



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1994

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NO SECRET IN AMENDING LETTERS PATENT

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SAID NOTHING HAD BEEN DONE SECRETIVELY IN THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LETTERS PATENT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY), THE GOVERNOR SAID: "THE POLICY WAS ANNOUNCED AND WE THEN TOOK THE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT IT."

"EVERYBODY'S KNOWN SINCE THE AUTUMN OF 1992 THAT IT'S BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO HAVE, PROVIDED WE CAN GET THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, TO HAVE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995 WHICH HAS 20 DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS, 30 ELECTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND 10 BY ELECTION COMMITTEE.

"SO, NO SECRET HAS BEEN INVOLVED AT ALL," HE ADDED.

MR PATTEN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEHAVED OVER THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT OVER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN VIRTUALLY EXACTLY THE SAME WAY THAT IT HAD BEHAVED OVER PREVIOUS CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

"WE ANNOUNCED THE POLICY AND THEN WE TOOK THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES THAT WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT IT, CONDITIONAL UPON OTHER THINGS BEING DONE," HE SAID.

AS TO QUESTIONS ON WHY THE AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN MADE SO EARLY, MR PATTEN SAID THE GOVERNMENT SET OUT ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED TO IT ON FEBRUARY 2 LAST YEAR AND THEN WENT TO LONDON AND TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN APRIL.

"WE DID IT THAT EARLY FOR TWO REASONS.

"FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE OUR LEGAL ADVICE AT THAT STAGE WAS BEFORE WE INTRODUCED A BILL FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WE HAD TO HAVE CHANGED THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT, OTHERWISE THE SUGGESTION WAS IT MIGHT BE ULTRA VIRES.

"SO WE TOOK THAT ACTION AT A TIME YOU WILL RECALL WHEN WE WEREN'T ALAS HAVING TALKS WITH CHINESE SIDE AND WHEN WE HAD SET OURSELVES THE TARGET OF TRYING TO GET OUR LEGISLATION THROUGH BY JULY 1993.

"SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WE'VE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT WE DON'T ACTUALLY NEED A CHANGE TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT UNTIL WE'VE ACTUALLY GOT LEGISLATION THROUGH.

"BUT BEFORE I ACTUALLY SIGN THE BILL, WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE THE GAZETTING WHICH IS THE PUBLICATION, THE PUBLIC ACT, THE GAZETTING OF A CHANGE TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTER'S PATENT, SO THAT THE BILL COULD THEN BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND VICE VERSA.

ASKED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TO PASS A BILL NOT IN LINE WITH THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT OR ANY AMENDMENT TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "WE WOULD HAVE TO THINK VERY HARD ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES AND DISCUSS THEM HERE IN HONG KONG AND DISCUSS THEM WITH LONDON."

/ON HIS .....

ON HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO LONDON, MR PATTEN SAID HE WAS GOING TO HAVE MEETINGS WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR DOUGLAS HURD; THE MINISTER OF STATE AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG, MR ALASTAIR GOODLAD; AND A NUMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS.

HE WILL ALSO BE MEETING A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY IN LONDON.

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GOVERNOR SPEAKS TO MEDIA  
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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA AFTER ATTENDING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY (TUESDAY):

QUESTION : ANY DECISION ON KMB ?

GOVERNOR : THAT WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS AFTERNOON, I THINK, IN THE USUAL WAY.

QUESTION : WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP TO LONDON ?

GOVERNOR : I AM HAVING A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WITH MR GOODLAD, A ROUTINE MEETING. I AM ALSO MEETING A NUMBER OF FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS. I AM MEETING A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY IN LONDON. I'VE GOT ONE OR TWO OTHER MEETINGS FOR EXAMPLE WITH THE PRESS AND I AM DELIVERING A LECTURE IN DUBLIN FOR THE IRISH INDEPENDENT GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

QUESTION : WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM ?

GOVERNOR : I'LL KNOW WHEN I HAVE WRITTEN IT.

QUESTION : DO YOU THINK THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE LETTERS PATENT WILL SET A BAD EXAMPLE LATER TO THE SAR GOVERNMENT OR THE NPC OF THE PRC LATER? THEY CAN AMEND THE BASIC LAW, JUST LIKE THE WAY THE UK GOVERNMENT AMENDED THE LETTERS PATENT CONCERNING HONG KONG ISSUES.

GOVERNOR : WE'VE GOT QUITE A LOT OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH AND THAT WE'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH BETWEEN NOW AND 1997. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. BUT I THINK THAT IN COMPARISON WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH WILL INEVITABLY CREATE FROM TIME TO TIME A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONTROVERSY AND HEAT, IN COMPARISON WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS, THE DISCUSSION OF THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT IS THE MOST SPECIOUS, SPURIOUS NON-ISSUE EVEN IN HONG KONG'S HISTORY OF ALLEGED CONSPIRACIES AND SECRET DEALS. ONE NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY VERY ACCURATELY, WELL PERHAPS EXCESSIVELY DESCRIBED IT AS A STORM IN A TEA CUP. I THINK IT'S A STORM IN A TEA SPOON.

LET ME SAY EXACTLY WHY. FIRST OF ALL, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEHAVED OVER THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT OVER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IN VIRTUALLY EXACTLY THE SAME WAY THAT IT HAS BEHAVED OVER PREVIOUS CHANGES TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, JUST AS OVER THE CHANGES THAT HAD TO BE MADE FOR THE 1991 ELECTIONS OR THE CHANGES THAT HAD TO BE MADE FOR MY DECISION TO STAND DOWN AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. WE ANNOUNCED THE POLICY AND THEN WE TOOK THE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES THAT WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT IT, CONDITIONAL UPON OTHER THINGS BEING DONE.

SECONDLY, WHERE'S THE SECRET IN ALL THIS ? WHAT IS THE THING THAT'S BEEN DONE SECRETIVELY ? NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE SECRETIVELY. THE POLICY WAS ANNOUNCED AND WE THEN TOOK THE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT IT. EVERYBODY KNOWS. EVERYBODY'S KNOWN SINCE THE AUTUMN OF 1992 THAT IT'S BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO HAVE, PROVIDED WE CAN GET THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO HAVE A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN 1995 WHICH HAS 20 DIRECTLY ELECTED MEMBERS, 30 ELECTED BY FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND 10 BY ELECTION COMMITTEE. SO, NO SECRET HAS BEEN INVOLVED AT ALL. THIRDLY, WHY WAS IT DONE SO EARLY ? WE SET OUT ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION WHEN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGREED TO IT ON FEBRUARY 2 LAST YEAR. WE THEN WENT TO LONDON AND TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN APRIL. WE DID IT THAT EARLY FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, BECAUSE OUR LEGAL ADVICE AT THAT STAGE WAS BEFORE WE INTRODUCED A BILL FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WE HAD TO HAVE CHANGED THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT, OTHERWISE THE SUGGESTION WAS IT MIGHT BE ULTRA VIRES. SO WE TOOK THAT ACTION AT A TIME YOU WILL RECALL WHEN WE WEREN'T ALAS HAVING TALKS WITH CHINESE SIDE AND WHEN WE HAD SET OURSELVES THE TARGET OF TRYING TO GET OUR LEGISLATION THROUGH BY JULY 1993. SUBSEQUENTLY, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEGAL ADVISER TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WE'VE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT WE DON'T ACTUALLY NEED A CHANGE TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT UNTIL WE'VE ACTUALLY GOT LEGISLATION THROUGH. BUT BEFORE I ACTUALLY SIGN THE BILL, WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE THE GAZETTING WHICH IS THE PUBLICATION, THE PUBLIC ACT, THE GAZETTING OF A CHANGE TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTER'S PATENT, SO THAT THE BILL COULD THEN BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND VICE VERSA.

SO, ONE, WE'VE ACTED AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. TWO, THERE'S BEEN NOTHING SECRET DONE. THREE, THE TIMING HAS BEEN FOLLOWED FOR THE REASONS I'VE SET OUT.

ONE OTHER ISSUE WHICH IS HYPOTHETICAL AND THE ONLY REAL ARGUMENT AT ALL - WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDED THE BILL IN A WAY WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE AMENDMENTS WE'VE PROPOSED TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT. NOW I SUPPOSE THAT COULD HAPPEN IN A NUMBER OF DIRECTIONS. I SUPPOSE THAT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL COULD EITHER AMEND THE BILL IN A WAY WHICH MADE IT ALLEGEDLY MORE DEMOCRATIC OR IN A WAY WHICH ALLEGEDLY MADE IT LESS DEMOCRATIC. WHAT I'VE SAID TO PEOPLE WHO ARGUED AND ASKED ME QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE TWO THINGS IS AS YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL, I FIND THAT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF HONG KONG AS THEY EXIST IS QUITE SUFFICIENT WITHOUT ANSWERING EVERY HYPOTHETICAL PROBLEM AND EVERY HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION WHICH IS PUT TO ME. BUT IT STANDS TO REASON THAT IF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS TO PASS A BILL WHICH WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT OR ANY THE AMENDMENT TO THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT, WE WOULD HAVE TO THINK VERY HARD ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES AND DISCUSS THEM HERE IN HONG KONG AND DISCUSS THEM WITH LONDON. BUT I REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE AND WHAT I SAID IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, I DON'T INTEND TO ANSWER EVERY HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION ABOUT AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL AS MRS BEACON SAID WHEN DESCRIBING HOW TO COOK A HARE, FIRST CATCH YOUR HARE AND THAT SEEMS TO ME TO BE THE BEST RESPONSE TO THOSE QUESTIONS. SO I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THIS COMPLETELY SPURIOUS ISSUE CAN NOW BE SET ON ONE SIDE FOR WE CAN TALK ABOUT THINGS WHICH REALLY DO CONCERN PEOPLE LIKE THE BUDGET, LIKE FARE INCREASES, LIKE INFLATION, LIKE PROPERTY PRICES AND LIKE WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THE BILL WHICH HAS GONE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. I AM SORRY TO HAVE GONE ON SO LONG ABOUT IT. I DARE SAY THAT I'LL NEVER AGAIN HAVE TO SPEAK IN SUCH LENGTH ON THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT.

QUESTION: BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S HARMFUL TO HONG KONG'S AUTONOMY?

GOVERNOR: I DON'T THINK IT'S REMOTELY HARMFUL TO HONG KONG'S AUTONOMY BECAUSE IT REMAINS OUR POSITION, AS YOU KNOW, THAT IT IS THE JOB OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO LEGISLATE ON MATTERS LIKE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND SO IT WILL BE UNDER THE BASIC LAW.

QUESTION: DO YOU THINK IT WILL HAVE A PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT AT LEAST ON OTHER LEGISLATORS OTHER THAN EMILY LAU WHO NOW SAID WELL, YOU GOT IT IN THE LETTERS PATENT ANYWAY, OF COURSE YOU WON'T GET IT THROUGH, SO WHY THE HELL SHOULD WE SUPPORT IT?

GOVERNOR: NO, I REALLY DON'T THINK SO. ANYBODY WHO ACTUALLY LISTENS TO WHAT I HAVE SAID AND WHAT FRANKLY MY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING SINCE THE END OF LAST WEEK, ANYBODY WHO ACTUALLY LISTENS TO WHAT'S SAID SHOULD I THINK WILL BE ABLE TO REACT RATIONALLY AND CALMLY. THERE IS ONE THING THAT I SHOULD JUST ADD - THE POSITION ON THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT WAS SET OUT ON THE 29TH OF DECEMBER BY C.M. LEUNG, THE DIRECTORATE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH IN EVIDENCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. SO I DON'T KNOW AGAIN WHY PEOPLE SHOULD BE PUZZLED OR SURPRISED ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.

QUESTION: HOW DOES YOU GOVERNOR.. TO QUESTION OF AGAIN GIVING PEOPLE CONFIRMATION BY THE FACT THAT REPORTERS ASKED REPEATEDLY IN THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY IF WE CAN GET HOLD OF A COPY OF WHAT IS BETTER THAN ROYAL INSTRUCTION 'S CURRENT COPY TO ADDRESS THIS GOING QUESTION OF WHAT HAPPENS IF ON THE QUESTION OF ..., WE WERE TOLD IT DOESN'T EXIST, IT'S ONLY SCOTCH-TAPE VERSION, CUT AND PASTED THINGS AROUND, CAN'T GET ONE TRY IN LONDON AND THEN THIS? SO, YOU SEE THIS LACK OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC FIT INTO THIS.

GOVERNOR: WELL, I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THE ISSUE IS OF SUFFICIENT LACK OF INTEREST TO MOST PEOPLE, THAT'S VERY MANY OF THEM DIDN'T DO WHAT WOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM ON THE INFORMATION THEY WANTED WHICH IS TO ENQUIRE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMON'S LIBRARY, AS I UNDERSTAND IT. BUT I'M DELIGHTED THAT EVEN IF THOSE PROBLEMS AROSE IN JANUARY, I CAN ASSURE YOU PERFECTLY INNOCENTLY, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO SPELL OUT THE SITUATION INSISTENTLY SINCE LAST FRIDAY. AND I'M ONLY SORRY THAT MORE NOTICE HASN'T BEEN TAKEN OF THE ANSWERS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN. BUT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN THERE ARE SERIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH ARE WORTH EXPLOSIVE LEADING ARTICLES AND ANGRY DEBATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. BUT I HAVE TO SAY THAT AS ARGUMENTS GO, THIS ONE IS AN EXTREMELY DEAD SHEEP.

QUESTION: ON THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION, THE END OF THIS MONTH IS THE END OF THE CONSULTATION PERIOD AND A BILL HAD BEEN .... AND I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN IT. ARE YOU STILL HOLDING QUEUE-UP POSITION THAT THE BEST WAY TO GET ACCESS OF INFORMATION IS THROUGH ADMINISTRATION MEANS? ARE YOU RULING OUT ACCEPTING A LEGISLATIVE TIE?

GOVERNOR: WHAT I'M RULING IN IS DISCUSSIONS WITH LEGISLATORS ABOUT THESE ISSUES. I DON'T THINK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONVINCED BY THE CASE FOR A STATUTORY ENTITLEMENT TO INFORMATION. BUT I THINK THE EXECUTIVE IS CONVINCED OF THE NEED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN. FIRST OF ALL, TO REMOVE THOSE LAWS OR THOSE PARTS OF LAWS WHICH MAY INFRINGE FREEDOM OF SPEECH. AND SECONDLY, TO LOOK AT WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN MAKE A GREAT DEAL MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC INCLUDING AS I HAVE SOUGHT TO DO THIS MORNING, INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROYAL INSTRUCTIONS AND LETTERS PATENT. THANKS VERY MUCH INDEED.

REPORTER: GOVERNOR, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT NOT BEING ABLE TO WATCH THE BBC TV NEWS NOW THAT STAR TV HAS DECIDED TO GO TO .... ?

GOVERNOR: I FIND THAT, LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN MY POSITION, I HAVE VERY STRONG VIEWS ABOUT BROADCASTING BUT ALAS I'M NOT ABLE VERY OFTEN TO WATCH IT MYSELF. BUT I HAVE SEEN THE BBC WORLD SERVICE. I THINK IT'S EXCELLENT. I'VE SEEN IT IN THIS COUNTRY .... I'VE SEEN IT IN HONG KONG, I'VE SEEN IT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, I'VE SEEN IT IN THE UK AS WELL AND I'M SURE THAT THEY WILL FIND SOME OTHER WAY OF FEEDING INTO THE REGION. BUT IT'S A COMMERCIAL DECISION AND IT'S NOT A MATTER FOR ME. THERE ARE A LOT OF SERVICES AVAILABLE IN HONG KONG AND I HOPE THEY WILL ALL PROVIDE THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN AN UNVARNISHED WAY.

QUESTION: YOU DON'T SEE THIS AS A SELF-CENSORSHIP ISSUE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THAT THAT'S A QUESTION WHICH YOU SHOULD PUT TO THE PROPRIETOR OF STAR TV.

QUESTION: ON AIRPORT FINANCING, SO FAR ANY RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE SIDE AFTER THE ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS?

GOVERNOR: NOW WE HAVE ANSWERED EVEN MORE QUESTIONS. WE'VE HAD A HELPFUL BRIEFING AND I HOPE THAT IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH A NUMBER OF CHINESE LEADERS HAVE HELPFULLY REFERRED TO WILL BE ABLE TO SORT THINGS OUT SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

KMB'S FARE INCREASE APPLICATION SLASHED

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THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A 12.9% FARE INCREASE FOR KOWLOON MOTOR BUS (KMB) WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN WHAT THE COMPANY SOUGHT IN THEIR APPLICATION.

THIS GIVES KMB A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER RETURN THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT IN CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR BUS FARE INCREASES THE FIRST AND FOREMOST OBJECTIVE IS TO ENSURE AN EFFICIENT SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

IN ADDITION, SINCE PUBLIC BUS SERVICES ARE NOT SUBSIDISED, IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE THE BUS OPERATOR A REASONABLE RETURN.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT INFLATION HAD LITTLE DIRECT BEARING ON THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE BUS INDUSTRY. THE KEY ELEMENTS ARE:

WAGES -

OPERATIONS ARE LABOUR INTENSIVE AND WAGES CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 60% OF KMB'S TOTAL OPERATING COSTS. OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, KMB HAD TO AWARD SALARY ADJUSTMENTS HIGHER THAN INFLATION IN ORDER TO RETAIN AND RECRUIT SUFFICIENT DRIVERS.

ROADWORTHINESS OF BUSES -

BUS INSPECTIONS ARE COSTLY BUT ESSENTIAL IN SAFEGUARDING PASSENGER SAFETY. THIS ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASE IN OPERATING EXPENSE.

NEW ROUTES AND FREQUENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN EXISTING ROUTES -

THESE ARE NECESSARY TO SATISFY PASSENGER DEMANDS. SUCH SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS ARE CONTAINED IN A FIVE-YEAR FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAMME WHICH IS UPDATED ANNUALLY AND SUBJECT TO CAREFUL SCRUTINY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT BOARDS AND THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE. GIVEN LITTLE OVERALL GROWTH IN PATRONAGE, SUCH IMPROVEMENTS WILL SIMPLY ADD TO OPERATING COSTS.

A FARE INCREASE OF 12.9% IS AFFORDABLE SINCE 80% OF THE PASSENGERS WILL PAY AN ADDITIONAL FARE OF 40 CENTS TO 50 CENTS ONLY; 10% OF THE PASSENGERS WILL PAY 30 CENTS EXTRA OR LESS AND THE REMAINING 10% 60 CENTS TO \$1 MORE.

THIS IS FURTHER ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE INCREASE JUST APPROVED WOULD ONLY RESULT IN A VERY MARGINAL INCREASE OF 0.18% ON THE CPI(A).

IN APPROVING THE FARE INCREASE, THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL HAS ALSO ASKED THAT THE SCHEME OF CONTROL AND THE QUESTION OF LAND SALES BY FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES BE EXAMINED.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT, UNDER ITS SCHEME OF CONTROL, KMB MAY SEEK A RETURN UP TO 16% ON ITS AVERAGE NET FIXED ASSETS.

THIS SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1975, AND MAY HAVE OUTLIVED ITS PURPOSE, SINCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS BEEN PERCEIVED BY CRITICS AS PROVIDING A "GUARANTEED" PROFIT FOR THE COMPANY REGARDLESS OF ITS PERFORMANCE.

THE ADMINISTRATION, THEREFORE, INTENDS TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH KMB WITH A VIEW TO REPLACING THE SCHEME OF CONTROL WITH A MORE APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF BUS FARES.

AS REGARDS LAND SALES, AT PRESENT, THE COMPANY CAN DISPOSE OF ITS DEPOT SITES WHICH ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR BUS OPERATION.

UNDER THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, PROCEEDS FROM SUCH SALES CANNOT BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN APPLICATION FOR INCREASES ARE CONSIDERED.

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SOON CONDUCT A REVIEW ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF HOW PROCEEDS FROM LAND SALES BY FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES IN FUTURE CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DETERMINING BUS FARES.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER APPLICATION PERTAINING TO THE RELEASE OF DEPOT SITES.

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#### JUDICIARY GOES THROUGH QUIET MANAGEMENT REVOLUTION

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THE JUDICIARY IS GOING THROUGH A "QUIET MANAGEMENT REVOLUTION" - A CULTURE CHANGE, A SHIFT OF GEAR AND A CHANGE OF HEART AND MIND - THE CHIEF JUSTICE, SIR TI LIANG YANG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE CITY LIONS CLUB, SIR TI LIANG SAID OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, MUCH HAD BEEN DONE QUIETLY TO LAY THE GROUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS IN THE JUDICIARY.

"FIRST, TO START THE REFORM PROCESS, I SET UP THE WORKING PARTY ON JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION LAST OCTOBER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS OF THE JUDICIARY AND TO IDENTIFY PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVEMENT," HE SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY, WHICH SERVES VERY MUCH AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S THINK-TANK, IS MAPPING OUT A BROAD STRATEGY FOR ENHANCING JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY.

IT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT AS A FIRST AND ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARDS EMBRACING A MODERN MANAGEMENT CULTURE, THE JUDICIARY SHOULD BRING IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS PART OF THE PUSH FOR EFFICIENCY.

"TO THIS END, WE WILL BE APPROACHING THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SHORTLY FOR FUNDS TO LAUNCH A JUDICIARY INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY.

"THIS COMPUTERISATION PROGRAMME INITIALLY WILL FOCUS ON THE DISTRICT COURT, THE SMALL CLAIMS TRIBUNAL AND THE PROBATE REGISTRY. THESE ARE THE MAIN BOTTLENECKS, AS THEIR OPERATION IS NOW HEAVILY LABOUR-INTENSIVE," HE ADDED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE SAID SINCE LAST NOVEMBER THE JUDICIARY HAD LAUNCHED A BASIC COMPUTER TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR ALMOST ALL OF ITS 170 JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO WERE INTERESTED IN USING THEM IN THEIR CHAMBERS.

"I AM DELIGHTED TO SAY THAT THE RESPONSE TO THIS COMPUTER AWARENESS DRIVE HAS BEEN MOST ENCOURAGING. IT AUGURS WELL FOR THE CHANGE IN CULTURE. THE PERSONAL COMPUTERS WILL FACILITATE JUDGES AND MAGISTRATES IN PREPARING JUDGMENTS AND NOTES," HE SAID.

THE WORKING PARTY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A PILOT SCHEME FOR A COMPUTERISED COURT RECORDING SYSTEM BE INTRODUCED INTO THE DISTRICT COURT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE OBJECT OF THE PILOT SCHEME IS TO RELIEVE DISTRICT JUDGES OF THE BURDEN OF RECORDING THE PROCEEDINGS OF A CASE IN LONGHAND, THUS ENABLING THEM TO CONCENTRATE ON TRIALS AND HAVE MORE TIME TO HEAR CASES, SIR TI LIANG EXPLAINED.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE REVEALED THAT THE WORKING PARTY HAD ALSO LOOKED AT THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF LISTING OF CASES FOR TRIAL IN THE COURTS, WHICH HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE WAITING TIME FOR CASES TO COME TO TRIAL AND ON THE USE OF THE COURT'S TIME.

"THE WORKING PARTY THINKS THAT IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE LISTING PROBLEM, THE FULL CO-OPERATION OF THREE PARTIES IS A MUST. FIRST COMES THE JUDGE HIMSELF; SECOND IS THE OFFICER IN THE JUDICIARY RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING DOWN CASES FOR TRIAL AND ESTIMATING THE LENGTH OF TRIAL; AND, FINALLY, THE LAWYERS WHO HAVE THE CONDUCT OF THE CASE," HE SAID.

STRESSING THAT THE JUDICIARY IS NOW SEEKING TO ACHIEVE A GREATER OPENNESS, ACCESSIBILITY, RESPONSIVENESS, TRANSPARENCY AND USER-FRIENDLINESS - ALL WITHIN THE CONFINES OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE - SIR TI LIANG QUOTED A FEW EXAMPLES.

"FIRST, THREE COURT USERS COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN SET UP SINCE LAST OCTOBER TO ADVISE ME ON THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES IN THE CRIMINAL DIVISION, THE CIVIL DIVISION AND THE SPECIALIST TRIBUNALS. INDEED, ON ANYTHING THAT CONCERNS THE USERS COMPRISING THE LAWYERS AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

"SECOND, IN RESPONSE TO WIDESPREAD CONCERNS, I APPOINTED LAST OCTOBER A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP, CHAIRED BY A HIGH COURT JUDGE, TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE GIVING EVIDENCE IN COURT.

"THE WORKING GROUP HAS CONSULTED NOT JUST THE PROFESSIONALS, BUT ALSO VARIOUS PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. ITS FINAL REPORT IS MORE OR LESS READY.

"THIRD, WE ARE DRAWING UP THE JUDICIARY'S PERFORMANCE PLEDGE. THIS WILL GIVE THE STANDARDS OF SERVICE WHICH THE PUBLIC CAN EXPECT FROM US," HE SAID.

A TELEPHONE HOTLINE WILL ALSO BE SET UP TO ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THEIR ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS.

IN CONCLUSION, THE CHIEF JUSTICE EMPHASISED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE JUDICIARY'S DRIVE FOR EFFICIENCY AND REFORM EFFORTS HINGED VERY MUCH ON A TRIPARTITE CO-OPERATION - THE JUDICIARY ITSELF, THE LEGAL PROFESSION - LAWYERS BOTH IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE - AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

"WITHIN THE JUDICIARY, THERE MUST BE THE WILL AND DETERMINATION TO GO FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. THERE MUST ALSO BE THE RECOGNITION THAT FOR US TO STAND STILL IS TO STAGNATE. AMONGST THE PROFESSION, THERE MUST BE THE SENSITIVITY THAT COURT TIME IS PRECIOUS. FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, THERE MUST BE THE PREPAREDNESS TO GIVE US THE FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES REQUIRED," HE ELABORATED.

HOWEVER, THE CHIEF JUSTICE POINTED OUT THAT JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY MUST NOT BE ACHIEVED AT THE EXPENSE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE, THE FAIRNESS OF A TRIAL AND THE QUALITY OF JUSTICE.

"THIS IS VERY MUCH A FINE BALANCING ACT AND, IF I MAY SAY SO, A VERY DELICATE ONE," HE SAID.

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FRONT MIDDLE SEAT PASSENGERS TO BUCKLE UP TOO

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) RECOMMENDED THAT LEGISLATION BE AMENDED TO MAKE THE FITTING AND WEARING OF LAP BELTS COMPULSORY FOR FRONT MIDDLE SEAT PASSENGERS IN VEHICLES.

LAP BELTS ARE REQUIRED IN MANY COUNTRIES AND ARE EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING SERIOUS INJURIES OR FATALITIES AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING SIDE IMPACT. THEY ALSO PREVENT PASSENGERS FROM BEING THROWN OUT OF VEHICLES IN CASE OF ACCIDENT.

THE FITTING REQUIREMENT WILL APPLY ONLY TO NEW PRIVATE CARS, TAXIS, GOODS VEHICLES AND LIGHT BUSES. THERE WILL BE A ONE-YEAR GRACE PERIOD BEFORE THE NEW REQUIREMENT COMES INTO EFFECT.

ON THE ADVICE OF TAC, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE COMPULSORY WEARING OF LAP BELTS TO PASSENGERS ON EXISTING VEHICLES ALREADY FITTED WITH LAP BELTS.

THE AMENDED LEGISLATION IS EXPECTED TO BE ENACTED LATER THIS YEAR TOGETHER WITH THE PROPOSED REAR SEAT BELT LEGISLATION WHICH WAS ENDORSED BY TAC LAST YEAR.

DURING THE MEETING, MEMBERS, IN THE LIGHT OF PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, ALSO SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND LEGISLATION TO MAKE THE USE OF CHILD RESTRAINTS IN REAR SEATS, IF AVAILABLE, MANDATORY. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO USE CHILD RESTRAINTS.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, MEMBERS WERE ALSO BRIEFED BY THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS INCLUDING ITS FARE POLICY.

THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 1993 WAS ALSO TABLED.

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## FEWER TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS IN LAST QUARTER OF 1993

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THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED BY THE TRANSPORT COMPLAINTS UNIT (TCU) FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1993 TO DECEMBER 31, 1993 DROPPED BY 7.4 PER CENT TO 3,437 AS COMPARED WITH 3,713 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

DURING THE PERIOD, THE MAJOR AREAS OF COMPLAINTS WERE RELATED TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT (61 PER CENT), ENFORCEMENT (18 PER CENT) AND ROAD TRAFFIC CONDITIONS (15 PER CENT).

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST PUBLIC TRANSPORT DECREASED BY NINE PER CENT TO 2,096 CASES WHEN COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

THIS WAS ATTRIBUTABLE MAINLY TO FEWER COMPLAINTS AGAINST CHINA MOTOR BUS SERVICES (-26.6 PER CENT FROM 252 TO 185 CASES); TAXI MALPRACTICES (-15.7 PER CENT FROM 1,065 TO 898 CASES); AND CITYBUS SERVICES (-9.4 PER CENT FROM 213 TO 193).

HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST KOWLOON MOTOR BUS ROSE FROM 302 TO 336 THIS QUARTER. NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF THE COMPLAINTS (244) WERE RELATED TO ERRATIC SERVICES, CONDUCT AND PERFORMANCE OF DRIVERS AND INADEQUATE SERVICES.

THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD MAINTENANCE CONDITIONS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY BY 26.7 PER CENT TO 143 WHEN COMPARED WITH THE LAST QUARTER.

THERE WERE ALSO FEWER COMPLAINTS ABOUT ROAD CONGESTION, NUMBERING 237 CASES AGAINST 262 IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER.

ONE NOTEWORTHY SUGGESTION RECEIVED DURING THE QUARTER WAS A REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A 'RED LIGHT' CAMERA AT A BUSY KOWLOON CITY ROAD JUNCTION.

THE SUGGESTION WAS REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WHICH AGREED TO CONSIDER IT IN THE NEXT EXERCISE TO INSTALL RED LIGHT CAMERAS.

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PROVISIONAL STATISTICS ON RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES  
FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993

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THE VALUE OF TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE RESTAURANT SECTOR LAST YEAR, ESTIMATED AT \$48.3 BILLION, INCREASED BY 6% WHEN COMPARED WITH 1992, ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONAL STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (TUESDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

AFTER DISCOUNTING THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES OVER THE PERIOD, TOTAL RECEIPTS DECREASED BY 3% IN VOLUME TERMS. THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES OF RESTAURANTS INCREASED TO \$17.5 BILLION, BY 4% OVER 1992.

IN 1993, STRONG GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR BARS. WHEN COMPARED WITH 1992, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS REGISTERED A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OF 21% IN VALUE AND 5% IN VOLUME.

MODERATE GROWTH WAS RECORDED FOR NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS, BOTH INCREASED BY 13% IN VALUE. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE INCREASES WERE 4% AND 5% RESPECTIVELY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS INCREASED BY 2% IN VALUE BUT DECREASED BY 7% IN VOLUME.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, ESTIMATED AT \$13.1 BILLION, INCREASED BY 13% WHEN COMPARED WITH A YEAR AGO. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE RECEIPTS WERE UP BY 4%.

THE VALUE OF TOTAL PURCHASES BY RESTAURANT IN THIS QUARTER WAS \$4.7 BILLION, 11% HIGHER THAN IN THE SAME QUARTER OF 1992.

AMONG THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RESTAURANTS, THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF BARS RECORDED THE LARGEST YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, 33% IN VALUE AND 14% IN VOLUME.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF NON-CHINESE RESTAURANTS ALSO ROSE SIGNIFICANTLY, BY 20% IN VALUE AND 11% IN VOLUME.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS OF CHINESE RESTAURANTS AND FAST FOOD SHOPS INCREASED AT A LESS RAPID RATE, BOTH UP BY 11% IN VALUE. IN VOLUME TERMS, THE RESPECTIVE INCREASES WERE 2% AND 3%.

COMPARING WITH THE PRECEDING QUARTER, AND BEARING IN MIND THAT THE COMPARISON MAY BE AFFECTED BY SEASONAL FACTORS, TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 INCREASED BY 3% IN VALUE AND 2% IN VOLUME.

RESTAURANT RECEIPTS IN VOLUME TERMS ARE DERIVED FROM RECEIPTS IN VALUE TERMS AFTER ADJUSTING FOR PRICE CHANGES. THE RELEVANT COMPONENTS OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ARE USED AS DEFLATORS.

THE REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY SURVEY OF RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 IS NOW ON SALE AT \$2 A COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, 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.

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TABLE 1 PRESENTS THE REVISED FIGURES FOR THE TOTAL RECEIPTS AND TOTAL PURCHASES OF THE RESTAURANT SECTOR FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993 AND THE PROVISIONAL FIGURES FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993.

TABLE 2 SHOWS THE VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF TOTAL RECEIPTS BY TYPE OF RESTAURANT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993, WITH THE QUARTERLY AVERAGE FROM OCTOBER 1989 TO SEPTEMBER 1990 TAKEN AS 100.

ALSO TABULATED ARE COMPARISONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1993 WITH THOSE OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1993 AND THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992; COMPARISONS OF TOTAL RECEIPTS IN 1993 WITH 1992 ARE ALSO GIVEN.

TABLE 1: TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS AND PURCHASES

		3rd qtr. 1993 (Revised figures)	4th qtr. 1993 (Provisional figures)
Total restaurant receipts	(in HK\$ million)	12 689.5	13 126.3
Total purchases by restaurants	(in HK\$ million)	4 584.7	4 693.1

TABLE 2: VALUE AND VOLUME INDICES OF TOTAL RESTAURANT RECEIPTS FOR 3rd QUARTER 1993 AND 4th QUARTER 1993

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

Type of restaurant	Index of total restaurant receipts	3rd quarter 1993	4th quarter 1993	4th qtr. 1993 compared with 3rd qtr. 1993		4th qtr. 1993 compared with 4th qtr. 1992		1st-4th qtr. 1993 compared with 1st-4th qtr. 1992	
		(Revised figures)	(Provisional figures)	Points	%	Points	%	Points	%
Chinese restaurants	Value	130.2	141.3	+11.1	+8.6	+13.8	+10.8	+2.2	+1.7
	Volume	90.8	97.2	+6.3	+6.9	+1.9	+2.0	-6.8	-7.0
Non-Chinese restaurants	Value	159.4	154.7	-4.7	-2.9	+25.6	+19.8	+17.1	+13.3
	Volume	113.0	108.8	-4.2	-3.7	+10.4	+10.5	+3.9	+3.9
Fast food shops	Value	229.5	205.4	-24.1	-10.5	+19.8	+10.7	+23.7	+13.3
	Volume	170.9	151.9	-19.1	-11.2	+4.6	+3.1	+7.7	+5.3
Bars	Value	225.7	271.0	+45.3	+20.1	+67.6	+33.3	+37.4	+20.6
	Volume	144.5	173.5	+29.0	+20.1	+21.5	+14.2	+7.1	+5.1
Other eating and drinking places	Value	209.2	201.2	-8.0	-3.8	+47.8	+31.2	+37.8	+24.8
	Volume	150.6	144.2	-6.4	-4.3	+21.7	+17.7	+13.9	+11.2
All restaurant types	Value	147.7	152.7	+5.1	+3.4	+17.9	+13.3	+8.1	+6.1
	Volume	104.2	106.3	+2.1	+2.0	+4.3	+4.2	-2.9	-2.8

HK ABOUNDS WITH WORKS OPPORTUNITIES

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OPPORTUNITIES ARE PLENTY FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN HONG KONG'S MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEARS, THE SECRETARY FOR THE TREASURY, MR DONALD TSANG, SAID IN TOKYO TODAY (TUESDAY).

ADDRESSING THE JAPAN FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANISATION (KEIDANREN), MR TSANG SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PARTICULARLY SATISFIED TO SEE THE MANY JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION FIRMS THAT HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME (ACP) PROJECTS AND HELPED CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE REMARKABLE PROGRESS TO-DATE.

JAPANESE COMPANIES HAVE WON THE LARGEST SHARE BY VALUE OF THE 43 MAJOR ACP CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED SO FAR.

"BEYOND THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME, HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY OTHER MAJOR PORT AND TRANSPORT PROJECTS BEING PLANNED FOR HONG KONG.

"THESE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION," HE SAID.

MR TSANG NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD INVEST HEAVILY IN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD AND RAIL LINKS WHICH SERVED HONG KONG'S TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT IN CHINA, AS WELL AS THE EVERYDAY NEEDS OF THE POPULATION.

THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR THE TING KAU BRIDGE AND COUNTRY PARK SECTION OF ROUTE 3 WOULD BE AWARDED SOON, HE SAID.

A MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE LOWU STATION WOULD BE COMPLETED EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING THE FEASIBILITY OF A NEW RAILWAY TO THE BORDER THROUGH THE NORTHWEST NEW TERRITORIES TO LINK UP WITH THE CHINESE NATIONAL RAIL SYSTEM, HE ADDED.

MEANWHILE, PLANNING FOR CONTAINER TERMINALS 10 AND 11 IS UNDER WAY.

"A LOT IS INDEED GOING ON AND HONG KONG PROMISES TO BE A REALLY EXCITING PLACE FOR BUSINESS IN THE COMING FEW YEARS.

"HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER AS WE EMBARK ON OUR AMBITIOUS BUT ESSENTIAL WORKS PROGRAMMES TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE," HE SAID.

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SWD TO DO MORE ON REHABILITATION SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO EXPAND AND PROMOTE REHABILITATION SERVICES, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK KING LAM HOSTEL, TSEUNG KWAN O, MR STRACHAN SAID THE SUCCESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SERVICES DEPENDED ON THE SUPPORT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND OF THE COMMUNITY.

/PO LEUNG .....

PO LEUNG KUK SERVICES WERE PRIMARILY IN PROTECTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE HOSTEL OPERATES A RANGE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR DISABLED PERSONS TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY AND DEVELOP MUTUAL SUPPORT AMONG FAMILIES, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

"THE KING LAM HOSTEL HAS BEEN VERY FORTUNATE TO BE LOCATED IN SUCH A CARING COMMUNITY AS TSEUNG KWAN O WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOWING CLEARLY THEIR SUPPORT FOR EXISTING AND PLANNED REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD."

THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE WAI JI PO LAM DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE AND HOSTEL IN PO LAM ESTATE IS A STRONG EVIDENCE OF LOCAL PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN THE COMMUNITY, MR STRACHAN SAID.

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LEGCO MEMBERS TO DEBATE BUDGET

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FIFTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WILL SPEAK ON THE APPROPRIATION BILL 1994 WHICH IS SET FOR RESUMED DEBATE AT THE COUNCIL'S TWO-DAY MEETING FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THEY WILL ALSO ASK 20 QUESTIONS TOMORROW.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM ON BOTH DAYS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO OBSERVE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING FROM THE PUBLIC GALLERY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 8 JACKSON ROAD, CENTRAL.

THEY CAN RESERVE SEATS BY CALLING 869 9492.

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NEW ETV PROGRAMME ON ACCEPTING THE DISABLED

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A NEW EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAMME TO BE TELECAST FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) WILL HELP PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE OF DISABLED PERSONS AMONG PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

THE PROGRAMME, "TREAT THEM EQUAL, TREAT THEM RIGHT", IS A JOINT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT/RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PRODUCTION.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS PREVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME TODAY, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR ROBERT LO, SAID THE PROGRAMME WOULD HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP PROPER ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISABLED PERSONS OF VARIOUS HANDICAPS, AND RECOGNISE DISABLED PERSONS' RIGHT TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY AND TO BE GIVEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FULL PARTICIPATION.

MR LO SAID IN THE EXISTING CORE CURRICULUM AT THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS, TOPICS RELATING TO DISABLED PERSONS HAD BEEN INCLUDED AND WOULD BE FURTHER ENRICHED WHEREVER APPLICABLE.

A NEW SUBJECT, "GENERAL STUDIES", TO BE INTRODUCED IN 1996 WILL INCLUDE INFORMATION LEADING TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS, RIGHTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DISABLED PERSONS, CULTIVATION OF POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARDS THEM SUCH AS ACCEPTING THEM AS EQUALS, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AWARENESS OF REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THEM.

MR LO SAID: "APART FROM THE FORMAL CURRICULUM SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE UP ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INVOLVEMENT WITH DISABLED PERSONS."

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION ON REHABILITATION (COMPERE) CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF REHABILITATION, HEALTH AND WELFARE BRANCH.

UNDER COMPERE, ED WILL THIS YEAR CO-ORDINATE AN INTER-SCHOOL DESIGN/ESSAY COMPETITION WITH THE ETV SPECIAL PROGRAMME "TREAT THEM EQUAL, TREAT THEM RIGHT" AS THE STIMULUS TO AROUSE STUDENTS' CONCERN FOR DISABLED PERSONS.

THE TRANSMISSION SCHEDULE FOR THE ETV PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS:

DATE ----	TIME ----	CHANNEL -----
MARCH 23, 1994 (WEDNESDAY)	1.45 - 2.15 PM	TVB (PEARL)
MARCH 24, 1994 (THURSDAY)	11.30 - NOON	ATV (WORLD)
MARCH 25, 1994 (FRIDAY)	9.20 - 9.50 AM	ATV (WORLD)
MARCH 25, 1994 (FRIDAY)	2.45 - 3.15 PM	TVB (PEARL)

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#### 209 VIETNAMESE RETURN HOME

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A GROUP OF 209 VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS TODAY (TUESDAY) RETURNED TO VIETNAM UNDER A VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

COMPRISING 84 MEN, 54 WOMEN, 29 BOYS AND 42 GIRLS, THEY WERE THE 206TH BATCH TO GO BACK UNDER THE PROGRAMME.

THE GROUP BROUGHT TO 3,308 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE MIGRANTS WHO HAD RETURNED VOLUNTARILY THIS YEAR, AND TO 41,921 THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND  
TENDER RESULTS

\* \* \* \* \*

TENDER DATE	22 MAR 94	22 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q412	Y487
AMOUNT APPLIED	HKD3,860 MN	HKD1,840 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HKD1,500 MN	HKD400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	3.79 PCT	4.43 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	3.81 PCT	4.44 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 16 PCT	ABOUT 35 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	3.82 PCT	4.52 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 28 MARCH 1994 -

TENDER DATE	29 MAR 94	29 MAR 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q413	H461
ISSUE DATE	30 MAR 94	30 MAR 94
MATURITY DATE	29 JUN 94	28 SEPT 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HKD1,500 + 300 MN	HKD500 + 100 MN

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/17 .....

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY  
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
	-----	-----	-----
OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,160	0930	+13
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	2,540	1000	+488
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+700
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+880	1200	+850
LAF TODAY	-500	1500	+880
		1600	+880

LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER      TWI 125.7    \*-0.1\*    22.3.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	3.14	18 MONTHS	2508	4.625	99.78	4.84
1 MONTH	3.41	21 MONTHS	2511	4.15	98.62	5.08
3 MONTHS	3.79	24 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.54	5.28
6 MONTHS	4.01	32 MONTHS	3610	4.20	96.69	5.66
12 MONTHS	4.40	35 MONTHS	3701	4.60	97.07	5.81

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 17,693 MN

CLOSED 22 MARCH 1994

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