



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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GOVERNOR TO UPDATE PRIME MINISTER ON HONG KONG

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, WILL CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, DURING HIS VISIT TO LONDON TO BRING HER UP-TO-DATE PERSONALLY ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN HONG KONG.

WELCOMING THIS CHANCE TO BRIEF THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY, SIR DAVID SAID WHILE IN LONDON HE ALSO WANTED TO GET HIMSELF UP-TO-DATE ON THE NATIONALITY PACKAGE THAT WAS GOING THROUGH ITS LAST STAGE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TONIGHT (TUESDAY), SIR DAVID SAID THAT IT WAS A ROUTINE VISIT IN WHICH HE WOULD BE COVERING ALL THE ISSUES THAT WERE AFFECTING HONG KONG.

"ESSENTIALLY MY PURPOSE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT MINISTERS AND THE PRIME MINISTER ARE UP-TO-DATE ON EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON IN HONG KONG AND OUR CONCERNS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID WOULD ALSO GO TO EDINBURGH BRIEFLY TO TALK TO THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AND THEN TO ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE AN HONORARY DEGREE.

ON THE VISIT TO PEKING BY MR FRANCIS MAUDE, SIR DAVID SAID: "ESSENTIALLY WHAT IT DOES IS RE-ESTABLISHING CONTACTS AT THAT SORT OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HE WILL BE COVERING NOT SIMPLY HONG KONG SUBJECTS, HE WILL BE COVERING OTHER GENERAL TOPICS AS WELL. BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT WE HAVE A CHANCE OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH CHINESE LEADERS."

ASKED ON THE EFFECT ON HONG KONG THAT FANG LIZHI HAD LEFT CHINA FOR BRITAIN, THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED HIMSELF THAT THE SITUATION HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN A POSITIVE FASHION.

"I THINK THE RESOLUTION OF THAT PROBLEM IS GENERALLY HELPFUL. HONG KONG HASN'T BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN IT. BUT IF IT IS A BETTER ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD THEN I THINK THAT HAS AN INDIRECT BENEFICIARY EFFECT ON US IN HONG KONG," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WAS SEEN OFF AT THE AIRPORT BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD.

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HK HAS MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

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HONG KONG HAS MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

"WE HAVE HALTED THE GROWTH OF HEROIN ABUSE. THE NUMBER OF NEW ADDICTS HAS DECREASED BY NEARLY 40 PER CENT SINCE 1985," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING AT A CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING.

THE GOVERNOR SAID IT WAS ENCOURAGING TO HEAR THAT HONG KONG WAS SEEING A STEADY DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS --- FROM 100,000 IN THE EARLY 1970'S TO 40,000 NOW.

HE SAID THAT A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT FOR THIS MUST GO TO THE PATIENT EFFORTS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE, ADDING THAT IT HAD NOW BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF OUR FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE BATTLE AGAINST DRUGS WAS FAR FROM OVER.

"40,000 ADDICTS IN THE TERRITORY IS STILL 40,000 TOO MANY," SIR DAVID SAID, ADDING THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

"THE DANGER ALREADY THERE IN DRUG ABUSE HAS BEEN MULTIPLIED MANY TIMES OVER BY THE DANGER OF SPREADING AIDS THROUGH CONTAMINATED INJECTION NEEDLES," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS WAS NOT A BATTLE THE GOVERNMENT COULD WIN ON ITS OWN.

"YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN START TAKING DRUGS PARTLY OUT OF CURIOSITY AND PARTLY FROM AN INABILITY TO RESIST PEER PRESSURE," SIR DAVID SAID.

THE GOVERNOR SAID PARENTS, TEACHERS AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY HAD TO WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AND THE GOVERNMENT, FOR ITS PART, WOULD CONTINUE TO PUBLICISE THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TO ENCOURAGE ADDICTS TO SEEK TREATMENT.

"BUT WE RELY ON ALL OF YOU, ON PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO IMPRESS ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE VALUE OF GOOD HEALTH AND STAYING DRUG-FREE. DRUGS ARE EMPHATICALLY NOT FUN."

SIR DAVID SAID THE GOVERNMENT ALSO NEEDED TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO HALT THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS.

"IN THIS, WE OWE MUCH TO THE POLICE, THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE, AND THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION.

"THEY HAVE ACHIEVED REAL SUCCESSES IN CURBING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING LOCALLY AND OVERSEAS," HE SAID.

/LAST YEAR

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LAST YEAR ALMOST 1,000 KILOGRAMS OF HEROIN AND OVER 400 KILOGRAMS OF CANNABIS WERE SEIZED IN HONG KONG AND 21 MAJOR SYNDICATES WERE NEUTRALISED THROUGH JOINT OPERATIONS WITH OVERSEAS AGENCIES, HE NOTED.

"THIS IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT. THOSE INVOLVED DESERVE CONGRATULATIONS," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

NOTING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD DECLARED THE NEXT 10 YEARS AS THE DECADE AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, SIR DAVID SAID THIS SHOWED THAT THE WORLD NOW RECOGNISED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM WE FACED.

"WE IN HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY OUR PART, BOTH LOCALLY AND IN THE WIDER INTERNATIONAL EFFORT."

SIR DAVID PAID TRIBUTE TO DR GERALD CHOA, CHAIRMAN OF THE ACAN, MEMBERS OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE, AND ALL WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE CURRENT SUCCESS FOR ALL THEIR EXCELLENT WORK.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAD DECLARED TODAY AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING --- ANTI-DRUG DAY FOR SHORT.

IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, DR CHOA STRESSED THAT HIS COMMITTEE HAD TAKEN SEVERAL COURSES OF ACTION AGAINST THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REPORTED TO BE ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE.

"A SURVEY ON THE ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES COVERING ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES IN HONG KONG WILL BE CONDUCTED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER," HE SAID.

"WE HAVE STEPPED UP PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION, PUBLICISING THE BENEFITS OF A DRUG-FREE LIFESTYLE.

"WE ARE STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ROLE OF PARENTS, IN GUIDING THEIR CHILDREN AWAY FROM DRUGS.

"WE ARE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND ENCOURAGING THOSE IN NEED TO COME FORWARD FOR HELP."

DR CHOA SAID ACAN HAD LONG RECOGNISED THAT THERE WAS NO QUICK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE, AND NO SINGLE APPROACH OR METHOD WAS EFFECTIVE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH IT.

HE SAID HIS COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES TO SUPPRESS DRUG ADDICTION, AND HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ENACTMENT OF THE DRUG TRAFFICKING (RECOVERY OF PROCEEDS) ORDINANCE LAST YEAR WAS YET ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

TO COMMEMORATE THE SILVER JUBILEE OF ACAN AND TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ANTI-DRUG DAY, AN EXHIBITION AT THE CITY HALL LOW BLOCK EXHIBITION HALL, CENTRAL, WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) AND ON THURSDAY.

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IT HAS BEEN ORGANISED BY ACAN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POLICE, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIETY FOR THE AID AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS AND A COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ABUSERS, PS33.

A WIDE RANGE OF PANELS WILL INTRODUCE HONG KONG'S OVERALL ANTI-DRUG WORK AND THE ROLES PLAYED BY THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS.

THE DISPLAYS OF THE POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE DEPICTION OF A NUMBER OF MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND MANUFACTURING CASES DEALT WITH IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

AS THE MAIN ATTRACTIONS OF THE EXHIBITION, A VIDEO WALL AND A SCREEN WILL BE SET UP FOR SHOWING VIDEOS AND SLIDES TO GIVE VISITORS AN INSIGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-DRUG STRATEGIES AND THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ABUSING PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES.

ALSO ON DISPLAY WILL BE EXHIBITS RELATED TO SEIZED DRUGS AND OPIUM-SMOKING PARAPHERNALIA.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 10.30 AM TO 6.30 PM ON BOTH DAYS.

IN ADDITION TO PRINTED PUBLICITY MATERIALS, GIVE-AWAY ITEMS, SPONSORED BY ORIENTAL DAILY NEWS, WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

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FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FIRMLY ROOTED IN HK: CS

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THE FLOWER OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION HAS TAKEN FIRM ROOT IN HONG KONG, AS JUST A GLANCE AT THE TERRITORY'S LOCAL PRESS WILL TESTIFY, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE THIRD ASIA-PACIFIC WORLD PUBLISHING CONGRESS AT THE HONG KONG CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE, SIR DAVID SAID HONG KONG WAS FORTUNATE IN POSSESSING AN INTENSELY ACTIVE, SOCIALLY CONCERNED AND POLITICALLY VARIED DOMESTIC PRESS.

BY EXPRESSING DIVERSE OPINIONS, REFLECTING THE MOOD OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND ANALYSING RATHER THAN MERELY REGURGITATING INFORMATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES, THE MEDIA PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY, HE SAID.

"WE, WHO ADMINISTER THE AFFAIRS OF THIS ROBUST SOCIETY, MAY NOT ALWAYS LIKE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US. BUT THAT IS PAR FOR THE COURSE IN THE JOB THAT WE DO, AND WE ACCEPT THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH, THE BRICKBATS WITH THE BOUQUETS," HE SAID.

/SIR DAVID

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SIR DAVID SAID OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, HONG KONG WAS INEVITABLY GOING TO COME UNDER THE MICROSCOPE.

THERE WAS ALREADY NO SHORTAGE OF COMMENTARY, MUCH OF WHICH FOCUSED ON THE DIFFICULTIES HONG KONG FACED IN THE TRANSITION YEARS, SUCH AS "BRAIN DRAIN", "CAPITAL FLIGHT", AND SO ON.

SIR DAVID SAID HE HOPED THAT THOSE ATTENDING THE CONGRESS WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE BEYOND THE GLOOMY PREDICTIONS TO THE UNSTOPPABLE DYNAMISM WHICH DROVE THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FORWARD.

"I AM NOT GOING TO PRETEND THAT HONG KONG HAS NO PROBLEMS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE TERRITORY HAD ALWAYS HAD AND WOULD ALWAYS HAVE PROBLEMS.

IT WAS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT TRY TO HIDE THEIR PROBLEMS, OR DECEIVE THEMSELVES ABOUT THE NATURE OF THESE PROBLEMS THAT THEY HAD AGAIN AND AGAIN OVERCOME ADVERSITY.

"HONG KONG PEOPLE ARE INTENSELY PRACTICAL AND PRAGMATIC. SHOW THEM A PROBLEM; THEY WILL FIND A SOLUTION," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT SOME 100 NEWS AGENCIES, NEWSPAPERS WHOSE COVERAGE AND READERSHIP WERE BOTH INTERNATIONAL, AS WELL AS OVERSEAS BROADCASTING CORPORATIONS HAD OFFICES IN HONG KONG.

MANY REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS WERE BASED HERE AND LOCALLY, LITERACY WAS UNIVERSAL AND THE DESIRE FOR NEWS APPARENTLY INSATIABLE, HE SAID.

"OUR POPULATION ARE SERVED BY MORE THAN 60 DAILY NEWSPAPERS AND NEARLY 600 PERIODICALS CATERING FOR A WIDE RANGE OF SPECIALIST INTERESTS FROM THE EQUINE TO THE EPICUREAN," HE ADDED.

AS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, SIR DAVID NOTED THAT HONG KONG HAD DEVELOPED, THROUGH A PROCESS OF CONTINUOUS INVESTMENT AND RENEWAL, A SOPHISTICATED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED PRINTING INDUSTRY.

HE SAID THAT HONG KONG WITH ONLY 5.7 MILLION PEOPLE HAD ASSEMBLED NEARLY 4,000 PRINTING ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING MORE THAN 36,000 PEOPLE AND SERVED THE MORE THAN 200 PUBLISHING HOUSES OPERATING HERE.

"USE OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FORM OF COMPUTERISED EQUIPMENT, HAS FACILITATED A HIGH DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION WHICH HAS, IN TURN, ATTRACTED SUPPLIERS OF SPECIALIST PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO SET UP HERE," SIR DAVID SAID.

AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE VERSATILITY AVAILABLE TO PUBLISHERS, HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG OFFERED OVER 200 SYSTEMS FOR DATA AND WORD PROCESSING, INCLUDING AN INCREASING NUMBER THAT WERE PROCESSING IN THE CHINESE LANGUAGE.

/"SMALL WONDER

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"SMALL WONDER THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF OUR PRINTING INDUSTRY HAS CONTINUED TO GROW STEADILY IN RECENT YEARS, AND ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR QUALITY, QUICK AND RELIABLE DELIVERY AND COMPETITIVE PRICES," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG HAD A HIGHLY EDUCATED WORKFORCE IN A COMMUNITY WHERE ENGLISH WAS WIDELY USED.

"THERE COULD HARDLY BE A BETTER BASIS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP.

"TO BORROW AN ANALOGY FROM AGRICULTURE, WE HAVE THE RIGHT SOIL AND THE RIGHT PLANTS. BUT WE ALSO HAVE MORE - THE RIGHT CLIMATE.

"THE FREE, UNOBSTRUCTED AND UNCENSORED FLOW OF INFORMATION ON EVERY SUBJECT UNDER THE SUN - ECONOMIC, SOCIOLOGICAL, GEO-POLITICAL - THAT MIGHT HAVE A BEARING ON THE WORLD SCENE IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL IF A PUBLISHER IS TO ESTABLISH A BASE OF OPERATIONS WITH CONFIDENCE," SIR DAVID SAID.

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HK OFFERS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL BUSINESS

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GIVEN THE ECONOMIC DYNAMISM OF HONG KONG AND OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION IN GENERAL, THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL BUSINESS IN HONG KONG, THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS, MR DAVID NENDICK, SAID THIS (TUESDAY) AFTERNOON.

SPEAKING AT THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, MR NENDICK SAID THAT AS ECONOMIES IN THE REGION DEVELOPED, THERE WOULD BE AN INCREASING NEED TO RAISE FUNDS, PARTICULARLY FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

HE NOTED THAT IN THE 1990S, HONG KONG WAS EMBARKING ON A MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME WHICH INCLUDED, MOST NOTABLY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT AND TWO ADDITIONAL TERMINALS TO THE CONTAINER PORT.

"THESE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INITIATIVES WILL NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ACTIVITY IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS," HE SAID.

TALKING ABOUT THE LONGER TERM EXPANSION POTENTIAL OF THE CAPITAL MARKETS IN THE REGION, HE ANTICIPATED A GROWING DEMAND BY INVESTORS AND BORROWERS FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED FINANCIAL SERVICES SUCH AS INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATE SWAPS.

"MOREOVER, SOME ECONOMIES, FOR INSTANCE TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA, ARE GRADUALLY SHIFTING THE EMPHASIS OF MONETARY MANAGEMENT FROM DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS TO INDIRECT MACROECONOMIC CONTROLS.

/"THE NEED

"THE NEED FOR A WELL-ESTABLISHED MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKET FOR CARRYING OUT MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS HAS BEEN RECOGNISED; AND EFFORTS ARE BEING DIRECTED TO REMOVING UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRATIC IMPEDIMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE MARKETS," HE SAID.

TURNING TO STOCK MARKETS, MR NENDICK POINTED OUT THAT THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE STOCK MARKETS OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC REGION APPEARED TO BE RELATED TO SEVERAL FACTORS.

FIRST, WITH THE STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HIGH SAVINGS RATIOS, THERE WERE INCREASING POOLS OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT IN STOCK AND SHARES.

THIS WAS PARTICULARLY THE CASE IN ECONOMIES WHERE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES OUTSIDE THE STOCK MARKET WERE RATHER LIMITED.

"SECONDLY, THERE IS THE GLOBAL TREND TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF FINANCIAL MARKETS. INVESTORS' HORIZONS HAVE WIDENED BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES," HE SAID.

IN THE SEARCH FOR HIGH RETURNS AND DIVERSIFIED RISKS, INVESTORS WORLDWIDE HAD INCREASED THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC FINANCIAL MARKETS, HE NOTED.

"THIS HAS BEEN MADE EASIER BY THE RECENT MOVES TOWARDS LIBERALISATION OF FOREIGN ACCESS TO DOMESTIC MARKETS BY SOME ASIAN PACIFIC ECONOMIES," HE ADDED.

HE BELIEVED THAT THESE TRENDS WOULD HAVE EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IN THE 1990S.

"APART FROM ALLOWING MORE LIBERAL FOREIGN ACCESS, A NUMBER OF STOCK MARKETS IN THE REGION ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THEIR EFFICIENCY BY SETTING UP CENTRALISED DEPOSITORY AND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS," HE SAID.

MR NENDICK SAID SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE IN PLACE IN HONG KONG BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR.

ON THE REGULATORY SIDE, INCREASING ATTENTION WAS BEING FOCUSED ON ENSURING THAT THERE WAS ADEQUATE MARKET INTEGRITY TO SATISFY INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF DISCLOSURE OF ADEQUATE INFORMATION AND THE DETERRENCE OF INSIDER TRADING, HE ADDED.

MR NENDICK NOTED THAT ECONOMIES OF THE REGION HAD IN THE PAST DIFFERED SIGNIFICANTLY IN THEIR FINANCIAL POLICIES.

"IN HONG KONG, WE HAVE FOR LONG STRICTLY ADHERED TO A FREE MARKET PHILOSOPHY.

"OUR REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IS MAINTAINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENSURING MARKET INTEGRITY AND FOR PROVIDING A DEGREE OF PROTECTION TO NON-PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARKETS.

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"IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT BUSINESSMEN KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR THEMSELVES AND THAT EXCESSIVE BUREAUCRACY IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

"FURTHERMORE WE HAVE SEEN NO REASON FOR PROTECTING LOCAL ENTITIES FROM EXTERNAL COMPETITION.

"THIS APPROACH HAS WORKED WELL. OVER THE LAST DECADE THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR HAS DEVELOPED INTO A MAJOR SOURCE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES," HE SAID.

WHILE MARKET DEVELOPMENTS HAD PROVIDED THE MAIN IMPETUS FOR THE UPSURGE IN FINANCIAL BUSINESS, FINANCIAL DEREGULATION HAD REINFORCED THIS TREND, MR NENDICK SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STARTING IN THE EARLY 1980S, JAPAN HAD EMBARKED ON A MAJOR PROGRAMME TO LIBERALISE ITS FINANCIAL SECTOR AND MORE RECENTLY, SIMILAR EFFORTS HAD BEEN MADE BY SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN.

"FINANCIAL DEREGULATION HAS PRIMARILY CONSISTED OF THE RELAXATIONS IN THE CONTROL OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS, OF INTEREST RATE DETERMINATION AND OF FOREIGN ACCESS TO DOMESTIC FINANCIAL MARKETS.

"THESE CHANGES ARE NOW HAVING PROFOUND EFFECTS ON FINANCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE REGION," HE SAID

IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE IN VARIOUS FINANCIAL MARKETS OF THE REGION, MR NENDICK SAID THE EXPANSION OF BANKING SYSTEMS WAS A MAJOR ONE.

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY MARKED IN THE CASE OF JAPAN, HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE.

"IN THE LAST TWO CASES THIS HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF THE ENTRY INTO THE MARKET OF FOREIGN OWNED BANKS BUT IN THE FIRST THE GROWTH HAS MAINLY BEEN IN THE BUSINESS OF THE LOCALLY OWNED BANKS.

MR NENDICK SAID EXPERIENCE IN THE REGION SUGGESTED THAT ESTABLISHED FINANCIAL CENTRES COMPLEMENTED EACH OTHER RATHER THAN COMPETED FOR THE SAME BUSINESS.

HE EXPLAINED THAT WHEN THE JAPAN OFFSHORE MARKET WAS ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER 1986, THERE WERE SOME INITIAL WORRIES THAT THIS MARKET MIGHT ATTRACT FINANCIAL BUSINESS AWAY FROM OTHER ASIAN CENTRES LIKE HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE.

"BUT EXPERIENCE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS SUGGESTS IN FACT THAT THE REVERSE HAS HAPPENED," HE SAID.

AS JAPANESE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS HAD TURNED MORE TO INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS THEY HAD EXPANDED THEIR ACTIVITY OVERSEAS AS WELL AS AT HOME AND THE OTHER MARKETS IN THE REGION HAD BENEFITTED FROM THIS TREND.

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"IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN CENTRES WHOSE FINANCIAL BUSINESS DIMINISHED AFTER THE SETTING UP OF THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL BANKING FACILITIES.

"BUT A CRUCIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ASIAN AND THE CARIBBEAN CENTRES IS THAT THE FORMER ARE NOT MERELY BOOKING CENTRES. THEY ARE CENTRES OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY.

"THIS EXPERIENCE CLEARLY REFUTES THE ALLEGATION THAT THERE IS ONLY ROOM FOR ONE MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE IN EACH TIME ZONE," HE STRESSED.

REFERRING TO THE ON-GOING DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER IT WAS HONG KONG OR SINGAPORE WHICH WOULD LOSE OUT TO THE OTHER IN THE LONGER TERM, MR NENDICK SAID HE REMAINED TO BE CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS A LIKELY SCENARIO.

"I BELIEVE THAT BOTH CENTRES WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER SERVICES OF VALUE TO INTERNATIONAL BANKS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT MORE THAN HALF OF THE WORLD'S TOP 100 BANKS ALREADY HAD A PRESENCE IN BOTH CENTRES.

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PADS PROJECT OUTLINED IN PARIS

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THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR GRAHAM BARNES, YESTERDAY (MONDAY) OUTLINED THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (PADS) PROJECT TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF FRENCH FOREIGN TRADE ADVISERS IN PARIS.

HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT AFTER TOKYO'S NARITA, HONG KONG'S KAI TAK WAS THE BUSIEST AIRPORT IN ASIA.

THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE WORLDWIDE INCREASE IN AIR TRAVEL, PARTLY BECAUSE HONG KONG'S INCREASED FUNCTION AS A COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE STIMULATED MORE AIR TRAVEL, BUT ESPECIALLY BECAUSE HONG KONG WAS THE GATEWAY INTO AN INCREASINGLY OPEN CHINA.

"BETWEEN 1987 AND 1988 AIR TRAFFIC ROSE 21 PER CENT TO REACH 15.3 MILLION PASSENGERS. IT IS FORECAST TO RISE TO 47 MILLION PASSENGERS BY 2010. AIR CARGO TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO JUMP FROM 0.7 MILLION TONNES IN 1988 TO 2.6 MILLION TONNES IN 2010," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID THAT HONG KONG'S PORT HANDLED 81.3 MILLION TONNES OF CARGO IN 1988, AND 85.4 MILLION TONNES IN 1989.

THE TOTAL VOLUME OF TRAFFIC WOULD GO UP TO ABOUT 450 MILLION TONNES IN 2011.

MR BARNES SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD IN MARCH 1988 COMMISSIONED A JOINT DEVELOPMENT STUDY, THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES BEING TO DEVELOP A PORT AND AIRPORT WHICH COULD SHARE INFRASTRUCTURE, ESPECIALLY ROADS AND SEA-CROSSINGS.

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HE SHOWED SLIDES TO ILLUSTRATE THE DEVELOPMENT, AND TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE SIX BRIDGES AND UNDERSEA TUNNELS IN THE FIRST STAGE AND SOME 70 KILOMETRES OF ROADS AND RAILWAY.

MR BARNES ALSO OUTLINED THE "METROPLAN", AND EMPHASISED THAT SPECIAL ATTENTION WOULD BE PAID TO THE POSSIBILITY OF GREATER USE OF UNDERGROUND CAVERNS WHICH WERE A NEW, BUT VERY PROMISING, DEVELOPMENT OPTION IN HONG KONG.

"WE HAVE ALSO PAID FAR GREATER ATTENTION TO CONSERVATION OF OUR URBAN LANDSCAPE," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID NATURE AND HUMAN ENDEAVOURS HAD SECURED FOR HONG KONG A PLACE IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION THAT FEW COULD RIVAL.

"WITH THE VERY GOOD PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH IN THIS REGION AND AS ECONOMIES BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE INTERDEPENDENT AND POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL BARRIERS BETWEEN COUNTRIES CRUMBLE; THERE IS GREATER SCOPE THAN EVER FOR HONG KONG TO PLAY ITS PART ON THE WORLD STAGE," HE SAID.

"THE MANY PLANS FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATE A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND A DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THE HONG KONG PEOPLE CAN BUILD A BRIGHT TOMORROW," MR BARNES ADDED.

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PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY RELEASED

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THE PERFORMANCE OF HONG KONG'S EXTERNAL TRADE IMPROVED IN MAY 1990, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

HAVING DECLINED FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS SHOWED A MODERATE INCREASE IN MAY 1990 OVER A YEAR EARLIER. MOREOVER, THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS RECORDED SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH.

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ALSO GREW SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE SAME PERIOD, REFLECTING IN PART THE INCREASE IN RETAINED IMPORTS.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN MAY 1990 WAS \$18,826 MILLION, \$1,131 MILLION OR 6.4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MAY 1989, WHILE THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY \$6,879 MILLION OR 24.6 PER CENT TO \$34,892 MILLION.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS PLUS RE-EXPORTS), AT \$53,718 MILLION IN MAY 1990, WAS THUS \$8,010 MILLION OR 17.5 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MAY 1989.

/THE VALUE

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS GREW BY \$7,872 MILLION OR 16.2 PER CENT OVER A YEAR EARLIER, TO \$56,491 MILLION IN MAY 1990.

AS THE VALUE OF IMPORTS WAS LARGER THAN THAT OF TOTAL EXPORTS, A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$2,773 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 4.9 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN MAY 1990. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$2,911 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 6.0 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN MAY 1989.

PUTTING THESE FIGURES IN PERSPECTIVE, THE VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS FOR THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1990 WAS \$230,594 MILLION, MADE UP OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF \$81,693 MILLION AND RE-EXPORTS OF \$148,901 MILLION.

COMPARED WITH THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1989, TOTAL EXPORTS GREW BY \$16,282 MILLION OR 7.6 PER CENT IN VALUE TERMS, WITH DOMESTIC EXPORTS FALLING BY \$1,409 MILLION OR 1.7 PER CENT AND RE-EXPORTS RISING BY \$17,691 MILLION OR 13.5 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY \$13,243 MILLION OR 5.8 PER CENT, TO \$239,812 MILLION.

A VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT OF \$9,218 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 3.8 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, WAS RECORDED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 1990. THIS COMPARES WITH A DEFICIT OF \$12,257 MILLION, EQUIVALENT TO 5.4 PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF IMPORTS, RECORDED IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989.

COMMENTING ON THESE FIGURES, A GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, DOMESTIC EXPORTS REVIVED TO POSITIVE GROWTH IN MAY 1990.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GROWTH RATE OF RE-EXPORTS ALSO PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY, WITH A LARGE PART OF THIS INCREASE BEING ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE STRONG GROWTH IN RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN.

THIS IMPROVED EXPORT PERFORMANCE WAS ENCOURAGING, BUT MORE DATA WERE NEEDED FOR IDENTIFYING ANY CLEAR TREND. AS REGARDS RETAINED IMPORTS, THERE WAS ALSO A SIGNIFICANT REBOUND IN THE GROWTH RATE IN MAY.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE PRESENTS THE PROVISIONAL TRADE FIGURES FOR MAY 1990.

MERCHANDISE:	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	:	\$18,826 MILLION	
	RE-EXPORTS	:	\$34,892 MILLION	
	TOTAL EXPORTS	:	\$53,718 MILLION	
	IMPORTS	:	\$56,491 MILLION	
	TRADE BALANCE	:	\$2,773 MILLION	[IN DEFICIT]

COMPARATIVE FIGURES

LATEST 3 MONTHS	MAR 90 TO	MAR 89 TO	INCREASE	
	MAY 90	MAY 89	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	51,744	51,798	-54	-0.1
RE-EXPORTS	96,495	82,571	13,924	16.9
TOTAL EXPORTS	148,239	134,369	13,870	10.3
IMPORTS	158,248	144,963	13,285	9.2
TRADE BALANCE	-10,009	-10,594	585	
SAME MONTH LAST YEAR	MAY	MAY	INCREASE	
	1990	1989	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,826	17,695	1,131	6.4
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.0%)	(38.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	34,892	28,013	6,879	24.6
TOTAL EXPORTS	53,718	45,708	8,010	17.5
IMPORTS	56,491	48,619	7,872	16.2
TRADE BALANCE	-2,773	-2,911	138	
LAST MONTH	MAY	APRIL	INCREASE	
	1990	1990	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	18,826	16,407	2,419	14.7
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.0%)	(34.7%)		
RE-EXPORTS	34,892	30,860	4,032	13.1
TOTAL EXPORTS	53,718	47,267	6,451	13.6
IMPORTS	56,491	50,640	5,851	11.6
TRADE BALANCE	-2,773	-3,373	600	
CALENDAR YEAR-TO-DATE	JAN-MAY	JAN-MAY	INCREASE	
	1990	1989	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	81,693	83,102	-1,409	-1.7
(% OF TOTAL EXPORTS)	(35.4%)	(38.8%)		
RE-EXPORTS	148,901	131,210	17,691	13.5
TOTAL EXPORTS	230,594	214,312	16,282	7.6
IMPORTS	239,812	226,569	13,243	5.8
TRADE BALANCE	-9,218	-12,257	3,039	
LAST 12 MONTHS	JUN 89 TO	JUN 88 TO	INCREASE	
	MAY 90	MAY 89	HK\$ MN.	%
	HK\$ MN.	HK\$ MN.		
DOMESTIC EXPORTS	222,694	223,267	-573	-0.3
RE-EXPORTS	364,097	311,659	52,438	16.8
TOTAL EXPORTS	586,791	534,926	51,865	9.7
IMPORTS	576,024	546,862	29,162	5.3
TRADE BALANCE	10,767	-11,936	22,703	

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY PUBLISHED

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THE CPI(A) (OCT. 84 - SEP. 85 = 100) FOR MAY 1990, AT 140.3, WAS 9.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MAY 1989, ACCORDING TO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR MAY 1990 PUBLISHED BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY).

THIS WAS LOWER THAN THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE OF 10.0 PER CENT IN MARCH AND 9.4 PER CENT IN APRIL.

THE CPI(B) FOR MAY 1990, AT 140.1, WAS ALSO 9.3 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN MAY LAST YEAR. THE CORRESPONDING RATES OF INCREASE IN MARCH AND APRIL WERE 9.6 PER CENT AND 9.3 PER CENT.

FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY TO MAY 1990, THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) INCREASED BY 9.4 PER CENT AND 9.2 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY OVER THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF 1989.

ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR COMPARISON, THE FASTER RATES OF INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) IN MAY 1990 WERE RECORDED IN THE INDEXES FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION), TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES, SERVICES AND FOODSTUFFS AT 18.3 PER CENT, 14.5 PER CENT, 13.9 PER CENT AND 9.3 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES FOR THE SAME COMPONENTS IN THE CPI(B) WERE 18.1 PER CENT, 14.6 PER CENT, 13.5 PER CENT AND 9.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

THESE FOUR COMPONENTS TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR NEARLY FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE OVERALL INCREASE IN THE CPI(A) AND ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF THE INCREASE IN THE CPI(B).

COMPARING MAY 1990 WITH APRIL 1990, THE CPI(A) INCREASED BY 0.7 PER CENT AND THE CPI(B), BY 0.9 PER CENT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES, HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS AND INCREASES IN MTR, KCR AND URBAN TAXI FARES.

THE AVERAGE CPI(A) AND AVERAGE CPI(B) FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MAY 1990, AT 134.3 AND 133.8 RESPECTIVELY, WERE 9.8 PER CENT AND 9.6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED MAY 1989.

DURING THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED MAY 1990, THE SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CPI(A) AND CPI(B) BOTH INCREASED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF 1.0 PER CENT PER MONTH.

THE CPI(A) AND THE CPI(B) ARE BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERNS OF 50 PER CENT AND 30 PER CENT, RESPECTIVELY, OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG, WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY. THE CPI(A) REFERS TO HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING BETWEEN \$2,000 AND \$6,499 A MONTH AT THAT TIME AND THE CPI(B) BETWEEN \$6,500 AND \$9,999 A MONTH.

CHANGES IN THE INDEXES FOR MAY 1990 IN RESPECT OF THE NINE COMMODITY/SERVICE SECTIONS IN THE TWO CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, AS COMPARED WITH APRIL 1990 AND MAY 1989, ARE GIVEN BELOW.

/(OCTOBER 1984

(OCTOBER 1984 TO SEPTEMBER 1985 AVERAGE = 100)
CPI(A) CPI(B)

SECTION	INDEX FOR MAY 90	% CHANGE OVER APR. 90	% CHANGE OVER MAY 89	INDEX FOR MAY 90	% CHANGE OVER APR. 90	% CHANGE OVER MAY 89
FOODSTUFFS	141.7	+0.3	+9.3	143.6	+0.5	+9.9
HOUSING	130.1	+1.2	+7.6	124.9	+1.4	+7.3
FUEL AND LIGHT	104.0	-0.1	+8.6	104.2	-0.1	+8.3
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND TOBACCO (FOR HOME CONSUMPTION)	157.3	+0.3	+18.3	158.2	+0.4	+18.1
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	147.1	+1.3	+7.0	150.4	+1.3	+7.0
DURABLE GOODS	125.1	+0.9	+2.2	124.2	+0.8	+2.1
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS	137.1	+0.2	+4.1	137.5	+0.1	+4.6
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	153.6	+3.0	+14.5	152.7	+3.3	+14.6
SERVICES	156.5	+0.9	+13.9	156.6	+1.0	+13.5
ALL ITEMS	140.3	+0.7	+9.3	140.1	+0.9	+9.3

COMPARING MAY 1990 WITH APRIL 1990, THE INDEX FOR FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 0.3 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.5 PER CENT IN CPI(B). THIS WAS MAINLY DUE TO INCREASES IN THE CHARGES FOR MEALS IN RESTAURANTS AND OTHER EATING PLACES AND IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH FRUIT AND LIVE POULTRY, WHICH MORE THAN OFFSET THE DECREASES IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FRESH VEGETABLES.

THE INDEX FOR HOUSING INCREASED BY 1.2 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.4 PER CENT IN CPI(B) DUE TO HIGHER RENTS FOR SOME PRIVATE HOUSING UNITS.

THE INDEX FOR CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INCREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT IN BOTH CPI(A) AND CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER PRICES OF SUMMER OUTERCLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.

THE INDEX FOR DURABLE GOODS INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 0.8 PER CENT IN CPI(B), REFLECTING INCREASES IN THE PRICES OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, WATCHES AND OPTICAL GOODS.

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THE INDEX FOR TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES INCREASED BY 3.0 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 3.3 PER CENT IN CPI(B) BECAUSE OF HIGHER MTR, KCR AND UFBAN TAXI FARES.

THE INDEX FOR SERVICES INCREASED BY 0.9 PER CENT IN CPI(A) AND BY 1.0 PER CENT IN CPI(B) AS A RESULT OF HIGHER CHARGES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND FUNERAL SERVICES AS WELL AS HIGHER SUBSCRIPTION FEES OF ASSOCIATIONS AND CLUBS.

FIGURES HEREIN REFER TO CPI SERIES NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. ALL PERCENTAGE CHANGES ARE DERIVED FROM CPI FIGURES TAKEN TO MORE THAN ONE DECIMAL PLACE.

MORE DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE "CONSUMER PRICE INDEX REPORT" FOR MAY 1990, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT \$5 PER COPY FROM THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GPO BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; OR FROM THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER 1, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI; OR FROM THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL FOR LOCAL AND OVERSEAS MAILINGS.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE INDEXES, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON 823 5089.

THE HANG SENG CPI WAS 149.6 IN MAY 1990, UP BY 1.5 PER CENT OVER APRIL 1990 AND BY 11.1 PER CENT OVER MAY 1989.

THE HANG SENG CPI IS BASED ON THE EXPENDITURE PATTERN OF THE 10 PER CENT OF URBAN HOUSEHOLDS IN HONG KONG THAT SPENT \$10,000-24,999 A MONTH DURING THE 1984/85 HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEY.

FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THIS INDEX ARE INCLUDED IN THE HANG SENG CPI REPORT ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF HANG SENG BANK LTD.

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JUNE 1990 SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STARTED
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THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED TO CONDUCT THE JUNE 1990 ROUND OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL IN RESPECT OF THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1990.

THIS SURVEY IS CONDUCTED QUARTERLY AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE USEFUL IN PROVIDING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC INDICATORS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKET IN HONG KONG.

/THE ROUND

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THIS ROUND OF THE SURVEY COVERS ABOUT 100,000 ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE DRAWN FROM VARIOUS SECTORS INCLUDING THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR (MINING AND QUARRYING; MANUFACTURING; ELECTRICITY AND GAS), THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES SECTOR (WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS) AND THE SERVICES SECTOR (TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION; FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES; COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES).

INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED AND EXISTING VACANCIES ON JUNE 29 THIS YEAR WILL BE SOUGHT FROM EACH SELECTED ESTABLISHMENT.

SOME 10,000 ESTABLISHMENTS ARE RANDOMLY SELECTED FROM THIS SAMPLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PAYROLL IN EACH OF THE THREE MONTHS DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD OF APRIL TO JUNE 1990.

QUESTIONNAIRES ARE BEING MAILED TO INDIVIDUAL SAMPLE ESTABLISHMENTS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS ORDER 1982 GAZETTED ON MARCH 5, 1982, ESTABLISHMENTS RECEIVING QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED PERIOD.

SHOULD RESPONDENTS FIND DIFFICULTIES IN COMPLETING THE FORMS, THEY ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE ON TEL. 823 5076.

AS FOR THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS KNOWN TO THIS DEPARTMENT DURING APRIL TO JUNE 1990, THEY WILL ALSO BE ENUMERATED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE SURVEY RESULTS COMPLETE.

FIELD OFFICERS OF THIS DEPARTMENT, EACH BEARING A GOVERNMENT IDENTITY CARD, WILL CALL ON THESE ESTABLISHMENTS TO SOLICIT INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF PERSONS ENGAGED, EXISTING VACANCIES, TYPE OF OWNERSHIP, NATURE OF BUSINESS AND DATE ON WHICH BUSINESS COMMENCED.

ANY ENQUIRIES REGARDING THESE FIELD VISITS CAN BE MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 823 4770.

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EXCO APPROVES NEW HOUSING PACKAGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS
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THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A NEW HOUSING PACKAGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHICH, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE NEW PACKAGE WAS AIMED AT MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES, ENCOURAGING HOME OWNERSHIP AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS AND MODERNISING THE EXISTING RANGE OF HOUSING BENEFITS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

/"IT WILL

"IT WILL HELP ACHIEVE ECONOMIES IN THE LONG-TERM BY REDUCING THE EXPENDITURE ON THE PROVISION OF NON-DEPARTMENTAL QUARTERS (NDQ) AND PRIVATE TENANCY ALLOWANCE (PTA), AS WELL AS FREEING EXISTING QUARTERS SITES FOR DISPOSAL AND/OR REDEVELOPMENT," HE SAID.

DEPENDING ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS SUCH AS THE TAKE-UP RATE OF THE NEW HOME FINANCING SCHEME, MOVEMENTS OF PROPERTY PRICES AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES, SAVINGS IN THE REGION OF \$3 BILLION MAY WELL BE ACHIEVED OVER A 20-YEAR PERIOD CALCULATED AT PRESENT VALUE. BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO PUT AN ACCURATE FIGURE ON THIS AS MANY UNKNOWNNS ARE INVOLVED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT NEW HOUSING PACKAGE MAINLY COMPRISED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING HOME PURCHASE SCHEME (HPS), A NEW HOME FINANCING SCHEME (HFS) AND A NEW ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE.

"THE EXISTING HOME PURCHASE SCHEME FOR OFFICERS ON MASTER PAY SCALE (MPS) 25-33 OR EQUIVALENT AND FOR OFFICERS ON MPS 1-24 OR EQUIVALENT WITH 20 YEARS' SERVICE, WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED, BUT WILL BE EXTENDED TO COVER MODEL SCALE 1 OFFICERS WITH 20 YEARS' SERVICE AND ALSO TO OFFICERS ON MPS 22 TO 24 OR EQUIVALENT WITHOUT SERVICE REQUIREMENT," HE SAID.

"THERE WILL BE A 40 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE HPS RATES, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED SINCE 1981 WHEN THE SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED.

"THE REVISION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE MOVEMENT IN DOMESTIC PROPERTY PRICES SINCE 1981, THE PREVAILING MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE AND GOVERNMENT'S BUDGETARY POSITION.

"THE ANNUAL QUOTA FOR THE SCHEME WILL BE INCREASED BY 400 TO 1,800 PLACES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE OFFICERS. THE ANNUAL QUOTA WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW."

AS TO THE NEW HOME FINANCING SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS WOULD BE OFFERED TO OFFICERS ON MPS 34 AND ABOVE OR EQUIVALENT TO REPLACE THE PROVISION OF NDQ AND PTA.

"THE ALLOWANCE PAYABLE UNDER THE HFS WILL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 10 YEARS," HE SAID.

"EXISTING ELIGIBLE OFFICERS WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO JOIN THE NEW HFS OR TO RETAIN THEIR EXISTING BENEFITS OF PTA/NDQ SUBJECT TO AN OPTION PERIOD.

"THE RATES OF THE HFS ALLOWANCE RANGE FROM \$13,000 FOR OFFICERS ON MPS 34-37 OR EQUIVALENT TO \$36,000 FOR OFFICERS ON DIRECTORATE PAY SCALE D6-D10."

AS TO THE ACCOMMODATION ALLOWANCE, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL POLICY OF REDUCING THE PROVISION OF NDQ AND PTA, NEW OVERSEAS RECRUITS WOULD ONLY BE OFFERED AN ALLOWANCE TO RENT ACCOMMODATION.

"THE RATES OF THE ALLOWANCE RANGE FROM \$13,000 FOR OFFICERS BELOW MPS 34 OR EQUIVALENT TO \$36,000 FOR OFFICERS ON D6-D10."

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THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW HOUSING PACKAGE WAS BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A GOVERNMENT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR IN A CONSULTATIVE PAPER.

"VIEWS OF STAFF WERE COLLECTED AFTER A TWO-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD AND THE PROPOSED PACKAGE WAS MODIFIED AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS EXPRESSED BY STAFF," HE SAID.

"BETWEEN MARCH TO MAY THIS YEAR, THE ADVISORY BODIES ON CIVIL SERVICES SALARIES AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE WERE CONSULTED ON THE MODIFIED HOUSING PACKAGE."

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR THE NEW HOUSING PACKAGE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, A CIRCULAR SETTING OUT DETAILS OF THE PACKAGE WOULD BE CIRCULATED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS' INFORMATION.

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CONSULTANCY CONTRACT FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME AWARDED

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A \$200 MILLION CONSULTANCY CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BY THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR K.T. KUO, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF A JOINT VENTURE OF FOUR OVERSEAS CONSULTANT FIRMS OPERATING LOCALLY.

THE CONTRACT, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN STAGES WITHIN 30 MONTHS, WILL BE FOR THE EXTENSIVE SITE INVESTIGATION AND DETAILED STUDIES TO ESTABLISH THE ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS OF THE WHOLE STRATEGIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME AS WELL AS TO CARRY OUT PRELIMINARY DESIGN.

THE SCHEME WAS THE MAIN CONCLUSION OF THE SEWAGE STRATEGY STUDY ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT A COMBINATION OF LAND-BASED SEWAGE TREATMENT WITH THE NATURAL PURIFYING ABILITIES OF THE OCEAN WAS THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY EFFECTIVE LONG-TERM STRATEGY ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL IN THE TERRITORY.

WITH A TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF \$6,870 MILLION, THE SCHEME WILL REQUIRE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STRATEGY NETWORK OF DEEP TUNNELS TO COLLECT ALL SEWAGE IN THE URBAN AREA AND CONVEY IT TO THREE CENTRALISED SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS PROPOSED AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND, MOUNT DAVIS AND ABERDEEN.

THE TREATED SEWAGE WILL BE DISCHARGED INTO THE HARBOUR TEMPORARILY IN THE INITIAL STAGE BUT WILL ULTIMATELY BE CONVEYED TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA VIA A DEEP TUNNEL AND SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

/THE SCHEME

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THE SCHEME, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START WORK EARLY NEXT YEAR AND BE COMPLETED BY MID-1998, WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN FOUR STAGES AS FOLLOWS:

STAGE I - KOWLOON SYSTEM

A DEEP TUNNEL SYSTEM OF ABOUT 22 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH AND THREE TO FIVE METRES IN DIAMETER IS PROPOSED TO COLLECT SEWAGE IN KOWLOON, TSUEN WAN, KWAI CHUNG AND THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND. A CHEMICALLY ASSISTED PRIMARY SEWAGE TREATMENT WORK AT STONECUTTERS ISLAND WITH A TEMPORARY OUTFALL WILL BE CONSTRUCTED.

STAGE II - OCEANIC OUTFALL SYSTEM

A DEEP TUNNELLED OUTFALL OF ABOUT 35 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH AND FIVE TO SEVEN METRES IN DIAMETER WILL RUN FROM STONECUTTERS ISLAND AND TERMINATE WITH DEEP OCEANIC DIFFUSERS IN THE LEMA CHANNEL OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.

STAGE III - HONG KONG ISLAND NORTH SYSTEM

A DEEP TUNNEL SYSTEM OF ABOUT 10 KILOMETRES LONG AND THREE METRES IN DIAMETER IS PROPOSED TO COLLECT SEWAGE FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND TO A PROPOSED PRIMARY SEWAGE TREATMENT WORK AT MOUNT DAVIS.

STAGE IV - HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH WEST SYSTEM

THIS CONSISTS OF A SERIES OF LINKS IN TUNNELS OR PIPELINES TO COLLECT SEWAGE FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF HONG KONG ISLAND TO A PROPOSED PRIMARY SEWAGE TREATMENT WORK AT ABERDEEN.

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\$1.7 BILLION FOR REHAB SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOCATED OVER \$1.7 BILLION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES IN THE FISCAL YEAR OF 1990-91.

SPEAKING AT THE REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE (RDCC) MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY), THE COMMISSIONER FOR REHABILITATION, MR ALAN WONG, SAID THE PROVISION REPRESENTED A 17 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE REVISED ESTIMATES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THIS AMOUNT EXCLUDED THE \$560 MILLION PROPOSED FOR THE DISABILITY ALLOWANCE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR AND THE \$30 MILLION PROPOSED FOR LOTTERIES FUND EXPENDITURE ON NEW REHABILITATION PROJECTS AND SERVICES.

"OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT, ABOUT \$213 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR NEW OR IMPROVED REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PROJECTS," MR WONG SAID.

/HE POINTED

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HE POINTED OUT THAT HOSPITAL SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE HAD THE MAJOR SHARE OF THE ALLOCATION.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, RDCC MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A PACKAGE OF POLICY PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF DOMICILIARY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE (DOT) FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN THE COMMUNITY.

THE OBJECTIVE OF DOT SERVICE IS TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL OR SENSORY HANDICAPS, MENTAL ILLNESS OR MENTAL HANDICAPS WHO FACE ADAPTATIONAL PROBLEMS IN THEIR NORMAL DAILY LIVING ACTIVITIES AT HOME OR AT WORK.

RDCC MEMBERS AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING MEDICAL REFERRAL AND FEEDBACK SYSTEMS FOR DOT SERVICE SHOULD BE ENDORSED:

- * SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS SHOULD ESTABLISH THEIR OWN MEDICAL BACK-UP SYSTEMS THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF DOCTORS EMPLOYED BY OR IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEIR OWN ORGANISATIONS IN DOT SERVICES;
- * THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF SPECIALIST BACK-UP IN ITS SPECIALIST CLINICS AND ACCEPT REFERRALS FROM SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS OPERATING DOT SERVICE.

SUCH BACK-UP MAY BE INITIALLY PROVIDED IN THE ORTHOPAEDIC AND GERIATRIC CLINICS OF SOUTH KWAI CHUNG AND QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL SPECIALIST CLINICS, AND EXTENSION OF THE SCHEME TO OTHER SPECIALITIES AND CLINICS MAY BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE; AND

- * THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR ALL DOT SERVICES.

THE PROPOSAL ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT DOT SERVICES CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY TWO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SHOULD BE SUBVENTED SUBJECT TO THEIR AGREEMENT TO COMPLY WITH THE SPECIFIED REQUIREMENTS.

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FACTORY OWNERS URGED TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS

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THE TSUEN WAN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, TODAY (TUESDAY) URGED FACTORY OWNERS IN TSUEN WAN TO COMPLY WITH TIGHTER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS THAT WILL BE IN FORCE SOON.

SPEAKING AFTER A VISIT TO THE CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY FOR INDUSTRY (CETI) AT THE CITY POLYTECHNIC THIS MORNING, MR YOUNG SAID DRAINAGE REMEDIAL WORKS WERE AMONG THE MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY FACTORY OWNERS.

/NOTING THAT

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NOTING THAT TSUEN WAN WOULD BE DECLARED A WATER CONTROL ZONE NEXT YEAR, MR YOUNG REMINDED THE OWNERS TO INSTALL WATER PRE-TREATMENT FACILITIES IN GOOD TIME.

HE SAID MORE THAN 300 FACTORIES IN THE DISTRICT WERE DISCHARGING ABOUT 85,000 CUBIC METRES OF TRADE EFFLUENTS PER DAY, RESULTING IN A SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AS MOST OF THE EFFLUENTS WERE UNTREATED, AND SOME WERE EVEN CORROSIVE OR HARMFUL.

TODAY'S VISIT TO THE CETI WAS ARRANGED BY THE TSUEN WAN INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ITS WORKING GROUP ON POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

LED BY MR YOUNG AND THE DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHAU HOW-CHEN, THE PARTY WAS BRIEFED BY THE MANAGER OF THE CENTRE, MR PETER LIU, AND WAS SHOWN VARIOUS COST-EFFECTIVE AND SPACE-SAVING WAYS TO CONTROL INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION.

THE MEMBERS LATER ATTENDED SEMINARS AND WATCHED VIDEO PRESENTATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF WATER PRE-TREATMENT EQUIPMENT SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO MEET THE ANTI-POLLUTION NEEDS OF LOCAL FACTORY OWNERS.

THEY ALSO LOOKED AT DISPLAYS ON THE SOURCES OF COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLLUTANTS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON WORKERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, PRACTICAL METHODS TO REDUCE THE DISCHARGE OF POLLUTANTS AND METHODS OF RECYCLING AND RE-USING RAW MATERIALS.

MR YOUNG SAID SIMILAR VISITS HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY THE BUILDINGS MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION TEAM FOR LOCAL INDUSTRIALISTS IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND THE RESPONSE WAS QUITE ENCOURAGING. MORE VISITS HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE, HE ADDED.

"WE WOULD LIKE TO STIMULATE A MORE EFFECTIVE SELF-HELP PROCESS AMONG THE FACTORY OWNERS AND IT IS HOPED THAT WITH THE CONCERTED EFFORTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIALISTS, AN OVERALL IMPROVEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED," HE NOTED.

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DB TO DISCUSS UC WORKS PROGRAMME

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THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE URBAN COUNCIL'S FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME AT ITS MEETING ON THURSDAY (JUNE 28).

MEMBERS WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE DISTRICT'S SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME AND THE PROVISION OF A TYPHOON SHELTER AT TO KWA WAN.

/OTHER AGENDA

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE POSTAL SERVICE AND TO ESTABLISH A POLICE AD HOC GROUP AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL ON THE PREVENTION OF JUVENILE CRIME.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY (JUNE 28) IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 KAU PUI LUNG ROAD. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.15 PM.

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DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS TREE PLANTING SCHEME

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD WILL CONSIDER ALLOCATING \$300,000 FOR A PILOT TREE PLANTING SCHEME IN THE DISTRICT AT A MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

UNDER THE SCHEME, ABOUT 40 TREES WILL BE PLANTED BEFORE NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR PLANTING TREES.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE PROPOSALS TO BUILD RAIN SHELTERS AND HANDRAILS AT THE BOWEN ROAD FITNESS TRAIL, NOISE NUISANCE FROM VEHICLE BURGLAR ALARMS AND POLLUTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY STREET SLEEPERS AND CHOKED DRAINAGES.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE WAN CHAI DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, 21ST FLOOR, SOUTHORN CENTRE, 130 HENNESSY ROAD, HONG KONG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 4 PM.

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FINAL CHANCE TO SEE AIDS EXHIBITION
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OVER 40,000 PEOPLE HAVE VISITED THE AIDS MOBILE EXHIBITION HELD IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL ARCADES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES SINCE DECEMBER LAST YEAR.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN THE EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS WILL HAVE A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO FROM THURSDAY (JUNE 28) WHEN THE EXHIBITION IS STAGED AT THE LONG PING COMMUNITY HALL IN YUEN LONG.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FREE OF CHARGE FROM 10 AM TO 5 PM DAILY UNTIL SATURDAY (JUNE 30).

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN STAGED AT 12 OTHER VENUES.

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF AIDS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN AN INTERESTING AND COMPREHENSIVE WAY.

TOPICS INCLUDE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF AIDS, DIFFERENT STAGES IN HIV INFECTION, THE TRANSMISSION OF THE AIDS VIRUS, THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIDS, AND YOUTH COUNSELLING SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

ORGANISED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON AIDS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, THE EXHIBITION AIMS AT ENHANCING COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF AIDS, AND FOSTERING A POSITIVE, SYMPATHETIC AND SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE IN THE COMMUNITY TOWARDS AIDS PATIENTS AND CARRIERS.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO VISITORS WHO WILL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN ATTRACTIVE PRIZES BY ANSWERING A QUIZ DESIGNED TO TEST THEIR KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING AIDS.

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WITHDRAWAL OF NT GMB ROUTE 5K
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), GREEN MINIBUS ROUTE 5K, FAN LENG WAI TO LUEN WO HUI VIA FANLING KCR STATION (CIRCULAR) WILL BE CANCELLED.

PASSENGERS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES ALONG JOCKEY CLUB ROAD.

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TRAFFIC DIVERSION IN KWAI CHUNG
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM NOON TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY), THE SLIP ROAD LINKING THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL BE CLOSED.

VEHICLES ON KWAI CHUNG ROAD NORTHBOUND HEADING FOR CONTAINER PORT ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED TO A NEW SLIP ROAD UNDER TSUEN WAN ROAD LINKING THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF KWAI CHUNG ROAD AND KWAI TAI ROAD, BEFORE PROCEEDING THE REST OF THE JOURNEY.

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TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES ON TAI PO ROAD
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) WILL BE PARTIALLY CLOSED DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- * FROM THURSDAY (JUNE 28) TO SATURDAY (JUNE 30), A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.5 KILOMETRES OF THE INNERMOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) NORTHBOUND SOUTH OF WO HOP SHEK INTERCHANGE.
- * JULY 11 AND 12, A SECTION OF ABOUT 1.4 KILOMETRES OF THE INNERMOST LANE OF TAI PO ROAD (FANLING) SOUTHBOUND SOUTH OF WO HOP SHEK INTERCHANGE.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

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TEMPORARY NIGHT CLOSURE OF ACCESS RAMP IN SHA TIN
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT THE ACCESS RAMP LINKING NORTHBOUND TAI PO ROAD (SHA TIN) AND PENFOLD PARK IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC DAILY FROM 9 PM TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY ON THURSDAY (JUNE 28) TO JULY 2.

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE RESURFACING WORKS ON NORTHBOUND TAI PO ROAD (SHA TIN) NEAR SHA TIN RACE COURSE.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES ON NORTHBOUND TAI PO ROAD (SHA TIN) HEADING FOR PENFOLD PARK WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TOLO HIGHWAY AND MA LIU SHUI INTERCHANGE TO GAIN ACCESS TO PENFOLD PARK.

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