



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1992

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ARTS FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTES TO GROWTH OF LOCAL TALENT: GOVERNOR
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THE GROWTH OF LOCAL DIMENSION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS SCENE OWES A GREAT DEAL TO THE ARTS FESTIVAL, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

OFFICIATING AT THE 1992 HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL OPENING PERFORMANCE, THE GOVERNOR SAID FOR 20 YEARS THE ANNUAL FESTIVALS HAD SERVED TO INSPIRE YOUNG HONG KONG PERFORMERS AND TO ENCOURAGE A WIDER INTEREST IN THE PERFORMING ARTS.

"WE NOW HAVE A RICH POOL OF TALENT AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DEDICATED SUPPORTERS OF THE ARTS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THE FIRST ARTS FESTIVAL WAS LAUNCHED IN 1973, IT OFFERED 15 MAJOR PROGRAMME ITEMS, ALL FROM OVERSEAS AND THIS YEAR THE 20TH ARTS FESTIVAL HAD NEARLY THREE TIMES AS MANY EVENTS.

THESE COVERED A VERY WIDE RANGE, FROM TOSCA TO JAZZ; FROM THE BERLIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO AFRICA OYE; AND FROM CLASSICAL BALLET TO MODERN MIME.

SIR DAVID SAID SIGNIFICANTLY, FOUR OF THIS YEAR'S EVENTS FEATURED LOCAL TALENT. THEY WERE THE HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA; THE HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA; THE HONG KONG REPERTORY THEATRE; AND THE CHUNG YING THEATRE COMPANY.

SIR DAVID SAID FOR THE FIRST TIME, A HONG KONG PERFORMING ARTS DAY HAD BEEN ORGANISED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ARTS FESTIVAL.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW FAR HONG KONG HAD COME WAS THE PLANNING FOR THE FESTIVAL HONG KONG 1992 TO BE HELD IN CANADA THIS AUTUMN, SIR DAVID SAID.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, A NUMBER OF HONG KONG PERFORMING GROUPS WILL TAKE PART TOGETHER IN A PROGRAMME OVERSEAS AS AMBASSADORS FOR HONG KONG.

"IT WILL BE OUR TURN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF TALENT WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH TO ENRICH THE ARTS FESTIVALS IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.

"HONG KONG IS COMING OF AGE ARTISTICALLY," THE GOVERNOR SAID.

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NO. OF FLAT SALE LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 39 PER CENT

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THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SALE AND PURCHASE AGREEMENTS OF FLATS, A LARGE PROPORTION OF THEM IN UNCOMPLETED BUILDINGS, REGISTERED IN THE LAND OFFICE LAST YEAR INCREASED BY 39 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1990.

REPORTING ON HIS DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES (INCLUDING THE NEW TERRITORIES) FOR 1991 THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY), THAT THE LARGE INCREASE WAS MAINLY DUE TO THE COMING ON STREAM OF SEVERAL LARGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.

THESE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDED LAGUNA CITY IN KWUN TONG, SCENEWAY GARDEN IN LEI YUE MUN ROAD, SOUTH HORIZON IN AP LEI CHAU, HONG KONG GARDEN IN TSING LUNG TAU, BELVEDERE GARDEN IN TING KAU AND KINGSWOOD VILLA IN YUEN LONG.

IN ALL, 176,701 SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE REGISTERED DURING LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE AGREEMENTS INCREASED BY 96.9 PER CENT FROM \$144.86 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$285.24 BILLION LAST YEAR.

MR GLEESON SAID DECREASES IN VOLUME OF AGREEMENTS LODGED FOR REGISTRATION WERE OBSERVED TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, NO DOUBT REFLECTING THE REDUCTION BY THE BANKING SECTOR OF THE PERCENTAGE AMOUNT AVAILABLE ON THE SECURITY OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS STILL A DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY DEGREE OF SPECULATION IN THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET AND HOPED THAT THE LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO CONTROL THIS WOULD BE ENACTED QUICKLY.

LAST YEAR, 182,997 ASSIGNMENTS OF UNITS IN COMPLETED BUILDINGS, MOSTLY RESIDENTIAL, WERE REGISTERED, SHOWING AN INCREASE OF 10 PER CENT WHEN COMPARED WITH 166,354 DURING 1990.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS INCREASED BY 42.6 PER CENT FROM \$159.19 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$227.01 BILLION.

A TOTAL OF 10,978 ASSIGNMENTS OF FLATS WERE COMPLETED BY THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME, COMPARED WITH 9,846 IN 1990.

IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, THE HOS CONVEYANCING FUNCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS PRIVATISED INASMUCH AS FROM THEN ON THIS CONVEYANCING WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE SOLICITORS FIRMS INSTRUCTED BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

BY AGREEMENT WITH THE LAW SOCIETY SOLICITORS CHARGE ONLY 50 PER CENT OF THE SCALE FEE.

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THIS WAS A SPECIAL CONCESSION TO LOWER-INCOME GROUP HOME OWNERS, AND MR GLEESON COMMENDED THE SOCIETY AND THE SOLICITORS PROFESSION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

THERE WERE 6,704 ASSIGNMENTS OF LOTS AND SECTIONS. THIS WAS 34.5 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1990.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS INCREASED BY 50.1 PER CENT FROM \$27.37 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$41.07 BILLION.

THERE WERE 156 BUILDING MORTGAGES AND 213,081 OTHER MORTGAGES REGISTERED LAST YEAR, COMPARED WITH 155 AND 185,883 RESPECTIVELY IN 1990.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER BUILDING MORTGAGES REGISTERED LAST YEAR DROPPED BY 5 PER CENT FROM \$9.42 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$8.96 BILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED UNDER MORTGAGES OTHER THAN BUILDING MORTGAGES ROSE BY 18.3 PER CENT FROM \$77.83 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$92.11 BILLION.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT ACTUALLY DRAWN DOWN ON THESE MORTGAGES AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME MAY BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT SECURED.

REPAYMENTS UNDER MORTGAGES OF ALL KINDS, AS EVIDENCED BY DISCHARGES AND MORTGAGEE'S RECEIPTS, INCREASED BY 22.1 PER CENT FROM \$33.15 BILLION IN 1990 TO \$40.47 BILLION.

SEARCHES BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LAST YEAR TOTALLED 3,168,942, UP BY 21.7 PER CENT COMPARED WITH 1990.

THERE WERE 813 SURRENDERS AND RESUMPTIONS OF LAND WITH A TOTAL COMPENSATION OF \$0.56 BILLION PAID IN BOTH THE URBAN AREA AND THE NEW TERRITORIES, COMPARED WITH 1,216 AND \$0.72 BILLION IN 1990.

A TOTAL OF 1,282 GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS WERE COMPLETED LAST YEAR COMPARED WITH 1,281 IN 1990.

THE MORE SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT LAND TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED LAST YEAR WERE THE FOLLOWING:

- * JANUARY 18 SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF A 12,090-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 110) IN AREA 6 TAI PO TO BEST REWARD DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$280,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.
- * FEBRUARY 25 GRANT OF A 4,033-SQUARE METRE SITE (INLAND LOT NO. 8732) IN CENTRAL, HONG KONG AND BOUNDED BY HOLLYWOOD ROAD, SHING WONG STREET AND QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO HONG KONG HOUSING SOCIETY AT A PREMIUM OF \$207,260,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

- * MARCH 28 GRANT OF A 584,720-SQUARE METRE SITE (KWAI CHUNG LOT NO. 8) IN STONE CUTTERS ISLAND TO MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED AND COSCO-HIT TERMINALS (HONG KONG) LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$2,000,000,000 FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL PURPOSES.

- * MAY 3 SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF A 11,400-SQUARE METRE SITE (TAI PO TOWN LOT NO. 111) IN AREA 6, MA WO, TAI PO TO PEACE SUCCESS DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$325,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

- * MAY 20 GRANT OF A 59,640-SQUARE METRE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 367) IN AREA 111, SHA TIN TO LI PO CHUNG UNITED WORLD COLLEGE (HONG KONG) LIMITED AT A NOMINAL PREMIUM OF \$1,000 FOR A NON-PROFIT MAKING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER COURSES (THE ORGANISATION OF SUCH COURSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION) FOR NOT LESS THAN 200 STUDENTS OF WHOM UP TO 42 PER CENT MUST BE RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

- * JULY 17 SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF 13,530-SQUARE METRE SITE (FAN LING SHEUNG SHUI TOWN LOT NO. 112) IN AREA 47A, FAN LING TO WORLD EMPIRE INVESTMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,010,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

- * AUGUST 15 SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF A 5,678-SQUARE METRE SITE (KOWLOON INLAND LOT NO. 11005) AT ARGYLE STREET, KOWLOON TO FREE CHAMPION LIMITED AND KEEVIL COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$460,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

- * OCTOBER 9 SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF A 21,350-SQUARE METRE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 301) IN AREA 30A SHA TIN TO DRAMSTAR COMPANY LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,250,000,000 FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

- * NOVEMBER 28 SALE BY CASH TENDER UNDER THE HOME OWNERSHIP (PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION) SCHEME OF A 19,470-SQUARE METRE SITE (FAN LING SHEUNG SHUI TOWN LOT NO. 69) IN AREA 18, FAN LING TO WINFOONG DEVELOPMENT LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$285,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING HOTEL, CINEMA AND GODOWN) PURPOSES.

- * DECEMBER 6 SALE BY LETTER A/B OR CASH TENDER OF A 17,220-SQUARE METRE SITE (SHA TIN TOWN LOT NO. 382) IN MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE TO POKO SHINE LIMITED AT A PREMIUM OF \$1,133,000,000 FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN AND HOTEL) PURPOSES.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTY OWNERS ROSE BY 9.6 PER CENT FROM 1,320,271 IN DECEMBER 1990 TO 1,447,391 IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, AN INTERESTING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INDICATOR.

HEAVY DEMAND FOR LABOUR ENQUIRY SERVICE

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THE GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE (GETS) OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT HANDLED A RECORD OF 69,843 ENQUIRIES, OR A DAILY AVERAGE OF 257 CALLS, FROM THE PUBLIC LAST YEAR.

THIS REPRESENTED AN INCREASE OF 8.1 PER CENT OVER 1990.

GETS ALSO PROVIDES GENERAL INFORMATION THROUGH A DATAPHONE SYSTEM ON VARIOUS LABOUR LEGISLATION AND THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"OF THE ENQUIRIES RECEIVED LAST YEAR, 84 PER CENT OR 58,640 CALLS WERE ANSWERED DIRECTLY BY LABOUR INSPECTORS," SENIOR LABOUR OFFICER (LABOUR INSPECTION) MR CHAN KWOK-KUEN SAID.

"ANOTHER FIVE PER CENT OF THE ENQUIRIES OR 3,425 CALLS WERE ANSWERED BY THE DATAPHONE WHICH PLAYED BACK PRE-RECORDED TAPES ON 29 SELECTED LABOUR TOPICS IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE," MR CHAN ADDED.

"MOST OF THESE ENQUIRIES CONCERNED PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, WHILE OTHERS RELATED TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE, WOMEN AND YOUNG PERSONS (INDUSTRY) AND EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN REGULATIONS, IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE AND PROTECTION OF WAGES ON INSOLVENCY ORDINANCE," HE SAID.

"THE OTHER ENQUIRIES, WHICH REQUIRED IN-DEPTH ANSWERS OR FOLLOW-UP ACTION, WERE REFERRED TO RELEVANT DIVISIONS OR TO OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS," HE SAID.

GETS HOTLINE (815 5066) OPERATES DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 5.30 PM FROM EVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY AND FROM 9 AM TO NOON ON EVERY SATURDAY.

THE SYSTEM IS MANNED BY FIVE OFFICERS WITH FACILITIES TO HANDLE FIVE CALLERS AT ANY ONE TIME.

IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF CALLS RECEIVED, MR CHAN ADVISED ENQUIRERS TO AVOID THE PEAK HOURS AND TO CALL BETWEEN NOON AND 1 PM OR AFTER 4 PM.

STARTING IN JULY 1989 AS A SUPPLEMENTARY ENQUIRY SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISIONAL ENQUIRY SERVICES, GETS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

THE SYSTEM IS NOW UNDER REVIEW TO SEE IF IT COULD BE DEVELOPED INTO A CENTRALISED SERVICE HANDLING GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON THE WORK AND LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED BY ALL MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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\$8.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR SEWERAGE PROJECT AWARDED

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THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS RECENTLY AWARDED A \$8.3 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHEK O AND REPULSE BAY AREAS SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME.

THE CONTRACT COVERS THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THREE SEWAGE PUMPS AND THE ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT FOR A MAIN SEWAGE PUMPING STATION IN REPULSE BAY AND TWO ANCILLARY SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS IN DEEP WATER BAY.

THE MAIN SEWAGE PUMPING STATION, WITH A CAPACITY OF HANDLING 6,400 CUBIC METRES OF SEWAGE PER DAY, IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN SEPTEMBER 1993.

THE SHEK O AND REPULSE BAY AREAS SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEME IS AIMED FOR PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE SEWERAGE SYSTEM FOR THE DEVELOPMENTS IN SHEK O AND REPULSE BAY AREAS IN HONG KONG ISLAND SOUTH.

IT WILL INVOLVE IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF SEWERS AS WELL AS THE PROVISION OF PROPER SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES FOR THE AREAS.

SEWAGE COLLECTED FROM SHOUSON HILL, DEEP WATER BAY, REPULSE BAY AND MIDDLE BAY AREAS WILL BE PUMPED FROM THE REPULSE BAY MAIN SEWAGE PUMPING STATION TO THE EXISTING ABERDEEN SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT FOR PRELIMINARY TREATMENT BEFORE DISCHARGING TO SEA VIA A SUBMARINE OUTFALL.

UNDER THE SCHEME, MORE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL WORKS WILL BE CARRIED OUT UNDER SEPARATE CONTRACTS FOR NINE OTHER ANCILLARY SEWAGE PUMPING STATIONS IN MIDDLE BAY, CHUNG HOM KOK, MA HANG AND SHEK O AREAS, AND A SEWAGE SCREENING PLANT IN SHEK O.

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SPECIAL CAR NUMBERS SALE BY AUCTION

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A TOTAL OF 40 SPECIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBERS WERE PUT UP FOR AUCTION THIS (SATURDAY) MORNING FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,105,000 WHICH WILL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND FOR CHARITY PURPOSES.

THE AUCTION, HELD AT THE RECITAL HALL OF THE CITY HALL, SAW THE REGISTRATION NUMBER EU28 FETCH THE HIGHEST PRICE OF \$215,000.

ANOTHER NUMBER EU3388 WAS SOLD AT THE SECOND HIGHEST PRICE OF \$80,000 WHILE THE LOWEST PRICE WAS \$1,000 EACH FOR EV1116, EU4983 AND EU8578.

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FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THE AUCTION:

EU7387	\$ 5,000	EU1800	\$ 31,000	AL108	\$ 68,000	EU9888	\$ 20,000
CL317	6,000	AK1881	35,000	EW2626	31,000	AA6323	25,000
EV1116	1,000	EV973	8,000	BL722	12,000	CL2336	7,000
AS400	27,000	EU1628	43,000	AP1488	35,000	EW900	31,000
EU9054	WITHDRAWN	CL29	45,000	EU28	215,000	AC2021	11,000
AA6793	13,000	EV3833	23,000	CF810	24,000	EU551	5,000
EU4983	1,000	AT9991	14,000	EU8578	1,000	CC192	45,000
DT121	10,000	EU3388	80,000	EV666	60,000	EW9191	18,000
EU2988	14,000	AA226	65,000	BL2812	8,000	AC350	31,000
AW2711	7,000	EU6088	11,000	EV8018	7,000	EU8283	11,000

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

THE NUMBERS AUCTIONED WILL BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF AUCTION.

TODAY'S SALE, THE 172ND ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973, BROUGHT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR CHARITY REALISED SO FAR TO \$129,127,105.

THERE WAS NO BIDDER FOR EU9054 AND THIS NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICANT.

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POLICE BOMB EXPERTS PREVENT DISASTER

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THE RESOURCEFULNESS AND UPSPARING EFFORTS BY A TEAM OF POLICE BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERTS TO REMOVE AN ACTIVE BOMB FROM A DREDGER HAVE PREVENTED THE OUTBREAK OF A POSSIBLE DISASTER.

ACTING ON A REPORT, A TEAM OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) OFFICERS WERE TASKED TO DEAL WITH A BOMB WHICH WAS UNEARTHED FROM THE SEABED BY A DREDGER, HANG JUN 4003, OFF KAU YI CHAU ON NOVEMBER 27 LAST YEAR. SOME 50 CREW MEMBERS WERE ON BOARD THE VESSEL.

ON ARRIVAL, FORCE BOMB DISPOSAL OFFICER JOHN PARKER, AND HIS ASSISTANT, DOMINIC BRITTAIN, FOUND THAT THE DREDGER HAD SUCKED INTO ITS PUMP A 22-INCH-LONG NAVAL SHELL WHICH WAS FUSED.

USING A SLEDGE HAMMER AND AN IRON BAR, THE OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO TURN OVER THE PUMP ENGINE. THEY FAILED BECAUSE THE SHELL WAS TIGHTLY JAMMED IN POSITION.

THE BOMB DISPOSAL EXPERTS THEN TRIED TO USE A HEAVY BLOCK AND TACKLE TO HAUL THE SHELL FREE. THE SHELL, HOWEVER, FAILED TO MOVE WITH SEVERAL HAWSERS PARTING.

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DESPITE TWO FUTILE ATTEMPTS, THE OFFICERS DECIDED TO USE OXY-ACETYLENE CUTTERS TO CUT OPEN THE OUTER CASING OF THE PUMP TO PULL THE SHELL OUT. AS THERE WAS NO SUITABLE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, THEY LEFT THE SCENE AND RETURNED THE NEXT DAY.

ALTHOUGH MR BRITTAIN AND HIS COLLEAGUE, ALASTAIR MURRAY, CARRIED OUT THE CUTTING GRADUALLY AND VERY CAREFULLY, THE HEAT BUILD-UP ON THE BOMB WAS SO SEVERE THAT THEY WERE AFRAID THAT IT MIGHT EXPLODE AT ANY TIME.

AFTER DELIBERATION, THEY DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD RESORT TO USING EXPLOSIVES. "THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT EXPLOSIVES WERE USED TO REMOVE A BOMB," MR BRITTAIN RECALLED.

ANOTHER FORCE BOMB DISPOSAL OFFICER, ROBERT HOLLAND, ARRIVED WITH PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES, DETONATORS AND SAFETY FUSE.

IN THE LIGHT OF A RISK THAT THERE WOULD BE A HIGH ORDER SYMPATHETIC DETONATION FROM THE SHELL WHEN THE RELEASE CHARGE WAS INITIATED, MARINE POLICE WERE CALLED TO EVACUATE SOME 50 CREWMEN ON BOARD THE DREDGER AND FORM A 200-METRE CORDON ON THE WATERS.

MR BRITTAIN FIRED THE SAFETY FUSE AND LEFT THE DREDGER. TEN MINUTES LATER, THE CHARGE DETONATED BUT THE SHELL DID NOT.

AFTER ONE HOUR TO ALLOW ANY DELAY ELEMENT IN THE SHELL'S FUSE TO RUN DOWN, THE OFFICERS BOARDED THE DREDGER AND FOUND THAT THE SHELL HAD BEEN FREED AND BLOWN INTO THE BOTTOM OF THE PUMP.

"IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE BOMB WAS MADE IN 1919 AND USED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR," MR BRITTAIN ADDED.

THE SHELL WAS HOISTED OUT OF THE PUMP AND LOADED ONTO A POLICE LAUNCH AT ABOUT MIDNIGHT. THE BOMB WAS FINALLY DISPOSED OF AT HIGH SEA ON NOVEMBER 29.

AT A RECENT CEREMONY, A SITE AGENT OF THE DREDGER, OWNED BY CHINA HARBOUR ENGINEERING COMPANY, PRESENTED A BANNER TO THE EOD OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION IN APPRECIATION OF THEIR STRENUOUS EFFORTS AND PROFESSIONAL ABILITY TO REMOVE THE BOMB.

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MONG KOK ANTI-NARCOTICS VARIETY SHOW

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A VARIETY SHOW TO SPREAD THE ANTI-NARCOTICS MESSAGE WILL BE HELD AT THE MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND IN MONG KOK TOMORROW (SUNDAY), BEGINNING AT 7.45 PM.

THE SHOW IS ORGANISED BY THE MONG KOK DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE (DFCC), JOINTLY MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICE, THE POLICE AND THE ASIA TELEVISION LIMITED (ATV), WITH SPONSORSHIP FROM THE ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS.

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IT WILL FEATURE TELEMATCHES, DRAMA, SINGING PERFORMANCE AND A LUCKY DRAW.

A PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE DISTRICT'S GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS SCHEME AND A COMPETITION ON ANTI-NARCOTICS SLOGANS WILL ALSO BE HELD.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE SHOW WILL BE THE MONG KOK DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR CHOW CHUN-FAI; MONG KOK DISTRICT OFFICER, MISS ANNIE TANG; POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER, MR JOHN HUI; COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR KENNETH WOODHOUSE; THE DFCC CHAIRMAN, MRS TAM CHEUNG KIT-YING AND ATV'S DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR STANISLAUS TSAO.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE SHOW WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 7.45 PM TOMORROW (SUNDAY) AT THE MACPHERSON PLAYGROUND, SAI YEE STREET.

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ATHLETIC MEET FOR ISLANDERS

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THE 14TH ISLANDS DISTRICT ATHLETIC MEET WILL BE HELD AT THE SHATIN SPORTS GROUND, YUEN WO ROAD, TOMORROW (SUNDAY).

ABOUT 290 ISLANDERS WILL COMPETE IN THE 16 TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, INCLUDING LONG JUMP, HIGH JUMP, SHOT PUT, SPRINT, RELAY AND HURDLES.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SEVEN GROUPS ACCORDING TO THEIR AGE AND SEX, AND WINNERS WILL BE PRESENTED WITH PRIZES.

ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICER, MR KIM SALKELD, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AT 11 AM.

THE ANNUAL EVENT, AIMED AT RAISING THE ISLANDERS' INTEREST IN SPORTS AND ENHANCING COMMUNICATIONS AMONG RESIDENTS LIVING ON DIFFERENT ISLANDS, IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE ISLANDS DISTRICT OFFICE, ISLANDS DISTRICT BOARD, REGIONAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS DISTRICT SPORTS ASSOCIATION AND THE DISTRICT'S EIGHT RURAL COMMITTEES.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER.

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SINO-HK POLICE TALKS FRUITFUL

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THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE MR LI KWAN-HA TODAY (SATURDAY) DESCRIBED AS CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS FROM HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

DURING THE MEETINGS HELD AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, MR LI DISCUSSED WITH MR LIU WEN, DIRECTOR OF CID AND INTERPOL NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU, CHINA ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THESE INCLUDED GENERAL LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, ILLEGAL IMPORTATION AND USE OF FIREARMS, ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, NARCOTICS, COMMERCIAL CRIME AND SMUGGLING.

MR LI SAID THAT THE TALKS HAD RESULTED IN FURTHER IMPROVING THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINESE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

MR LIU WEN AND HIS SIX-MEMBER DELEGATION ALSO VISITED A NUMBER OF POLICE FORMATIONS. THE DELEGATION HAS RETURNED TO CHINA THIS AFTERNOON ENDING ITS WEEK-LONG VISIT.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	10.1.92	500
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	11.1.92	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL

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