



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S MEDIA SESSION

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THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEDIA SESSION BY THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON MR CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, AFTER VISITING TSING MA BRIDGE THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON:

GOVERNOR: GOOD AFTERNOON. I LAST CAME TO VISIT THIS FANTASTIC PROJECT IN AUGUST 1992 WHEN VERY LITTLE COULD BE SEEN THOUGH WORK HAD JUST COMMENCED. IT'S SPECTACULAR TO COME BACK TODAY, JUST OVER TWO YEARS LATER, AND TO SEE HOW MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN SUCH A VERY SHORT TIME. AND I'D LIKE, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, TO THANK THE DESIGN TEAM AND THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM FOR THE REALLY SUPERB JOB WHICH THEY'VE DONE. I THINK IT'S A REMINDER, IF WE NEEDED ONE, OF HOW MUCH WE CAN DO HERE IN HONG KONG, GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO GET ON WITH THE JOB. I THINK THIS BRIDGE WILL BE REGARDED AS A SYMBOL OF HONG KONG'S DYNAMISM. IT WILL BE AS WELL KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO. AND I THINK IT WILL REMIND PEOPLE OF JUST WHAT A SUPERB PLACE HONG KONG IS.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT BELIEVES IN PROGRESS. WE'RE A COMMUNITY THAT BELIEVES IN GETTING THINGS DONE AND THIS BRIDGE JUST SHOWS WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY. SO, ONCE AGAIN, I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE GREAT SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT - ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING OF ALL THE AIRPORT CORE PROJECTS. I WOULD JUST ADD ONE OTHER FOOTNOTE. I WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO BE BRIEFED ABOUT THE EFFORTS WHICH MANAGEMENT AND THE WORKFORCE ARE MAKING TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS ON THE SITE. WE ALL KNOW THAT BY AND LARGE IN HONG KONG WE HAVE A PRETTY DEPLORABLE RECORD ON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND PARTICULARLY SAFETY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. AND I WAS THEREFORE PLEASED TO LEARN ALL THE TEAMS HERE ARE DOING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF INJURIES AND THE NUMBER OF FATALITIES, THOUGH THEY ARE NOT REMOTELY COMPLACENT ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE MANAGED TO DO SO FAR, BUT THEY ARE BUILDING ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS THEY HAVE MADE SO FAR AND HOPING THEY CAN KEEP THE RECORD AS GOOD AS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION: SO, ON THE COMING 26TH IS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOINT DECLARATION SIGNATURES. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING CAN GIVE US SPECIAL MEANING TO THIS?

/GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR: IT'S INTERESTING IF YOU LOOK BACK OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS AT WHAT HONG KONG HAS ACHIEVED WHEREVER IT'S BEEN ABLE TO GET ON WITH THE JOB, WORKING WITH THE MAXIMUM ELBOW ROOM. WE'VE MOVED IN THAT 10 YEARS FROM BEING THE 15TH LARGEST TRADING COMMUNITY IN THE WORLD TO BEING THE EIGHTH LARGEST. WE'VE HAD GREAT ECONOMIC SUCCESS, INCREASING OUR GDP PER HEAD BY ALMOST 80 PER CENT. AND THAT ECONOMIC SUCCESS HAS BEEN MATCHED BY SUCCESS IN SOCIAL PROGRAMMES AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, 10 YEARS AGO, ABOUT THREE PER CENT OF THE AGED GROUP WENT INTO UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER EDUCATION. NOW THE FIGURE IS ABOUT 18 PER CENT. THOSE ARE ALL EXAMPLES OF WHAT HONG KONG HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO WHEN IT HASN'T BEEN HELD BACK WHEN WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO CO-OPERATE WITH ONE ANOTHER AND WITH OTHER PEOPLE TO ACHIEVE THIS MIRACLE IN HONG KONG. I WISHED THAT WE HAD AS MUCH SUCCESS WITH THE SUBJECTS COVERED IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP, WHERE, ALAS FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ON WITH THINGS ON OUR OWN. I THINK THAT WHAT I HOPE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL SAY TO VICE PREMIER QIAN QICHEN IS, MAYBE FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND DAYS UNTIL THE TRANSITION TO CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY IN JULY 1997, WE SHOULD TAKE SOME INSPIRATION FROM WHAT HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG HAVE MANAGED TO DO FOR THEMSELVES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS AND TRY TO DO AS MUCH IN DEALING WITH THE VERY LARGE BACKLOG OF ISSUES ON THE JLG AGENDA. IF WE DON'T SUCCEED IN COPING WITH THOSE ISSUES, IT WILL BE THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT AND THE PRC WHICH SUFFER. SO I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT EVEN THOUGH SOME THINGS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE JLG LIKE THE RECENT AGREEMENT ON DEFENCE LANDS, I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE CAN SET OURSELVES FAR MORE AMBITIOUS TARGETS. AND AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, TAKING AN ANALOGY FROM THE WORLD CUP, INSTEAD OF GETTING INVOLVED IN ONE SCORELESS DRAW AFTER ANOTHER, I THINK PEOPLE IN HONG KONG WOULD LIKE US TO SCORE A FEW GOALS.

QUESTION: SIR, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW, THAT THE EXCO MEMBERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STANDARD OF SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS. WILL YOU REGARD CONCESSION, FOR EXAMPLE, IN JLG TALK, OR CONCESSION TOWARDS THE OFFICIAL CONTACT BETWEEN PWC AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, AS A KIND OF WAY TO IMPROVE SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE WAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND TO ACHIEVE BETTER CO-OPERATION IS FOR BOTH SIDES TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE TO BE EQUALLY COMMITTED TO THE WELL-BEING, THE PROSPERITY, THE STABILITY, THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. AND I THINK THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS COMMITMENT AS HAVE OUR TEAM IN THE JLG OVER THE YEARS. SO I HOPE WE GET THAT COMMITMENT ALL ROUND. WE WILL DO ANYTHING, WE WILL MAKE ANY MOVE WHICH WE BELIEVE IS IN THE SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM INTERESTS OF HONG KONG. AND I HOPE THAT GOES FOR OTHERS AS WELL.

QUESTION: GOVERNOR, ON THE CT9 ISSUE, CHINESE CRITICISED YOU AS DEALING WITH JARDINE. THEY SAY YOU'RE DEALING WITH JARDINE. WILL YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

GOVERNOR: YES, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY MADE A FULL STATEMENT THIS MORNING AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON IT. I DON'T WANT TO ADD ANYTHING LENGTHY TO WHAT HE SAID. BUT I WILL JUST ADD THIS. I THINK IT'S DEMEANING AND UNDIGNIFIED TO GET INVOLVED IN THE SORT OF EXCHANGES OF LANGUAGE WHICH WE HEARD YESTERDAY. I THINK THAT PEOPLE IN HONG KONG DON'T THINK MUCH OF THAT. I THINK THEY PREFER IT IF WE GET ON WITH THE JOB OF BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR HONG KONG. AND AS WE'VE SEEN HERE, THIS IS WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE HAVE THE CHANCE. THERE ARE TWO THINGS WHICH I THINK WE ALL NEED TO REMEMBER AND BE EXTREMELY CLEAR ABOUT. THE FIRST IS THAT HONG KONG HAS ACHIEVED WHAT IT HAS DONE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS PARTLY ON THE BASIS OF A REPUTATION FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT AND FOR PLAIN DEALING. SECONDLY, IF YOU ONCE ALLOW ECONOMIC DECISIONS - DECISIONS MADE BY GOVERNMENT, DECISIONS ABOUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS OR FRANCHISES - TO BE POLITICISED, TO BE DISTORTED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, IF YOU ONCE ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN, YOU SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE YOUR FUTURE PROSPERITY. YOU SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ECONOMY AND YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS. SO I THINK PEOPLE WHO MADE THOSE SORTS OF STATEMENT NEED TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT THEY DON'T DO VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR REPUTATION IN HONG KONG AND TO OUR PROSPECTS. I AM GOING TO HAVE TO SPEND A GOOD DEAL OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS, I AM SURE OTHER OFFICIALS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THE SAME, GIVING PEOPLE REASSURANCES ABOUT THE FUTURE, REASSURING THEM THAT THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WILL BE SPECTACULAR, THAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL, PROSPEROUS, OPEN, FREE, PLURALISTIC SOCIETY HERE IN HONG KONG. I HOPE THAT SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES, OFFICIALS IN THE PRC, RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAVE TO GIVE REASSURANCE AS WELL. AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO SAY THE RIGHT THINGS; IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACT IN THE RIGHT WAY AS WELL BECAUSE AS YOU KNOW ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, IN PRACTICAL TERMS, WHAT CAN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY ACTUALLY OFFER TO THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN THEY MEET?

GOVERNOR: HE CAN OFFER THAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO BE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO CO-OPERATE AT EVERY LEVEL WHENEVER THAT'S IN THE INTEREST OF HONG KONG. WE WANT A CO-OPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THAT OBJECTIVE. EVERY DAY, EVERY WEEK, THERE ARE A HUGE NUMBER OF EXCHANGES, OF CONTACTS BETWEEN HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEIR OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN THE PRC AND MOST OF THOSE CONTACTS, MOST OF THAT WORK GOES FORWARD EXTREMELY SUCCESSFULLY. I AM SORRY THAT IT'S THE CASE THAT SOME ISSUES HAVE BEEN POLITICISED BY OTHERS IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. IT DOESN'T, I REPEAT, IT DOESN'T HURT ANYBODY EXCEPT THE FUTURE SAR GOVERNMENT AND THE PRC. SO I HOPE THAT'S MORE GENERALLY RECOGNISED. LAST ONE.

/QUESTION

QUESTION: MR PATTEN, YOU SAY YOU'LL DO ANYTHING FOR THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. BUT SURELY YOU'RE WRONG HERE TO BECOME A PROBLEM IN THAT CHINA, IN A SENSE, HAS MADE PERSONAL ATTACKS ... IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP TO RESOLVE THAT ISSUE?

GOVERNOR: I THINK THE PROBLEM THAT SOME CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE, APPEARS TO BE WITH THE POLICY RATHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE. THE POLICY IS QUITE SIMPLY THAT TO STAND UP FOR THE JOINT DECLARATION, TO STAND UP FOR THE CONCEPT OF "HONG KONG PEOPLE RUNNING HONG KONG", AND THAT "HONG KONG HAVING A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTONOMY". WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO STAND FOUR-SQUARE BY THE JOINT DECLARATION UNTIL JUNE 30, 1997 AS SOVEREIGN AND FOR 50 YEARS THEREAFTER AS A PARTY TO THE JOINT DECLARATION, WHICH IS AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY. SO NOBODY SHOULD EXPECT US TO GIVE UP OUR DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT HONG KONG REMAINS AS PROSPEROUS, AS STABLE, AS SECURE, AS OPEN, AND AS FREE IN THE FUTURE AS IT IS TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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CLEAN GOVERNMENT AND PLAIN DEALING CONTRIBUTE TO HK'S SUCCESS

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, THIS (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON SAID HONG KONG HAD ACHIEVED WHAT IT HAD DONE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS PARTLY ON THE BASIS OF A REPUTATION FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT AND FOR PLAIN DEALING.

RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS AFTER HIS VISIT TO THE TSING MA BRIDGE WORK SITE ABOUT CRITICISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT DEALT WITH JARDINES ON THE CT9 ISSUE, THE GOVERNOR SAID: "IF YOU ONCE ALLOW ECONOMIC DECISIONS - DECISIONS MADE BY GOVERNMENT, DECISIONS ABOUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS AND PRANCHISES - TO BE POLITICISED OR TO BE DISTORTED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, YOU SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE YOUR FUTURE PROSPERITY.

"YOU SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ECONOMY AND YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS."

SUPPORTING THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THIS MORNING, MR PATTEN SAID: "I THINK PEOPLE WHO MADE THOSE SORTS OF STATEMENT NEED TO BE VERY CAREFUL THAT THEY DON'T DO VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO OUR REPUTATION IN HONG KONG AND TO OUR PROSPECTS."

HE SAID HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS WERE GOING TO SPEND A GOOD DEAL OF THE NEXT THREE YEARS GIVING PEOPLE REASSURANCES ABOUT THE FUTURE AND THE CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL, PROSPEROUS, OPEN, FREE, PLURALISTIC SOCIETY HERE IN HONG KONG.

"I HOPE THAT SOME OF OUR COLLEAGUES, OFFICIALS IN THE PRC, RECOGNISE THAT THEY HAVE TO GIVE REASSURANCE AS WELL," MR PATTEN SAID.

"IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAY THE RIGHT THINGS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACT IN THE RIGHT WAY AS WELL BECAUSE ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS."

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GOVERNOR DESCRIBES TSING MA BRIDGE AS
"SYMBOL OF HONG KONG'S DYNAMISM"

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THE GOVERNOR, THE RT HON CHRISTOPHER PATTEN, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) DESCRIBED THE TSING MA SUSPENSION BRIDGE AS A "SYMBOL OF HONG KONG'S DYNAMISM", WHICH WOULD BECOME AS WELL KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS THE FAMOUS GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

MR PATTEN TOURED THE CONSTRUCTION SITES ON BOTH THE TSING YI AND MA WAN SIDES OF THE BRIDGE TODAY, AND WATCHED THE AERIAL SPINNING OF 2,200-METRE-LONG SUSPENSION CABLES WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE 1,377-METRE-LONG CENTRAL SPAN.

"THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE WORLD TODAY - AND ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL," MR PATTEN SAID.

"IT WILL BECOME A SYMBOL OF HONG KONG'S DYNAMISM, AND WILL BE AS WELL KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD AS THE FAMOUS GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

"THE STRUCTURE IS SPECTACULAR AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM ARE MOST IMPRESSIVE.

"IN JUST OVER TWO YEARS SINCE WORK STARTED ON SITE, THE CONTRACTORS HAVE BUILT THE TWO ELEGANT TWIN TOWERS, AS WELL AS MASSIVE ANCHORAGES FOR THE SUSPENSION SYSTEM.

"THEY ARE NOW SPINNING THE LARGE CABLES WHICH WILL SUPPORT WHAT WILL BE THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUSPENSION SPAN CARRYING A RAILWAY AS WELL AS A ROAD.

"THE CONTRACTORS HAVE MADE RAPID PROGRESS SINCE WORK BEGAN IN MAY 1992 AND THEY ARE WELL IN LINE FOR COMPLETION ON SCHEDULE IN MAY 1997.

"BY ANY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS THE PROGRESS IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT AND I CONGRATULATE ALL CONCERNED - THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT, THE DESIGNERS, MOTT MACDONALD, AND THE CONTRACTORS, A JOINT VENTURE OF TRAFALGAR HOUSE, COSTAIN AND MITSUI."

THE GOVERNOR SAID THE TSING MA BRIDGE FORMED PART OF THE AIRPORT CORE PROGRAMME WHICH WOULD PROVIDE HONG KONG WITH ITS INFRASTRUCTURAL BASE FOR THE NEXT CENTURY WITH A NEW AIRPORT, RAILWAY, HIGHWAYS, AND A NEW TOWN, AS WELL AS WIDE EXPANSES OF NEWLY RECLAIMED LAND.

"OUR TALKS WITH THE CHINESE SIDE ON FINANCING FOR THE AIRPORT AND AIRPORT RAILWAY ARE CONTINUING, AND I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED VERY SOON. WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

"IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE HERE A MAJOR SUCCESS STORY ON THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME," SAID MR PATTEN.

"WORK IS UNDER WAY ON ALL THE 10 CORE PROJECTS, STRETCHING FROM CENTRAL TO CHEK LAP KOK, AND WE HAVE CONTRACTORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO BRING THIS IMAGINATIVE PROGRAMME TO FRUITION."

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS WORTH MORE THAN \$51 BILLION WERE UNDER WAY ON THE ACP.

IN ADDITION TO THE TSING MA BRIDGE, THEY COVERED THE LAND FORMATION FOR THE AIRPORT WHICH WAS OVER 65 PER CENT COMPLETE, MORE LAND RECLAMATION AT WEST KOWLOON AND CENTRAL, AND 34 KILOMETRES OF HIGHWAYS STRETCHING BETWEEN THE AIRPORT SITE AND HONG KONG ISLAND INCLUDING HONG KONG'S THIRD CROSS-HARBOUR ROAD TUNNEL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID CONSTRUCTION OF THE TSING MA BRIDGE, WHICH WOULD FORM PART OF THE LANTAU FIXED CROSSING, HAD REACHED ITS MOST IMPRESSIVE STAGE WITH THE AERIAL SPINNING OF 2.2-KILOMETRE-LONG MAIN SUSPENSION CABLES OVER THE BRIDGE'S TWIN 206-METRE-HIGH TOWERS ON TSING YI AND MA WAN.

THE SPINNING BEGAN IN JULY, JUST TWO YEARS AFTER CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON THE BRIDGE.

WORK ON THE \$7.2 BILLION FIVE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS NOW 60 PER CENT COMPLETE.

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LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL GOVT CONTRACTS

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RESPONDING TO PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE TYPE OF COMPANY WHICH SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF CT9, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY, SIR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE GRANTING OF CONTRACTS FOR THIS PROJECT WAS NOT BASED ON POLITICAL FACTORS.

"THE GOVERNMENT OPERATES A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL ITS CONTRACTS, INCLUDING CT9," SIR HAMISH SAID.

"I AND MY COLLEAGUES HAVE SPENT OUR CAREERS ENSURING THAT SUCH DECISIONS ARE TAKEN PURELY ON THEIR MERITS, WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICS OR THE NATIONALITY OF BIDDERS. WE HAVE NOT AND WILL NOT ALTER THIS 'LEVEL PLAYING FIELD' POLICY.

"TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE IS UTTERLY GROUNDLESS, AND MOST DAMAGING TO HONG KONG - OUR OBJECTIVITY IN SUCH MATTERS HAS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN ATTRACTING BIDS. DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES RUN COUNTER TO ALL THAT THE GATT (GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE) AND ITS SUCCESSOR, THE WTO (WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION), IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE."

RECALLING THE HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY NOTED THAT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST WERE INVITED IN EARLY 1992, WHICH RESULTED IN FIVE SUBMISSIONS.

ONE WAS REJECTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROVEN CONTAINER TERMINAL EXPERTISE. THREE OF THE OTHER SUBMISSIONS INVOLVED THE TWO MAJOR EXISTING TERMINAL OPERATORS, MODERN TERMINALS LIMITED (MTL) AND HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS (HIT), IN VARYING COMBINATIONS.

THE OTHER BIDDER - TSING YI CONTAINER TERMINAL CONSORTIUM - PRIMARILY INVOLVED JARDINES, SEALAND, SUN HUNG KAI PROPERTIES AND NEW WORLD DEVELOPMENT. THE CONTAINER TERMINAL OPERATING EXPERTISE WAS PROVIDED BY SEALAND.

IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE COMPETITION, CT9 WAS SPLIT INTO TWO BERTHS FOR HIT AND MTL, AND TWO BERTHS FOR THE TSING YI CONSORTIUM.

THE GRANT OF LAND FOR CT9 WAS INCLUDED IN THE 1992/93 LAND SALES PROGRAMME, APPROVED BY THE LAND COMMISSION IN MARCH 1992.

SUBSEQUENTLY, LATER IN 1992, THE CHINESE SIDE HELD UP THE PROJECT ON THE BASIS THAT IT WAS A FRANCHISE REQUIRING CONSULTATION IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROCEED WITH THE CONSORTIA CONCERNED WAS MADE IN NOVEMBER 1992.

"IN CONSIDERING WHO SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE CT9, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FULL ACCOUNT OF THE COMPANIES' FINANCIAL VIABILITY, THEIR EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING CONTAINER TERMINALS AND THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THEIR PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING AND MANAGING THE NEW TERMINAL.

"THE CONSORTIA OF COMPANIES CHOSEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE THE FOUR BERTHS AT CT9 FULLY SATISFY THESE CRITERIA," HE EMPHASISED.

SIR HAMISH SAID THE CONSORTIA HAD VAST EXPERIENCE IN THE CONTAINER BUSINESS.

"SEALAND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST CONTAINER OPERATORS IN THE WORLD. JARDINES ALSO HAS EXTENSIVE CONTAINER HANDLING EXPERIENCE, ALTHOUGH ITS ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF CT9 WILL RELATE MAINLY TO ADMINISTRATION AND MARKETING," HE ADDED.

SIR HAMISH SAID IT WAS NOW VITAL FOR HONG KONG'S ECONOMY THAT THE CHINESE SIDE SHOULD CONSIDER THE PROJECT ON ITS MERITS AND ENDORSE IT SO THAT WORK COULD GET UNDER WAY WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. THE PROJECT WAS ALREADY ABOUT 18 MONTHS BEHIND SCHEDULE, HE ADDED.

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EXCO ENDORSES SAHR RECOMMENDATIONS

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THE 22 RECOMMENDATIONS DRAWN UP BY THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION (SAHR) HAVE BEEN ENDORSED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE MRS SHELLEY LAU ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

THIS FOLLOWS A PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXERCISE CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT LAST YEAR TO ASSESS VIEWS OF THE COMMUNITY ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND AFTER EXAMINING THE PRACTICE IN SEVERAL OVERSEAS COUNTRIES.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO EXPLAIN DETAILS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS, MRS LAU STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON SAHR WAS VALUE-NEUTRAL AND WOULD DEFER TO COMMUNITY VIEWS.

"WE WILL SEEK TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SAHR COULD BE SAFELY PRACTISED SO THAT THE RIGHTS OF BOTH PARENTS AND CHILDREN BORN OF SAHR PROCEDURE COULD BE PROTECTED," SHE SAID.

MRS LAU THANKED DR LEONG CHE-HUNG, CHAIRMAN OF THE FORMER COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION AND MEMBERS FOR THEIR THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF THIS COMPLEX ISSUE AND FOR MAKING SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS.

SHE POINTED OUT THAT IN FORMULATING POLICIES ON SAHR, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT DICTATE THE COMMUNITY'S VALUES OR REPRESENT ANY PARTICULAR SECTORIAL INTEREST, BUT WOULD INSTEAD SEEK MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ADVICE.

"THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH MOST PRACTICES OVERSEAS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE UK AND AUSTRALIA," SHE ADDED.

"PENDING THE SETTING UP OF A STATUTORY BODY, WE PROPOSE TO APPOINT A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONAL SAHR BOARD BY EARLY 1995 TO ADVISE ON THE DRAWING UP OF A CODE OF PRACTICE AND ON WHAT MATTERS SHOULD BE COVERED BY LEGISLATION LATER ON.

"WITHIN THE LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SHOULD BE LEFT TO DECIDE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE USE OF SAHR PRACTICE," SHE SAID.

OUTLINING THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION IN RESPECT OF THE COMMITTEE'S 22 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS, MRS LAU GAVE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS:

(1) STATUTORY CONTROLLING BODY

THE GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THERE IS A NEED:

- * TO LICENSE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS TO CARRY OUT SAHR PROCEDURES;
- * TO PROMULGATE A CODE OF PRACTICE TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF SAHR;
- * TO PROVIDE FOR A CENTRAL REGISTRY OF SEMEN DONORS AND A REGISTER OF SAHR PROCEDURES PERFORMED;
- * TO SEEK MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ADVICE WHEN FORMULATING POLICY ON SAHR.

THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE STATUTORY BODY SHOULD HAVE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS:

- * DETERMINING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EACH TYPE OF SAHR PROCEDURE AND EMBRYO RESEARCH SHOULD BE ALLOWED;
- * EXAMINING THE SOCIAL, MORAL, ETHICAL AND OTHER NON-MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SAHR, TAKING ADVICE ON THESE FROM AN ETHICS COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER THE STATUTORY BODY;
- * CONSULTING THE COMMUNITY ON NEW SAHR TECHNIQUES AND PROPOSALS FOR REGULATION;
- * PROMULGATING A CODE OF PRACTICE ON SAHR AND EMBRYO RESEARCH;

- * CONSIDERING APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSING OF MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS TO CARRY OUT SAHR AND TO CONDUCT EMBRYO RESEARCH;
- * CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES;
- * LICENSING PREMISES FOR THE PRACTICE OF SAHR AND EMBRYO RESEARCH;
- * SPECIFYING THE PARTICULAR SAHR PROCEDURE AND EMBRYO RESEARCH WHICH THE LICENSEE MAY PERFORM, SUBJECT TO ANY CONDITIONS IMPOSED, OR RECOMMENDATIONS MADE, BY THE STATUTORY BODY;
- * SPECIFYING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS CARRYING OUT SAHR AND/OR EMBRYO RESEARCH TO ESTABLISH AND TAKE ADVICE FROM THEIR OWN MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE;
- * HEARING APPEALS FROM APPLICANTS; AND
- * MAINTAINING REGISTERS, RECORDS AND STATISTICS.

THE STATUTORY BODY AND ITS ETHICS COMMITTEE WOULD BE SERVICED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE OTHER EXISTING MEDICAL/PARAMEDICAL/SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL BOARDS AND COUNCILS.

(II) LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN BORN BY DONOR INSEMINATION PROCEDURES

THE GOVERNMENT AGREES THAT THE LEGITIMACY OF CHILDREN BORN BY DONOR INSEMINATION SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY LAW. SECTIONS 9-11 OF THE PARENT AND CHILD ORDINANCE, WHICH WAS ENACTED IN MARCH 1993, HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED FOR THIS.

(III) ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

THE GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT GIVEN ITS EXCLUSION OF ANY THIRD PARTY TO THE MARRIAGE, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION BY HUSBAND (AIH) ATTRACTED THE FEWEST RESERVATIONS FROM RESPONDENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT ENDORSES THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT AIH SHOULD BE ALLOWED AND PROPOSE THAT NO CONTROL IS NECESSARY, OTHER THAN THAT AIH BE ADMINISTERED BY A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND THEREFORE SUBJECT TO PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND CONDUCT.

SINCE THE PARENT AND CHILD ORDINANCE PROVIDES THAT A MAN WHOSE SEMEN IS USED AFTER HIS DEATH SHALL NOT BE REGARDED AS THE FATHER OF THE CHILD, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE LAW SHOULD PRESCRIBE THAT A HUSBAND'S STORED SEMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PERISH AFTER HIS DEATH, UNLESS THE COUPLE HAS AFTER BEING BRIEFED ON THE CONSEQUENCES INDICATED TO THE CONTRARY.

AS REGARDS DONOR INSEMINATION (DI), THE GOVERNMENT SHARES THE CONCERN BY MANY PEOPLE THAT THIS INTRODUCES A THIRD PARTY INTO THE MARRIAGE.

/HOWEVER, THE

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT ITS USE SHOULD BE A MATTER OF PERSONAL CONSCIENCE AND SHOULD NOT BE DENIED TO COUPLES WHO FIND IT ACCEPTABLE. WHAT IS NEEDED IS PROPER SAFEGUARDS FOR ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

IN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT DI SHOULD BE AVAILABLE AT INSTITUTIONS LICENSED FOR THE PURPOSE AND SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING STATUTORY CONDITIONS :

- * ONLY BANKED SEMEN MEDICALLY TESTED AS SUITABLE FOR THE PURPOSE SHOULD BE USED. THE SEMEN DONOR MUST ALSO HAVE CONSENTED IN WRITING;
- * THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE'S MEDICAL PRACTITIONER IS SATISFIED THAT DI IS CLINICALLY THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF TREATMENT;
- * THE COUPLE MUST BE MARRIED. THEY MUST BOTH HAVE CONSENTED IN WRITING TO THE PROCEDURE AND TO THE USE OF THE DONOR SELECTED BY THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER; AND
- * WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO HIS ANONYMITY, THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONER HAS SELECTED AND SCREENED THE DONOR AND MADE KNOWN SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT HIM TO THE COUPLE.

THE GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT, TO REDUCE THE DANGER OF ACCIDENTAL INCEST, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FATHERED BY ANY SEMEN DONOR SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE LAW AND CODE OF PRACTICE REQUIRE SAHR INSTITUTIONS TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE AND THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OF SEMEN DONORS TO REPORT EACH SUCCESSFUL PREGNANCY AND BIRTH RESULTING FROM DI.

(IV) INFORMATION ON CHILDREN BORN OF DI PROCEDURE

WHILE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF A CHILD BORN OF DI TO KNOW HIS GENETIC ORIGINS, THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO MAINTAIN THE FAMILY'S PRIVACY AND RESPECT THE DONOR'S ANONYMITY.

ON BALANCE, THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THAT THE SEMEN DONOR'S IDENTITY SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL FROM THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE AND THE CHILD, AND VICE-VERSA.

EXPANDING ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE LAW SHOULD PROVIDE THE RIGHT FOR ALL PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 18 TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THEY WERE BORN FOLLOWING DI, AND IF SO, TO HAVE ACCESS TO CERTAIN NON-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ABOUT THE DONOR.

THE CENTRAL REGISTRY SHOULD BE UNDER A LEGAL DUTY TO COLLECT AND HOLD SUCH INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE.

AS THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS ON DI ARE EQUALLY APPLICABLE TO OTHER SAHR PROCEDURES INVOLVING EGG OR EMBRYO DONATION, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THEY SHOULD APPLY MUTATIS MUTANDIS TO ALL SAHR PROCEDURES.

(V) SURROGACY

GENETIC IN-VITRO FERTILISATION (IVF) SURROGACY INVOLVES FERTILISATION OF SEMEN AND OVUM FROM THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE OUTSIDE THE BODY, FOLLOWED BY PLACEMENT OF THE EMBRYO INTO A SURROGATE MOTHER FOR GESTATION AND DELIVERY.

THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE STRONG PUBLIC VIEWS AGAINST SURROGACY, PARTICULARLY IF IT INVOLVES COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OR IS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF A WOMAN WHO DESIRES A CHILD BUT DOES NOT WANT TO BE ENCUMBERED BY PREGNANCY.

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT SURROGACY SHOULD BE ACTIVELY DISCOURAGED AND ONLY PERMITTED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE ACCEPTS THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT COMMERCIAL SURROGACY, AND ITS ARRANGEMENT OR ADVERTISING, SHOULD BE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PROPOSES THAT, IN THE PARAMOUNT INTEREST OF THE CHILD, THE LAW SHOULD STATE THAT ANY SURROGACY AGREEMENT WILL BE LEGALLY UNENFORCEABLE.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A NEW COURT PROCEDURE IN LIEU OF ADOPTION FOR SURROGACY CASES, SECTION 12 OF THE PARENT AND CHILD ORDINANCE ACCEPTS A SURROGACY SITUATION WHERE ONE OF THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE IS INFERTILE AND A SEMEN OR OVUM DONOR IS USED.

HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT ONLY GENETIC IVF SURROGACY BE ALLOWED -- THAT IS, BOTH OF THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE MUST CONTRIBUTE THE GENETIC MATERIAL, WITH NO SEMEN OR OVUM DONOR INVOLVED.

THE GOVERNMENT FINDS THIS MORE ACCEPTABLE, SINCE IT KEEPS TO A MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF THIRD PARTIES INTRODUCED INTO THE MARRIAGE.

THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDATION THAT GENETIC IVF SURROGACY SHOULD BE ALLOWED ONLY FOR AN INFERTILE HUSBAND AND WIFE, ON THE BASIS OF CLINICAL JUDGMENT BY A PHYSICIAN THAT NO ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL TREATMENT IS POSSIBLE.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE CODE OF PRACTICE SHOULD ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN GREATER DETAIL.

RECOGNISING THAT BEING A SURROGATE MOTHER, CARRYING AND DELIVERING A BABY AND THEN GIVING HIM OR HER UP TO THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE, HAS PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WOMAN, THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE AGREES WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR BOTH THE COMMISSIONING COUPLE AND THE SURROGATE MOTHER (PLUS HER HUSBAND, IF ANY).

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THIS COUNSELLING SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE INSTITUTION OFFERING THE SAHR PROCEDURE AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL INVITE THE PROPOSED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY STATUTORY BODY TO CONSIDER HOW THIS SHOULD BE DONE.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ACCEPTS THAT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE SURROGATE MOTHER AND HER HUSBAND (IF ANY) SHOULD BE REQUIRED, ALTHOUGH THIS WILL NOT CREATE A CONTRACT FORCING THEM TO SURRENDER THE CHILD AFTER BIRTH.

WHILE ACCEPTING THE COMMITTEE'S VIEW THAT IT IS UNDESIRABLE FOR WOMAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN MARRIED AND WHO HAS NEVER HAD A CHILD OF HER OWN TO BE A SURROGATE MOTHER, THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO LEGISLATE THIS REQUIREMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT THIS MIGHT BE BETTER INCLUDED IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE AS A FACTOR TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WHEN COUNSELLORS AND PHYSICIANS ADVISE A COUPLE ON THE CHOICE OF AN APPROPRIATE SURROGATE MOTHER.

(VI) EMBRYO RESEARCH

NOTING THAT MANY PEOPLE EXPERIENCE AN UNDERSTANDABLY EMOTIONAL AVERSION TO EMBRYO RESEARCH, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT THE LAW IN THIS AREA SHOULD SET A MINIMUM STANDARD OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR WHICH SOCIETY FINDS ACCEPTABLE.

ACCORDINGLY, EACH MEDICAL INSTITUTION'S EMBRYO RESEARCH SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ETHICAL MONITORING.

THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE SERVE AS A PRAGMATIC REFERENCE POINT FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES THAT THE LAW SHOULD PRESCRIBE THAT:

- * NO EMBRYO SHOULD BE CREATED DELIBERATELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH;
- * CROSS-SPECIES FERTILISATION AND CLONING OF EMBRYOS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED;
- * EMBRYO RESEARCH SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR MEDICAL AND THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES ONLY AND SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE STATUTORY BODY. IN NO CASE WOULD EMBRYO RESEARCH BE ALLOWED AFTER THE 14TH DAY AFTER FERTILISATION, WHICH IS WHEN RUDIMENTARY NERVOUS TISSUE BEGINS TO APPEAR; AND
- * PERMISSIBLE AREAS OF RESEARCH SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE ISSUED BY THE STATUTORY BODY;
- * APPLICATIONS TO CONDUCT EMBRYO RESEARCH SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE STATUTORY BODY AND ANY CONDITIONS THAT IT MAY IMPOSE;
- * EACH MEDICAL INSTITUTION LICENSED TO CONDUCT EMBRYO RESEARCH SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE PROMULGATED BY THE STATUTORY BODY; AND

* STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF EMBRYOS AND RESEARCH THEREON SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSENT BY THEIR DONORS.

(VII) PROVISIONAL SCIENTIFICALLY ASSISTED HUMAN REPRODUCTION BOARD

THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO APPOINT A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONAL SAHR BOARD AND ETHICS COMMITTEE.

THE BOARD WOULD BE CHAIRED BY A PERSON WHO IS NOT A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND WOULD HAVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE MEMBERS.

APART FROM DOCTORS INVOLVED IN PRACTICE AND IN TEACHING, OTHER MEMBERS WOULD INCLUDE LAWYERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS, NURSES, THEOLOGAINS, SOCIOLOGISTS, AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES.

THE ETHICS COMMITTEE WOULD BE A SMALLER WORKING COMMITTEE DRAWN FROM THE BOARD AND WHICH COULD ALSO CO-OPT MEMBERS.

THE BOARD WILL ADVISE ON THE DRAWING UP OF A CODE OF PRACTICE AND ON PREPARATION OF LEGISLATION.

MRS LAU SAID THE DRAFT LEGISLATION WOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN DUE COURSE, PROBABLY LATE IN THE 1994/95 LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING SESSION OR EARLY IN 1995/96.

"PENDING THE ENACTMENT OF THE LEGISLATION AND THE COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE, THE BOARD WILL LIAISE WITH SAHR INSTITUTIONS TO SET VOLUNTARY STANDARDS," SHE SAID.

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BEC ISSUES PUBLIC CENSURE

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THE BOUNDARY AND ELECTION COMMISSION (BEC) TODAY (WEDNESDAY) ISSUED A PUBLIC CENSURE ON UNFAIR TREATMENT OF CANDIDATES BY AN OWNERS' COMMITTEE IN SHA TIN.

THE BEC CHAIRMAN, MR JUSTICE WOO KWOK-HING, SAID THE CONDUCT OF THE OWNERS' COMMITTEE WAS CONTRARY TO A FAIR AND OPEN ELECTION.

"THE BEC DENOUNCES THE COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE SAID OWNERS' COMMITTEE TO GIVE DIFFERENT, UNFAIR AND UNEQUAL TREATMENT TO THE TWO CANDIDATES INVOLVED," HE SAID.

THE BEC RECEIVED A COMPLAINT OF UNFAIR TREATMENT BY THE OWNERS' COMMITTEE OF HOLFORD GARDEN, TAI WAI, SHA TIN, WITHIN THE MEI TIN CONSTITUENCY EARLIER THIS WEEK.

TWO CANDIDATES ARE CONTESTING IN THIS CONSTITUENCY AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 18. THEY ARE MR CHU MOON-SHING AND MR HO HAU-CHEUNG.

ON JULY 27, THE COMMITTEE GRANTED A WRITTEN CONSENT TO MR HO TO DISPLAY ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS AND CONDUCT ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES IN HOLFORD GARDEN.

/SINCE THE

SINCE THE END OF JULY, MR HO HAD BEEN CARRYING OUT HOUSEHOLD VISITS TO RESIDENTS OF HOLFORD GARDEN AND HIS ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE BEEN ON DISPLAY THERE.

THE COMMITTEE, ON THE OTHER HAND, REJECTED MR CHU'S APPLICATION FOR HOUSEHOLD VISITS, DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS AND DISPLAY OF ELECTION ADVERTISEMENTS IN HOLFORD GARDEN.

"THIS COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE SAID OWNERS' COMMITTEE IGNORES THE NEED TO ACCORD FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT TO ALL CANDIDATES AND IS IN BLATANT DISREGARD OF THE BEC GUIDELINES ON ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS PUBLISHED ON JULY 15," MR JUSTICE WOO SAID.

HE SAID DESPITE THE REMINDER FROM THE SHA TIN RETURNING OFFICER TO THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MR LAU KUN-HUNG OF THE BEC GUIDELINES, IT WOULD NOT DESIST FROM THE COURSE OF ACTION TAKEN.

MR HO HAU-CHEUNG ALSO INFORMED THE BEC THAT HE KNEW OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE TO DISALLOW MR CHU FROM ELECTIONEERING THERE. BUT HE TREATED THAT AS AN INTERNAL DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE AND HE MADE NO COMMENT ON IT.

"THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON WHY MR CHU SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONDUCT ELECTIONEERING ACTIVITIES IN HOLFORD GARDEN WHEREAS MR HO WAS ALLOWED TO DO SO."

MR JUSTICE WOO SAID IT ALSO APPEARED TO THE BEC THAT THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE MADE THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE OWNERS OR RESIDENTS OF THE ESTATE.

"AS SUCH, IT DEPRIVES THE OWNERS AND RESIDENTS OF THEIR BASIC RIGHTS TO BE FULLY INFORMED."

THE BEC HAS DIRECTED THAT A COPY OF THE PUBLIC CENSURE TO BE SENT TO THE RESIDENTS IN HOLFORD GARDEN TO INFORM THEM OF THE SITUATION.

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NEW CHAIRMAN OF HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH APPOINTED

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THE GOVERNOR HAS APPOINTED PROFESSOR S H LEE AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE HONG KONG COUNCIL ON SMOKING AND HEALTH (COSH) FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM OCTOBER 1, 1994, THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE, MRS KATHERINE FOK, ANNOUNCED TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

PROFESSOR LEE WILL REPLACE DR RONALD LEUNG DING-BONG, WHO HAS BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF COSH SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1987.

MRS FOK THANKED DR LEUNG FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO COSH, WHICH HAS BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MANY ANTI-SMOKING INITIATIVES IN HONG KONG.

PROFESSOR LEE IS FORMER DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

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SILICONE GEL BREAST IMPLANT SETTLEMENT

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IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES ON SILICONE GEL BREAST IMPLANT SETTLEMENT, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SAID INFORMATION ABOUT A PROPOSED "NO LIABILITY" GLOBAL SETTLEMENT WHICH COULD AFFECT HONG KONG WOMEN HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT COURT OF ALABAMA, USA.

THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN DISSEMINATED TO THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION THROUGH PROFESSIONAL BODIES.

DOW CORNING AND OTHER IMPLANT COMPANIES HAVE CREATED A US\$4.2 BILLION COMPENSATION FUND FOR WOMEN SEEKING DAMAGES ALLEGEDLY RESULTING FROM IMPLANTS DONE BEFORE JUNE 1, 1993.

THE SETTLEMENT ENTITLES PATIENTS TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR CERTAIN DEFINED DISEASES THAT THEY MAY ALREADY HAVE OR MAY DEVELOP FOR UP TO 30 YEARS.

PATIENTS WHO WISH TO PURSUE FINANCIAL CLAIMS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR ATTENDING DOCTORS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY CONSIDER THE USA PROPOSAL.

WOMEN WHO HAVE DECIDED TO OPT IN ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER WITH THE ALABAMA COURT BY DECEMBER 1 THIS YEAR,

A NON-US CLAIMANT WHO DOES NOT REGISTER BY THIS DATE WILL BE BARRED FROM PURSUING A CLAIM RELATING TO BREAST IMPLANTS IN ANY COURT IN THE UNITED STATES, BUT WILL BE PERMITTED TO PURSUE SUCH CLAIMS IN THE COURTS OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE GLOBAL SETTLEMENT IS AVAILABLE BY TELEPHONE (TO THE USA) ON 1 312 609 8680, OR IN WRITING TO MDL 926, POST OFFICE BOX 11683, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-1683, USA.

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ANTI-SMUGGLING ROLE BRINGS COMMENDATION FOR SOLDIER

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THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITISH FORCES HONG KONG AND THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE (ASTF) WILL BE RECOGNISED AT A BRIEF CEREMONY TONIGHT (WEDNESDAY) WHEN CAPTAIN RICKY DINSMORE WILL BE AWARDED A COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES COMMENDATION BY MAJOR GENERAL BRYAN DUTTON.

THE BLACK WATCH OFFICER HAS SERVED AS THE MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER TO THE ASTF FOR THE PAST 20 MONTHS.

HIS JOB HAS BEEN TO LIAISE PERSONALLY, BRIEF AND ADVISE OFFICERS OF THE POLICE, ROYAL NAVY, ARMY, RAF AND GOVERNMENT FLYING SERVICE (GFS).

HE IS INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING OF ARMY TROOPS AND PRODUCING TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND EXERCISES FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN ASTF TASKS.

/CAPTAIN DINSMORE

CAPTAIN DINSMORE HAS BEEN THE INSTIGATOR OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, CO-ORDINATED AND SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS INVOLVING ROYAL NAVY SHIPS AND PURSUIT CRAFT, POLICE LAUNCHES AND SPEEDBOATS, ARMY LAND OBSERVATION POSTS, POLICE LAND TEAMS, RAF HELICOPTERS AND GFS FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, WORKING EXTREMELY LONG HOURS.

THROUGH HIS EFFORTS AND THOSE OF HIS POLICE COLLEAGUES ON THE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE, 1994 HAS WITNESSED A DRAMATIC REDUCTION IN SMUGGLING ACTIVITY.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO COVER THE PRESENTATION BY MAJOR GENERAL DUTTON AT 7.30 PM TODAY (WEDNESDAY).

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WISHING TO ATTEND SHOULD ARRIVE AT SECOND FLOOR, CANTON ROAD GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 393 CANTON ROAD NO LATER THAN 7.15 PM.

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"CLEAN HOME ENVIRONMENT KEEP PEST AWAY"

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS NOW LAUNCHING A TERRITORY-WIDE EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING A CLEAN HOME ENVIRONMENT TO PREVENT HOME PESTS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (WEDNESDAY) THAT THE CAMPAIGN, BEARING THE THEME "CLEAN HOME ENVIRONMENT KEEPS PEST AWAY", WAS ORGANISED WITH THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE URBAN COUNCIL AND REGIONAL COUNCIL.

"HOME PESTS LIKE COCKROACHES, FLEAS, MITES AND ANTS NOT ONLY CAUSE ANNOYANCE AND NUISANCE, THEY CAN BE VECTORS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF DISEASES," HE SAID.

POINTING OUT THAT THE EFFECT OF INSECTICIDES IS TEMPORARY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE BEST WAY OF PREVENTING HOME PESTS WAS TO MAINTAIN A CLEAN HOUSEHOLD.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD, PRINTED EDUCATIONAL HANDOUTS SUCH AS POSTERS, ADVISORY LETTERS AND LEAFLETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO BUILDING MANAGEMENT OFFICES, MUTUAL AID COMMITTEES AND HOUSING ESTATES.

THE PRINTED MATERIALS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS, THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE CITY AND NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION AND THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

A 24-HOUR HOTLINE 723 0013 WILL ALSO BE IN OPERATION TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE IN CANTONESE ON HOME PESTS.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC CAN ALSO CONTACT THE HEALTH EDUCATION UNIT ON TEL 787 1229 OR 787 1230 FOR ADVICE. EXHIBITION BOARDS WILL BE ON DISPLAY ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR, URBAN COUNCIL FA YUEN STREET COMPLEX, MONG KOK.

MEANWHILE, THE SPOKESMAN ADVISED THE PUBLIC TO TAKE HEED OF THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE PRACTICES TO PREVENT HOME PESTS:

- * KEEP YOUR HOME CLEAN AND DRY. STORE ALL FOOD PROPERLY AND PUT ALL FOOD REMNANTS INTO A COVERED REFUSE BIN.
- * FILL UP ALL CREVICES OR HIDING PLACES. USE ANTI-MOULDY PAINTS FOR MOULDY WALL OR COVER THE WALL SURFACE WITH NEW WALL PAPER.
- * CARPETS, BLANKETS AND PETS' BLANKETS SHOULD BE DUSTED AND CLEANED FREQUENTLY. KEEP YOUR PETS CLEAN.
- * OBSERVE PERSONAL HYGIENE. THOSE PERSONS WITH ALLERGIC SYMPTOMS SHOULD CHANGE CLOTHES AND CLEAN THEIR BLANKETS FREQUENTLY.

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PUBLIC IMAGE IN FOCUS

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THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR DOMINIC S W WONG, TODAY (WEDNESDAY) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROJECTING A GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT THROUGH BUILDING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MEDIA.

ADDRESSING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE THIRD MEDIA TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT, MR WONG SAID: "IN THE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS, I HAVE OFTEN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTING AN OPEN AND RESPONSIVE ATTITUDE, BUILDING A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE MEDIA, AND MAINTAINING A GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE OF OUR DEPARTMENT.

"IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPARENCY, WE MUST REACH OUT TO THE PUBLIC. WE CANNOT AVOID THE MEDIA. WE MUST WORK WITH THEM.

"INDEED, OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN GETTING THE JOB DONE IS MEASURED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE DEGREE IN WHICH WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY WORK WITH THE MEDIA."

THE WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PARTICIPATING OFFICERS BY HELPING THEM DEVELOP THE SKILLS NEEDED TO HANDLE THE MEDIA PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

MR WONG HOPED THAT STAFF MEMBERS WOULD LEARN HOW TO TURN THE MEDIA "THREAT" INTO A VALUABLE "OPPORTUNITY" TO EXPLAIN EDUCATION POLICIES, PRACTICES AND DEVELOPMENTS.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

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LAI CHI KOK LOT TO LET

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THE LANDS DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR THE SHORT-TERM TENANCY OF A PIECE OF GOVERNMENT LAND IN THE RECLAMATION AREA IN LAI CHI KOK.

THE 7,560-SQUARE-METRE LOT IS INTENDED FOR USE AS A FEE-PAYING PUBLIC CAR PARK FOR CONTAINER TRACTORS AND TRAILERS ONLY.

THE TENANCY IS FOR NINE MONTHS, RENEWABLE MONTHLY THEREAFTER.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMITTING TENDERS IS NOON ON SEPTEMBER 30.

TENDER FORMS, TENDER NOTICES AND CONDITIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICE, KWAI TSING; THE LANDS DEPARTMENT, 14TH FLOOR, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD; AND THE DISTRICT LANDS OFFICES, KOWLOON, 10TH FLOOR, YAU MA TEI CAR PARK BUILDING, 250 SHANGHAI STREET, KOWLOON.

TENDER PLANS CAN ALSO BE INSPECTED AT THE OFFICES.

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LEAFLET ON LAND INHERITANCE AVAILABLE

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A LEAFLET WHICH PROVIDES SOME GENERAL INFORMATION ON LAND INHERITANCE IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE NEW TERRITORIES LAND (EXEMPTION) ORDINANCE ON JUNE 24 THIS YEAR IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AT ALL DISTRICT OFFICES.

COPIES ARE ALSO READY FOR COLLECTION AT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME/ PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION SCHEME ESTATE OFFICES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE (GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICES BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE) AND THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES PUBLIC COUNTER (GROUND FLOOR, FRENCH MISSION BUILDING, 1 BATTERY PATH, CENTRAL).

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DB ELECTION EXHIBITION IN KWUN TONG

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WITH ONLY FOUR DAYS TO GO BEFORE THE "9.18" DISTRICT BOARD POLLS, THE KWUN TONG DISTRICT OFFICE WILL LAUNCH AN EXHIBITION TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON HOW TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS THIS SUNDAY.

STARTING FROM TOMORROW (THURSDAY), THE EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD AT THE TELFORD GARDENS COMMERCIAL COMPLEX FOR TWO DAYS.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION ON THE FUNCTIONS OF DISTRICT BOARDS AND A MAP SHOWING THE ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES IN KWUN TONG WILL ALSO BE FEATURED.

/ALSO PROMOTING

ALSO PROMOTING THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS, STAFF OF THE KOWLOON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE HAVE BEEN VISITING SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE AREA WHILE SOME "STUDENT AMBASSADORS" HAVE BEEN CALLING ON ELDERLY CENTRES OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

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ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE INVITED TO COVER THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTION EXHIBITION WHICH WILL BE HELD AT GROUND FLOOR, TELFORD GARDENS COMMERCIAL COMPLEX FROM 10.30 AM TO 7.30 PM TOMORROW (THURSDAY) AND ON FRIDAY (SEPTEMBER 16).

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MID-AUTUMN HOLIDAY REMINDER

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THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT TODAY (WEDNESDAY) REMINDED EMPLOYERS THAT NEXT WEDNESDAY, (SEPTEMBER 21) THE DAY FOLLOWING THE MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL, IS ONE OF THE 11 STATUTORY HOLIDAYS.

UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE, ALL EMPLOYEES IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WAGE LEVELS ARE ENTITLED TO THE HOLIDAY AND MUST BE PAID FOR THE DAY OFF IF THEY HAVE WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR AN EMPLOYER FOR THREE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE STATUTORY HOLIDAY.

HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EARNINGS ON A FULL WORKING DAY AND SHOULD INCLUDE BASIC WAGES AS WELL AS ALLOWANCES THAT CAN BE EXPRESSED IN MONEY TERMS SUCH AS MEALS AND COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCES.

WHERE THE EARNINGS VARY FROM DAY TO DAY, HOLIDAY PAY SHOULD BE THE AVERAGE DAILY EARNINGS DURING EVERY COMPLETE WAGE PERIOD, WHICH COULD BE BETWEEN 28 DAYS AND 31 DAYS, PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS REQUIRED TO WORK ON A STATUTORY HOLIDAY, HE MUST BE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE DAY OFF WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER THAT DAY.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT STATUTORY HOLIDAYS MAY BE MADE AT THE GENERAL ENQUIRY TELEPHONE SERVICE OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON TEL 717 1771.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1994

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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	2,654	0930	-373
CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT	1,920	1000	-381
CHANGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO :		1100	-371
MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY	-369	1200	-369
LAF TODAY	-365	1500	-369
		1600	-369
LAF RATE 3.00 BID/5.00 OFFER		TWI 121.7 *-0.1*	14.9.94

HONG KONG MONETARY AUTHORITY

EF BILLS

EF NOTES/HONG KONG GOVERNMENT BONDS

TERMS	YIELD	TERM	ISSUE	COUPON	PRICE	YIELD
1 WEEK	4.07	18 MONTHS	2602	4.40	98.22	5.80
1 MONTH	4.16	24 MONTHS	2608	6.15	99.98	6.25
3 MONTHS	4.38	30 MONTHS	3701	4.60	95.80	6.65
6 MONTHS	4.67	33 MONTHS	3704	6.15	98.77	6.78
12 MONTHS	5.27	36 MONTHS	3707	6.95	100.36	6.92

TOTAL TURNOVER OF BILLS AND BONDS - 18,198 MN

CLOSED 14 SEPTEMBER 1994

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