



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

## CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING:

LRT - AN EFFICIENT MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT .....	1
BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED .....	3
BILLS TO DETER NON-PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTY FINES .....	4
BILLS TO EXTEND DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL INTRODUCED .....	4
POLICE MAKE EVERY EFFORT AGAINST ILLEGAL CAR RACING .....	5
APPOINTMENTS BASED ON INDIVIDUALS' MERITS .....	6
BILL EMPOWERS FLAT OWNERS TO DISMISS BUILDING MANAGER .....	6
FULL ALERT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING .....	7
STAFF IN OBSOLETE RANKS WILL BE GIVEN OPTION .....	8
COST OF BANK RESCUES NOT DETERMINED .....	9
REVIEW OF ONE-PERSON AND TWO-PERSON FLATS SUPPLY .....	10
SECURITY SITUATION IN VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRES BEING MONITORED ..	11
HEARING-LOSS COMPENSATION LAW IN THE PIPELINE .....	12
FIVE BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO .....	12
GOVERNOR COMMENDED POST OFFICE WORK .....	13
EXHIBITION ILLUSTRATES DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HK .....	14
LEGCO APPOINTMENT FOR JOHN SWAINE INTENDED .....	15
FINANCIAL POLICIES ENABLE COMMUNITY TO FLOURISH .....	16
STABILITY OF MONETARY SYSTEM VITAL .....	18
KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASE 2 OPENS ON FRIDAY .....	21
EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF YAU MA TEI BUILDING .....	22
OWNERS URGED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST UBW'S .....	22
TWO GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER .....	23
REMINDER ON SUBMISSION OF SALARIES TAX RETURN .....	23
APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS NOW .....	24
CLINIC SERVICES FOR HOLIDAY PERIOD .....	25
BOGUS DONATION PLEAS .....	25
18 INMATES PASS PUBLIC EXAMS .....	26
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS .....	26

LRT - AN EFFICIENT MODE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM (LRT) OFFERS A SAFE, RELIABLE, RELATIVELY POLLUTION-FREE AND EFFICIENT SERVICE AT AN AVERAGE FARE NO HIGHER THAN THAT OF AN EQUIVALENT BUS TRIP, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

SPEAKING IN THE ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE LRT SERVICES IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES, MR LEUNG SAID STATISTICS SINCE 1989 CONSISTENTLY SHOWED THAT THE LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES HAD THE LOWEST ACCIDENT RECORD AMONGST ROAD-BASED VEHICLES IN HONG KONG.

IT HAD ACHIEVED A PUNCTUALITY RATE OF 99 PER CENT.

MR LEUNG SAID AN AVERAGE LRT RIDE AT PRESENT COST \$2.1, AGAINST \$1.5 IN 1988. THIS INCREASE HAD TO BE SEEN AGAINST THE LOW INITIAL FARES CHARGED ON THE SYSTEM.

HE POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG DISTRICT BOARDS WERE CONSULTED IN 1984, THEY SUPPORTED THE LRT PROJECT ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LRT FARES WOULD SLIGHTLY EXCEED THE FARES FOR AN EQUIVALENT BUS TRIP.

THE CURRENT LRT FARES WERE NO HIGHER THAN WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CHARGED BY BUSES. THEY WERE IN FACT LOWER THAN FARES PAYABLE ON PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES SERVING ROUTES OF SIMILAR DISTANCE, MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID CURRENTLY THE LRT CARRIED MORE THAN 250,000 PASSENGERS PER DAY, COMPARED WITH 180,000 IN 1988. OVER 40 PER CENT OF THE PASSENGERS USED MULTI-RIDE PASSES.

WHILST THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE LRT WAS IMPROVING, THERE REMAINED A CONSIDERABLE ELEMENT OF CROSS-SUBSIDY FROM THE HEAVY RAIL. SUCH A POSITION WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOME YEARS, MR LEUNG SAID.

HE SAID UNDER THE CURRENT "TRANSIT SERVICE AREA" (TSA) ARRANGEMENTS, THE LRT BY AND LARGE ENJOYED NO MORE PROTECTION THAN THE FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE PUT IN ITS PLACE.

WITHIN THE TSA, THE LRT ALSO FACED COMPETITION FROM TAXIS AND PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF LRT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SAID THE KCRC HAD INVESTED \$1.2 BILLION IN THE LRT AND WOULD SPEND ANOTHER \$800 MILLION IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS ON EXTENSIONS TO THE SYSTEM AND BUYING MORE LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES.

THREE ADDITIONAL LRT LINKS WITHIN TUEN MUN AND A NEW LINE TO TIN SHUI WAI, ESTIMATED TO COST \$450 MILLION, WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

WHEN COMPLETED IN EARLY 1992, THE TUEN MUN EXTENSIONS WOULD REDUCE THE TRAVELLING TIME OF MANY JOURNEYS, MAKING THE SYSTEM MORE CONVENIENT TO USE.

/HE SAID .....

HE SAID THE LINK TO TIN SHUI WAI WAS DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THE END OF 1992, SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE NEW TOWN'S FIRST POPULATION INTAKE.

NOT COUNTING THE PROPOSED LONG PING LINK, THE ABOVE EXTENSIONS WOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LRT STOPS FROM 41 TO 55, MANY OF WHICH SERVING AREAS WITH GOOD DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, MR LEUNG SAID.

DAILY LRT PATRONAGE WAS FORECAST TO REACH 380,000 TRIPS BY 1995. HE SAID TO MEET INCREASING DEMAND, THE KCRC HAD PLACED ORDERS FOR 30 LIGHT RAIL VEHICLES AT A COST OF ABOUT \$380 MILLION.

THE NEW VEHICLES WOULD HAVE BETTER AIR-CONDITIONING AND IMPROVED SEAT LAYOUT.

APART FROM IMPROVING THE INTERIOR DESIGN OF VEHICLES, THE KCRC HAD IN THE PAST ACTED UPON MANY SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

EXAMPLES INCLUDED THE EXTENSION OF PLATFORMS AT BUSY LRT STOPS; INSTALLATION OF RAIL LUBRICATORS IN NOISE SENSITIVE AREAS; FINE-TUNING OF TRAIN SCHEDULES TO PROVIDE BETTER SERVICE; PROVISION OF MORE USER-FRIENDLY TICKETING MACHINES; AND IMPROVEMENTS TO FEEDER BUS SERVICES, MR LEUNG ADDED.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE KCRC'S EFFORTS IN ENHANCING ITS RELATION WITH CUSTOMERS.

IN ADDITION TO REGULAR SURVEYS ON CUSTOMER SATISFACTION, THE KCRC HAD RECENTLY STARTED TO FORM PASSENGER LIAISON GROUPS. VIEWS COLLECTED THROUGH THE GROUP MEETINGS WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR FURTHER SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE KCRC BOARD COMPRISED MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR FROM A CROSS SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE KCRC ORDINANCE EMPOWERED THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL TO DIRECT THE CORPORATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST.

AN ESTABLISHED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION EXISTED BETWEEN THE OMELCO TRANSPORT PANEL AND THE KCRC.

HE SAID THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND FORWARD PLANS OF THE KCRC WERE SCRUTINISED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

MR LEUNG SAID HE MET WITH THE KCRC CHAIRMAN REGULARLY TO REVIEW PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS AGAINST POLICY OBJECTIVES SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THIS ENSURED THAT THE CORPORATION WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RAIL SERVICES AT REALISTIC FARE LEVELS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS KEPT INFORMED AND CONSULTED ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF RAIL SERVICES, INCLUDING THEIR CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

CROSS MEMBERSHIP BETWEEN THE TAC AND THE KCRC BOARD HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND CO-ORDINATION.

/AT THE .....

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, THE LRT SERVICES WERE MONITORED BY THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF TUEN MUN AND YUEN LONG.

ALL THESE WERE IN ADDITION TO THE CLOSE INTEREST TAKEN BY THE MEDIA AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TOWARDS THE LRT.

THE CURRENT MONITORING SYSTEM WAS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 INTRODUCED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 WILL GIVE THE REGISTRAR OF THE SUPREME COURT ADDITIONAL JURISDICTION TO DEAL WITH SIMPLE, ROUTINE BANKRUPTCY MATTERS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE HON JEREMY MATHEWS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, MR MATHEWS SAID THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE WAS LAST AMENDED IN 1988 TO GIVE THE REGISTRAR AUTHORITY TO HEAR UNOPPOSED BANKRUPTCY PETITIONS.

THE REGISTRAR HAD SINCE TAKEN OVER FROM THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE THE HEARING OF ALL SUCH CASES. AS A RESULT THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE WAS ABLE TO DEVOTE MORE OF HIS TIME TO COMPLEX, CONTESTED BANKRUPTCY CASES.

HE SAID EXPERIENCE SINCE 1988 SHOWED THAT THE REGISTRAR WAS ABLE TO TAKE OVER MORE SIMPLE, ROUTINE BANKRUPTCY CASES FROM THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

THIS WOULD FURTHER IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT BY ALLOWING THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE HEAVIER WORK, HE SAID.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3 OF THE BILL WOULD GIVE THE REGISTRAR POWERS TO HEAR AND DETERMINE IN OPEN COURT APPLICATIONS TO RESCIND RECEIVING ORDERS OR TO ANNUL AN ADJUDICATION OF BANKRUPTCY, APPLICATIONS TO APPROVE COMPOSITIONS OR SCHEMES OF ARRANGEMENTS BY A DEBTOR TO DISCHARGE HIS DEBTS, AND APPLICATIONS FOR ORDERS OF DISCHARGE.

THESE APPLICATIONS WERE MOSTLY UNCONTESTED, AND COULD BE DEALT WITH BY THE REGISTRAR WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

TO ENSURE THAT THE QUALITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED, MR MATHEWS SAID CLAUSE 4 PROPOSED THAT THE REGISTRAR, IN EXERCISING HIS JURISDICTION, MIGHT REFER ANY MATTER TO THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGE.

THE AMENDMENTS HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

DEBATE ON THE BILL WAS ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 4 -

BILLS TO DETER NON-PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTY FINES  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, THE HON MICHAEL LEUNG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) INTRODUCED TWO BILLS INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AIMED AT DETERRING NON-PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTY FINES.

MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, MR LEUNG SAID ITS MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO DETER THE OWNERS OF VEHICLE FLEETS FROM EVADING THE PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTY PARKING FINES.

AT PRESENT A MAGISTRATE MIGHT DIRECT THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT TO WITHHOLD THE TRANSFER OF VEHICLE OWNERSHIP AND THE LICENSING OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ONLY IF THAT VEHICLE WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN OUTSTANDING COURT ORDER FOR NON-PAYMENT OF FIXED PENALTY PARKING FINE.

IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE DETERRENT EFFECT OF THE LEGISLATION, THE BILL SOUGHT TO EXTEND THE MAGISTRATES' POWERS TO INCLUDE ALL MOTOR VEHICLES OWNED BY THE DEFAULTER, MR LEUNG SAID.

IN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE OTHER BILL - THE ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991 - MR LEUNG SAID IT EMPOWERED THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE TO REFUSE THE ISSUE OF A RECORD OF TRAFFIC CONVICTIONS TO AN APPLICANT UNTIL HE HAD PAID ALL OUTSTANDING FIXED PENALTY TRAFFIC FINES AND RELATED COURT COSTS.

DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILLS TO EXTEND DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL INTRODUCED  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991 SEEKS TO EXTEND THE DEFINITION OF "HOSPITAL" IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO COVER PUBLIC HOSPITALS MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE HON ELIZABETH WONG, WHEN MOVING THE SECOND READING OF THE BILL TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MRS WONG EXPLAINED THAT UPON THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY TAKING OVER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, EXISTING GOVERNMENT AND SUBVENTED HOSPITALS WOULD CEASE TO COME WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF "HOSPITAL" IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

SHE SAID THE BILL ENABLED THESE HOSPITALS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE FUNCTIONS SPECIFIED IN THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

/FOR THE .....

- 5 -

FOR THE SAME REASON, TWO BILLS WERE ALSO INTRODUCED TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF "HOSPITAL" IN THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE.

THEY WERE THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

DEBATES ON THE BILLS WERE ADJOURNED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

POLICE MAKE EVERY EFFORT AGAINST ILLEGAL CAR RACING

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POLICE ARE VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY POSED BY ILLEGAL CAR RACING AND EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO PREVENT, DETECT AND STOP SUCH ACTIVITIES, THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON MICHAEL CHENG, MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE HAD ESTABLISHED ANTI-ILLEGAL CAR RACING TEAMS IN KOWLOON, ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

"THESE TEAMS ARE TASKED WITH GATHERING INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND VEHICLES INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL CAR RACING, AND WITH PLANNING AND MOUNTING ROAD BLOCKS AND OTHER RELATED OPERATIONS TO FOIL SUCH ACTIVITIES," HE SAID.

"IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, 31 OPERATIONS WERE MOUNTED AND 346 VEHICLES WERE CHECKED.

"AS A RESULT, 67 VEHICLES WERE DETAINED AND 43 PERSONS WERE PROSECUTED FOR VARIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENCES."

MR ASPREY SAID THE POLICE ALSO CONDUCTED RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY THE MOST APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT TO HELP DETECT AND STOP ILLEGAL RACING ON PUBLIC ROADS.

MEASURES TO PREVENT AND STOP ROAD RACING WERE REVIEWED REGULARLY TO ENSURE THAT THEY WERE UP-TO-DATE, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 6 -

APPOINTMENTS BASED ON INDIVIDUALS' MERITS  
\* \* \* \* \*

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS ARE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE MERITS OF THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON KINGSLEY SIT HO-YIN, MR TSAO SAID THIS WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR PERSONAL ABILITY, EXPERIENCE AND OVERALL SUITABILITY FOR THE APPOINTMENT.

HE ALSO SAID THAT WITH A FEW MINOR EXCEPTIONS, SUCH APPOINTMENTS WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

BILL EMPOWERS FLAT OWNERS TO DISMISS BUILDING MANAGER  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 PROVIDES FOR A MANDATORY TERM TO ENABLE FLAT OWNERS TO TERMINATE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGER OF THEIR BUILDING BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, TOLD THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW, MR TSAO SAID NO MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT MAY, HOWEVER, BE SO TERMINATED BEFORE THE END OF ONE YEAR AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION.

MR TSAO ALSO EXPLAINED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT RIGHTS OVER COMMON PARTS AND THOSE OVER COMMON FACILITIES.

"COMMON PARTS ARE JOINTLY OWNED BY THE FLAT OWNERS, WHO COULD ASSUME CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH PARTS.

"COMMON FACILITIES SUCH AS CARPARKS, COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES AND MARKETS WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO FLAT OWNERS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OWNERS OF SUCH FACILITIES AND BY RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP, THESE OWNERS WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO MANAGE, SINCE IT IS THEIR PROPERTY, NOT THAT OF THE FLAT OWNERS," HE SAID.

MR TSAO STRESSED THAT THE BILL DID PROVIDE THAT FLAT OWNERS SHOULD NOT BE PREVENTED BY A DEED OF MUTUAL COVENANT OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT FROM FORMING AN OWNERS' CORPORATION.

"THE INTENTION IS TO APPLY THE TERM 'ANY OTHER AGREEMENT' TO CASES WHERE SOME CROWN LESSEES ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUILDINGS BY CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN THE LAND GRANT.

/"IN SUCH .....

"IN SUCH CASES, UNDER SECTION 2A OF THE MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS (OWNERS INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, THE FLAT OWNERS CANNOT AT PRESENT INCORPORATE THEMSELVES UNLESS THEY OBTAIN A CERTIFICATE FROM THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO DO OTHERWISE.

"WHETHER, AND IF SO IN WHAT WAY SHOULD SECTION 2A BE AMENDED WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING THE THREE-MONTH CONSULTATION PERIOD WHICH ENDS IN AUGUST," HE ADDED.

----- 0 -----

FULL ALERT ON DRUG TRAFFICKING

\* \* \* \* \*

BOTH THE POLICE AND THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT REMAIN VIGILANT TO ALL FORMS OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN DANGEROUS DRUGS.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON RONALD CHOW.

MR ASPREY SAID ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HAD BEEN ALERTED TO THE ILLICIT TRADE IN "ICE", AND INSTRUCTED IN THE TECHNIQUES FOR DETECTING "ICE".

HE NOTED THAT "ICE", OR CRYSTALLINE METHAMPHETAMINE, COULD BE MANUFACTURED FROM EPHEDRINE OR OTHER SYNTHETIC PRECURSORS.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, ALL SEIZURES OF "ICE" SUGGESTED THAT THE ILLICIT TRADE IN "ICE" THROUGH HONG KONG INVOLVED MAINLY "ICE" FROM CHINA DESTINED FOR OVERSEAS MARKETS, THOUGH A SMALL PROPORTION MIGHT HAVE BEEN RETAINED FOR LOCAL DISTRIBUTION, THE SECRETARY SAID.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE CUSTOMS BORDER INTELLIGENCE NETWORK HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED, AND A CLOSE LIAISON MAINTAINED WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

ON MARCH 13, THE CHINESE CUSTOMS MADE A SEIZURE OF 31.5 KILOGRAMS FROM A LORRY TRAVELLING TOWARDS HONG KONG AND ARRESTED TWO HONG KONG RESIDENTS, MR ASPREY SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HONG KONG SEIZED 5.73 KILOGRAMS OF "ICE" LAST YEAR, AND 21 KILOGRAMS IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS THIS YEAR.

"THIS INCLUDED ON MAY 18 A POLICE SEIZURE OF 20 KILOGRAMS OF 'ICE' ON RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN NORTH POINT.

"THE DRUGS APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RE-CRYSTALLISED ON THE PREMISES AND IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE SYNDICATE IMPORTED METHAMPHETAMINE FROM CHINA IN LIQUID FORM," MR ASPREY SAID.

THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT HAD ALSO SEIZED THIS YEAR ONE KILOGRAM OF "ICE" FROM A PARCEL ADDRESSED TO THE PHILIPPINES, HE ADDED.

/THE SECRETARY .....

THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO PURSUE A COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY PROGRAMME AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

"ONE OF THE TWO THEMES FOR THE PUBLICITY STRATEGY ADOPTED ON THE ADVICE OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO ADOPT A HEALTHY LIFE-STYLE AND SAY 'NO' TO ALL DRUGS.

"THIS IS IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONALLY AGREED GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE 'A HEALTHY DRUG-FREE LIFE-STYLE AS A PRIMARY GOAL'," HE SAID.

"THE COMMUNITY, IN PARTICULAR YOUNG PEOPLE, ARE BEING INFORMED OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF 'ICE' AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISUSING OR ABUSING DRUGS," HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STAFF IN OBSOLETE RANKS WILL BE GIVEN OPTION  
\* \* \* \* \*

IN THE INTEREST OF PHASING OUT THE OBSOLETE RANKS AND PAY SCALES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO GIVE THE STAFF CONCERNED A FURTHER OPTION TO TRANSFER TO THE APPROPRIATE CURRENT RANKS.

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY, THE HON GRAHAM BARNES, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG.

MR BARNES SAID AT PRESENT, A TOTAL OF 620 NON-DIRECTORATE CIVIL SERVANTS WERE IN OBSOLESCENT RANKS AND HOLDING PERSONAL SALARIES.

ABOUT 1,150 STAFF WERE REPORTED TO BE IN CORRESPONDING RANKS IN THE SUBVENTED SECTOR, HE SAID:

THE ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE GENERIC TERM "OBSOLESCENT RANKS" REFERRED TO BOTH RANKS AND PAY SCALES WHICH HAD BEEN MADE OBSOLETE AS A RESULT OF A REVISION OF PAY SCALES, OR THE RE-STRUCTURING, MERGER OR ABOLITION OF GRADES.

"THESE 'RANKS' ONLY EXIST TO ACCOMMODATE OFFICERS WHO HAD SERVED IN THESE RANKS BEFORE THEY WERE DECLARED OBSOLETE AND WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN THEREIN ON A PERSONAL BASIS.

"AS AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE, OBSOLETE PAY SCALES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO ANY STRUCTURAL REVIEW BUT ARE ADJUSTED IN LINE WITH THE ANNUAL CIVIL SERVICE PAY REVISION.

"HENCE, THEY WERE NOT COVERED IN THE 1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW," HE SAID.

/MR BARNES .....

MR BARNES SAID FOLLOWING THE 1989 SALARY STRUCTURE REVIEW, SOME OF THE OBSOLETE RANK SCALES WERE NO LONGER MORE FAVOURABLE THAN THE CURRENT PAY SCALES OF THE CORRESPONDING RANKS.

"THE STAFF CONCERNED THEREFORE FEEL THAT THEY HAVE LOST OUT, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THEM HAVE EXERCISED AN IRREVOCABLE OPTION TO REMAIN IN THE OBSOLESCE RANKS," HE SAID.

MR BARNES SAID NONETHELESS, IN THE INTEREST OF PHASING OUT THE OBSOLETE RANKS AND PAY SCALES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED TO GIVE THE STAFF CONCERNED A FURTHER OPTION TO TRANSFER TO THE APPROPRIATE CURRENT RANKS, ADDING THAT DETAILED CONVERSION ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING WORKED OUT AND WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

SUBVENTED ORGANISATIONS WOULD ALSO BE INFORMED SO THAT THEY MIGHT CONSIDER MAKING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR STAFF, HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

COST OF BANK RESCUES NOT DETERMINED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE NET COST OF RESCUE OF THE HANG LUNG BANK AND THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK IS STILL NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE HON SIR PIERS JACOBS, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON PETER WONG, SIR PIERS SAID IN THE CASE OF THE HANG LUNG BANK, THE GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN CERTAIN INDEMNITIES AND WARRANTIES FOR PRE-GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION LIABILITIES, AS HAD BEEN INDICATED IN HIS REPLY ON JANUARY 10 LAST YEAR.

"THE AMOUNT OF ULTIMATE LIABILITIES ARISING FROM SUCH INDEMNITIES AND WARRANTIES, IF ANY, IS STILL NOT YET KNOWN.

"AS TO THE OVERSEAS TRUST BANK IT HAS YET TO BE RETURNED TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REVIEW OF ONE-PERSON AND TWO-PERSON FLATS SUPPLY

\* \* \* \* \*

A REVIEW OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR ONE-PERSON AND TWO-PERSON FLATS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND THE FINDINGS HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, THE SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, THE HON PETER TSAO, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON HUI YIN-FAT, MR TSAO SAID THE REVIEW HAD IDENTIFIED SHORTFALLS IN SUPPLY FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND PROPOSED A COMBINATION OF OPTIONS TO REDRESS THEM, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF TIMING AND LOCATION.

AS THE POLICY COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAD YET TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW FINDINGS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS, IT WAS THEREFORE TOO EARLY TO SAY WHETHER THE EXISTING HOUSING POLICY FOR SMALL HOUSEHOLDS MIGHT NEED TO BE AMENDED, AND HOW A REVIEW OF SUCH POLICIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED, HE SAID.

MR TSAO SAID THE POLICY COMMITTEES WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THESE ISSUES, ADDING THAT THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE CURRENT SHORTFALLS AND PROBLEMS COULD BE OVERCOME.

THE SECRETARY SAID BETWEEN APRIL 1992 AND MARCH 1995, A TOTAL OF 5,881 FLATS WITH INTERNAL FLOOR AREA OF 10.8 SQUARE METRES TO 25 SQUARE METRES WOULD BE PRODUCED, WHICH WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR ALLOCATION TO ONE-PERSON OR TWO-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS UNDER THE EXISTING ALLOCATION STANDARD.

"IN ADDITION, CASUAL VACANCIES FROM THE EXISTING STOCK IN THE ORDER OF 12,000 UNITS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR ALLOCATION TO THESE SMALL HOUSEHOLDS," HE SAID.

ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE UNITS TO BE COMPLETED DURING THE SAME PERIOD, MR TSAO SAID A TOTAL OF 67,163 NEW FLATS IN 29 ESTATES WOULD BE COMPLETED.

THIS LEVEL OF PRODUCTION, HE SAID, WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY TARGET, WHICH WAS REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED ANNUALLY.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 11 -

SECURITY SITUATION IN VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRES BEING MONITORED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ALL VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRES IS KEPT UNDER CAREFUL REVIEW, AS ARE CONTINGENCY PLANS TO DEAL WITH ANY EMERGENCY THAT MAY ARISE.

THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, THE HON ALISTAIR ASPREY, INFORMED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION FROM THE HON LAU WONG-FAT.

THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE ESCAPE INCIDENT AT THE WHITEHEAD DETENTION CENTRE IN APRIL LAST YEAR HAD CAUSED UNDERSTANDABLE PUBLIC CONCERN OVER SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE DETENTION CENTRES.

"IN RESPONSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS REVIEWED THE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL SECURITY AT ALL THE DETENTION CENTRES, AND SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE," HE SAID.

ON THE IMPROVEMENTS, MR ASPREY SAID: "PERIMETER FENCING HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED, AND THE FREQUENCY OF PERIMETER PATROLS HAS BEEN INCREASED.

"MORE EFFECTIVE RAPID RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED.

"SEARCHES AT ALL VIETNAMESE REFUGEE AND VIETNAMESE DETENTION CENTRES FOR WEAPONS AND ESCAPEES HAVE ALSO BEEN STEPPED UP.

"ESCAPEES AND THOSE FOUND IN POSSESSION OF WEAPONS ARE PROSECUTED."

MR ASPREY POINTED OUT THAT THESE MEASURES HAD BEEN BALANCED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS TO EXPAND WORK AND OTHER PROGRAMMES FOR THOSE IN THE CENTRES, AND TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE VIETNAMESE THEMSELVES IN CAMP MANAGEMENT.

"THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ESCAPES FROM DETENTION CENTRES," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY ADDED THAT SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUS DETERMINATION IN JUNE 1988, A TOTAL OF 2,360 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS HAD ESCAPED FROM DETENTION CENTRES AND 587 WERE STILL MISSING AS AT JUNE 1 THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 12 -

HEARING-LOSS COMPENSATION LAW IN THE PIPELINE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR IS PREPARING THE NECESSARY DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPENSATION SCHEME FOR OCCUPATIONAL NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, THE HON CHRISTINE CHOW, IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

IN A WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION BY THE HON TAM YIU-CHUNG, MISS CHOW SAID THE GOVERNMENT AIMED TO INTRODUCE THE BILL INTO THE COUNCIL IN THE 1991/92 SESSION.

"IT HAS TAKEN US SOME TIME TO FINALISE OUR PROPOSALS BECAUSE THE MEDICAL AND FUNDING ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME ARE COMPLICATED AND REQUIRE CAREFUL STUDY AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES," SHE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FIVE BILLS PASSED IN LEGCO

\* \* \* \* \*

FIVE BILLS WERE PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WERE LAW AMENDMENT AND REFORM (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, ROAD TUNNELS (GOVERNMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

SIX OTHER BILLS WERE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS, AND DEBATES ON THEM WERE ADJOURNED.

THEY WERE BANKRUPTCY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991, FIXED PENALTY (TRAFFIC CONTRAVENTIONS) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) (NO. 4) BILL 1991, EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1991, EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 AND PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991.

MEANWHILE, 10 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, SPOKE IN AN ADJOURNMENT DEBATE ON THE MATTER OF "SERVICES OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES" RAISED BY THE HON TAI CHIN-WAH.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 13 -

GOVERNOR COMMENDED POST OFFICE WORK

\* \* \* \* \*

THE POST OFFICE HAS GROWN WITH HONG KONG IN THE PAST 150 YEARS AND REFLECTS ITS SUCCESS, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION TO COMMEMORATE 150 YEARS OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY, SIR DAVID SAID THE EXHIBITION WAS A CELEBRATION OF THOSE YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.

"IT STANDS AS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER OF HONG KONG'S PAST AND HOW MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

THE GOVERNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE POST OFFICE WAS AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD AND ITS POSTAL RATES WERE AMONG THE LOWEST.

HE SAID AN AIRMAIL LETTER POSTED IN HONG KONG LEFT BY PLANE WITHIN HOURS AND EACH DAY NEARLY 40 TONS OF AIRMAIL LEFT HONG KONG.

"THE HISTORY OF THIS SUCCESS STORY, AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR HONG KONG, DESERVE TO BE RECORDED."

WORK IN THE POST OFFICE, SIR DAVID SAID, MEANS PROVIDING A VERY DIRECT SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC AND THE POSTMAN COLLECTING AND DELIVERING LETTERS HAD BEEN PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE SINCE THE EARLIEST DAYS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT HOWEVER SOPHISTICATED LETTER-SORTING BECAME, THE NEED FOR THE POSTMAN WOULD REMAIN; AND WITH THE POSTMAN THE HOPE THAT HE WOULD BRING HONG KONG PEOPLE GOOD NEWS.

SIR DAVID RECALLED THAT ON A RECENT VISIT TO THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, HE SAW ON THE WALL OF THE MAIN HALL THE VERY APPROPRIATE QUOTATION FROM THE BIBLE: "AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL; SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY."

"THE POST OFFICE HAS BEEN BRINGING GOOD NEWS FOR 150 YEARS," HE SAID.

THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY GAVE VISITORS A GOOD FEEL FOR SOMETHING OF THE POST OFFICE'S PAST, THE GOVERNOR SAID.

HE SAID THIS BUILDING, AMID THE BANYAN TREES OF KOWLOON PARK, AND THE EXHIBITION, EVOKED AN EARLIER HONG KONG WHEN POSTMEN HAD NO NEED OF LIFTS; WHEN THE MAIL BOAT TO BRITAIN TOOK 50 DAYS AND AIRMAIL LETTERS WERE UNHEARD OF; AND WHEN ADHESIVE STAMPS WERE A NOVELTY.

SIR DAVID ADDED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STAMPS THEMSELVES TOLD A STORY.

THE FORMAL DESIGNS OF THE EARLY YEARS HAD GIVEN WAY TO INCREASING VARIETY AND COLOUR.

/"STAMPS HAVE .....

- 14 -

"STAMPS HAVE BECOME MINIATURE WORKS OF ART.

"EACH ISSUE IS AN ATTEMPT TO OUTDO THE PREVIOUS ONES," HE SAID.

NO WONDER STAMPS HAD A FASCINATION FOR COLLECTORS, SIR DAVID SAID, NOTING THAT HONG KONG'S FIRST COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE IN 1891 WAS SO POPULAR THAT IT CAUSED CROWD CONTROL PROBLEMS.

"TODAY, HONG KONG PHILATELY HAS A LARGE AND DEDICATED FOLLOWING THAT WAITS EAGERLY FOR THE FIVE SPECIAL ISSUES EACH YEAR," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

EXHIBITION ILLUSTRATES DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HK

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE THAN 300 ITEMS OF EXHIBITS, INCLUDING STAMPS AND ARTEFACTS, DEPICTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL POSTAL SERVICE WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE URBAN COUNCIL'S HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY FROM TODAY (WEDNESDAY) TO AUGUST 4.

THE "150 YEARS OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG" EXHIBITION, JOINTLY PRESENTED BY THE URBAN COUNCIL AND THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE, TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG, WAS OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, THIS MORNING.

SPEAKING AT THE EXHIBITION'S OPENING, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN COUNCIL, DR RONALD LEUNG, SAID HONG KONG HAD EMERGED AS A METROPOLIS AND A MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE PAST ONE-AND-A-HALF CENTURY, AND THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE HAD GROWN ON PAR WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREAT CITY.

"HONG KONG HAS CHANGED A LOT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, AND THE POST OFFICE HAS GROWN WITH IT AND MAINTAINED ITS PARAMOUNT PLACE IN PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE IN COMMUNICATION," DR LEUNG SAID.

"IT IS HOPED THAT VIEWERS TO THE EXHIBITION WILL ACQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF POSTAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS," HE ADDED.

ALSO OFFICIATED AT THE OPENING WERE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S MUSEUMS SELECT COMMITTEE, DR SAMUEL WONG; THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG; AND THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES, MR HAIDER BARMA.

THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED ON AUGUST 25, 1841. THE FIRST POST OFFICE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED ON SITE ABOVE THE PRESENT ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL AND WAS OPENED IN NOVEMBER 1841.

TO SECURE A WATERFRONT POSITION TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF MAIL, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE HAD MOVED THREE TIMES IN THE PAST ONE-AND-A-HALF CENTURY, FROM QUEEN'S ROAD TO DES VOEUX ROAD AND THEN TO THE EXISTING LOCATION AT CONNAUGHT PLACE AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENT PHASES OF RECLAMATION.

/HONG KONG'S .....

HONG KONG'S FIRST DEFINITIVE STAMPS WERE LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 8, 1862, WHICH WAS AN INNOVATION IN ASIA AT THAT TIME. STARTING IN THE 1960'S, IT BECAME QUITE A COMMON PRACTICE FOR THE POST OFFICE TO ISSUE COMMEMORATIVE OR SPECIAL STAMPS EVERY YEAR TO MARK SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND EVENTS.

THE "150 YEARS OF POSTAL SERVICE IN HONG KONG" EXHIBITION IS DIVIDED INTO VARIOUS SECTIONS COVERING PRE-ADHESIVE POSTAL MARKINGS, THE B62 OBLITERATOR, TREATY PORT POSTAL ITEMS, DEFINITIVE ISSUES, COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES, STAMPS ISSUED DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION PERIOD, POSTAGE DUE STAMPS AS WELL AS POSTAL STATIONERY.

THE LAST SECTION OF THE EXHIBITION WILL INTRODUCE THE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL SERVICES IN HONG KONG.

TO COMPLEMENT THE EXHIBITION, TWO BILINGUAL VIDEO TAPES - "MAIL HANDLING PROCESS" AND "A STAMP IS BORN" - WILL BE SHOWN CONTINUOUSLY IN THE VENUE THROUGHOUT THE EXHIBITION PERIOD.

THE HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY IS LOCATED IN KOWLOON PARK, HAIPHONG ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI. ADMISSION IS FREE AND THE OPENING HOURS ARE FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM DAILY (EXCEPT FRIDAY), AND 1 PM TO 6 PM ON SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LEGCO APPOINTMENT FOR JOHN SWAINE INTENDED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO APPOINT MR JOHN SWAINE AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE 1991-5 SESSION WITH A VIEW TO HIM BECOMING THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

MR SWAINE SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM 1980-1988. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 1988. HE WILL RESIGN FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON AUGUST 31.

THE ROLE OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT WOULD BE TO PRESIDE OVER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE GOVERNOR'S ABSENCE. HE WOULD ENJOY THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT IN RESPECT OF ANY MEETING AT WHICH HE PRESIDES.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY ANNOUNCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON MARCH 21, 1990 THAT A NON-OFFICIAL WOULD BE APPOINTED AS DEPUTY PRESIDENT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR AN ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1995.

THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A DEPUTY PRESIDENT IN THE 1991 LEGISLATURE. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESIDING AT MEETINGS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 16 -

FINANCIAL POLICIES ENABLE COMMUNITY TO FLOURISH

\* \* \* \* \*

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS FOLLOWED OVER MANY YEARS HAVE ENABLED THE COMMUNITY TO FLOURISH.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID THIS TODAY (WEDNESDAY) IN A SPEECH TO THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS.

ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FROM GOVERNMENT AFTER 29 YEARS' SERVICE, SIR PIERS SUMMED UP IN HIS SPEECH THE FULL RANGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

THESE COVER A NUMBER OF DISTINCT BUT RELATED PROGRAMME AREAS FROM TREASURY MATTERS THROUGH ECONOMIC SERVICES TO MONETARY POLICY, PUBLIC WORKS, AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

"IN DISCHARGING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNOR RECOGNISING THE CLEAR DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S POST AND THAT OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT THE POLICIES FOLLOWED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY SHOULD BE RELATED TO THE OTHER POLICY AREAS OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

"THIS IS ACHIEVED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS, PRINCIPALLY THROUGH THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE, BUT ALSO BY THE FREQUENT PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND MYSELF AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND, OF COURSE, BETWEEN ALL THE VARIOUS POLICY BRANCH SECRETARIES.

"OVERALL, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT AND COHERENT."

SIR PIERS POINTED OUT THAT THE 1980'S WERE PRETTY GOOD FOR HONG KONG WITH THE SECOND HALF RATHER BETTER THAN THE FIRST.

ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR HONG KONG OVERALL HAS BEEN AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 7.6 PER CENT OVER THE PERIOD 1985 TO 1990.

"THIS COMPARES WELL WITH THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF 5.6 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES, THE ECONOMY OF HONG KONG IS EXPOSED TO EXTERNAL FACTORS WHICH ARE OFTEN VOLATILE, SO THAT YEAR ON YEAR VARIATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERABLE," HE SAID.

AS FAR AS THE BUDGET IS CONCERNED, SIR PIERS SAID THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAD IN MANY WAYS BEEN HIGHLY SATISFACTORY.

"WE HAVE HAD SURPLUSES EVERY YEAR AND OUR FISCAL RESERVES HAVE INCREASED FROM ABOUT \$32 BILLION TO OVER \$73 BILLION TODAY. THIS EXCLUDES SOME \$21 BILLION PAID INTO THE SARG LAND FUND.

/"WE HAVE .....

"WE HAVE ALSO MANAGED TO REDUCE PROGRESSIVELY THE STANDARD RATE OF TAX BACK TO WHERE IT HAD BEEN BEFORE WE WENT INTO DEFICIT IN THE EIGHTIES.

"ON TAXATION GENERALLY, I HAVE INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF IMPROVEMENTS, SOME WILLINGLY AND OTHERS IN RESPONSE TO DEMAND -- I AM SURE THAT YOU WILL ALL REMEMBER SEPARATE TAXATION FOR MARRIED WOMEN."

IN GENERAL TERMS, OUR FISCAL POSITION IS SOUND, HE SAID.

"I AM NOT MAKING ANY PREDICTIONS FOR THE 1990'S BEYOND SAYING THAT MUCH OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE 1980'S WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE US WELL.

"WE HAVE SPENT OUR MONEY PRUDENTLY. THE POLICIES WE HAVE FOLLOWED HAVE BEEN TRANSPARENT AND PREDICTABLE. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE WIDER PUBLIC INTEREST, THOSE POLICIES HAVE ALLOWED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF FREEDOM TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS AND TO PROSPER. LONG MAY THIS REMAIN SO," HE SAID.

BEFORE DESCRIBING HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, SIR PIERS TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY SOME MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT BUDGETARY POLICIES.

"IN ALL MY BUDGET SPEECHES, I HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THE LINE THAT THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SHOULD HAVE REGARD TO THE TREND GROWTH RATE OF THE ECONOMY, AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OR GDP, SO AS NOT TO CROWD OUT THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"THIS HAS BEEN NO EASY TASK. THE PRESSURES FOR INCREASED SPENDING IN DESERVING AREAS HAVE BEEN INTENSE. GDP GROWTH RATES HAVE ALSO BEEN EXTREMELY VOLATILE.

"FACED WITH THESE PRESSURES AND IN THE LIGHT OF VOLATILE ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE RECORD HAS NOT BEEN UNSATISFACTORY," HE SAID.

"IN 1987-88, THE RATIO OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE TO GDP AMOUNTED TO 16.6 PER CENT. IN 1991-92, THIS HAD GROWN TO 19.3 PER CENT; LARGELY AS THE RESULT OF UNCOMFORTABLY RAPID GROWTH IN PUBLIC EXPENDITURE IN MORE RECENT YEARS, FUELLED BY A SERIES OF PAY REVIEWS, WHICH HAVE NOW COME TO A CLOSE, AND BY THE RECOVERY OF THE GROWTH RATE OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FROM THE NEGATIVE GROWTH EXPERIENCED IN 1984-85.

"IN THIS CONTEXT, I MUST DISPEL THE MYTH, STARTED BY COMMENTATORS IN THE MEDIA AND REPEATED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN THE BUDGET DEBATE, THAT DURING MY TENURE, THE PUBLIC SECTOR SHARE OF GDP HAS GROWN FROM A BASE OF 11 PER CENT."

SIR PIERS NOTED THAT THIS PROBABLY STEMMED FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE DATA.

"THE FIGURE OF 11 PER CENT COMES CLOSE TO THE CONCEPT OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS TERMS WHICH EXCLUDES EXPENDITURE OF GOVERNMENT TRADING DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS CIVIL AVIATION, WATER SUPPLIES AND THE POST OFFICE AND ALSO TRANSFER PAYMENTS SUCH AS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

"AS I SAID EARLIER, THE CORRECT COMPARATIVE FIGURE FOR 1987-88 WAS 16.6 PER CENT. IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS TERMS, THE SHARE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE IN THE GDP WAS 10 PER CENT IN 1987, AND FOR 1991, THE FORECAST IS ONLY ABOUT 12 PER CENT.

"I EMPHASIZED IN MY BUDGET SPEECH EARLIER THIS YEAR AND INDEED IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THAT STRICT CONTROL OVER PUBLIC EXPENDITURE, PARTICULARLY RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, MUST BE EXERCISED.

"WE HAVE TIGHTENED DISCIPLINES AND THIS IS NOW BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STABILITY OF MONETARY SYSTEM VITAL

\* \* \* \* \*

THE STABILITY OF OUR MONETARY SYSTEM AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE HONG KONG DOLLAR ARE VITAL TO THE WELL BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS JACOBS, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

"IN HIS STATUTORY ROLE AS THE CONTROLLER OF THE EXCHANGE FUND, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS OVERALL AUTHORITY OVER MONETARY POLICY.

"HE DETERMINES THE OBJECTIVES OF SUCH POLICY, TAKING ADVICE AS NECESSARY FROM THE EXCHANGE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE," HE SAID.

THE DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES ARE DELEGATED TO THE SECRETARY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND.

ALTHOUGH THE OFFICE OF THE EXCHANGE FUND IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF MONETARY POLICY DETERMINED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE OFFICE MUST ACT AND CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITY WITH EXECUTIVE INDEPENDENCE, AND MUST BE SEEN TO BE DOING, SIR PIERS SAID.

"THE REASON FOR THIS IS SIMPLY THAT ONLY IN THIS WAY IS IT POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH THE LONG TERM CREDIBILITY OF MONETARY POLICY," HE SAID.

SIR PIERS NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAD BEEN A GREAT EMPHASIS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ON THE NEED TO ENSURE A HIGH DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE IN MONETARY MANAGEMENT.

"MONEY MARKETS ARE SUBJECT TO GLOBAL INFLUENCE, AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL INFLUENCE CAN OFTEN BREED INCONSISTENCY AND DAMAGE THE CREDIBILITY OF MONETARY POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

"THAT DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE IN MONETARY MANAGEMENT DOES MUCH TO SAFEGUARD CREDIBILITY AND THEREFORE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM.

/"I BELIEVE .....

"I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE CORRECT FOR HONG KONG, IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS, TO FOLLOW THIS DIRECTION, ALBEIT CAUTIOUSLY. WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS IS CONSISTENT WITH THIS OBJECTIVE," HE SAID.

ON REGULATION OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR, A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MONETARY AFFAIRS BRANCH, SIR PIERS SAID THE GENERAL POLICY HAD BEEN TO PROVIDE A FAVOURABLE ENVIRONMENT, WITH SUFFICIENT REGULATION TO ENSURE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, SOUND BUSINESS STANDARDS AND CONFIDENCE IN THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK BUT WITHOUT UNNECESSARY OR BUREAUCRATIC IMPEDIMENTS.

EXPANDING UPON HIS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH SIR PIERS HAD DESCRIBED IN HIS SPEECH TO THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BANKERS AS BEING LESS IN THE PUBLIC GAZE, HE TURNED TO THE POLICY BRANCH UNDER THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES.

"THE ECONOMIC PORTFOLIO COMPRISES A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS COVERING CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM, SHIPPING AND PORT MANAGEMENT, POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY, PRIMARY PRODUCTION, FINANCIAL MONITORING OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.

"OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN ALL THESE AREAS.

"FOR CIVIL AVIATION, THE FIRST SEPARATE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY, WITH THE NETHERLANDS, CAME INTO FORCE IN JUNE 1987. SINCE THEN, A NUMBER OF OTHER AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER PARTNERS CONTINUE.

"PASSENGER TRAFFIC THROUGH KAI TAK HAS INCREASED BY NEARLY 90 PER CENT OVER THE PERIOD, AND THE PORT HAS BEEN EXPANDED WITH THE COMPLETION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL 7," SIR PIERS SAID.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE MARINE FRONT INCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMPUTERIZED RADAR VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW HONG KONG SHIPPING REGISTER AND A PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

CARGO HANDLED BY THE PORT HAS INCREASED BY ABOUT 60 PER CENT OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

"IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WE HAVE GRADUALLY BEEN DEVELOPING OUR POLICIES WITH THE AID OF A NUMBER OF STUDIES, AND OF COURSE HONG KONG CONTINUES TO BE WELL SERVED BY ITS POWER GENERATION COMPANIES, WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE MANAGED TO HOLD THEIR TARIFF INCREASES BELOW THE LEVEL OF GENERAL PRICE INCREASES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS," SIR PIERS SAID.

GOING ON TO TRADE AND INDUSTRY WHICH ARE THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE ECONOMY, SIR PIERS NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S FREE TRADE POLICY WAS VITAL TO THE TERRITORY'S SUCCESS.

"IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT THE GOVERNMENT, GIVEN ITS FULL AUTONOMY IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR EXTERNAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, PARTICIPATES FULLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA IN THE INTERESTS OF FREE TRADE AND AGAINST THE FORCES OF PROTECTIONISM.

"WE ARE STAUNCH SUPPORTERS OF THE GATT AND PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

"OUR REPUTATION HAS GAINED WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION. LAST YEAR, THE GATT COUNCIL REVIEWED HONG KONG'S TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER THE GATT TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM. DURING THIS REVIEW, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS APPRECIATION OF OUR FREE TRADE POLICY," HE SAID.

REVIEWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY BRANCH OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, SIR PIERS SAID: "1986 WAS A PARTICULARLY BUSY YEAR: HONG KONG BECAME A SEPARATE CONTRACTING PARTY TO THE GATT; TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WERE CONCLUDED WITH THE US AND THE EEC, AND THE MFA WAS EXTENDED FOR A FURTHER FIVE YEARS".

"WE WILL HAVE AN ACTIVE 1991 NEGOTIATING WITH THE USA, CANADA, THE EEC AND FINLAND THE RENEWAL OF BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR. WE WILL ALSO BE CONTINUING NEGOTIATION IN THE URUGUAY ROUND," HE SAID.

AS REGARDS INDUSTRY, SIR PIERS AFFIRMED THAT IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE INWARD INVESTMENT IN MANUFACTURING AND MANUFACTURING SUPPORT SERVICES AND TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"ALTHOUGH, IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, MANUFACTURING'S SHARE OF GDP HAS BEEN FALLING, THE SECTOR REMAINS A VITAL PART OF OUR ECONOMY, AND IN THE YEARS AHEAD, OUR AIM MUST BE TO FACILITATE THE PROMOTION OF HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY, TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.

IN THIS AREA, THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIRED BY THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN SEARCHING FOR NEW WAYS IN WHICH TO HARNESS AND DEVELOP THE INTELLECTUAL RESOURCES THAT EXIST IN HONG KONG IN ABUNDANCE.

ON THE WORKS BRANCH WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ADDED TO THE PORTFOLIO OF THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR PIERS SAID THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BRANCH TO THE FINANCIAL SIDE OF GOVERNMENT WAS VERY REAL HAVING REGARD TO THE SIZE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WHICH STOOD AT OVER \$20 BILLION.

EARLIER, SIR PIERS ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE WORK OF THE FINANCE BRANCH UNDER THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY IN OVERSEEING THE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.

SIR PIERS WILL PROCEED ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE IN AUGUST.

KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASE 2 OPENS ON FRIDAY

\* \* \* \* \*

THE KWUN TONG BYPASS IS NEAR COMPLETION AND A SECTION FROM WAI YIP STREET TO THE WANG CHIU ROAD/KAI FUK ROAD JUNCTION WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC FROM 4 PM ON FRIDAY (JUNE 14).

THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) SAID: "WITH THE OPENING OF THIS SECTION, MOTORISTS TRAVELLING EAST CAN ENTER KWUN TONG BYPASS EITHER FROM A SLIP ROAD AT KAI FUK ROAD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AIRPORT TUNNEL, OR FROM A SLIP ROAD AT WANG CHIU ROAD.

"THEY MAY LEAVE THE BYPASS EITHER VIA WAI YIP STREET TO KWUN TONG INDUSTRIAL AREA OR VIA KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASE 1 TO TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL, OR TO LEI YUE MUN ROAD AND EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL.

"FOR MOTORISTS HEADING WEST, THEY CAN ENTER THE BYPASS FROM LEI YUE MUN ROAD, TSEUNG KWAN O ROAD, WAI YIP STREET/CHA KWO LING ROAD JUNCTION; AND CAN LEAVE THE BYPASS VIA EITHER A SLIP ROAD TO WESTBOUND KAI FUK ROAD LEADING TO THE AIRPORT TUNNEL, OR A SLIP ROAD TO WANG CHIU ROAD AND WAI YIP STREET WHICH CAN LEAD TO CHOI HUNG INTERCHANGE," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING OF KWUN TONG BYPASS PHASE 2, THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE INTRODUCED AT THE SAME TIME.

THE SECTION OF KWUN TONG BYPASS BETWEEN WAI YIP STREET AND WANG CHIU ROAD/KAI FUK ROAD JUNCTION INCLUDING ITS SLIP ROADS WILL BE DESIGNATED AS 24-HOUR RESTRICTED ZONES.

WITHIN THE RESTRICTED ZONES, ALL MOTOR VEHICLES WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING UP OR SETTING DOWN PASSENGERS, OR LOADING OR UNLOADING GOODS.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES, LEARNER DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ROAD SECTION.

APART FROM ITS SLIP ROADS LINKING WITH WANG CHIU ROAD, KAI FUK ROAD AND WAI YIP STREET WESTBOUND WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SPEED LIMIT OF 50 KILOMETRES PER HOUR, THE AFORESAID SECTION OF KWUN TONG BYPASS WILL BE SUBJECT TO A SPEED LIMIT OF 70 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE ROAD'S OPENING, TRAFFIC WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN RIGHT FROM WAI YIP STREET EASTBOUND ONTO THE BYPASS AND ALL TRAFFIC LEAVING THE BYPASS AT THE WAI YIP STREET JUNCTION WILL HAVE TO TURN LEFT TO WAI YIP STREET WESTBOUND TO FACILITATE ROAD WORKS IN THE VICINITY.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF YAU MA TEI BUILDING

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDING AUTHORITY WILL APPLY FOR THE EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF A BUILDING AT 19-21 MAU LAM STREET, YAU MA TEI, FOLLOWING A ROAD SUBSIDENCE THIS (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BUILDING AUTHORITY SAID: "THE FOUNDATION OF THE BUILDING WAS EXPOSED FOLLOWING THE SUBSIDENCE. UNTIL SUCH TIME WHEN THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE OFFICE CAN ASSESS THE STRUCTURAL SAFETY OF THE BUILDING, WE HAVE TO CLOSE THE BUILDING AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF THE RESIDENTS.

"WE ARE GOING TO APPLY FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT TOMORROW (THURSDAY) MORNING," HE SAID.

NOTICES OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE CLOSURE ORDER HAVE BEEN POSTED ON THE BUILDING TODAY.

MEANWHILE, DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF ARE CONTACTING AFFECTED OCCUPANTS TO OFFER ASSISTANCE.

THE TENANTS MAY ALSO APPROACH THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL REGISTER OCCUPANTS FOR REHOUSING ARRANGEMENTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

OWNERS URGED TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST UBW'S

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) APPEALED TO BUILDING OWNERS TO TAKE THEIR OWN INITIATIVE AND REMOVE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS.

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION EXPOSITION, MR EASON SAID THE OWNERS SHOULD NOT WAIT UNTIL REMOVAL WAS ORDERED BY THE BUILDING AUTHORITY OR DANGER THREATENED THEM.

"THEY SHOULD GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER OWNERS IN THEIR BUILDING AND ACT IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY NOW," HE SAID.

HE RECALLED THAT MOST OF THESE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS WERE DONE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SPACE AT TIMES WHEN POPULATION GROWTH OUTSTRIPPED HOUSING PRODUCTION DRAMATICALLY AND CONTROL OVER THEM WAS LARGELY INEFFECTUAL.

/"THEY HAVE .....

- 23 -

"THEY HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFULNESS; BECAUSE OF THE WAY THEY WERE BUILT THEY COULD WELL BECOME DANGEROUS AS MORE TIME PASSES; AND THEY ARE AN AWFUL BLOT ON OUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

"IT WILL SOON BECOME AS FASHIONABLE TO REMOVE THESE STRUCTURES AND IMPROVE THE SAFETY, THE LIGHT AND AIR AND THE LOOK OF OUR BUILDINGS AS IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO TO ADD THEM," HE NOTED.

. - - - - 0 - - - -

TWO GOVT LOTS TO LET BY TENDER

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT TERM TENANCY OF TWO LAND LOTS IN SHAU KEI WAN AND HO MAN TIN.

THE FIRST LOT IS A 200-SQUARE-METRE SITE AT NAM ON STREET, SHAU KEI WAN. IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE OF THE TENANT'S GOODS EXCLUDING CONTAINERS AND DANGEROUS GOODS AND/OR FOR A COMMERCIAL GARDEN.

THE TENANCY IS FOR TWO YEARS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE OTHER LOT, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF FAT KWONG STREET AND SHEUNG FOO STREET, HO MAN TIN, MEASURES ABOUT 5,200 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS FOR OPEN STORAGE EXCLUDING STORAGE OF SAND, CEMENT AND AGGREGATE AND/OR FOR A FEE PAYING PUBLIC PARKING AREA FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, EXCLUDING CONTAINER VEHICLES WITH OR WITHOUT THEIR TRAILERS.

THE TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS, RENEWABLE QUARTERLY AFTERWARDS.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDERS FOR BOTH LOTS IS NOON ON JUNE 28.

FORMS OF TENDER, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND TENDER PLANS INSPECTED AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES FOR HONG KONG EAST AND KOWLOON WEST AND THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

REMINDER ON SUBMISSION OF SALARIES TAX RETURN

\* \* \* \* \*

SALARIED TAXPAYERS ARE TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED TO SUBMIT THE COMPLETED SALARIES TAX RETURNS TO THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID MORE THAN 1,300,000 RETURNS FOR 1990/91 WERE ISSUED ON MAY 1.

/"IT IS .....

"IT IS AN OFFENCE AND MAY RESULT IN A FINE OF \$5,000 PLUS TREBLE THE AMOUNT OF TAX UNDERCHARGED BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO MAKE A RETURN," HE SAID.

FOR TAXPAYERS WHO HAD SENT THE RETURNS BUT FAILED TO SIGN APPROPRIATELY, THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEND THESE BACK TO THEM FOR SIGNATURE.

AS THESE TAXPAYERS HAVE NOT SATISFIED THE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 51(1) OF THE INLAND REVENUE ORDINANCE AND NO EXTENSION FOR SUBMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED TO THEM, THEY HAVE TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE RETURNS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CURRENT SALARIED TAXPAYERS WHO HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THEIR RETURNS OR WHO HAVE ANY ENQUIRY ARE ADVISED TO DIAL THE TELEPHONE NUMBER SHOWN IN THE CORRESPONDENCE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR 894 2190, 894 2220 AND 894 2250.

THE OFFICE HOURS OF THE DEPARTMENT IS FROM 8.15 AM TO 12.15 PM AND 1.15 PM TO 4.45 PM ON WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON SATURDAY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS NOW  
\* \* \* \* \*

PEOPLE INTENDING TO TRAVEL ABROAD DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS SHOULD APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENT NOW.

"THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE HONG KONG WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED DURING THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. IN ORDER TO AVOID A LAST-MINUTE RUSH, PEOPLE ARE ADVISED TO APPLY FOR PASSPORT AND CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE ON WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAVEL," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DEPARTMENT NOW TAKES 20 WORKING DAYS (I.E. ABOUT FOUR WEEKS) TO ISSUE A BRITISH HONG KONG PASSPORT AND 15 WORKING DAYS (I.E. ABOUT THREE WEEKS) TO ISSUE A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT THE PROCESSING TIME FOR AN APPLICATION FOR A BRITISH NATIONAL (OVERSEAS) PASSPORT OR A HONG KONG CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY IS ABOUT FIVE WEEKS IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT IN POSSESSION OF A PERMANENT IDENTITY CARD, FOR HE HAS TO OBTAIN ONE AT THE SAME TIME.

HE REMINDED THAT RE-ENTRY PERMIT AND DOCUMENT OF IDENTITY FOR VISA PURPOSES ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ON THE SAME DAY BUT DELAY IS LIKELY IF THERE ARE MANY APPLICANTS COMING AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, ON SATURDAY IN WHICH WE COULD ONLY PROVIDE A LIMITED SERVICE WITH HALF STRENGTH.

"THE PERIOD BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS IS ONE OF THE BUSIEST TIME OF THE YEAR. BY APPLYING EARLY, IT WILL NOT ONLY SPREAD THE WORKLOAD OF THE DEPARTMENT BUT WILL ALSO GIVE APPLICANTS EXTRA TIME TO MEET ANY FURTHER VISA PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS WHERE NECESSARY," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

- 25 -

CLINIC SERVICES FOR HOLIDAY PERIOD

\* \* \* \* \*

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT EIGHT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL STAY OPEN ON JUNE 15 (SATURDAY, THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY), JUNE 17 (THE MONDAY FOLLOWING THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY) AND JUNE 18 (TUESDAY, ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY FOR TUEN NG FESTIVAL) WHICH ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

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

THESE CLINICS WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM. ALL OTHER OUT-PATIENT AND EVENING CLINICS WILL BE CLOSED.

HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO CLINIC SERVICES ON JUNE 16 (SUNDAY, TUEN NG FESTIVAL).

- - - - 0 - - - -

BOGUS DONATION PLEAS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE ROYAL HONG KONG AUXILIARY AIR FORCE (RHKAAF) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) CLARIFIED THAT THE FORCE HAD NOT BEEN ORGANISING ANY FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY LATELY AND ADVISED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WERE APPROACHED FOR DONATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORCE TO REPORT THE CASE TO THE POLICE.

THE ADVICE FOLLOWS REPORTS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT THEY HAD BEEN APPROACHED PERSONALLY OR HAD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALLS FROM PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE RAISING FUNDS FOR THE RHKAAF OR SEEKING DONATION FOR THE FORCE'S SPECIAL PUBLICATION.

"SUCH CLAIMS ARE COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AS THE FORCE IS NEITHER ORGANISING ANY FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY NOR WOULD IT BE ISSUING ANY SPECIAL PUBLICATION," A SPOKESMAN SAID.

"ANY PERSON RECEIVING SUCH CALLS SHOULD REPORT THEM TO THE POLICE," HE SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

18 INMATES PASS PUBLIC EXAMS

\* \* \* \* \*

EIGHTEEN FEMALE INMATES FROM THE TAI TAM GAP CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON RECEIVED CERTIFICATES FOR PASSING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

THEY OBTAINED A TOTAL OF THREE DISTINCTIONS, FOUR CREDITS AND 20 PASSES IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS HELD BY THE PITMAN EXAMINATION INSTITUTION AND THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE.

SPEAKING AT A CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY HELD AT THE INSTITUTION, WIFE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, MRS V.J. MCCOSH, PRAISED THE INSTITUTION'S EDUCATION STAFF FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE REHABILITATION OF THESE YOUNG OFFENDERS.

"EXPERIENCE HAS TOLD US THAT INMATES MAKE A BETTER CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY AND THEY STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF SECURING EMPLOYMENT, OR CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES AFTER RELEASE, IF THEY ARE ENCOURAGED TO STUDY AND OBTAIN RECOGNITION THROUGH ACCREDITED EXAMINATIONS," SHE SAID.

SINCE 1979, A TOTAL OF 1,506 YOUNG INMATES HAD SAT FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE HELD BY THE HONG KONG EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY, THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE PITMAN EXAMINATION INSTITUTION AND THE CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE.

TOTALLY, THEY ACHIEVED 400 DISTINCTIONS, 204 CREDITS AND 1,071 PASSES. THE AVERAGE PASS RATE IS 84 PER CENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

HKEF

\* \* \* \* \*

	DATE	\$ MILLION
	----	-----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	11.6.91	380
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	12.6.91	-225
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+225
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 114.6 *+0.1* 12.6.91		

/HONG KONG .....

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1991

- 27 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		12.6.91	11.6.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	7.66 PCT	7.80 PCT
	1 MONTH	7.51 PCT	7.65 PCT
	3 MONTHS	7.43 PCT	7.50 PCT
	6 MONTHS	7.42 PCT	7.52 PCT
	12 MONTHS	7.43 PCT	7.52 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		2,306 MN	2,816 MN

----- 0 -----