



Received by PRO
on - 9 MAR 1993

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR MAKES STATEMENT TO LEGCO	1
SUPPLEMENT TO COMPENDIUM ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS RELEASED .	10
MORE RESOURCES FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	11
POSSIBLE IMPACT ON HK IF CHINA LOST MFN STATUS	13
GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES	14
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES REVISED	17
WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1992 TO PARLIAMENT ...	20
MOTHER TERESA CALLS ON HK PEOPLE TO LOVE AND SERVE	21
CROSS BORDER SECURITY CO-OPERATION	21
PROVISIONAL FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER	22
FEEES UNDER GAMBLING AND NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION LAWS GO UP ..	25
FOUR LOTS FOR PUBLIC AUCTION	27
ROAD CLOSURE FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS	28
WORKS TO IMPROVE TOLO HARBOUR WATER QUALITY	28
NEW FOOTBRIDGE AT CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD	29
SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI	30
TENDERS INVITED FOR OPEN SPACE CONSTRUCTION	30
PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR PARKING METER MANAGEMENT ..	31
FARM LAND IN YUEN LONG TO BE RESUMED	32
GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO CAREERS EDUCATION	32
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	33

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 1 -

GOVERNOR MAKES STATEMENT TO LEGCO

* * * * *

FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TODAY (FRIDAY):

MR PRESIDENT - AND CAN I SAY STRAIGHTAWAY WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO USE THOSE WORDS ABOUT YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME - MR PRESIDENT. I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE THIS AFTERNOON TO FULFIL MY PROMISE TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS TO KEEP THEM INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL HAVE HEARD A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE BY SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS IN THE LAST FEW DAYS AND I THINK IT IS INCUMBENT ON ME TO SET OUT THE POSITION AS WE SEE IT.

AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL KNOW, DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT WEEKS IN PEKING. OUR AIM HAS BEEN TO EXPLORE WHETHER A FIRM AND PRODUCTIVE BASIS COULD BE FOUND FOR THE TWO SIDES TO ENTER FORMAL TALKS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS. IN ANNOUNCING LAST WEEK THAT THE BILL EMBODYING THOSE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED ON 26 FEBRUARY, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO SET OUT THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS THIS AFTERNOON, EXACTLY WHERE WE NOW STAND.

SINCE MY POLICY ADDRESS LAST OCTOBER, WE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE ARE READY TO TALK AT ANY TIME AND WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS IN AN EFFORT TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THESE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS. THIS COUNCIL IS ALREADY EXAMINING THE BOUNDARIES AND ELECTION COMMISSION BILL. EXCO ENDORSED, ON 2 FEBRUARY DRAFT LEGISLATION EMBODYING THE REMAINDER OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS THAT I MADE ON 7 OCTOBER. SO THERE IS NO MYSTERY ABOUT WHAT THE DRAFT LEGISLATION CONTAINS. WE PASSED A COPY OF IT TO THE CHINESE SIDE ON 6 FEBRUARY. AT THE SAME TIME WE REPEATED FORMALLY OUR WILLINGNESS TO TALK AT ANY TIME WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS; AND WE EXPLAINED TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT THE BILL WAS READY FOR GAZETTING.

WE RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF TALKS FROM THE CHINESE SIDE. TO HELP ENSURE THAT TALKS GOT OFF TO THE BEST POSSIBLE START, I THEREFORE DECIDED, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, TO POSTPONE OUR ORIGINAL PLAN FOR GAZETTAL ON 12 FEBRUARY, WHILE MAKING CLEAR TO THE CHINESE SIDE THAT THERE COULD NOT BE AN INDEFINITE DELAY, GIVEN THE PRACTICAL NEED TO PRESS AHEAD WITH LEGISLATION. WE PROPOSED AN EARLY STARTING DATE FOR THE TALKS AND TOLD THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE COMPOSITION OF OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM.

IN THE ABSENCE OF A CHINESE RESPONSE, I DECIDED, WITH THE ADVICE OF EXCO, TO DELAY GAZETTAL FOR A SECOND TIME ON 19 FEBRUARY AND FOR A THIRD TIME ON 26 FEBRUARY. WE WISHED TO GIVE EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHINESE SIDE TO RESPOND. IN MY JUDGEMENT, HONOURABLE MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY WOULD EXPECT US TO GO THE EXTRA MILE IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE PRODUCTIVE TALKS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

/AT THE

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 2 -

AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK, WE DID RECEIVE A REPLY. BUT DESPITE FURTHER DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS, IN WHICH WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR EARLY TALKS, WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO ANNOUNCE A STARTING DATE FOR THEM. WE HAVE MADE PLAIN THAT WE ARE READY FOR THE TALKS TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE JOINT DECLARATION, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERGENCE WITH BASIC LAW AND THE RELEVANT UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. WE CONSIDER OUR PROPOSALS ARE WHOLLY COMPATIBLE WITH THESE AS, FOR EXAMPLE, I MADE CLEAR WHEN I ADDRESSED THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON 24 OCTOBER LAST YEAR.

I THOUGHT IT ONLY RIGHT TO GIVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS AN ACCOUNT OF WHERE WE NOW STAND. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED WE ARE READY TO TALK IMMEDIATELY. FOLLOWING FURTHER EXCHANGES IN PEKING THIS WEEK, THERE REMAIN ONLY A FEW POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT WHICH COULD AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE JUDGE IT BEST TO DEFER GAZETTAL FOR A FOURTH TIME TODAY.

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

MR SIMON IP: GOVERNOR, CAN YOU PLEASE ASSURE THIS COUNCIL THAT IF TALKS SHOULD COMMENCE, THAT THEY WILL NOT BE IN COMPLETE SECRECY AND THAT THIS COUNCIL WILL BE KEPT INFORMED AND WILL BE CONSULTED?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY MADE AN ADMIRABLY CLEAR POINT THE OTHER DAY, WHEN HE SAID THIS AND I QUOTE WHAT I THINK HE SAID AFTER A MEETING WITH THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN LONDON. "THE DAYS WHEN THESE MATTERS", HE WAS REFERRING TO THE IMPORTANT CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, "THE DAYS WHEN THESE MATTERS CAN BE SETTLED BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING WITHOUT TAKING ANY ACCOUNT OF OPINION IN HONG KONG HAVE OBVIOUSLY GONE. HONG KONG HAS CHANGED, HONG KONG CLEARLY HAS A GREATER WISH TO HAVE A SAY IN ITS OWN FUTURE". I THINK IT'S LEGITIMATE TO DRAW THIS DISTINCTION. I DON'T THINK WE CAN HOLD SECRET TALKS BUT I THINK THE COUNCIL WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE DETAIL OF THE DISCUSSIONS AS THEY CONTINUE HAS TO BE CONFIDENTIAL BUT AT THE END OF THOSE TALKS WE HAVE TO SET OUT, IF THEY TAKE PLACE AND IF THEY LEAD TO AGREEMENT, EXACTLY WHAT THE BASIS OF THAT IS AND I WOULD HOPE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD AGREE THAT WE'D BEHAVED IN A SENSIBLE WAY FOR THE FUTURE INTERESTS OF HONG KONG.

MR ALLEN LEE: GOVERNOR I AGREE TO WHAT YOU SAID IN ANSWERING SIMON IP'S QUESTION, BUT GOVERNOR WOULD YOU INFORM THIS COUNCIL HOW THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSULT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND THIS COUNCIL AS TO THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENTS?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: I'VE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY AND NOT JUST MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL HAVE RESPONDED TO THE PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PLACED ON THE TABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER. HONOURABLE MEMBERS WILL KNOW THAT MANY OF THE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE COMPENDIUM OF ALTERNATIVES THAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD, COME FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. SO THERE IS HUGE INTEREST, QUITE PROPERLY ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY IN HOW WE DEVELOP OUR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ENACTING LEGISLATION, FOR EXAMPLE, AND LEGISLATION WILL BE THE BASIS FOR GOING FORWARD WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE '94 AND '95 ELECTIONS THEN IT IS THIS COUNCIL WHICH REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY. I THOUGHT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND THE HONOURABLE MEMBER SITTING IN FRONT OF ME, MADE THE POINT EXTREMELY WELL THIS WEEK WHEN THEY EXPLAINED THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITIES OF HONG KONG AND WE MUST REMEMBER THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITIES AREN'T JUST AS DRY AS DUST ARGUMENTS IN LEGAL TEXTBOOKS, THEY'RE ABOUT THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY. SO AT THE END OF THE DAY WE'LL OBVIOUSLY BE DEBATING IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR THE '94 AND '95 ELECTIONS, I HOPE PROPOSALS WHICH ARE THE RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL TALKS WITH CHINA IF THOSE TAKE PLACE. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE THAT DEBATE IN A FORMAL SENSE OUTSIDE THIS COMMUNITY, THOUGH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL BE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME.

MR FRED LI (THROUGH INTERPRETOR): MR CHAIRMAN, THIS IS NOW THE FOURTH TIME THAT WE ARE DEFERRING THE GAZETTING OF THE BILL. WE HAVE SOME TIME CONSTRAINTS NOW, GOVERNOR, WHEN DO YOU EXPECT WILL BE THE LATEST DATE FOR THE LEGCO TO PASS THIS REFORM BILLS AND WITH REGARD TO THE SUBSTANCE OR CONTENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WILL THE CONTENT BE AS THE SEVEN ITEMS INCLUDED IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS DELIVERED IN OCTOBER?

GOVERNOR: THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS QUITE RIGHT IN SAYING THAT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE DEFERRED GAZETTAL FOR FOUR FRIDAYS RUNNING, SUGGESTS THAT WE'RE PROCEEDING WITH GREAT CARE. NOBODY COULD ACCUSE US OF RUSHING AHEAD, WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN TO BE CONCILIATORY, TO PROVIDE EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS. I DON'T THINK ONE SHOULD BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT TO BE AS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONCILIATORY AS WE HAVE BEEN MEANS THAT ONE ABANDONS ANY OF ONE'S PRINCIPLES. I THINK ONE'S PRINCIPLES ARE PERHAPS BETTER ADVOCATED WHEN ONE'S ABLE TO DO SO IN THE RATIONAL AND POSITIVE SPIRIT WHICH WE'VE SHOWN IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS AND WHICH I TRIED TO SET OUT IN MY SPEECH TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL LAST OCTOBER. I REFER HONOURABLE MEMBERS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO PARAGRAPH 128 OF MY SPEECH ON THAT OCCASION. WHILE WE HAVE DEFERRED GAZETTAL FOUR FRIDAYS, WE OBVIOUSLY CAN'T DEFER GAZETTAL INDEFINITELY. THE MORE WE DEFER GAZETTAL, THE LESS TIME THERE IS FOR ANY TALKS WHICH MAY, I HOPE, TAKE PLACE. BECAUSE AFTER TALKS, WHICH I'M SURE THE WHOLE COUNCIL HOPES WILL TAKE PLACE AND PRODUCE AN OUTCOME WHICH IS FAIR AND OPEN AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG AND ACCEPTABLE IN LONDON AND ACCEPTABLE IN PEKING, AFTER THOSE TALKS WE WILL HAVE TO ENACT LEGISLATION AND IF ONE WORKS BACK FROM THE END OF THE PROCESS, ONE SEES THAT WE'RE NOT DEALING WITH INFINITY. WE'RE DEALING WITH A CALENDAR IN WHICH THE HONG KONG CLOCK TICKS JUST AT THE SAME PACE AS THE ONE IN PEKING AND THE ONE IN LONDON.

GOVERNOR: THERE WAS ONE LAST POINT WHICH I AM VERY ANXIOUS TO RESPOND TO BUT I WAS SO TAKEN WITH MY METAPHOR ABOUT CLOCKS THAT I WENT ON FOR LONGER THAN THE CLOCK SHOULD HAVE ALLOWED. THE PROPOSALS THAT I PUT FORWARD IN OCTOBER, PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEBATED IN THIS COUNCIL, PROPOSALS WHICH ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS RECEIVED THE BROAD ENDORSEMENT OF THIS COUNCIL, PROPOSALS WHICH WERE ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN EARLY FEBRUARY, THOSE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN AND ARE ON THE TABLE. I HOPE THAT IF THERE ARE TALKS WE WILL LEARN WHAT ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE TO PUT ON THE TABLE, I THINK THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THAT.

DR YEUNG SUM (THROUGH INTERPRETER): THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT. COULD I ASK THE GOVERNOR THIS: NOW THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT ONCE THE 94/95 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN AGREED TO, THEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT MUST ENSURE THAT THEY BE IMPLEMENTED. NOW, WOULD YOU AGREE TO THIS PRE-CONDITION AND HOW COULD YOU, DURING THE PROCESS, MAKE SURE THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DOES PLAY A POSITIVE ROLE AND CAN INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME? OTHERWISE THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL BECOME A RUBBER STAMP.

THE GOVERNOR: THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE IN LONDON YESTERDAY MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, IN RESPONSE TO SOME NEWSPAPER STORIES, THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE GOVERNOR OR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BEING CUT OUT OF DECISIONS ABOUT THE WAY HONG KONG IS GOVERNED. THEY MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS BEEN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE FULLY INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ON THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG. AND THEY REFERRED, IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ON MY LEFT IN PEKING EARLIER THIS WEEK, TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. CLEARLY, IF THERE ARE TALKS, WHICH WE HOPE TAKE PLACE, WE MUST ENTER THEM IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, AND I WOULD HOPE THAT TALKS WOULD LEAD TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION. I FIND IT INCONCEIVABLE TO IMAGINE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH WE THOUGHT THAT A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. SATISFACTORY CONCLUSIONS WHICH AREN'T ACCEPTABLE IN HONG KONG WOULD SEEM TO ME NOT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO ANYONE BECAUSE BOTH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN POWER MUST PRESUMABLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC SUPPORT IN HONG KONG FOR OUR GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS. SO I HOPE THAT IF THERE ARE TALKS THEY LEAD TO POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THOSE POSITIVE CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE ENDORSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. BUT I REPEAT, I CAN'T IMAGINE PUTTING FORWARD PROPOSALS AT THE END OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH I DIDN'T BELIEVE AND WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DIDN'T BELIEVE, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

DR YEUNG SUM: SORRY, CAN I HAVE A FOLLOW-UP PLEASE, BECAUSE I'M ASKING --

THE PRESIDENT: I THINK TIME IS RUNNING SHORT.

THE GOVERNOR: WELL, WAS THERE A POINT I MISSED?

DR YEUNG SUM: I AM TALKING ABOUT HOW TO PREVENT LEGCO BECOMING A RUBBER STAMP.

THE GOVERNOR: LEGCO, AS THE EXECUTIVE HAS DISCOVERED, IN BUDGET DEBATES, IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT BUDGETS AND SO ON OVER THE LAST YEAR, IS ANYTHING BUT A RUBBER STAMP. I SAY TO HONOURABLE MEMBERS, AND I AM SURE YOU WON'T REGARD IT AS ABUSIVE, THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHERE THE GOVERNOR AND SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT QUITE LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU BEHAVING A LITTLE MORE LIKE A RUBBER STAMP. BUT PART OF HONG KONG'S ADMIRABLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IS THAT YOU ARE NOT A RUBBER STAMP FOR THE 28TH BRITISH GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND YOU WON'T BE A RUBBER STAMP AFTER 1997 EITHER, AND THAT IS WHAT PART OF THIS ARGUMENT IS ALL ABOUT. PART OF THE ARGUMENT IS ABOUT HOW WE ENSURE THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE COMMUNITY IN SENSIBLE DECISIONS TAKEN ABOUT THE SHORT TERM AND LONG TERM INTERESTS OF HONG KONG - NO RUBBER STAMP HERE!

MR JIMMY MCGREGOR: GOVERNOR, CHINA TAKES THE POSITION THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HAS NO STANDING IN REGARD TO THE NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. WILL CHINA BE ADVISED BY THE BRITISH SIDE THAT ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS MUST BE FINALLY APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS AND THAT CONCEIVABLY, CHANGES COULD BE MADE IN ANY AGREEMENT REACHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILL OF THIS COUNCIL AND THAT THAT SHALL BE UNDERSTOOD TO THE CHINESE SIDE BEFORE THESE TALKS BEGIN?

THE GOVERNOR: I HEARD - BEING A RELATIVELY EARLY RISER - I HEARD THE HONOURABLE MEMBER ANSWERING THAT QUESTION EXTREMELY WELL ON THE "TODAY" PROGRAMME THIS MORNING. NONE OF US CAN CHANGE OR SEEK TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITIES. ONE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REALITIES IS, OF COURSE, THAT SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS NEGOTIATE TOGETHER. ANOTHER OF THE REALITIES IS THAT THE PRESENT SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT, AND I IMAGINE THE FUTURE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT, WOULD NOT WISH TO COME TO A SOLUTION WHICH WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE LEGISLATORS AND TO THE COMMUNITY OF HONG KONG WHICH THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. SO I REPEAT WHAT I SAID A MOMENT OR TWO AGO, I CAN'T IMAGINE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE BRITISH TEAM IN NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH THE BRITISH TEAM WHICH WILL, OF COURSE, INCLUDE PEOPLE WHO ARE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, I CAN'T IMAGINE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH THE BRITISH TEAM AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG WOULD REGARD AS ACCEPTABLE SOMETHING WHICH THEY DIDN'T THINK WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THAT IS NOT AN UNDERMINING OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PARTIES TO ANY TALKS, IT IS A STATEMENT OF POLITICAL REALITY. WHEN ONE TALKS ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY, WHEN ONE DEFINES SOVEREIGNTY, ONE CAN'T DO IT AS THOUGH ONE WAS SPEAKING IN A POLITICAL THEORY LABORATORY, ONE IS TALKING ABOUT PRACTICAL ISSUES AND I'VE DESCRIBED HOW THINGS WILL OPERATE HERE IN HONG KONG. FOR ME TO DENY THAT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO ME DENYING THE WISDOM OF GALILEO OR THE FACT THAT THERE IS A HARBOUR IN HONG KONG.

MR JIMMY MCGREGOR: SIR, IF I MAY ASK, I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE LITTLE BIT AT THE END. IN REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS COUNCIL MIGHT SEEK TO CHANGE ANY ARRANGEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS AND THAT THAT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE - I REALISE OF COURSE THERE IS THIS POINT IN REGARD TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION - BUT THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT SHALL UNDERSTAND THAT VERY CLEARLY FROM THE OUTSET, THAT CHANGES COULD BE MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WHEN THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE BROUGHT DOWN HERE, IN TERMS OF LEGISLATION.

THE GOVERNOR: THIS COUNCIL CAN AMEND LEGISLATION THAT IS PUT BEFORE IT, AND IT CAN AMEND LEGISLATION THAT IS PUT BEFORE IT WHATEVER PEOPLE OUTSIDE HAPPEN TO SAY. I THINK IF THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA WHICH WAS BROADLY ACCEPTABLE, NOT ONLY TO BRITAIN AND CHINA BUT TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG, THE COUNCIL WOULD PROBABLY THINK TWICE OR THREE TIMES OR MORE ABOUT AMENDING IT IN WAYS WHICH WOULD SEND BRITAIN BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH CHINA TO SAY: IS THIS AMENDMENT ACCEPTABLE TO YOU? I THINK I AM STATING WHAT IS AN OBVIOUS SCENARIO. SO MY HUNCH IS, IF SOMETHING WAS ACCEPTABLE AND WAS THE RESULT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA THE COUNCIL WOULD PROBABLY PASS IT. BUT THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN HAS DESCRIBED PRECISELY WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND THE LETTERS PATENT.

DR TANG SIU-TONG: MR GOVERNOR, SINO-BRITISH TALKS ARE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND I WISH TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT DR YEUNG SUM HAS SAID. DURING THIS PERIOD HOW COULD YOU ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY? WILL YOU, AT DIFFERENT STAGES, INFORM THIS COUNCIL OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

THE GOVERNOR: DURING VARIOUS STAGES OF THE DISCUSSIONS I WOULD OF COURSE ATTEMPT TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH GROUPS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS AND INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCILLORS. BUT I MUST MAKE THIS CLEAR, I WOULDN'T BE IN A POSITION IN WHICH AFTER EVERY ROUND OF TALKS, IF TALKS TOOK PLACE, I COULD COME TO THE COUNCIL AND DESCRIBE EXACTLY WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING AROUND THE NEGOTIATING TABLE BECAUSE I THINK IF ONE WAS TO DO THAT ONE WOULD INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT INTO THE DIPLOMACY AND INTO THE NEGOTIATION WHICH WOULD BE FRANKLY UNACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD MAKE THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES POSSIBLE OR REASONABLE. BUT, I WOULD OBVIOUSLY NEED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THINKING IN THIS COUNCIL AND IN HONG KONG IN ORDER TO GIVE ADVICE DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, IF THEY TAKE PLACE, ABOUT WHAT WAS LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE AT THE END OF THE DAY IN HONG KONG. THAT SURELY DOESN'T NEED STATING, THAT SURELY IS ACCEPTABLE TO EVERYONE. AND AT THE END OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS, IF THEY TAKE PLACE, WHETHER THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL OR WHETHER THEY ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL, I WILL HAVE TO BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO THE COUNCIL WHAT HAS BEEN DONE, WHAT HAS BEEN ARGUED FOR IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN THE NAME OF HONG KONG, DEFEND IT, AND I HOPE THAT CONVINCING THE COUNCIL THAT THE RIGHT DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

MR SZETO WAH (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO RE-START, NOW CHINA HAS REPEATEDLY STATED THAT MR PATTEN'S REFORM PACKAGE MUST BE WITHDRAWN FIRST AND THAT BRITAIN MUST ASSURE CHINA THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL BE PASSED BY LEGCO, AND ALSO, BRITAIN STATED REPEATEDLY THAT THERE WILL BE NO PRE-CONDITIONS TO THE TALKS. NOW, ARE THE THINGS MENTIONED PRE-CONDITIONS? HAVE YOU DROPPED YOUR OWN REFORM PACKAGE? NOW IF TALKS ARE TO RE-START CAN WE SAY THAT CHINA HAS CHANGED ITS STAND, OR SHALL WE SAY THAT BRITAIN HAS CHANGED ITS STAND, OR CAN WE SAY THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE CHANGED THEIR STAND AND NOW THERE IS NOW A SECRET CONSENSUS?

THE GOVERNOR: THE HONOURABLE MEMBER KNOWS HOW DIPLOMATIC I AM AND I WOULD NOT SEEK TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON CHINA'S BEHALF. IT IS FOR CHINESE OFFICIALS TO EXPLAIN THEIR OWN POSITION AND TO STATE THEIR OWN POSITION IN DUE COURSE AND I IMAGINE IT WILL BE DONE VERY PLAINLY, AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. BUT I REPEAT WITHOUT ANY EQUIVOCATION, I REPEAT WITHOUT ANY GLOSS, I REPEAT WITHOUT ANY FOOTNOTES, WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE AND WHAT I HAVE SAID DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON. WE HAVE BEEN HAPPY AT EVERY STAGE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. IF WE ENTER INTO TALKS, WE WILL ENTER INTO TALKS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG LAST OCTOBER, DEBATED AGAIN AND AGAIN BY THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, ENDORSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY, ARE STILL ON THE TABLE. HOW, AFTER THAT PROCESS, COULD THEY NOT BE? OTHERS WILL HAVE TO EXPLAIN, IF THERE ARE TALKS, WHAT THEIR POSITION IS. BUT I HAVE SET OUT, I HOPE CLEARLY, TO THE HONOURABLE MEMBER AND TO THIS HONOURABLE HOUSE EXACTLY WHAT MY POSITION IS, EXACTLY WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG'S POSITION IS, EXACTLY WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S POSITION IS.

MR PANG CHUN-HOI (THROUGH INTERPRETER): MR PRESIDENT. MR GOVERNOR, FROM PAST EXPERIENCE WE KNOW THAT SINO-BRITISH TALKS WILL HAVE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL. SO MY QUESTION IS, HOW COULD THIS COUNCIL AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG LEARN ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF SUCH TALKS. THEN IN YOUR POLICY ADDRESS YOU HAVE STATED THAT WITH CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IT MUST BE OPEN, FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. THESE ARE THE PRINCIPLES, WILL YOU BE ADHERING TO THESE PRINCIPLES AND HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE KEPT TO?

GOVERNOR: THE FIRST QUESTION, I THINK THAT I ANSWERED EARLIER WHEN I WAS ASKED ABOUT HOW WE COULD KEEP THE COMMUNITY INFORMED AND I EXPLAINED THE DIFFICULTY WHEN THE SOVEREIGN POWERS ARE INVOLVED IN DIFFICULT DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS AND I THINK THE COUNCIL, THOUGH IT WILL ALWAYS WANT US TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT RATHER THAN LESS TRANSPARENT UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTIES OF BEHAVING IN THAT WAY WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE. AS FOR THE QUESTION OF OPENNESS, OF FAIRNESS AND OF ACCEPTABILITY, THOSE REMAIN OUR OBJECTIVES FOR TALKS. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN COME OFF WITH PROPOSALS AT THE END OF THE DAY WHICH ARE OPEN AND FAIR AND ACCEPTABLE. I WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN MEET THOSE OBJECTIVES AND GET AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA AND THAT THE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES THAT RESULTED FROM THAT WOULD LAST THROUGH 1997 AND BE THE BASIS FOR THE GOOD GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THAT IS MY ASPIRATION. IF THERE ARE TALKS, AND I UNDERLINE THAT WORD "IF" AGAIN, I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY SHOULD UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTY OF ACHIEVING THOSE OBJECTIVES. I DON'T SAY THAT IN A DEFEATIST WAY, I DON'T SAY THAT BECAUSE IF THERE ARE TALKS I WILL ENTER THEM IN OTHER THAN THE SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM AND CONSTRUCTIVENESS AS FAR AS ONE CAN, BUT TALKS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES I'VE SET OUT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT AND IT WOULD BE WRONG AND DISHONOURABLE OF ME NOT TO MAKE THAT POINT TO THE COMMUNITY ABOUT ANY TALKS WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE. I DON'T WANT TO SOUND GLOOMY, I DON'T WANT TO SOUND PESSIMISTIC, BUT THESE ARE VERY DIFFICULT MATTERS, DIFFICULT FOR CHINA AS WELL AS DIFFICULT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN APPROACH THEM IN A SPIRIT OF REALISM AS WELL AS WITH SUCH HOPE AS IS APPROPRIATE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

MR RONALD ARCULLI: MR PRESIDENT. SINCE THE GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM, WITHOUT REALLY PUTTING TOO FINE A POINT ON WHETHER THERE IS MAJORITY OR MINORITY SUPPORT FOR THESE PROPOSALS, THERE IS TO SAY THE LEAST A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF OPPOSITION AGAINST TWO ASPECTS, NAMELY THE NINE NEW FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND THE ELECTION COMMITTEE. WILL THE GOVERNOR PERHAPS ADVISE THIS COUNCIL HOW THESE OPINIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT?

GOVERNOR: OBVIOUSLY THOSE OPINIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, JUST AS I'M SURE THE HONOURABLE MEMBER WOULD HOPE THAT THE OPINIONS OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS ON THOSE MATTERS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, JUST AS I HOPE WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MANY MEMBERS, NOT LEAST OF THIS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WHO THINK THAT THE GOVERNOR AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVEN'T GONE NEARLY FAR ENOUGH IN THE PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THAT HAVE BEEN PUT FORWARD. I THINK THAT WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY MET THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG FOR A GREATER SHARE IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE. NEGOTIATORS, IF THERE ARE TALKS, WILL HAVE TO BE VERY BROAD-MINDED, WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF VIEWS IN THE COMMUNITY. I'M SURE THAT THE BRITISH TEAM, I'M SURE THAT THOSE NEGOTIATING ON THE BRITISH SIDE OF THE TABLE, INCLUDING THOSE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WHO ARE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WILL BE WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WHEN THIS COUNCIL HAS DISCUSSED THE TWO PARTICULAR ISSUES THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER REFERS TO, THE COUNCIL HAS ON THE WHOLE GIVEN A FAIRLY POSITIVE RESPONSE, BUT I STATE THE OBVIOUS WHEN I SAY I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY AND I'M AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE HONOURABLE MEMBER IS AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE PERHAPS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THOSE TWO PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF MY PROPOSALS. THERE'RE AT THE HEART OF THE POLITICAL DEBATE, POLITICAL ARGUMENT WHEN IT COMES TO DISCUSSING THE PACKAGE, OR NEAR THE HEART OF IT AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY POINT IN BEING SECRETIVE ABOUT THAT.

MR K. K. FUNG (THROUGH INTERPRETER) THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE GOVERNOR. FROM THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNOR, IT SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE THREE BASES FOR THE TALKS, THAT IS THE JOINT DECLARATION, THEN THE BASIC LAW AND THEN ALSO UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. SO MY QUESTION IS THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT ARE DEFINITE, THAT IS JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW AND IT'S CLEARLY WRITTEN DOWN IN BLACK AND WHITE. AND YET THE LAST ONE IS ACTUALLY VARIABLES BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE SEVEN DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES THAT'S KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, BUT MY QUESTION IS NOW YOU TALK ABOUT UNDERSTANDING AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN, DOES THAT INCLUDE THE SEVEN LETTERS. NOW IF THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE THOSE SEVEN, OR IT GOES BEYOND THOSE SEVEN, HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE AND IF THEY INCLUDE THOSE SEVEN LETTERS, NOW YOU DO TALK ABOUT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE AND YET THE PROPOSALS THERE DIFFER FROM YOUR PROPOSALS, MR GOVERNOR. SO IF YOU SAY THAT THE SEVEN EXCHANGES ARE INCLUDED, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVE RELINGUISHED OR ABANDONED YOUR OWN PROPOSAL IN THIS RESPECT?

/GOVERNOR:

GOVERNOR: NO, IT DOESN'T. AS I HAVE EXPLAINED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THIS AFTERNOON. THE WORDS I USED WERE NOT CASUALLY PLUCKED OUT OF THE ETHER, THE WORDS I USED WERE VERY CAREFULLY USED, WERE VERY CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED. I THINK IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT IF TALKS TAKE PLACE THERE MAY BE SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE RELEVANT UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN. I HOPE THAT DISCUSSION DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG BECAUSE I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE THE NEGOTIATIONS MAKE VERY RAPID PROGRESS BUT THERE MAY BE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT ALL THE WORDS PRETTY WELL IN THAT PHRASE, INCLUDING RELEVANT UNDERSTANDINGS AND AGREEMENTS AND YOU MAY BE AWARE OF THE FACT, THE HONOURABLE MEMBER MAY BE AWARE OF THE FACT, THAT THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT WHAT EXACTLY THOSE WORDS MEAN. ONE OF THE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA IS THAT WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1995 ELECTIONS AND I WILL BE DELIGHTED IF FOUR MONTHS AFTER I CALLED FOR SUCH DISCUSSION, WHEN I SPOKE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ABOUT THREE AND A HALF MONTHS AFTER I WENT TO PEKING AND SAID THAT I WAS VERY HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH DISCUSSIONS, I WILL BE VERY HAPPY IF THOSE DISCUSSIONS COMMENCE. BUT I REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER, ALAS, I'M NOT ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE BEGINNING OF TALKS THIS AFTERNOON. I HOPE THAT THE REMAINING ISSUES THAT ARE OUTSTANDING BETWEEN US CAN BE RESOLVED SWIFTLY BECAUSE I DON'T THINK WE CAN DELAY INDEFINITELY THE GAZETTAL OF LEGISLATION AND THE PUTTING IN PLACE OF SENSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994 AND 95 ELECTIONS.

MR K.K. FUNG (THROUGH INTERPRETER): I'M AFRAID YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION, MR GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR: WELL, I'VE GIVEN THE ANSWER TO THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE IT TO THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN. I THINK IT IS A PERFECTLY ADEQUATE ANSWER AND I'M SORRY THAT THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN DOESN'T AGREE, BUT IF THE HONOURABLE GENTLEMAN WISHES TO FOLLOW UP ANY PARTICULAR POINTS IN HIS QUESTION WHICH HE DOESN'T THINK THAT I HAVE ADEQUATELY ANSWERED, I'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO HEAR FROM HIM AND WILL RESPOND EITHER IN PUBLIC OR IN PRIVATE, WHICHEVER HE WOULD LIKE.

PRESIDENT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS I NOW ADJOURN THE SITTING UNTIL WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH, 1993.

SUPPLEMENT TO COMPENDIUM ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS RELEASED
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED A SUPPLEMENT TO THE COMPENDIUM OF PROPOSALS ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1994/95.

THE SUPPLEMENT CONTAINS AN ADDITIONAL 28 SUBMISSIONS TO THE 65 WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS IN THE COMPENDIUM PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 21 THIS YEAR, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED SINCE THE GOVERNOR PRESENTED HIS PROPOSALS IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 7 LAST YEAR.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE PURPOSE OF PUBLISHING THE SUPPLEMENT WAS TO PROVIDE A HANDY REFERENCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC, WHEN THEY EXAMINED THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT LEGISLATION FOR THE 1994/95 ELECTIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID COPIES OF THE SUPPLEMENT WOULD BE SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS AND AUTHORS OF THE SUBMISSIONS WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENT.

COPIES WILL ALSO BE DEPOSITED WITH DISTRICT OFFICES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID WHEN PUBLISHING THE COMPENDIUM, THE GOVERNMENT HAD EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FURTHER VIEWS.

THERE WERE ALSO SUBMISSIONS NOT LISTED IN THE COMPENDIUM BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THE AUTHORS' PERMISSION TO HAVE THEIR SUBMISSIONS INCLUDED.

SOME OF THESE AUTHORS HAD SINCE GIVEN THEIR AUTHORISATION. THE UNEDITED TEXTS OF THESE AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS ARE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENT.

AS IN THE CASE OF THE COMPENDIUM, PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION ARE NOT INCLUDED.

THERE ARE ALSO SUBMISSIONS FOR WHICH IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM THE AUTHORS' PERMISSION FOR THEIR SUBMISSIONS TO BE INCLUDED.

ALSO EXCLUDED ARE THOSE COMMENTS AND VIEWS WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN SEPARATELY SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER VIEWS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE SUPPLEMENT. WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE AUTHORS, THESE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHEN THEY ARE RECEIVED.

MORE RESOURCES FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPEND \$7 BILLION ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN 1993/94 ON TOP OF ITS COMMITMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION AND ADDITIONAL CLIMBING LANES ON TUEN MUN HIGHWAY.

THIS WAS STATED BY THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, MR MICHAEL LEUNG, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (FRIDAY) WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR RAFAEL HUI AND THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR S K KWEI.

MR LEUNG SAID THE \$7 BILLION FIGURE, WHICH INCLUDES EXPENDITURE ON HIGHWAY PROJECTS RELATED TO THE NEW AIRPORT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE TERRITORY, REPRESENTS AN 85 PER CENT INCREASE COMPARED WITH THE \$3.8 BILLION FOR 1992/93.

ON ROUTE 3 - COUNTRY PARK SECTION, MR LEUNG SAID GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE TO CONTRIBUTE \$4 BILLION (AT 1994 PRICES) WOULD MAKE THE PROJECT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE BEING INVITED TODAY FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROJECT ON A BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER BASIS.

THE 13-KM ROAD WITH A DUAL THREE-LANE CARRIAGEWAY WILL RUN IN A NORTH-SOUTH DIRECTION FROM AU TAU NEAR YUEN LONG TO TSING YI.

THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$11 BILLION AT 1994 PRICES, EXCLUDING LAND RESUMPTION COST AND OVERHEADS.

MR LEUNG SAID THE EXPRESSWAY WILL PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL LINK BETWEEN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES AND THE URBAN AREAS AND WILL RELIEVE CONGESTION IN THE TUEN MUN AND CASTLE PEAK ROADS.

"IT WILL MEET TRANSPORT NEEDS ARISING FROM THE GROWTH IN CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES," HE SAID.

THE EXPRESSWAY CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING THREE SECTIONS:

- (1) TING KAU BRIDGE - A 700-METRE CABLE-STAYED BRIDGE WITH A 420-METRE MAIN SPAN ACROSS THE RAMBLER CHANNEL AND ABOUT 1,100 METRES OF VIADUCTS.
- (2) TAI LAM TUNNEL - A 3.4-KM TUNNEL WITH THE SOUTHERN PORTAL LINKED WITH THE TING KAU INTERCHANGE AND THE NORTHERN PORTAL TO THE WEST OF HO PUI.
- (3) YUEN LONG APPROACH - AN 8-KM EXPRESSWAY AT GRADE CONNECTING THE NORTHERN PORTAL OF THE TAI LAM TUNNEL WITH THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD AT AU TAU.

A TOLL PLAZA AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING WILL BE PROVIDED AS PART OF THE PROJECT.

/MR LEUNG

MR LEUNG SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL SUBMISSIONS MADE BY APRIL 30, 1993 BEFORE DECIDING ON HOW TO TAKE THE PROJECT FORWARD."

"IT IS OUR INTENTION TO COMPLETE THE EXPRESSWAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OUR PRESENT TARGET IS 1998/99," HE SAID.

ON THE \$1 BILLION TUEN MUN HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME, MR LEUNG SAID AN ADDITIONAL LANE AND A HARD SHOULDER WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT FOUR UPHILL SECTIONS OF THE TSUEN WAN-BOUND CARRIAGEWAY.

HE SAID: "THE ADDITIONAL CLIMBING LANE WILL ACCOMMODATE SLOW-MOVING VEHICLES WHICH NOW CAUSE CONGESTION DURING THE MORNING PEAK HOURS."

"THE UNDER HARD SHOULDER WILL PROVIDE POLICE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES WITH BETTER ACCESS TO DEAL WITH ACCIDENTS OR BREAKDOWNS WHICH HOLD UP TRAFFIC," HE SAID.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT CONSTRUCTION ON THE FIRST THREE SECTIONS NEAR TUEN MUN, AND AT TAI LAM AND TING KAU WILL BEGIN IN EARLY 1994 WITH STAGED COMPLETION STARTING IN 1996.

MR LEUNG EMPHASISED THAT "THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT WILL WORK CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT TRAFFIC DISRUPTION ALONG TUEN MUN HIGHWAY WILL BE MINIMISED DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD."

HE SAID IN ADDITION, WORKS WOULD START ON SEVEN MAJOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SERVING TERRITORIAL NEEDS IN 1993/94. THESE ARE:

- (1) THE YAUMATEI SECTION OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR,
- (2) EXTENSION OF THE WATERFRONT ELEVATED ROAD ON THE WEST SIDE OF HK ISLAND TO KENNEDY TOWN,
- (3) SMITHFIELD EXTENSION AND RELATED TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT,
- (4) A NETWORK OF FOOTBRIDGES AND SUBWAYS ACROSS FERRY STREET IN YAUMATEI,
- (5) RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD,
- (6) RECONSTRUCTION OF A SECTION OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN FU TEI IN TUEN MUN AND SAN TSUEN IN PING SHAN AND,
- (7) REHABILITATION OF CHAI WAN ROAD BETWEEN SHAU KEI WAN ROAD AND WING TAI ROAD.

IN ADDITION, FOUR MAJOR PROJECTS ARE DUE FOR COMPLETION WITHIN THIS YEAR. THEY ARE THE HILLSIDE ESCALATOR LINKING THE MID-LEVELS AND CENTRAL, THE YUEN LONG-TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR, STAGE 2 OF LAM KAM ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT TO ROAD ACCESS TO PO LIN MONASTERY ON LANTAU ISLAND.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 13 -

POSSIBLE IMPACT ON HK IF CHINA LOST MFN STATUS

* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT, IF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION (MFN) TRADING STATUS WERE WITHDRAWN, HONG KONG MIGHT LOSE HK\$118 BILLION TO HK\$166 BILLION IN OVERALL TRADE; HK\$16 BILLION TO HK\$23 BILLION IN INCOME AND AROUND 49,000 TO 69,000 IN JOBS.

THE TRADE DEPARTMENT TODAY (FRIDAY) RELEASED THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IF CHINA WERE TO LOSE ITS MFN TRADING STATUS IN THE U.S.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE, MR CHRISTOPHER JACKSON, SAID LOCAL TRADE ASSOCIATIONS WERE TOLD THAT REMOVAL OF CHINA'S MFN TRADING STATUS BY U.S. WOULD HAVE A DIRECT ADVERSE IMPACT ON HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO THE U.S.

"A REDUCTION OF UP TO HK\$66 BILLION WORTH OF RE-EXPORTS IS DOUBLE THE IMPACT THAT WE ESTIMATED IN 1990," MR JACKSON SAID.

"THIS IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF THE VERY RAPID GROWTH IN HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA-MADE GOODS TO THE U.S. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS."

ON THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS, MR JACKSON EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY AND WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON ANY RETALIATION TAKEN BY CHINA.

"HONG KONG'S ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO CHINA AND BUSINESS CONFIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY WITHDRAWAL OF MFN STATUS," HE ADDED.

PRESIDENT CLINTON IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO INDICATE BY JUNE 3 WHETHER HE INTENDS TO RENEW CHINA'S MFN STATUS FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

"WE HAVE STEPPED UP OUR ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON," MR JACKSON SAID.

"WE HAVE REINFORCED OUR LOBBYING TEAM AND ARE WORKING WITH U.S. BUSINESS ALLIES TO IMPRESS UPON MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS THE DAMAGE WHICH MFN WITHDRAWAL WOULD DO TO HONG KONG AND TO U.S. INTERESTS IN THIS REGION."

- - - - 0 - - - -

/14

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 14 -

GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES

* * * * *

TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY ITS CAPACITY TO DELIVER PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ON TIME, THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH OVERHAUL OF PUBLIC WORKS PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND SYSTEM, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR K Y YEUNG, SAID.

SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING, MR YEUNG SAID THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REVIEW.

"IT IS NOT MERELY A QUESTION OF REVIEWING THE WORKS SIDE OF LIFE : I INTEND TO SUBJECT THE FINANCIAL AND RELATED POLICY ASPECTS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME TO SIMILAR CRITICAL ANALYSIS," HE SAID.

THE REVIEW WOULD NOT FIRST BE AN IN-HOUSE AFFAIR, MR YEUNG SAID, ADDING THAT BOTH THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS AND HE HIMSELF INTEND TO DRAW UPON THE GREAT DEPTH OF EXPERTISE THAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

"ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT IS NOT DRIVEN BY THE NEED TO MAKE A PROFIT, NONETHELESS WE MAY NEED TO ADOPT SOME OF THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER DISCIPLINES THAT ARE EMPLOYED BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO ENSURE THE LEVELS OF EFFICIENCY AND SERVICE THAT THE TAXPAYER IS ENTITLED TO EXPECT," HE SAID.

"IN CONDUCTING THE REVIEW, I AM PREPARED TO RELAX THE PRESENT FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS IMPOSED ON STAFF GROWTH IN THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS, PROVIDED THAT AN ADEQUATE CASE CAN BE MADE.

"THE FURTHER USE OF CONSULTANTS TO AUGMENT STAFF RESOURCES IN CRITICAL AREAS WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED," MR YEUNG SAID.

"WHERE POSSIBLE, WE HOPE TO MAKE GREATER USE OF DESIGN AND BUILD, AND TURN-KEY PROJECTS. PROJECTS ANNOUNCED IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET SPEECH SUCH AS THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TUEN MUN HIGHWAY AND THE NEW NORTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL MAY BE SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR SUCH TREATMENT," HE SAID.

"THE USE OF THESE FORMS OF CONTRACT SHOULD NOT ONLY SPEED UP STARTS ON PROJECTS, IT SHOULD ALSO RESULT IN MORE COMPETITIVE BIDS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ALLOW MORE FREEDOM TO CONTRACTORS TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS OR CONSTRUCTION METHODS THAN IS CURRENTLY POSSIBLE WITH PROJECTS WHERE THE DESIGN HAS ALREADY BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"WITH THIS IN MIND THE GOVERNMENT HAS TODAY FORMALLY INVITED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO DESIGN, BUILD AND OPERATE THE COUNTRY PARK SECTION OF ROUTE 3," HE SAID.

ROUTE 3 WILL BE A MAJOR HIGHWAY STRETCHING NORTHWARDS FROM TSING YI ISLAND TO YUEN LONG AND THE BORDER WITH CHINA. INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MAJOR BRIDGE FROM TSING YI TO TING KAU AND A TUNNEL UNDER THE TAI LAM COUNTRY PARK.

/THE ESTIMATED

THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS ABOUT \$9 BILLION, TOWARDS WHICH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY IN HIS BUDGET ON WEDNESDAY EARMARKED A SUM OF \$4 BILLION (IN 1994 PRICES) AS THE GOVERNMENT'S POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT, EITHER AS WORKS OR AS EQUITY.

MR YEUNG NOTED THAT HONG KONG'S ECONOMY WAS EXPECTED TO GROW BY AT LEAST FIVE PER CENT IN REAL TERMS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SO THE FINANCES SHOULD BE THERE TO START YET MORE NEW PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

"THE GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS TO HAVE IN PLACE THE RESOURCES NOT ONLY TO CATCH UP ON THE PRESENT BACKLOG OF WORKS BUT ALSO TO TAKE ON THESE NEW DEMANDS.

"THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABOUT TO HIDE ITS FAILURE TO DELIVER WHAT HAS BEEN PROMISED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME. THE COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO A RADICAL RE-THINK OF THE WHOLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES.

"WE NOW KNOW WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES AND WHAT THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ARE. THE MAIN AREAS THAT NEED TO BE TACKLED ARE CLEARER LINES OF ACCOUNTABILITY, THE NEED FOR A BETTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM, THE NEED TO AUGMENT THE CAPACITY OF THE WORKS GROUP OF DEPARTMENTS, AND A REVIEW OF HOW THINGS HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE PAST TO SEE WHETHER THEY CAN BE DONE IN A BETTER WAY."

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THE EFFECTS OF THE REVIEW SHOULD BEGIN TO BE FELT BY THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, MR YEUNG ASSURED THE AUDIENCE.

ON OTHER MEANS TO ENSURE THAT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE STARTED AND COMPLETED ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET, MR YEUNG SAID AN OBVIOUS STEP TO TAKE WAS TO MAKE SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

"I HAVE THIS WEEK ISSUED A FINANCIAL CIRCULAR SETTING OUT THE MAIN COURSE OF ACTION TO BE FOLLOWED. POLICY SECRETARIES WILL, AS NOW, CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE UNDER THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM FOR SEEKING FUNDS FOR THEIR PROGRAMMES.

"IT HAS BEEN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS SHOULD HAVE A NEW AND EXPANDED ROLE. HIS MAIN TASK WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT, ONCE THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION EXERCISE IS COMPLETED, THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY HAVING REGARD TO THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HIM.

"THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS, HOWEVER, IS ONLY ONE MAN. TO ASSIST HIM IN THE COMPLEX TASK OF CO-ORDINATING THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME, A NEW PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

"THE SECRETARY FOR WORKS CHAIRS THIS COMMITTEE. ALL OF THE POLICY BRANCHES WITH DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME WILL BE REPRESENTED. IN ADDITION, THE DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS WORKS DEPARTMENTS WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE WHEN ITEMS OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO THEM ARE TO BE DISCUSSED.

"THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRESS COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE THE MAIN FORUM FOR ENSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACTS COLLECTIVELY IN A CO-ORDINATED FASHION. THE HIGH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION OF ITS MEMBERS SHOULD ENABLE PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED THERE AND THEN WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY," MR YEUNG SAID.

HE NOTED THAT BETTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION WOULD ALSO HELP.

"DECISIONS CAN ONLY BE TAKEN BY THIS NEW COMMITTEE AND OTHERS IF UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON PROJECT PROGRESS AND COSTS IS READILY TO HAND. IN THE PAST IT HAS BEEN USUAL FOR THERE TO BE A ONE TO TWO MONTH DELAY IN OBTAINING SPENDING AND PROGRESS INFORMATION ON PROJECTS.

"THIS MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE QUICK REMEDIAL ACTION TO GET THINGS BACK ON TRACK BEFORE ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE IS DONE," HE SAID.

"PLANS ARE NOW IN HAND TO PROVIDE A SOPHISTICATED, COMPUTER-BASED INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO LINK ALL THE WORKS DEPARTMENTS AND RELEVANT POLICY BRANCHES.

"A SIMILAR SYSTEM ALREADY IS IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH THE NEW AIRPORT PROJECTS. THIS, HOWEVER, ONLY HAS TO CATER FOR THE 10 MAJOR AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME PROJECTS AND IS ACCESSIBLE ONLY TO THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE NEW AIRPORT."

THE NEW SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE THE BASIC TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE TIMELY PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO TRACK PROGRESS AND COSTS ON THE OVER 2,000 ITEMS THAT MAKE UP THE REMAINING BULK OF THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME.

"THOSE HAVING ACCESS TO THE NEW SYSTEM WILL ALSO BE FAR WIDER THAN NOW. WHETHER SOME OF THE DATA MIGHT EVEN BE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

"DURING OUR PLANNING FOR THE NEW SYSTEM, WE SHALL BE SEEKING YOUR ADVICE ON HOW GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAN CO-OPERATE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BETTER.

"THE CLAIM HAS ALSO BEEN MADE THAT MANY PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO OBTAIN STATUTORY AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS.

"WHILE CLEARLY THERE IS A NEED TO FOLLOW FORMAL APPROVAL PROCEDURES, DELAYS CAN OCCUR IF A CAREFULLY PLANNED APPROACH IS NOT ADOPTED FROM THE OUTSET WHEN A PROJECT IS FIRST INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME," MR YEUNG SAID.

- 17 -

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES REVISED

* * * * *

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY (FRIDAY) APPROVED THE INCREASE IN THE PAYMENT RATES UNDER THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) AND SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES (SNA) SCHEMES, ESTIMATED AT \$373.4 MILLION IN ANNUAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

THE PA AND SNA RECIPIENTS WILL HAVE THEIR PAYMENTS INCREASED BY NINE PER CENT AS A RESULT OF THE REVISION FROM NEXT MONTH, A SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE PAYMENTS WAS IN LINE WITH THE INFLATION RATE SO AS TO MAINTAIN THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

DETAILS OF THE NEW RATES ARE:

CATEGORY -----	EXISTING SCALE -----	NEW SCALE -----
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE -----		
SINGLE PERSON	\$825	\$900
FAMILY : 1ST MEMBER	\$620	\$675
2ND MEMBER	\$620	\$675
3RD MEMBER	\$610	\$665
4TH MEMBER	\$610	\$665
5TH AND EACH ADDITIONAL MEMBER	\$600	\$655
OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT		
(A) FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED BETWEEN 60 AND 69 AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	\$413	\$450
(B) FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS AGED 70 OR ABOVE AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE	\$470	\$510
DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT (FOR A PA RECIPIENT WHO IS PARTIALLY DISABLED AND IS NOT IN RECEIPT OF AN OLD AGE SUPPLEMENT OR A SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE)	\$413	\$450
CHILD SUPPLEMENT	\$205	\$225

/LONG TERM

LONG TERM ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
(FOR THOSE HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT
OF PA FOR 12 MONTHS OR MORE)

(A) FOR A SINGLE PERSON	\$1,050	\$1,145
(B) FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING TWO TO FOUR MEMBERS	\$2,100	\$2,290
(C) FOR A FAMILY COMPRISING FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS	\$3,150	\$3,435
MEAL ALLOWANCE (FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL-DAY SCHOOLS AND REQUIRED TO TAKE LUNCH AWAY FROM HOME)	\$142	\$154

SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCES

(A) OLD AGE ALLOWANCE

(I) NORMAL RATE (FOR THOSE AGED BETWEEN 65 AND 69)	\$413	\$450
(II) HIGHER RATE (FOR THOSE AGED 70 AND OVER)	\$470	\$510

(B) DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

(I) NORMAL RATE	\$825	\$900
(II) HIGHER RATE (FOR THOSE IN NEED OF CONSTANT ATTENDANCE)	\$1,650	\$1,800

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ALSO ENDORSED A PACKAGE OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PA AND SNA SCHEMES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 1 THIS YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$136.7 MILLION IN 1993/94 AND \$182.2 MILLION FOR A FULL YEAR IN ANNUAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

BY THAT TIME, A NEW SCHEME, COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CSSA) SCHEME, WILL REPLACE THE PA SCHEME.

THE SNA SCHEME WILL BE RETITLED THE SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE (SSA) SCHEME.

"THE NEW SCHEME ENSURES THAT THOSE IN NEED WILL RECEIVE MORE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CSSA SCHEME, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNOR IN HIS POLICY SPEECH ON OCTOBER 7 LAST YEAR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE LEVEL OF BENEFITS UNDER THE SSA SCHEME WOULD BE THE SAME AS UNDER THE SNA SCHEME, HE EXPLAINED.

- 19 -

CSSA BENEFICIARIES WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SSA BECAUSE THE ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBSUMED INTO THE STANDARD RATE UNDER THE CSSA SCHEME, HE ADDED.

DETAILS OF THE STANDARD RATE UNDER CSSA ARE:

CATEGORY -----	STANDARD RATE -----	
	SINGLE PERSON -----	FAMILY MEMBER -----
ELDERLY PERSON AGED 60 OR ABOVE	\$1,550	\$1,285
DISABLED ADULT		
50% DISABLED	\$1,550	\$1,285
100% DISABLED	\$1,935	\$1,675
REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENTION	\$2,835	\$2,570
DISABLED CHILD		
50% DISABLED	\$1,770	\$1,510
100% DISABLED	\$2,160	\$1,895
REQUIRING CONSTANT ATTENTION	\$3,055	\$2,795
ABLE-BODIED CHILD	\$1,260	\$995
ABLE-BODIED ADULT	\$1,035	\$895

"THE DEPARTMENT IS MAKING CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PREPARATIONS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE TWO NEW SCHEMES. MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEARER THE TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DUE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE LEVEL OF BENEFITS WOULD BE MADE FOR EXISTING RECIPIENTS TO ENSURE THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE NEW RATES IN GOOD TIME, HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 20 -

WHITE PAPER ON HONG KONG ANNUAL REPORT 1992 TO PARLIAMENT

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL REPORT ON HONG KONG 1992 TO PARLIAMENT (ANNUAL REPORT) HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TODAY (FRIDAY).

AS IN PAST YEARS, THE ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE FORM OF A WHITE PAPER BOTH IN LONDON AND HONG KONG. THE WHITE PAPER WILL BE TABLED AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEXT WEDNESDAY (MARCH 10).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED IN 1985, DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON THE HONG KONG BILL, TO PRODUCE ANNUAL REPORTS ON HONG KONG AND TO LAY THEM BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES OF REPORTS IS TO KEEP PARLIAMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN HONG KONG ON A REGULAR BASIS.

THE ANNUAL REPORT IS THE EIGHTH SUCH REPORT. IT CONTAINS A SURVEY OF MAJOR EVENTS IN HONG KONG DURING 1992.

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE VISITS TO HONG KONG BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, VISITS BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, CONTACTS BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA, CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS, VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS, EMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY, THE PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, LAW AND ORDER AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

COPIES OF THE WHITE PAPER ON THE ANNUAL REPORT AND THE CHINESE TRANSLATION WILL BE AVAILABLE, FREE OF CHARGE, TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM TOMORROW (SATURDAY).

THEY CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ALL DISTRICT OFFICES, THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE (GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL), AND THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALES SECTION OF THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/21

MOTHER TERESA CALLS ON HK PEOPLE TO LOVE AND SERVE

* * * * *

"LOVE, SERVICE AND TOGETHERNESS" IS THE MESSAGE OF GOODWILL FROM THE VISITING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, MOTHER TERESA, FOR ALL HONG KONG PEOPLE.

THE MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS ELIZABETH WONG, AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, WHEN THEY PAID A COURTESY CALL ON HER IN A HOME FOR STREET SLEEPERS RUN BY THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY IN NAM CHEONG ESTATE, SHAM SHUI PO, THIS (FRIDAY) MORNING.

MRS WONG THANKED MOTHER TERESA FOR PAYING A VISIT TO HONG KONG AND CONGRATULATED HER ON HER BEING AWARDED AN HONORARY DEGREE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FOR HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE POOR.

WHEN ASKED HOW TO REMOVE PREJUDICE FROM THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AGAINST THOSE WITH AIDS AND THOSE WHO ARE HANDICAPPED, MOTHER TERESA BELIEVED THAT MORE INTEGRATION WAS NECESSARY.

"LET PEOPLE SEE HOW YOU ARE SERVING THEM," SHE SAID. "YOU CANNOT WRITE ABOUT THIS THING AND YOU CANNOT TALK ABOUT IT."

"BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, THEY WILL HAVE NO FEARS.

"GET MORE VOLUNTEERS TO COME AND SERVE," SHE ADDED.

ON YOUTH SUICIDES, MOTHER TERESA SAID YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED MOTIVATION. "THEY HOPE TO LOVE AND TO BE LOVED. GIVE THEM MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO SOMETHING."

MRS WONG AND MR STRACHAN WERE ACCOMPANIED ON THE VISIT BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS SHELLEY LAU, AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MRS LOUISE WONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

CROSS BORDER SECURITY CO-OPERATION

* * * * *

THE GUANGDONG PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU (PSB) AUTHORITIES HAVE PLEDGED TO CONTINUE TO CO-OPERATE FULLY WITH THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE ON ALL CROSS-BORDER SECURITY AND CRIME MATTERS.

THE ASSURANCE WAS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, MR LI KWAN-HA, AND HIS DELEGATION DURING THEIR FIVE-DAY VISIT TO GUANGDONG AS PART OF THE COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL LIAISON VISIT TO CHINA. THE COMMISSIONER IS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF SUCH AN UNDERTAKING.

MR LI AND HIS DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CRIME, MR TSANG YAM-PUI; CHIEF STAFF OFFICER, ORGANISED CRIME AND TRIAD GROUP (OCTG) MR CHAN TIT-KIN; STAFF OFFICER, INTERPOL, MR FOK MAN-KWAN; AND THE PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER, MR CHEUK CHUN-YIN, RETURNED TODAY (FRIDAY).

DURING THE VISIT, THE DELEGATION HELD TALKS WITH THE GUANGDONG PSB AUTHORITIES ON A NUMBER OF CROSS-BORDER SECURITY AND CRIME ISSUES INCLUDING THE SMUGGLING OF STOLEN LUXURY VEHICLES.

THE COMMISSIONER IS VERY PLEASED THAT THROUGH EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE GUANGDONG PSB, EIGHT STOLEN LUXURY CARS FROM HONG KONG HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN GUANGDONG AND RETURNED TO HONG KONG TODAY.

IN CONNECTION WITH THEFT OF LUXURY VEHICLES IN HONG KONG, IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF THIS CRIME EXPERIENCED BETWEEN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1992 AND JANUARY THIS YEAR HAS SHOWN A MARKED DECLINE IN FEBRUARY.

A TOTAL OF 121 LUXURY CARS WERE FOUND MISSING IN FEBRUARY (FOUR A DAY) COMPARED WITH 302 IN JANUARY (10 A DAY).

THE DRASTIC DECREASE IS BELIEVED TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION ACTION TAKEN BY BOTH THE POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DURING FEBRUARY, DURING WHICH A TOTAL OF 25 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH CAR THEFT RELATED OFFENCES.

OF THE 121 VEHICLES REPORTED MISSING IN THE MONTH, AT LEAST 51 HAVE BEEN RECOVERED SO FAR.

"THE POLICE WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS HIGH LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION," MR LI SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PROVISIONAL FIGURES ON RETAIL SALES FOR DECEMBER
* * * * *

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$15.7 BILLION, INCREASED BY 16% WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH IN 1991, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (FRIDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES REFLECTED A CONTINUED GROWTH IN SPENDING BY BOTH LOCAL CONSUMERS AND TOURISTS.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RETAIL SALES INCREASED BY 11% IN VOLUME TERMS.

FOR 1992 AS A WHOLE, THE INCREASE IN RETAIL SALES WAS 18% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME.

THE INCREASE IN DECEMBER WAS MAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO A HIGH LEVEL OF SPENDING ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR, MOTOR VEHICLES, CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES AND JEWELLERY.

SALES OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS REGISTERED A SIGNIFICANT YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN DECEMBER, BY 29% IN VALUE AND 18% IN VOLUME.

SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLE GOODS OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES WENT UP MARKEDLY BY 22% IN VALUE AND 21% IN VOLUME, WHILE THOSE OF MOTOR VEHICLES BY 17% AND 11% RESPECTIVELY.

SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS AND VALUABLE GIFTS ALSO ROSE CONSIDERABLY, BY 19% IN VALUE AND 24% IN VOLUME. THE LARGER INCREASE IN VOLUME WAS A RESULT OF THE FALL IN THE PRICES OF JEWELLERY ITEMS.

MODERATE INCREASES WERE RECORDED FOR SALES OF FUELS, BY 16% IN VALUE AND 9% IN VOLUME, AND SALES IN SUPERMARKETS, BY 9% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES SHOWED NO GROWTH IN VOLUME, DESPITE AN INCREASE IN VALUE BY 8%. SALES IN OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS THOUGH INCREASED BY 2% IN VALUE, RECORDED A DECREASE OF 2% IN VOLUME.

COMPARING 1992 WITH THE PRECEDING YEAR, TOTAL RETAIL SALES ROSE BY 18% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME. THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN 1991 WERE 17% AND 10% RESPECTIVELY, INDICATING A CONTINUED GROWTH IN CONSUMER SPENDING DURING 1992.

SALES OF MOTOR VEHICLES ROSE SHARPLY IN 1992 BY 50% IN VALUE AND 41% IN VOLUME; AND THOSE OF CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND ALLIED PRODUCTS BY 26% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME.

CONSIDERABLE INCREASES WERE ALSO RECORDED FOR SALES OF JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS, AND VALUABLE GIFTS (BY 18% IN VALUE AND 23% IN VOLUME); SALES OF CONSUMER DURABLES OTHER THAN MOTOR VEHICLES (BY 14% IN VALUE AND 12% IN VOLUME); AND SALES IN DEPARTMENT STORES (BY 14% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME).

SALES IN SUPERMARKETS INCREASED AT A LESS RAPID RATE, BY 10% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME WHEREAS SALES IN OTHER FOODSTUFF OUTLETS RECORDED A 4% INCREASE IN VALUE BUT A 3% DECREASE IN VOLUME.

COMPARING WITH NOVEMBER 1992, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RETAIL SALES IN DECEMBER 1992 INCREASED BY 18% IN BOTH VALUE AND VOLUME TERMS.

THE VOLUME OF RETAIL SALES IS DERIVED FROM THE VALUE OF RETAIL SALES AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT CONTAINING THE ANALYSIS OF THE DECEMBER 1992 RESULTS IS NOW ON SALE AT \$1.5 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL; AND THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, WAN CHAI.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE STATISTICS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TEL 802 1258.

- - - - -

TABLE 1 : TOTAL RETAIL SALES

Total Retail Sales for December 1992 (Provisional Figure) = HK\$15,659.1 million
 for November 1992 (Revised Figure) = HK\$13,307.0 million

TABLE 2 : VALUE AND VOLUME INDEXES OF RETAIL SALES FOR NOVEMBER 1992 AND DECEMBER 1992

(Monthly average of Oct. 89 - Sept. 90 = 100)

Item	Index of Retail Sales	November	December	December 1992 compared with November 1992		December 1992 compared with December 1991		Jan-Dec 1992 compared with Jan-Dec 1991	
		1992	1992	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
(A) FOR ALL RETAIL OUTLETS		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)						
	Value	141.7	166.7	+25.0	+17.7	+22.6	+15.7	+21.4	+17.8
	Volume	121.8	144.0	+22.2	+18.2	+14.3	+11.0	+13.4	+12.1
(B) BY TYPE OF RETAIL OUTLET									
Foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco (other than supermarkets)	Value	125.3	131.4	+6.1	+4.9	+2.7	+2.1	+4.3	+3.8
	Volume	107.3	112.0	+4.7	+4.4	-2.1	-1.8	-2.8	-2.7
Supermarkets	Value	117.5	140.3	+22.8	+19.4	+12.0	+9.3	+11.6	+9.9
	Volume	93.8	112.4	+18.6	+19.8	+2.2	+2.0	+1.7	+1.7
Fuels	Value	139.2	155.1	+15.8	+11.4	+21.2	+15.9	+14.7	+11.9
	Volume	105.2	117.2	+12.1	+11.5	+9.9	+9.2	+4.7	+4.7
Clothing, footwear and allied products	Value	168.8	212.9	+44.1	+26.1	+47.6	+28.8	+31.8	+25.5
	Volume	131.2	167.4	+36.2	+27.6	+25.3	+17.8	+16.2	+14.2
Consumer durable goods *	Value	155.9	167.8	+12.0	+7.7	+27.8	+19.9	+36.6	+29.1
	Volume	138.0	148.7	+10.7	+7.8	+20.5	+16.0	+28.4	+24.2
- Motor vehicles and parts	Value	194.2	192.6	-1.6	-0.8	+28.4	+17.3	+63.6	+49.6
	Volume	161.0	158.7	-2.4	-1.5	+15.6	+10.9	+47.3	+41.2
- Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts	Value	128.1	149.9	+21.8	+17.0	+27.4	+22.4	+17.0	+13.7
	Volume	121.3	141.6	+20.2	+16.7	+24.1	+20.6	+14.7	+12.3
Department stores	Value	133.8	170.2	+36.4	+27.2	+12.3	+7.8	+16.2	+14.1
	Volume	106.7	137.9	+31.2	+29.2	-0.5	-0.3	+5.2	+4.9
Jewellery, watches and clocks, and valuable gifts	Value	129.5	162.3	+32.8	+25.3	+25.5	+18.6	+21.1	+18.1
	Volume	136.2	172.0	+35.8	+26.3	+33.5	+24.2	+26.3	+22.7
Other consumer goods not elsewhere classified	Value	157.4	186.5	+29.1	+18.5	+30.8	+19.8	+24.1	+19.3
	Volume	133.5	157.9	+24.4	+18.3	+17.8	+12.7	+12.3	+10.5

NOTE : * This covers both "Motor vehicles and parts" and "Consumer durable goods other than motor vehicles and parts".

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 25 -

FEEES UNDER GAMBLING AND NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION LAWS GO UP
* * * * *

REGISTRATION AND LICENCE FEES COLLECTED UNDER THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE AND THE REGISTRATION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ORDINANCE HAVE BEEN REVISED WITH EFFECT FROM TODAY (FRIDAY).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THESE CHARGES WERE ADJUSTED BROADLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INFLATION AND THE REVISION WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO SET LEVIES AT A LEVEL THAT WOULD ENABLE THE RECOVERY OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS INVOLVED.

UNDER THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TELEVISION AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING (CTEL) IS EMPOWERED TO ISSUE LICENCES FOR LOTTERIES, TOMBOLAS, GAMES OF AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZES AND TRADE AND PROMOTION COMPETITIONS AND CHARGE FOR THESE SERVICES. THESE FEES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989.

AS REGARDS THE REGISTRATION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS, CTCL CHARGES A FEE FOR REGISTERING LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES AS WELL AS FOR ISSUING LICENCES TO NEWSPAPER DISTRIBUTORS.

FEES ARE ALSO CHARGED FOR THE SEARCHING, INSPECTING AND FOR OBTAINING CERTIFIED EXTRACTS FROM ANY REGISTER OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF THESE FEES HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1988.

SINCE THESE LEVIES WERE LAST REVISED IN 1989 AND 1988, A RECENT REVIEW RECOMMENDED THAT THE FEES SHOULD BE ADJUSTED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HOWEVER, HE EMPHASISED THAT THE REVISED FEES SHOULD NOT DISCOURAGE ORGANISATIONS FROM APPLYING FOR LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS AS IT WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANT IN COMPARISON WITH THE RETURNS GENERATED.

"IN ADDITION, CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR A WAIVER OR REDUCTION OF FEES UNDER THE GAMBLING REGULATIONS.

"IN 1992, FOR INSTANCE, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 261 APPLICATIONS, FEES FOR 110 WERE WAIVED," THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT.

/THE NEW

THE NEW FEES GAZETTED TODAY HAVE BEEN SET AS FOLLOWS:

(1) FEES CHARGED UNDER THE GAMBLING ORDINANCE

DESCRIPTION OF FEES	ORIGINAL FEES	NEW FEES
* LOTTERY LICENCE	\$1,000	\$1,600
* TOMBOLA LICENCE	\$3,200	\$5,100
* AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZES LICENCE	\$750	\$1,200
* TRADE PROMOTION COMPETITION LICENCE	\$500	\$800

(2) FEES CHARGED UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ORDINANCE

(A) NEWSPAPERS REGISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993

* FOR SEARCH/INSPECTION	\$15	\$25
* FOR EXTRACT FROM NEWSPAPERS REGISTER	\$65	\$105
* REGISTRATION OF NEWSPAPERS	\$450	\$710
* ANNUAL FEE	\$450	\$710
* FEES PAYABLE ON FURNISHING OF SUBSTITUTED PARTICULARS RELATING TO NEWSPAPERS	\$45	\$75
* NEWSPAPERS DISTRIBUTOR LICENCE	\$450	\$710

(B) NEWS AGENCIES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1993

* FOR SEARCH/INSPECTION OF NEWS AGENCY REGISTER	\$15	\$25
* FOR EXTRACT FROM NEWS AGENCY REGISTER	\$65	\$105
* REGISTRATION OF NEWS AGENCIES	\$450	\$710
* ANNUAL FEE	\$450	\$710
* FEE PAYABLE ON FURNISHING OF SUBSTITUTED PARTICULARS RELATING TO NEWS AGENCIES	\$45	\$75

FOUR LOTS FOR PUBLIC AUCTION

* * * * *

FOUR LOTS OF GOVERNMENT LAND WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE AT A PUBLIC AUCTION ON MARCH 30, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CONCERT HALL OF THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE, TSIM SHA TSUI, KOWLOON, AT 2.30 PM.

THE FIRST LOT IS AT TAT CHEE ROAD, YAU YAT CHUEN, KOWLOON. IT HAS AN AREA OF 20,660 SQUARE METRES.

IT IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN, HOTEL, SERVICE APARTMENT, RESIDENTIAL AND PETROL-FILLING STATION PURPOSES, INCLUDING A PUBLIC TRANSPORT TERMINUS AND A MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK).

ACCORDING TO THE BUILDING COVENANT, THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 82,410 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE SECOND LOT, IN AREA 30A, SHEUNG SHUI, NEW TERRITORIES, HAS AN AREA OF 2,631 SQUARE METRES. IT IS EARMARKED FOR INDUSTRIAL AND/OR GODOWN PURPOSES (EXCLUDING ANY GODOWN FOR DANGEROUS GOODS).

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,893 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE THIRD LOT IS IN MA ON SHAN TOWN CENTRE, AREA 100, SHA TIN, NEW TERRITORIES. WITH AN AREA OF ABOUT 6,450 SQUARE METRES, IT IS DESIGNATED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES.

THE BUILDING COVENANT STIPULATES THAT THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 25,891 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1997.

THE REMAINING LOT IN HUNG SHUI KIU, YUEN LONG, NEW TERRITORIES HAS AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,844 SQUARE METRES, WHICH IS INTENDED FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, WITH THE FIRST THREE FLOORS FOR NON-INDUSTRIAL (EXCLUDING GODOWN) PURPOSES AND THE REMAINING FLOORS FOR PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES.

THE DEVELOPER HAS TO COMPLETE A GROSS FLOOR AREA OF NOT LESS THAN 7,100 SQUARE METRES ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31, 1996.

FULL PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES KOWLOON, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 10TH FLOOR, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON. SALE PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION IN THESE OFFICES.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 28 -

ROAD CLOSURE FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS

* * * * *

SEVERAL ROADS IN CENTRAL AND SHEUNG WAN WILL BE PERMANENTLY CLOSED TO MAKE WAY FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS BY THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IT WAS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE WHOLE OF WAI SAN LANE AND PORTIONS OF GILMAN STREET, WING ON STREET, TUNG MAN STREET AND HING LUNG STREET IN CENTRAL WILL BE CLOSED FOR WORKS ON A DAY NURSERY, COMMERCIAL ACCOMMODATION AND A LANDSCAPED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

UNDER THE PROJECT, A PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR ACCESS WILL BE BUILT FROM QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL TO THE REAR OF A BUILDING AT 1-7 HING LUNG STREET.

IN SHEUNG WAN, KWONG YUEN STREET WEST, KWONG YUEN STREET EAST, WING SING STREET AND THE LANE AT THE REAR OF WING WO STREET TEMPORARY PLAYGROUND WILL BE CLOSED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF URBAN COUNCIL FACILITIES, COMMERCIAL ACCOMMODATION AND A LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACE.

THE ROAD CLOSURE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WHEN THE PREMISES IN THE AREAS OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS ARE VACATED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

WORKS TO IMPROVE TOLO HARBOUR WATER QUALITY

* * * * *

THE DRAINAGE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN SHA TIN.

THE WORKS INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVITY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS, PUMPING STATIONS, AN INTERCEPTOR CHAMBER AND HYDRO BRAKE CHAMBERS IN 14 SHA TIN VILLAGES, FORMING PART OF THE TOLO HARBOUR SEWERAGE OF UNSEWERED AREAS SCHEME.

WHEN THE SCHEME IS COMPLETED, ALL SEWAGE FROM UNSEWERED DEVELOPMENTS AT 165 LOCATIONS WITHIN TOLO HARBOUR CATCHMENT WILL BE COLLECTED AND TREATED BEFORE DISPOSAL.

THIS WILL HELP TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY IN TOLO HARBOUR TO AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD AND UPGRADE THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE EXISTING UNSEWERED AREAS.

THE 14 VILLAGES TO BE SEWERED INCLUDE HEUNG FAN LIU (EAST PART), PAK TIN, TIN SAM, KAK TIN, HA KENG HAU, SHEUNG KENG HAU, HIN TIN, TAI WAI, SHA TIN TAU, TSANG TAI UK, SHA TIN WAI, TO SHEK, CHAP WAI KON AND NGAU PEI SHA.

/WORKS ARE

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 29 -

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN JUNE FOR COMPLETION IN EARLY 1995.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON APRIL 2.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM HALCROW-FRAENKEL, WHICH HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION WORKS. ITS ADDRESS IS ROOM 3201, CENTRAL PLAZA, 18 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

NEW FOOTBRIDGE AT CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD

* * * * *

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROPOSES TO CONSTRUCT A GRADE-SEPARATED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ACROSS CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD NEAR PIK UK IN SAI KUNG.

PROPOSED WORKS INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF A COVERED FOOTBRIDGE WITH RAMPS AND STAIRCASES ACROSS CLEAR WATER BAY ROAD; ASSOCIATED FOOTPATH AND DRAINAGE WORKS AND ANCILLARY WORKS.

A NOTICE CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WORKS IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

A PLAN SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE WORKS TOGETHER WITH A SCHEME DESCRIPTION CAN BE SEEN AT:

- * CENTRAL AND WESTERN DISTRICT OFFICE, PUBLIC ENQUIRY SERVICE CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, HARBOUR BUILDING, 38 PIER ROAD, CENTRAL; AND
- * SAI KUNG DISTRICT OFFICE AND DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, GROUND FLOOR AND SECOND TO THIRD FLOORS, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, 34 CHAN MAN STREET, SAI KUNG.

ANY PERSON WHO WISHES TO OBJECT TO THE WORKS OR THE USE, OR BOTH IS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS HIS OBJECTION IN WRITING TO THE SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, EAST WING, SECOND FLOOR, LOWER ALBERT ROAD, ON OR BEFORE MAY 4.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 30 -

SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI
* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN KWAI CHUNG AND TSING YI FOR MODERATELY AND SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN RESPECTIVELY.

LOCATED AT KWAI SHING AREA 10B, THE KWAI CHUNG SCHOOL COVERS A SITE AREA OF 2,400 SQUARE METRES AND CAN ACCOMMODATE 100 MODERATELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS ON ITS TWO-STOREY PREMISES.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF 10 GENERAL CLASSROOMS, SEVEN SPECIAL CLASSROOMS AND THREE PARAMEDICAL ROOMS IN ADDITION TO STAFF FACILITIES.

A COVERED PLAYGROUND AND A PARKING AREA WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED ON THE GROUND FLOOR.

ANOTHER SPECIAL SCHOOL WILL BE BUILT AT CHING HONG ROAD, TSING YI TO ACCOMMODATE 80 SEVERELY MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, WITH BOARDING FACILITIES FOR 60.

THE TWO-STOREY SCHOOL PREMISES WILL HAVE 10 GENERAL CLASSROOMS, FIVE SPECIAL CLASSROOMS AND FOUR THERAPY ROOMS.

PROVISION OF OTHER SUPPORTING FACILITIES LIKE CANTEEN AND MEDICAL INSPECTION ROOM IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CONTRACT.

WORKS FOR BOTH PROJECTS ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN MAY FOR COMPLETION IN 11 AND 15 MONTHS RESPECTIVELY.

TENDER OFFERS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON MARCH 26.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TENDERS INVITED FOR OPEN SPACE CONSTRUCTION
* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OPEN SPACE AT KA WAI MAN ROAD, KENNEDY TOWN.

PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR CHILDREN, TOILETS AND ARBOURS/PAVILIONS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE 2,948-SQUARE-METRE SITE.

WORKS ARE EXPECTED TO START IN MAY FOR COMPLETION IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR.

/TENDER OFFERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

- 31 -

TENDER OFFERS FOR BOTH PROJECTS WILL CLOSE AT NOON ON APRIL 2.

FORMS OF TENDER AND FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 34TH FLOOR, QUEENSWAY GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 66 QUEENSWAY, HONG KONG.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PREQUALIFICATION OF TENDERERS FOR PARKING METER MANAGEMENT

* * * * *

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR A CONTRACT TO MANAGE AND MAINTAIN ALL PARKING METERS IN HONG KONG.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WOULD BE INVITED TO TENDER FOR THE CONTRACT IN JUNE.

DETAILS OF THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE ARE CONTAINED IN THE GAZETTE PUBLISHED TODAY (FRIDAY).

APPLICANTS FOR PREQUALIFICATION ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF VEHICLE PARKING SYSTEMS OR ANY OTHER FACILITY, AND EVIDENCE OF EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF MECHANICAL PARKING METERS OR CLOCKS AND WATCHES; OR ALTERNATIVELY EVIDENCE OF ABILITY TO ENGAGE EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES IN THESE RESPECTS FROM ACCEPTABLE SOURCES.

APPLICANTS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY IN UNDERTAKING THE CONTRACT, AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE TASKS INVOLVED, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS ARE NOW OBTAINABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS FROM THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT RECEPTION COUNTER ON 41ST FLOOR, IMMIGRATION TOWER, 7 GLOUCESTER ROAD, BY PRODUCING A COMPANY LETTER INDICATING INTEREST IN TENDERING FOR THE CONTRACT.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION IS NOON ON APRIL 16.

ENQUIRIES ON GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THIS PREQUALIFICATION INVITATION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MR VINCENT FAN OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON TEL 829 5495; ON MAINTENANCE ASPECTS TO MR ALBERT LO OF THE ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ON TEL 895 8717 AND ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS TO MR RICKY CHUI OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON TEL 829 5486.

- - - - 0 - - - -

FARM LAND IN YUEN LONG TO BE RESUMED
* * * * *

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO RESUME 13 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS IN YUEN LONG FOR CONSTRUCTING A DRAINAGE CHANNEL AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT MAI PO LUNG TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING RISK.

LOCATED IN SAN TIN, THE AGRICULTURAL LOTS HAVE A TOTAL AREA OF 4,760 SQUARE METRES. THE LAND WILL BE REVERTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THREE MONTHS AFTER THE RESUMPTION NOTICE IS GAZETTED TODAY (FRIDAY).

THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT WORKS INVOLVED ARE SCHEDULED TO START IN MAY THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GREAT IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO CAREERS EDUCATION
* * * * *

THE RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES TO THE CAREERS QUIZ '93 REFLECTS THE GREAT IMPORTANCE SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS ATTACHED TO CAREERS EDUCATION, THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR LABOUR, MRS ANGELA HO, SAID TODAY (FRIDAY).

"WITH MORE THAN 136,000 STUDENTS FROM 285 SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAKING PART IN THE QUIZ, IT ALSO REFLECTS THAT THERE IS A GREAT DEMAND FOR CAREERS INFORMATION BY STUDENTS," MRS HO SAID AT THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE QUIZ.

IN VIEW OF THIS, FREE COACH SERVICE IS BEING PROVIDED BY THE CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE (CAS) TO HELP SCHOOLS ARRANGE STUDENT GROUPS TO VISIT THE CAREERS INFORMATION CENTRES (CICS), SHE ADDED.

THE CICS IN SOUTHOEN CENTRE, WAN CHAI AND IN MONG KOK GOVERNMENT OFFICES PROVIDE REFERENCE MATERIALS ON CAREERS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION, AND SLIDE PRESENTATIONS, CASSETTE RECORDINGS AND VIDEO TAPES ON CAREERS, AS WELL AS A FREE ENQUIRY SERVICE.

SHE SAID: "I HOPE STUDENTS WILL MAKE BETTER USE OF OUR SERVICES FOR COLLECTING MORE INFORMATION TO PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE."

THE CAREERS QUIZ '93, ORGANISED BY THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT'S CAS AND SPONSORED BY PHILIPS HONG KONG LIMITED, AIMED AT AROUSING STUDENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING SUITABLE CAREERS AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO LOOK FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON CAREERS AND FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

/PARTICIPANTS HAVE

PARTICIPANTS HAVE TO ANSWER 50 MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION ON CAREERS, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, AND LABOUR LAW.

DURING THE CEREMONY, MRS HO AND THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OF PHILIPS HONG KONG LIMITED, MR ANDREW MOK, PRESENTED PRIZES TO WINNING SCHOOLS, HIGHEST-SCORING STUDENTS, AND OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN EACH OF THE FORMS 3, 4 AND 5 SECTIONS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
* * * * *

	\$ MILLION -----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,420
REVERSAL OF LAF	+730
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	2,150
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-870
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,280

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER TWI 113.7 *-0.2* 5.3.93

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS			HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS			
TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.47 PCT	14 MONTHS	2405	5.50	102.70	3.21
1 MONTH	2.60 PCT	17 MONTHS	2408	5.50	101.56	3.29
3 MONTHS	2.85 PCT	20 MONTHS	2411	4.375	101.91	3.48
6 MONTHS	2.96 PCT	23 MONTHS	2502	4.625	102.00	3.71
12 MONTHS	3.18 PCT					

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,382 MN

CLOSED 5 MARCH 1993

- - - - 0 - - - -