THINGS WILL IMMEDIATELY BE UNDERSTOOD OR APPRECIATED IN PEKING," HE ADDED.

/HOWEVER, SIR .....

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HOWEVER, SIR DAVID SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT AFTER 1997 THE HONG KONG WAY OF DOING THINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT IN LINE WITH THE SYSTEMS IN PEKING.

"HONG KONG'S WAY OF DOING THINGS, AND OUR OWN SYSTEMS, WILL CONTINUE. THAT IS WHAT "ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS" MEANS.

"BUT IF WE ARE TO BUILD THE SORT OF PARTNERSHIP WITH CHINA THAT WE NEED, IT IS VITAL THAT ALL OF US, MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL, CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC, STRIVE TO PRESENT OUR HONG KONG POINT OF VIEW PATIENTLY AND CAREFULLY - AND BE PREPARED TO LISTEN WITH EQUAL CARE AND PATIENCE."

THE GOVERNOR SAID OUR AIM AND EXPECTATION SHOULD BE THAT THE GOOD SENSE AND GOODWILL WHICH HAD RESOLVED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES SINCE THE JOINT DECLARATION WOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL.

THIS EXPECTATION HAD BEEN GIVEN FRESH LIFE BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PEKING LAST MONTH AND THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEW AIRPORT.

"THANKS TO THE MEMORANDUM, WE ARE NOW MOVING AHEAD WITH WORK ON BUILDING THE AIRPORT AND PORT FACILITIES WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTRE, AS WELL AS A KEY COMPONENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN CHINA."

SIR DAVID SAID THESE PROJECTS WOULD ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THE RESIDENTS OF KOWLOON, BY RIDDING THEM OF THE NOISE AND OTHER HAZARDS CREATED BY KAI TAK.

THE PRESENT SITE OF KAI TAK AIRPORT AND THE WHOLE WESTERN HALF OF THE NEW TERRITORIES WOULD BE OPENED UP FOR DEVELOPMENT.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN RECOGNISED WIDELY, BOTH HERE AND OVERSEAS, AS EVIDENCE THAT A PARTNERSHIP WAS EVOLVING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, BASED ON A WILLINGNESS TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SHOWED THAT WITH PATIENCE, PERSEVERANCE AND GOODWILL, EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA COULD BE OVERCOME, HE ADDED.

THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PEKING SYMBOLISED THE BEGINNING OF THIS NEW PHASE OF CLOSER CO-OPERATION.

"I BELIEVE IT DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN THE UNITED KINGDOM'S COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG.

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS PLEDGED TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRITORY UP TO 1997 AND TO ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION.

"IT IS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO US ALL THAT IN VISITING PEKING AND IN COMING HERE TO HONG KONG, BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAVE POSITIVELY UNDERLINED, IN WORD AND DEED, BRITAIN'S DETERMINATION TO STAND BY ITS OBLIGATIONS," SIR DAVID SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

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THE GOVERNOR SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE YEAR AHEAD WOULD SEE THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP FUNCTIONING WITH A NEW IMPETUS AND SENSE OF PURPOSE.

DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS IN PEKING, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GROUP'S WORK SHOULD BE SPEEDED UP AND ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES GIVEN TO IT, SO THAT THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE POST-1997 SYSTEM ARE FIRMLY IN PLACE BY THAT YEAR.

SIR DAVID SAID THE GROUP SHOULD NOW BE IN A POSITION TO FUNCTION MORE EFFICIENTLY AND MORE QUICKLY THAN HAD BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE RECENT PAST.

"I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS WILL ENABLE IT TO RESOLVE THOSE ISSUES WHICH ARE STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES," HE SAID.

WITH THE APPROACH OF 1997, THE NEED FOR CLOSER CONSULTATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA WOULD INCREASE.

FROM NOW ON, SIR DAVID SAID THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD MEET WITH THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER ON A REGULAR SIX-MONTHLY BASIS.

THESE MEETINGS WOULD GIVE ADDITIONAL IMPETUS TO THE WORK THAT NEEDED TO BE DONE BEFORE 1997.

"I MYSELF LOOK FORWARD TO REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE COUNCIL," HE SAID.

HE HOPED THAT THESE FREQUENT, DIRECT CONTACTS WITH SENIOR CHINESE LEADERS WOULD ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH IMPORTANT ISSUES IN A MORE SPEEDY WAY THAN HAD SOMETIMES BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST.

"I INTEND TO ENSURE THAT THIS CLOSER AND MORE PRACTICAL RELATIONSHIP IS REFLECTED ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT, SO THAT MORE AND MORE DEPARTMENTS DEVELOP WORKING LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THEIR CHINESE COUNTERPARTS," HE NOTED.

THE GOVERNOR ALSO SAID BOTH THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WORKING CONTACTS WITH CHINA WERE ALREADY CHANGING FOR THE BETTER.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, ALMOST 100 GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS FROM HONG KONG HAD VISITED CHINA, ON A WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS. OVER 60 HAD COME IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF SENIOR CHINESE VISITORS, INCLUDING MR JI PENGFEI AND MR LU PING, THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND ENERGY, AND THE GOVERNORS OF THE PROVINCES OF HUBEI AND JIANGSU.

"THIS TREND WILL, I HOPE, CONTINUE," HE SAID.

IT WAS NOT JUST THESE HIGH LEVEL VISITS THAT MATTER, SIR DAVID ADDED THAT CONTACTS ACROSS THE BOARD - NATURAL CONTACTS WITH THE NEIGHBOUR - WERE VITAL.

/UP TO .....

UP TO THE END OF AUGUST, HONG KONG'S LAND BORDER WITH CHINA HAD BEEN CROSSSED OVER 23 MILLION TIMES BY PEOPLE MAKING VISITS OF VARIOUS SORTS TO CHINA OR TO HONG KONG.

THIS FIGURE SHOWED THAT A VAST NETWORK OF PERSONAL CONTACTS ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN THIS TERRITORY AND THE MAINLAND OF CHINA.

"IT IS A NATURAL GROWTH. WE WILL ENCOURAGE IT," HE SAID.

IN ADDITION TO THESE HUMAN CONTACTS, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG'S BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS WERE ALREADY EXTENSIVE.

OVER THE PAST DECADE, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY HAD SEEN THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY ECONOMIC REFORM IN CHINA.

HONG KONG INVESTMENT IN NEW MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING CAPACITY IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE AND ELSEWHERE IN CHINA HAD HELPED SUSTAIN THE TERRITORY'S OWN ECONOMIC GROWTH.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, IT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO SOUTHERN CHINA'S OVERALL DEVELOPMENT.

AS MANY AS THREE MILLION WORKERS IN GUANGDONG WERE EMPLOYED BY HONG KONG FACTORIES: FOUR TIMES HONG KONG'S OWN MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE.

OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE EXTERNAL INVESTMENT IN GUANGDONG CAME FROM HONG KONG.

"WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT GUANGDONG PROVINCE ALONE HAS A POPULATION GREATER THAN THAT OF BRITAIN OR FRANCE. THERE REMAINS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER GROWTH IN THE COMING YEARS," HE EXPLAINED.

INDEED, SIR DAVID SAID, THE SOUTHERN AREA OF CHINA WAS POTENTIALLY ONE OF ASIA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT CENTRES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE NEXT FEW DECADES.

"ACHIEVING THE SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN 1997 IS A GOAL WORTH EVERY OUNCE OF OUR ABILITY AND EFFORT.

"MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL WILL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS AS THEY WILL IN OTHER AREAS OF GOVERNMENT," HE SAID.

"IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK. BUT MEETING THIS CHALLENGE IS PERHAPS OUR GREATEST RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. I AM SURE I CAN COUNT ON THIS COUNCIL TO PLAY ITS PART," HE SAID.

GOVERNOR OUTLINES PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) OUTLINED TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES FOR DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY AND THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF HONG KONG.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING MAJOR NEW INVESTMENTS NOT ONLY IN THE AIRPORT, NEW PORT FACILITIES AND MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT ALSO IN AN UNPRECEDENTED EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"FOR EXAMPLE," HE SAID, "BETWEEN NOW AND 1995, THE NUMBER OF FIRST YEAR PLACES AVAILABLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN HONG KONG WILL RISE FROM UNDER 14,000 TO OVER 20,000.

"THIS WILL BE NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT, ESPECIALLY AS WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED STANDARDS.

"IT WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF WORK FROM ALL CONCERNED. BUT IT SHOWS, IN ONE AREA, JUST HOW LARGE AND SIGNIFICANT ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMMES FOR IMPROVING THE LIFE, AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF THIS COMMUNITY."

IN SOCIAL WELFARE, THE GOVERNOR SAID, THIS YEAR'S WHITE PAPER SET OUT THOSE AREAS WHERE FURTHER EFFORTS WERE NEEDED TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FOR THE DISADVANTAGED, THE ELDERLY AND CHILDREN AT RISK.

"WE WILL HAVE IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSALS COMING FORWARD IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE; AND A COMPREHENSIVE GREEN PAPER WILL SOON BE PUBLISHED ON SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID THESE MAJOR COMMITMENTS AND NEW INITIATIVES WERE IN ADDITION TO THE MORE TRADITIONAL PROGRAMMES, MANY OF THESE WE TENDED TO TAKE FOR GRANTED.

"WE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSTANTLY IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"OUR HOUSING PROGRAMME REMAINS ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPRESSIVE IN THE WORLD," HE SAID, ADDING THAT SOME THREE MILLION PEOPLE - OVER HALF OUR POPULATION - NOW LIVE IN HOUSING AUTHORITY HOMES.

SIR DAVID SAID NEARLY 400,000 NEW FLATS WOULD BE BUILT BY THE AUTHORITY BETWEEN NOW AND 2001 - A MAJOR AREA OF CONTINUING GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY.

"ALL THESE PROGRAMMES MAKE USE OF OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S QUALITY OF LIFE," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS WERE INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING THE PROGRAMMES BY PROVIDING ADVICE, APPROVING FUNDS, DEBATING AND PASSING THE LEGISLATION WHICH FORMED THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSLATING POLICY INTO ACTION.

HE REMINDED MEMBERS THAT INCREASED FUNDING COULD ONLY COME FROM FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH.

"IN THIS SESSION ALONE, THE ADMINISTRATION EXPECTS TO BRING MORE THAN A HUNDRED ITEMS OF LEGISLATION BEFORE THE COUNCIL," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME WOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING HONG KONG'S MAJOR PROBLEMS AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE CITED THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

- MEMBERS WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH IMPORTANT PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO COMBAT TRIADS AND TO HELP THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING.
- THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST SIX BILLS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS OF ORDINARY WORKERS.
- THERE WOULD BE BILLS TO PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM ABUSE IN THE HOME.
- SEVERAL BILLS WOULD AIM TO BRING HONG KONG'S EXISTING LEGISLATION INTO LINE WITH THE BILL OF RIGHTS.
- A SERIES OF MEASURES WOULD INCREASE THE CONTROLS ON POLLUTION.

SIR DAVID SAID HE DID NOT INTEND IN HIS SPEECH TO DEAL IN DETAIL WITH ALL THESE IMPORTANT POLICY INITIATIVES AND LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.

"MEMBERS WILL, I AM SURE, MAKE FULL USE OF THIS DEBATE TO RAISE THOSE AREAS WITH WHICH THEY ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED," HE SAID.

"THE ADMINISTRATION LOOKS FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS," HE ADDED.

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ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1992 LOOK GOOD

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR 1992 LOOK GOOD, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO REVISE UPWARDS ITS EARLIER FORECAST OF ECONOMIC GROWTH THIS YEAR TO ABOUT FOUR PER CENT.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID SAID THERE WERE GOOD GROUNDS FOR BEING REASONABLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN THE MEDIUM TERM.

HE NOTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHEN HE LAST ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL.

"IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, THE WORLD FACED A CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WORLD ECONOMIES WERE IN RECESSION.

"LOCALLY, WE WERE SOME WAY OFF AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA OVER OUR NEW AIRPORT. ALL THIS HAD CAST A SHADOW OVER OUR ECONOMIC PROSPECTS."

SIR DAVID SAID NOW, A YEAR ON, THE SUCCESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORCES IN THE GULF HAD REMOVED A MAJOR THREAT TO WORLD PEACE AND THE AGREEMENT WITH CHINA ON THE NEW AIRPORT HAD CLEARED THE WAY FOR ANOTHER DECADE OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION IN HONG KONG.

SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR INCREASED BY TWO PER CENT IN REAL TERMS.

THIS COMPARED WITH A DECLINE OF THREE PER CENT FOR THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. RE-EXPORTS HAD BOOMED - UP 26 PER CENT.

OTHER INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WERE ALSO MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, HE SAID, ADDING THAT LOCAL AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT HAD PICKED UP SHARPLY.

"IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, SUCH INVESTMENT WAS 18 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD A YEAR AGO.

"WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN ABLE TO REVISE UPWARDS OUR EARLIER FORECAST OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE NOW EXPECT GROWTH THIS YEAR TO BE ABOUT 4 PER CENT," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS WAS TIED CLOSELY TO ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE AS THE GATEWAY TO SOUTHERN CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID THE TERRITORY'S TRADE WITH CHINA CONTINUED TO EXPAND AT GREAT SPEED, GROWING BY 15 PER CENT LAST YEAR, AND BY AN ASTONISHING 27 PER CENT IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

"AS A RESULT, INTENSIVE BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT RELATIONS ARE GROWING BETWEEN HONG KONG AND THE FAST-DEVELOPING ECONOMY OF SOUTHERN CHINA.

"CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES WHO ARE PLANNING EXPANSION IN ASIA WOULD DO WELL TO THINK OF THIS, AND OF THE ROLE THAT HONG KONG WILL PLAY IN THIS KEY AREA OF GROWTH," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID DESPITE HONG KONG'S IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EXPANDING WORLD-WIDE TRADE, THE TERRITORY CONTINUED TO FACE PROBLEMS.

HE SAID SOME WERE THE RESULT OF TROUBLES WHICH BEGAN OVERSEAS AND WERE BEYOND HONG KONG'S CONTROL.

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN AUGUST LAST YEAR, THE INVASION OF KUWAIT WAS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE TERRITORY'S PROSPECTS. IN AUGUST THIS YEAR, THE ATTEMPTED COUP IN THE SOVIET UNION POSED A SIMILAR THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONFIDENCE.

ALTHOUGH THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL CRISIS IN MOSCOW PASSED OFF QUICKLY, HONG KONG WAS REMINDED ONCE AGAIN OF HOW FRAGILE WORLD BUSINESS SENTIMENTS WERE AND OF THE VOLATILITY OF WORLD MARKETS, HE SAID.

AS HONG KONG WAS NO LONGER PRIMARILY AN EXPORTER OF LIGHT MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS BUT WAS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL MARKETS, THE TERRITORY MUST EXPECT TO BE MORE VULNERABLE THAN SOME OTHER PLACES TO THE GUSTY WINDS OF CRISES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD, HE ADDED.

"WE MUST KEEP OURSELVES INCREASINGLY ALERT TO WHAT IS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE IN OUR GLOBAL MARKET," HE SAID.

ON INFLATION, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT THIS CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR CONCERN AND THAT THERE WAS NO EASY CURE.

WHILE CONCEDED THAT THE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT -- FREEZING FEES AND CHARGES AND CUTTING BACK ON INCREASES IN TOBACCO DUTY IN MAY, CIVIL SERVANTS ACCEPTING A NON-INFLATIONARY PAY INCREASE, AND RESTRAINTS IN OTHER AREAS OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE -- HAD HAD SOME IMPACT, SIR DAVID SAID INFLATION, WHICH DECLINED FROM A PEAK OF 13.9 PER CENT IN APRIL TO 12.7 PER CENT IN AUGUST, WAS STILL FAR TOO HIGH.

"WE MUST CONSIDER URGENTLY WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO TO REDUCE INFLATION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE REAL DANGER WAS THAT INFLATION WOULD REMAIN AT TOO HIGH A LEVEL IF WE DID NOT TACKLE SOME OF THE STRUCTURAL OBSTACLES TO ECONOMIC GROWTH, ONE OF THE MAIN ONES BEING THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN SOME SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

"INFLATION IS ONLY PART OF THE PRICE WE MUST PAY FOR OUR CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF LABOUR," HE SAID.

"IN ADDITION, THIS SHORTAGE IMPOSES A SEVERE CONSTRAINT ON THE ECONOMY'S CAPACITY TO EXPAND AND CREATE ADDITIONAL WEALTH.

"AND THE SHORTAGE OF WORKERS WILL INCREASE AS OUR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS GET UNDERWAY."

THE GOVERNOR SAID HONG KONG FACED A CHOICE BETWEEN ACCEPTING THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN ITS LABOUR FORCE WITH A CAREFULLY CONTROLLED SCHEME TO IMPORT LABOUR, OR ACCEPTING INFLATION, AGGRAVATED BY THE SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH CAUSED BY THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LABOUR.

"I BELIEVE WE MUST GO FOR GROWTH. BUT IT MUST BE GROWTH WITH THE RIGHT SAFEGUARDS," HE SAID.

"WE ARE THEREFORE CONSIDERING AN EXPANSION OF OUR CONTROLLED SCHEME TO IMPORT WORKERS FROM OVERSEAS - BUT ONLY IN THOSE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WHERE THE LABOUR SHORTAGE IS MOST ACUTE.

"THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO QUESTION OF EXPANDING THE SCHEME TO THE POINT WHERE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF LOCAL WORKERS WOULD BE DAMAGED.

"THE OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO INCREASE THE PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AS A WHOLE BY REMOVING A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ECONOMIC GROWTH," HE STRESSED.

SIR DAVID ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WORKFORCE WENT BEYOND ENSURING THAT THEIR INTERESTS WERE PROTECTED WHEN IT BECAME NECESSARY TO IMPORT FOREIGN LABOUR.

IT ALSO MEANT PROVIDING STATUTORY PROTECTION IN RESPECT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY, EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND COMPENSATION, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID MEMBERS WOULD BE ASKED, DURING THE 1991/92 SESSION, TO CONSIDER:

- TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER CARGO HANDLING AND RELATED OPERATIONS;
- LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR HEARING LOSS INDUCED BY NOISE;
- A SCHEME FOR THE DIRECT SETTLEMENT OF MINOR COMPENSATION CLAIMS;
- IMPROVED REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES; AND
- IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LONG SERVICE PAYMENT SCHEME TO MAKE EMPLOYEES BELOW THE AGE OF 45 ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT IF THEY WERE DISMISSED AFTER FIVE YEARS' SERVICE.

THE GOVERNOR SAID A VITAL ASPECT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY WAS TO MAKE SURE THAT IT RESPONDED TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT.

A NEW INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WOULD BE ESTABLISHED ON JANUARY 1 NEXT YEAR TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ON HOW HONG KONG'S INDUSTRY SHOULD RESPOND TO TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE WORLD SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS COMPETITIVE EDGE, HE ANNOUNCED.

"ONE OF THE COUNCIL'S MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE TO RECOMMEND GRANTS TO SELECTED BUSINESSES FOR APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT," HE ADDED.

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GOVT SPENDING MUST BE IN LINE WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE  
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THE GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT THE OVERALL GROWTH OF ITS EXPENDITURE MUST BE KEPT IN LINE WITH THE GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY, IF THE ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY IS TO SUCCEED, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCES IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, SIR DAVID SAID THIS MEANT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MUST CONTINUOUSLY RE-EXAMINE SPENDING PLANS AND EXISTING COMMITMENTS.

"WE MUST BE PREPARED TO TRANSFER RESOURCES FROM ONE PROGRAMME AREA TO ANOTHER TO REFLECT CHANGING PRIORITIES," HE SAID.

IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE, SIR DAVID SAID THE ADMINISTRATION MUST LOOK FOR WAYS TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH BETTER VALUE IN THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES - IN PARTICULAR, THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

"THE COMMUNITY HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT HIGHER QUALITY SERVICES SHOULD BE COMBINED WITH PRUDENT FINANCIAL PLANNING," HE NOTED.

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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT A MUST FOR HK

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID HONG KONG BOTH CAN AND MUST AFFORD MASSIVE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE TERRITORY.

SPEAKING ON THE TERRITORY'S PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT, OF COURSE, NEEDED TO PLAN ITS FINANCING OF THESE AND OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS PRUDENTLY.

HE STRESSED THAT COSTS MUST BE CONTROLLED, AND BUDGETS RIGOROUSLY MONITORED.

"BUT IT IS WORTH REMEMBERING THAT OUR CURRENT EXPECTATION IS THAT THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME WILL ABSORB ONLY ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF OUR TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE DURING THE SIX YEARS NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION," SIR DAVID SAID.

THIS LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT TWO PER CENT OF ANNUAL GDP OVER THE SAME PERIOD.

"THIS IS ONLY A LITTLE HIGHER THAN THE CORRESPONDING FIGURE FOR THE MTR DURING THE PERIOD OF ITS CONSTRUCTION," HE NOTED.

ON THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECT, HE SAID THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH CHINA LAST MONTH MEANT HONG KONG COULD MOVE FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PROJECT.

HE SAID THE NEW AIRPORT MASTER PLAN AND THE CRUCIAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY FOR THE AIRPORT WOULD BOTH BE FINISHED WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

THE AIRPORT ITSELF, AND THE RAILWAY, MAJOR ROADS AND BRIDGES THAT WOULD LINK IT TO THE URBAN AREAS, TOGETHER MAKE UP WHAT WAS CALLED THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME.

SIR DAVID SAID A GOOD DEAL OF PROGRESS HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE WITH THIS CORE PROGRAMME.

TENDERS WOULD SOON BE INVITED FOR THE CONTRACT TO RECLAIM THE AIRPORT SITE ITSELF. THE SITE WOULD COVER AN AREA OF OVER 1,200 HECTARES. THIS WAS LARGER THAN THE WHOLE OF KOWLOON SOUTH OF BOUNDARY STREET.

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MEANWHILE, THE 300-PLUS HECTARE RECLAMATION ALONG THE SHORE-LINE OF WEST KOWLOON WAS WELL UNDERWAY. HE SAID IT WAS ALREADY POSSIBLE TO SEE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WITH THE NEW BREAKWATER AND TYPHOON SHELTER.

"BY THE END OF THE YEAR, WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE," SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGES IN THE WORLD.

IN A FEW MONTHS' TIME, TENDERS WOULD ALSO BE INVITED FOR THE KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE, WHICH WOULD FORM THE OTHER MAJOR SECTION OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, HE SAID.

FURTHER, PROPOSALS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO BUILD THE WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING - A SIX-LANE TUNNEL, 1.5 KM LONG - WOULD BE INVITED EARLY NEXT YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, TENDERS WOULD ALSO BE INVITED FOR OTHER IMPORTANT TRANSPORT PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE NORTH LANTAU EXPRESSWAY.

TENDERS FOR PREPARATORY WORKS FOR THE NEW TOWN OF TUNG CHUNG WOULD BE INVITED BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

FINALLY, THE GOVERNOR SAID DESIGN WORK WAS WELL ADVANCED FOR THE WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

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#### IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT REMAINS TOP PRIORITY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REITERATED THAT IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT REMAINS AN URGENT PRIORITY AND IT IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE 1990S.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT SOME PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPACT THAT THE ENORMOUS INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN WOULD HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF RELIEF THAT REMOVING THE AIRPORT FROM KAI TAK WOULD MAKE A VERY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF THE SORELY-TRIED INHABITANTS OF KOWLOON.

THE GOVERNOR SAID HE OUTLINED LAST YEAR A COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT ECONOMIC PROGRESS WAS NOT ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF A DETERIORATION IN THE AIR WE BREATHE AND THE WATER WE DRINK.

"ONE MAJOR PRIORITY MUST BE TO DEAL WITH THE MORE THAN 22 THOUSAND TONNES OF RUBBISH WHICH HONG KONG PRODUCES EVERY DAY," HE SAID.

/HE POINTED .....

HE POINTED OUT THAT WE MUST STOP TREATING THE WATERS AROUND HONG KONG AS A DUMPING GROUND FOR SEWAGE AND CHEMICAL WASTE.

"EVERY YEAR WE DISCHARGE OVER 700 MILLION TONNES OF UNTREATED SEWAGE AND CHEMICAL WASTE INTO OUR STREAMS AND COASTAL WATERS. MUCH OF THIS GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE HARBOUR," HE SAID.

TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS, A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME HAD BEEN LAUNCHED TO UPGRADE CHEMICAL WASTE, SEWAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL FACILITIES, SIR DAVID SAID.

"SOLVING LONG-STANDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IS VERY EXPENSIVE; BUT, DESPITE OUR SEVERE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, WE MUST AND WILL PRESS AHEAD.

"OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ALONE, WE HAVE COMMITTED SOME \$8 BILLION TO THIS CRUCIAL PROGRAMME," HE ADDED.

SIR DAVID SAID NEW LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS WERE ALSO NEEDED.

THIS SESSION, THE COUNCIL WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER MEASURES TO TIGHTEN THE LEGISLATION ON AIR AND WATER POLLUTION AND TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONTROLLING TOXIC WASTE.

NOTING THAT POLLUTION WAS NO RESPECTER OF BOUNDARIES, SIR DAVID SAID IF THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS WERE TO SUCCEED, WE NEEDED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE NEIGHBOURS IN GUANGDONG.

"GRADUALLY WE ARE BUILDING UP THE HABIT AND THE MECHANISMS FOR DOING THIS. THE HONG KONG - GUANGDONG ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LIAISON GROUP HAS A FULL AGENDA IN THE YEAR AHEAD," HE SAID.

"FOR EXAMPLE, OUR PLANS TO IMPROVE THE TREATMENT OF SEWAGE DEPEND ON CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 10 KILOMETRE SUBMARINE PIPELINE.

"AND THE LIAISON GROUP HAS SET UP A JOINT TEAM OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS TO RECOMMEND CONTROL MEASURES TO STOP THE GROWING POLLUTION OF DEEP BAY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT WAS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF GOVERNMENT OR EVEN PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS.

"SOMETIMES, SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE MADE AT RELATIVELY LITTLE COST. MORE EMPHASIS CAN BE GIVEN IN OUR SCHOOLS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, WITHOUT ANY RADICAL CHANGES TO THE CURRICULUM.

"MAKING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CONSCIOUS OF THE ENVIRONMENT THEY LIVE IN IS VITAL IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE A "GREENER" HONG KONG," SIR DAVID SAID.

"IN ADDITION, MORE PRIVATE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS COULD INTRODUCE INITIATIVES TO SAVE ENERGY AND PAPER. AND MORE TREE-PLANTING COULD BE ENCOURAGED BY DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE URBAN AREAS.

"SOME DISTRICTS HAVE ALREADY DONE A GREAT DEAL TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT BY PLANTING NEW TREES IN THEIR STREETS," HE ADDED.

THE GOVERNOR SAID A CLEAN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIRED A PERSONAL COMMITMENT FROM ALL HONG KONG PEOPLE. THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HONG KONG DEPENDED ON ALL WHO TOOK THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY.

"FOR THE GOVERNMENT, IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT REMAINS A PRIORITY - A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR THE 1990S," SIR DAVID SAID.

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IMPROVING QUALITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES IS NOT A LUXURY

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT REGARD IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND VARIETY OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AS A LUXURY.

"IT IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN OUR INVESTMENTS IN PORT FACILITIES OR NEW ROAD SYSTEMS," SIR DAVID SAID, WHEN DELIVERING HIS POLICY ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAD MADE GREAT SACRIFICES IN THE PAST TO BUILD THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOP THE INFRASTRUCTURE.

"WE ARE UNDERTAKING NEW AND LARGER INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE COMING DECADE. BUT ECONOMIC GROWTH IS NOT BEING PURSUED SIMPLY FOR ITS OWN SAKE.

"OUR GOAL MUST BE TO USE THE ADDITIONAL WEALTH CREATED TO IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF ALL OUR FAMILIES AND TO CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE AND SECURE LIFE-STYLE FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE," SIR DAVID SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG TODAY WAS AS SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY MATURE AS MANY DEVELOPED NATIONS.

"IN SUCH A COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE NO LESS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING SOCIAL SERVICES AND TO PROTECTING THE DISADVANTAGED THAN IT IS TO UPGRADING THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

"THAT IS WHY WE HAVE PAID SO MUCH ATTENTION TO SOCIAL SERVICES IN RECENT DECADES. MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED," HE ADDED.

NOTING THAT THERE WERE STILL AREAS OF SOCIAL PROVISION WHERE HONG KONG LAGGED BEHIND THE STANDARDS THAT OUGHT TO ACHIEVE, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE BRINGING FORWARD PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO MAKE GOOD EXISTING DEFICIENCIES, AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS COMMITMENT TO THE DISADVANTAGED AND THOSE AT RISK.

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TOP PRIORITY IN DISCOURAGING SMOKING  
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ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE IS THE CONTROL AND DISCOURAGEMENT OF SMOKING, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"NEW LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED TO RESTRICT FURTHER THE USE, SALE AND PROMOTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

"THIS WILL INVOLVE THE IMPOSITION OF A MAXIMUM TAR LIMIT; STRONGER HEALTH WARNINGS; THE GREATER USE OF NO-SMOKING AREAS; AND A CLEARER DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP," SIR DAVID SAID IN HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS.

HE SAID THIS LEGISLATION WAS AMONG A SERIES OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS IN THE HEALTH AND WELFARE FIELD THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HE HOPED THEY WOULD WIN FULL SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS WERE UNDERWAY IN THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH SECTORS.

"THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED ON DECEMBER 1 LAST YEAR. IT WILL TAKE OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS ON DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR.

"THIS IMPORTANT REFORM WILL ENABLE US TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

"WITHIN A YEAR, ROWS OF CAMP BEDS IN OVERCROWDED WARDS WILL, I HOPE, BE A THING OF THE PAST," SIR DAVID SAID.

NOTING THAT A MAJOR POLICY REVIEW HAD CONCLUDED THAT, IN THE PAST, NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION HAD BEEN PAID TO PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, SIR DAVID SAID IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA COULD WELL REDUCE OTHER MEDICAL EXPENDITURE IN THE LONGER TERM.

THE REVIEW'S MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED:- INTRODUCING A NEW STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE; IMPROVING SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE; DEVELOPING A COMPUTERISED HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM; STRENGTHENING HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMES; AND INTRODUCING NEW SCREENING SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND FOR THE ELDERLY.

IN THE WELFARE FIELD, SIR DAVID SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD BE ASKED TO CONSIDER MAJOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION.

"THESE WILL REDEFINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH CHILDREN REQUIRE THE PROTECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND THE COURTS, AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POWERS OF INVESTIGATION.

"THEY WILL PREVENT PEOPLE WHO ARE OBVIOUSLY UNSUITABLE FROM TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILD-MINDING," HE SAID.

THIS YEAR BEING THE FINAL YEAR OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF DISABLED PERSONS, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WOULD MARK THIS OCCASION WITH A GREEN PAPER SETTING OUT A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS TO HELP THE DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"OUR GOAL MUST BE NOT JUST TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED, BUT TO GIVE THEM EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WITH ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED INCLUDED:

- INCREASED INTEGRATION OF DISABLED CHILDREN INTO MAINSTREAM EDUCATION;
- MORE SHELTERED WORKSHOPS FOR THOSE UNABLE TO COMPETE FULLY IN THE OPEN MARKET, COMBINED WITH VIGOROUS ENCOURAGEMENT OF OPEN EMPLOYMENT OF THE DISABLED;
- MORE DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES FOR THE SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED;
- RENEWED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED IN USING BUILDINGS AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES;
- A REHABILITATION SERVICES STRATEGY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF ELDERLY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY; AND
- AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TO THE DISABLED.

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NO DETERIORATION IN CRIME FIGURES

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DETERIORATION IN THE CRIME FIGURES IN OVERALL TERMS, CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY A FEW DRAMATIC AND MUCH PUBLICISED CRIMINAL INCIDENTS.

"OUR CRIME RATES REMAIN WELL BELOW THE LEVELS WHICH PLAGUE SO MANY OTHER MAJOR CITIES," HE SAID.

IN HIS POLICY ADDRESS, SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHARED THE CONCERN OF THE COMMUNITY THAT HONG KONG SHOULD REMAIN A SAFE CITY IN WHICH TO LIVE, WORK AND RAISE A FAMILY.

"WE WILL NOT LET STANDARDS SLIP," HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, THE GOVERNOR SAID THERE WAS REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN AT THE RECENT INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME.

"ROBBERIES INVOLVING FIREARMS OR IMITATION FIREARMS HAVE INCREASED THREEFOLD IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

"THE GOVERNMENT SHARES THE COMMUNITY'S OUTRAGE AT SUCH CRIME.

"IT CANNOT BE TOLERATED. WE MUST, AND WILL, TAKE DETERMINED MEASURES TO PREVENT IT," SIR DAVID STRESSED.

POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS ALREADY A STRONGER POLICE PRESENCE ON THE STREETS, SIR DAVID SAID THIS HAD MEANT MOVING SOME POLICE OFFICERS FROM SUPPORT TO OPERATIONAL DUTIES; REDEPLOYING THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT; AND MAKING GREATER USE OF THE AUXILIARY POLICE.

"RELIEVING THE POLICE FROM MANAGING THE HIGH ISLAND DETENTION CENTRE HAS ALSO HELPED," HE ADDED.

HE SAID THERE WERE NOW 200 MORE POLICE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS OF THE CITY EVERY DAY THAN THERE WERE THREE MONTHS AGO.

"IN ADDITION, WE HAVE FOUR REGIONAL POLICE EMERGENCY UNITS, WHICH HAVE AVAILABLE MORE POWERFUL AND SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

"THESE UNITS ARE THERE TO RESPOND TO '999' CALLS AND, IN EMERGENCIES, TO MOVE QUICKLY TO SUPPORT OFFICERS ON PATROL," SIR DAVID SAID.

OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THE POLICE HAD CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF SUCCESSFUL, LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT PREVENTING SERIOUS CRIME.

"THESE OPERATIONS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THE SOURCES OF FIREARMS AND THE IDENTITY OF CRIMINALS AND CRIMINAL GANGS.

"GATHERING INFORMATION HAS BEEN HELPED BY INCREASED CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

"OUR POLICE ARE DEVELOPING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS ACROSS THE BORDER, NOT ONLY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CROSS-BORDER CRIME, BUT ALSO IN THE RAPID EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

ON SMUGGLING, PARTICULARLY OF CARS AND ELECTRICAL GOODS INTO CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID IT HAD BEEN A PARTICULAR CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

"BUT THE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE WHICH WAS SET UP IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

"IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 167 THEFTS OF LUXURY CARS; IN SEPTEMBER, ONLY 27.

"GANGS WHICH HAD BEEN SMUGGLING THOUSANDS OF ELECTRICAL GOODS TO CHINA EVERY DAY FIND IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO PLY THEIR TRADE: THE LAW NOW MAKES THOSE WHO HELP THEM HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO DETECTION AND PROSECUTION," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG'S SUCCESS IN THIS AREA SHOWED THAT EVEN APPARENTLY INTRACTABLE LAW-AND-ORDER PROBLEMS COULD BE OVERCOME, GIVEN DETERMINATION, CO-OPERATION WITH CHINA, IMPROVED CO-ORDINATION OF THE TERRITORY'S OWN SECURITY EFFORTS AND TIGHT LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS.

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PUTTING AN END TO ORGANISED CRIME MUST ALSO REMAIN A MAJOR PRIORITY, SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT THE SUCCESS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN DESTROYING THE POWER OF ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATES SHOWED WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED.

"SINCE MY LAST ADDRESS, THE POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN LOOKING INTENSIVELY AT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TRIAD ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORY.

"ANTI-TRIAD OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AT STREET LEVEL AND ANTI-TRIAD INTELLIGENCE IS BEING STEPPED UP.

"TRIAD ACTIVITY WILL BE HIT HARD IN THE COMING MONTHS.

"WE MUST COMBINE NEW POLICE INITIATIVES WITH TOUGH LEGISLATION IF WE ARE TO COMBAT THE POTENTIAL THREAT TO ORDER AND STABILITY POSED BY ORGANISED CRIME," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID A WHITE BILL HAD RECENTLY BEEN PUBLISHED TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"THE PROPOSALS IN THE BILL WOULD IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH THOSE INVOLVED IN ORGANISED CRIME.

"THEY WOULD DETER ORGANISED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THROUGH HEAVIER PENALTIES. AND THEY WOULD CRIPPLE THE POWER OF CRIMINAL SYNDICATES BY ALLOWING THE PROCEEDS OF CRIME TO BE CONFISCATED.

"THIS MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE HAS THE FULL BACKING OF THE FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE."

THE GOVERNOR HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD SUPPORT THE BILL WHEN IT CAME BEFORE THEM IN THE NEW YEAR.

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HK WELCOMES GREATER RESOLVE BY INT'L COMMUNITY ON VM PROBLEM

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THE GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE DETAILS OF AN ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME FOR THE SCREENED-OUT VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

IN HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS, THE GOVERNOR SAID AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF EFFORT, IT WAS ENCOURAGING THAT WE WERE NOW SEEING WELCOME SIGNS OF GREATER RESOLVE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING VIETNAM, TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.

"FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT OURSELVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONALLY-AGREED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION," HE SAID.

/THE GOVERNOR .....

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EXISTING PROGRAMMES FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS TO THEIR HOMES IN VIETNAM, AND RESETTLING OVERSEAS THOSE FOUND TO BE GENUINE REFUGEES, WOULD CONTINUE.

"SINCE MY LAST ADDRESS A YEAR AGO, SOME 6,000 VOLUNTEERS HAVE GONE BACK TO VIETNAM. IN ADDITION, SOME 7,000 REFUGEES HAVE LEFT HONG KONG FOR A NEW LIFE OVERSEAS.

"THIS IS PARTLY DUE TO OUR SUCCESSFUL USE OF THE NEW REFUGEE TRANSIT CENTRE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"A MONTH AGO WE WERE ABLE TO CLOSE THE TUEN MUN OPEN CENTRE. WE ARE AIMING TO CLOSE THE KAI TAK CENTRE NEXT MONTH. VERY SOON THE PILLAR POINT CENTRE WILL BE THE ONLY CAMP FOR REFUGEES IN HONG KONG," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR A SENSIBLE, FAIR AND HUMANE WAY TO BEGIN TO SOLVE THE HUMAN TRAGEDY OF THOSE WHO HAD COME IN THEIR THOUSANDS TO HONG KONG FROM VIETNAM TRYING - WITH NO REAL HOPE OF BEING ACCEPTED - TO SEEK A NEW LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST YEAR, HONG KONG HAD CONTINUED TO FACE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES IN COPING WITH THE INFLUX OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS.

HE SAID THIS WAS AN ISSUE WHICH REMAINED A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO THE COMMUNITY AND TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

SO FAR THIS YEAR, OVER 20,000 VIETNAMESE HAD ARRIVED ON OUR SHORES AND THE CAMP POPULATION IN HONG KONG WAS NOW OVER 64,000, HE SAID:

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SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID WITH THE HELP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNMENT CAN, AND WILL, DEAL SUCCESSFULLY WITH THE CHANGES WHICH THE TERRITORY IS GOING THROUGH AND WHICH ARE TRANSFORMING THE TERRITORY'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM AND ITS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

"HONG KONG HAS A RECORD OF MEETING CHALLENGES SUCCESSFULLY. THAT IS THE STANDARD WE MUST SET OURSELVES. THAT IS OUR SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE IN FACING THE FUTURE," THE GOVERNOR SAID, WHEN CONCLUDING HIS ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE GOVERNOR ASSURED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO DOING ALL IT COULD TO MEET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

"INEVITABLY, IN REACHING FOR THIS OBJECTIVE, THERE WILL BE DEBATE OVER THE SELECTION OF PRIORITIES AND HOW BEST TO USE LIMITED RESOURCES.

"SOME OF THE CHOICES WILL BE COMPLEX. SOME WILL NO DOUBT BE PAINFUL.

"BUT I CAN ASSURE MEMBERS THAT THE CONSISTENT PRINCIPLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE TO DETERMINE WHAT IS BEST IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT IN TRYING TO CHART THE RIGHT COURSE FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD RELY HEAVILY ON THE ADVICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ON BUILDING UP A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH ITS MEMBERS.

"OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING MAJOR FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS IN THE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE TERRITORY.

"THESE PROJECTS - THE AIRPORT, EXPANDING THE PORT, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, BUILDING ROADS AND TUNNELS - ARE ALL PART OF BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE.

"THEY ARE ALL PART OF MAKING SURE THAT, IN THE NEXT 10 AND TWENTY YEARS, HONG KONG WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY WITH OTHER CENTRES IN THE REGION AND, BY COMPETING SUCCESSFULLY, PROVIDE A LIFE OF OPPORTUNITY AND PROSPERITY FOR ITS PEOPLE," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT THE PROJECTS WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S LIFE.

"BETTER QUALITY AND A WIDER CHOICE IN EDUCATION; MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF LAW AND ORDER; IMPROVING HEALTH CARE; STRENGTHENING SOCIAL WELFARE; AND MORE EFFICIENT TRANSPORT SERVICES ARE ALL EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND WILL BE MAJOR PARTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE PROGRAMMES," HE SAID.

NOTING THAT TO ACHIEVE ALL THE GOALS WOULD NOT BE EASY, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE WILL NEED TO DEVELOP A PRACTICAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA.

"WE WILL NEED AN EFFICIENT AND DEDICATED CIVIL SERVICE.

"WE WILL NEED, IN THIS COUNCIL, THE COMMITMENT OF ALL MEMBERS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

"TOGETHER, WE HAVE A TASK OF GREAT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. MUCH IS EXPECTED OF US ALL. TOGETHER, MUCH CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

"WITH THE HELP OF THIS COUNCIL I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL MEET SUCCESSFULLY THE CHALLENGES AND THE CHANGES WHICH CONFRONT US," THE GOVERNOR CONCLUDED.

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GOVERNOR DELIVERS POLICY SUMMARY

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL POLICY ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR BROADCAST ON RADIO AND TELEVISION TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS AFTERNOON, I GAVE MY ANNUAL ADDRESS TO HONG KONG'S NEW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THIS WAS AN HISTORIC OCCASION - THE FIRST TIME THAT THE COUNCIL HAS MET WITH AN ELECTED MAJORITY. IT'S A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN THE WAY THE TERRITORY IS GOVERNED.

WE HAVE SEEN SOME VIGOROUS CAMPAIGNING AND WELL-CONDUCTED ELECTIONS. NOW, WE HAVE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHICH IS MORE OBVIOUSLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE COMMUNITY. SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT WE SHOULD GO FURTHER AND FASTER. OTHERS THAT WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO TOO FAST. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS TO MAKE SURE THE NEW SYSTEM WORKS. THIS MEANS ALL INVOLVED ADAPTING TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. AS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, I TOLD THE COUNCIL THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE LISTENING CAREFULLY TO THE VIEWS OF MEMBERS AND THAT WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THEM - ALL OF THEM.

IN ADDRESSING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, I SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE, IN THESE NEXT SIX YEARS, OF GETTING RIGHT OUR DEALINGS WITH CHINA. LAST MONTH, THE PRIME MINISTER WENT TO PEKING TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT. WE MUST NOW WORK TO BUILD UP A SENSIBLE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. THIS MEANS CONTINUING TO BE PATIENT AND PERSISTENT IN PUTTING FORWARD THE HONG KONG POINT OF VIEW. IT ALSO MEANS BRING EQUALLY READY TO LISTEN THE VIEWS AND CONCERNS OF CHINA.

HERE AT HOME, ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST PRIORITIES IS OUR ECONOMY. IT'S GOT TO BE. IT IS ECONOMIC GROWTH ON WHICH THE LIVING STANDARDS OF HONG KONG FAMILIES DEPEND. ONLY WITH CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY CAN WE IMPROVE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. LUCKILY, PROSPECTS HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS.

THE AGREEMENT ON THE AIRPORT HAS HELPED TO PRODUCE THIS BRIGHTER ECONOMIC PICTURE. THE KEY PLANS FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK ARE NEARLY FINISHED. WE ARE ABOUT TO ASK FOR BIDS FOR PREPARING THE AIRPORT SITE - AND THAT'S GOING TO BE AN AREA EQUAL IN SIZE TO THE WHOLE OF KOWLOON SOUTH OF BOUNDARY STREET. THIS IS AN EXCITING PROJECT WITH GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE FUTURE GROWTH OF HONG KONG.

AS WE MOVE AHEAD WITH THE AIRPORT AND OTHER BIG INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. ALL OF US, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, NEED TO BECOME MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A "GREENER" HONG KONG - A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE.

/MAINTAINING LAW .....

MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IS ALSO A HIGH PRIORITY. WE ARE PUTTING MORE POLICE ON THE STREETS TO DEAL WITH THE RECENT INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME. WE ARE CHALLENGING THE CROSS-BORDER CRIMINALS IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES. AND NEXT YEAR WILL SEE RADICAL NEW MEASURES TO DRIVE ORGANISED GANGS OFF OUR STREETS.

IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF HONG KONG'S FAMILIES, WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO NEGLECT THE DISADVANTAGED AND THE VULNERABLE. THIS YEAR WE HAVE ALREADY HAD A WHITE PAPER TO LAY DOWN POLICY ON SOCIAL WELFARE. NOW WE WILL BE LOOKING AT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED. THERE WILL BE A GREEN PAPER SO THAT THE ISSUES CAN BE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED BY THE PUBLIC.

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITY HAS TRANSFORMED HONG KONG IN THE PAST THREE DECADES. BUT, ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC GROWTH IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING ELSE WE DO, WE DON'T PURSUE IT SIMPLY AS AN END IN ITSELF. WE MUST USE THE WEALTH CREATED BY OUR FACTORIES AND BUSINESSES TO PRODUCE A BETTER AND SAFER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

HONG KONG HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD PLACE TO MAKE MONEY AND NOW INCREASINGLY, IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE IN. THAT MUST BE OUR ULTIMATE GOAL: TO MAKE SURE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS

- A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO WORK HARD;
- A PLACE WHICH WILL CARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY CARING FOR THEMSELVES; AND
- A PLACE DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF ITS FUTURE.

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GOVERNOR TO VISIT UK  
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL VISIT THE UK FROM OCTOBER 12 - 17.

DURING HIS VISIT, THE GOVERNOR WILL CALL ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND LORD CAITHNESS, AND HAVE MEETINGS WITH FCO OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG MATTERS.

HE WILL ALSO CALL ON MR ARCHIE HAMILTON MP, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE ARMED FORCES.

THE GOVERNOR WILL GIVE A SPEECH AT THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL BERKELEY DINNER ON OCTOBER 15.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT WAS ONE OF HIS REGULAR TRIPS TO LONDON TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN WITH BRITISH MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS.

THE TIMING OF IT WAS DICTATED BY HIS ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE TDC DINNER.

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION MEETS TODAY  
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THE 24TH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION WAS HELD TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF THIS YEAR'S LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO ADD 5.9 HECTARES OF RESIDENTIAL LAND TO THE 1991/92 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME.

THE TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED TO FURTHER ADJUST THE 1991/92 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE 0.65 HECTARE OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FUTURE BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL.

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LAND AUCTION FETCHES \$1,269.5 MILLION  
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TWO PIECES OF GOVERNMENT LAND OFFERED FOR SALE BY THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IN A PUBLIC AUCTION THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON WERE SOLD FOR A TOTAL OF \$1,269.5 MILLION.

THE FIRST LOT, WHICH IS LOCATED AT AREA 30A, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES, WAS SOLD TO THE DRAMSTAR COMPANY LTD FOR \$1,250 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$850 MILLION.

/WITH AN .....

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 21,350 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS INTENDED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 38,430 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1995.

THE SECOND LOT IS LOCATED AT 137 WATERLOO ROAD, KOWLOON. IT WAS BOUGHT BY THE CITY PROPERTIES LTD FOR \$19.5 MILLION. BIDDING OPENED AT \$12 MILLION.

IT HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 941 SQUARE METRES AND IS ALSO EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 340 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1993.

THE AUCTION WAS HELD IN THE CITY HALL THEATRE AND WAS CONDUCTED BY GOVERNMENT LAND AGENT, MR ROGER NISSIM.

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#### SECURITIES INDUSTRY MAKES GREAT STRIDES

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EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENHANCE THE SOPHISTICATION OF HONG KONG'S SECURITIES MARKET, IMPROVE STANDARDS OF INVESTOR PROTECTION, AND MODERNISE TRADING, SETTLEMENT AND OTHER SYSTEMS TO KEEP ABREAST OF WORLD DEVELOPMENTS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR HAMISH MACLEOD WHEN SPEAKING AT THE 31ST FIBV (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF EXCHANGES) GENERAL ASSEMBLY DINNER THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S SECURITIES INDUSTRY HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN RECENT DECADES.

ON THE MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, HE SAID THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG (SEHK) WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REORGANISED IN 1988 IN LINE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECURITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE.

IN 1989, THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED AS AN AUTONOMOUS STATUTORY BODY TO STRENGTHEN THE MARKET REGULATORY STRUCTURE IN HONG KONG AND TO ENSURE THAT IT KEEPS IN STEP WITH, AND ASSISTS, MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

"A CURRENT ISSUE IS THE FUTURE RESTRUCTURING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE SEHK TO MAKE IT MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARKET USERS (INCLUDING INVESTORS), AND OF THE BROKERS WHO GENERATE THE BULK OF ITS BUSINESS.

/"THE DEBATE .....

"THE DEBATE CENTRES ON THE BEST BALANCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF MARKET USERS, INCLUDING LARGE AND SMALL SECURITIES DEALERS, LISTED COMPANIES, INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS, INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS, FUND MANAGERS, AND EXECUTIVES OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE AND CLEARING COMPANY.

"THE INTENTION IS TO HAVE NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN EFFECT IN TIME FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NEXT COUNCIL LATER THIS YEAR," HE SAID.

MR MACLEOD NOTED THAT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, A NEW CENTRAL CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO BE READY FOR OPERATION.

"THE NEW SYSTEM, UNDER DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1989, IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE SETTLEMENT EFFICIENCY, REDUCE RISK, EXPAND TRADING OPPORTUNITIES AND LOWER COSTS."

HE ALSO MENTIONED THE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AUTOMATED TRANSACTION EXECUTION SYSTEM AND THE RECENT LAUNCHING OF A CHINA STUDY BY THE SEHK TO EXAMINE THE VIABILITY OF LISTING MAINLAND-BASED COMPANIES IN HONG KONG, WHILE PRESERVING STANDARDS OF INVESTOR PROTECTION.

"LAST APRIL, THE GOVERNMENT REDUCED THE STAMP DUTY ON STOCK MARKET DEALS, FOLLOWING THE WORLDWIDE TREND TOWARDS THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF TRANSFER TAXES ON SHARE TRANSACTIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE NEED FOR FURTHER REDUCTION UNDER REVIEW.

"ALL THESE STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH ONE OBJECTIVE IN MIND, AND THAT IS, TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S COMPETITIVE EDGE, AND TO SECURE ITS PLACE AMONG THE LEADING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRES OF THE WORLD.

"NO DOUBT THERE IS STILL MUCH THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM MARKETS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, SUCH AS THOSE IN NORTH AMERICA, WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE FIBV GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT FORUM FOR HONG KONG TO BENEFIT FROM PARTICIPANTS' EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE.

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GOVT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL WORKFORCE'S WELFARE

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HONG KONG HAS EXPERIENCED A PROGRESS TIGHTENING OF THE LABOUR MARKET SINCE THE MID-1980'S, NOTWITHSTANDING THE EFFORTS DEVOTED TO INCREASING TRAINED MANPOWER, THE SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"THIS TREND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE 1990'S. IMPROVED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE EMIGRATION OF PROFESSIONALS AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL ARE AMONG THE MANY FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DECLINING LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE," HE SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO STRENGTHEN ITS EXISTING SERVICES TO HELP EMPLOYERS OVERCOME RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION DIFFICULTIES.

"IN VIEW OF THE NEED TO RELIEVE LABOUR SHORTAGES IN BOTTLENECK AREAS, THE GOVERNMENT IN 1989 AND 1990 APPROVED LIMITED SCHEMES FOR THE IMPORTATION OF WORKERS, INCLUDING A SPECIAL SCHEME TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AIRPORT AND RELATED PROJECTS.

"IN IMPORTING LABOUR, WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ENSURING THAT THE INTERESTS AND WELFARE OF LOCAL WORKERS ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED," HE STRESSED.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES OF HONG KONG'S HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES WERE TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF ITS HUMAN RESOURCES AND TO ENSURE ITS WORKFORCE WAS GIVEN AN APPROPRIATE SHARE OF THE PROSPERITY TO WHICH IT HAD CONTRIBUTION.

HE SAID THAT BY AND LARGE, WE COULD LEAVE IT TO MARKET FORCES TO ENSURE THAT THESE OBJECTIVES WERE MET.

"BUT WE ALSO NEED TO LAY DOWN CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARD OF WELFARE FOR OUR WORKFORCE AND TO BE ABLE TO ENFORCE THEM THROUGH LEGISLATIVE SANCTIONS," HE SAID.

"AS OUR ECONOMY GROWS IN SOPHISTICATION AND AS OUR LABOUR FORCE BECOMES MORE EDUCATED, IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT OUR EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION DOES NOT LAG BEHIND THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE.

"THE WELL-BEING OF THE WORKFORCE IS ESSENTIAL IF WE ARE TO MAXIMISE MOTIVATION, PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFICIENCY WHICH IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IS TO PROVIDE OUR WORKFORCE WITH BETTER CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT IN A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKING ENVIRONMENT," HE STRESSED.

MR CHAN POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS, OVER 100 PIECES OF LABOUR LEGISLATION WERE ENACTED UNDER A POLICY OF ACHIEVING A LEVEL OF SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE BROADLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF HONG KONG'S NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AT A SIMILAR STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID IN FUTURE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE HONG KONG'S LABOUR LEGISLATION HAVING CAREFUL REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES, SOCIAL COSTS AND BENEFITS, AS WELL AS THE ECONOMIC EFFECT AND IMPLICATIONS.

TURNING TO TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES, MR CHAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT RELIED HEAVILY ON PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION, CO-OPERATION AND ADVICE.

"THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT, AND DOES NOT, ACT ALONE IN DEVISING AND IMPLEMENTING OUR HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES," HE SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES WHICH STARTED SOME 20 YEARS AGO AND THE MORE RECENT ENGINEERING GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME WERE EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS AREA.

IN THE FUTURE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE EXPLORING EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR JOINT VENTURES WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN ADVANCING ITS OBJECTIVES IN HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, MR CHAN SAID.

A JOINT PROJECT WITH THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AGENCY (JICA) FOR SETTING UP PRECISION SHEET METAL PROCESSING TRAINING FACILITIES IN THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING COUNCIL'S (VTC) PRECISION TOOLING TRAINING CENTRE IS ONE SUCH EXAMPLE.

THE JICA CONTRIBUTES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SOME OF THE MACHINE TOOLS AND SOFTWARE FOR THE COMPUTER-AIDED TOOL DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE SYSTEM OF A NEW TRAINING UNIT AT THE VTC.

THE AGENCY ALSO PROVIDES AT ITS OWN EXPENSE EXPERTS TO HELP SET UP THE TRAINING UNIT AND TRAIN UP LOCAL INSTRUCTORS TO CONDUCT COURSES IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRECISION SHEET METAL PROCESSING TECHNIQUES.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S INPUT INTO THE PROJECT INCLUDES OTHER MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE WORKSHOPS WHICH BEGAN TO OFFER COURSES IN APRIL 1990," MR CHAN SAID.

"THE JICA CO-OPERATION PROJECT CAN BE SEEN AS A MILESTONE FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN HONG KONG," HE ADDED.

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#### NEW BOOK GIVES HISTORY OF PADS

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A COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS), CULMINATING IN THE DECISION TO BUILD A NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK, IS GIVEN IN A NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK.

CALLED "HONG KONG'S PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH", THE 143-PAGE BOOK HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT TOWN PLANNER, DR TED PRYOR.

IT EXAMINES THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SETTINGS OF HONG KONG'S PORT AND AIRPORT, AND HOW THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PLANS NOW BEING UNDERTAKEN ARE THE FRUIT OF LONG AND THOROUGH STUDIES.

WITH CHAPTER HEADINGS SUCH AS REGIONAL SETTING, HISTORICAL REVIEW, STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT, FINAL CHOICE, GETTING ON WITH THE JOB, THE BOOK EXPLAINS WHY THE STRATEGY IS NECESSARY TO MEET THE EVER-GROWING DEMANDS BEING PLACED UPON HONG KONG'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

PRINTED IN FULL COLOUR, THE BOOK CONTAINS NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS, CHARTS, PLANS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

IN A FOREWORD, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, NOTING THAT THE WAY HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR WORK TO GO AHEAD ON THE AIRPORT AND RELATED CORE PROJECTS, WRITES: "WHILST ATTENTION MUST NOW BE FIRMLY DIRECTED TOWARDS GETTING ON WITH THE JOB, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS RESOLVE SHOULD BE BASED UPON A PROPER APPRECIATION OF THE UNIQUENESS FROM WHICH PADS EMERGED AND THE HUMAN EFFORTS THAT PRODUCED A RECOMMENDED STRATEGY AND A FINAL CONSENSUS".

PRICED AT \$132, THE BOOK WILL GO ON SALE TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

IT IS INITIALLY AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH ONLY, BUT A CHINESE EDITION WILL BE PRINTED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR.

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259 VM'S RETURN TO VIETNAM

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A GROUP OF 259 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER THE UNHCR'S VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME.

COMPRISING 102 MEN, 59 WOMEN, 60 BOYS AND 38 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 70TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THIS GROUP BROUGHT TO 4,204 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 10,500 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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GOVERNMENT LAND TO LET BY TENDER

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY ON A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF PO KONG VILLAGE ROAD AND FUNG SHING STREET, IN KOWLOON.

WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,291 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF THE TENANT'S GOODS, EXCLUDING STORAGE OF DANGEROUS GOODS, CONTAINERS AND VEHICLES LICENSED UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE.

THE TENANCY IS FOR ONE YEAR AND QUARTERLY THEREAFTER.

/THE DEADLINE .....

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THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 25.

FORM OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICE AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM AND TENDER PLAN INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KOWLOON EAST, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A BUILDING IN KOWLOON CITY, SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDINGS ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF 181B KOWLOON CITY ROAD.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON DECEMBER 11 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

DEMOLITION WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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WATER SUPPLY SUSPENSION

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SUPPLY OF FRESH AND FLUSHING WATER TO SOME PREMISES IN POK FU LAM ON HONG KONG ISLAND WILL BE TURNED OFF FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM ON FRIDAY (OCTOBER 11) TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT POK FU LAM ROAD FROM MOUNT DAVIS ROAD TO CHI FU FA YUEN, WAH CHEUNG HOUSE AND WAH HING HOUSE IN WAH FU ESTATE, POK FU LAM VILLAGE, NOS. 1-23 MOUNT DAVIS ROAD, SASSOON ROAD, TELEGRAPH BAY VILLAGE AND NORTHCOTE CLOSE.

MEANWHILE, FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN SHAM SHUI PO, KOWLOON WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 9 AM TO 6 PM ON THE SAME DAY TO FACILITATE MAINS CONNECTION WORKS.

IT WILL AFFECT THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD FROM YEN CHOW STREET TO WONG CHUK STREET AND INCLUDING SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET NORTH, SAI YEUNG CHOI LANE, WONG CHUK STREET AND YIU TUNG STREET.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1991

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	8.10.91	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	9.10.91	-250
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+250
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 112.1 \*+0.3\* 9.10.91

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

	8.10.91	9.10.91
MATURING IN 1 WEEK	4.32 PCT	4.53 PCT
1 MONTH	3.97 PCT	4.26 PCT
3 MONTHS	4.19 PCT	4.29 PCT
6 MONTHS	4.44 PCT	4.52 PCT
12 MONTHS	5.22 PCT	5.25 PCT
TOTAL TURNOVER	7,525 MN	8,784 MN

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