



# DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVT TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND REHABILITATION FACILITIES: CS .....	1
LABOUR IMPORTATION POLICY UNDER REVIEW .....	1
GOVT WILL CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE ORGANISERS: CS .....	2
FEBRUARY PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE .....	3
ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE FOR PAPERLESS TRADE .....	8
PUBLIC URGED NOT TO FORGO RIGHT TO VOTE .....	11
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EMPHASISES WIDER USE OF TECHNOLOGY .....	12
HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE FOR RESUMED PROPERTIES MODIFIED .....	15
CHANGES IN JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK .....	16
INT'L, PRIVATE AND AIDED SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN SUBSIDY SCHEME .....	18
PETITION FOR WINDING-UP OF ARMOUR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED .....	19
\$390M CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NT ROAD CONSTRUCTION .....	20
COMPUTER MODEL TO FORECAST OXYGEN DEPLETION .....	21
EXHIBITIONS ON EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE .....	22
GLOOMY AND WET IN APRIL .....	23
DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS HOS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS .....	26
DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA .....	27
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES .....	27
OPEN SPACE FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS .....	29
URBAN CLEARWAYS AND PLB BAN ZONE IN KWUN TONG .....	29
URBAN CLEARWAY IN HUNG HOM .....	30
TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES IN SHA TIN .....	30

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 1 -

GOVT TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND REHABILITATION FACILITIES: CS

\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND REHABILITATION FACILITIES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE AND TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE PROVIDED, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE EARTH-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE PO LEUNG KUK Y.C. CHENG CENTRE IN SHA TIN, SIR DAVID SAID A WIDE RANGE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE, INCLUDING SHELTERED WORKSHOPS, DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES, RESIDENTIAL SERVICES AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES, HAD BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES.

"THE OBJECTIVE IS TO FACILITATE THE INTEGRATION OF THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED INTO THE COMMUNITY," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STAFFING STANDARDS OF DAY ACTIVITY CENTRES HAD RECENTLY BEEN IMPROVED AND DAY ACTIVITY AND OTHER CENTRES WERE NOW ABLE TO CALL UPON THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF A CENTRAL PARAMEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TEAM WHICH HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT THE Y.C. CHENG CENTRE WOULD BE THE LARGEST REHABILITATIVE SERVICE UNIT OF PO LEUNG KUK AND IT WOULD OFFER MUCH-NEEDED REHABILITATION CARE FOR MENTALLY-HANDICAPPED ADULTS UPON ITS COMPLETION.

"THE SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF THIS PROJECT DEMONSTRATES THE CARING SPIRIT OF THE HONG KONG COMMUNITY FOR OUR LESS FORTUNATE MEMBERS," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE PROJECT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED BY THOSE WHO REQUIRED THE SERVICE AND IT WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH A BETTER LIFE IN SOCIETY.

HE THANKED PO LEUNG KUK FOR ALL IT HAD DONE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR MR CHENG FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE THROUGH HIS GENEROUS DONATION.

- - - - 0 - - - -

LABOUR IMPORTATION POLICY UNDER REVIEW

\* \* \* \* \*

A DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE POLICY ON THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR WILL PROBABLY BE TAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OFFICIATING AT A GROUND-BREAKING FUNCTION OF THE PO LEUNG KUK, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE ARE REVIEWING THE WHOLE POLICY ON THE IMPORTATION OF LABOUR AT THE MOMENT."

/"THERE CERTAINLY .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 2 -

"THERE CERTAINLY ARE STILL STRAINS WITHIN THE ECONOMY AND WE ARE SEEING WHETHER WE SHOULD EXTEND THE SCHEME WHICH WE STARTED LAST YEAR FOR SKILLED LABOUR; TO EXTEND THAT TO SEMI-SKILLED TECHNICIAN LEVEL," HE SAID.

SIR DAVID EMPHASISED THAT A DECISION HAD YET TO BE MADE.

IF WE WERE TO DO THAT, WE WOULD DO IT ON THE BASIS OF THE DEMAND IN PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES AND WE WOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT NUMBERS, HE ADDED.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE MARINE INCIDENT IN WHICH FIVE HONG KONG SEAMEN HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN CHINA, SIR DAVID SAID: "WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY ABOUT A MEETING ON THE BORDER LIAISON CHANNEL."

"I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD OTHER THAN THAT AT THE MOMENT," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

GOVT WILL CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR CONFERENCE ORGANISERS: CS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO CONFERENCE ORGANISERS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH THE ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO ENCOURAGE MORE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES TO TAKE PLACE IN HONG KONG, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, SIR DAVID FORD, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SIR DAVID WAS SPEAKING AT A RECEPTION HELD BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION IN RECOGNITION OF LOCAL CONFERENCE HOST ORGANISATIONS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY EXAMINING THE SCOPE THAT EXISTED FOR GOVERNMENT ITSELF TO SPONSOR MORE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN HONG KONG.

"WE ARE ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO FACILITATE TRAVEL INTO HONG KONG FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD."

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, BONA FIDE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD EXPERIENCE NO DIFFICULTY IN SECURING THEIR ENTRY VISAS, IF SUCH VISAS ARE REQUIRED, PROVIDED THAT APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED IN GOOD TIME AND NORMAL IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS ARE MET," THE CHIEF SECRETARY SAID.

SIR DAVID TOLD THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO ASSIST THEM ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHERE THEY CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD HELP TO HAVE THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OR SUPPORT FOR THEIR CONFERENCE OR CONVENTION.

/SIR DAVID .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 3 -

SIR DAVID SAID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD IN HONG KONG NOT ONLY BENEFITTED OUR GENERAL TOURISM RELATED TRADES, THEY ALSO BROUGHT TOGETHER EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS.

"OUR OWN EXPERTS IN HONG KONG BENEFIT GREATLY FROM PARTICIPATION IN SUCH CONFERENCES AND THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS WHICH THEY CREATE," HE SAID.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT PERHAPS LESS OBVIOUSLY, BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, THOSE LEADING BUSINESSMEN, PROFESSIONALS AND EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO CAME TO HONG KONG FOR SUCH CONFERENCES WERE INEVITABLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT THEY SAW HERE.

"ON RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO CORRECT SOME OF THE MORE COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS HELD ABOUT HONG KONG WHICH ARE ALL TOO OFTEN PERPETUATED BY THE OVERSEAS PRESS."

HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME, AN INFORMED AND SYMPATHETIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE AN ADVANTAGE TO US AND WHAT HAPPENED IN HONG KONG SHOULD MATTER TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.

"BUT IT WILL ONLY MATTER, IF THE REST OF THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS US AND KNOWS WHY WE ARE IMPORTANT.

"THE HOSTING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN HONG KONG HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STRENGTHENING OUR POSITION AS A TRULY INTERNATIONAL CITY AND IN PASSING ON THE WORD TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO THRIVE," SIR DAVID SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### FEBRUARY PRICE AND VOLUME MOVEMENTS OF EXTERNAL TRADE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 6 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS GREW BY 3 PER CENT IN THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF 1990 AS COMPARED WITH THE SAME PERIOD IN 1989, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

TAKING THEM TOGETHER, THERE WAS AN OVERALL DECREASE OF 1 PER CENT IN THE VOLUME OF TOTAL EXPORTS. IMPORTS DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE GROWTH IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IS DERIVED FROM THE GROWTH IN TRADE VALUES, HAVING DISCOUNTED THE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES.

AS REGARDS PRICE CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY, WHILE THOSE OF IMPORTS ROSE BY 3 PER CENT. AS A RESULT, THE TERMS OF TRADE INDEX (EXPRESSED AS A RATIO OF TOTAL EXPORT PRICE INDEX TO IMPORT PRICE INDEX) INCREASED BY 1 PER CENT.

/PRICES ARE .....

PRICES ARE BASED ON UNIT VALUES WHICH DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OR QUALITY OF GOODS TRADED, EXCEPT FOR SOME SELECTED COMMODITIES FOR WHICH SPECIFICATION PRICE INDEXES ARE AVAILABLE.

CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN INTERPRETING THE CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF TRADE IN ANY INDIVIDUAL MONTH IN ISOLATION, IN VIEW OF THE FLUCTUATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR FROM MONTH TO MONTH. IN PARTICULAR, THE TRADE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE TIMING OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.

COMPARING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1990 WITH FEBRUARY 1989, THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT, WHILE THAT OF RE-EXPORTS INCREASED BY 5 PER CENT. AS SUCH, TOTAL EXPORTS SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE IN VOLUME TERMS. THE VOLUME OF IMPORTS INCREASED BY 3 PER CENT.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS ROSE BY 2 PER CENT AND 4 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. IMPORT PRICES INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY COMMODITY GROUP FOR FEBRUARY 1990 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

THE VOLUME OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS DECREASED IN FEBRUARY 1990 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989, INCLUDING RADIOS OF ALL KINDS (-41 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (-37 PER CENT); METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-32 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (-28 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (-25 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-25 PER CENT); METAL MANUFACTURES (-23 PER CENT); AND CLOTHING (-21 PER CENT).

ON THE OTHER HAND, DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND TEXTILE FABRICS GREW BY 25 PER CENT AND 15 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN VOLUME TERMS.

THE PRICES OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS OF MOST COMMODITY GROUPS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1990 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989. THESE INCLUDED METAL MANUFACTURES (+7 PER CENT); TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES (+4 PER CENT); TEXTILE FABRICS (+3 PER CENT); TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD (+2 PER CENT); CLOTHING (+2 PER CENT); DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (+2 PER CENT); TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES (+1 PER CENT); AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (+1 PER CENT).

HOWEVER, DECREASES IN DOMESTIC EXPORT PRICES WERE RECORDED IN METAL ORES AND SCRAP (-6 PER CENT); FOOTWEAR (-2 PER CENT) AND WATCHES AND CLOCKS (-1 PER CENT).

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1990 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 2.

IMPORTS OF FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 2 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1990 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989. INCREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF FISH AND FISH PREPARATIONS; SUGAR; AND MEAT AND MEAT PREPARATIONS. DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WHEAT AND FLOUR; SOYA BEAN OIL, PEANUT OIL AND LARD; AND VEGETABLES.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSUMER GOODS INCREASED BY 11 PER CENT.

COMMODITY ITEMS WITH CONSIDERABLE INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME INCLUDED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES; FOOTWEAR; AND RADIOS, TELEVISION SETS, GRAMOPHONES, RECORDS, TAPE RECORDERS AND AMPLIFIERS. DECREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR PASSENGER MOTOR CARS; CAMERAS, FLASHLIGHT APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY; AND TOBACCO MANUFACTURES.

THE IMPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES DECREASED BY 1 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1990 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989.

THE MAJOR DECREASES WERE RECORDED IN THE IMPORT VOLUME OF WOOL AND OTHER ANIMAL HAIR; BASE METALS (OTHER THAN IRON AND STEELS); AND MAN-MADE FIBRES. INCREASES IN IMPORT VOLUME WERE NOTED FOR FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBRES; PAPER AND PAPERBOARD; AND YARN OF MAN-MADE FIBRES.

IMPORTS OF FUELS INCREASED BY 35 PER CENT IN VOLUME TERMS IN FEBRUARY 1990 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989.

AS REGARDS CAPITAL GOODS, THE IMPORT VOLUME DECREASED BY 7 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY 1990 OVER FEBRUARY 1989. DECREASES IN THE IMPORT VOLUME WERE RECORDED FOR TEXTILE MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPORT VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND OFFICE MACHINES SHOWED SOME INCREASES.

COMPARING FEBRUARY 1990 WITH FEBRUARY 1989, THE IMPORT PRICES OF MOST END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED: FUELS (+10 PER CENT); CONSUMER GOODS (+6 PER CENT); FOODSTUFFS (+3 PER CENT); AND CAPITAL GOODS (+1 PER CENT). THE IMPORT PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES SHOWED LITTLE CHANGE.

THE CHANGES IN THE VALUE, UNIT VALUE AND VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY FOR FEBRUARY 1990 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989 ARE SHOWN IN TABLE 3.

THE VOLUME OF RE-EXPORTS OF FUELS; CONSUMER GOODS; AND FOODSTUFFS INCREASED BY 38 PER CENT, 13 PER CENT, AND 6 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY 1990 AS COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989. HOWEVER, THE RE-EXPORT VOLUME OF RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES; AND CAPITAL GOODS DECREASED BY 3 PER CENT AND 1 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

PRICES OF RE-EXPORTS OF ALL END-USE CATEGORIES INCREASED IN FEBRUARY 1990 COMPARED WITH FEBRUARY 1989: FUELS (+18 PER CENT); CONSUMER GOODS (+5 PER CENT); CAPITAL GOODS (+4 PER CENT); RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES (+4 PER CENT) AND FOODSTUFFS (+2 PER CENT).

FURTHER DETAILS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE FEBRUARY 1990 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG TRADE INDEX NUMBERS" WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GPO BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL AROUND MAY 14 AT \$3 PER COPY.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING REGULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AT FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, HONG KONG (TEL. NO.: 842 8802) AND ENQUIRIES ON TRADE INDEXES TO THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT (TEL. NO.: 823 4918).

TABLE 1: CHANGES IN DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY PRINCIPAL COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING FEB 1990 WITH FEB 1989			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1990 WITH JAN-FEB 1989		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
CLOTHING	-19	2	-21	- 4	3	- 6
TEXTILE FABRICS	18	3	15	11	4	6
TEXTILE YARN AND THREAD	- 1	2	- 3	- 9	4	-13
TEXTILE MADE-UPS AND RELATED ARTICLES	-34	4	-37	-13	5	-17
RADIOS OF ALL KINDS	-40	*	-41	-33	*	-33
ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS	26	1	25	9	1	8
FOOTWEAR	-27	- 2	-25	-25	*	-25
METAL MANUFACTURES	-18	7	-23	-22	6	-27
METAL ORES AND SCRAP	-36	- 6	-32	-30	- 5	-27
WATCHES AND CLOCKS	- 2	- 1	- 1	1	- 1	3
TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES	-24	1	-25	-20	3	-23

/DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL .....

- 7 -

DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES	-26	2	-28	-35	1	-36
ALL COMMODITIES	- 5	2	- 7	- 4	2	- 6

NOTE: \* LESS THAN 0.5%.

TABLE 2: CHANGES IN IMPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING FEB 1990 WITH FEB 1989			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1990 WITH JAN-FEB 1989		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	5	3	2	*	3	- 3
CONSUMER GOODS	17	6	11	12	6	6
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	- 1	*	- 1	- 7	*	- 7
FUELS	49	10	35	7	15	- 7
CAPITAL GOODS	- 6	1	- 7	- 7	2	- 9
ALL COMMODITIES	5	2	3	*	3	- 3

NOTE: \* LESS THAN 0.5%.

/TABLE 3 .....

TABLE 3: CHANGES IN RE-EXPORTS BY END-USE CATEGORY

COMMODITY GROUP	COMPARING FEB 1990 WITH FEB 1989			COMPARING JAN-FEB 1990 WITH JAN-FEB 1989		
	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %	VALUE %	UNIT VALUE %	VOLUME %
FOODSTUFFS	7	2	6	- 9	3	-11
CONSUMER GOODS	18	5	13	25	6	18
RAW MATERIALS AND SEMI-MANUFACTURES	1	4	- 3	- 7	4	-11
FUELS	63	18	38	53	20	28
CAPITAL GOODS	2	4	- 1	- 2	4	- 5
ALL COMMODITIES	9	4	5	8	5	3

- - - - 0 - - - -

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE FOR PAPERLESS TRADE  
\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) WILL COME SOONER OR LATER - IN FACT, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER - AND NO COMPANY WILL BE TOO SMALL TO AFFORD IT, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR JOHN CHAN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING.

IN A SPEECH ENTITLED "TOWARDS PAPERLESS TRADE" AT THE ZONTA CLUB OF KOWLOON'S ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER, MR CHAN SAID IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE EARLY YET TO START THE COUNTDOWN TOWARDS PAPERLESS TRADE.

"BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION. I URGE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO JOIN US IN THAT COMMITMENT," HE SAID.

HE SAID EDI WAS THE ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF DATA FROM ONE INDEPENDENT COMPUTER SYSTEM TO ANOTHER, USING AGREED STANDARDS TO STRUCTURE THE DATA.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 9 -

IT EMERGED IN THE LATE SIXTIES WHEN TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES REALISED THAT THE LARGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE SHIPMENT OF GOODS WAS RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT DELAYS.

MR CHAN SAID VARIOUS STUDIES CONDUCTED THEN CONCLUDED THAT THE REPLACEMENT OF THESE DOCUMENTS BY COMPUTER-TO-COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS COULD SPEED TRANSPORT AND IMPROVE BUSINESS OPERATIONS.

"SINCE THEN, EDI HAS BEEN WIDELY ADOPTED IN ALL BUSINESS SECTORS. IT IS, IN MANY WAYS, AT THE CORE OF BUSINESS IN THE 1990'S."

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE WAS NOT A TECHNOLOGY, HE SAID. IT WAS A BUSINESS METHODOLOGY, THE AUTOMATED FLOW OF INFORMATION ACROSS ORGANISATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

THERE WERE OBVIOUS BENEFITS IN EDI IN TERMS OF SPEED, ACCURACY AND COST SAVINGS.

"BUT EDI GOES FURTHER THAN THAT," HE SAID. "IT IS AFFECTING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN TRADING PARTNERS BECAUSE THERE IS A STRONG ELEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP IN THE WAY FIRMS ARE IMPLEMENTING EDI."

"THE INEVITABLE RESULT IS THAT COMPANIES NOT USING EDI COULD FIND THEMSELVES LEFT OUT IN THE COLD."

"THIS IS ONE REASON WHY EDI IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE BUSINESS OF THE FUTURE, AND NOT JUST TO MAJOR COMPANIES BUT SMALL FIRMS, TOO," HE SAID.

MR CHAN SAID THE INITIAL PURPOSE FOR WHICH EDI WAS DEVELOPED - THAT OF REPLACING PAPERWORK - STILL HELD GOOD AS THE PRIME REASON WHY ALMOST EVERY TYPE OF BUSINESS COULD GAIN FROM IMPLEMENTING IT.

PAPER TRANSACTIONS WERE NOT ONLY SLOW AND INEFFICIENT, BUT ALSO COSTLY AND PRONE TO HUMAN ERROR.

"FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THIS IS THE MAIN DRIVING FORCE," HE SAID.

THE VOLUME OF TRADE WAS INCREASING AND WITH IT THE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION.

"THERE IS NO SENSE IN SIMPLY EXPANDING THE EXISTING PAPER-BASED SYSTEM IN AN ATTEMPT TO COPE."

"WE HAVE TO FIND A BETTER WAY TO RENDER GOVERNMENT SERVICES," MR CHAN SAID.

TAKING TRADE DECLARATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SAID A DECLARATION WAS REQUIRED FOR ALL GOODS COMING INTO AND GOING OUT OF HONG KONG. LAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT PROCESSED SOME NINE MILLION DECLARATIONS. THIS WAS EQUIVALENT TO AN AVERAGE RATE OF MORE THAN ONE LODGEMENT PER SECOND FOR THE TIME THAT COLLECTION OFFICES WERE OPEN. THE DEMAND AT PEAK HOURS WAS EVEN HIGHER.

/"I NEED .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 10 -

"I NEED NOT GO ANY FURTHER TO TALK ABOUT THE INEVITABLE LONG QUEUES AND THE FRUSTRATIONS THESE CAN CAUSE," MR CHAN SAID.

"IS THERE A MORE CONVENIENT, EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WAY FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO CONDUCT THE TRANSACTIONS REQUIRED?"

"I AM SURE THERE IS, AND I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS."

THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING A TWO-PRONGED APPROACH, HE SAID.

"ON THE ONE HAND, WE HAVE AGREED WITH TRADELINK, WHICH IS A GROUPING OF 11 OF THE TERRITORY'S LEADING ORGANISATIONS, TO EMBARK ON A SHARED PROJECT FOR EDI, SPEDI.

"AT THE SAME TIME, GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL OF ITS KEY TRANSACTIONS, LIKE LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND TRADE DECLARATIONS, AND IS WORKING ON HOW THEY COULD BE IMPROVED AND TRANSFORMED INTO ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS."

MR CHAN SAID ONE REASON WHY EDI WAS NOW DEVELOPING SO QUICKLY WAS THE AGREEMENT TO MOVE TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL EDI STANDARD, OR SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY CODE FOR EDI TRAFFIC.

THIS MADE MESSAGE DEVELOPMENT AN EASIER JOB.

"SOON, STANDARD MESSAGES, SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MOST COMMON BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS, ALTHOUGH THESE MAY STILL NEED ADAPTATION TO MEET LOCAL REQUIREMENTS," HE SAID.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE NEEDED TO MAKE A START ON MESSAGE DEVELOPMENT WORK WHILE ENSURING THAT THE WORK WAS IN KEEPING WITH EMERGING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THIS WORK WAS STARTED BY TRADELINK AND WAS BEING CARRIED FORWARD THROUGH SPEDI.

"WE WOULD WELCOME INPUT FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS, BANKERS, CARGO AGENTS AND CARRIERS, SO THAT ALL THEIR NEEDS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT," MR CHAN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/11 .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 11 -

PUBLIC URGED NOT TO FORGO RIGHT TO VOTE

\* \* \* \*

THE SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, MR MICHAEL SUEN, TODAY (THURSDAY) APPEALED TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED AS ELECTORS TO COME FORWARD TO REGISTER AND TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

"IF ANYONE FORGOES HIS CIVIC RIGHT TO REGISTER AS AN ELECTOR, HE WILL LOSE HIS RIGHT TO VOTE, AND THUS BE DEPRIVED OF HIS RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS WISHES AND ASPIRATIONS," MR SUEN SAID.

"EVERY BALLOT PAPER REPRESENTS A VOICE. THIS IS THE MOST DIRECT AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO EXERCISE ONE'S CIVIC RIGHTS," HE TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE TAI PING SHAN LION'S CLUB.

"FOR THE MAN IN THE STREET, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MEANING OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IS THE RIGHT TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIS CHOICE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS BY SECRET BALLOTS IN ELECTIONS WHICH ARE HELD REGULARLY AND FAIRLY," HE SAID.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY FORM OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT DEPENDED LARGELY ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN EXERCISING THEIR ELECTORAL RIGHTS, HE ADDED.

TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP WITH MEMBERS FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS BRANCH, INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION, AND RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG.

ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKING GROUP WAS TO AROUSE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTIONS TO THE THREE-TIER STRUCTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD BE HELD CONSECUTIVELY NEXT YEAR IN MARCH, MAY AND SEPTEMBER.

A SUM OF \$2.56 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PUBLICITY TO BE CONDUCTED THIS SUMMER. HE SAID THE AMOUNT REPRESENTED A 50 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THE ALLOCATION FOR THE 1987 EXERCISE AND A 100 PER CENT INCREASE OVER THAT FOR 1984.

PUBLICITY TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED AT BOTH THE CENTRAL LEVEL AND THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

AT THE CENTRAL LEVEL, THE PROGRAMME WOULD INCLUDE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO ABOUT 1,400 DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD FROM AUGUST 15 TO OCTOBER 1.

ANOTHER PLAN UNDER CONSIDERATION IS TO PRINT THE APPLICATION FORM IN NEWSPAPERS OR AS AN ATTACHMENT TO MAGAZINES.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/12 .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 12 -

OTHER PROGRAMMES WOULD INCLUDE PROMOTION THROUGH THE MEDIA, AND PROMOTION THROUGH DIRECT APPROACHES IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TO THOSE WHO WERE OFFERED PUBLIC HOUSING AND ALSO TO THOSE WHO APPLIED FOR PERMANENT IDENTITY CARDS ON COMPLETION OF SEVEN YEARS OF RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG.

BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER APPROACHING CREDIT CARD COMPANIES REQUESTING THEM TO SEND VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO THEIR CLIENTS ALONG WITH THE MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL, DISTRICT OFFICERS ARE PLANNING THEIR PUBLICITY ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD BE TAILORED TO EACH DISTRICT'S CHARACTERISTICS AND POPULATION COMPOSITION.

THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD INCLUDE DISPLAY OF BANNERS AT MAIN THOROUGHFARES, LIAISON WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS, ORGANISING FUN FAIRS AND STALL GAMES, AND SETTING UP REGISTRATION COUNTERS AT MTR STATIONS AND MAJOR COMMERCIAL CENTRES.

MR SUEN NOTED THAT THE PRESENT OVERALL VOTER REGISTRATION RATE WAS ABOUT 44 PER CENT, WITH 1.6 MILLION REGISTERED ELECTORS.

HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT OF THE 1.6 MILLION, ONLY 53,000 WERE IN THE 21-25 AGE GROUP, REPRESENTING A REGISTRATION RATE OF ONLY 12 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL OF 440,000 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS IN THIS AGE BRACKET.

HE CALLED ON THE YOUNG PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD AND REGISTER.

"WITH THE SUPPORT FROM THE MEDIA, A BETTER CO-ORDINATION IN PUBLICITY AND THE PUBLIC'S INCREASING AWARENESS OF THEIR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES, I HOPE THAT THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED ELECTORS WOULD REACH THE TWO MILLION MARK THIS YEAR," MR SUEN SAID.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT EMPHASISES WIDER USE OF TECHNOLOGY

\* \* \* \* \*

IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER RESOURCES, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL RELY ON MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

THIS WAS STATED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR GORDON SIU, AT A MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION HELD AT THE TSEUNG KWAN O TUNNEL WHERE SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WERE HELD.

MR SIU SAID THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT FACED A CONSTANTLY INCREASING DEMAND FOR SERVICES FROM THE PUBLIC WHILE RESOURCES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT WERE LIMITED.

/HE BELIEVED .....

HE BELIEVED THE ANSWER LAY IN THE WIDER USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND THIS WOULD BE HIS TARGET FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS.

MR SIU BEGAN THE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, ASSISTED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF THE DEPARTMENT, BY GIVING AN OVER-VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S WORK, AND HE UNVEILED SOME OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1990'S.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, MR SIU SAID, THE DEPARTMENT HAD HELPED MAP OUT THE PLANS FOR DEVELOPING HONG KONG'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE 1990'S AND THE 21ST CENTURY BY PROVIDING THE DATA BASE FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER "MOVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY" PUBLISHED IN JANUARY THIS YEAR.

"AS REGARDS REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLANNING, OUR STUDIES COVERED MANY ROAD NETWORKS IN DIFFERENT REGIONS," HE SAID.

"DURING 1989, THE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED STUDIES ON THE REQUIREMENT OF CROSS HARBOUR PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL.

"WE ALSO STUDIED THE NEED FOR TRANSPORT INTERCHANGES IN THE URBAN AREA FOR LONG DISTANCE BUS SERVICES TO THE NEW TOWNS, AND CROSS BORDER COACH SERVICES.

"AS REGULATORS, THE DEPARTMENT OVERSEES THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT WHICH MOVE SOME 90 PER CENT OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC IN HONG KONG EVERY DAY."

MR SIU SAID THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUED TO APPRAISE DEVELOPMENT PLANS SUBMITTED BY FRANCHISED PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES.

ONE MAJOR TASK BEGUN LAST YEAR WAS THE RATIONALISATION OF BUS ROUTES.

THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND OUT IF THE PRESENT ROUTES WERE STILL EFFICIENT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC AND OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANY PROVIDING THE SERVICE.

"THE FIRST AREAS WE COVERED WERE SHA TIN, TAI PO AND THE NORTH. WORK ON THIS AREA WILL BE COMPLETED IN JULY 1990," HE SAID.

ANOTHER AREA ON WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAD FOCUSSED WAS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POSITIVE RELATION BETWEEN A TRANSPORT SERVICE OPERATOR AND ITS CUSTOMERS.

"WE HAVE ENCOURAGED EACH OPERATOR TO ENLARGE ITS CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PASSENGERS THEY SERVE, WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING SERVICES, SEEKING INNOVATIONS AND NURTURING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS OF BOTH PARTIES," HE ADDED.

ON BUS SERVICES, MR SIU SAID THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WORKING WITH THE TWO FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES TO ENSURE THE BEST USE WAS MADE OF THE EXISTING FLEET AND BUS DEPOTS TO ENSURE THAT THE GROWTH IN THE ASSETS OF FRANCHISED BUS COMPANIES WAS COMMENSURATE WITH SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.

A ROUTE RATIONALISATION STUDY FOR URBAN KOWLOON WOULD BEGIN FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORT EFFICIENCY STUDY IN THE NORTHEAST NEW TERRITORIES. THE RATIONALISATION OF THE CROSS HARBOUR FERRY NETWORK WOULD ALSO CONTINUE, HAVING REGARD TO PASSENGER DEMAND.

MR SIU SAID ABOUT 10 NEW RESIDENTS' SERVICES WOULD BE INTRODUCED THIS YEAR AT THE REQUEST OF RESIDENTS, TO COMPLEMENT FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT, SHA TIN, TSUEN WAN, KWAI TSING AND TUEN MUN.

RESIDENTIAL COACH SERVICES SHOULD HELP REDUCE THE REQUIREMENT OF FRANCHISED BUSES DURING PEAK HOURS, HE ADDED.

"THE FARE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE MAJOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMPANIES WERE ALSO WITHIN THE ANALYTICAL VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"STUDIES ARE IN HAND, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE CHINA MOTOR BUS COMPANY," HE SAID.

UNVEILING SOME OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS WHICH MIGHT HELP TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1990'S, MR SIU GAVE A DEMONSTRATION OF AN AUTO-TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WAS NOW INVESTIGATING FOR POSSIBLE USE IN HONG KONG TUNNELS.

THE NEW SYSTEM, WHICH IS OF THE AUTOMATIC DEBITING TYPE, FULLY ANONYMOUS AND NOT REQUIRING THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE VEHICLE OR ITS DRIVER, HAS BEEN TESTED IN EUROPE.

"SIMILAR TO A MTR STORED VALUE TICKET, A PERSON CAN BUY A TAG WITH A PREDETERMINED AMOUNT OF CREDIT UNITS AND STICKS IT ONTO THE WINDSCREEN OF HIS CAR.

"EVERY TIME HE PASSES THROUGH A TOLL GATE, THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF TOLL WILL BE DEDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY AND BY REMOTE CONTROL FROM THE CREDITS STORED IN THE TAG, AND THE CREDIT BALANCE IS THEN SHOWN ON THE VIDEO DISPLAY UNIT.

"SUBJECT TO FUNDS BEING MADE AVAILABLE, WE INTEND TO IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROJECT USING THIS SYSTEM IN OUR TUNNELS IN HONG KONG," MR SIU SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE AUTOMATIC TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM WAS AIMED AT SAVING ON STAFF THROUGH MECHANISATION, WHICH WAS HIGH ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PRIORITY LIST.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 15 -

ANOTHER INNOVATION WAS TO REPLACE THE WRITTEN TEST PART OF THE DRIVING TEST PROGRAMME WITH A COMPUTERISED SYSTEM USING TOUCH SCREEN VISUAL DISPLAY UNITS.

WHILE GIVING ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION, HE SAID THE NEW SYSTEM, IF IMPLEMENTED, WOULD REDUCE WAITING TIME TO ATTEND A TEST, ELIMINATE THE TIME REQUIRED TO MARK A PAPER AND SAVE ON STAFF RESOURCES AT THE TESTING CENTRE.

THE SYSTEM WOULD BE PUT ON TRIAL AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DRIVING TEST CENTRES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

TO CONCLUDE THE MEET-THE-MEDIA SESSION, A DEMONSTRATION WAS GIVEN BY ONE OF TWO NEWLY ACQUIRED HEAVY RECOVERY VEHICLES INTENDED TO ENHANCE TUNNEL SAFETY AND REDUCE VEHICLE RECOVERY TIME.

- - - - 0 - - - -

HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE FOR RESUMED PROPERTIES MODIFIED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO MODIFY THE RULES GOVERNING THE PAYMENT OF THE HOME PURCHASE ALLOWANCE (HPA) TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY LAND RESUMPTIONS.

A BUILDINGS AND LANDS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY): "AT PRESENT THE HPA, IN ADDITION TO STATUTORY COMPENSATION, IS PAYABLE TO OWNERS OF POST-WAR DOMESTIC FLATS WHEN THEIR PROPERTIES ARE RESUMED TO ALLOW THEM TO BUY A REPLACEMENT FLAT OF A SIMILAR SIZE IN THE SAME LOCALITY.

"HAVING REVIEWED THE POLICY AND ITS APPLICATION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THAT WHILE THE RATE OF THE HPA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ASSESSED ON THE BASIS OF SIMILAR SIZE FLAT, SAME LOCALITY PRINCIPLE, THE PAYMENT OF THE ALLOWANCE SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED.

"THE HPA WILL NOW BE PAYABLE TO ALL ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS. IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY TO PURCHASE A REPLACEMENT FLAT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM THE ALLOWANCE."

THE SPOKESMAN FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW MODIFIED POLICY WILL APPLY TO FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR HPA PAYMENT AS WELL AS TO CASES IN WHICH THE PAYMENT HAS BEEN WITHHELD BECAUSE THE SAME LOCALITY RULE HAS NOT BEEN ADHERED TO.

"THIS WOULD BE SEEN BY THOSE AFFECTED TO BE FAIR," HE SAID.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE HPA SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE RESUMPTION OF PRE-WAR PROPERTIES ON GROUNDS OF EQUITY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 16 -

CHANGES IN JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FOR HK STUDENTS IN UK

\* \* \* \* \*

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED CHANGES TO THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES TO THE FEE STRUCTURE FOR TERTIARY LEVEL STUDIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY) A NEW METHOD OF DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1990-91 ACADEMIC YEAR TO NULLIFY THE ADVERSE EFFECT CAUSED TO HONG KONG PARENTS AND STUDENTS BY THE INCREASE IN UK TUITION FEES.

RECENTLY, THE UK GOVERNMENT INCREASED THE TUITION FEE PAYABLE BY HOME STUDENTS FROM 607 POUNDS STERLING A YEAR TO 1,675 POUNDS STERLING A YEAR, THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

"THIS CHANGE HAS THE EFFECT OF NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE 'HOME' AND 'OVERSEAS' FEES, THEREBY REDUCING THE ASSISTANCE WHICH MAY BE GIVEN TO HONG KONG STUDENTS UNDER THE PRESENT SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR HONG KONG STUDENTS UNDER THE SCHEME WAS THE DIFFERENCE IN FEES PAYABLE BY A BRITISH HOME STUDENT AND AN OVERSEAS STUDENT ATTENDING THE SAME COURSE. THE ASSISTANCE, IN THE FORM OF GRANTS AND LOANS, WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING FIRST DEGREE OR HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA COURSES IN THE UK.

"IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING HARDSHIP AND DISRUPTION TO STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE UK, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WILL NOW BE MAINTAINED AT THE EXISTING LEVEL BY USING THE OLD FEE NOTIONALLY AS THE BASIS OF CALCULATING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD ALSO APPROVED THAT FUNDING FOR GRANTS UNDER THE SCHEME BE INCREASED FROM FOUR MILLION POUNDS STERLING A YEAR TO 4.4 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FROM 1991-92, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THIS WOULD HELP MAINTAIN THE VALUE OF GRANTS IN THE FACE OF INFLATION, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AND THE UK GOVERNMENT WOULD EACH CONTRIBUTE HALF OF THE FUNDS.

IN ADDITION, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED THAT AN INTEREST CHARGE OF 2.5 PER CENT A YEAR ON LOANS TAKEN OUT UNDER THE SCHEME BE INTRODUCED WITH EFFECT FROM THE 1990-91 ACADEMIC YEAR.

/THESE LOANS .....

- 17 -

THESE LOANS WERE AT PRESENT INTEREST FREE BUT STUDENT LOANS IN HONG KONG UNDER THE LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME FOR STUDIES AT LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ATTRACTED AN INTEREST OF 2.5 PER CENT A YEAR. THE CHANGE WOULD THUS BRING THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME INTO LINE WITH THE LOCAL STUDENT FINANCE SCHEME.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT INTEREST CHARGES WOULD START TO ACCRUE ONLY AFTER GRADUATION, WHEN THE STUDENTS WOULD HAVE FIVE YEARS WITHIN WHICH TO MAKE REPAYMENT IN FULL. THE BURDEN OF INTEREST PAYMENTS TO STUDENTS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE HK\$40 PER MONTH ON AVERAGE.

THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1983 TO ASSIST NEEDY HONG KONG STUDENTS PURSUING TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE UK. THE SCHEME WAS DESIGNED TO AMELIORATE THE EFFECT CAUSED TO HONG KONG STUDENTS BY THE HIGHER UK FEES ON THOSE FROM OVERSEAS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTED EQUALLY TO A POOL OF FOUR MILLION POUNDS STERLING A YEAR FOR DISBURSEMENT OF GRANTS.

SHOULD THE DEMAND FOR GRANTS EXCEED THE CASH LIMIT OF FOUR MILLION POUNDS STERLING, THE DIFFERENCE WAS MET ON A PRO RATA BASIS BY LOANS OFFERED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT.

IN 1989-90, THE SCHEME ASSISTED 1,620 STUDENTS TO THE TUNE OF AN AVERAGE OF 3,260 POUNDS STERLING PER STUDENT.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM HONG KONG, THE MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG ANNOUNCED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT THAT THE UK GOVERNMENT WOULD INCREASE ITS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME FROM TWO MILLION POUNDS STERLING TO 2.2 MILLION POUNDS STERLING WITH EFFECT FROM 1991-92.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHEME, HONG KONG WOULD NOW MATCH THE INCREASE, MAKING THE TOTAL POOL FOR GRANTS DISBURSEMENTS STAND AT 4.4 MILLION POUNDS STERLING A YEAR.

"THE AGREEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE MORE HAS DEMONSTRATED THE COMMITMENT OF BOTH THE UK AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS TO THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ABOVE CHANGES TO THE JOINT FUNDING SCHEME WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE PROVISION OF FUNDS BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

INT'L, PRIVATE AND AIDED SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN SUBSIDY SCHEME  
\* \* \* \* \*

INTERNATIONAL, PRIVATE AND AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOLS WILL BE INVITED LATER THIS MONTH TO JOIN THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME (DSS).

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS REVIEW COMMITTEE, MR TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, SAID THE MAIN AIM OF THE SCHEME WAS TO INCREASE THE CHOICE OF SCHOOLS FOR PARENTS.

"SCHOOLS ADMITTED TO THE SCHEME WILL BE PAID A GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY BASED ON THE AVERAGE UNIT COST OF AN AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE, BUT THE LEVEL WILL DEPEND ON THE FEES CHARGED BY INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS," MR HA SAID.

"SCHOOLS CHARGING NO MORE THAN THE STANDARD FEE OF AN AIDED SCHOOL AND THOSE CHARGING ADDITIONAL FEES UP TO THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE AVERAGE UNIT COST OF AN AIDED PLACE WILL RECEIVE 100 PER CENT SUBSIDY," MR HA SAID.

SCHOOLS CHARGING ADDITIONAL FEES AT MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THE AVERAGE UNIT COST OF AN AIDED SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE WILL HAVE THEIR SUBSIDY REDUCED ON A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR BASIS BUT THERE WOULD BE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF SUBSIDY EQUIVALENT TO 25 PER CENT OF THE AVERAGE UNIT COST OF AN AIDED PLACE.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE, ASSUMING \$10,000 AS THE AVERAGE UNIT COST, ILLUSTRATES THE CALCULATION OF THE SUBSIDY:

ADDITIONAL FEE RANGE (EXCLUDING THE STANDARD FEE CHARGED IN AIDED SCHOOLS)	SUBSIDY PER PLACE
-----	-----
\$0 - \$6,667	\$10,000
\$6,668 - \$14,166	\$9,999 - \$2,501
\$14,167 UPWARDS	\$2,500

MR HA SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD HELD NINE MEETINGS SINCE DECEMBER TO DELIBERATE ON THE DIRECT SUBSIDY SCHEME AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

"IN ORDER THAT STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PREVENTED FROM ATTENDING DSS SCHOOLS RECEIVING 100 PER CENT SUBSIDY SOLELY BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY SCHOOL FEES, THE COMMITTEE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT SUCH DSS SCHOOLS ADOPT A FEE REMISSION SCHEME," MR HA SAID.

THE COMMITTEE, HE SAID, HAD ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT DETAILS OF THE FEE REMISSION SCHEME SHOULD BE SHOWN IN THE PROSPECTUS OF EACH DSS SCHOOL.

MR HA SAID THE CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION FOR SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE DSS IN SEPTEMBER 1991 WOULD BE SEPTEMBER 15 THIS YEAR AND THAT APPROVAL FOR SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE SCHEME WAS EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN BY THE END OF DECEMBER.

A CIRCULAR GIVING DETAILS OF THE SCHEME WILL BE ISSUED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 19 -

PETITION FOR WINDING-UP OF ARMOUR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

\* \* \* \* \*

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, MR NOEL GLEESON, IN HIS CAPACITY AS INSURANCE AUTHORITY, HAS TODAY (THURSDAY) PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE HIGH COURT FOR THE WINDING-UP OF ARMOUR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

THE COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED IN HONG KONG IN FEBRUARY 1974 AND CARRIED ON GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLE, FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE.

THE DATE FOR THE HEARING OF THE PETITION HAS BEEN FIXED FOR JUNE 11, 1990.

THE COURT HAS APPOINTED THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER TO BE THE PROVISIONAL LIQUIDATOR OF THE COMPANY.

ARMOUR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED WAS ENGAGED MAINLY IN MOTOR INSURANCE BUSINESS WITH ABOUT 12,000 POLICY HOLDERS. MOTOR INSURANCE AND OTHER CLASSES OF COMPULSORY BUSINESS ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 PER CENT OF ITS PREMIUM INCOME.

THE COMPANY WAS REQUIRED BY THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY TO STOP WRITING ALL CLASSES OF COMPULSORY INSURANCE BUSINESS, INCLUDING MOTOR INSURANCE, AS FROM NOVEMBER 1989. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REQUIRED TO STOP WRITING ALL INSURANCE BUSINESS IN APRIL 1990.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL SAID THAT PETITIONING WAS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE COMPANY'S POLICY HOLDERS. THE GROUNDS FOR THE WINDING-UP, AS STATED IN THE WINDING-UP PETITION, WERE THAT THE COMPANY HAD FAILED TO MEET THE SOLVENCY REQUIREMENT OF THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE AND WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN A POSITION TO EFFECT THE RUN-OFF OF ITS LIABILITIES IN AN ORDERLY MANNER.

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL SAID THE INSURANCE AUTHORITY HAD ALREADY TAKEN INTO HIS CUSTODY THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE ASSETS OF THE COMPANY.

HE BELIEVED THAT THESE ASSETS, COUPLED WITH THE GUARANTEE FUND OPERATED BY THE MOTOR INSURERS' BUREAU, WOULD PROVIDE A HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY TO POLICY HOLDERS AND OTHERS WITH INSURANCE CLAIMS AGAINST THE COMPANY.

IN ANOTHER STATEMENT MR GLEESON, IN HIS CAPACITY AS OFFICIAL RECEIVER, INDICATED THAT AFTER THE OFFICIAL RECEIVER'S OFFICE HAD COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY, HE WOULD DECIDE WHAT FURTHER ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF POLICY HOLDERS, CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS.

POLICY HOLDERS AND OTHER CREDITORS OF THE COMPANY WHO HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THEIR POLICY OR POSITION IN THIS WIND-UP SHOULD CONTACT THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT (OFFICIAL RECEIVER) ON TEL. 867 3559 DURING OFFICE HOURS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 20 -

\$390M CONTRACT SIGNED FOR NT ROAD CONSTRUCTION

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A \$390 MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YUEN LONG SECTION OF THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR AND YUEN LONG WEST LINK.

THE CONTRACT WAS SIGNED TODAY (THURSDAY) BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS, MR KWEI SEE-KAN, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF AOKI CORPORATION, MR SEIYA YAMAMOTO.

MR KWEI SAID THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF CASTLE PEAK ROAD WOULD FORM PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES CIRCULAR ROAD.

IT WOULD CONNECT TUEN MUN AT A PROPOSED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE NEAR TO YUEN WAI TO ANOTHER PROPOSED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE NEAR TONG YAN SAN TSUEN IN YUEN LONG WHERE IT WOULD ALSO CONNECT THE YUEN LONG WEST LINK AND THE PROPOSED YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS.

ON COMPLETION OF THE CORRIDOR, IT WOULD RELIEVE THE HEAVY TRAFFIC ON THE EXISTING CASTLE PEAK ROAD BETWEEN YUEN LONG AND TUEN MUN.

THE YUEN LONG WEST LINK BYPASSING YUEN LONG TOWN WOULD DIVERT THE VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FROM TIN SHUI WAI AND LONG PING AREA TO TUEN MUN AREA VIA THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR OR TO THE AU TAU AND BORDER AREAS VIA THE PROPOSED YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS.

MR KWEI SAID THE CONTRACT SIGNED TODAY COVERED THE WORKS FOR A THREE-KILOMETRE-LONG DUAL-TWO-LANE EXPRESSWAY OF THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR IN THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT AND A 1.5-KILOMETRE-LONG DUAL-TWO-LANE CARRIAGEWAY OF THE YUEN LONG WEST LINK.

TENDERS WOULD SOON BE INVITED FOR THE SECOND CONTRACT FOR THE REMAINING THREE-KILOMETRE-LONG DUAL-TWO-LANE EXPRESSWAY OF THE EASTERN CORRIDOR IN TUEN MUN DISTRICT.

BOTH CONTRACTS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1993, HE SAID.

THE YUEN LONG WEST LINK WOULD BE PARTIALLY COMPLETED AND OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN EARLY 1992 TO COPE WITH THE FIRST POPULATION INTAKE OF THE TIN SHUI WAI DEVELOPMENT.

MR KWEI ADDED THAT YUEN LONG SOUTHERN BYPASS, WHICH WOULD LINK UP THE YUEN LONG - TUEN MUN EASTERN CORRIDOR AT A TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE NEAR TONG YAN SAN TSUEN, WAS UNDER DETAILED DESIGNING AND CONSTRUCTION WOULD BE COMPLETED IN LATE 1993.

----- 0 -----

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 21 -

COMPUTER MODEL TO FORECAST OXYGEN DEPLETION

\* \* \* \* \*

A WATER QUALITY COMPUTER MODEL TO PREDICT THE LIKELIHOOD OF FISH KILLS CAUSED BY LOW DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEVELS IN FISH CULTURE ZONES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (HKU).

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN ITS APPLICATION IN FISH FARMING IN HONG KONG, THE OXYGEN BUDGET MODEL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED SINCE 1986 WITH THE AIM TO PROVIDE FORECASTS OF OXYGEN DEPLETION, RED TIDES OR ALGAL BLOOMS IN THE WATER WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR 40 PER CENT OF MASSIVE FISH KILLS IN HONG KONG'S MARICULTURE INDUSTRY.

INTRODUCING THE COMPUTER MODEL AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT AFD'S ABERDEEN FISHERIES OFFICES TODAY (THURSDAY) WERE THE DEPARTMENT'S SENIOR FISHERIES OFFICER, DR PATSY WONG, AND THE SENIOR LECTURER OF HKU'S CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DR JOSEPH LEE.

"THE MODEL USES NUMERICAL METHODS TO SIMULATE THE COMPLEX RELATIONS AMONGST A NUMBER OF PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES WHICH AFFECT THE DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEVEL IN SEA WATER, INCLUDING PHOTOSYNTHETIC PRODUCTION, SEDIMENT OXYGEN DEMAND, ALGAL AND FISH RESPIRATION, ORGANIC AND NUTRIENT INPUT, LIGHT INTENSITY, TEMPERATURE, TIDAL FLUSHING AND WIND SPEED," DR WONG EXPLAINED.

"OVER THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1987 TO MARCH THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF 30 SURVEYS WAS CARRIED OUT, COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF METEOROLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS. EACH OF THESE SURVEYS LASTED 26 HOURS," SHE ADDED.

THE ABUNDANT DATA BASE IS THEN USED FOR THE CALIBRATION, VALIDATION AND REFINEMENT OF THE MATHEMATICAL MODEL.

DR WONG SAID: "BY FEEDING THE NECESSARY DATA INTO THE COMPUTER, INCLUDING THOSE AFFECTING THE DISSOLVED OXYGEN LEVEL, WEATHER CONDITIONS AND WEATHER FORECASTS FROM THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, THE MODEL CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM DISSOLVED OXYGEN VALUES FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

"AND BY ANALYSING THE DATA OUTPUT, THE DEPARTMENT CAN ALSO UNDERSTAND THE WATER QUALITY VARIATION IN COASTAL BAYS, SO AS TO DETERMINE THE SUITABILITY OF AN AREA FOR FISH FARMING AND THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY OF A FISH CULTURE ZONE FOR MARICULTURE ACTIVITIES," DR WONG CONTINUED.

THE OXYGEN BUDGET MODEL IS NOW BEING USED IN THE YUNG SHUE AU FISH CULTURE ZONE TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM DISSOLVED OXYGEN FORECAST IN THE AREA.

/"THE MODEL .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 22 -

"THE MODEL HAS HELPED EXPLAIN THE CAUSES OF SEVERE OXYGEN DEPLETION IN THE AREA AND INDICATED THAT SEDIMENT RESPIRATION DUE TO DECOMPOSITION OF SETTLED ALGAL IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR," DR WONG SAID.

"IT ALSO INDICATED THAT THE IMPACT OF MARICULTURE ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN YUNG SHUE AU IS LOCALISED.

"THE DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING MODIFYING THE MODEL FOR OTHER FISH CULTURE ZONES IN THE TERRITORY," SHE SAID.

THE PROJECT WAS CONDUCTED BY STAFF FROM AFD'S AQUACULTURE FISHERIES DIVISION TOGETHER WITH DR LEE AND STUDENTS OF HKU'S CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

- - - - 0 - - - -

#### EXHIBITIONS ON EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT WILL STAGE A SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS IN VARIOUS COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES THIS YEAR TO ENHANCE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD LABOUR RELATIONS.

THE FIRST EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD BETWEEN TOMORROW (FRIDAY) AND SUNDAY (MAY 13) AT THE MUSIC FOUNTAIN OF NEW TOWN PLAZA IN SHA TIN.

OPEN DAILY FROM 9.30 AM TO 6 PM, THE EXHIBITION WILL INTRODUCE IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE AND THROUGH INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS THE VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, SUCH AS LONG SERVICE PAYMENT, SICKNESS ALLOWANCE, MATERNITY PROTECTION, STATUTORY HOLIDAYS, PAID ANNUAL LEAVE, YEAR-END BONUS, TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND PROVIDENT FUNDS.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE ON HAND TO ANSWER ENQUIRIES ON EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS MATTERS.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A QUIZ ON LABOUR LAWS FOR VISITORS. WINNERS MAY JOIN A LUCKY DRAW AT THE END OF THE EXHIBITIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 23 -

GLOOMY AND WET IN APRIL

\* \* \* \*

IN CONTRAST TO MARCH, THE WEATHER IN APRIL WAS GLOOMY AND WET, WITH THE LONG SPELL OF CLOUDS, MIST AND RAIN NOT BROKEN UNTIL TOWARDS THE END OF THE MONTH, ACCORDING TO THE MONTHLY REPORT RELEASED BY THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY TODAY (THURSDAY).

PERIODS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH ADDED UP TO 73.8 HOURS ONLY - THE 10TH LOWEST ON RECORD FOR APRIL. THERE WERE ONLY THREE DAYS IN THE MONTH WHEN NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY.

THE MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL OF 257.6 MILLIMETRES WAS 85 PER CENT ABOVE THE NORMAL OF 139.4 MILLIMETRES.

THE ACCUMULATED RAINFALL SINCE JANUARY 1, 1990 AMOUNTED TO 530.7 MILLIMETRES. NOT ONLY WAS THIS MORE THAN TWICE THE NORMAL OF 263.0 MILLIMETRES FOR THE SAME PERIOD, IT WAS ALSO THE 10TH WETTEST ON RECORD FOR THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

THE TWO MAJOR RAIN EPISODES OCCURRED ON APRIL 3, 4 AND 9 TO 11. ON THE LATTER OCCASION, SEVERE SQUALLS ACCOMPANYING THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 11 BROUGHT GUSTS OF UP TO 135 KILOMETRES PER HOUR AT WAGLAN ISLAND. THIS WAS THE STRONGEST GUST EVER RECORDED AT THAT STATION IN THE MONTH OF APRIL.

WITH A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE HOVERING OVER GUANGDONG PROVINCE, THE WEATHER WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY ON THE FIRST COUPLE OF DAYS IN THE MONTH. THE PASSAGE OF SOME ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS BROUGHT MORE SIGNIFICANT RAIN ON THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 1.

MORNING FOG, ORIGINALLY CONFINED TO OFFSHORE AREAS, SPREAD INSIDE THE HARBOUR EARLY ON APRIL 3. THE WEATHER DETERIORATED FURTHER THAT EVENING AS A COLD FRONT APPROACHED FROM THE NORTH.

THE PASSAGE OF THE FRONT THAT NIGHT BROUGHT PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS. THE RAIN EASED OFF THE NEXT DAY AND VISIBILITY ALSO IMPROVED.

HOWEVER, THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED MARKEDLY AS A COOL NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM SET IN. THE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 16.9 DEGREES ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 5 WAS THE LOWEST FOR THE MONTH.

WITH WINDS TURNING EASTERLY AND MODERATING, BRIGHTER PERIODS APPEARED DURING THE DAY ON APRIL 6 AND 7. AFTER A FRESHENING OF THE EASTERLIES LATER ON APRIL 8, CONDITIONS BECAME INCREASINGLY UNSETTLED OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AS UPPER ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCES GREW ACTIVE.

OUTBREAK OF HEAVY RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS OCCURRED LATER ON APRIL 9. THE FINE SKY THE MORNING AFTER TURNED OUT TO BE ONLY A SHORT RESPITE AHEAD OF EVEN MORE SEVERE WEATHER.

/RAIN AND.....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 24 -

RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS RETURNED LATER THAT DAY AND THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WAS BROUGHT TO A STORMY CLIMAX ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 11. SQUALLS WERE PARTICULARLY SEVERE BETWEEN 9 AM AND 11 AM WITH GUSTS OF HURRICANE FORCE BEING REPORTED OFFSHORE AT WAGLAN ISLAND. THE VIOLENT WINDS TORE DOWN SCAFFOLDING OVER VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TERRITORY.

THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR RESULTED IN 10 CASES OF FLOODING REPORTED IN KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES. A MINOR LANDSLIP ALSO OCCURRED IN NGAU CHI WAN.

THE WEATHER TURNED BRIGHTER ON APRIL 12 AND 13 WHILE A WEAK NORTHERLY AIRSTREAM BROUGHT RELATIVELY COOL WEATHER TO THE SOUTH CHINA COASTAL AREAS. CLOUDY CONDITION RETURNED ON APRIL 14 WITH LIGHT RAIN BECOMING MORE FREQUENT OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

STRONG EASTERLY WINDS SET IN EARLY ON APRIL 17 AND BROUGHT EVEN COOLER WEATHER.

AS THE EASTERLIES MODERATED, ENCROACHMENT OF MOIST MARITIME AIR PRODUCED NEAR-SATURATED CONDITION ON APRIL 19 AND 20. THE WEATHER WAS MISTY AND EXTREMELY HUMID WITH PERSISTENT SEA FOG OVER OFFSHORE WATERS.

THREE PEOPLE WERE REPORTED MISSING AFTER A FREIGHTER AND A CONTAINER VESSEL COLLIDED IN FOGGY WEATHER ABOUT 150 KILOMETRES EAST OF WAGLAN ISLAND ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 20.

SIX PEOPLE WERE INJURED BY COLLAPSING SCAFFOLDING IN CENTRAL DURING THE GUSTY SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS ON APRIL 21. WITH PERIODS OF SUNSHINE APPEARING, THE FOLLOWING DAY WAS ONE OF THE WARMEST IN THE MONTH AS THE AIR TEMPERATURE ROSE TO A MAXIMUM OF 29.3 DEGREES.

FOG PATCHES OCCURRED OFFSHORE FOR SEVERAL MORNINGS BEFORE EXTENDING INTO THE HARBOUR ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 23. AS THE EASTERLIES STRENGTHENED DURING THE DAY, OUTBREAKS OF RAIN AND THUNDERSTORMS AFFECTED THE TERRITORY THAT AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

RAIN, THOUGH LIGHT, WAS NEARLY CONTINUOUS THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING DAY AND BECAME HEAVIER AGAIN ON APRIL 25.

THE RAINY SPELL FINALLY CAME TO AN END ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 26. VISIBILITY GENERALLY IMPROVED BUT THE CLOUDS DID NOT BREAK UNTIL THE NEXT DAY.

AS THE EASTERLIES MODERATED AND A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE BUILT OVER SOUTHEASTERN CHINA, SUNNY CONDITION SET IN TOWARDS THE END OF APRIL.

MEANWHILE, FOG PATCHES RETURNED TO THE OFFSHORE AREAS ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 30 AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SEVERAL DAYS. FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THE MONTH, THE TEMPERATURE REACHED A HIGH OF 29.3 DEGREES DURING THAT DAY.

/ONE TROPICAL .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 25 -

ONE TROPICAL CYCLONE DEVELOPED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC IN APRIL. LEWIS FORMED AS A TROPICAL DEPRESSION EARLY ON APRIL 29 ABOUT 830 KILOMETRES SOUTHEAST OF GUAM.

IT INTENSIFIED TO A TROPICAL STORM DURING THE DAY ABOUT 760 KILOMETRES SOUTHEAST OF GUAM WHILE MOVING NORTHWARDS AT 12 KILOMETRES PER HOUR.

BY THE END OF THE MONTH, LEWIS HAD WEAKENED TO A TROPICAL DEPRESSION AND WAS DRIFTING SLOWLY NORTH-NORTHEASTWARDS TO THE EAST OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, NINE AIRCRAFT WERE DIVERTED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED FOR APRIL 1 TO 4, 9 TO 11, 16, 19 AND 23 TO 26. A FLOOD WARNING WAS ISSUED ON APRIL 4.

SIGNALS HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WERE AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING		DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING	
-----	-----	-----		-----	
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	APRIL 17	6.05 AM	APRIL 18	7.05 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	APRIL 23	10 PM	APRIL 24	5.30 AM
WINTER MONSOON	STRONG MONSOON	APRIL 24	11.25 AM	APRIL 24	2.55 PM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

TOTAL BRIGHT SUNSHINE	73.8 HOURS	;	46.4 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DAILY GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	9.59 MJ/SQUARE METRE	;	4.10 MJ/SQUARE METRE BELOW NORMAL
TOTAL RAINFALL	257.6 MM	;	118.2 MM ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN AMOUNT OF CLOUD	87 PER CENT	;	11 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY	87 PER CENT	;	4 PER CENT HIGHER THAN NORMAL
MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	23.7 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE	21.4 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.7 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL

/MEAN DAILY .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 26 -

MEAN DAILY MINIMUM AIR TEMPERATURE	19.7 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	19.2 DEGREES CELSIUS	;	0.3 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	57.3 MM	;	55.2 MM BELOW NORMAL

- - - - 0 - - - -

DB COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS HOS MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OF HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME BUILDINGS AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO STUDY THE ISSUES OF OVERCROWDING AND PUBLIC ORDER AT SHEK LEI ESTATE, KWAI CHUNG.

IN ADDITION, MEMBERS WILL ENQUIRE WHETHER THE USE OF ASBESTOS STRINGS ROUND WATER PIPES AT CHO YIU ESTATE WILL POSE ANY DANGER TO RESIDENTS' HEALTH.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD'S HOUSING AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 10TH FLOOR OF KWAI HING GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, KWAI CHUNG.

THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 2.30 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 27 -

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON DB COMMITTEE AGENDA  
\* \* \* \* \*

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM AT SO KWUN WAT TSUEN AT A MEETING TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

DESIGNED AS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THE THREAT OF FLOODING TO THE VILLAGE, THE PROJECT WILL INVOLVE THE RESUMPTION OF 10 PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL LOTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW CONCRETE-LINED DRAINAGE SYSTEM THROUGH THE SWAMPY AREA.

MEMBERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS WAYS TO KEEP THE ENTRANCE STEPS OF PUBLIC MARKETS DRY, AND THE MAINTENANCE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN PLAYGROUNDS.

- - - - -

NOTE TO EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING OF THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT BOARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO BE HELD TOMORROW (FRIDAY) IN THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM, THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1 TUEN HI ROAD, TUEN MUN, BEGINNING AT 2.30 PM.

- - - - 0 - - - -

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES  
\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (THURSDAY) REMINDED TO TAKE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES WITH THE APPROACH OF SUMMER.

MAKING THE APPEAL, THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR MAHOMMED BIN ALI, POINTED OUT THAT FOOD-BORNE DISEASES SUCH AS CHOLERA, DYSENTERY, TYPHOID, FOOD POISONING AND VIRAL HEPATITIS A WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EATING AND DRINKING OF UNCLEAR FOOD AND WATER.

"PROPER PRACTICE IN FOOD AND PERSONAL HYGIENE SHOULD THEREFORE BE OBSERVED TO ENSURE THAT THE FOOD CONSUMED IS HYGIENIC AND FREE FROM CONTAMINATION AND DETERIORATION," DR ALI ADDED.

MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE TAKEN POSITIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES.

/THESE INCLUDE .....

THESE INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND ADVICE TO THE LICENSEES AND STAFF OF LICENSED FOOD PREMISES AND RESIDENTS IN REMOTE AREAS AS WELL AS PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKERS.

STEPPED-UP PUBLICITY HAS ALSO BEEN MOUNTED TO DISSEMINATE HEALTH MESSAGES TO THE PUBLIC ON FOOD, PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

DR ALI ADVISED THE PUBLIC NOT TO PATRONISE ILLEGAL FOOD HAWKERS AND UNLICENSED FOOD PREMISES AS THEIR FOOD MIGHT BE UNCLEAN, THUS POSING A THREAT TO HEALTH.

CUT FRUIT FROM ANY ILLEGAL FRUIT VENDORS, HE ADDED, SHOULD NOT BE PURCHASED AS OPEN CUT FRUIT CAN EASILY GET CONTAMINATED.

DR ALI REMINDED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHEN EATING AT HOME:

- \* MAINTAIN A CLEAN KITCHEN;
- \* WASH HANDS AFTER TOILET AND BEFORE PREPARING FOOD;
- \* USE WHOLESOME FOOD AND WATER AND CLEAN COOKING UTENSILS;
- \* STORE PERISHABLE FOOD IN A REFRIGERATOR IF NOT FOR IMMEDIATE CONSUMPTION;
- \* COOKED FOOD STORED IN A REFRIGERATOR SHOULD BE SEPARATED FROM RAW FOOD ITEMS, AND WRAPPED IN PLASTIC SHEETS;
- \* THAW OUT FROZEN FOOD ONLY WHEN NEEDED;
- \* CLEAN THE CHOPPING BLOCK AND KNIFE BEFORE USE, ESPECIALLY AFTER CUTTING RAW FOOD, SUCH AS MEAT AND POULTRY;
- \* COOK FOOD, ESPECIALLY MEAT AND SHELLFISH, THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION;
- \* WASH VEGETABLES THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING;
- \* EAT COOKED FOOD WHILST IT IS STILL HOT; DO NOT LEAVE IT EXPOSED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME;
- \* FOOD TO BE KEPT OVER-NIGHT SHOULD BE PUT IN A REFRIGERATOR AND RE-COOKED THOROUGHLY BEFORE EATING; AND
- \* STORE ALL GARBAGE AND WASTE IN A COVERED CONTAINER BEFORE DISPOSAL.

"CLEAN FOOD, GOOD PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE ARE THE BEST MEASURES AGAINST GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISEASES," DR ALI SAID.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 29 -

OPEN SPACE FOR KWUN TONG RESIDENTS

\* \* \* \* \*

RESIDENTS IN KWUN TONG WILL HAVE ANOTHER OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES NEXT YEAR.

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2,069-SQUARE-METRE OPEN SPACE AT KWUN TONG ROAD, NEXT TO PING SHEK ESTATE.

THE \$1.51 MILLION PROJECT WILL PROVIDE FACILITIES INCLUDING A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AND A LANDSCAPED REST GARDEN.

WORK IS SCHEDULED TO START THIS MONTH AND WILL TAKE ABOUT NINE MONTHS TO COMPLETE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

URBAN CLEARWAYS AND PLB BAN ZONE IN KWUN TONG

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 12), ROADS CK1 AND CK2 LINKING WAI YIP STREET AND LEI YUE MUN ROAD IN KWUN TONG WILL BE DESIGNATED URBAN CLEARWAYS 24 HOURS DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SECTION OF WAI YIP STREET SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD CK1 AND THE SECTION OF CHA KWO LING ROAD SOUTH OF ITS JUNCTION WITH ROAD CK1 WILL BE DESIGNATED PUBLIC LIGHT BUS BAN ZONES.

ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES EXCEPT THOSE WITH PERMITS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING THE PROHIBITED ZONES 24 HOURS DAILY.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/30 .....

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

- 30 -

URBAN CLEARWAY IN HUNG HOM

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT FROM 10 AM ON SATURDAY (MAY 12), THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BULKELEY STREET BETWEEN DOCK STREET AND TAKU STREET IN HUNG HOM, EXCLUDING THE LAY-BY WITHIN THIS SECTION OF THE ROAD, WILL BE DESIGNATED AN URBAN CLEARWAY FROM 7 AM TO 7 PM DAILY.

NO VEHICLES EXCEPT FRANCHISED BUSES WILL BE ALLOWED TO STOP FOR PASSENGERS OR GOODS THERE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE EXISTING URBAN CLEARWAY ON THE SOUTHERN KERBSIDE LANE OF BULKELEY STREET BETWEEN DOCK STREET AND TAKU STREET WILL BE CANCELLED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

TEMPORARY LANE CLOSURES IN SHA TIN

\* \* \* \* \*

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES THAT TO FACILITATE ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK, THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF SHA TIN ROAD AND TOLO HIGHWAY IN SHA TIN WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE PERIODS SPECIFIED BELOW:

- \* FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM ON SATURDAY (MAY 12), THE FAST LANE OF THE NORTHBOUND SLIP ROAD FROM SHA TIN RACE COURSE TO TOLO HIGHWAY.
- \* FROM 11 PM ON MONDAY (MAY 14) TO 6 AM THE NEXT DAY, THE SLOW LANE OF SHA TIN ROAD NORTHBOUND BETWEEN CITY ONE SHATIN AND FO TAN NULLAH.

MOTORISTS ARE URGED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND PATIENCE. APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC AIDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO GUIDE THEM.

- - - - 0 - - - -