



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1994

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION 29TH MEETING

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THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 1994. THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON THE ARRANGEMENT FOR LAND REQUIRED FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, THE SUPPLEMENTARY LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME AS WELL AS THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO ADJUST THE 1994/95 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE, IN THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS CATEGORY, APPROXIMATELY 1,248 HECTARES FOR THE NEW AIRPORT, 30 HECTARES FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY DEPOT AND IN THE NORMAL REQUIREMENTS CATEGORY, APPROXIMATELY 7.52 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AT TAI KOK TSUI AND TUNG CHUNG AIRPORT RAILWAY STATIONS AND 7.94 HECTARES OF LAND FOR THE HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME AND THE SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING SCHEME.

THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE ANNUAL LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMMES SHALL BE DRAWN UP HAVING REGARD TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS OF THE ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE AIRPORT RAILWAY STATIONS AND THE PREVAILING SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONDITIONS IN THE PROPERTY MARKET AT THE TIME.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED THAT THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR 1993/94 WILL BE HONG KONG DOLLARS 4,428 PER SQUARE METRE AND THE AVERAGE COST OF LAND PRODUCTION FOR 1994/95 WILL BE HONG KONG DOLLARS 4,754 PER SQUARE METRE.

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SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION AGREED MINUTE

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THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE SINO-BRITISH LAND COMMISSION WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 1994. THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING IN RESPECT OF LAND FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY:

1. LAND FOR THE NEW AIRPORT

LAND REQUIRED FOR THE AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK SHALL BE REGARDED AS A SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AND BE DEALT WITH IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER :

/(A) APPROXIMATELY

(A) APPROXIMATELY 1,248 HECTARES OF LAND (INCLUDING SEABED) AT CHEK LAP KOK AND LAM CHAU ISLANDS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE 1994/95 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR GRANT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BY PRIVATE TREATY TO THE STATUTORY BODY CURRENTLY KNOWN AS THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY (THE AUTHORITY) FOR AIRPORT OPERATIONS, AIRPORT SUPPORT AND AIRPORT RELATED USES AT NOMINAL PREMIUM FOR A TERM UP TO 30 JUNE 2047. NOMINAL RENTAL WILL BE CHARGED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1997, AND THEREAFTER AN ANNUAL RENTAL EQUIVALENT TO 3 PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE CHARGED. PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF THE LAND, POSSESSION OF THE SITE, EITHER IN WHOLE OR IN PART, MAY BE GIVEN TO THE AUTHORITY BY WAY OF A LICENCE AT NOMINAL FEE FOR AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.

(B) THE AUTHORITY MAY SUBLEASE LANDS, AS AND WHEN NECESSARY, FOR AIRPORT SUPPORT AND AIRPORT RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, SUBJECT TO MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREAS (GFAS) SPECIFIED IN THE LAND GRANT (SEE TABLE A). ANY INCREASES IN THESE GFAS OR ANY CHANGE IN LAND USE WILL BE SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PAYMENT OF MODIFICATION PREMIUM AT FULL MARKET VALUE BY THE AUTHORITY.

2. LAND FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY

LAND GRANTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIRPORT RAILWAY SHALL BE DEALT WITH IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER :

(A) APPROXIMATELY 58 HECTARES OF RAILWAY TRACK AND RELATED FACILITIES SHALL BE REGARDED AS A SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AND BE INCLUDED IN THE 1996/97 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR GRANT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT UNDER A RUNNING LINES LEASE TO THE MTRC AT NOMINAL PREMIUM FOR A TERM UP TO 30 JUNE 2047.

NOMINAL RENTAL WILL BE CHARGED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1997, AND THEREAFTER AN ANNUAL RENTAL EQUIVALENT TO 3 PER CENT OF RATEABLE VALUE FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE CHARGED.

(B) A SITE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 HECTARES AT SIU HO WAN, NORTH LANTAU, SHALL BE REGARDED AS A SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AND BE INCLUDED IN THE 1994/95 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR GRANT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BY PRIVATE TREATY TO THE MTRC AT AN APPROPRIATE PREMIUM FOR THE AIRPORT RAILWAY DEPOT FOR A TERM UP TO 30 JUNE 2047. NOMINAL RENTAL WILL BE CHARGED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1997, AND THEREAFTER AN ANNUAL RENTAL EQUIVALENT TO 3 PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE CHARGED.

/(C) APPROXIMATELY

(C) APPROXIMATELY 60 HECTARES OF LAND REQUIRED FOR THE RAILWAY STATIONS AND ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AT OR NEAR THE HONG KONG, KOWLOON, TAI KOK TSUI, TSING YI AND TUNG CHUNG STATIONS SHALL BE REGARDED AS NORMAL REQUIREMENTS AND BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMMES FOR GRANT BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BY PRIVATE TREATY TO THE MTRC FOR A TERM UP TO 30 JUNE 2047, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TIME SCALE SHOWN IN TABLE B. NOMINAL PREMIUM WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE STATION ELEMENT, AND FULL MARKET VALUE PREMIUM WILL BE CHARGED FOR THE LAND REQUIRED FOR THE ASSOCIATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS. NOMINAL RENTAL WILL BE CHARGED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1997, AND THEREAFTER AN ANNUAL RENTAL EQUIVALENT TO 3 PER CENT OF THE RATEABLE VALUE FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE PROPERTY WILL BE CHARGED.

(D) THE PREMIUM FOR EACH SITE WILL BE ASSESSED NOT EARLIER THAN NINE MONTHS BEFORE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RELEVANT SITE OR PORTION PROCEEDS, AND PAYABLE AT THE TIME DEVELOPMENT COMMENCES.

(E) PRIOR TO THE GRANTING OF THE LAND REFERRED TO IN (A), (B) AND (C) ABOVE, POSSESSION OF THE SITES MAY BE GIVEN TO THE MTRC BY WAY OF A LICENCE AT NOMINAL FEE FOR AIRPORT RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES.

TABLE A

MAXIMUM GROSS FLOOR AREAS FOR
AIRPORT SUPPORT AND AIRPORT RELATED USES

1.	AIRPORT SUPPORT USES	2,043,750 SQ M(1)
2.	AIRPORT RELATED USES	
	(A) FREIGHT FORWARDERS	1,475,000 SQ M
	(B) HOTELS	250,000 SQ M
	(C) OFFICES	689,000 SQ M
	(D) RETAIL AND OTHER COMMERCIAL PREMISES	295,000 SQ M
	TOTAL	2,709,000 SQ M

NOTE 1 : CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF 109 HECTARES AT A NET TO GROSS RATIO OF 75% AND A PLOT RATIO OF 2.5, I.E. [(109 X 10,000) X 0.75] X 2.5

TABLE B

LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AIRPORT RAILWAY BEFORE 1997

FINANCIAL YEAR	DEVELOPMENT SITE	CATEGORY	HECTARAGE
1994-1995	TUNG CHUNG SITE 1	CR	3.00
	TUNG CHUNG SITE 2	CR	3.29
	TAI KOK TSUI SITE A	CR	1.23
			7.52
1995-1996	KOWLOON	CR	13.96
	TUNG CHUNG SITE 3	CR	2.14
	TAI KOK TSUI SITE C	CR	6.81
	TSING YI	CR	5.40
			28.31
1996-1997	TUNG CHUNG SITE 4	CR	6.37
	HONG KONG	CR	4.00
	TAI KOK TSUI SITE B1	CR	4.57
	TAI KOK TSUI SITE B2	CR	2.24
	TUNG CHUNG SITE 5	CR	6.79
			23.97
TOTAL			59.80

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GOVERNMENT WELCOMES LAND COMMISSION AGREEMENT
ON AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY LAND

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THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, TODAY (THURSDAY) WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE SINO BRITISH LAND COMMISSION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAND REQUIRED FOR THE NEW AIRPORT AT CHEK LAP KOK AND THE AIRPORT RAILWAY.

SIR HAMISH SAID: "TODAY'S LAND COMMISSION AGREEMENT ON THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY LAND IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD FOR THESE TWO MAJOR PROJECTS.

"IT FOLLOWS ON FROM THE SIGNING ON NOVEMBER 4 OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE'S AGREED MINUTE ON FINANCING AND WILL HELP TO BUILD UP THE MOMENTUM OF THE PROJECTS.

"THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THE LAND NEEDED FOR THE PROJECTS. IT ALSO PAVES THE WAY FOR THE LAND PREMIA FROM PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE AIRPORT RAILWAY, WHICH WILL FINANCE \$20 BILLION OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S \$60.3 BILLION EQUITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY.

"THIS \$20 BILLION WILL COME FROM THE TOTAL NET PREMIA RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AFTER DEDUCTING THE LAND PRODUCTION COSTS AND THE SHARE FOR THE SAR LAND FUND.

"THE AR-RELATED PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE AR STATIONS WILL ALSO BE A MAJOR SOURCE OF HOUSING SUPPLY BECAUSE THEY WILL BRING ABOUT 24,000 UNITS INTO THE PROPERTY MARKET BETWEEN 1997-98 AND 2003-04.

"WE NOW NEED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON THE TWO PROJECTS' FINANCIAL SUPPORT AGREEMENTS SO THAT THESE CAN ALSO GO AHEAD, TOGETHER WITH THE AIRPORT BILL AND THE FRANCHISES FOR THE AIRPORT.

"THE FASTER WE CAN RESOLVE ALL THESE ISSUES, THE FASTER WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE PROJECTS," SAID SIR HAMISH.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE AGREEMENT LAID DOWN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAND TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE PROVISIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY CORPORATION THROUGH THE ANNUAL LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMMES.

A TIME-TABLE HAD BEEN SET FOR THE LAND TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES BETWEEN THE CURRENT YEAR AND 1996/97.

THE ANNUAL PROGRAMMES WOULD ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEEDS OF THE AR PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS, AND THE PREVAILING SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONDITIONS IN THE PROPERTY MARKET AT THE TIME.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: "THIS WILL ENSURE THAT THE LAND FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY BECOMES AVAILABLE AS AND WHEN IT IS NEEDED. IT ALSO ENSURES THAT THE SUPPLY OF LAND IS COMMENSURATE WITH HONG KONG'S OVERALL LAND REQUIREMENTS.

"THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN STARTED BY THE TWO SIDES OF THE LAND COMMISSION AGREEING TODAY TO ADJUST THE 1994/95 LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY".

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ADDITIONAL LAND HELPS MEET HOUSING DEMAND

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IN ANSWER TO PRESS ENQUIRIES, THE SECRETARY FOR PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS, MR TONY EASON, CONFIRMED: "THE ADDITIONAL LAND AGREED BY THE LAND COMMISSION TODAY WILL GO A LONG WAY TO HELP MEET HONG KONG'S HOUSING DEMAND."

"INCLUDING THE LAND AGREED IN CONNECTION WITH THE AIRPORT RAILWAY STATION SITES AND FOR THE SUPPLEMENTARY LAND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME FOR 1994/95, AN ADDITIONAL 10.94 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT."

"SEPARATELY, ANOTHER 1.48 HECTARES OF LAND WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PUBLIC RENTAL HOUSING. THIS DOES NOT REQUIRE LAND COMMISSION APPROVAL."

"IN TOTAL, OVER 10,500 ADDITIONAL FLATS WILL BE BUILT ON ALL THIS LAND. THIS EXCEEDS THE TARGET FOR EXTRA SUPPLY SET BY THE TASK FORCE ON LAND SUPPLY AND PROPERTY PRICES WHICH WAS 10, 000 FLATS."

DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

HOS	4.39 HA	4 500 FLATS
SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING	3.55 HA	2 923 FLATS
AR RELATED (TUNG CHUNG)	3.00 HA	2 384 FLATS
PUBLIC RENTAL	1.48 HA	734 FLATS
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TOTAL	12.42 HA	10 541 FLATS

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GOVERNOR OFFICIATES AT "HONG KONG ON SAN FRANCISCO BAY"

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SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR FRANK JORDAN ON WEDNESDAY (SAN FRANCISCO TIME) ISSUED A SPECIAL PROCLAMATION TO OFFICIALLY WELCOME THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TO THE CITY.

IN THE PROCLAMATION, THE MAYOR NOTED THAT THE GOVERNOR'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE WEST COAST SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE IN 1992 UNDERLINED THE CLOSE LINK BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES AND THE INCREASING INTEREST IN HONG KONG AMONG THE PEOPLE IN THE BAY AREA.

MAYOR JORDAN IS CURRENTLY ON A VISIT TO ASIA AND IS SCHEDULED TO MEET THE GOVERNOR IN HONG KONG.

MR PATTEN'S VISIT IS THE FIRST GUBERNATORIAL VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1986 WHEN THE LATE GOVERNOR EDWARD YOUDE VISITED THE CITY AND OPENED THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

/THE GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR HAD A TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO-STYLE HONG KONG CULTURE AS HE OFFICIATED AT "HONG KONG ON SAN FRANCISCO BAY", AN AFTERNOON OF HONG KONG EVENTS INCLUDING CHINESE DANCE AND ACROBATICS, DEMONSTRATIONS OF CHINESE CHOPMAKING, CALLIGRAPHY AND OTHER HONG KONG AND CHINESE CRAFTS.

ORGANISED BY THE HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION AND THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE, THE AFTERNOON BEGAN WITH THE GOVERNOR DOTTING THE EYES OF A "LION", FOLLOWED BY AN ENERGETIC LION DANCE. IT ALSO FEATURED A DEMONSTRATION BY RENOWNED HONG KONG CHEF, MARTIN YAN.

EARLIER IN THE DAY, MR PATTEN HAD VISITED THE HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND MET THE STAFF. HE THEN ADDRESSED AN AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 600 AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB CO-ORGANISED BY THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON, MR PATTEN SAID HIS IMPRESSION ON THIS VISIT WAS THAT PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE BULLISH ABOUT HONG KONG.

"WHEN I WAS HERE BEFORE, PEOPLE SOMETIMES USED TO EXPRESS THE WORRY THAT HAVING ANY SORT OF DISAGREEMENT WITH CHINA WOULD WRECK HONG KONG'S PROSPECTS OR HONG KONG'S ECONOMY."

HE SAID SINCE THAT TIME HONG KONG HAD SHOWN IT CAN STAND UP FOR ITS AUTONOMY WITHOUT DAMAGING ITS ECONOMY.

"ARGUABLY, WE HAVE STRENGTHENED THE ECONOMY," MR PATTEN SAID.

"THERE IS, I THINK, A LOT OF CONFIDENCE ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO GO THROUGH 1997 SUCCESSFULLY."

MR PATTEN SAID THE CLOSER HONG KONG GOT TO JUNE 30, 1997, THE MOST PEOPLE WERE GOING TO LOOK TO CHINESE OFFICIALS TO GIVE REASSURANCE ABOUT THE FUTURE.

"I CAN GO ON PREDICTING SUCCESS, BUT IT'S FOR CHINESE OFFICIALS TO SAY WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DO TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS."

THE GOVERNOR SPENDS THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON IN SAN FRANCISCO ON THURSDAY AND THEN TRAVELS TO SEATTLE FOR THE FINAL STOP ON HIS WEST COAST VISIT.

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HK TEAM TO ATTEND UN MEETING
ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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SOLICITOR GENERAL, MR DANIEL R FUNG QC, WILL LEAD A FIVE-MEMBER HONG KONG GOVERNMENT TEAM, AS PART OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION, TO ATTEND A HEARING OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, ON NOVEMBER^A 23 AND 24.

DURING THE MEETING, THE UN COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE UNITED KINGDOM'S SECOND PERIODIC REPORT UNDER ARTICLES 13-15 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (ICESCR) AND THE REPORTS OF THE BRITISH DEPENDENT TERRITORIES AND CROWN DEPENDENCIES UNDER ARTICLES 10-12 AND 13-15 OF THE COVENANT.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THESE REPORTS.

THE HONG KONG TEAM WILL ASSIST THE BRITISH DELEGATION IN ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS UNDER ICESCR IN HONG KONG, IN PARTICULAR, QUESTIONS AS TO THE STATE OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CURRENTLY ENJOYED BY THE COMMUNITY AND ON WHAT HAS BEEN ATTAINED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN TERMS OF THE ECONOMY, THE PROVISION OF HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION AND THE CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.

APART FROM MR FUNG, THE DELEGATION COMPRISES A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, MR DUNCAN PESCOD; A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION AND MANPOWER, MR RAYMOND FAN; A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR Y C CHENG; AND A CROWN COUNSEL, MR PETER WONG.

IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ON BEHALF OF ITS DEPENDENT TERRITORIES INCLUDING HONG KONG, SUBMITTED THE SECOND AND THIRD STAGES OF THE SECOND PERIODIC REPORT (CONCERNING ARTICLES 10-12 AND ARTICLES 13-15 OF THE ICESCR) TO THE UN COMMITTEE.

THOSE ARTICLES RECOGNISE THE RIGHT TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE FAMILY, MOTHERS, CHILDREN AND YOUNGER PERSONS (ARTICLE 10), TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING (ARTICLE 11), TO THE ENJOYMENT OF THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH (ARTICLE 12), TO AN EDUCATION (ARTICLES 13 AND 14), AND TO TAKE PART IN CULTURAL LIFE (ARTICLE 15).

THE REPORT IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG WAS PREPARED IN EARLY 1992. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE UN COMMITTEE RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT AND WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE VIA THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

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BEC PUBLISHES REVISED ELECTION GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATION

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) HAS PUBLISHED THE PROPOSED REVISION OF THE GUIDELINES ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION STARTING TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE CONSULTATION PERIOD WILL LAST UNTIL NOVEMBER 30 SO AS TO ENABLE THE BEC TO FINALISE THE REVISED GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION BY MID-DECEMBER, FOR THE REFERENCE OF THE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MC) ELECTIONS.

THE ELECTION PERIOD OF THE MC ELECTIONS STARTS ON JANUARY 9 NEXT YEAR.

THE BEC CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID THE BEC HAD REVIEWED VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURE AND THE ORIGINAL GUIDELINES IN THE LIGHT OF COMMENTS, VIEWS, CRITICISMS AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC, ELECTORS, CANDIDATES, POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS AND ELECTION OFFICIALS AND FROM THE EXPERIENCE GATHERED FROM THE COURSE OF THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18.

HE SAID WHERE IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE INTRODUCED IN TIME FOR THE MC ELECTIONS, THESE HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED REVISED GUIDELINES NOW PUT FORWARD FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE OTHER MORE INVOLVED ISSUES REQUIRING DETAILED CONSIDERATION WHICH WOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BEC REPORT ON THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR IN MID-DECEMBER.

"THE GUIDELINES WERE REVISED TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE ELECTIONS WOULD BE CONDUCTED MORE OPENLY, FAIRLY AND HONESTLY," THE CHAIRMAN SAID.

THE REVISIONS MAINLY INCLUDE:

(1) NOMINATION

* THE SPECIFIED NOMINATION FORM WOULD REQUIRE AN INTENDED CANDIDATE TO STATE HIS OCCUPATION AND ALLOW HIM TO STATE HIS POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

* ANY NOMINATION PAPER ON WHICH THE NAME OR ANY DETAIL OF THE CANDIDATE HAS BEEN AMENDED OR CORRECTED WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS ALL OR A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS HAVE SIGNED AGAINST EACH CORRECTION.

* CANDIDATE'S PHOTOGRAPH MUST BE TAKEN NOT LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS BEFORE SUBMISSION.

* THE TIME FOR ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS WOULD BE STANDARDISED AMONG ALL RETURNING OFFICERS.

(2) CANDIDATES' AGENTS

* THE PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION OF APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES' AGENTS, EXCEPT FOR ELECTION AGENTS, SHOULD BE STANDARDISED.

* CIVIL SERVANTS WITH EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED NOT TO BE CANDIDATES' AGENTS.

(3) AT THE POLLING STATION

* PRESIDING OFFICERS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE NUMBER OF BALLOT PAPERS IN THEIR POSSESSION BEFORE AND AFTER THE POLL TO THE CANDIDATES AND AGENTS PRESENT AT THE POLLING STATIONS.

* MOBILE POLLING STATIONS MAY BE DESIGNATED WHERE NECESSARY.

* MORE PUBLICITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ELECTORS OF UNCONTESTED CONSTITUENCIES ADVISING THEM THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO VOTE.

* WIDER PUBLICITY WOULD BE GIVEN ON THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE POLLING STATIONS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

* A GUIDE TO THE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE WOULD BE DISPLAYED AT POLLING STATIONS.

* SPECIAL DEVICE, BY WAY OF A TEMPLATE, WOULD BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE BLIND VOTERS TO MARK THEIR OWN BALLOT PAPERS TO MAINTAIN SECRECY OF VOTES.

(4) BALLOT BOXES

* AFTER CLOSE OF POLL, BALLOT BOXES SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN SIGHT OF THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR AGENTS PRESENT IN THE POLLING STATION UNTIL DELIVERY OF THE BOXES UNDER POLICE ESCORT.

(5) COUNTING OF VOTES

* THE COUNTING PROCESS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MORE OPEN AND BETTER SCRUTINY.

(6) ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS

* NOTICES OF SUPPORT FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE PUBLISHED BY ANY ORGANISATION SHOULD BE TREATED AS ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS, THE EXPENSES FOR WHICH COUNTED TOWARDS ELECTION EXPENSES, AND THE ORGANISATION WOULD NEED TO BE AUTHORISED IN WRITING BY THE CANDIDATE CONCERNED FOR INCURRING SUCH EXPENSES.

(7) DISPLAY AT PUBLIC PLACES

* THE GUIDELINES WILL SET OUT THE CRITERIA FOR THE RESERVATION OF NON-KEY SPOTS TO LATE APPLICANTS.

* IF A NON-KEY SPOT AUTHORISED TO A CANDIDATE HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN UP WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, THE LICENCE AND PERMISSION SHOULD LAPSE AND BECOME INEFFECTIVE, AND THE SPOT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION BY OTHERS.

* JOINT POSTERS PUBLISHED BY TWO OR MORE CANDIDATES WOULD BE ALLOWED, AND THE EXPENSES WOULD HAVE TO BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE CANDIDATES CONCERNED IN EQUAL SHARES AS THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTION EXPENSES.

(8) TREATMENT OF UNAUTHORISED DISPLAYS

* IN ADDITION TO REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORISED DISPLAYS BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND CHARGING THE OFFENDING CANDIDATE REMOVAL EXPENSES AND THE CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR FALSE DECLARATION OF ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS, THE BEC MAY ALSO ISSUE PUBLIC CENSURE AGAINST THE OFFENDING CANDIDATE.

(9) ELECTIONEERING AT PRIVATE PREMISES

* WHERE A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN BY A BUILDING OR AN ESTATE THAT DOES NOT OFFEND AGAINST THE EQUAL AND FAIR TREATMENT PRINCIPLE REGARDING ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES OF ALL CANDIDATES IN THE CONSTITUENCY, AND WHERE SUCH DECISION IS NOT CARRIED OUT UNFAIRLY TOWARDS ANY OF THE CANDIDATE, THE BEC WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DECISION.

* THE DECISION OF OWNERS INCORPORATION, OWNERS COMMITTEE, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEE AND SO ON REGARDING ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES OF CANDIDATES IN THE COMMON PARTS OF THE BUILDING SHOULD COMPLY WITH THE FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT PRINCIPLE. CANDIDATES SHOULD ENSURE THAT SUCH DECISION BE COMPLIED WITH AND NOT AVAIL THEMSELVES OF ANY UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OVER OTHER CANDIDATES.

* THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WOULD ADOPT A CONSISTENT PRACTICE REGARDING ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES IN THE HOUSING ESTATES UNDER ITS CONTROL.

CANDIDATES MUST OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE RESPECTIVE HOUSING MANAGER BEFORE CONDUCTING ANY ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES INSIDE HOUSING ESTATES AND, IN PARTICULAR, BEFORE MAKING HOME VISITS IN THE HOUSING ESTATE CONCERNED.

(10) EXIT POLL

* EXIT POLL INTERVIEWERS SHOULD IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING BY ELECTORS.

(11) ELECTION EXPENSES AND DONATIONS

* COSTS OF NEGATIVE PUBLICITY LAUNCHED BY A CANDIDATE OR OTHERS ON HIS BEHALF OR FOR HIS BENEFIT ARE ELECTION EXPENSES, AND ALL RULES CONTROLLING ELECTION EXPENSES AND ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS APPLY.

* IN RESPECT OF THE ADDITIONAL CEILING OF ELECTION EXPENSES ALLOWED (\$20,000 FOR THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MARCH 1995), A PROMPT REPORT OF DAMAGE OR THEFT TO THE POLICE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

A COPY OF THE REPORT AND THE DECLARATIONS BY THE CANDIDATES AND ANY WITNESSES WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ENTRIES OF EXPENSES UNDER THIS CATEGORY INCLUDED IN THE RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES REQUIRED TO BE FILED UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES ORDINANCE.

(12) NAMEDROPPING

* WHEN A CANDIDATE HAS OBTAINED CONSENT OF SUPPORT FROM A PERSON WHO HOLDS A CERTAIN POSITION IN AN ORGANISATION, HE MUST MAKE SURE THAT IN HIS ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS HE DOES NOT MISREPRESENT THAT HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE ORGANISATION.

WHEN HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF AN ORGANISATION, HE SHOULD ENSURE THAT HIS ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS DO NOT GIVE A MISLEADING IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION, UNLESS THE DECISION OF THAT ORGANISATION IN GIVING HIS SUPPORT WAS MADE AT A MEETING OF ALL ITS MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING.

THE CHAIRMAN APPEALS TO ALL THOSE INTERESTED TO SEND IN THEIR VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE BEC SECRETARIAT ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 30 AT:

10/F, HARBOUR CENTRE,
25 HARBOUR ROAD,
WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.

ENQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO 827 7144.

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PROPOSAL TO MAKE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS A COMPENSABLE DISEASE

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WORKERS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS AS A RESULT OF PROLONGED EMPLOYMENT IN SPECIFIC NOISY OCCUPATIONS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION UNDER A PROPOSED SCHEME.

OUTLINING DETAILS OF THE COMPENSATION SCHEME AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS (COMPENSATION) BILL TO BE GAZETTED TOMORROW (FRIDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE EDUCATION AND MANPOWER BRANCH SAID WHILE THE SCHEME WAS A REMEDIAL MEASURE FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING THE OCCURRENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS AS A LONGER TERM STRATEGY.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION UNDER THE SCHEME, AN APPLICANT MUST SATISFY THE FOLLOWING DISABILITY AND OCCUPATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- (A) HE SHOULD BE SUFFERING FROM SUBSTANTIAL SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS AS MEASURED BY A SPECIFIED STANDARD WHICH AMOUNTS TO SEVERE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING HUMAN SPEECH;
- (B) HE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 10 YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT IN AGGREGATE IN SPECIFIED NOISY OCCUPATIONS IN HONG KONG; AND

/(C) HE SHOULD

(C) HE SHOULD HAVE A PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT (CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT BROADLY MEANS A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT WHERE THE EMPLOYEE HAS WORKED FOR THE SAME EMPLOYER FOR FOUR WEEKS OR MORE, PRIOR TO A GIVEN DATE, FOR AT LEAST 18 HOURS IN EACH OF THE FOUR WEEKS, AS DEFINED UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE) IN A SPECIFIED NOISY OCCUPATION WITHIN THE 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THE APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION.

A PERSON WHO FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPHS (A) AND (B) ABOVE AND HAS BEEN EMPLOYED FOR A PERIOD OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT IN A SPECIFIED NOISY OCCUPATION WITHIN THE 24 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHEME, MAY ALSO APPLY FOR COMPENSATION.

"THIS IS INTENDED TO COVER PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN NOISY OCCUPATIONS BUT HAVE LEFT SUCH EMPLOYMENT TWO YEARS BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE ORDINANCE," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

ON THE FUNDING OF THE SCHEME, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECOMMENDED THAT A 1.5 PER CENT LEVY BE IMPOSED ON THE INSURANCE PREMIUMS OF ALL EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION POLICIES, AND THE LEVIES WILL BE COLLECTED BY THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD.

THE GOVERNMENT, AS AN EMPLOYER, WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SCHEME. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE ANNUAL INCOME GENERATED TO THE SCHEME WOULD BE \$45 MILLION AT 1994 PRICE LEVEL. THIS CONSISTS OF \$3 MILLION GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION AND \$42 MILLION LEVY INCOME.

TO ENABLE CLAIMANTS TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO INJECT \$100 MILLION INTO THE FUND AND TO PROVIDE A \$115 MILLION INTEREST-FREE LOAN.

"THE LOAN WILL NEED TO BE REPAID TO THE GOVERNMENT IN NINE ANNUAL PAYMENTS STARTING FROM THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR OF THE OPERATION OF THE COMPENSATION SCHEME," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNOR WILL APPOINT A STATUTORY OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME.

THE BOARD WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO PRESCRIBE PROCEDURES FOR HEARING LOSS ASSESSMENTS, VERIFY EMPLOYMENT HISTORY, DETERMINE COMPENSATION AND MAKE PAYMENTS.

"THE BOARD MAY EMPLOY ITS OWN STAFF TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS. IT WOULD BE TRIPARTITE IN COMPOSITION AND ITS MEMBERS WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEDICAL PROFESSION," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDED THAT COMPUTATION OF COMPENSATION PAYMENT SHOULD FOLLOW THE FORMULA FOR COMPENSATING PERMANENT INCAPACITY UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

"COMPENSATION WOULD BE PAID IN THE FORM OF A LUMP SUM PAYMENT CALCULATED ACCORDING TO AN APPLICANT'S AGE, EARNINGS AND THE DEGREE OF PERMANENT INCAPACITY.

"UNDER THE SCHEME, TOTAL DEAFNESS, AS AN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, WOULD BE EQUATED TO 60 PER CENT INCAPACITY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE POINTED OUT THAT TOTAL DEAFNESS BECAUSE OF A WORK-RELATED ACCIDENT SUCH AS IN THE CASE OF EXPLOSION WOULD BE EQUATED TO 100 PER CENT INCAPACITY UNDER THE EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION ORDINANCE.

"AS OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS DEVELOPS INSIDIOUSLY OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL YEARS, THE TRAUMATIC IMPACT OF THE DISABILITY IS NOT AS ACUTE AS THAT OF A WORK-RELATED ACCIDENT. A PERSON SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE IS MOST LIKELY TO HAVE CONTINUED WORKING AND MAY NOT SUFFER TOTAL LOSS OF EARNING CAPACITY," THE SPOKESMAN NOTED.

THE BILL PROVIDES FOR A QUEUING SYSTEM FOR PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION IN A CONTINGENCY SITUATION IN WHICH THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO MEET ALL ELIGIBLE CLAIMS.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AT PRESENT THERE ARE ABOUT 60,000 EMPLOYEES WHO ARE EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE NOISE AT WORK, ABOUT 1,000 OF THEM COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS HAVING OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS.

COMMENTING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS (NOISE AT WORK) REGULATION WHICH HAD COME IN FORCE SINCE JULY 1993 REQUIRED EMPLOYERS TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO REDUCE NOISE AT SOURCE IN THE WORK PLACE AND TO PROVIDE HEARING PROTECTORS TO EMPLOYEES.

"THE REGULATION ALSO REQUIRES AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS PROVIDED WITH A HEARING PROTECTOR TO USE IT WHEN HE IS LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE NOISE AT THE WORK PLACE.

"BESIDES, THE GOVERNMENT TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COUNCIL ARE DEVISING MEASURES TO INCULCATE AN AWARENESS AMONG EMPLOYERS AS WELL AS EMPLOYEES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING PROTECTION," HE SAID.

THE BILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 30.

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TWO BILLS ON ELECTRONIC TRADE DATA INTERCHANGE

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A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE IMPORT AND EXPORT (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1994 AND THE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING (CLOTHING INDUSTRY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 WOULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 7.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IN 1992, THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A COMMUNITY ELECTRONIC TRADING SERVICE (CETS).

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CETS IS TO ADOPT ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI) AND OTHER TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE THE FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE FOR THE HONG KONG TRADING COMMUNITY," HE SAID.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1994

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INITIALLY, THE TRADING COMMUNITY WILL BE ABLE TO APPLY FOR RESTRAINED TEXTILES EXPORT LICENCES AND TO LODGE IMPORT AND EXPORT DECLARATIONS THROUGH THE CETS.

"THESE TWO BILLS AIM AT MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR EDI TO BE ALSO USED IN ADDITION TO CURRENT PAPER-BASED METHODS," THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A TRIAL SERVICE WILL BE LAUNCHED NEXT YEAR. PENDING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS TRIAL, THE CETS WILL BE OPENED UP TO THE ENTIRE TRADING COMMUNITY IN 1996.

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HK REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES

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THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO PLAYING ITS PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE RHINOCEROS AND TIGER.

THIS WAS STATED BY A PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES, MR ERIC JOHNSON, AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TRADE IN RHINOCEROS AND TIGER SPECIMENS.

THE MEETING FORMED PART OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADING IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITIES) CURRENTLY HELD IN FLORIDA.

MR JOHNSON SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION FROM THE CITIES SECRETARIAT WHICH VISITED HONG KONG IN JANUARY THIS YEAR SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE STRICT CONTROL OVER TRADE IN RHINOCEROS AND TIGER PRODUCTS IN HONG KONG.

"SINCE THE VISIT OF THIS HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION, ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONTROL HAS BEEN INTENSIFIED FURTHER. ALL 2,000 OR SO TRADITIONAL MEDICINE SHOPS HAVE BEEN INSPECTED BY OUR CITIES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND NEARLY 400 SEARCHED UNDER WARRANT, RESULTING IN OVER 200 PROSECUTIONS.

"CUSTOMS AND POLICE OFFICERS ARE ALSO ASSISTING IN THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS.

"THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT THE MESSAGE IS GETTING THROUGH TO THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE TRADE IN HONG KONG THAT TRADE IN RHINOCEROS HORN AND TIGER PARTS AND MEDICINES CLAIMING TO CONTAIN SUCH INGREDIENTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

"THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY THE INTRODUCTION RECENTLY INTO HONG KONG'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF PROPOSALS TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE PENALTIES PROVIDED FOR UNDER OUR ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION," HE SAID.

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UNDER THE PROPOSAL, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL IMPORT, EXPORT OR POSSESSION OF A HIGHLY ENDANGERED SPECIES - INCLUDING MEDICINES CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO OR TIGER INGREDIENTS - FOR A COMMERCIAL PURPOSE WILL INCREASE TO A FINE OF \$5 MILLION AND TWO YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

"WE INTEND TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF ENFORCEMENT AND INCREASE OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC AWAY FROM CONSUMPTION OF PRODUCTS CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINOCEROS OR TIGER INGREDIENTS," HE SAID.

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AN EVENING OF PRIDE AND PLEASURE FOR THE FANGS

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THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, TODAY (THURSDAY) PROUDLY HONOURED A REMARKABLE WOMAN FANG ZHAOLING, WHOM SHE LOVES DEEPLY AS A MOTHER AND AS AN ARTIST.

"IN MY 32 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE, I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO MAKE MANY SPEECHES, PAY MANY TRIBUTES AND CUT MANY RIBBONS.

"AS IMPORTANT AS THEY ALL WERE, NONE HAS GIVEN ME AS MUCH PLEASURE AND SENSE OF PRIDE THAN THE OCCASION THIS EVENING," MRS CHAN TOLD THE VISITORS TO HER MOTHER'S EXHIBITION ENTITLED "THE PASSIONATE REALM" IN THE MUSEUM OF ART.

SHE COMMENDED MADAM FANG AS A WOMAN OF GREAT COMPASSION AND HUMANITY AND AS AN ARTIST OF INCREDIBLE ENERGY, SENSITIVITY, INTELLIGENCE AND VISION.

WIDOWED TRAGICALLY AT A VERY EARLY AGE WITH A LARGE BUT YOUNG FAMILY, MADAM FANG HAS NEVERTHELESS SUCCEEDED, WITH THE SUPPORT OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, TO RAISE EIGHT CHILDREN.

AND, AT THE SAME TIME, SHE HAS ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION AS ONE OF CHINA'S FOREMOST ARTISTS WHOSE TALENTS ARE RECOGNISED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE FANG FAMILY IS KNOWN IN TOWN TO BE VERY CLOSELY KNITTED.

"WE FANGS BELIEVE IN THE VIRTUES OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY, FAIR PLAY AND RESPECT FOR ONE'S FAMILY AND FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS.

"WE WERE ALSO TAUGHT TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET, TO MAKE THE MOST OF ONE'S TALENTS AND ABILITIES AND TO SUPPORT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY AROUND US PARTICULARLY IN TIMES OF NEED.

"IT IS DIFFICULT TO THINK OF A BETTER ROLE MODEL FOR THESE VALUES THAN FANG ZHAOLING," SHE SAID.

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COMPANIES REGISTRY PROVIDES NEW SERVICES

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A COMPUTERISED INDEX OF DIRECTORS OF COMPANIES LISTED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC SEARCH AT THE COMPANIES REGISTRY AFTER PAYMENT OF AN APPROPRIATE FEE FROM NOVEMBER 21, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

THE FEES FOR INSPECTING THE INDEX ARE SET AT \$10 PER SEARCH AND \$20 PER PRINTOUT, AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COSTS OF RUNNING THE SERVICE BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY.

A NEW FEE OF \$10 WILL ALSO BE CHARGED WITH EFFECT FROM THE SAME DAY FOR INSPECTING THE REGISTER OF DISQUALIFICATION ORDERS KEPT BY THE COMPANIES REGISTRY UNDER SECTION 168R OF THE COMPANIES ORDINANCE.

DETAILS OF THE FEES WERE PUBLISHED IN THE GAZETTE ON NOVEMBER 4.

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STATISTICS ON OUTWARD PROCESSING TRADE IN CHINA
FOR SECOND QUARTER

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IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1994, 47% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 74% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 42% FOR RE-EXPORTS, ACCORDING TO STATISTICS RELEASED TODAY (THURSDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 75% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 81% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993 WERE 48% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 73% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 43% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 74% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 85% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1994, 45% OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING; THE FIGURE WAS 72% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS, AND 40% FOR RE-EXPORTS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, 76% OF HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA WERE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD, 81% OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

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THE CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1993 WERE 48% FOR TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA, 73% FOR DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA, 42% FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, 73% FOR IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND 81% FOR RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

TO PROVIDE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA INITIATED BY HONG KONG FIRMS, THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SAMPLE SURVEY FROM THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1988 TO DISTINGUISH HONG KONG'S EXPORTS TO CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS BEEN EXTENDED AS FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1989 TO SEGREGATE HONG KONG'S IMPORTS FROM CHINA INTO THOSE WHICH ARE RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

STARTING FROM THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1991, THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY HAS FURTHER BEEN EXTENDED TO COVER HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA.

THE RESULTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1994 ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

IN VALUE TERMS, \$45,566 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1994 WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 9% OVER THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1993.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING DECREASED BY 2% TO \$11,513 MILLION WHILST THE VALUE OF RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 13% TO \$34,052 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 19% TO \$85,930 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$100,211 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 11%.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1994, \$80,631 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA WERE FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 7% OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 1993.

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING DROPPED BY 8% TO \$19,772 MILLION WHILE THAT FOR RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING GREW BY 13% TO \$60,859 MILLION.

OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF COMPARISON, THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING INCREASED BY 21% TO \$158,157 MILLION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, \$183,023 MILLION OF HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA WERE PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 14%.

THE ESTIMATES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER AND THE FIRST HALF OF 1994 AND THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES OVER THE SAME PERIOD IN 1993 ARE SUMMARISED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE :-

ESTIMATED VALUE AND PROPORTION OF TRADE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, 2ND QUARTER AND FIRST HALF OF 1994

	2ND QTR 1994	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER 2ND QTR 1993	FIRST HALF 1994	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER FIRST HALF 1993
	(HK\$ MN)	(%)	(HK\$ MN)	(%)
TOTAL TRADE VALUE *:				
TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	97,036	+11.8	178,117	+12.6
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	15,525	- 3.1	27,476	- 6.7
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	81,511	+15.2	150,641	+17.0
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	114,617	+18.0	207,485	+15.6
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	123,064	+15.3	226,728	+14.0

ESTIMATED VALUE INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA:

TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	45,566	+ 9.0	80,631	+ 6.8
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	11,513	- 1.6	19,772	- 8.3
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	34,052	+13.1	60,859	+12.9
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	85,930	+19.2	158,157	+21.0
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	100,211	+10.9	183,023	+13.7

ESTIMATED PROPORTION INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA:

	2ND QTR. 1994	2ND QTR. 1993	FIRST HALF 1994	FIRST HALF 1993
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TOTAL EXPORTS TO CHINA	47.0	48.2	45.3	47.7
DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO CHINA	74.2	73.0	72.0	73.2
RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA	41.8	42.6	40.4	41.9
IMPORTS FROM CHINA	75.0	74.2	76.2	72.8
RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA	81.4	84.7	80.7	80.9

* THE VALUE EXCLUDES COMMODITIES AND TRANSACTIONS NOT CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO KIND.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY, EXPORTS (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS) TO CHINA FOR OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE EXPORTATION OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IMPORTS FROM CHINA RELATED TO OUTWARD PROCESSING REFER TO THE IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED GOODS FROM CHINA OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING.

RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA, PRODUCED THROUGH OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REFER TO THOSE RE-EXPORTS OF WHICH ALL OR PART OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-MANUFACTURES HAVE BEEN EXPORTED FROM OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO CHINA FOR PROCESSING, WITH A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR SUBSEQUENT RE-IMPORTATION OF THE PROCESSED GOODS INTO HONG KONG.

IN INTERPRETING THE STATISTICS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE VALUE AND PROPORTION OF IMPORTS FROM CHINA AND RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA, INVOLVING OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA, REFER TO THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GOODS INSTEAD OF JUST THE VALUE-ADDED CONTRIBUTED BY OUTWARD PROCESSING IN CHINA.

A SAMPLE OF TRADE DECLARATIONS IN RESPECT OF HONG KONG'S TRADE WITH CHINA (DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS TO CHINA, AND IMPORTS FROM CHINA) AS WELL AS HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS OF CHINA ORIGIN TO ALL COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CHINA IS SELECTED FOR ENUMERATION TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS CONCERNED.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SYSTEM OF RECORDING TRADE FLOWS, ALL MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ACROSS THE BORDER, FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE, WERE RECORDED AS EXTERNAL TRADE.

THUS THE MOVEMENTS OF GOODS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTWARD PROCESSING ARE CORRECTLY INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS.

THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY, HOWEVER, FACILITATE A MORE INFORMED ANALYSIS OF THE NATURE OF HONG KONG-CHINA TRADE, HE SAID.

"THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGULAR TRADE STATISTICS," HE ADDED.

THE SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SEPTEMBER 1994 ISSUE OF THE "HONG KONG EXTERNAL TRADE".

THE REPORT WILL BE ON SALE BY THE END OF THIS MONTH AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL, AND AT THE PUBLICATIONS SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT, 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, AT \$86 A COPY.

ENQUIRIES ON THE SURVEY RESULTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE TRADE SURVEYS AND RESEARCH SECTION OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT ON TELEPHONE 582 5037.

PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS INVITE APPLICATIONS

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PARENTS OF PRIMARY 6 PUPILS MAY APPLY FOR A SECONDARY 1 PLACE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN THE 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR IN ONE OF HONG KONG'S 26 AIDED PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FROM TOMORROW (FRIDAY) UNTIL DECEMBER 15.

AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID ALL PRIMARY 6 PUPILS PARTICIPATING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION EXERCISE IN THE 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR WOULD RECEIVE A LEAFLET WITH APPLICATION FORMS FOR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FROM THEIR PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

PARENTS ARE ADVISED TO CONSIDER APPLICATION BASED ON THE NEEDS, INTEREST AND ABILITIES OF THEIR CHILDREN.

THE SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFERED AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION TO THAT PROVIDED IN GRAMMAR AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS TO MEET DIFFERENT APTITUDES AND INCLINATIONS OF STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SUBJECTS PROVIDED IN ORDINARY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS, PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFER TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS SUCH AS ELECTRONICS AND ELECTRICITY; ART AND DESIGN; COMMERCE AND PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTS.

STUDENTS COMPLETING THEIR JUNIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION IN A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL MAY ENROL AFTER SECONDARY 3 IN APPROVED CRAFT APPRENTICESHIP SCHEMES OR CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES TO SECONDARY 5 AND THEN ENROL IN TECHNICIAN COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES.

THE INTRODUCTION OF SIXTH FORM CLASSES IN PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN 1992 ALLOWS ELIGIBLE SECONDARY 5 GRADUATES TO ENROL EITHER IN THE ENGINEERING STREAM OR THE COMMERCIAL STREAM IN THEIR OWN OR OTHER PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS SO THAT CAPABLE STUDENTS CAN HAVE AVENUES TO PURSUE TECHNOLOGICAL OR OTHER STUDIES IN UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

OPPORTUNITIES WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED THROUGH A BROADENED SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE VARIOUS POST-SECONDARY PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS.

AT PRESENT, 19 OF THE 26 PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS OFFER SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM.

"PREVOCATIONAL EDUCATION AIMS TO DEVELOP AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ETHICAL, AESTHETIC, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF LIFE AND HUMAN PROGRESS, THE MEANING OF WORK ATTITUDE, CO-OPERATION AND TEAM WORK AND AN APPRECIATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED VIA THE PUPIL'S RESPECTIVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS BY DECEMBER 15, 1994.

"PARENTS MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT ONCE THEIR CHILDREN ARE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION TO A PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ALLOCATION TO OTHER SCHOOLS. HOWEVER, UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS ARE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR CENTRAL ALLOCATION OF SCHOOL PLACES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

/HE SAID

HE SAID ALL APPLICANTS WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW ON FEBRUARY 11, 1995.

THOSE WHO ARE NOT INVITED FOR INTERVIEW BY JANUARY 26, 1995 ARE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES ALLOCATION SECTION ON 2891 2200.

THE SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT A LIMITED NUMBER OF SECONDARY 1 PLACES MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, PARTIALLY SIGHTED OR PARTIALLY HEARING STUDENTS BY SEPTEMBER 1995 IN THE FOLLOWING PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOLS:

- * CARITAS ST FRANCIS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL
2 CAINE ROAD, CARITAS HOUSE, CENTRAL
- * MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL (CHAI WAN)
SAN HA STREET, CHAI WAN
- * MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL (SHA TIN)
18-24 MAN LAI ROAD, SHA TIN
- * MARDEN FOUNDATION CARITAS PREVOCATIONAL SCHOOL (TUEN MUN)
SEK PAI TAU ROAD, T.M.T.L. 111, TUEN MUN

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134 APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS RECEIVED

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A TOTAL OF 134 APPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO \$677 MILLION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THE CLOSING DATE LAST TUESDAY (NOVEMBER 15) FOR THE \$200 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BE PROVIDED IN THE 1995/96 FINANCIAL YEAR FOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT PROJECTS.

AS IN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, THE BULK OF APPLICATIONS CAME FROM THE VARIOUS TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, WITH 98 APPLICATIONS, ACCOUNTING FOR \$477 MILLION.

THE OTHERS WERE FROM THE INDUSTRY SUPPORT BODIES, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES, TRADE AND INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS THE INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT.

THE APPLICATIONS FELL INTO SEVEN CATEGORIES - GENERAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, METALS, PLASTICS AS WELL AS TEXTILES AND CLOTHING.

OF THE 134 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, 37 APPLICATIONS TOTTALLING \$163.5 MILLION WERE MADE UNDER GENERAL CATEGORY AND 23 APPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO \$88 MILLION UNDER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

A TOTAL OF 33 APPLICATIONS COSTING \$112.7 MILLION AND 17 APPLICATIONS COSTING \$210.4 MILLION WERE SUBMITTED UNDER BIOTECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS CATEGORIES RESPECTIVELY.

/ELEVEN APPLICATIONS

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ELEVEN APPLICATIONS INVOLVING \$60.7 MILLION WENT TO METALS CATEGORY WHILE 10 APPLICATIONS AMOUNTING TO \$26.4 MILLION WENT TO PLASTICS CATEGORY.

THREE APPLICATIONS WERE MADE UNDER TEXTILE AND CLOTHING CATEGORY INVOLVING \$15.1 MILLION.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (THURSDAY), THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY, MR RAYMOND YOUNG, SAID A SERIES OF MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD BY VARIOUS COMMITTEES UNDER THE INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ITDC) IN DECEMBER TO CONDUCT PRELIMINARY VETTING OF THE APPLICATIONS.

THE APPLICATIONS WOULD THEN BE EXAMINED BY THE PROJECTS VETTING COMMITTEE (PVC) WHICH COMPRISED THE CHAIRMEN OF ITDC'S COMMITTEES AND OTHER ITDC MEMBERS BEFORE SUBMISSION TO THE ITDC FOR APPROVAL. THE RESULT OF THE APPLICATIONS WOULD BE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL NEXT YEAR.

"THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE PROJECTS COSTING LESS THAN \$10 MILLION WILL REST WITH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRY," MR YOUNG SAID, ADDING THAT PROJECTS COSTING \$10 MILLION OR ABOVE WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

ON THE FUNDING CRITERIA, HE SAID: "THE MAIN CRITERION ADOPTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PVC IS WHETHER THE APPLICATION IS 'MARKET DRIVEN', THAT IS, WHETHER THERE IS A GENUINE NEED IN THE INDUSTRY FOR THE DELIVERABLES OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT."

"NO PRIORITIES WOULD BE GIVEN FOR ANY PARTICULAR SECTOR OF INDUSTRY OR ANY SPECIFIC AREA OF TECHNOLOGY.

"PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING SUPPORT SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL INDUSTRIAL OR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG AND TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

"EXAMPLES ARE THOSE WHICH AIM TO PROVIDE A COMMUNAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT SERVICE, INTRODUCE NEW TECHNIQUES OF MANUFACTURING, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY OR ENHANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO INDUSTRY.

"ANOTHER CRITERION IS THAT PROJECTS SHOULD BE NON-PROFIT MAKING IN NATURE, EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE LONG-TERM," HE ADDED.

SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNUAL ESTIMATES, A PROVISION OF APPROXIMATELY \$200 MILLION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE 1995/96 FINANCIAL YEAR.

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GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS HOSPICE SERVICES

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THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TO SUPPORT HOSPICE SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY, THE DEPUTY TO THE GOVERNOR, MRS ANSON CHAN, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SHE WAS SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE ART ASIA HONG KONG '94 GALA PREVIEW, IN AID OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF HOSPICE CARE.

MRS CHAN SAID PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL ILLNESS AND THEIR FAMILIES NEEDED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND PERSONAL CARE BEYOND THE CONFINES OF CONVENTIONAL HOSPITAL SERVICES.

"THIS YEAR, THE GOVERNOR HAS PLEDGED TO INCREASE FURTHER RESOURCES FOR HOSPICE SERVICES OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

"AS A RESULT, BY 1998-1999, AN EXTRA 1,000 PATIENTS A YEAR WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE OUT THEIR TERMINAL ILLNESS IN COMFORT AND DIGNITY," SHE SAID.

MRS CHAN POINTED OUT THAT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WOULD PROVIDE HOSPICE CARE FOR 500 PATIENTS.

IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROVIDE FULL SUBVENTION TO THE BRADBURY HOSPICE FOR ITS OPERATION FROM 1995 AFTER ITS SEEDING GRANT FROM THE JOCKEY CLUB HAS BEEN USED UP AND WILL DISBURSE \$24 MILLION TO COVER ITS RECURRENT COSTS IN 1995-96.

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SUSPECTED BEAR GALL BLADDERS AND MUSK GRAIN SEIZED

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A QUANTITY OF SUSPECTED BEAR GALL BLADDERS AND MUSK GRAIN WERE SEIZED BY OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (AFD) IN AN OPERATION YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) MORNING.

AT ABOUT 11 AM YESTERDAY, AFD FIELD OFFICERS RAIDED A PREMISES, BELIEVED TO BE USED FOR TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE WHOLESALING, IN SHEUNG WAN. SOME 6.8 KILOGRAMS OF SUSPECTED BEAR GALL BLADDERS AND 5.2 KILOGRAMS OF SUSPECTED MUSK GRAIN WERE SEIZED.

THE SEIZED ITEMS HAVE AN ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE OF \$1.3 MILLION.

AFD'S ACTING SENIOR CONSERVATION OFFICER MR CHAN JEE-KEUNG REMINDED CHINESE MEDICINE TRADERS TO OBSERVE THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS (PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES) ORDINANCE.

"IT IS AN OFFENCE TO IMPORT, EXPORT OR POSSESS ENDANGERED SPECIES OR THEIR PARTS SUCH AS MUSK, BEAR GALL BLADDERS AND BILE POWDER EXCEPT UNDER A LICENCE ISSUED BY AFD," MR CHAN SAID.

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THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES INCLUDE A FINE OF \$25,000 ON FIRST OFFENCE AND A \$50,000 FINE PLUS SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT ON SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES. THE SEIZED PRODUCTS WILL BE MANDATORILY FORFEITED UPON CONVICTION.

PROPOSALS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE PENALTIES UNDER THE ORDINANCE, HE SAID.

INVESTIGATIONS ON YESTERDAY'S CASE ARE BEING CARRIED OUT AND PROSECUTION WILL BE INSTITUTED AGAINST THE OFFENDER.

MR CHAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT STRICT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS WOULD BE MAINTAINED TO DETER AND SUPPRESS THE TERRITORY'S ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES.

SINCE NOVEMBER 1, AFD HAS CONDUCTED 13 SEARCHES ON LOCAL MEDICINAL SHOPS, RESULTING IN THE SEIZURE OF SOME \$3 MILLION WORTH OF ENDANGERED SPECIES. THESE INCLUDE YESTERDAY'S SUSPECTED BEAR GALL BLADDERS AND MUSK GRAIN, AS WELL AS MEDICINES CLAIMING TO CONTAIN RHINO AND TIGER INGREDIENTS, PANGOLIN SCALES AND DRIED CROCODILE MEAT.

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OPERATION TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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A TERRITORY-WIDE OPERATION AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION MOUNTED BY THE POLICE HAS RESULTED IN THE ARRESTS OF 98 PEOPLE.

THE OPERATION IS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUOUS EFFORT TO FLUSH OUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

THE 98 SUSPECTED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARRESTED BY THE POLICE HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT. THOSE FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WILL BE REPATRIATED.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REITERATED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF ANY AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

"OUR LATEST OPERATION SHOULD DRIVE HOME THE POINT THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THIS POLICY. ANYONE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE IS ONLY CHEATING ONESELF," HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT APART FROM CONTINUOUS CHECKS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, THERE WAS NO LET-UP IN ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION EFFORTS AT THE BORDER.

"A HIGH STATE OF VIGILANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE AND THE SECURITY FORCES BOTH AT THE LAND AND SEA BORDERS," HE SAID.

DURING THE OPERATION, WHICH BEGAN AT 5 AM YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AND ENDED AT 5 AM TODAY, THE POLICE STEPPED UP THEIR IDENTIFICATION SPOT CHECKS IN PUBLIC PLACES AND CARRIED OUT CHECKS AT SUSPICIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

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LEGCO MEMBERS ON HERITAGE TOUR

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SIX LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS TODAY (THURSDAY) TOOK IN A NUMBER OF ANCIENT STRUCTURES AND MONUMENTS DURING A VISIT TO HISTORICAL SITES IN YUEN LONG.

THE MEMBERS ARE MR MAN SAI-CHEONG, MR MOSES CHENG MO-CHI, MR TIMOTHY HA WING-HO, MR SIMON IP SIK-ON, MS EMILY LAU WAI-HING AND MR HOWARD YOUNG.

THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, THE COMMISSIONER FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MRS RACHEL CARTLAND, THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, MR S H PAU AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD, MR DAVID LUNG, ALSO JOINED THEM.

THEY VISITED THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL, THE YUEN LONG OLD MARKET AND TAI FU TAI TO ACQUIRE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN THE TERRITORY.

THE PING SHAN HERITAGE TRAIL, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN HONG KONG, WAS INAUGURATED IN DECEMBER 1993.

LOCATED AT PING SHAN, YUEN LONG, THE ONE-KILOMETRE-LONG TRAIL LINKS UP A NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE STRUCTURES WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE, PROVIDING VISITORS WITH AN INSIGHT INTO THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DURING THE PAST CENTURIES IN A CONVENIENT HALF-DAY EXCURSION.

SINCE IT WAS OPENED, THE TRAIL HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY WELL PATRONISED BY BOTH TOURISTS AND LOCALS.

BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR, 238,769 PEOPLE HAD VISITED THE TRAIL AT A MONTHLY AVERAGE FIGURE OF 25,134.

YUEN LONG OLD MARKET, A TYPICAL TRADITIONAL MARKET PLACE, WAS FIRST SET UP IN 1669.

ALTHOUGH SOME OLD BUILDINGS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR REDEVELOPMENT, THE ORIGINAL LAYOUT OF THE MARKET HAS BEEN LARGELY MAINTAINED.

REMNANTS OF TWO GATE HOUSES, EARTH GOD SHRINES, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS LIKE THE TAI WONG TEMPLE, YUEN KWAN YI TAI TEMPLE, CHUN YUEN PAWN SHOP AND TUNG YICK TSAN (INN) STILL SURVIVE.

TAI FU TAI WAS BUILT PROBABLY IN 1865 AS A RESIDENCE BY MAN CHUNG-LUEN WHOSE ANCESTORS HAD SETTLED IN SAN TIN, YUEN LONG SINCE THE 15TH CENTURY.

THE BUILDING IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST TRADITIONAL RESIDENCES EVER BUILT IN HONG KONG, RENOWNED FOR ITS FINE ARCHITECTURAL DECORATIONS.

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN OPENED TO THE PUBLIC SINCE 1988, AFTER COMPLETION OF AN EXTENSIVE RESTORATION.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1994

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THE LEGCO MEMBERS WERE ALSO FULLY BRIEFED ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS OFFICE (AMO) OF THE RECREATION AND CULTURE BRANCH AND THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD OVER THE PAST YEARS.

IN THE FIELD OF ARCHAEOLOGY, THE MAMMOTH PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT MAJOR RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OPERATIONS WHICH HELPED TO FURTHER THE KNOWLEDGE OF PREHISTORIC ACTIVITIES IN THE HONG KONG REGION.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE AMO AND THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE BUSIEST PROGRAMME EVER TO RESTORE THE REMAINING EXAMPLES OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY AMO HAVE ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN AROUSING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROTECTION OF THE LOCAL HERITAGE.

ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE DETAILED IN THE "REPORT OF THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD 1992 AND 1993" RECENTLY PUBLISHED.

COPIES OF THE REPORT ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT AMO AND THE PUBLIC ENQUIRY COUNTERS OF DISTRICT OFFICES FOR COLLECTION BY THE PUBLIC.

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63 POLLUTION CASES IN OCTOBER

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A TOTAL OF 63 CONVICTIONS WERE MADE IN THE COURTS LAST MONTH FOR BREACHING ANTI-POLLUTION LEGISLATION ENFORCED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT.

AMONG THEM, 25 WERE CONVICTIONS MADE UNDER THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (WPCO), 15 UNDER THE NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE (NCO), 14 UNDER THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (APCO), SIX UNDER THE DUMPING AT SEA ACT 1974 (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES) ORDER 1975 (DASO), TWO UNDER THE OZONE LAYER PROTECTION ORDINANCE (OLPO) AND ONE UNDER THE WASTE DISPOSAL ORDINANCE (WDO).

THE FINES RANGED FROM \$1,000 TO \$50,000. OI MAN RESTAURANT LTD WAS FINED \$50,000 UPON ITS SECOND CONVICTION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENT IN A NOISE ABATEMENT NOTICE.

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HONG KONG-MACAU YACHT RACE

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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT 20 YACHTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A RACE BETWEEN HONG KONG AND MACAU ON SATURDAY (NOVEMBER 19).

THE RACE WILL START AT 10 AM FROM SOUTH-EAST OF LAMMA ISLAND FOLLOWING A COURSE PASSING SOUTH OF SIU A CHAU AND THEN TO MACAU.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT URGED MASTERS, COXSWAINS AND PERSONS-IN-CHARGE OF VESSELS NAVIGATING IN THIS AREA AND ON OR ACROSS THE TRACK TOWARDS MACAU TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION AT ALL TIMES, GIVING PRACTICAL CONSIDERATION TO THE CONTESTANTS.

"COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA 1972 IS MANDATORY," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS

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	\$ MILLION	TIME (HOURS)	CUMULATIVE CHANGE (\$ MILLION)
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OPENING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,551	0930	+112
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,435	1000	+112
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	+81
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	+82	1200	+82
LAF TODAY	-198	1500	+82
		1600	+82
LAF RATE 3.75% BID/5.75% OFFER	TWI 121.4	*-0.2*	17.11.94

/HONG KONG

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1994

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HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.82	18 MONTHS	2605	6.35	99.75	6.63
1 MONTH	4.83	23 MONTHS	3610	4.20	100.01	7.01
3 MONTHS	5.18	29 MONTHS	3704	6.15	97.67	7.33
6 MONTHS	5.51	36 MONTHS	3710	7.25	99.42	7.61
12 MONTHS	6.09	58 MONTHS	5909	7.45	97.40	8.27

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 24,898 MN

CLOSED 17 NOVEMBER 1994

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