



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 TO BE SITED AT TSING YI	1
MARINE DIRECTOR WELCOMES CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 CONSTRUCTION	3
TOUGHER LAWS AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS	4
GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO BETTER PROTECT WORKERS	5
PROPOSALS TO REGULATE FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS	7
PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR MR NOEL GLEESON ON BCCHK	9
SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVIEW LEGCC ELECTIONS	10
CHINESE OFFICIALS VISIT HK	11
GOVT RENEWS AIRPORT PROJECTS CONSULTANCY WITH BECHTEL	11
AIRPORT BUILDING REFURBISHMENT WORKS REACHES LAST PHASE	12
SPECIAL CHECK-IN COUNTERS SET UP AT AIRPORT	13
FLIGHTS APPLICATIONS IN LUNAR NEW YEAR HIT RECORD	14
CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 1991	15
DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE	17
BANKING LICENCE OF CONTINENTAL BANK REVOKED	18
SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE TO VISIT CANADA	19
CHEMICAL WEEK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE	20

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CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

FIVE LOTS OF LAND FOR SALE BY AUCTION	21
AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT TSING YI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN	22
TWO INSHORE WORKS TO START IN NT	23
LAND TO BE RESUMED IN TAI PO	24
TIN HAU TEMPLE ON CHEK LAP KOK MOVES	24
PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR YAU MA TEI RECLAMATION WORKS	25
TRAVELLERS REMINDED NOT TO ACT AS DRUG COURIERS	25
FIRE SERVICES PRAISED FOR SAVING LIVES	27
LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES	28
FISHERMEN URGED TO KEEP TYPHOON SHELTER CLEAN	28
"PAI LAU" TO HERALD YEAR OF THE MONKEY	29
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS	30

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 1 -

CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 TO BE SITED AT TSING YI

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THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED THAT CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 (CT9) WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AT TSING YI AND SUITABLE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN TO OVERCOME ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM THE SITING OF THE TERMINAL IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

EXPLAINING THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND BEHIND THE DECISION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MRS ANSON CHAN STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HONG KONG'S CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH TO PLAN AHEAD SO THAT ADEQUATE PORT FACILITIES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE.

"THE DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH TSING YI RE-AFFIRMS OUR POLICY OF EXPANDING OUR PORT FACILITIES TO MATCH THE DEMANDS UPON IT," SHE POINTED OUT.

IT HAS ONLY BEEN MADE AFTER VERY CAREFUL REVALUATION OF ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES AND A CRITICAL REVIEW OF PORT CARGO DEMANDS.

BASED ON THE CURRENT TREND IN CONTAINER GROWTH, TERMINAL NO. 8 SHOULD COME ON STREAM IN THE SUMMER OF NEXT YEAR; TERMINAL NO. 9 WOULD BE REQUIRED TWO YEARS LATER, DURING 1995.

BEFORE 1997, WHEN THE TSING MA BRIDGE WOULD PROVIDE ACCESS TO LANTAU, THE ONLY VIABLE LOCATIONS FOR THESE TERMINALS WERE ON STONECUTTERS ISLAND (WHERE TERMINAL NO. 8 IS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION) AND SOUTH-EAST TSING YI.

"THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TERMINAL AT TSING YI WILL ENABLE US TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE ONLY DEEP WATER SITE AVAILABLE UNTIL AFTER THE BRIDGE TO LANTAU OPENS IN 1997.

"WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO OPEN ANY PORT FACILITIES ON LANTAU DURING 1997, AS OUR LONGER TERM CARGO FORECASTS SUGGEST WILL BE NEEDED, WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL A PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDY IS COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

"SO PORT FACILITIES ON TSING YI ARE VITAL IF HONG KONG IS TO CONTINUE TO SERVICE ITS TRADE WITH THE WORLD, AND THAT OF THE RAPIDLY INDUSTRIALISING PEARL RIVER DELTA. IF WE FAIL TO HANDLE THAT TRADE, THE ECONOMIC DISBENEFITS WOULD AMOUNT TO MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS," SHE SAID.

THOSE DISBENEFITS WOULD EVENTUALLY COME THROUGH AS LOSSES IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSEQUENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON PEOPLE'S STANDARDS OF LIVING.

IN ORDER TO BE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF THE NEED FOR CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 BY MID-1995, THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO EXAMINED:

- * THE ABILITY OF MID-STREAM CONTAINER HANDLING SERVICES TO EXPAND TO COMPENSATE FOR SHORTAGES IN TERMINAL CAPACITY; AND

/* THE ABILITY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 2 -

* THE ABILITY TO INCREASE THROUGHPUT AT THE EXISTING TERMINALS.

MRS CHAN NOTED THAT SOME ADDITIONAL CAPACITY COULD CERTAINLY BE ABSORBED BY MID-STREAM OPERATIONS. "BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THIS BECAUSE OF THE FINITE CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE NUMBER OF BUOYS AVAILABLE AND AN INCREASING SHORTAGE OF SPACE AT ON-SHORE CARGO HANDLING AREAS," SHE SAID.

AS CONGESTION INCREASES THERE IS LIKELY TO BE A PROGRESSIVE MIGRATION OF LARGER CONTAINER SHIPS FROM STREAM TO TERMINALS FROM 1994 ONWARDS. THIS TREND WILL TEND TO ADVANCE, RATHER THAN DEFER, THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ALONGSIDE TERMINAL FACILITIES.

AS REGARDS INCREASED THROUGHPUT AT THE TERMINALS, THE PORT DEVELOPMENT BOARD HAS ONLY RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN EXAMINATION OF THIS. THE BOARD HAS CONCLUDED THAT THROUGHPUT CAN INDEED BE INCREASED. ITS ASSESSMENT THAT CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 WILL BE REQUIRED IN MID-1995 THEREFORE INCORPORATES INCREASED LEVELS OF THROUGHPUT.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR BOWEN LEUNG, SAID THE GOVERNMENT FULLY APPRECIATED THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE TSING YI RESIDENTS REGARDING THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT IMPACTS OF DEVELOPING CT9 ON SOUTH-EAST TSING YI.

"SUITABLE MEASURES TO MINIMISE THE POTENTIAL DISTURBANCE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED WHICH WOULD ALSO IMPROVE THE EXISTING UNSATISFACTORY ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS OF TSING YI ISLAND," HE SAID.

THESE INCLUDE A NUMBER OF MITIGATION MEASURES SUCH AS PUTTING UP NOISE BARRIERS AT APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE CT9 DEVELOPMENT WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALLEVIATE THE ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE PROBLEMS BY DIVERTING THE TRAFFIC FLOW FROM TSING YI ROAD TO THE NEW CONTAINER PORT ROAD," HE SAID.

"FURTHERMORE, CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO INTRODUCE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES ON TSING YI TO RESTRICT CONTAINER LORRIES FROM USING ROADS NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS," HE SAID.

MR LEUNG SAID A SERIES OF ROAD IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WOULD BE INTRODUCED TO COPE WITH THE ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE PORT AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS ON TSING YI.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE WOULD BE THE WIDENING OF THE EXISTING TWO-LANE TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE TO A SIX-LANE CONFIGURATION AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$750 MILLION.

/"THE GOVERNMENT

"THE GOVERNMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE WIDENED TSING YI SOUTH BRIDGE WILL BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONING OF THE FIRST BERTH OF CT9," HE SAID.

"FINALLY, GENEROUS PROVISION WOULD BE MADE FOR BACKUP AREAS FOR THE PARKING, STORAGE AND REPAIR OF CONTAINERS AND VEHICLES AND FOR THE PROVISION OF OFF-ROAD FREIGHT HANDLING FACILITIES IN THE NEW CONTAINER TERMINAL. THESE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE LONG QUEUES OF CONTAINER VEHICLES ON THE ROADS AND COULD WELL ELIMINATE ILLEGAL LORRY PARKING IN THE TSING YI ESTATES," HE SAID.

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MARINE DIRECTOR WELCOMES CONTAINER TERMINAL 9 CONSTRUCTION
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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR TONY MILLER, TODAY (FRIDAY) WELCOMED THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER TERMINAL NO. 9 ON TSING YI ISLAND.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HOSTED BY THE HONG KONG SHIPPING CIRCLE, MR MILLER SAID: "OBVIOUSLY, I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THIS DECISION. IT REMOVES UNCERTAINTY OVER PORT EXPANSION.

"IT IS GOOD NEWS FOR TRADERS AND SHIPPERS ALIKE, AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO WORK IN THE PORT. IT CONFIRMS THE PORT AS A GROWING INDUSTRY. IT MEANS MORE JOBS FOR PORT AND PORT-RELATED INDUSTRIES AS A WHOLE."

NOTING THAT THE GROWTH IN CONTAINERS THROUGHPUT IN 1992 WAS WELL AHEAD OF THE 14 PER CENT TREND GROWTH RATE, MR MILLER SAID: "THROUGHPUT LAST YEAR WAS UP 22 PER CENT. DEMAND REMAINS HIGH AND, WITHOUT NEW FACILITIES COMING ON STREAM ON TSING YI IN 1995, THE PORT SIMPLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COPE.

"WHILE I SYMPATHISE WITH THE CONCERN OF RESIDENTS ON TSING YI, I THINK A GOOD DEAL CAN BE DONE THROUGH APPROPRIATE PLANNING AND DESIGN TO MEET THOSE CONCERNS.

"AS A PORT MANAGER, I AM SIMPLY RELIEVED THAT WE WILL NOT NOW FACE CONGESTION AND DIVERSION OF TRADE IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE ROAD LINK TO LANTAU ALLOWS DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF FACILITIES THERE."

MR MILLER EXPRESSED HIS OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH OF THE PORT.

"HONG KONG'S GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND SHELTERED DEEP WATER HARBOUR MAKE IT THE NATURAL CENTRE FOR SHIPPING ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST.

"THE PEARL RIVER ESTUARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE FOCAL POINT FOR TRADE IN THE REGION, AND HONG KONG IS IDEALLY PLACED TO SERVICE THE DYNAMIC GROWTH OF MANUFACTURING IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE.

"HONG KONG HAS BECOME THE REGIONAL BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE. IT IS VITAL THAT WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP PORT SERVICES TO FULLY COMPLEMENT THIS ROLE," HE SAID.

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TOUGHER LAWS AGAINST UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS

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THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO RAISE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTY FOR UNLAWFUL DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES TO ENSURE THAT BOTH LOCAL AND IMPORTED WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR PAY IN FULL.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1992 GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY), THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR WAGE DEDUCTION AND UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$10,000 AND \$20,000 TO \$100,000 AND \$200,000 RESPECTIVELY. IN ADDITION, THE OFFENDER MAY BE IMPRISONED FOR ONE YEAR.

THE TENFOLD INCREASE IN FINE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF CUSTODIAL SENTENCE INDICATED THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO CRACK DOWN ON UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR MR MAK SAI-YIU SAID.

"THE MAXIMUM FINE OF \$100,000 PLUS ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT WILL APPLY ALSO TO OFFENCES OF WILFULLY OR RECKLESSLY GIVING FALSE INFORMATION, WITHHOLDING INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE GIVEN UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS," MR MAK ADDED.

"THIS WILL FACILITATE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION IN CASES OF DEDUCTION OR UNDERPAYMENT OF WAGES FOR WHICH THE AVAILABILITY AND ACCURACY OF WAGE RECORDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS KEPT BY EMPLOYERS ARE ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE," HE EXPLAINED.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS TO MAKE DIRECTORS, PARTNERS OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSONS OF A COMPANY LIABLE FOR SUCH OFFENCES IF COMMITTED BY THE COMPANY WITH THEIR CONSENT, OR DUE TO THEIR NEGLIGENCE.

MR MAK POINTED OUT THAT THE MORE STRINGENT LEGISLATION WOULD HELP THE DEPARTMENT TO BETTER PROTECT IMPORTED WORKERS FROM EXPLOITATION BY UNSCRUPULOUS EMPLOYERS.

/"WORKERS SHOULD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 5 -

"WORKERS SHOULD COME FORWARD AND REPORT TO US IF THEY DO NOT RECEIVE IN FULL THE WAGES LAID DOWN IN THE CONTRACTS SUBMITTED WITH THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS," HE SAID, ADDING THAT ALL SUCH COMPLAINTS WOULD BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED.

HE REITERATED THAT PROSECUTION WOULD BE TAKEN OUT AGAINST OFFENDING EMPLOYERS WHERE THERE WAS EVIDENCE.

"MOREOVER, THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR SCHEMES ALSO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS, INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF QUOTA GRANTED, AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO BREACH THE CONDITIONS," HE NOTED.

TO PREVENT IRREGULARITIES IN WAGE PAYMENT, MR MAK SAID EMPLOYERS IMPORTING LABOUR UNDER THE NEW SCHEME WERE REQUIRED TO PAY WAGES TO WORKERS THROUGH AUTOPAY.

"WE WILL INCREASE STAFF TO STEP UP INSPECTION OF DORMITORIES AND WORKPLACES OF IMPORTED WORKERS, AND TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF ABUSES AND IRREGULARITIES BY EMPLOYERS," HE ADDED.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT MADE MORE THAN 3,500 VISITS TO THE WORKPLACES AND DORMITORIES OF IMPORTED WORKERS LAST YEAR, COVERING PRACTICALLY ALL EMPLOYERS OF IMPORTED LABOUR, AND LAID 27 SUMMONSES AGAINST SUCH EMPLOYERS UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

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GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO BETTER PROTECT WORKERS

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THE GOVERNMENT IS INTRODUCING A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO BETTER PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL WORKERS.

THESE MEASURES, AIMED AT IMPROVING WORKERS' WELFARE AND SAFETY, WERE SET OUT IN FIVE BILLS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY) FOR INTRODUCTION INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN MID-FEBRUARY.

THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 PROPOSES TO REQUIRE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR NON-MANUAL WORKERS ENGAGED TO WORK OVERSEAS FOR A MONTHLY PAY OF UP TO \$20,000 TO BE ATTESTED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

THIS WILL GIVE THE NECESSARY PROTECTION TO THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WORKERS ENGAGED BY FOREIGN EMPLOYERS TO TAKE UP NON-MANUAL JOBS SUCH AS TECHNICIANS AND SUPERVISORS OVERSEAS WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE DIFFICULTY IN CLAIMING THEIR DUE ENTITLEMENTS IN CASE OF DISPUTES WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID.

/AT PRESENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 6 -

AT PRESENT, ONLY MANUAL WORKERS EMPLOYED TO WORK WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY OUTSIDE HONG KONG BY FOREIGN EMPLOYERS ARE PROTECTED BY THE CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG ORDINANCE (CEOHKO).

"THE BILL ALSO SPELS OUT THE INTENT OF THE CEOHKO TO GIVE PROTECTION TO HONG KONG EMPLOYEES TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE HONG KONG WITH FOREIGN EMPLOYERS ONLY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"THIS HELPS TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT EMPLOYEES ENGAGED BY FOREIGN EMPLOYERS TO WORK OUTSIDE HONG KONG ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE WHILE ALL EMPLOYEES ENGAGED BY HONG KONG EMPLOYERS TO WORK PARTIALLY OR WHOLLY OUTSIDE HONG KONG ARE PROTECTED BY IT," HE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT WHEN ATTESTING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS FOR EMPLOYEES UNDER THE CEOHKO, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE TERMS OFFERED WERE NO LESS FAVOURABLE THAN THOSE UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE.

"THESE TERMS INCLUDE PAID HOLIDAYS, ANNUAL LEAVE, NOTICE OR WAGES IN LIEU OF NOTICE OF TERMINATION, AND COMPENSATION FOR INJURY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

A PROPOSAL TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AGAINST VICTIMISATION BY EMPLOYERS IS MADE UNDER TWO AMENDMENT BILLS.

THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 STIPULATES THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO GIVES ASSISTANCE IN PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIS EMPLOYER IN RELATION TO WORK ACCIDENTS OR SAFETY AT WORK SHOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST DISCRIMINATION OR DISMISSAL.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 INTRODUCES PENALTY ON EMPLOYERS WHO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST EMPLOYEES ON GROUNDS OF GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT OR PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE.

"THE PENALTY FOR AN OFFENDING EMPLOYER WILL BE A FINE OF \$20,000 IN BOTH CASES," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

ALSO GAZETTED TODAY WAS A BILL WHICH SOUGHT TO BRING ALL CONTAINER HANDLING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS ORDINANCE.

"THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1992 IS INTENDED TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF WORKERS ENGAGED IN SMALL STORAGE YARDS FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

"IN ADDITION, THE FACTORY AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (CARGO HANDLING) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1992 SEEK TO REQUIRE PROPRIETORS OF CONTAINER STORAGE YARDS TO STACK UP CONTAINERS SAFELY ON A LEVEL AND FIRM GROUND AND TO PREVENT THE FALL OF WORKERS FROM THE TOP OF CONTAINERS.

/"ALSO, WORKERS

"ALSO, WORKERS ENGAGED IN THESE YARDS WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE SAFETY BELTS PROVIDED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS," HE NOTED.

TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF JOB-SEEKERS, THE EMPLOYMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1992 PROPOSES TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES FROM CHARGING JOB APPLICANTS REGISTRATION FEES.

HOWEVER, THEY WILL STILL BE ALLOWED TO CHARGE A COMMISSION OF UP TO ONE-TENTH OF THE FIRST MONTH'S PAY OF A SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT.

THIS BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO REMOVE ALL EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ON CHARGES BY EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES TO PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS AS THESE FEE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PRACTICE MADE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF BOTH PARTIES.

MOREOVER, THE BILL PROVIDES THAT EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, WHETHER DEALING WITH EMPLOYMENT WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY, WILL BE ISSUED THE SAME LICENCE.

AN AGENCY WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE WITH ONE LICENCE FOR ITS MAIN OFFICE PLUS A DUPLICATE LICENCE FOR EACH BRANCH OFFICE, AND WILL BE REQUIRED ONLY TO KEEP RECORDS OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ON JOB APPLICANTS FOR INSPECTION BY LABOUR OFFICERS.

"THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE NECESSARY AS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES HAVE BECOME MORE SOPHISTICATED IN OPERATION OVER THE YEARS," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

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PROPOSALS TO REGULATE FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND FOREIGN LAWYERS

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THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL HAS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE THE INTRODUCTION OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS FOR THE REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS IN HONG KONG.

SUCH REGULATORY PROVISIONS WILL ENSURE THAT HONG KONG OFFERS MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LEGAL ADVICE TO PEOPLE DOING BUSINESS HERE THUS ENHANCE HONG KONG'S POSITION AS A LEADING REGIONAL CENTRE FOR FINANCE AND LEGAL ADVICE.

AT PRESENT FOREIGN LAWYERS OR FOREIGN LAW FIRMS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE RULES OF THE LAW SOCIETY REGULATING PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETHICS AND DISCIPLINE. THERE ARE ALSO NO STATUTORY CRITERIA THAT SET OUT THE CONDITIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AND FOR THE REGULATION OF THEIR PRACTICES HERE.

PROPOSALS FOR A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK WERE MOOTED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1988. RESPONSE TO A GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT IN 1989 SHOWED STRONG SUPPORT FOR A STATUTORY SCHEME FOR REGULATING THE ADMISSION AND PRACTICE OF FOREIGN LAWYERS.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE RELATES TO PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN TWO REPORTS PRODUCED BY THE LAW SOCIETY IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR REGARDING THE REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS AND A SCHEME FOR ADMISSION OF NON-HONG KONG QUALIFIED LAWYERS. THESE PROPOSALS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE AND BY SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

UNDER THE PROPOSALS FOR THE REGULATION OF FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS, FOREIGN LAWYERS AND FOREIGN LAW FIRMS MUST REGISTER WITH THE LAW SOCIETY. THEY CAN ONLY PRACTISE THE LAW OF THEIR HOME JURISDICTION OR THAT OF A THIRD COUNTRY. THEY CANNOT EMPLOY OR JOIN INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH A HONG KONG SOLICITOR TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.

ONE OF THE PROPOSALS IS TO ENABLE A REGISTERED FOREIGN FIRM TO ENTER INTO AN ASSOCIATION WITH A LOCAL FIRM. THE RATIO OF FOREIGN LAWYERS TO LOCAL LAWYERS IN THE ASSOCIATION CANNOT EXCEED 1:1. THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE ABLE TO SHARE FEES, PREMISES, RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL.

IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT A REGISTERED FOREIGN FIRM WHICH HAS PRACTISED IN HONG KONG FOR THREE YEARS WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A HONG KONG PRACTICE AND PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW, WHILE USING ITS FOREIGN LAW FIRM'S NAME. ALL THE PERSONS WHO ARE TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW MUST BE QUALIFIED HONG KONG SOLICITORS.

ON THE SCHEME FOR ADMISSION OF NON-HONG KONG QUALIFIED LAWYERS, THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE AT PRESENT RESTRICTS THE ADMISSION OF SOLICITORS TO LOCALLY QUALIFIED RESIDENTS, OR SOLICITORS QUALIFIED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ADMISSION IS ALSO OPEN ON A RESTRICTED BASIS TO PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN LEGAL OFFICERS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO TEACHERS OF THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG OR CITY POLYTECHNIC.

A SCHEME IS PROPOSED TO REPLACE THE EXISTING RESTRICTIONS ON THE ADMISSION OF QUALIFIED FOREIGN LAWYERS, WITH OBJECTIVE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND COMPETENCY BASED CRITERIA IN ORDER TO ASSESS THEIR QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE FOR ADMISSION AS HONG KONG SOLICITORS.

THE CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION WILL BE BASED UPON THE FOREIGN LAWYER'S TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN THE COMMON LAW. THE LAW SOCIETY WILL ADMINISTER A TRANSFER TEST TO ENSURE THAT ALL FOREIGN LAWYERS WILL BE COMPETENT TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.

THE SCHEME WILL APPLY TO ALL FOREIGN LAWYERS, INCLUDING UNITED KINGDOM SOLICITORS, WHO ARE PRESENTLY AUTOMATICALLY ADMITTED TO PRACTISE HONG KONG LAW.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 9 -

PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR MR NOEL GLEESON ON BCCHK

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AFTER SPEAKING WITH DEPOSITORS OF THE BANK OF CREDIT AND COMMERCE HONG KONG AGAIN TODAY, THE PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR, MR NOEL GLEESON, SAID ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PUT TO AND DISCUSSED WITH THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK WITH A VIEW TO DEALING WITH THE BCCI RELATED CLAIMS AND OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH HAD APPEARED IN RECENT WEEKS.

THESE PROBLEMS INCLUDED THE FAILURE SO FAR TO OBTAIN A GUARANTEE IN A SATISFACTORY FORM WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED FROM THE ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT.

MR GLEESON WAS, HOWEVER, OPTIMISTIC THAT ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE NEGOTIATED WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT TO BE PUT TO THE COURT IN DUE COURSE.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE BANK'S BUSINESS, PARTICULARLY ITS OVERSEAS INTER-BANK AND TRADE FINANCE RELATIONSHIPS, THIS WAS A HIGHLY TECHNICAL AND COMPLEX SITUATION, BOTH FINANCIALLY AND LEGALLY, AND SOME FURTHER TIME WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REVISE THE DOCUMENTATION AND PREPARE THE SCHEME FOR CIRCULATION TO THE DEPOSITORS.

MR GLEESON'S MAIN CONCERN NOW WAS THE DELAY THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN CAUSED BY THESE CLAIMS AND OTHER PROBLEMS AND FINDING A SOLUTION TO THEM AND THE FURTHER DELAY THAT WAS INEVITABLE IN COMPLETING ALL THE STEPS THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE NEW BANK COULD OPEN.

ON THE SUBJECT OF TIMING HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE SCHEME DOCUMENT COULD BE CIRCULATED TO DEPOSITORS BY ABOUT THE END OF MARCH OR EARLY APRIL, BUT DID NOT EXPECT THAT THE NEW BANK COULD OPEN MUCH BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF JULY.

MR GLEESON EXPECTED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THE DEPOSITORS AFTER THE CHINESE NEW YEAR AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD EXPLAIN TO THEM THE DETAILS OF THE CLAIMS AND THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE RECENTLY ARISEN.

HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HONG KONG CHINESE BANK WERE VERY MUCH ALIVE AND BOTH PARTIES WERE STILL ON COURSE FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW BANK.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 10 -

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVIEW LEGCO ELECTIONS

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A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO REVIEW THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN 1991 AND TO REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS :

CHAIRMAN : MR RONALD ARCULLI

MEMBERS : MRS SELINA CHOW
MR SZETO WAH
MR TAM YIU-CHUNG
MR ANDREW WONG
MRS MIRIAM LAU KIN-YEE
MR J.D. MCGREGOR
MR PETER WONG HONG-YUEN
MR VINCENT CHENG HOI-CHUEN
MR LI WAH-MING
MR STEVEN POON KWOK-LIM
DR YEUNG SUM

THE SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING TODAY (FRIDAY) AT WHICH IT WAS DECIDED THAT INTERESTED PERSONS OR ORGANISATIONS WISHING TO APPEAR BEFORE OR MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE SHOULD WRITE TO THE CLERK NOTIFYING HIM OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE IF THEY COULD WRITE BY FEBRUARY 24 SO AS TO ENABLE THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE NUMBER OF PERSONS OR GROUPS IT WILL SEE AND TO DETERMINE ITS WORK SCHEDULE.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL LATER SET A DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED.

IN THE MEANTIME THE SELECT COMMITTEE HAS SCHEDULED FUTURE MEETINGS ON MARCH 2, 9 AND 23 FROM 4.30 PM TO 7.30 PM.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE WELCOMES WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES. ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE CLERK TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING, 8 JACKSON ROAD, HONG KONG.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 11 -

CHINESE OFFICIALS VISIT HK

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AT THE INVITATION OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, A GROUP OF SIX CHINESE OFFICIALS WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM FEBRUARY 12 TO 21 FOR A 10-DAY PROGRAMME OF VISITS AND BRIEFINGS.

THE GROUP WILL BE LED BY MR WANG FENGCHAO, DIRECTOR OF SECOND DEPARTMENT OF THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE CHINESE STATE COUNCIL.

"THE VISIT IS ONE OF A SERIES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS TO GIVE CHINESE OFFICIALS A FIRST-HAND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW HONG KONG WORKS," A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE VISITORS WILL BE BRIEFED BY SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, THE HEALTH AND WELFARE SYSTEM, HOUSING POLICIES AND THE WORK OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.

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GOVT RENEWS AIRPORT PROJECTS CONSULTANCY WITH BECHTEL

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL INCORPORATED SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) UNDER WHICH THE AMERICAN FIRM WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AS PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR HONG KONG'S NEW AIRPORT SCHEME AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS COORDINATION OFFICE (NAPCO), MR RAFAEL HUI, AND THE CONSULTANT PROJECT MANAGER OF INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL INC., DR HENRY TOWNSEND.

PHASE II OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO-BASED BECHTEL GROUP, WILL RUN FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1992 TO JANUARY 31, 1994.

THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT MARKS A FURTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) UNDER WHICH THE NEW AIRPORT WILL BE BUILT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND NINE RELATED CORE PROJECTS COMPLETED.

THE ACP INVOLVES BUILDING THE NEW AIRPORT, TWO MAJOR BRIDGES AND A VIADUCT AS PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, TWO EXPRESSWAYS AND AN ASSOCIATED ROAD LINK, A NEW TOWN AT TUNG CHUNG, TWO RECLAMATIONS, A HIGH-SPEED AIRPORT RAILWAY, AND A THIRD UNDERWATER ROAD TUNNEL BETWEEN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG ISLAND.

MORE THAN 130 MAJOR WORKS CONTRACTS WILL BE AWARDED IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND 65 PER CENT OF THOSE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE ESTIMATED TO COST OVER \$100 MILLION EACH.

/"THE SUCCESS

"THE SUCCESS OF THE ENTIRE ACP HINGES UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM OF STRONG PROJECT MANAGEMENT WHICH CAN ORGANISE AND SCHEDULE ALL THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS INTO A WORKABLE WHOLE, THUS ENSURING THAT THE PROGRAMME IS COMPLETED ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET," SAID MR HUI.

UNDER PHASE I OF THE CONSULTANCY, THE MAJOR PART OF THE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING AND DESIGN WORK OF THE ACP WAS NEARING COMPLETION.

UNDER THE \$195 MILLION PHASE II CONSULTANCY, INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL WILL PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH CO-ORDINATION, MONITORING OF COSTS AND PROGRAMMING, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT ON ALL ACP PROJECTS. INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL STAFF WORK WITH NAPCO AS PART OF AN INTEGRATED TEAM.

NAPCO UNDERTAKES OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UNDER WHICH CONTROL BASELINES FOR ALL 10 ACP CORE PROJECTS ARE ESTABLISHED AND PROGRESS MONITORED.

"A LARGE SCALE, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS THE ACP HAS NOT BEEN UNDERTAKEN BEFORE IN HONG KONG, AND INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL, WITH ITS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN MAJOR CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS WORLD-WIDE, IS PROVIDING EXPERTISE IN ENSURING THAT THE ACP IS COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY," SAID MR HUI.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DIRECTOR OF NAPCO, MR RAFAEL HUI, AND THE CONSULTANT PROJECT MANAGER OF INTERNATIONAL BECHTEL INC., DR HENRY TOWNSEND, WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MEET THE MEDIA TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT AND ON OVERALL PROJECT MANAGEMENT. THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD CONTACT THE NAPCO INFORMATION UNIT ON TEL. 802 3475.

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AIRPORT BUILDING REFURBISHMENT WORKS REACHES LAST PHASE

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REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO THE OLD SECTION OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING AT THE HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE AND HAS REACHED ITS LAST PHASE.

PHASES I TO IV OF THE PROGRAMME HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND ALL FACILITIES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK INTO OPERATION. THESE INCLUDE NEW RESTAURANTS AT THE WESTERN END OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

WORKS OF THE LAST PHASE WILL START NEXT MONTH.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 13 -

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID THE \$289 MILLION PROJECT, WORKS OF WHICH STARTED IN APRIL 1990, WAS TO UPGRADE THE STANDARD OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES OF THE OLD SECTION OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

THE SCOPE INCLUDED RENOVATION OF CEILINGS AND FLOORS, IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING LIGHTING, REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADING OF THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS SUCH AS AIR CONDITIONING, FIRE PROTECTION, DRAINAGE, PLUMBING AND POWER SUPPLIES.

THE DEPARTURE AND INTERLINE BAGGAGE HANDLING SYSTEM IS ALSO BEING IMPROVED TO FURTHER ENHANCE BAGGAGE DESPATCH RELIABILITY. AN ELECTRONIC DISPLAY SYSTEM IS BEING INTRODUCED AT CHECK-IN COUNTERS TO IMPROVE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO PASSENGERS.

ADDITIONAL LIFTS AND ESCALATORS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO IMPROVE PASSENGER ACCESS BETWEEN ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES AND THE MULTI-STORY CARPARK.

THE WHOLE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN AUGUST.

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SPECIAL CHECK-IN COUNTERS SET UP AT AIRPORT

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SPECIAL CHECK-IN COUNTERS HAVE BEEN SET UP AT KAI TAK AIRPORT TO COPE WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF PASSENGERS DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PERIOD.

THE 10 COUNTERS ARE LOCATED AT THE WESTERN END OF THE DEPARTURES HALL OF THE PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING.

THEY ARE FOR PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON FLIGHTS BOUND FOR XIAMEN, HAIKOU AND GUILIN IN CHINA. THE COUNTERS COME INTO SERVICE FROM TODAY (FRIDAY) UNTIL FEBRUARY 6.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT SAID AIRLINES WOULD BE OPERATING ABOUT 500 ADDITIONAL DEPARTING FLIGHTS BETWEEN TODAY AND FEBRUARY 10. OF THESE, ABOUT 350 WOULD BE FOR DESTINATIONS IN CHINA.

THE NUMBER OF DEPARTING PASSENGERS IS EXPECTED TO REACH A PEAK BETWEEN FEBRUARY 3 AND 5 WHEN ABOUT 50,000 PASSENGERS ARE EXPECTED TO DEPART ON MORE THAN 190 FLIGHTS EACH DAY.

SPECIAL DIRECTIONAL SIGNS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT PROMINENT LOCATIONS AT THE DEPARTURES HALL TO HELP DEPARTING PASSENGERS LOCATE THEIR AIRLINE CHECK-IN LOCATION.

/THE SPOKESMAN

THE SPOKESMAN SAID AS THE AIRPORT WAS EXPECTED TO BE VERY CROWDED DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD, TRAVELLERS SHOULD USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO TRAVEL TO THE AIRPORT.

TAXI TRADE ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO SEND MORE TAXIS TO THE AIRPORT TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

HE ADVISED CHINA-BOUND PASSENGERS THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID MISSING FLIGHTS, THEY SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE AIRPORT TWO HOURS BEFORE THE FLIGHT DEPARTURE, CHECK IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PROCEED TO IMMIGRATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHECK-IN.

FAREWELLERS AND GREETERS ARE ADVISED NOT TO COME TO THE AIRPORT DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD.

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FLIGHTS APPLICATIONS IN LUNAR NEW YEAR HIT RECORD
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THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A RECORD NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 1,072 EXTRA ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FLIGHTS OVER THE CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD FROM TODAY (FRIDAY) TO FEBRUARY 10.

OF THESE, 860 ARE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM CHINA.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO ALLOCATE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES AT KAI TAK FOR ALL THE EXTRA FLIGHTS FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

HOWEVER, SOME AIRLINES WHO HAVE SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS FOR SOME FLIGHTS TO CHINA HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES MADE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

SCHEDULING OF FLIGHTS AT KAI TAK IS CARRIED OUT BY THE AIRLINE SCHEDULING CO-ORDINATOR.

THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDES THE CAPACITIES OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING, RUNWAY AND AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON WITHIN WHICH THE SCHEDULING CO-ORDINATOR ALLOCATES ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR ALL FLIGHTS.

HOWEVER, CONTINUING EFFORTS WILL BE MADE BY THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SCHEDULING CO-ORDINATOR AT KAI TAK TO ADJUST ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES TO ACCOMMODATE THE MAXIMUM TRAFFIC POSSIBLE WITHIN THE AVAILABLE CAPACITY OF THE AIRPORT.

THIS IS DONE TO MINIMISE ANY INCONVENIENCE TO THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC.

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CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT STATISTICS FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 1991

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THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHO MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO \$15.8 BILLION, ACCORDING TO FINDINGS OF THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THIS WAS 0.4% LOWER THAN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990 AND 0.3% LOWER THAN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991.

COMPARED WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, THE DROP IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 WAS DUE TO THE SMALLER VALUE OF WORK DONE BY THE GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT PUBLIC SITES AND NON-SITE LOCATIONS.

WORK DONE AT PUBLIC SITES DECREASED BY 3.8% FROM THE PRECEDING QUARTER TO \$3.7 BILLION; THAT AT NON-SITE LOCATIONS FELL BY 2.5% TO \$2.8 BILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, GREATER VALUES OF WORK WERE PERFORMED BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT PRIVATE SECTOR SITES AND BY SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS IN GENERAL.

THE VALUE OF WORK DONE BY GENERAL CONTRACTORS AT PRIVATE SECTOR SITES AMOUNTED TO \$8 BILLION IN THE THIRD QUARTER AND WAS 1.2% HIGHER THAN THE SECOND QUARTER.

FOR THE SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS, THE VALUE OF WORK DONE WAS \$1.2 BILLION AND WAS 7.1% HIGHER.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PROJECTS (INCLUDING COMBINED RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS) CONTINUED TO ACCOUNT FOR THE GREATEST PORTION OF THE TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK DONE.

THE GROSS VALUE OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991 WAS \$4.9 BILLION, ACCOUNTING FOR 41.6% OF THE TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK DONE.

THIS WAS HIGHER THAN THE SECOND QUARTER BY 1.8% THOUGH STILL marginally lower than the third quarter of 1990 by 0.7%.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS AT COMMERCIAL BUILDING SITES COMPARED LOW WITH BOTH THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 (BY 2.7%) AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990 (BY 0.7%). THE TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE IN THE THIRD QUARTER WAS \$2.1 BILLION.

THE COMMERCIAL BUILDING PROJECTS FORMED THE SECOND LARGEST CATEGORY OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK DONE, ACCOUNTING FOR 18.0% OF THE TOTAL CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK DONE IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 16 -

THE TRANSPORT PROJECTS ACCOUNTED FOR THE THIRD LARGEST PORTION OF CONSTRUCTION SITE WORK DONE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1991. LIKE THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, THE VALUE OF WORK DONE, TOTALLING \$1.4 BILLION, WAS LOWER THAN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1991 (BY 6.2%) AND THE SAME QUARTER OF 1990 (BY 10.1%).

OWING TO THE WIDESPREAD SUB-CONTRACTING PRACTICE IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, A CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENT CAN BE A MAIN CONTRACTOR FOR ONE CONTRACT AND A SUB-CONTRACTOR FOR ANOTHER CONTRACT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY MAIN CONTRACTORS (WHICH MAY BE GENERAL CONTRACTORS OR SPECIAL TRADE CONTRACTORS) REFERS TO THE OUTPUT OF THOSE CONSTRUCTION ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY TAKE THE ROLE OF A MAIN CONTRACTOR, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT OF PROJECTS IN WHICH THEY PLAY THE ROLE OF SUB-CONTRACTORS.

HOWEVER, SUB-CONTRACTORS' CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GROSS VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR WHOM THEY WORKED.

MORE DETAILED STATISTICS ON CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT ARE GIVEN IN THE "REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF CONSTRUCTION OUTPUT, 3RD QUARTER 1991".

THE REPORT IS NOW ON SALE AT \$3 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, OR AT THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES COUNTER, WANCHAI TOWER I, 19TH FLOOR, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI. REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ALSO BE ARRANGED.

ENQUIRIES ON FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SURVEY MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 839 3265.

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/17

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 17 -

DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE
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THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, ANNOUNCED TODAY (FRIDAY) THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICES (PMRS) IN HONG KONG AND ISSUED A PUBLIC NOTICE INVITING INTERESTED PARTIES TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO OPERATE SUCH SERVICES.

MR WONG ANNOUNCED THAT:

- * BOTH THE EUROPEAN "GLOBAL STANDARD FOR MOBILE-TELEPHONE" (GSM) AND THE UNITED STATES DIGITAL CELLULAR (USDC) STANDARDS WILL BE ADOPTED FOR DIGITAL PMRS IN HONG KONG;
- * THE THREE EXISTING PMRS OPERATORS WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONVERT THEIR ANALOGUE SYSTEMS (TACS, ETACS AND AMPS) INTO DIGITAL ONES; AND
- * A NEW OPERATOR WILL BE LICENSED TO OPERATE A NEW SYSTEM BASED ON THE GSM STANDARD.

IN NOVEMBER 1990 THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY ISSUED A CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE QUESTION OF LICENSING DIGITAL PMRS IN HONG KONG.

"THE DECISION ON THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WAS MADE AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION COMMENTS RECEIVED IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS AND THE LATEST TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS," MR WONG SAID.

AT PRESENT, THERE ARE THREE PMRS OPERATORS: HONG KONG TELECOM CSL LIMITED, HUTCHISON TELEPHONE LTD AND PACIFIC LINK COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED. THEY EMPLOY ANALOGUE TECHNIQUES IN OPERATING THEIR SYSTEMS.

AT THE END OF LAST YEAR THERE WERE 190,000 SUBSCRIBERS IN HONG KONG WHICH REPRESENTED THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF HAND-HELD PORTABLE PHONES IN ANY SIZEABLE CELLULAR PHONE MARKET IN THE WORLD.

"OWING TO THE VERY STRONG DEMAND FOR MOBILE PHONES IN HONG KONG, THE EXISTING ANALOGUE SYSTEMS WILL SOON NOT BE ABLE TO MEET FUTURE GROWTH," MR WONG SAID.

"BY INTRODUCING DIGITAL PMRS, THE CAPACITY CAN BE INCREASED A FEW TIMES WITH A BETTER GRADE OF SERVICE," HE ADDED.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS TO OPERATE THE NEW GSM SYSTEM MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG POST OFFICE AT SINCERE BUILDING, FIFTH FLOOR, 173 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

/ALL PROPOSALS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 18 -

ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, MR DOMINIC S.W. WONG, AT 3.30 PM TODAY (FRIDAY) IN THE GPO CONFERENCE ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE, 2 CONNAUGHT PLACE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON DIGITAL PUBLIC MOBILE RADIOTELEPHONE SERVICE.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

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BANKING LICENCE OF CONTINENTAL BANK REVOKED
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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (FRIDAY) THAT THE BANKING LICENCE OF CONTINENTAL BANK N.A. HAS BEEN REVOKED BY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL AT THE REQUEST OF THE BANK.

CONTINENTAL BANK WAS GRANTED A BANKING LICENCE IN 1986.

"AS PART OF THE RATIONALISATION OF ITS GLOBAL OPERATIONS THE BANK HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FAR EAST AND CEASED OPERATING IN HONG KONG IN JUNE 1991," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AFTER THE REVOCATION, THERE ARE 162 LICENSED BANKS IN HONG KONG, OF WHICH 132 ARE INCORPORATED OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

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SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE TO VISIT CANADA

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THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, WILL VISIT CANADA FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) TO FEBRUARY 15 TO LAY THE GROUND WORKS FOR A HONG KONG FESTIVAL TO BE STAGED IN FIVE CANADIAN CITIES IN SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

MR SO WILL VISIT VANCOUVER, CALGARY, TORONTO, MONTREAL AND OTTAWA WHERE THE MULTI-FACETED FESTIVAL INCORPORATING CULTURAL, TRADE, BUSINESS, SPORTING AND SOCIAL EVENTS WILL BE HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 19 TO OCTOBER 24.

HE WILL MEET CITY MAYORS, KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE FESTIVAL.

MR SO, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING GROUP ON FESTIVAL HONG KONG '92, WILL ALSO MEET THE HEADS OF THE LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEES IN THE FIVE CITIES TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND TO OBTAIN A FIRST-HAND BRIEFING ON THE UP-TO-DATE PROGRESS OF PREPARATORY WORK IN CANADA.

THE FESTIVAL AIMS TO STRENGTHEN THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CANADA AND HONG KONG BY INCREASING THE CULTURAL, BUSINESS AND FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.

AT HIS FIRST STOP IN VANCOUVER, MR SO WILL CALL ON THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE HON DAVID LAM ON FEBRUARY 3.

ON FEBRUARY 5, HE WILL ATTEND A MEETING OF THE VANCOUVER ORGANISING COMMITTEE.

ARRIVING IN CALGARY ON FEBRUARY 6, MR SO WILL HOST A LUNCH FOR THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL THERE. HE WILL DISCUSS WITH THEM PLANS ON ORGANISING THE FESTIVAL IN CALGARY.

IN TORONTO, MR SO WILL MEET ALL THE LOCAL FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN AND ATTEND AN ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETING.

ON FEBRUARY 10, MR SO WILL SPEARHEAD A PUBLICITY LAUNCH OF THE FESTIVAL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE BY ANNOUNCING DETAILS OF THE FESTIVAL CORE PROGRAMME.

MR SO WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN TORONTO WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF ALL FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES IN CANADA.

AFTER A BRIEF STAY IN MONTREAL, MR SO WILL FLY TO OTTAWA WHERE HE WILL SPEAK AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE HONG KONG - CANADA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION ON FEBRUARY 13.

MR SO WILL LEAVE CANADA FOR LONDON ON FEBRUARY 15 WHERE HE WILL ATTEND THE 10TH CONFERENCE ON CABLE TELEVISION AND SATELLITE BROADCASTING AND A CONFERENCE ON "TELEVISION OF TOMORROW".

HE WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON FEBRUARY 21.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 20 -

CHEMICAL WEEK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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MORE THAN 200 TOP EXECUTIVES OF THE LEADING CHEMICAL COMPANIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD WILL ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG NEXT MONTH.

ORGANISED BY THE NEW YORK-BASED MAGAZINE "CHEMICAL WEEK" AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT, THE CHEMICAL WEEK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IS AIMED AT ADDRESSING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATING TO THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR T.H. BARMA, SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS INTENDED TO BE A "FORUM FOR STRATEGIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT".

WELCOMING CHEMICAL WEEK'S DECISION TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE HERE, MR BARMA SAID: "HONG KONG HAS LONG BEEN A DESTINATION FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS AND OVERSEAS BUSINESSMEN WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ASIA MARKET. IT IS THE NATURAL AND LOGICAL CHOICE FOR A CONFERENCE ON EVALUATING ASIAN MARKETS AND MAKING STRATEGIC ALLIANCES."

MR BARMA WILL DELIVER THE OPENING ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 17.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ORGANISER SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY EVENTS EVER TO TAKE PLACE IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

"THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE INDUSTRY'S LEADERS IN THIS CONFERENCE REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC TO THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, AND UNDERSCORES THE DYNAMIC BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE REGION," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BP CHEMICALS, MR BRYAN SANDERSON, WILL DELIVER THE KEYNOTE SPEECH, WHICH WILL GIVE INSIGHT INTO THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND GENERAL CONCERNS TAILORED SPECIFICALLY TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION WILL THEN BE ADDRESSED AT THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ADAPTING TO REGIONAL BUSINESS STYLES, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, TRAINING EMPLOYEES, TAXATION, AND LEGAL ISSUES.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE HONG KONG GRAND HYATT HOTEL FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 19.

LOCAL COMPANIES WISHING TO TAKE PART IN THE CONFERENCE CAN OBTAIN BROCHURES AND REGISTRATION FORMS FROM THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 737 2587. FOR REGISTRATION, PLEASE CONTACT MR RON BOUCHER, THE CONFERENCE MANAGER IN NEW YORK ON TEL. 212-621-4900; OR BY FACSIMILE 212-586-3147 OR 586-3218.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 21 -

FIVE LOTS OF LAND FOR SALE BY AUCTION

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THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER FOR SALE FIVE LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN A PUBLIC AUCTION ON FEBRUARY 25.

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD AT 2.30 PM IN THE JADE BALLROOM OF HOTEL FURAMA KEMPINSKI, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HONG KONG.

THE FIRST LOT, LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF WYLIE ROAD AND KING'S PARK RISE, KOWLOON, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 8,811 SQUARE METRES, AND IS INTENDED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 26,430 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE SECOND SITE, LOCATED AT AREA 39, TUEN MUN, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 7,548 SQUARE METRES. THE SITE IS EARMARKED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 14,944 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE THIRD SITE IS LOCATED AT AREA 15, SHUI WAI, TAI PO. MEASURING ABOUT 21,060 SQUARE METRES, THE SITE IS DESIGNATED FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 26,600 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

THE FOURTH SITE, WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 3,300 SQUARE METRES, IS LOCATED AT WANG YIP STREET WEST, TUNG TAU INDUSTRIAL AREA, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES.

IT IS EARMARKED FOR GODOWN PURPOSES EXCLUDING THE STORAGE OF "DANGEROUS GOODS" AS DEFINED IN THE DANGEROUS GOODS ORDINANCE OR ANY AMENDING LEGISLATION (EXCEPT SUCH FUEL AS NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF MACHINES INSTALLED IN THE BUILDING OR BUILDINGS ERECTED ON THE LOT).

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 18,810 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1995.

THE REMAINING LOT, AT A KUNG NGAM, HONG KONG, HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 2,115 SQUARE METRES AND IS DESIGNATED FOR GODOWN PURPOSES.

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 12,055 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

/FULL PARTICULARS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 22 -

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND SALES PLANS INSPECTED AT, THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CARPARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

CONDITIONS OF SALE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE AT THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES OF SHA TIN, TUEN MUN, YUEN LONG, TSUEN WAN, SAI KUNG, KWAI TSING, TAI PO, NORTH AND ISLANDS.

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AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT TSING YI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN

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THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT TSING YI OUTLINE ZONING PLAN.

ONE OF THE MAJOR AMENDMENTS IS TO INCORPORATE PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS OF TWO MAJOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS, THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND ROUTE 3, WHICH PASS THROUGH TSING YI.

THE FORMER WILL CONNECT THE NEW AIRPORT WITH THE MAIN URBAN AREA WHILE THE LATTER CONNECT LOK MA CHAU WITH WEST KOWLOON.

ANOTHER AMENDMENT IS TO REZONE THE "GOVERNMENT/INSTITUTION/COMMUNITY" (GIC) AND PART OF THE "OPEN SPACE" ZONES SOUTH OF TSING TSUEN BRIDGE TO "COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AREA" TO ACCOMMODATE THE PROPOSED AIRPORT RAILWAY TSING YI STATION.

ALSO, PART OF THE "GREEN BELT" ZONE IN AREA 27 NEAR THE JUNCTION OF TSING YI ROAD WEST AND SAI TSO WAN ROAD IS REZONED TO GIC FOR A SECOND SUB-DIVISION FIRE STATION TO IMPROVE THE COVERAGE OF THE FIRE SERVICE FACILITIES.

PART OF THE "COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL" ZONE IN FRONT OF MAYFAIR GARDENS IN AREA 23 IS REZONED TO "OPEN SPACE" TO PROVIDE A BUFFER BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL USES ACROSS TSING YI ROAD.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT PLAN CAN NOW BE INSPECTED UNTIL MARCH 31 AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

- * KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 166-174 HING FONG ROAD, KWAI CHUNG;
- * PLANNING DEPARTMENT, TOWN PLANNING BOARD SECTION, 16TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG; AND

/* TSUEN WAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 23 -

* TSUEN WAN DISTRICT PLANNING OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, HO FAI COMMERCIAL CENTRE, BLOCK TWO, 222-224 SAI LAU KOK ROAD, TSUEN WAN.

ANY PERSON AFFECTED BY THE AMENDMENTS MAY SUBMIT HIS OBJECTIONS IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TOWN PLANNING BOARD, C/O PLANNING DEPARTMENT BY MARCH 31.

COPIES OF THE AMENDMENT PLAN ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE KOWLOON MAP SALES SECTION, 382 NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON AT \$10 EACH UNCOLOURED AND \$60 COLOURED.

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TWO INSHORE WORKS TO START IN NT
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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY) PUBLISHED TWO SEPARATE NOTICES OF AUTHORISATION DETAILING THE EXTENT OF THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AREAS TO BE AFFECTED BY INSHORE WORKS AT TWO LOCATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT NORTH TSING YI, A LEASE HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR RECLAMATION WORKS TO BE CARRIED OUT LATER THIS YEAR WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 2.47 HECTARES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CEMENT PLANT.

AT SAI KUNG NORTH, THE GOVERNMENT IS TO CONSTRUCT A SLIPWAY WITHIN AN AREA OF ABOUT 407 SQUARE METRES OF FORESHORE AND SEA-BED AT WONG SHEK SHORTLY WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TO COMPLETE.

ANY PERSON WHO CONSIDERS THAT HIS INTEREST, RIGHT OR EASEMENT IN OR OVER THE FORESHORE AND SEA-BED INVOLVED WILL BE AFFECTED BY THESE WORKS MAY DELIVER TO THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS A WRITTEN CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 30, 1993.

THE NOTICES (IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE) TOGETHER WITH THEIR RELATED PLANS CAN BE SEEN AT THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SURVEY AND MAPPING OFFICE, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG (WHERE COPIES CAN BE PURCHASED ON ORDER) AND AT THE RESPECTIVE DISTRICT OFFICES.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 24 -

LAND TO BE RESUMED IN TAI PO

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME LAND IN TAI PO FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AT HA HANG VILLAGE IN THE AREA.

LOCATED IN NEW TOWN AREA 31, THE LAND TO BE RESUMED COMPRISES 41 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS WITH A TOTAL AREA OF 10,423 SQUARE METRES.

THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EXPIRY OF THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING OF NOTICES ON THE LOTS.

DETAILS OF THE RESUMPTION WERE GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

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TIN HAU TEMPLE ON CHEK LAP KOK MOVES

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THE TIN HAU TEMPLE IN CHEK LAP KOK BUILT MORE THAN 160 YEARS AGO WILL BE RESITED IN WONG LUNG HANG, TUNG CHUNG, USING THE SALVAGED ORIGINAL STONES.

THE ONE-HALL-TYPE TEMPLE BUILT ENTIRELY OF STONES IN THE THIRD YEAR OF DAO GUANG REIGN (1823) WAS DISMANTLED IN JANUARY LAST YEAR TO GIVE WAY TO THE NEW AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT.

NOTICE OF TENDER FOR THE CONTRACT TO RECONSTRUCT THE ONLY SUCH STRUCTURE IN HONG KONG WAS PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE CONTRACT WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SIX STANDARD VILLAGE RESITE HOUSES AND ASSOCIATED PROVISIONS. WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MARCH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PROPERTY SERVICES BRANCH OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, FIFTH FLOOR, MAIN BLOCK, APB CENTRE, 9 SUNG PING STREET, TO KWA WAN, KOWLOON.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION FOR TENDER IS NOON, FEBRUARY 21.

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PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE FOR YAU MA TEI RECLAMATION WORKS

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THE CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT IS INVITING SUBMISSIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER RECLAMATION AND REPROVISIONING OF WATERFRONT FACILITIES.

THE PROPOSED WORKS, WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PUT TO TENDER IN MAY THIS YEAR, COMPRISE MAINLY RECLAMATION OF ABOUT 54 HECTARES OF LAND AND ANCILLARY WORKS SUCH AS INSTALLATION OF WICK DRAINS, CONSTRUCTION OF SEAWALL, RUBBLE REVETMENT AND CELL BOX CULVERT OUTFALL AT THE SOUTHERN AREA OF THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION.

THE WATERFRONT FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THE CONTRACT WILL INCLUDE A SALT WATER PUMPING STATION, A PUBLIC CARGO WORKING AREA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, A MARINE OFFICE AND A WATER SELLING KIOSK.

THESE WORKS ARE VITAL AND URGENT IN PROVIDING REQUISITE LANDFALL FOR THE KEY TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE AIRPORT RAILWAY AND WEST KOWLOON EXPRESSWAY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW AIRPORT.

THE WORKS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND CONSTRUCTION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY THE WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION DIVISION OF THE PORT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE URBAN AREA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, TERRITORY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

WORKS ON THE CONTRACT ARE EXPECTED TO START THIS OCTOBER AND WILL TAKE 25 MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

CONTRACTORS ON THE RELEVANT LISTS OF APPROVED CONTRACTORS FOR PUBLIC WORKS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER/WEST KOWLOON RECLAMATION DIVISION ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING, 101 PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD, HO MAN TIN, KOWLOON.

COMPLETED PREQUALIFICATION SUBMISSION SHALL BE SUBMITTED AS DIRECTED NOT LATER THAN NOON ON FEBRUARY 28.

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TRAVELLERS REMINDED NOT TO ACT AS DRUG COURIERS

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LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE BEEN REMINDED NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE USED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS AS DRUG COURIERS WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

THE REMINDER CAME TODAY (FRIDAY) FROM THE COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS, MR KEN WOODHOUSE, BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE TRAVEL OVERSEAS ON VACATION OVER THE COMING CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

/MR WOODHOUSE

MR WOODHOUSE SAID MORE THAN 30,000 COPIES OF A LEAFLET "HAVE A NICE TRIP, DON'T CARRY DRUGS" HAD BEEN SENT TO ALL MAJOR TRAVEL AGENCIES IN THE TERRITORY TO ADVISE TRAVELLERS HOW TO AVOID GETTING INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING WHEN TRAVELLING ABROAD.

HE URGED ALL TRAVELLERS TO GET A COPY AND READ IT CAREFULLY WHEN THEY APPROACHED THEIR TRAVEL AGENTS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR TRIP.

THE LEAFLET IS ALSO OBTAINABLE AT A NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT OFFICES.

"INNOCENT, UNSUSPECTING TRAVELLERS ARE LIKELY TO BE THE TARGETS OF DRUG SYNDICATES," MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

"NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE OFFERED, WHETHER IT BE A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS OR A FREE AIR TICKET, THE PRICE CAN BE THE LOSS OF YOUR FREEDOM, OR EVEN YOUR LIFE, WHEN YOU ARE CAUGHT. THE DEATH PENALTY IS MANDATORY FOR TRAFFICKING OFFENCES IN SOME COUNTRIES AND LONG PRISON SENTENCES OF UP TO 25 YEARS ARE ALSO COMMON," MR WOODHOUSE SAID.

HE STRESSED THAT WITH INCREASING WORLDWIDE CONCERN OVER DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING AND BETTER INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, COUNTRIES WERE TAKING MORE STRINGENT LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AND IMPOSING TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DRUG OFFENCES.

THE COMMISSIONER OFFERED THE FOLLOWING ADVICE TO TRAVELLERS:

- * DON'T CARRY PACKAGES OR BAGGAGE FOR ANYONE UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THEY CONTAIN NO ILLICIT DRUGS OR OTHER PROHIBITED ITEMS;
- * NEVER AGREE TO CHECK IN BAGGAGE ON BEHALF OF SOMEONE WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE EXCESS BAGGAGE;
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO SAY THAT IT IS ALRIGHT, OR LEGAL TO USE DOPE IN YOUR DESTINATION. ALL COUNTRIES PROHIBIT ILLICIT DRUG USE;
- * DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT THE TYPE THAT CUSTOMS GO FOR;
- * REPORT TO THE POLICE OR TO THE CUSTOMS IF A POSSIBLE DRUG CARRYING DEAL IS PUT TO YOU. THE SYNDICATE WILL GET THE PROFIT; YOU WILL TAKE THE RISK.

MR WOODHOUSE ALSO STRESSED THAT PENALTIES FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENCES IN HONG KONG ARE VERY SEVERE. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY IS LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$5 MILLION. THE ASSETS OF CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS CAN BE CONFISCATED.

EVEN PERSONS FOUND IN ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF SMALL QUANTITIES OF DRUGS ARE LIABLE TO THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF \$10,000.

MR WOODHOUSE URGED THE PUBLIC TO CALL THE POLICE NARCOTICS BUREAU ON TEL. 527 1234 OR THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT ON TEL. 545 6182 IF THEY SUSPECTED THAT ANY PERSON WAS A DRUG TRAFFICKER OR A PUSHER.

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FIRE SERVICES PRAISED FOR SAVING LIVES

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THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, MR ALISTAIR ASPREY, TODAY (FRIDAY) PRAISED THE FIRE SERVICES FOR THEIR WORK IN SAVING THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC.

SPEAKING AT A PASSING-OUT PARADE FOR 12 STATION OFFICERS, 21 FIREMEN AND 24 AMBULANCEMEN AT THE PAT HEUNG FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL, MR ASPREY SAID THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ENJOYED A HIGH REPUTATION, EARNED AND MAINTAINED LARGELY THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME.

HE TOLD THE GRADUATING GROUP THAT THEY HAD CHOSEN A WORTHWHILE AND MEANINGFUL CAREER WHICH NOBODY ELSE WAS EQUIPPED TO UNDERTAKE, AND WHICH WAS WELL RESPECTED BY THE PUBLIC.

"YOUR CAREER WILL OFTEN REQUIRE YOU TO WORK IN DANGEROUS AND DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

"IN SAVING THE LIVES AND PROPERTY OF OTHERS, YOU WILL SOMETIMES RISK YOUR OWN.

"YET, YOU MAY ALSO BE UNFAIRLY CRITICISED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER THE STRESS OF LOSS OR BEREAVEMENT, OR BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR BEST EFFORTS TO ASSIST THEM CANNOT ALWAYS ACHIEVE THE RESULTS THEY WOULD WISH," HE SAID.

MR ASPREY TOLD THE GRADUATES THAT THE 26-WEEK BASIC TRAINING AT THE SCHOOL WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THEIR CHOSEN CAREER.

DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD, THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT NOT ONLY HOW TO USE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF EQUIPMENT FOR SAVING LIVES AND EXTINGUISHING FIRES, BUT ALSO DISCIPLINE AND THE NEED FOR TEAMWORK.

MR ASPREY SAID ALL THESE WERE VITAL BOTH TO SAVE LIVES AND TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GRADUATES WOULD PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, AND TO LIVE UP THE HIGH PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND REPUTATION OF THE FIRE SERVICES.

AFTER INSPECTING THE PARADE, MR ASPREY PRESENTED THE BEST RECRUIT AWARDS TO STATION OFFICER LOK KIN-CHONG, FIREMAN CHAU HO-MING AND AMBULANCEMAN LAU KING-LEONG FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE DURING TRAINING.

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LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES
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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TODAY (FRIDAY) ANNOUNCED SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF EVENING AND HOLIDAY GOVERNMENT GENERAL OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SERVICES FOR THE COMING LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

THERE WILL BE NO EVENING CLINIC SERVICE ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S EVE (FEBRUARY 3). HOLIDAY CLINIC SERVICES WILL ALSO BE SUSPENDED ON LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY AND THE SECOND DAY OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR (FEBRUARY 4 AND 5).

HOWEVER, EIGHT OUT-PATIENT CLINICS WILL BE OPENED BETWEEN 9 AM AND 1 PM ON FEBRUARY 6 (THE THIRD DAY OF LUNAR NEW YEAR).

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, THE ROBERT BLACK HEALTH CENTRE AND 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.

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FISHERMEN URGED TO KEEP TYPHOON SHELTER CLEAN
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FISHERMEN AND BOAT OPERATORS IN THE ABERDEEN TYPHOON SHELTER WERE TODAY (FRIDAY) URGED TO HELP KEEP THE WATER CLEAN BY DISPOSING RUBBISH PROPERLY.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, MS MA YUET-HA, DURING A PUBLICITY DRIVE TO PROMOTE THE MESSAGE.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THE AMOUNT OF FLOATING REFUSE COLLECTED IN THE TYPHOON SHELTER ROSE TO ABOUT 1,400 TONNES IN 1991 COMPARED WITH ABOUT 1,100 TONNES THE PREVIOUS YEAR, COMPLAINTS HAD, NEVERTHELESS, DECLINED.

"THIS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED, PARTICULARLY THE MARINE AND THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS, HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB," SHE ADDED.

THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, ARRANGED A SPECIAL REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR FISHING VESSELS IN THE SHELTER DURING THE RUN-UP TO THE LUNAR NEW YEAR.

ASSISTANT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR CHARLES CHAN; MARINE INSPECTOR (SOUTH), MR LEE HON-YING, AND A CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MR K.C. LUK, ALSO TOOK PART IN TODAY'S PUBLICITY DRIVE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 29 -

"PAI LAU" TO HERALD YEAR OF THE MONKEY

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EASTERN DISTRICT WILL USHER IN THE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH THE LIGHTING UP OF A DECORATIVE SIGNBOARD OR "PAI LAU" AT VICTORIA PARK TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

MEASURING 14 METRES BY 11 METRES, THE "PAI LAU" HAS BEEN PUT UP BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AT A COST OF ABOUT \$80,000.

COMPRISING MORE THAN 1,000 LIGHT BULBS, IT PORTRAYS TWO MONKEYS WITH LUNAR NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

THE LIGHTS WILL BE TURNED ON FROM 6 PM TO 11 PM DAILY UNTIL FEBRUARY 19. DURING THE THREE NIGHTS PRECEDING LUNAR NEW YEAR'S DAY, THEY WILL BE SWITCHED ON OVERNIGHT.

A SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 6 PM TOMORROW AT VICTORIA PARK'S FOOTBALL PITCH NO. 6.

EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR STEVE BARCLAY; DISTRICT BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR SHUM CHOI-SANG; THE DISTRICT'S POLICE COMMANDER, MR DONALD GRIFFITHS, AND AN URBAN COUNCILLOR, MS CHRISTINA TING, WILL OFFICIATE AT THE CEREMONY.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EASTERN DISTRICT LUNAR NEW YEAR LIGHTS SWITCHING-ON CEREMONY WHICH WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM TOMORROW (SATURDAY) AT VICTORIA PARK'S FOOTBALL PITCH NO. 6, NEAR HING FAT STREET ENTRANCE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1992

- 30 -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE -----	\$ MILLION -----
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	30.1.92	600
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	31.1.92	NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		NEUTRAL
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL

TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 110.6 *+0.2* 31.1.92

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.12 PCT	22 MONTHS	2311	6.25	101.16	5.63
1 MONTH	4.09 PCT					
3 MONTHS	4.05 PCT					
6 MONTHS	4.10 PCT					
12 MONTHS	4.70 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 5,547 MN

CLOSED 31 JANUARY 1992

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