



## DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1989

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FOREIGN SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD, IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY):

"WITH PERMISSION, MR SPEAKER, I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT OUR PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

"THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG IS AT A LOW EBB. MY RT HON AND LEARNED FRIEND THE LORD PRESIDENT TOLD THE HOUSE ON 6 JUNE ABOUT THE TRAUMATIC EFFECT IN HONG KONG OF WHAT HAPPENED IN PEKING IN JUNE, AND REPORTED TO THE HOUSE ON 5 JULY AFTER HE HAD PAID A VISIT TO THE TERRITORY. MANY HONOURABLE AND RT HONOURABLE MEMBERS HAVE THEMSELVES VISITED HONG KONG SINCE JUNE. THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS GAVE A LUCID ACCOUNT OF THE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG IN THEIR REPORT OF 28 JUNE.

"WE MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO BUILD A SECURE FUTURE FOR HONG KONG ON THE BASIS OF THE SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION OF 1984. WE HAVE A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WILL INVOLVE US IN MANY DIFFICULT DECISIONS OVER THE NEXT 8 YEARS, AND IN PARTICULAR WE MUST PROVIDE FOR THOSE WHOSE SERVICES ARE NECESSARY FOR THE PROSPERITY AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG IN THE YEARS UP TO 1997.

"THE PROBLEM OF CONFIDENCE IS SHOWN BY INCREASING EMIGRATION FROM THE TERRITORY, AND INCREASING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO CONTEMPLATE LEAVING. 42,000 PEOPLE HAVE LEFT HONG KONG THIS YEAR AND 55,000 ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE NEXT YEAR. A GROWING PROPORTION OF THESE PEOPLE ARE THOSE WHOM HONG KONG CAN LEAST AFFORD TO LOSE. THIS HAEMORRHAGE OF TALENT PUTS AT RISK THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S ECONOMY, THE EFFICIENCY OF ITS PUBLIC SERVICE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS EDUCATION SYSTEM, IN SHORT ITS FUTURE.

"MANY OF THOSE WHO ARE LEAVING HONG KONG WOULD NOT DO SO IF THEY COULD OBTAIN THE ASSURANCE OF RIGHT OF ABODE IN THE UK. AS HON MEMBERS WILL KNOW FROM STATEMENTS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER RT HON FRIENDS, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A SCHEME TO GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES TO A LIMITED NUMBER OF KEY PEOPLE AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED SUCH A SCHEME IN THEIR REPORT IN JUNE, AND MY RT HON AND LEARNED FRIEND THE LORD PRESIDENT TOLD THE HOUSE ON 5 JULY THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE ONE. I CAN NOW EXPLAIN TO THE HOUSE THE CONCLUSIONS WE HAVE REACHED.

"WE AIM TO GIVE SUCH PEOPLE THE CONFIDENCE TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE TERRITORY. WE HAVE TO WEIGH IN THE BALANCE OUR ABILITY TO ACCEPT THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED FOR SETTLEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY, SHOULD THAT EVER BE NECESSARY. WE HAVE TO SET THIS REALITY AGAINST OUR DESIRE TO BE AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

/"IF, AS .....

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"IF, AS HAS OFTEN BEEN SUGGESTED, WE GAVE THE RIGHT OF ABODE TO ALL BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES CITIZENS IN HONG KONG, WE COULD IF THAT RIGHT WAS EXERCISED CREATE UNACCEPTABLE STRAINS HERE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE KEPT THE SCHEME TOO NARROW, IT WOULD FAIL IN ITS PURPOSE AND AT THE END OF THE DAY WE MIGHT BE FACED WITH A MUCH MORE SEVERE PROBLEM.

"AFTER CAREFUL AND DETAILED CONSIDERATION OVER SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE ASSURANCE TO BE GIVEN SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF FULL BRITISH CITIZENSHIP WHICH WOULD BE AWARDED TO RECIPIENTS WITHOUT THEIR HAVING TO LEAVE HONG KONG. THE SCHEME WILL COVER A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF 50,000 HOUSEHOLDS.

"NOT ALL THE ASSURANCES WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED INITIALLY; IN ORDER TO SPREAD THE ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD AND TO GIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO MAY MOVE INTO KEY POSITIONS IN HONG KONG IN LATER YEARS, WE SHALL HOLD BACK A PROPORTION OF THE ALLOCATION FOR LATER IN THE LIFE OF THIS SCHEME. THE BEST CURRENT ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, INCLUDING DEPENDENTS, WHO MIGHT RECEIVE BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THIS WAY IS 225,000. THE SCHEME WOULD CEASE BY 1997, AND IT IS THUS STRICTLY LIMITED IN SCOPE AND TIME.

"BENEFICIARIES WILL BE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF A POINTS SYSTEM WHICH WILL EMBRACE PEOPLE FROM A WIDE RANGE OF WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG. IT WILL COVER PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS PEOPLE, PEOPLE WORKING IN EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES AND THOSE WITH PARTICULAR TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS, AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE PUBLIC AND DISCIPLINED SERVICES. THE DECISIVE CRITERIA WILL BE THE VALUE OF THE INDIVIDUALS' SERVICE TO HONG KONG AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH PEOPLE IN THEIR CATEGORY OF EMPLOYMENT ARE EMIGRATING.

"PROVISION WILL ALSO BE MADE WITHIN THE OVERALL TOTAL FOR THOSE WHO, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR POSITION, MAY FIND THEMSELVES VULNERABLE IN THE YEARS AHEAD. LONG SERVICE WITH BRITISH INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND SO WILL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

"IN ADDITION TO THIS SCHEME BUT AGAIN WITHIN THE TOTAL NUMBERS I HAVE GIVEN, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO INTRODUCE A SPECIAL MEASURE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO HELP COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN HONG KONG TO RETAIN THEIR KEY PERSONNEL. WE INTEND TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH EMPLOYEES OF SUCH ORGANISATIONS WOULD HAVE TO FULFIL IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SETTLED STATUS AND LATER CITIZENSHIP. FOR THOSE ACCEPTED ON THIS SCHEME, EMPLOYMENT OR SERVICE IN HONG KONG TOGETHER WITH A PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN THE UK WOULD AFTER A TOTAL PERIOD OF 5 YEARS RESULT IN CITIZENSHIP. THE COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WOULD ARRANGE SECONDMENTS OF KEY PERSONNEL FOR WORK OR TRAINING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR RELATIVELY SHORT PERIODS OF TIME, THEREBY MINIMISING ANY DISRUPTION TO THEIR WORK IN HONG KONG.

/"WE INTEND .....

"WE INTEND TO INTRODUCE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR THE GRANT OF CITIZENSHIP TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE SCHEME IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

"ALTHOUGH THIS IS A BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY, AND ONE WHICH WE DON'T SHIRK, HONG KONG IS AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, WITH HUGE INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT. ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS HAVE A STRONG INTEREST IN HONG KONG'S CONTINUING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. SOME COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY FOUND WAYS TO GIVE HONG KONG PEOPLE ASSURANCES WITHOUT THEIR HAVING TO LEAVE HONG KONG. IT IS CLEARLY FOR US TO TAKE THE LEAD, AND I HAVE SET OUT OUR SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. WE SHALL NOW BE ASKING OUR PARTNERS AND ALLIES TO FOLLOW THIS LEAD.

"I EMPHASISE TWO FINAL POINTS. FIRST, OUR PROPOSALS WILL BE RESTRICTED TO HONG KONG AND THE UNIQUE PROBLEM WHICH WE FACE THERE. THEY WILL HAVE NO RELEVANCE TO OTHER PEOPLE ELSEWHERE, AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE 1981 BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT WILL REMAIN INTACT. SECOND, THEY ARE DESIGNED NOT TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION INTO THIS COUNTRY BUT TO PERSUADE TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG THOSE WHOM WE NEED TO RETAIN THERE IF OUR LAST SUBSTANTIAL COLONY IS TO PASS SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE FINAL EIGHT YEARS OF BRITISH RULE."

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NATIONALITY PACKAGE

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A HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THIS MORNING WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR DOUGLAS HURD, IN PARLIAMENT.

"THIS BRINGS TO AN END A PROLONGED PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND SPECULATION IN THE COMMUNITY," HE SAID. "WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL HELP TO REESTABLISH CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY. THE FACT THAT FULL PASSPORTS ARE BEING OFFERED RATHER THAN CERTIFICATES OF ENTRY IS AN IMPORTANT POINT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES GREATER CERTAINTY AND INCREASES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT RECIPIENTS WILL STAY IN HONG KONG."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PACKAGE WOULD ALLOW FOR 225,000 PEOPLE TO BENEFIT.

"THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD COVER 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD," HE SAID. "THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO THE NUMBER OF TALENTED PEOPLE WHO WOULD DEPART HONG KONG OVER A 4-5 YEAR PERIOD AT CURRENT RATES OF EMIGRATION."

"AT THE MOMENT MANY PEOPLE FEEL COMPELLED TO UPROOT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES SIMPLY IN ORDER TO SATISFY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS IN CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES," HE SAID. "A VERY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THEM WILL NOW NOT HAVE TO LEAVE HONG KONG TO SECURE THE INSURANCE WHICH A PASSPORT PROVIDES."

/THE SPOKESMAN .....

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT THE PACKAGE WAS INTENDED TO COVER PEOPLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS.

"IT AIMS TO HELP PEOPLE IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, WHO ARE IMPORTANT TO THE EFFICIENT WORKING OF THE TERRITORY, AND WHO CURRENTLY ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO EMIGRATION," HE SAID. "IT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ELITIST. NOR IS IT AIMED SOLELY AT THE WEALTHY OR THE SENIOR RANKS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE."

"THOSE ABLE TO APPLY WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY PROFESSIONALS BUT ALSO OTHERS SUCH AS NURSES, POLICEMEN, FIREMEN, COMPUTER OPERATORS AND OTHERS WITH TECHNICAL SKILLS."

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION COULD BE PASSED BY PARLIAMENT. DURING THIS TIME FURTHER DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WOULD BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS.

"WE EXPECT DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE," HE SAID.

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GOVERNOR INTERVIEWED ON NATIONALITY PACKAGE

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THE FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF A RADIO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, ON THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE:

REPORTER: SIR DAVID, PERHAPS YOU COULD JUST FIRST OF ALL GIVE US YOUR REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR HURD IN PARLIAMENT?

GOVERNOR: I'M PLEASED THAT WE HAVE NOW GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT; IT MEANS THE END OF A PERIOD OF WAITING, AND THEREFORE OF UNCERTAINTY. WHAT I'D HOPE IS THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE WILL BE A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST AND WILL MEAN THAT A VERY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE LEFT HONG KONG, WILL NOW STAY IN HONG KONG WITH ASSURANCES ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURE AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS HONG KONG'S SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY. OF COURSE, IN AN IDEAL WORLD WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE FULL PASSPORTS FOR ALL BRITISH NATIONALS IN HONG KONG BUT IT HAS BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT THAT WAS NOT GOING TO BE POLITICALLY POSSIBLE IN THE UK. WHAT WE HAVE GOT IS SOMETHING WHICH HELPS TO CREATE THE SORT OF STABILITY AND THE REASSURANCES FOR A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR. WE'VE GOT UP TO 225,000 PASSPORTS WHICH WILL BE GOING TO PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE WOULD BE SEEKING THEIR ASSURANCE SOMEWHERE ELSE, AND I THINK IT IS A KEY THING THAT THOSE PEOPLE WILL STAY IN HONG KONG; WITH SOMETHING LIKE 50,000 HOUSEHOLDS, THAT IS 50,000 HEADS OF FAMILY WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE GONE TO CANADA, THE UNITED STATES OR PLACES LIKE THAT, THEY WILL BE STAYING IN HONG KONG, CONTRIBUTING TO HONG KONG. AND THAT NUMBER OF 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD, THAT IS THE EQUIVALENT, AT THE PRESENT RATE OF PEOPLE LEAVING, TO ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS' DEPARTURE OF OUR MOST TALENTED PEOPLE. AND THE LAST POINT I MAKE IS THAT WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS, APART FROM KEEPING PEOPLE IN HONG KONG - THAT IS CRUCIAL - THE OTHER THING IS THAT IT GOES ACROSS THE BOARD, IT IS NOT SOMETHING SOLELY FOR THE ELITE, IT IS A SCHEME WHICH MANY PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, CAN ALL APPLY TO, SO IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT IS ELITE. AND I HOPE THAT WE WILL NOW TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, USE THIS OPPORTUNITY, FOR A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO APPLY SO THAT THEY WILL REMAIN IN HONG KONG.

REPORTER: BUT IS 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD A FIGURE WHICH YOU THINK IS GOING TO GIVE THE CONFIDENCE WHICH HONG KONG NEEDS? IS IT GOING TO GIVE THE CONFIDENCE FOR PEOPLE TO STAY HERE?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I BELIEVE THAT 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IS A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE; IT IS A VERY LARGE FIGURE. AND UP TO 225,000 PASSPORTS IS ALSO A VERY SIGNIFICANT FIGURE. AS I WAS SAYING A MOMENT AGO, IT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF FOUR TO FIVE YEARS WORTH OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LEAVING HONG KONG RECENTLY. SO THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT. AND ANOTHER THING IS THAT IT GIVES ONE PACKAGE: NOW MAYBE THERE WILL BE A CHANCE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO MAKE THEIR OWN CONTRIBUTION - BUT THIS IN ITSELF IS AN IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION.

/REPORTER: EARLIER .....

REPORTER: EARLIER THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN PRIVATELY THAT IF THE FIGURE WAS SO LOW OR REACHED A CERTAIN LEVEL, THAT IT WOULD BE SO LOW THAT IT WOULD BE DIVISIVE AND THEREFORE UNWORKABLE. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A WORKABLE FIGURE, OR IS IT GOING TO BE DIVISIVE?

GOVERNOR: WHATEVER FIGURE YOU CHOOSE WHICH IS BELOW THE TOTAL, MEANS YOU HAVE GOT DIFFICULT CHOICES TO MAKE BETWEEN THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT. BUT THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER AND IF THERE IS A POINTS SCHEME WORKED OUT, I DO BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY IN A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO HELP HONG KONG. AND I THINK, ALSO, THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, EVEN THOUGH THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE PEOPLE WHO WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR MORE AND THAT IS BOUND TO BE THE CASE, PEOPLE WILL ACCEPT THAT WE SHOULD MAKE THE MAXIMUM USE OF WHAT WE HAVE GOT.

REPORTER: YOU SAID EARLIER THAT OBVIOUSLY THE IDEAL WAS THREE-AND-A-QUARTER MILLION PASSPORTS FOR ALL BRITISH SUBJECTS HERE. ARE YOU GOING TO STOP NOW OR ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR MORE PASSPORTS?

GOVERNOR: AT THIS STAGE, I THINK WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS TO TRY TO CONSOLIDATE WHAT WE HAVE GOT. IT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS SIGNIFICANT. IF WE'D BEEN TALKING TOGETHER ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AND WE'D BEEN LOOKING AT WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, I DON'T THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE IMAGINED EVEN THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A FIGURE AS LARGE AS THIS, SO LET US FIRST OF ALL CONSOLIDATE ON THIS; MAKE SURE THAT THIS DOES GET THROUGH. IT HASN'T YET GONE THROUGH THE LEGISLATION IN PARLIAMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT GOING THROUGH; I'D LIKE TO MAKE USE OF THIS CONTRIBUTION; I THINK THAT IS THE FIRST STAGE.

REPORTER: BUT HASN'T THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BUILT INTO ITS PROPOSALS THE FACT THAT IT CAN'T IN FACT BE CHANGED? IT'S GOING TO RESERVE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PASSPORTS TO BE GIVEN LATER ON IN THE YEARS NEARER TO 1997. DOESN'T THIS, THEREFORE, DEFEAT YOUR OWN OBJECT OF PERHAPS BEING ABLE TO GET THE PACKAGE EXPANDED AT A LATER DATE?

GOVERNOR: THERE IS THIS ELEMENT INTO IT, THAT THERE WILL BE PEOPLE GIVEN A CHANCE TO APPLY LATER, SO SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO NOW MIGHT NOT HAVE THE QUALIFICATIONS, LATER ON COULD FEEL THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN THOSE QUALIFICATIONS AND STILL APPLY, AND I THINK THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK FORWARD TO. LET'S FIRST OF ALL SEE HOW THIS PACKAGE WORKS OUT. IT IS SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY SUBSTANTIAL AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US MAKING FULL USE OF IT.

REPORTER: OF COURSE, ANOTHER PROPORTION OF THE PASSPORTS WHICH ARE GOING TO BE GIVEN ARE NOT GOING TO BE GIVEN IMMEDIATELY, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FIVE YEARS, AND THOSE ARE PEOPLE IN KEY COMPANIES HERE IN HONG KONG. IS THIS REALLY MEETING YOUR DEMANDS OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE?

GOVERNOR: WELL, I WOULD SEE THAT AS BEING A SMALL PART OF THE SCHEME. IT IS PROBABLY SOMETHING WHICH WILL BE WELCOME TO A CERTAIN NUMBER OF COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS THAT CAN MAKE USE OF IT, BUT THE NUMBERS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN THAT WILL BE VERY SMALL INDEED, IN COMPARISON WITH THE OVERALL FIGURE OF 50,000 HOUSEHOLDS. IT WILL BE A VERY SMALL PART OF IT.

REPORTER: HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU THAT, IN FACT, THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT GOING TO BE PASSED BECAUSE OF THE BACKBENCH REVOLT?

GOVERNOR: WELL, LOOKED AT FROM HONG KONG, I OBVIOUSLY VERY MUCH HOPE THAT IT WILL BE PASSED AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THE DETERMINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT TO PUT THROUGH THIS SCHEME, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE GOT SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN DOING SO. I HOPE, OBVIOUSLY, THAT IT WILL BE PASSED WITHOUT PROBLEMS. BUT ANY LEGISLATION OF THIS SORT OF COMPLEXITY - AND IT IS A FAIRLY NOVEL FORM OF LEGISLATION - IS GOING TO LEAD TO QUITE A LOT OF ARGUMENT IN PARLIAMENT, THAT IS QUITE OBVIOUS.

REPORTER: SO DO YOU SEE THIS PACKAGE AS PERHAPS A COUP FOR YOURSELF, BECAUSE IT IS VERY NEAR THE FIGURES WHICH YOU WERE ORIGINALLY ASKING FOR?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T LOOK AT THIS AT ALL PERSONALLY. I THINK IT IS SOMETHING WHICH HONG KONG CAN MAKE USE OF. THERE HAVE BEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, ALL WHO HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PACKAGE FROM THE UK; MANY, MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO THAT EFFORT.

REPORTER: THERE HAS BEEN AN ACCELERATING BRAIN-DRAIN IN THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS. WILL THIS HAVE ANY IMPACT?

GOVERNOR: YES, I THINK IT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT. YOU SEE, 50,000 HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IS THE EQUIVALENT TO ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS OF THE TALENTED PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN LEAVING UP TO NOW, SO THAT IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT FIGURE. IT MEANS THAT THOSE PEOPLE, I HOPE, WILL NOW STAY IN HONG KONG INSTEAD OF GOING SOMEWHERE ELSE TO GET THEIR ASSURANCES FOR THE FUTURE. NOW THAT COULD HAVE A QUITE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON HONG KONG.

REPORTER: BUT IS THIS ENOUGH TO REALLY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG, GIVEN THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS PEOPLE ARE LEAVING IS BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE TERRITORY'S POLITICAL FUTURE AND THE SITUATION IN CHINA?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK ANYBODY SHOULD SAY THERE IS ONE SINGLE THING WHICH EITHER PRODUCES CONFIDENCE OR WHICH DOES THE OPPOSITE. TO PRODUCE CONFIDENCE YOU NEED A WHOLE SERIES OF THINGS, BUT THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT PART OF WHAT CAN BE DONE TO TRY TO CREATE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD HAVE ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THAT. IT IS SOMETHING WHICH MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TOO, HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND PUTTING A LOT OF EFFORT INTO TRYING TO OBTAIN.

REPORTER: YOU HAVE BEEN SAYING, IN FACT MANY PEOPLE IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN ARGUING, THAT ONE GOOD REASON TO GIVE PEOPLE HERE THE RIGHT OF ABODE IN BRITAIN, TO GIVE THEM FULL BRITISH PASSPORTS IS TO KEEP THEM HERE. BUT, HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK IT WOULD TAKE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS AGAIN, GIVEN THE CURRENT UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE? DO YOU THINK THAT IT'S LIKELY PEOPLE WOULD CHANGE THEIR MINDS AGAIN IN THE RUN-UP TO 1997?

/GOVERNOR: IT .....

GOVERNOR: IT IS AN IMPORTANT POINT, I BELIEVE, THAT THIS SCHEME IS DESIGNED TO KEEP PEOPLE IN HONG KONG. PEOPLE IN BRITAIN SHOULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THERE IS SUDDENLY GOING TO BE A TREMENDOUS RUSH OF PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG GOING TO BRITAIN. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT IS THE CASE. I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WANT THE ASSURANCE. ALSO, THEY WANT TO STAY, IF THEY POSSIBLY CAN, IN HONG KONG. AND THIS IS THE PACKAGE WHICH DOES JUST THAT. NOW, YOU CAN NEVER BE SURE WITH EVERY INDIVIDUAL PERSON, WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES THEM LEAVE, WHAT IT IS THAT KEEPS THEM HERE. THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE, I BELIEVE, WOULD WANT TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG AND WOULD NOT MOVE TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

REPORTER: SIR, BRITAIN HAS TAKEN THIS STEP TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU THAT THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN TAKING MEASURES TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE HERE, GIVEN THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING INDICATES THAT THE CHINESE ARE KEEN TO RESTRICT THE LEVEL OF DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG. THEY'VE ALSO EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE BILL OF RIGHTS FOR HONG KONG. HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU THAT PEKING IS TAKING THE NECESSARY MEASURES TOO ?

GOVERNOR: I BELIEVE THAT RESTORING CONFIDENCE IS SOMETHING THAT NEEDS EFFORTS ON ALL SIDES, IT NEEDS EFFORTS FROM THE BRITISH SIDE, IT NEEDS EFFORTS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE, IT NEEDS EFFORTS BY US IN HONG KONG, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WHAT, I HOPE, IS THAT ON THE CHINESE SIDE THEY LOOK AT HOW TO WORK OUT THE BASIC LAW AND THE VARIOUS OTHER WAYS THAT THEY APPROACH HONG KONG, THAT THEY WILL TRY TO LOOK AS CONSTRUCTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, THAT THEY WILL TRY TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE, TO THE NEEDS AND THE VIEWS THAT ARE EXPRESSED FROM HONG KONG. I THINK THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT.

REPORTER: THERE WAS, OF COURSE, A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON CONFIDENCE AS A RESULT OF THE MASSACRE IN PEKING IN JUNE. DO YOU THINK THAT THAT HAS NOW BEEN RESTORED TO ANY EXTENT? DO YOU THINK THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED AS FAR AS HONG KONG IS CONCERNED?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T SENSE IN HONG KONG QUITE THE DEGREE OF GLOOM THAT THERE WAS IN JUNE AND JULY. WE DO HAVE IN HONG KONG AN ABILITY TO TRY TO PICK OURSELVES UP AND TO MAKE THE BEST OF ANY SORT OF SITUATION WE ARE IN. BUT, THAT SAID, THERE IS STILL A GREAT DEAL MORE THAT HAS TO BE DONE TO CREATE THE SORT OF LONG-LASTING CONFIDENCE THAT IS NEEDED IN HONG KONG. NOW, THE PACKAGE THAT WE HAVE JUST BEEN DISCUSSING IS ONE OF THOSE MEASURES, BUT IT NEEDS MANY OTHER MEASURES TO BUILD UP THE COMPLETE FOUNDATION OF CONFIDENCE THAT WE WOULD LIKE, LONG TERM.

REPORTER: THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT HAS SAID TOO, THAT THIS SHOULD BE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT BRITAIN HAS TAKEN THE STEP AND IT WANTS OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW THIS LEAD. WHAT EXACTLY, WHAT SORT OF MEASURES DO YOU NOW HOPE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL TAKE?

GOVERNOR: I WOULD EXPECT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT NOW TO APPROACH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND SAY TO THEM WE HAVE DONE THIS, ARE THERE WAYS IN WHICH YOU, TOO, COULD HELP? HELP IN A SIMILAR SORT OF FASHION? THAT IS MEASURES WHICH HELP TO GIVE PEOPLE CONFIDENCE TO REMAIN IN HONG KONG. AND THAT IS, I AM SURE, WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL BE DOING OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS.

INCREASED PENALTIES UNDER COMPANIES ORDINANCE PROPOSED

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE CERTAIN PENALTIES UNDER THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE FOLLOWING AN OVERALL REVIEW INTO THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN THE ORDINANCE.

DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED INCREASES WERE CONTAINED IN THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1989 TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE TOMORROW, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IN CONSIDERING WHICH PENALTIES ARE TO BE INCREASED, WE HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT. THESE INCLUDE THE NATURE OF THE OFFENCE, THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF ANY BREACH AND THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES PRESCRIBED IN THE ORDINANCE WAS LAST REVISED IN 1984.

IN GENERAL TERMS, THE PENALTIES TO BE INCREASED RELATE TO OFFENCES:

- \* FOR WHICH THE EXISTING PENALTY WAS TOO LOW WHEN INITIALLY SET AND IS INSUFFICIENT TO SERVE AS A DETERRENT;
- \* INVOLVING PROSPECTUSES BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE THAT CAN BE CAUSED TO MEMBERS OF THE INVESTING PUBLIC BY ANY BREACH;
- \* INVOLVING THE MAKING OF UNTRUE STATEMENTS OR THE GIVING OF FALSE INFORMATION WHETHER IN A PROSPECTUS OR TO AUDITORS OR IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS PUT BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY UNDER SECTION 152A OF THE ORDINANCE IN VIEW OF THE GRAVITY OF SUCH OFFENCES; AND
- \* FOR WHICH THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF PENALTY PRESENTLY RANGES FROM \$5,000 TO \$10,000 TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF INFLATION AND ALSO TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NATURE OF OFFENCES.

"THE BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE A ONE-TIME FINE IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING DAILY FINE IMPOSED ON CONTINUING OFFENCE," HE SAID.

"AT PRESENT, ONLY A DAILY FINE IS IMPOSED FOR A CONTINUING CONTRAVENTION OF ANY PARTICULAR PROVISION IN THE ORDINANCE.

"TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TWO ASPECTS OF A CONTINUING DEFAULT OFFENCE, NAMELY, THE INITIAL COMMITTAL OF THE OFFENCE AND ITS CONTINUATION, WE PROPOSE THAT A ONE-TIME FINE SHOULD ALSO BE IMPOSED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THE GOVERNMENT ALSO TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE ALL THE OFFENCES UNDER THE ORDINANCE AND CORRESPONDING PENALTIES IN A NEW SCHEDULE FOR CLARITY AND TO FACILITATE FUTURE REVISION OF THE LEVEL OF PENALTIES AS NECESSARY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE BILL IS DUE TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON JANUARY 10 NEXT YEAR.

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AIRPORT RAILWAY FEASIBILITY AND FINANCIAL STUDIES

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THE GOVERNMENT WILL APPOINT CONSULTANTS TO UNDERTAKE AN AIRPORT RAILWAY FEASIBILITY STUDY IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) SAID THAT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION WOULD BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY, WITH A VIEW TO ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO FINANCE, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, WHICH IS RECOMMENDED BY THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, WILL OPERATE TWO SERVICES:

- \* A DEDICATED SERVICE RUNNING EXPRESS TRAINS FROM THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK TO SPECIAL STATIONS ON WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION AND HONG KONG ISLAND; AND
- \* A PUBLIC SERVICE WITH INTERIM STOPS SERVING THE KWAI TSING/TSUEN WAN AREA AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON NORTH LANTAU AND WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE DETAILED ALIGNMENT, LOCATION OF STATIONS, CAPACITY AND THE BEST ARRANGMENT FOR THE TWO SERVICES AND METHOD OF INTEGRATION WITH THE EXISTING RAILWAY NETWORK.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL APPOINT A SEPARATE CONSULTANT TO ASSESS THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THE FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY WILL COMMENCE NEXT YEAR IN FEBRUARY AND MAY RESPECTIVELY FOR COMPLETION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

BOTH THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION AND THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY CORPORATION SUBMITTED A STATEMENT OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, INCLUDING A BRIEF PROPOSAL ON HOW THEY WOULD HANDLE THE PROJECT.

"MTRC WAS SELECTED MAINLY BECAUSE IT HAS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTING AND MANAGING LARGE SCALE RAIL PROJECTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE REPLACEMENT AIRPORT WILL BE SERVED BY A DEDICATED TRAIN SERVICE UPON ITS OPENING.

"IN THIS RESPECT, MTRC HAS BEEN ABLE TO PUT UP A MORE CONVINCING CASE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT ON TIME," HE SAID.

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PEAK SITE SOLD FOR \$328 MILLION

\* \* \* \*

THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICER (HONG KONG WEST), MR THOMAS HO, ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE TENDER FOR RURAL BUILDING LOT NO. 3 ON PEAK ROAD HAD BEEN AWARDED TO STOCKET LTD, A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF AMOY PROPERTIES AND A MEMBER OF THE HANG LUNG GROUP, AT A PRICE OF \$328 MILLION.

TENDERS FOR THE SITE, ADJOINING THE UPPER PEAK TRAM TERMINUS, WERE FIRST CALLED FOR ON JULY 28 THIS YEAR WHEN THE GOVERNMENT ASKED PRIVATE DEVELOPERS TO SUBMIT SCHEMES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REDEVELOPMENT.

THE REDEVELOPMENT WILL INCLUDE A PUBLIC TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE, CAR AND COACH PARKING, A MAJOR NEW PUBLIC GARDEN AND THE DEVELOPERS' CHOICE OF COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.

THE WINNING TENDER PRICE OF \$328 MILLION IS THE HIGHEST BID OUT OF A TOTAL OF 14 TENDERS SUBMITTED. HOWEVER, MR HO EMPHASISED THAT PRICE WAS ONLY ONE FACTOR IN THE ASSESSMENT OF TENDERS.

"AESTHETIC AND FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS WERE ALSO CAREFULLY CONSIDERED," HE SAID.

THE WINNING SCHEME HAS ALL THE 12,500 SQUARE METRES OF ACCOMMODATION EARMARKED FOR A VARIETY OF COMMERCIAL USES.

MR HO POINTED OUT THAT THE SCHEME VERY SUCCESSFULLY FULFILLED THE FUNCTIONAL DEMANDS LAID DOWN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXTERNAL DESIGN WAS JUDGED TO BE ONE OF THE BEST.

"THE LAYOUT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS, CAR/COACH PARKING AND TRAFFIC SYSTEM WAS THE BEST DESIGN PROPOSED.

"THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, INCLUDING THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, WILL HAVE A FAVOURABLE IMPACT," HE ADDED.

MR HO ADDED THAT THE URBAN COUNCIL WOULD BE MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ASPECT OF THE SCHEME BY PAYING FOR THE COST OF THE NEW PUBLIC GARDEN IN THE AREA NEXT TO THE PEAK TRAM TERMINUS.

WHEN COMPLETED, THE GARDEN WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE URBAN COUNCIL FOR MANAGEMENT.

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HK SECURES LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS SECURED A LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THIS (THURSDAY) MORNING BY THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, MR KENNETH KWOK, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL BUREAU OF WATER CONSERVANCY AND HYDRO-POWER, MR GUAN ZONGZHI.

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, AN ADVANCE OF WATER CHARGES AMOUNTING TO \$1,580 MILLION, WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT FOR ENHANCING THE EXISTING EAST RIVER WATER SYSTEM WHICH SUPPLIES WATER TO HONG KONG.

THE ADVANCE WILL BE MADE IN FOUR INSTALMENTS WITH THE FIRST TO BE PROVIDED SOON. THE OTHER THREE INSTALMENTS WILL BE MADE AT THE END OF APRIL IN THE SUBSEQUENT YEARS.

"COMMENCING FROM 1995, PART OF THE WATER SUPPLIED TO HONG KONG WILL BE OFFSET BY THIS ADVANCE AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ENTIRE AMOUNT WOULD BE FULLY REPAID BY THE YEAR 2002," THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLIES, MR K.L. WONG, SAID AT A BRIEFING FOLLOWING THE SIGNING CEREMONY.

HE ADDED THAT IN THE RECENT ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER, THE MEETING AGREED THAT FROM 1995, THE WATER YEAR WILL BE CHANGED TO JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31 AND THE ANNUAL SHUT-DOWN PERIOD FOR MAINTENANCE WILL BE FOR ONE MONTH ONLY IN DECEMBER.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING:

| WATER YEAR<br>-----       | ANNUAL TOTAL SUPPLY QUANTITY<br>----- |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31) | (MILLION CUBIC METRES)                |
| 1995                      | 690                                   |
| 1996                      | 720                                   |
| 1997                      | 750                                   |
| 1998                      | 780                                   |
| 1999                      | 810                                   |
| 2000                      | 840                                   |

MR WONG SAID THAT WATER PRICES FROM MARCH 1, 1991 TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 1994 WERE ALSO FIXED. THEY ARE:

FROM MARCH 1, 1991 TO END OF FEBRUARY 1992 - HK\$1.439 PER CUBIC METRE

FROM MARCH 1, 1992 TO END OF FEBRUARY 1993 - HK\$1.597 PER CUBIC METRE

FROM MARCH 1, 1993 TO END OF FEBRUARY 1994 - HK\$1.772 PER CUBIC METRE

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OPERATION TO IMPROVE DRAINAGE IN HUNG HOM

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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY AND THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A JOINT OPERATION TODAY (THURSDAY) TO IMPROVE A DETERIORATING DRAINAGE NETWORK SERVING 149 PRIVATE BUILDINGS IN HUNG HOM.

ANNOUNCING THE OPERATION, A GOVERNMENT BUILDING SURVEYOR OF THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, MR CHENG WEI-DART, SAID THE OPERATION WOULD FOCUS ON THE AREA BOUNDED BY MA TAU WAI ROAD, TO KWA WAN ROAD, NGAN HON STREET AND WING KWONG STREET.

MR CHENG SAID THE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA HAD CREATED A HEALTH HAZARD TO THE RESIDENTS AND A NUISANCE TO THE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE ATTENDED TO WITHOUT DELAY.

"A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED THAT THE HEALTH HAZARD IS CAUSED BY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS IN THE AREA WHICH ARE IN AN INADEQUATE, DEFECTIVE AND INSANITARY CONDITION," HE SAID.

IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT SEWAGE, FOUL AND WASTE WATER WAS BEING DISCHARGED INTO SURFACE CHANNELS, SECTIONS OF UNDERGROUND DRAINS WERE DEFECTIVE, CHOKED OR OTHERWISE FAULTY, MANHOLES WERE BLOCKED AND OVERFLOWING AND THE LANES WERE OFTEN FLOODED.

"THE UNDERGROUND DRAINS IN SUCH LANES REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION," MR CHENG SAID.

REMEDIAL WORKS, INCLUDING CLEARING UP THE SEWERAGE AND REPAIRING THE DRAINS, WILL BE SUPERVISED BY STAFF OF THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE AND THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THESE WORKS WILL COMMENCE IN MID-JANUARY AND TAKE ABOUT 10 WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

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WELFARE SERVICES KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW

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SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES ARE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ADJUST TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF SOCIETY, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD, MRS WONG OUTLINED THE VARIOUS SERVICES WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPROVED AND THE ONES DUE TO BE INTRODUCED.

/ON SERVICES .....

ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, MRS WONG SAID REVIEWS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED AND PROPOSALS MADE WHICH INCLUDED THE REVISION OF THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND STRENGTHENING OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES.

WHILE NOTING THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY IN THE FORM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES HAD BEEN IMPROVED IN THE PAST YEARS, MRS WONG SAID THE QUALIFYING AGE FOR OLD AGE ALLOWANCE WAS LOWERED FROM 70 YEARS OF AGE BY PHASES STARTING IN 1988.

"THE QUALIFYING AGE WILL BE LOWERED FURTHER TO 66 NEXT YEAR AND TO 65 IN 1991," SHE SAID.

ON RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY WORKING WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO STRENGTHEN THE VARIOUS TYPES OF FACILITIES, INCLUDING SETTING UP MORE HOMES AND CARE-AND-ATTENTION HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY.

MRS WONG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO REGIONALISE THE RESIDENTIAL SERVICES SO THAT THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ELDERLY PEOPLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH.

"THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT A LIMITED SCALE AT FIRST, AND WILL BE EXPANDED WHEN RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE."

TURNING TO CHILD CARE SERVICES, MRS WONG SAID THE DEPARTMENT WAS CARRYING OUT A REVIEW ON THE MODE OF SUBSIDIES GRANTED TO NON-PROFIT-MAKING NURSERIES AS WELL AS CONSIDERING RAISING THE LEVEL OF SUBSIDY TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ATTENDING NURSERIES.

"PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION SOON," SHE SAID.

SHE ALSO NOTED THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT, HAD CARRIED OUT A NUMBER OF EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING CHILD CARE SERVICES.

THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED THE EXTENSION OF SERVICE HOURS IN CHILD CARE CENTRES AND THE PROVISION OF OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE SERVICES IN HOSPITALS.

A \$1.7 MILLION PILOT SCHEME ON OCCASIONAL CHILD CARE WAS ALSO CARRIED OUT BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IN NOVEMBER.

"FIFTEEN CHILD CARE CENTRES ARE TAKING PART IN THE SCHEME, PROVIDING A TOTAL OF 105 PLACES," SHE SAID.

MRS WONG ALSO MENTIONED ANOTHER PILOT SCHEME WHICH WILL BE INTRODUCED NEXT MONTH - THE AFTER SCHOOL CARE SERVICE.

"THE SERVICE, WHICH PROVIDES AFTER SCHOOL CARE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN, WILL BE OFFERED AT A SELECTED CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE IN ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF EACH SWD ADMINISTRATIVE REGION."

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SHE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING WIDENING THE DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE TO INCLUDE "PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE" AND "NEGLECT" CASES BY AMENDING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND JUVENILES ORDINANCE.

"THE PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AFTER VIEWS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION HAVE BEEN SOUGHT," SHE SAID.

AS TO REHABILITATION SERVICES, MRS WONG NOTED THAT IMPROVEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE TO THE CENTRAL PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SERVICE, CENTRAL PARAMEDICAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENTS SERVICE.

TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS, THE DEPARTMENT HAD DRAWN UP SEVERAL MODELS OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENTS - THE ENCLAVE MODEL, MOBILE CREW AND BENCH WORK MODEL.

"A TOTAL OF 12 MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS ARE NOW BEING TRAINED AS MEMBERS OF A MOBILE CLEANSING CREW.

"IF THE SCHEME IS PROVED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL BE EXPANDED STEP BY STEP," SHE ADDED.

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SWD CORRECTIONAL HOMES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

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RESIDENTS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S SEVEN CORRECTIONAL HOMES AND THEIR PARENTS GATHERED TODAY (THURSDAY) AT THE HENRY G. LEONG YAUMATEI COMMUNITY CENTRE TO SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WHEN THE SEVEN HOMES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS PUT THEIR EFFORTS TOGETHER TO ORGANISE A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION PROGRAMME.

THE HOMES ARE MA TAU WAI GIRL'S HOME, BEGONIA ROAD BOYS' HOME, PUI CHI BOYS' HOME, PUI YIN JUVENILE HOME, O PUI SHAN BOYS' HOME, CASTLE PEAK BOYS' HOME AND KWUN TONG HOSTEL.

THE AIM OF THE JOINT CELEBRATION IS TO PROVIDE THE BOYS AND GIRLS IN THESE HOMES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR TALENTS, AMONG THEMSELVES AND ALSO BEFORE THEIR PARENTS.

PARTICIPANTS HAD AN ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON WITH PERFORMANCES BY RESIDENTS OF THE HOMES, WHO COMPETED FOR A BEST PERFORMANCE AWARD. THE PERFORMANCES INCLUDED CHINESE FOLK DANCE, PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE, MAGIC SHOW, MUSICAL COMEDY AND POEM RECITAL.

/OFFICIATING AT .....

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OFFICIATING AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY WERE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, MR R.N. HAWKES, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MR KWOK KA-CHI.

SPEAKING AT THE OCCASION, MRS WONG SAID THE CELEBRATION PROGRAMME WAS COMPLEMENTARY TO THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES OF THE HOMES.

"IN ORDER TO HELP THE RESIDENTS TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO HELP THEM DEVELOP THEIR ABILITIES, INTERESTS, SKILLS, MOTIVATION AND MATURITY TO THE FULL."

"AT THE END OF THEIR STAY, THEY WOULD BE BETTER MOTIVATED, MORE STABLE AND BETTER ABLE TO FACE THE MANY CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD OF THEM WHEN THEY RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY," SHE SAID.

"TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, PARENTS' ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT, LOVE AND SUPPORT IN THEIR CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION PROCESS ARE ALSO OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE," MRS WONG ADDED.

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LADY WILSON TO OPEN FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT, FISH SHOW

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A LARGE-SCALE JOINT EXHIBITION OF FLOWERS, BIRDS, INSECTS AND FISH HAS BEEN TIMED TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH ENTERTAINMENT OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE FIVE-DAY THIRD NORTH DISTRICT (1989) FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT AND FISH SHOW AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND AND THE ADJACENT FANLING ROTARY YOUTH CENTRE WILL BE PRESENTED AS AN ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENT IN NORTH DISTRICT FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UNTIL TUESDAY (DECEMBER 26).

LADY WILSON WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING OF THE SHOW AND WILL PRESENT AN OVERALL CHAMPION TROPHY TO THE BEST EXHIBIT IN THE FLOWER SECTION.

THE SHOW WILL FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS COMPETITIONS FOR POT PLANTS, MINIATURE POT PLANTS, AFRICAN VIOLETS, BONSAI-TYPE PLANTS, EXOTIC ORCHIDS, AND ORIENTAL AND LOCAL ORCHIDS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, FLORAL AND LANDSCAPE DISPLAYS BY HORTICULTURAL CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS, AND OVERSEAS EXHIBITS.

AMONG THE FLORAL EXHIBITS WILL BE A COLLECTION OF NATURAL ROOTS IN ARTISTIC FORMS FROM SHAOGUAN IN CHINA, AND A HYBRID FORM OF AFRICAN VIOLETS CALLED THE "PINWHEEL" WITH UNIQUE STRIPED COLOUR PATTERN AND COMBINATIONS.

/OTHER ATTRACTIONS .....

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OTHER ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE COLOURFUL PET BIRDS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, SPECIMENS OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS WITH BEAUTIFUL WING PATTERNS, AND A LARGE ROCK COD WEIGHING 24 KILOGRAMS.

TANKS OF VARIOUS SPECIES OF TROPICAL AQUARIUM FISH, GOLDFISH, AND CORAL AND MARINE FISH WILL BE ON DISPLAY.

OF EDUCATIONAL VALUE WILL BE DISPLAYS BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT ON CAPTURE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE, AND THE WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE HONG KONG ON BIRD WATCHING, MIGRATION, DIET AND RINGING.

THE SHOW IS SPONSORED BY THE NORTH DISTRICT BOARD AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL.

IT WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FROM 1 PM TO 5.30 PM TOMORROW, BETWEEN 9.30 AM AND 5.30 PM FROM SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23) TO MONDAY (DECEMBER 25), AND FROM 9.30 AM TO 4 PM ON TUESDAY (DECEMBER 26).

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING OF THE THIRD NORTH DISTRICT FLOWER, BIRD, INSECT AND FISH SHOW AT 10.30 AM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AT THE FANLING RECREATION GROUND.

PRESS TRANSPORT WILL LEAVE SOUTHOEN CENTRE AT HENNESSY ROAD, WAN CHAI AT 8.40 AM.

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#### SHA TIN PROMOTES CARE OF ENVIRONMENT

\* \* \* \* \*

A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23) TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS AMONG SHA TIN RESIDENTS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CAMPAIGN FORMING PART OF THE SHA TIN FESTIVAL, WILL INCLUDE A VARIETY SHOW, SEMINAR, MOBILE EXHIBITION, DRAWING COMPETITION AND A DAY CAMP.

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, A VARIETY SHOW FEATURING SINGING, DANCING, DRAMA AND A MAGIC SHOW WILL BE STAGED AT THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND NEW TOWN PLAZA.

AN EXHIBITION FEATURING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING WORLD AND LOCAL PROBLEMS, GOVERNMENT POLICY AND SOLUTIONS WILL BE MOUNTED AT THE SAME VENUE.

/TO MARK .....

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TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN, A CEREMONY WILL BE HELD THERE, WITH THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DR STUART REED, OFFICIATING.

A SEMINAR WILL BEGIN AFTER THE CEREMONY. DR MICHAEL CHIU OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT, DR CHOW SIU-CHEUNG OF GREEN POWER, AND DR YIP PO-KEUNG OF LINGNAN COLLEGE WILL BE THE PANELISTS.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EXHIBITION WILL BE STAGED AT THE WO CHE ESTATE COMMERCIAL CENTRE BETWEEN DECEMBER 24 AND 26, HENG ON ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX BETWEEN DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3, SHA KOK ESTATE COMMERCIAL CENTRE BETWEEN JANUARY 4 AND 10, AND THE EXHIBITION GALLERY OF SHA TIN TOWN HALL BETWEEN JANUARY 11 AND 17.

TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PART IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DRIVE, A DRAWING COMPETITION WILL BE HELD AT SHA TIN CENTRAL PARK ON JANUARY 6. THE THEME WILL BE THE POLLUTION PROBLEM AS IT AFFECTS THE SHING MUN RIVER.

RESIDENTS WHO WISH TO GET A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN ONE DAY, A DAY CAMP WILL BE HELD FOR 150 PEOPLE AT THE WU KAI SHA YOUTH CAMP ON JANUARY 14.

THE PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE A LECTURE, SEMINAR, QUIZ, WORKSHOP ON CONSERVATION, HEALTH FOOD COOKERY AND HEALTHY LIFE STYLES.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE DAY CAMP CAN BE MADE TO MR TSANG ON TEL. 0-6048078 EXT 20.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN DISTRICT FESTIVAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CAMPAIGN AND THE SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23) AT THE OPEN SPACE BETWEEN SHA TIN TOWN HALL AND NEW TOWN PLAZA.

THE PROGRAMME WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

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DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS BRING CHRISTMAS JOY

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MEMBERS OF THE WONG TAI SIN DISTRICT BOARD THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON BROUGHT CHRISTMAS JOY TO CHILDREN AND ELDERLY PEOPLE DURING A GOODWILL VISIT TO THREE WELFARE INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

LED BY DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, DR MICHAEL LEE, AND ACCOMPANIED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICER, MR BRIAN LAU, THE PARTY FIRST VISITED CHILDREN AT THE WANG TAU HOM PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE OF THE SPASTICS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, AND DISTRIBUTED PRESENTS TO THEM.

THEY LATER WENT TO THE SALVATION ARMY'S CHUK YUEN SOCIAL CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY AT CHUK YUEN SOUTH ESTATE AND THE HELPING HAND'S LOK FU CARE HOME AND HOME FOR THE ELDERLY AT LOK FU ESTATE.

THE MEMBERS DISTRIBUTED PRESENTS TO THE ELDERLY PEOPLE AND CHATTED WITH THEM.

THE VISIT WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED AND ELDERLY MEMBERS IN THE COMMUNITY.

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ORDERLY RETURN OF VBP ON DB AGENDA

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THE ORDERLY RETURN PROGRAMME OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WILL BE AMONG THE DISCUSSION ITEMS AT THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

A PAPER JOINTLY SIGNED BY EIGHT DB MEMBERS WILL BE TABLED AT THE MEETING TO CALL FOR THE BOARD'S SUPPORT FOR THE POLICY.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE "REVIEW ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CONSUMER COUNCIL" REPORT.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER FOUR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS TOTTALLING \$145,221 AT ITS MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE MONEY WILL BE USED FOR SUBSIDISING THE NEW TERRITORIES LEAGUES IN FOOTBALL AND TABLE TENNIS AS WELL AS FOR MEETING EXPENSES CONCERNING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHA TIN FESTIVAL, AND PUBLICITY.

THE MEETING WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE COMMITTEE'S BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE SHA TIN ARTS ASSOCIATION, SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND DISTRICT FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S CULTURE AND SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY)- IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9.30 AM.

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COMPULSORY OFF-STREET MOTORCYCLE TRAINING NEXT YEAR

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WITH EFFECT FROM JANUARY 1, 1990, LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS AND MOTOR TRICYCLISTS WILL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE COMPULSORY OFF-STREET TRAINING AND PASS A COMPETENCE TEST BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO PRACTISE ON THE ROAD, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (LICENSING) OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, MR TONY NGUYEN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, MR NGUYEN POINTED OUT THAT IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS OF 1989, THE ACCIDENT RATE OF LEARNER MOTORCYCLISTS WAS 6.39 PER 1,000 LEARNERS AS COMPARED TO 0.46 PER 1,000 PRIVATE CAR LEARNER DRIVERS.

"TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL ISSUE A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE FOR MOTORCYCLES OR MOTOR TRICYCLES ONLY IF THE APPLICANT, AGED 18 OR ABOVE, HAS PASSED THE WRITTEN AND BASIC SKILL TESTS UPON COMPLETION OF A COMPULSORY OFF-STREET TRAINING COURSE CONDUCTED IN A DESIGNATED DRIVING SCHOOL," HE SAID.

/THE TRAINING .....

THE TRAINING COURSE WILL CONSIST OF LECTURES AND PRACTICAL LESSONS TOTTALLING 12 HOURS.

MR NGUYEN ADDED THAT THE MOTORCYCLE DRIVING TEST, TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, WILL BE DIVIDED INTO THREE PARTS.

PART A IS A WRITTEN TEST ON THE ROAD USERS' CODE AND PART B A BASIC DRIVING SKILL TEST.

CANDIDATES WHO HAVE PASSED PARTS A AND B WILL BE ISSUED WITH A LEARNER'S DRIVING LICENCE TO PRACTISE ON THE ROAD.

PART C IS THE NORMAL ROAD TEST AND SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE ISSUED WITH A FULL MOTORCYCLE DRIVING LICENCE.

MR NGUYEN SAID DRIVING SCHOOLS WHICH ARE DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO CONDUCT THE OFF-STREET TRAINING COURSES MUST OPERATE IN RESPECT OF COURSE CONTENTS AND DURATION, FACILITIES AND SAFETY MEASURES AND EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CODE OF PRACTICE PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

IN ADDITION, THE TUITION FEES CHARGED HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

INTERESTED DRIVING SCHOOL OPERATORS MAY OBTAIN THE CODE FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS, 28TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, CENTRAL.

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#### TRAINING COURSE FOR STEAM RECEIVER OPERATORS

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE A TRAINING COURSE EARLY NEXT MONTH FOR OPERATORS OF STEAM RECEIVERS, INCLUDING KIERS, IN A BID TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS, FOUR WORKERS WERE KILLED IN THREE SUCH ACCIDENTS IN THE PAST 13 MONTHS.

"SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT THE STEAM RECEIVERS INVOLVED WERE OPERATED WITHOUT THE DIRECT SUPERVISION BY COMPETENT PERSONS POSSESSING RELEVANT CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY," THE DEPARTMENT'S PRINCIPAL SURVEYOR, MR M.R. MIRZA, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

"IN ADDITION, THE FACTORIES CONCERNED HAD NOT ORGANISED RELEVANT TRAINING COURSES FOR WORKERS OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

/MR MIRZA .....

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MR MIRZA NOTED THAT SOME FACTORIES EMPLOYED ONLY ONE COMPETENT PERSON TO OPERATE A LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THE BUILDING, MAKING DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THEIR OPERATION IMPOSSIBLE.

"THIS PRACTICE IS CONTRARY TO THE REQUIREMENT OF THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ORDINANCE FOR WHICH OFFENDERS ARE LIABLE TO A FINE OF \$30,000," HE SAID.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS UNSAFE PRACTICE AND WILL TAKE OUT A PROSECUTION AGAINST OFFENDING OWNERS FOR FAILING TO EMPLOY COMPETENT PERSONS TO SUPERVISE THE OPERATION OF SUCH EQUIPMENT," HE SAID.

TO ASSIST FACTORY OWNERS IN TRAINING THEIR EMPLOYEES, MR MIRZA SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ORGANISE A SHORT EVENING COURSE FOR STEAM RECEIVER OPERATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

THE THREE-WEEK COURSE, WHICH IS TO START ON JANUARY 2, WILL COVER THE ESSENTIAL SAFETY ASPECTS OF STEAM RECEIVERS.

A FEE OF \$200 WILL BE CHARGED ON EACH PARTICIPANT IN THE COURSE WHICH INCLUDES A TOTAL OF 12 HOURS OF INSTRUCTION.

MR MIRZA CALLED ON FACTORY OWNERS TO ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN THE OPERATION OF STEAM RECEIVERS TO ENROL IN THE COURSE TO HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FATAL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE OPERATION OF STEAM RECEIVERS AND KIERS.

APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE COURSE ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HAKING WONG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AT 792 LAI CHI KOK ROAD, KOWLOON, AND ENQUIRIES CAN BE MADE ON TEL. 3-615161 EXT. 121.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, APPLICANTS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT DIVISION OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT AT HARBOUR BUILDING, 17TH FLOOR, CENTRAL, OR ON TEL. 5-8524182.

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ROVING EXHIBITIONS ON NURSING

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A THREE-DAY EXHIBITION ON NURSING WILL START TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN SUN CHUI ESTATE IN SHA TIN TO INTRODUCE THE WORK AND TRAINING OF NURSES TO THE PUBLIC AND YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PROFESSION.

THE EXHIBITION, JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WILL MOVE TO TAI WO ESTATE IN TAI PO ON JANUARY 5. THE EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE ON JANUARY 7.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT THE AIM OF THE ROVING EXHIBITIONS IS TO INTRODUCE TO YOUNG ADULTS AND SCHOOL-LEAVERS, THROUGH DISPLAY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND LEAFLETS, THE TRAINING FOR NURSES AT GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS AND THE VARIOUS AREAS OF NURSING DUTIES.

"ALL PEOPLE AGED 18 AND ABOVE WHO HAVE OBTAINED A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION WITH FIVE PASSES, ONE OF WHICH MUST BE AT GRADE C, ARE QUALIFIED TO APPLY FOR THE POST OF STUDENT NURSE.

"THE FIVE SUBJECTS ARE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B) AT GRADE D OR ABOVE; CHINESE LANGUAGE; TWO PURE SCIENCE SUBJECTS OR ONE PURE SCIENCE SUBJECT PLUS ONE SUBJECT IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL STUDIES OR THE HUMANITIES; AND ONE OTHER SUBJECT."

FOR STUDENT NURSES, THERE ARE THREE INTAKES A YEAR AND CLASSES WILL COMMENCE IN FEBRUARY, JUNE AND OCTOBER. THE TRAINING WILL LAST THREE YEARS.

ON THE SALARY STRUCTURE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID FOR STUDENT NURSES (GENERAL), THE STARTING PAY IS \$3,305, WHICH WILL BE INCREASED TO \$3,950 OVER THE THREE-YEAR TRAINING PERIOD. FOR A STUDENT NURSE IN THE PSYCHIATRIC STREAM, THE PAY SCALE IS FROM \$3,950 TO \$4,640.

"ALL STUDENT NURSES ARE PAID A \$700 RESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE. IN ADDITION, FROM OCTOBER 1, A TEMPORARY ALLOWANCE OF \$331 AND \$395 IS ALSO PAYABLE TO STUDENT NURSES (GENERAL) AND STUDENT NURSES (PSYCHIATRIC) RESPECTIVELY."

ON COMPLETION OF THE THREE-YEAR TRAINING, STUDENT NURSES WILL BE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF REGISTERED NURSE.

PEOPLE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NURSING PROFESSION ARE WELCOME TO CALL THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 5-8900563 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

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WORKING HOURS OF MARINE DEPT OFFICES DURING HOLIDAYS

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A MARINE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TODAY (THURSDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY, BEING GENERAL HOLIDAYS.

THOSE OFFICES WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THESE HOLIDAYS ARE:

- \* THE MACAU FERRY TERMINAL (CENTRAL) WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY;
- \* THE CHINA FERRY TERMINAL (TSIM SHA TSUI) WHICH WILL BE OPEN AS NORMAL FROM 6 AM TO 10 PM;
- \* THE PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREAS AT WAN CHAI, YAU MA TEI, KWUN TONG, TSUEN WAN, WESTERN DISTRICT, RAMBLER CHANNEL, CHAI WAN, SHAM SHUI PO, SHEUNG WAN AND CHA KWO LING AND THE PUBLIC WATERFRONTS AT YAU MA TEI, KOWLOON BAY AND TUEN MUN, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FOR NORMAL OPERATION FROM 7 AM TO 9 PM;
- \* THE VESSEL TRAFFIC CENTRE WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN CONTINUOUSLY;
- \* THE VICTORIA MARINE OFFICE AT ROOM 314, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL, HONG KONG WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1 FOR ENTRY AND OUTWARD CLEARANCE ONLY;
- \* THE PORT FORMALITIES AND DANGEROUS GOODS OFFICE AT ROOM 318, HARBOUR BUILDING WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 11 AM ON DECEMBER 25 AND JANUARY 1.

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HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICE

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT EIGHT CLINICS WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26 (MONDAY AND TUESDAY).

THE EIGHT CLINICS ARE: THE VIOLET PEEL HEALTH CENTRE AND SHAU KEI WAN JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC ON HONG KONG ISLAND; KWUN TONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE, ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE, YAU MA TEI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND LADY TRENCH POLYCLINIC IN KOWLOON; AND SHEK WU HUI JOCKEY CLUB CLINIC AND YUEN LONG JOCKEY CLUB HEALTH CENTRE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

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URBAN CLEARWAYS IN SOUTHERN, WAN CHAI

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23), THE NORTHBOUND SECTION OF POK FU LAM ROAD IN SOUTHERN DISTRICT, BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH THE FLYOVER LEADING TO THE NORTHERN SECTION OF CHI FU ROAD AND A POINT ABOUT 140 METRES TO THE NORTH, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY ROUND-THE-CLOCK.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN WAN CHAI WILL BE MADE 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY URBAN CLEARWAYS FOR ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO FACILITATE WATERMAIN LAYING WORKS:

- THE NORTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF JAFFE ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH TONNOCHY ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT FIVE METRES TO THE WEST; AND
- THE WESTERN KERBSIDE LANE OF TONNOCHY ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH JAFFE ROAD TO A POINT ABOUT 10 METRES TO THE NORTH.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS WITHIN THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES EXTENDED FOR CHRISTMAS

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SPECIAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED DURING THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS TO COPE WITH THE FESTIVE CROWDS, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY).

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, THE MTR, THE STAR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE AND KOWLOON POINT, AND TRAM SERVICES (EXCEPT THOSE ROUND THE HAPPY VALLEY LOOP) WILL RUN ALL NIGHT.

ALSO OPERATING OVERNIGHT ARE KMB ROUTES 6, 26, 80M AND 82M.

HYF SUPPLEMENTARY FERRY SERVICES FROM CENTRAL TO MUI WO (VIA PENG CHAU) AND FROM CENTRAL TO CHEUNG CHAU (VIA YUNG SHUE WAN, LAMMA ISLAND) WILL BE OPERATED AT 12.20 AM AND 12.30 AM RESPECTIVELY ON BOTH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

KCR TRAINS WILL RUN UNTIL 2 AM ON CHRISTMAS DAY; LRT TRAINS WILL RUN UNTIL 1 AM ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY; WHILE PEAK TRAM SERVICE WILL BE EXTENDED TO 1.30 AM ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

MEANWHILE, MANY BUS AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HARBOUR WILL FINISH LATER THAN USUAL.

/ON HONG .....

ON HONG KONG ISLAND, THE LAST DEPARTURE FROM CENTRAL OF CMB ROUTES 4 AND 70 WILL BE AT 1 AM. FOR ROUTES 2, 7, 10, 23, 72, 90, 92, 96 AND 97, THEIR LAST BUS WILL LEAVE CENTRAL, WESTERN DISTRICT OR CAUSEWAY BAY BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 2.30 AM ON BOTH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

IN KOWLOON, KMB ROUTES 1, 1A, 3C, 5, 5C, 14, 16M, 28, 31M, 32M, 36M, 37M, 38A, 39M, 41M, 43M, 58M, 59M, 60M, 66M, 68M, 81K, 85K, AND 95M WILL EXTEND THEIR SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE RANGING FROM 30 MINUTES TO ONE HOUR AND 30 MINUTES.

ROUTES 1A, 5, 5C, 6, 80M, 81K, 85K AND 95M WILL ALSO EXTEND THEIR SERVICES ON NEW YEAR'S EVE RANGING FROM 30 MINUTES TO ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES.

ADDITIONAL TRIPS WILL BE PROVIDED ON CROSS-HARBOUR ALL NIGHT BUS ROUTES 121 AND 122 ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.

MEANWHILE, KMB ROUTE 202 AND KOWLOON GMB ROUTES 1 AND 1M WILL SUSPEND THEIR SERVICES FROM 8 PM ON CHRISTMAS EVE. THESE SERVICES WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26 DEPENDING ON THE SITUATIONS.

AS FOR GREEN MINIBUSES IN KOWLOON, ROUTES 3, 6, 7, 8, 11M, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22M, 30A, 30M, 31M, 33M, 51M AND 53M WILL EXTEND THEIR OPERATING HOURS DURING BOTH THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 85 WILL STOP RUNNING AT 12.45 AM AND ROUTES 83 AND 86 AT 2 AM ON BOTH CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY. ROUTES 60K, 65K, 66K AND 67K WILL CEASE OPERATION AT 2.20 AM ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S EVE, THE STAR FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN EDINBURGH PLACE AND KOWLOON POINT WILL BE OPERATING UNTIL 2 AM AND 3 AM RESPECTIVELY.

IN CENTRAL AND TSIM SHA TSUI, THE FOLLOWING BUS AND GREEN MINIBUS ROUTES WILL BE DIVERTED DURING THE SPECIFIED PERIODS BELOW TO AVOID THE CLOSED ROADS IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS:

| ROUTE                                 | PERIOD OF DIVERSION   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| CMB ROUTES 5B, 10, 20, 21 AND 81M     | FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 23 TO 6 AM ON DECEMBER 27; AND FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 30 TO 6 AM ON JANUARY 2. |
| CMB ROUTES 5, 5A, 10A, 22, 87 AND 781 | AFTER 7 PM ON DECEMBER 23 AND 30.   |

/CMB ROUTES .....

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CMB ROUTES 23A AND 26, 40M AND 103 FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 23 TO  
LAST DEPARTURE ON DECEMBER 26  
AND FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 30  
TO LAST DEPARTURE ON JANUARY 1.

AIR BUS A2 FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 24 TO  
LAST DEPARTURE ON DECEMBER 27  
AND FROM 7 PM ON DECEMBER 31  
TO LAST DEPARTURE ON JANUARY 2.

KMB ROUTES 1, 1A, 1K, 2, 2C, 2K, 3, FROM 8 PM ON DECEMBER 24 TO  
3C, 3E, 5, 5C, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 8A, 9, 2 AM THE NEXT DAY AND IF  
13, 26, 28, 81, 208 AND AIRBUS A1 NECESSARY, ON DECEMBER 25, 26  
AND KOWLOON GMB ROUTES 3, 6, 7, 8, AND 31.  
AND 31M

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RECRUITMENT OF JUNIOR LEADERS FOR RHK REGIMENT  
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THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) IS UNDERWAY. THIS YEAR THE NUMBER OF NEW RECRUITS IS TARGETTED AT 140.

APPLICANTS MUST BE MALE, AGED BETWEEN 14 AND 16, AND BE PHYSICALLY FIT AND OF GOOD CONDUCT.

THEY MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK AND WRITE CHINESE AND ENGLISH, WILLING TO OBEY DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING, AND HAVE THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS' WRITTEN CONSENT TO JOIN THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS.

A FOUR-YEAR PROGRESSIVE TRAINING COURSE AIMING AT DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND SELF-RELIANCE AND PROMOTING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.

THE TRAINING INCLUDES FOOT DRILL, CAMP CRAFT, MAP READING, EXPEDITIONS, ORIENTEERING, FIRST AID, RADIO COMMUNICATION, SHOOTING, SWIMMING, FENCING, BAND MUSIC, CANOEING AND LIFE SAVING. SOME OF THE CORPS' TRAINING WILL BE LINKED UP WITH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME.

MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR LEADERS CORPS ARE PROVIDED WITH UNIFORM AND RATIONS.

APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS, 1 SPORTS ROAD, HAPPY VALLEY, HONG KONG, OR BY TELEPHONING 5-761371. THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS JANUARY 31, NEXT YEAR.

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/28 .....

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ID CARD REMINDER FOR MEN BORN IN 1936-40

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED MEN BORN IN 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939 OR 1940 TO APPLY FOR NEW IDENTITY CARDS BEFORE JANUARY 13.

"TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH, MEN OF THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE NOT YET APPLIED FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD SHOULD COME FORWARD WITHOUT DELAY," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID.

"FAILURE TO APPLY FOR A NEW IDENTITY CARD WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD IS AN OFFENCE LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$3,000," HE ADDED.

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO ANY ONE OF THE EIGHT NEW IDENTITY CARD ISSUE OFFICES TO RENEW THEIR IDENTITY CARDS.

THESE OFFICES ARE OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 9.30 PM DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

"THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE VERY CROWDED IN THE EVENINGS. TO AVOID HAVING TO QUEUE UP FOR A LONG TIME AT THE ISSUE OFFICES OR TO COME BACK ON ANOTHER DAY, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO GO TO THESE OFFICES IN THE MORNINGS AND THE AFTERNOONS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THEY MAY MAKE USE OF THE PHONE-IN SERVICE TO ARRANGE FOR AN APPOINTMENT BY CALLING THE OFFICE OF THEIR CHOICE.

THE ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THE ISSUE OFFICES ARE:

HONG KONG : BASEMENT, 151 GLOUCESTER ROAD, WAN CHAI.  
TEL. NO. 5-747070

EAST KOWLOON : AMOY PLAZA, SECOND FLOOR, 77 NGAU TAU KOK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 3-7553679

WEST KOWLOON : CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SECOND FLOOR, 393 CANTON ROAD, YAU MA TEI.  
TEL. NO. 3-7232424

TSUEN WAN : EAST ASIA COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 29-37 TSUEN FU STREET.  
TEL. NO. 0-4981259

SHA TIN : SHOP 8A, SECOND FLOOR, CHANWAY SHOPPING CENTRE, 11-17 SHA TIN CENTRE STREET.  
TEL. NO. 0-6059108

YUEN LONG : HOP YICK CENTRE, SECOND FLOOR, 31 HOP YICK ROAD.  
TEL. NO. 0-4771543

/TUEN MUN .....

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TUEN MUN : CHI LOK COMMERCIAL CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR,  
CHI LOK FA YUEN.  
TEL. NO. 0-4580862

SHEUNG SHUI : TSUEN WO TAI LAU, GROUND FLOOR, 82-84 SAN  
FUNG AVENUE, SHEK WU HUI.  
TEL. NO. 0-6727191

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCUMENT TO BE BROUGHT ALONG, THEY  
MAY MAKE USE OF THE 24-HOUR RECORDED MESSAGE SERVICE BY DIALLING  
5-8909393.

THE SPOKESMAN REITERATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO AMNESTY FOR  
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN HUNG HOM

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT IN CONNECTION WITH A  
CHRISTMAS FUNCTION IN WHAMPOA GARDEN, THE SECTION OF SHUNG KING  
STREET BETWEEN SITE 2 AND SITE 6 WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO  
TRAFFIC FROM 1 PM TO 11 PM ON SATURDAY (DECEMBER 23).

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GOODS VEHICLE BAN IN REPULSE BAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY  
(DECEMBER 23), GOODS VEHICLES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE  
FOLLOWING ROAD SECTIONS IN REPULSE BAY ON SATURDAYS FROM 12 NOON TO  
7 PM AND ON SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

- BEACH ROAD; AND
- THE UNNAMED ACCESS ROAD LINKING BEACH ROAD AND SOUTH BAY  
ROAD.

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CANCELLATION OF BAN ZONES IN WONG TAI SIN

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY  
(DECEMBER 23), THE BAN ZONES AT DIAMOND HILL BUS TERMINUS AND THE  
ACCESS ROAD LEADING FROM LUNG CHEUNG ROAD EASTBOUND TO THE LAYBY  
ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH OF THE DIAMOND HILL BUS TERMINUS WILL BE  
CANCELLED.

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