



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM LONDON	1
STATEMENT ON NEW AIRPORT	3
TAC DISCUSSES TAXI REVIEW	4
COMMITTEE ON EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS RELEASES REPORT	6
14TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW TO BE HELD IN HK	8
WORKING PARTY DISCUSSES FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE	8
MORE THAN 40,000 VMS GO HOME UNDER VRP	9
COMMISSION SUPPORTS INTEGRATED APPROACH TO YOUTH SERVICES ...	9
AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS	10
CHARITABLE FUND GIVES ELDERLY NEW YEAR JOY	11
HK CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY	12
ANTI-RABIES INOCULATION DRIVE IN FISHING PORTS	13
WATER CUTS IN TSUEN WAN AND EAST KOWLOON	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND TENDER RESULTS	14
HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS ..	15

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994

- 1 -

GOVERNOR RETURNS FROM LONDON

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FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA ON HIS RETURN FROM LONDON TODAY (TUESDAY):

GOVERNOR : I AM DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN HONG KONG, THOUGH I REALISE IT'S BEEN IN VERY GOOD, VERY CAPABLE HANDS WHILE I'VE BEEN AWAY. I HAD, I THINK, A VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO LONDON. THE MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE EVIDENCE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE. WE'RE ALL VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR REPORT WHICH WILL FOCUS ON HONG KONG ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA. THEIR LAST REPORT THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO WAS VERY HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE OF HONG KONG AND I AM SURE THAT THEIR NEXT REPORT WILL BE EQUALLY SO. I THINK THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER WITNESS WHO HAS YET TO GIVE EVIDENCE TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR HURD AND THEN THEY'LL BE WRITING THEIR REPORT. I ALSO HAD A NUMBER OF VERY USEFUL MEETINGS, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE HOME SECRETARY AND THE MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE WHICH HAS PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONG KONG. WE MET YESTERDAY. WE HAD AN EXTREMELY GOOD MEETING. WE AGREED ON THE WAY FORWARD. ONCE WE'VE GOT THE PRESENT LEGISLATION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AND WHILE WE WOULD STILL LIKE OF COURSE TO SEE CHINA RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, IF THAT DOESN'T PROVE POSSIBLE THEN WE'RE VERY CLEAR ABOUT THE WAY AHEAD AND THE SORT OF OPTIONS THAT WE WOULD NEED TO CONSIDER AND THE LEGISLATION THAT WE WANT TO PRESENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. AS I SAID IN LONDON YESTERDAY BEFORE WE TAKE THAT FINAL DECISION, I WON'T NEED TO GO BACK TO LONDON BECAUSE WE'RE PRETTY CLEAR OF THE WAY FORWARD. SO HAS THERE ANY QUESTION ?

QUESTION : YOU SAID THAT YOU HOPED THAT CHINA WOULD RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE BUT THE CHINESE HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT UNLESS YOU WITHDRAW THE FIRST PART OF THE PROPOSAL PUTTING FORWARD TO LEGCO, THEY WON'T RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. SO WHAT WILL YOU DO ?

GOVERNOR : THAT'S A QUESTION WHICH I SHOULD THINK I HAVE BEEN ASKED 50 TIMES IF I'VE BEEN ASKED ONCE. SINCE YOU ALL KNOW THE ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN ASKED SO OFTEN, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU VERY BRIEFLY. THE CHINESE SIDE, LIKE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, KNOW THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WE HAVE WITH THE CALENDAR. THEY KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO PUT IN PLACE LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 1994 AND 95 ELECTIONS. THE FIRST OF THE THREE TIERS OF ELECTIONS IS ONLY NOW SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS AWAY. SO WE ARE CUTTING THINGS FINE AS IT IS. WE PUT FORWARD THIS LEGISLATION ON ISSUES WHICH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND I THINK HAVE BEEN REGARDED IN THE PAST AS NON-CONTROVERSIAL IN ORDER TO GIVE US MORE TIME TO DEAL WITH THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. THAT IS OUR POSITION, WAS OUR POSITION, WILL BE OUR POSITION AND IF YOU ASK ME AGAIN SAME QUESTION AS COURTEOUSLY NEXT WEEK AS YOU DID THIS EVENING, YOU'LL GET THE SAME ANSWER.

QUESTION : DO YOU MEAN THAT YOUR STEP BY STEP APPROACH OF TABLING THE BILL IS TRY TO WAITING FOR THE FORMAL DECLARATION OF THE CHINESE SIDE'S REFUSAL TO GO BACK TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE ?

/GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR : NO. OUR STEP BY STEP APPROACH IS DOING TWO THINGS. FIRST OF ALL, IT IS RECOGNISING THE LEGISLATIVE REALITIES. I DON'T THINK THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WOULD WELCOME IT IF WHILE THEY'RE CONSIDERING THIS BILL, WE WOULD BRING FORWARD ANOTHER BILL. SECONDLY, IT'S GIVING THE CHINESE SIDE THE TIME IF THEY WISH TO TAKE IT TO HAVE SECOND OR THIRD THOUGHTS. YOU MAY RECALL THAT FROM OCTOBER 1992 WHEN I FIRST PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR DISCUSSION WITH CHINA, IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR AT THAT TIME AND DISCUSSION IN THE COMMUNITY, FROM THEN UNTIL APRIL WE WERE TOLD BY THE CHINESE SIDE THERE COULDN'T BE TALKS UNLESS WE DROPPED THE SO-CALLED PATTEN PROPOSALS. WELL, WE DIDN'T AND THERE WERE TALKS. THERE WERE 17 ROUNDS OF TALKS. ALAS, ALL THE ONLY THING WE AGREED IN 17 ROUNDS WAS THE VOTING AGE.

QUESTION : WHAT OPTION HAVE YOU GOT IN MIND WHEN THERE IS MENTION ABOUT THE OPTIONS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DECIDE ?

GOVERNOR : I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT THE OPTIONS FOR LEGISLATION ARE. FIRST OF ALL, WE CAN LEGISLATE ON LINES OF THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS THAT WERE PUT FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. SECONDLY, WE CAN LEGISLATE ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS THAT WE OFFERED DURING THE TALKS, THE CONCESSIONS THAT WE MADE CONDITIONAL ON A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, FOR EXAMPLE, ON AN AGREEMENT ON THE THROUGH TRAIN. THIRDLY, WE CAN PUT FORWARD SOME PROPOSALS THAT ARE BASED ON THE AMALGAM OF THE TWO. THOSE ARE THE OPTIONS. THEY WERE THE OPTIONS LAST WEEK AND THEY WILL REMAIN THE OPTIONS NEXT WEEK. BUT WE KNOW PRETTY CLEARLY WHICH DIRECTION WE ARE INTENDING TO GO IN.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN. WHEN YOU WERE AWAY FROM HONG KONG, ACTUALLY SOMETHING HAPPENED IN HONG KONG ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB SHOWED THE MAO'S FILM YESTERDAY BUT THEY GOT PRESSURE FROM THE CHINESE SIDE AND THE HONG KONG OFFICIALS SUCH AS THE ENTERTAINMENT AND LICENSING AUTHORITY. THEY PUT PRESSURE ON THE CLUB TO BAN THE FILM. SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

GOVERNOR: WELL, NOBODY FROM THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS PUT PRESSURE ON ANYBODY TO BAN THE FILM. THE FILM'S ALREADY HAD PUBLIC SHOWINGS. WHERE PEOPLE HAVE GONE THROUGH THE EXISTING LEGAL CHANNELS, I UNDERSTAND THAT WAS ALL THAT WAS REQUIRED ON THIS PARTICULAR OCCASION. BUT IF THE POINT OF THOSE WHO WISH TO SHOW THE FILM WAS TO INDICATE THAT THAT LAW, LIKE OTHER LAWS ON PRESS FREEDOM NEED TO BE LOOK AT AND REVIEWED TO SEE IF THEY ARE NECESSARY, THEN THEY HAVE MADE THEIR POINT. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED ON A NUMBER OF PIECES OF LEGISLATION WHICH NEED TO BE, IN OUR VIEW, CHANGED. AND WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO DISCUSS WITH THE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION AND OTHERS INDEED ARE, I THINK, DOING SO. OTHER LEGISLATIVE CHANGES WHICH NEED TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS AS SECURED IN HONG KONG AS IT SHOULD BE AND NEED TO BE. THE FILM TO WHICH YOU REFERRED HAS NOW BEEN SEEN BY QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE. IT'S BEEN SEEN AMONG OTHERS, BY THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG. AND I'M NOT QUITE SURE AS I THINK MANY OF YOU WILL REACH THAT CONCLUSION. I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT ALL THE FUSSES ARE ABOUT.

QUESTION: WHAT REALLY ARE THE CHANCES NOW FOR SMOOTH HANDOVER OF HONG KONG? WE GOT THIS CONTINUAL ROW IF YOU LIKE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA, BOTH SIDE ARE NOT GIVING IN. SURELY, WE ARE DESTINED TO BE PROPPED.

GOVERNOR: WELL. WHILE SOME PEOPLE SAY RATHER EMOTIONAL THINGS AND MAKE RATHER RHETORICAL ATTACKS, LIVES IN HONG KONG GOES ON VERY SMOOTHLY. I'VE JUST BEEN LOOKING AGAIN AT THE LEAD TABLES PRODUCED BY THE ECONOMIST MAGAZINE WHICH SHOWED THAT HONG KONG BY ANY CRITERIA, WHETHER POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL, NOT NECESSARILY WEATHER, BUT BY MOST OF THE OTHERS, HONG KONG IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES IN THE WORLD TO LIVE. REMARKABLE SOCIAL HARMONY, PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR LIVES VERY SUCCESSFULLY, THEY'LL CONTINUE TO DO THAT BOTH BEFORE AND I VERY MUCH HOPE AFTER 1997. AND WE ARE GOING TO GO ON WORKING TO MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS. SO WHEREVER ELSE THERE MAY BE TURBULENCE OR TURMOIL, IF I MAY BE UNGRATICAL, THERE AIN'T NO TURBULENCE OR TURMOIL HERE. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: WHY DO YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FEBRUARY TO DECIDE WHETHER TO GO TO UNITED STATES TO LOBBY FOR CHINA'S MFN STATUS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR'S CONDITION THEN? IS IT BECAUSE YOU THINK THAT CHINA ONLY HAS A SLIM CHANCE TO GET THEIR MFN?

GOVERNOR: NO. IT'S BECAUSE WE WANT THE CHIEF SECRETARY AND I WITH THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND OTHERS, WE WANT TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ONCE THE PRESENT ROUND OF VISITS AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE OVER, WE WANT TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ABOUT HOW WE CAN BEST AND PUT HONG KONG'S CASE FOR UNCONDITIONAL MFN RENEW. THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WE WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN PUTTING THEIR CASE LAST YEAR. WE WANT TO BE EQUALLY SUCCESSFUL IN PUTTING IT THIS YEAR. WE HAVE FORMIDABLE ARGUMENTS AS THE COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD WHICH PROBABLY HAS THE MOST PASSIONATE BELIEF IN FREE TRADE. WE'RE ECONOMIC FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. WE WANT TO SEE THE BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP, ECONOMICALLY AND IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. I UNDERLINE THAT WITH ALL THE FORCE THAT MIGHT COMMAND BECAUSE I THINK THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GUARANTEES OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. BUT IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE TO REVIEW IN GOVERNMENT AND WITH OUR FRIENDS OUTSIDE, THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND OTHERS, THE BEST WAY IN WHICH WE CAN PUT THE ARGUMENTS FOR HONG KONG. THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH IN DEED.

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STATEMENT ON NEW AIRPORT

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IN ANSWER TO MEDIA QUESTIONS, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE ARE STUDYING THE STATEMENT ISSUED TONIGHT BY THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE. BUT MEANWHILE WE MUST STRESS AGAIN THAT WE HAVE COMPLIED FULLY WITH THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME. THE POSITION IS THAT WE ARE AWAITING A RESPONSE FROM THE CHINESE SIDE TO OUR FORMAL REQUEST FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE, WHICH WE HOPE WILL RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON THE FINANCING OF THE AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY."

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TAC DISCUSSES TAXI REVIEW

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THE TRANSPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) TODAY (TUESDAY) DISCUSSED THE FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TAXI POLICY REVIEW AND ENDORSED RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT TO DAMPEN SPECULATION ON LICENCE PREMIA AND TO IMPROVE TAXI SERVICE.

TO CURB SPECULATIVE ACTIVITIES, THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PRE-SET QUOTA ON THE NUMBER OF TAXI LICENCES TO BE ISSUED.

LICENCES SHOULD BE ISSUED AS AND WHEN NECESSARY, HAVING REGARD TO THE DEMAND FOR TAXI SERVICES, THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE TRADE, AND THE CAPACITY OF THE ROAD SYSTEM.

TO MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR MANIPULATIVE SPECULATION ON LICENCE PREMIA, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IN A PUBLIC TENDER EXERCISE, EACH APPLICANT CAN ONLY BID FOR ONE LICENCE AND TRANSFER OF NEW LICENCES IS NOT PERMITTED WITHIN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUE.

IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TRANSFER OF TAXI LICENCES SHOULD BE FORMALISED BY REQUIRING BOTH THE BUYER AND SELLER TO REGISTER THE TRANSFER IN PERSON.

THE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT AIMS TO STAMP OUT THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF MAKING INFORMAL TRANSFERS BEFORE THE FINAL TRANSFER IS REGISTERED.

TAC ALSO SUPPORTED THE WORKING GROUP'S VIEW THAT THE PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A NEW SEVEN-YEAR NON-TRANSFERABLE LICENCE SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT OFFER ANY JOB-SECURITY FOR THE "OWNER-DRIVER" SINCE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE LICENCE WILL BE RENEWED UPON EXPIRY.

MOREOVER, THE UNCERTAINTY OVER RENEWAL PROSPECT AND THE NON-TRANSFERABILITY OF THE LICENCE WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE APPLICANTS TO SECURE MORTGAGE ARRANGEMENTS.

ON TAXI SERVICE, TAC SHARED THE WORKING GROUP'S CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF SERVICE AS REFLECTED IN THE GROWING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT MALPRACTICE.

IT WAS NOTED THAT THE POLICE HAD STEPPED UP ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

IN PARALLEL, THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR MOST TAXI OFFENCES SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$5,000 TO AT LEAST \$10,000 TO PRODUCE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT EFFECT.

THE MORE WIDESPREAD OFFENCES, SUCH AS REFUSING HIRE AND SOLICITING, SHOULD ALSO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE FIXED PENALTIES SYSTEM.

IN ADDITION, PROCEDURES FOR LODGING COMPLAINTS AGAINST TAXI MALPRACTICES SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED TO FACILITATE REPORTING, FOR EXAMPLE COMPLAINT FORM SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AND CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO REQUIRING DRIVERS TO ISSUE PRE-PRINTED FARE RECEIPTS TO PASSENGERS ON REQUEST.

ON TAXI FARE, TAC AGREED WITH THE WORKING GROUP THAT THE EXISTING POLICY OF MAINTAINING A FARE DIFFERENTIAL OF FIVE TO SEVEN TIMES BETWEEN URBAN TAXIS AND OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT, AND THREE TO FIVE TIMES BETWEEN NT TAXIS AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SHOULD CONTINUE.

TAC ALSO ENDORSED THAT TAXI FARES FOR SHORT TRIPS SHOULD BE INCREASED GRADUALLY TO MAINTAIN THE FARE DIFFERENTIAL WITH OTHER MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT.

THE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE TYPES OF SURCHARGE SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMAL.

THE WORKING GROUP FELT THAT MEDICAL TESTS FOR ALL PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS INCLUDING TAXI DRIVERS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE.

BUT THE TIMING OF EXTENDING THE TESTS TO TAXI DRIVERS SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM INTRODUCING SUCH TESTS FOR BUS DRIVERS.

IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A BOOKLET IN THE FORM OF A CODE OF PRACTICE SHOULD BE PRODUCED FOR TAXI DRIVERS AND OPERATORS.

AT TODAY'S MEETING, TAC ALSO CONSIDERED A PROPOSAL TO SET UP CROSS HARBOUR TAXI STANDS.

MEMBERS FELT THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE THAT TAXIS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO ANY DESTINATION WITHIN THEIR OPERATING AREA.

MEMBERS FELT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CROSS HARBOUR TAXI STANDS WAS PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE AND DECIDED TO RECONSIDER THE ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT OF A TERRITORY-WIDE TRANSPORT SERVICE TO THE NEW AIRPORT.

MEMBERS WERE ALSO INFORMED AT THE MEETING THAT CITYBUS' OVERALL PERFORMANCE IS IMPROVING DESPITE SOME TEETHING PROBLEMS IN THE INITIAL TWO MONTHS OF ITS OPERATION.

A SURVEY BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SHOWED THE BUS TURNOUT RATE HAD IMPROVED FROM 87% IN SEPTEMBER 1993 TO 96% IN DECEMBER 1993, AND THE PERCENTAGE OF LOST SCHEDULED TRIPS DROPPED FROM 22.5% IN SEPTEMBER TO 12% IN DECEMBER.

IT WAS NOTED CMB SERVICE ALSO IMPROVED FOLLOWING THE REDUCTION OF 26 ROUTES. MORE BUSES HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AND THE PERCENTAGE OF LOST TRIPS HAS BEEN ON THE DECLINE.

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COMMITTEE ON EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN
IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS RELEASES REPORT
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CHILDREN WHO HAVE TO GIVE EVIDENCE IN THE TRIAL OF SOME CASES WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO IN A NON-COURTROOM SETTING IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL WORKING COMMITTEE ARE ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY CROWN PROSECUTOR OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS, MR GRENVILLE CROSS, QC, RELEASED ITS REPORT TODAY (TUESDAY) AFTER A FOUR-MONTH STUDY INTO THE MATTER.

THE COMMITTEE MADE A TOTAL OF FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE FIRST IS THAT CHILDREN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GIVE THEIR EVIDENCE OUTSIDE A COURTROOM THROUGH A LIVE TELEVISION LINK IN CASES INVOLVING SEXUAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL ABUSE AND CRUELTY.

RELEASING THE REPORT TODAY, MR CROSS SAID THE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT CHILDREN COULD AND DID FEEL INTIMIDATED BY THE ENTIRE COURT EXPERIENCE.

"THIS MAY RESULT IN CHILD WITNESSES BECOMING DISTRESSED, STAYING SILENT, BECOMING CONFUSED, BEING AFRAID TO TELL THE TRUTH, OR EVEN DISTORTING THE TRUTH.

"CHILDREN MAY ALSO FEEL PRESSURISED BY THE FORMAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE COURT INTO COMING UP WITH AN ANSWER BECAUSE THEY FEEL OBLIGED TO SAY SOMETHING, WITHOUT FULLY THINKING THROUGH PRECISELY WHAT IT IS THEY ARE SAYING," THE COMMITTEE STATED IN THE REPORT.

THE REPORT ADDED THAT THERE IS AN UNDOUBTED ELEMENT OF TRAUMA INVOLVED IN A CHILD GIVING EVIDENCE AT COURT, THE PRECISE DEGREE OF WHICH WILL VARY ACCORDING TO THE AGE OF THE CHILD, THE NATURE OF THE OFFENCE, AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHILD TO THE ACCUSED.

"THE TRAUMA OF THE CHILD CAN BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IF THE CHILD GIVES ITS EVIDENCE THROUGH THE TELEVISION LINK," THE REPORT NOTED.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THE PRIMARY VERSION OF A CHILD'S EVIDENCE COULD BE GIVEN BY MEANS OF A VIDEO RECORDING.

MR CROSS SAID THE COMMITTEE BELIEVED THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS TECHNIQUE WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE STRESS CAUSED TO CHILD WITNESSES FROM REPEATED QUESTIONING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE.

THE VIDEO RECORDING SHOULD OCCUR IN INFORMAL SURROUNDINGS, AND SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE REPORT SAID.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD GIVE THEIR EVIDENCE UNSWORN AND THE COURTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONVICT ON SUCH EVIDENCE.

THE COMMITTEE FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT THE UNSWORN EVIDENCE OF A CHILD MAY CORROBORATE THE EVIDENCE (SWORN OR UNSWORN) OF ANY OTHER PERSON.

IN SO RECOMMENDING, THE COMMITTEE RECOGNISED THAT COURTS SHOULD STILL RETAIN A GENERAL DISCRETION IN APPROPRIATE CASES TO ISSUE A WARNING OF THE DANGERS OF RELYING SOLELY ON THE EVIDENCE OF A CHILD.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE PRESUMPTION OF A CHILD'S INCOMPETENCE TO TESTIFY SHOULD CEASE, AND CHILDREN SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY AS ADULTS.

THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT IN RELATION TO OFFENCES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OR CRUELTY, A 'CHILD' SHOULD BE DEFINED AS A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS.

IN RELATION TO OFFENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE, A 'CHILD' SHOULD BE DEFINED AS A PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 17 YEARS.

IN ADDITION TO MR CROSS, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE COMPRISED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION, LAW SOCIETY, LEGAL AID DEPARTMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE POLICE AND THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE WAS INITIATED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MR JEREMY MATHEWS, LAST YEAR AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY, THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AID, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN LIGHT OF SOME DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE GIVING OF EVIDENCE BY CHILDREN IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN SOME JURISDICTIONS.

IN ENGLAND, THE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTS OF 1988 AND 1991 HAVE RESULTED IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEVISION LINK.

THE SAME ACTS HAVE ALSO RESULTED IN MAJOR CHANGES TO THE EVIDENTIAL STATUS OF CHILDREN IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

FURTHERMORE, SOME OR ALL OF THESE CHANGES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN RECENT TIMES IN VARIOUS AUSTRALIAN STATES, CANADA, THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NEW ZEALAND, SCOTLAND AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MR CROSS SAID THE REPORT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO MR MATHEWS, ON BEHALF OF THE ADMINISTRATION, FOR CONSIDERATION AND FOR SUCH ACTION AS IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

MR MATHEWS SAID TODAY HE WELCOMED THE REPORT, AND THAT THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY.

MR CROSS SAID ONCE THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN COURTS (WHICH PROPOSED THAT CERTAIN AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT BE INSTALLED IN SOME COURTS) WAS IMPLEMENTED LATER THIS YEAR, THE CORE MACHINERY WOULD BE IN PLACE TO ENABLE COURTS TO WATCH THE EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN THROUGH LIVE TELEVISION LINKS.

"SOME ADDITIONAL WIRING ARRANGEMENTS WILL THEN BE REQUIRED TO ENABLE THE CHILD TO GIVE ITS EVIDENCE FROM AN ADJACENT ROOM," HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SOME POLICE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS WOULD REQUIRE SPECIALIST TRAINING IN CHILD INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES, AND FACILITIES WOULD NEED TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE PRE-TRIAL RECORDING OF THE EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994

- 8 -

14TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW TO BE HELD IN HK
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AT THE INVITATION OF THE POLITICAL ADVISER, MR R N PEIRCE, A GUANGDONG GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, MR CHAO ZHENWEI, WILL VISIT HONG KONG FROM TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY) TO FRIDAY FOR THE 14TH ANNUAL BORDER REVIEW.

TALKS WILL BE HELD TOMORROW TO REVIEW CROSS-BORDER LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS AND PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION OVER THE PAST YEAR AND DISCUSS WAYS OF STRENGTHENING THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND CO-OPERATION.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

A PHOTO CALL WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THE MEDIA BEFORE THE MEETING WHICH WILL BE HELD AT 28, KENNEDY ROAD BEGINNING AT 9.15 AM.

MEDIA MEMBERS COVERING THE EVENT SHOULD ARRIVE AT 28 KENNEDY ROAD BEFORE 9 AM.

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WORKING PARTY DISCUSSES FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE
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THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE, CHAIRED BY THE HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY (HKMA), WAS HELD TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE WORKING PARTY IS MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AUTHORISED INSTITUTIONS (AIS).

"THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY THAT MORE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE IS DESIRABLE," THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BANKING) OF THE HKMA, MR DAVID CARSE, SAID.

"THE WORKING PARTY WILL CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF MORE DISCLOSURE AND HOW QUICKLY THIS MIGHT TAKE PLACE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE WORKING PARTY CAN PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR," HE ADDED.

THE WORKING PARTY'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE:

- * TO CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATE EXTENT OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE BY AIS INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER INNER RESERVES OF BANKS SHOULD BE DISCLOSED; AND
- * TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE TIME FRAME OVER WHICH SUCH DISCLOSURE MIGHT BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

ITS MEMBERSHIP CONSISTS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEVEN LOCAL BANKS - BANK OF EAST ASIA, DAH SING BANK, DAO HENG BANK, KWONG ON BANK, NANYANG COMMERCIAL BANK, SHANGHAI COMMERCIAL BANK, AND WING HANG BANK - AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT-TAKING COMPANIES ASSOCIATION.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994

- 9 -

MORE THAN 40,000 VMS GO HOME UNDER VRP

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THE REFUGEE CO-ORDINATOR, MR BRIAN BRESNIHAN, WELCOMED THE RETURN OF MORE THAN 40,000 VIETNAMESE TO VIETNAM UNDER THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR).

A GROUP OF 329 VIETNAMESE RETURNED TO VIETNAM TODAY (TUESDAY), BRINGING TO 40,254 THE NUMBER WHO HAVE RETURNED VOLUNTARILY SINCE THE PROGRAMME STARTED IN MARCH 1989.

"IT IS INDEED ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE HIGH RATE OF DEPARTURES ESTABLISHED IN 1992 WAS MAINTAINED IN 1993 WHEN OVER 12,300 VIETNAMESE RETURNED HOME UNDER UNHCR'S PROGRAMME.

"I AM ALSO VERY PLEASED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY FORWARD THE MOMENTUM OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION TO THE FIRST MONTH OF THIS YEAR WHEN WE EXPECT TO RETURN ABOUT 2,000 VOLUNTEERS TO VIETNAM," MR BRESNIHAN SAID.

HE PAID TRIBUTE TO UNHCR FOR ITS OUTSTANDING SUCCESS IN THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION PROGRAMME IN HONG KONG.

"IF THE CURRENT ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TRENDS CONTINUE WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO CLOSE ALL CAMPS IN EARLY 1996," MR BRESNIHAN SAID.

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COMMISSION SUPPORTS INTEGRATED APPROACH TO YOUTH SERVICES

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THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH SUPPORTS INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, MR ERIC LI KA-CHEUNG, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

HE WAS COMMENTING ON RECOMMENDATIONS PUT FORWARD BY THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES.

"AS OUR SOCIETY BECOMES MORE SOPHISTICATED AND THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE BECOME MORE DIVERSE, INTEGRATED SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PREPARING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME MATURE, RESPONSIBLE AND CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS."

WHEN THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT ARE FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THEY WILL GO A LONG WAY IN ENHANCING YOUNG PEOPLE'S SKILLS TO FACE THE CHALLENGES AHEAD, MR LI SAID.

DURING DISCUSSIONS AT ITS MEETING LAST WEEK, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ALSO NOTED THAT IN FUTURE, THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THESE CENTRES WILL BE TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP IN A HOLISTIC WAY.

"WE FULLY ENDORSE THIS OBJECTIVE WHICH EPITOMISES ONE OF THE SOCIAL GOALS STIPULATED IN THE CHARTER FOR YOUTH: THAT YOUTH SHOULD BE OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO ACHIEVE WHOLESOME AND BALANCED DEVELOPMENT," MR LI ADDED.

/TO ACHIEVE

TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM, MEMBERS BELIEVED THAT CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES SHOULD IN FUTURE BE GIVEN GREATER FLEXIBILITY.

"THAT IS, PROGRAMMES SHOULD BE DESIGNED WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE RELEVANT DISTRICT IN MIND," MR LI SAID.

MEMBERS ALSO EMPHASISED AT THE MEETING THAT THE CONCEPT OF INTEGRATION SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FULLY.

TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES, MR LI SAID, SOCIAL WORKERS IN AN INTEGRATED TEAM SHOULD RECEIVE ADEQUATE TRAINING TO ENABLE THEM TO BECOME ALL-ROUNDERS.

MOREOVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAD A POSITIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN FURTHERING THE WELL-BEING OF YOUTHS.

STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CO-OPERATION AND THE SHARING OF EXPERIENCE, MEMBERS HAVE PROPOSED THAT THESE INTEGRATED SOCIAL WORK TEAMS STEP UP LIAISON WITH OTHER DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH THE DISTRICT FIGHT CRIME COMMITTEE NETWORK.

THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE SERVICES RECOMMENDED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT PROGRAMMES OFFERED BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRES SHOULD BE MORE TARGET-RELATED AND SOCIAL WORK-ORIENTED.

MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN DISADVANTAGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND A VARIETY OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCALITY SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY AN INTEGRATED TEAM.

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AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WILL HOLD ANOTHER AUCTION OF LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS ON SATURDAY (JANUARY 29) AT THE CITY HALL RECITAL HALL.

A TOTAL OF 50 LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING AT 9.30 AM. THEY ARE:

FN9888	AT812	FN322	FN318	FN7441
FN468	FN831	AY819	BM3181	FN9177
*BB95	*1494	*194	*DL2222	*FS77
FN8832	FN7771	FN813	FN863	FN9295
CT312	HK2031	CT198	FN8240	DL8689
FN8777	FM9928	FN6228	CE2438	FN7572
CK8662	FN8324	CR1997	FN8760	FN8715
*1957	*AX6	*FK16	*DK99	*CH282
FN8212	FN8384	FN8892	FN8107	FN855
FN102	FN903	FN901	FN7261	FN7257

IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION WHICH WILL START AT 2.30 PM, ANOTHER 50 LUCKY CAR REGISTRATION MARKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR BIDDING. THEY ARE:

FP6628	FP190	FP318	FP1191	FN5330
FN8878	FN9381	HK5111	AL8689	FN9106
*647	*583	*FU86	*HK95	*CM50
FP2833	FP223	FP887	FN6378	FP3809
CM3339	AU8268	FN6831	DD6168	FN3720
FP216	FP3368	AA1096	FP7898	AZ8813
FN9223	FN8130	FN3390	XX5707	FN6460
*FC17	*CL8888	*147	*FU2000	*CD9090
CA231	FP1386	BL902	FP1013	FN5044
FP348	FP861	FP470	FN8764	FN5871

* SPECIAL CAR REGISTRATION MARK (NOT TRANSFERABLE)

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST PAY BY CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BIDDING.

A TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REMINDED BIDDERS THAT THE CAR REGISTRATION MARK WOULD BE ASSIGNED ONLY TO A CAR REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE AUCTION.

THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MUST BE PRODUCED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE AUCTION IF THE CAR REGISTRATION MARK IS TO BE REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF BODY CORPORATE.

PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION, AFTER DEDUCTION OF EXPENSES INCURRED, WILL AS USUAL GO TO THE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES FUND.

THE COMING AUCTIONS WILL BE THE 211TH AND 212TH ORGANISED BY THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1973.

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CHARITABLE FUND GIVES ELDERLY NEW YEAR JOY

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THIRTY-EIGHT RESIDENTS OF HO'S CLANSMAN ASSOCIATION HOSTEL FOR THE ELDERLY HAD ADVANCE CELEBRATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR TODAY (TUESDAY) AT TUNG WAH HOSPITAL.

THEY WERE GIVEN RED PACKETS AND ENJOYED A LUNCH AS WELL AS GAMES AND VARIOUS SHOWS, THANKS TO THE TANG SHIU-KIN AND HO TIM CHARITABLE FUND.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR IAN STRACHAN, SAID THE "LAI SEE" DISTRIBUTION HAD BEEN A BENEVOLENT TRADITION OF THE FUND COMMITTEE TO CONVEY NEW YEAR WISHES AS WELL AS CONCERN FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS.

ABOUT 4,400 SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOME 620 ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL BE GIVEN RED PACKETS FROM THE FUND LATER THIS MONTH.

/MORE THAN

MORE THAN \$1.16 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR THE PURPOSE, WITH DR HO TIM AND DR STANLEY HO, FOUNDING AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE FUND RESPECTIVELY, JOINTLY DONATED \$450,000.

EACH SINGLE-PARENT FAMILY WILL RECEIVE \$250 AND THE ELDERLY \$100.

THE FUND, ADMINISTERED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ALSO PROVIDES IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL HELP TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES TO COPE WITH SUDDEN HARDSHIP.

MR STRACHAN SAID THE FUND HAD SPENT ABOUT \$2.4 MILLION AND HAD HELPED 1,475 CASES LAST YEAR.

UPON APPLICATION, GRANTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION, PURCHASE OF SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, MEETING MEDICAL COSTS OR OTHER NEEDS.

THE FUND ALSO PROVIDES PAYMENTS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ARISING FROM PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS. IN PARTICULAR, THE FUND HELPS VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS WITH URGENT NEEDS.

APPLICATIONS FOR HELP FROM THE FUND CAN BE MADE TO THE TUNG WAH GROUP OF HOSPITALS, PO LEUNG KUK OR THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

ALSO OFFICIATING AT THE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY WERE DR HO TIM, LADY SHIU-KIN TANG, DR STANLEY HO AND MEMBERS OF THE FUND'S COMMITTEE.

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HK CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

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THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T H CHAU, TODAY (TUESDAY) ATTENDED A RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT TO MARK THE 1994 INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY.

IT HAS BEEN THE SEVENTH YEAR HONG KONG CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY.

HONG KONG BECAME A FULL MEMBER OF THE CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION COUNCIL IN 1987.

THE AIMS OF THE COUNCIL ARE TO HARMONISE CUSTOMS SYSTEMS, TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE CUSTOMS TECHNIQUES AND LEGISLATION AND TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT CO-OPERATION. HONG KONG PLAYS AN ACTIVE PART IN THE COUNCIL'S WORK.

MORE THAN 300 GUESTS ATTENDED THE RECEPTION AT THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SENIOR OFFICERS' MESS. THEY INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CONSULS-GENERAL, FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND TOP EXECUTIVES FROM TRADE AND BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

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ANTI-RABIES INOCULATION DRIVE IN FISHING PORTS

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THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A SPECIAL DOG INOCULATION DRIVE IN FISHING PORTS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS SO THAT FISHERMEN CAN HAVE THEIR DOGS IMMUNISED AGAINST RABIES.

THE DRIVE, A REGULAR EXERCISE SINCE 1980, IS INTENDED TO HELP FISHERMEN WHO FIND LITTLE TIME TO TAKE THEIR DOGS TO AN INOCULATION CENTRE OR A GOVERNMENT KENNEL FOR INOCULATION.

FROM THURSDAY (JANUARY 27), MOBILE DOG INOCULATION TEAMS WILL GO TO SEVEN FISHING PORTS AND MAKE BOAT-TO-BOAT VISITS BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM DAILY. THE WHOLE OPERATION IS EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL FEBRUARY 4.

THEY WILL VISIT THE FISHING PORTS IN ABERDEEN AND SAI KUNG ON JANUARY 27 AND 28; SHA TAU KOK ON JANUARY 31; SHAU KEI WAN ON JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1; SAM MUN CHAI ON FEBRUARY 1 AND 2; CHEUNG CHAU ON FEBRUARY 2 AND 3 AS WELL AS CASTLE PEAK BAY ON FEBRUARY 3 AND 4.

THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTING SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER, DR SIMON SAFE, SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE DRIVE WAS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF RABIES IN HONG KONG.

"THE TERRITORY REGAINED THE RABIES-FREE AREA STATUS ON JULY 10, 1989 BY HAVING SUCCESSFULLY PREVENTED THE OUTBREAK OF ANY INDIGENOUS RABIES CASE SINCE JULY 10, 1987," HE SAID.

NEVERTHELESS, HE STRESSED THAT RABIES WAS A DEADLY DISEASE TRANSMISSIBLE FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS. DOGS ON FISHING VESSELS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE BECAUSE OF THEIR POSSIBLE CONTACTS WITH OTHER ANIMALS OUTSIDE HONG KONG.

"IT IS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT THAT FISHERMEN'S DOGS ARE INOCULATED AGAINST THE DISEASE AT LEAST EVERY THREE YEARS TO KEEP UP THEIR IMMUNITY," DR SAFE ADDED.

HE CALLED ON FISHERMEN WHO OWNED DOGS TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE SPECIAL INOCULATION SERVICE.

SINCE THE DRIVE WAS LAUNCHED IN 1980, 4,948 DOGS OWNED BY FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN INOCULATED.

UNDER THE DOGS AND CATS ORDINANCE, ALL DOGS OVER FIVE MONTHS OLD ARE REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED AND INOCULATED AGAINST RABIES. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RENDER THE OWNER LIABLE TO A MAXIMUM FINE OF \$5,000 AND SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

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WATER CUTS IN TSUEN WAN AND EAST KOWLOON
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO SOME PREMISES IN TSUEN WAN WILL GO OFF FROM 11 PM ON THURSDAY (JANUARY 27) TO 6 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY TO FACILITATE WASTE DETECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS.

THE SUSPENSION WILL AFFECT ALL THE PREMISES BOUNDED BY TAI HO ROAD, SHA TSUI ROAD, CHUNG ON STREET AND CASTLE PEAK ROAD.

IN EAST KOWLOON, OWING TO CONNECTION WORK ON WATER MAINS, SALT WATER SUPPLY TO MOST PREMISES WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM 10 AM ON FRIDAY (JANUARY 28) TO NOON THE NEXT DAY.

THE AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDE SAN PO KONG, KOWLOON BAY, CHOI HUNG, PING SHEK, CHOI WAN, SHUN LEE, SHUN ON, SHUN TIN, SAU MAU PING, LAM TIN, NGAU TAU KOK, KWUN TONG, CHA KWO LING AND DIAMOND HILL.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
TENDER RESULTS
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TENDER DATE	25 JAN 94	25 JAN 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q404	Y485
AMOUNT APPLIED	HK\$3,810 MN	HK\$1,830 MN
AMOUNT ALLOTTED	HK\$1,200 MN	HK\$400 MN
AVERAGE YIELD ACCEPTED	2.93 PCT	3.38 PCT
HIGHEST YIELD ACCEPTED	2.95 PCT	3.39 PCT
PRO RATA RATIO	ABOUT 12 PCT	ABOUT 36 PCT
AVERAGE TENDER YIELD	2.95 PCT	3.41 PCT

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

TENDERS TO BE HELD IN THE WEEK BEGINNING 31 JANUARY 1994 -

TENDER DATE	1 FEB 94	1 FEB 94
PAPER ON OFFER	EF BILLS	EF BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER	Q405	H457
ISSUE DATE	2 FEB 94	2 FEB 94
MATURITY DATE	4 MAY 94	3 AUG 94
TENOR	91 DAYS	182 DAYS
AMOUNT ON OFFER	HK\$1,200 + 240 MN	HK\$500 + 100 MN

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION

OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	3,100
REVERSAL OF LAF	+900
BALANCE AFTER REVERSAL OF LAF	4,000
NET INJECTION/WITHDRAWAL TODAY	NIL
EFFECT OF LAF TODAY	-2,209
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,791
LAF RATE 2.00 BID/4.00 OFFER	25.1.94
TWI 127.3 *-0.2*	

HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	2.64	16 MONTHS	2505	3.75	100.20	3.62
1 MONTH	2.77	19 MONTHS	2508	4.265	101.26	3.82
3 MONTHS	2.93	22 MONTHS	2511	4.15	100.25	4.04
6 MONTHS	3.07	33 MONTHS	3610	4.20	99.25	4.54
12 MONTHS	3.35	36 MONTHS	3701	4.60	100.06	4.63

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 19,158 MN

CLOSED 25 JANUARY 1994

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