



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1991

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CLOSE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HONG KONG AND CHINA BENEFICIAL

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A KEY FACTOR IN THE GROWTH OF BOTH CHINA AND HONG KONG HAS BEEN THE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADING AND INVESTMENT RELATIONSHIP, THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY (DESIGNATE), MR HAMISH MACLEOD, SAID IN AUSTRIA.

MR MACLEOD SAID THIS MUTUAL IMPORTANCE OF CHINA AND HONG KONG TO EACH OTHER WAS THE MOST POSITIVE UNDERLYING FACTOR IN THE ASSESSMENT OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE SUCCESS.

SPEAKING AT THE EUROPE/ASIA CONFERENCE 1991 IN VIENNA YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY), MR MACLEOD SAID A DRAMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF THIS CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WAS THE EXPANSION OF HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS INTO THE NEIGHBOURING GUANGDONG PROVINCE OF CHINA.

"ACCORDING TO PROVINCIAL STATISTICS, HONG KONG MANUFACTURERS NOW OPERATE SOME 50,000 OUTWARD PROCESSING FACTORIES AND 11,000 JOINT VENTURE FACTORIES, EMPLOYING OVER TWO MILLION CHINESE WORKERS.

"HONG KONG'S OWN MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE BY CONTRAST IS ONLY 800,000 AND UNEMPLOYMENT EFFECTIVELY NON-EXISTENT.

"ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE OF RENEWAL OF CHINA'S MOST FAVOURED NATION STATUS BY THE U.S. CURRENTLY CASTS A SHADOW OVER THIS AREA, MOST OTHER FACTORS INDICATE THAT PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT ARE BRIGHT," HE STRESSED.

MR MACLEOD SAID HONG KONG AND CHINA WERE EACH OTHER'S PRINCIPAL TRADING PARTNERS.

"CHINA IS NOW THE LARGEST MARKET FOR HONG KONG'S RE-EXPORTS AND THE SECOND LARGEST MARKET FOR OUR DOMESTIC EXPORTS. CHINA, IN TURN, SENDS OVER ONE-THIRD OF ITS MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO HONG KONG OR THROUGH HONG KONG TO OTHER DESTINATIONS."

CHINA AND HONG KONG WERE ALSO CLOSE INVESTMENT PARTNERS, HE ADDED.

"ON THE ONE HAND, CHINA IS THE THIRD LARGEST NON-LOCAL INVESTOR IN HONG KONG'S MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES AFTER THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, HONG KONG IS THE SINGLE LARGEST INVESTOR IN CHINA, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF ALL DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT, ESTIMATED AT NEARLY US\$19 BILLION.

"THIS ECONOMIC INTER-DEPENDENCE HAS CONTINUED DESPITE THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CHINA IN JUNE 1989.

"CHINA HAS SINCE REPEATEDLY RE-AFFIRMED ITS 'OPEN DOOR' POLICY. CLEARLY HONG KONG WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE BETWEEN CHINA AND THE WEST AFTER 1997, UNDER THE 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' CONCEPT ENSHRINED IN THE JOINT DECLARATION AND THE BASIC LAW," HE SAID.

/TURNING TO

TURNING TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH HONG KONG IS NOW FACING, MR MACLEOD SAID NO COMMUNITY COULD CLAIM TO BE PROBLEM FREE.

"WE ARE CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING LOWER GROWTH AND HIGHER INFLATION THAN WHAT WE ARE USED TO, OR IS DESIRABLE; AND THAT ON THOSE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS RELATED TO OUR PLANNED NEW AIRPORT WE HAVE AS YET BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH CHINA.

"WE FACE CHALLENGING CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES, SUCH AS INTRODUCING AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS INTO OUR LEGISLATURE, NOT TO MENTION THE MAJOR CHANGES IN 1997 ITSELF.

"ALL THESE WILL REQUIRE IMAGINATIVE HANDLING. BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE ALSO HAVE UNDERLYING STRENGTHS WHICH WILL ENABLE HONG KONG TO CONTINUE TO PROSPER.

"OUR CLOSE PROXIMITY TO CHINA IS A GREAT ADVANTAGE, NOT A HANDICAP, AND OUR FLEXIBLE, CAPITALIST ECONOMY, OUR SIMPLE, LOW TAX SYSTEM AND RELATIVELY RED-TAPE FREE ADMINISTRATION, AND ABOVE ALL OUR HARD WORKING POPULATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE HONG KONG IS A SUCCESS STORY," HE SAID.

ON ARRIVAL IN VIENNA, MR MACLEOD HAS CALLED ON SENIOR AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

AMONG THEM WERE THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR, DR FRANZ VRANITZKY; THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE, DR FERDINAND LACINA; AND THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF VIENNA. THEY HAD USEFUL EXCHANGES ON THE ROLE OF AUSTRIA AND HONG KONG AS GATEWAYS TO THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS, AND TRADE AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS.

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50,000 MORE SIGN UP AS VOTERS

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A FURTHER 50,000 PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED UP AS ELECTORS SINCE THE CURRENT VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE STARTED IN APRIL, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY FOR HONG KONG AND KOWLOON, MR DAVID LAN, SAID THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

HE SAID THIS WHEN HE RECEIVED A DELEGATION OF THE TORONTO CHINESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION.

WITH THE JULY 1 CLOSING DATE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION DRAWING NEAR, MR LAN AGAIN CALLED FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING THE RECEPTION, MR LAN ALSO UPDATED THE VISITORS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT IN HONG KONG.

"THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE RECENT DISTRICT BOARD AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS BODES WELL FOR THE FORTHCOMING LEGCO POLLS, DURING WHICH 18 COUNCIL SEATS WILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE TERRITORY'S HISTORY, BE DIRECTLY CONTESTED," HE SAID.

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TRADE DEPT DELEGATION LEAVES FOR U.S.

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A TRADE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION WILL LEAVE FOR WASHINGTON D.C. THIS (THURSDAY) EVENING FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THE RENEWAL OF THE HONG KONG/U.S. BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT.

THE ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TRADE AND LEADER OF THE HONG KONG DELEGATION, MR ROBERT FOOTMAN, SAID: "THE CURRENT BILATERAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 1991.

"THE U.S. REMAINS HONG KONG'S LARGEST MARKET FOR TEXTILES AND CLOTHING, ACCOUNTING FOR SOME 40 PER CENT OF SUCH EXPORTS IN VALUE TERMS IN 1990.

"IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CERTAINTY TO THE TRADE, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE TWO SIDES TO START DISCUSSIONS ON THE ARRANGEMENTS AFTER 1991."

THE CONSULTATIONS WILL START ON JULY 1.

THE SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR T.H. CHAU, AND MEMBERS OF THE TEXTILES ADVISORY BOARD WILL JOIN THE DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON D.C.

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FAMILY OF DRAGONS TAKES LEAD TO KEEP HK CLEAN

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THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN FOR 1991/92 WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK, FEATURING A FAMILY OF NEW CAMPAIGN CHARACTERS DESIGNED TO URGED THE PUBLIC TO "TAKE THE LEAD TO KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN".

IT IS ALSO THE 19TH YEAR OF A VERY SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS RAISED PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND HAS MADE HONG KONG A NICER PLACE TO LIVE.

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE CAMPAIGN TODAY (THURSDAY), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT URBAN COUNCIL/REGIONAL COUNCIL KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN STEERING COMMITTEE, MR GILBERT LEUNG KAM-HO, SAID: "I AM HONOURED TO BE INVOLVED IN A CAMPAIGN WHICH IS SETTING A BENCHMARK FOR WHAT CAN BE DONE THROUGH COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION."

MR LEUNG NOTED THAT THE 1991/92 CAMPAIGN, WHILE RETAINING MANY SUCCESSFUL COMPONENTS OF PREVIOUS YEARS, HAD ADDED SOME CHANGES.

"ONE OF THE MOST OBVIOUS NEW ELEMENTS WILL BE THE CREATION OF THE FAMILY OF DRAGONS, WHICH EXPANDS ON THE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN CHARACTER, THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS," HE SAID.

/"THESE DRAGONS

"THESE DRAGONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH EACH PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ITS CONSTITUENCY," HE ADDED.

THE FOUR NEW MASCOTS, WHICH MADE THEIR DEBUT APPEARANCES AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, ARE THE COUNTRY DRAGON, THE BEACH DRAGON AND TWO KID DRAGONS.

THE FAMILY OF DRAGONS WILL JOIN FORCES WITH CELEBRITIES AND HELP DRAW PUBLIC AS WELL AS MEDIA ATTENTION TO THE CENTRAL CAMPAIGN THEME.

MR LEUNG PRAISED HONG KONG'S COMMENDABLE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CAMPAIGN. HE SAID: "IN FACT, HONG KONG HAS MADE MAJOR STRIDES IN BOTH ACTUAL AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CLEANLINESS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.

"IN A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 1990/91, THE MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS FELT THAT HONG KONG IS CLEANER NOW THAN IT WAS FIVE TO 10 YEARS AGO DESPITE THE GROWTH IN POPULATION."

THE SURVEY, COMMISSIONED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE OVERALL CLEANLINESS IN THE TERRITORY AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OPERATIONAL AND PUBLICITY ASPECTS OF THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN, WAS CONDUCTED IN TWO WAVES. MORE THAN 1,000 LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE INTERVIEWED.

MR LEUNG SAID THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD CONTINUE ORGANISING THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN AS A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN, WITH EMPHASIS ON COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, EDUCATION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

PROMOTIONAL CHANNELS WILL INCLUDE TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS IN PUBLIC INTEREST, POSTERS, ADVERTISING IN MTR AND KCR STATIONS, BUS ADVERTISING, SOUVENIRS AND RADIO OR TV PROGRAMMES.

THE TWO PROMOTIONAL FILMS, ONE FEATURING THE ARTIST NG KWAN-YUE AND THE OTHER FEATURING WONG YAT-SAN, BOTH WITH THE DRAGON OF CLEANLINESS WILL BE SCREENED ON TV FROM NEXT MONTH.

MR LEUNG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MONETARY AND MORAL SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE KEEP HONG KONG CLEAN CAMPAIGN BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

"IN FACT, WE ARE ABLE TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF OUR 1991/92 CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES IN UNDERWRITING AND CO-SPONSORING EVENTS AND IN PROVIDING SOME OF THE MATERIALS AND EXPERTISE WHERE NEEDED," HE SAID.

OUTLINING DETAILS OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE 1991/92 CAMPAIGN, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE, MISS CHRISTINA TING SAID HIGHLIGHTS OF MASS-PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES WOULD INCLUDE TWO EXTRAVAGANZAS, THE "DANCES WITH DRAGONS" CARNIVAL IN JULY AND "THE GARDEN CELEBRATION" IN NOVEMBER.

"DANCES WITH DRAGONS" WILL FEATURE DANCE PERFORMANCES BY THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, A MIME SHOW BY THE FRINGE CLUB AND A RAP CONCERT BY THE HONG KONG CHILDREN'S CHOIR.

THE CARNIVAL IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14 (SUNDAY) STARTING AT 10.30 AM AT THE HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE PIAZZA NEAR THE CLOCK TOWER IN TSIM SHA TSUI.

"THE GARDEN CELEBRATION" IN NOVEMBER, DESCRIBED BY MISS TING AS A "VISUAL AND SYMBOLIC ATTENTION-GRABBER", WILL BE UNVEILED IN THE CHATER ROAD PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT IN CENTRAL.

ON DISTRICT PARTICIPATION, MISS TING SAID THE STEERING COMMITTEE WOULD ENCOURAGE DISTRICT BOARDS TO ORGANISE CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN.

ONGOING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR 1991/92 INCLUDE CLEAN BEACH EXERCISES IN JULY AND AUGUST, BLOCK-TO-BLOCK CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, CLEAN COUNTRYSIDE EXERCISES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, YEAR-END CLEAN-UP IN JANUARY 1992, CLEAN SQUATTER AREAS AND VILLAGES IN MARCH AND A CONTINUOUS CLEAN TYPHOON SHELTER OPERATION.

MISS TING NOTED THAT DURING EACH PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME, CONCERNED DEPARTMENTS WOULD STEP UP LAW ENFORCEMENT TO GIVE DETERRENCE TO INDISCRIMINATE LITTERING.

"DURING THE CLEAN BEACH PHASE, THE AUXILIARY LITTER WARDEN SCHEME WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AND EXPANDED TO INVOLVE SOME 2,700 STUDENTS FROM 84 SCHOOLS TO HELP CLEAN UP 11 BEACHES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AND IN THE NEW TERRITORIES," SHE SAID.

MISS TING ALSO APPEALED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND FIRMS TO CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT TO ORGANISE LITTER-PICKING GROUPS ON BEACHES AND IN COUNTRY PARKS AS A KIND OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, AS THE CAMPAIGN SHOULD BE SEEN AS A COMBINED EFFORT OF THE COMMUNITY, COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND GOVERNMENT.

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DROP IN NUMBER OF NEW TB CASES CONTINUES

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THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS DROP IN THE NUMBER OF NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS IN HONG KONG.

THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, DR S.H. LEE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION, SAID THIS AT THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TODAY (THURSDAY).

HE SAID THERE WAS A TOTAL OF 6,510 NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES LAST YEAR WITH A NOTIFICATION RATE OF 112.2 PER 100,000 POPULATION, COMPARED WITH 6,704 CASES AND A NOTIFICATION RATE OF 116.4 IN 1989.

/THE FIGURES

THE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS WERE: 7,021 CASES AND A RATE OF 123.6 PER 100,000 POPULATION IN 1988, 7,269 CASES AND A RATE OF 129.5 IN 1987, 7,432 CASES AND A RATE OF 134.3 IN 1986, AND 7,545 CASES AND A RATE OF 138.3 IN 1985.

DR LEE SAID A TOTAL OF 382 TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS WERE REPORTED LAST YEAR, GIVING A RATE OF 6.6 PER 100,000 POPULATION.

THIS SHOWED A SLIGHT DECREASE WHEN COMPARED WITH 403 DEATHS AND A RATE OF SEVEN PER 100,000 POPULATION IN 1989.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, HE SAID, 288 VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE WERE FOUND TO HAVE ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS REQUIRING TREATMENT AS A RESULT OF EXAMINATION OF SYMPTOM-MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS.

"ALL BOAT PEOPLE AGED 14 AND BELOW WERE GIVEN DIRECT BCG VACCINATION AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED," DR LEE SAID.

"HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES WERE VIGOROUSLY CARRIED OUT IN THE CAMPS AND CENTRES TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE WITH SYMPTOMS TO COME FORWARD FOR EXAMINATION," HE ADDED.

DESPITE THE DECLINING ANNUAL RATE OF NOTIFICATION, DR LEE SAID HONG KONG SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT ON THE SITUATION AND MAINTAIN OR REINFORCE ITS PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MEASURES.

DR LEE WAS ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAD HELPED AND INITIATED THE SETTING UP OF A TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH CENTRE.

IT WAS ONE OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT COMPILED BY TWO TUBERCULOSIS EXPERTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM - PROFESSOR WALLACE FOX AND PROFESSOR STEWART KILPATRICK - AT THE INVITATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW THE EXISTING STATE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ITS MANAGEMENT IN HONG KONG AND TO ADVISE ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST SERVICE.

ON LUNG CANCER DEATHS, DR LEE SAID, THE FIGURE FOR LAST YEAR WENT UP TO 2,638 FROM 2,592 IN 1989.

"THE UPGOING TREND WAS LIKELY REFLECTING THE LATE EFFECT OF PAST CIGARETTE SMOKING," HE CONTINUED.

HE ADDED THAT THE CONCERTED EFFORTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, VOLUNTEER AGENCIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO COMBAT CIGARETTE SMOKING WOULD EVENTUALLY ACHIEVE ITS TARGET IN FUTURE.

TURNING TO OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASES, DR LEE SAID 119 CASES OF SILICOSIS AND ONE CASE OF ASBESTOSIS WERE REPORTED AND COMPENSATED LAST YEAR.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS CASES COMPENSATED SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS COMPENSATION ORDINANCE IN JANUARY 1981 STOOD AT 3,631.

ON HEART DISEASE, DR LEE SAID IT CLAIMED A TOTAL OF 4,976 LIVES LAST YEAR, 140 MORE THAN IN 1989.

HE POINTED OUT THE NEED OF AN ENHANCED EFFORT IN HEALTH PROMOTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A HEALTHY LIFE STYLE TO MINIMISE THE RISK OF THIS DISEASE.

DR LEE ALSO PRAISED THE WORK DONE BY THE CARDIAC, MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TEAMS AT GRANTHAM HOSPITAL.

LAST YEAR, A TOTAL OF 804 CARDIAC OPERATIONS WERE PERFORMED WITH HIGH SUCCESS RATE, HE SAID.

IN CONCLUSION, DR LEE THANKED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HONG KONG TUBERCULOSIS, CHEST AND HEART DISEASES ASSOCIATION AND STAFF FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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REMINDER TO WASH AND BLANCH VEGETABLES

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE TODAY (THURSDAY) URGED TO WASH AND BLANCH VEGETABLES, IN PARTICULAR WATER SPINACH (ONG CHOI), THOROUGHLY BEFORE COOKING.

THE APPEAL WAS MADE BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH (HYGIENE), DR M.B. ALI, FOLLOWING THE DETECTION OF A BATCH OF WATER SPINACH IMPORTED FROM SHENZHEN WHICH HAS BEEN FOUND CONTAMINATED WITH METHAMIDOPHOS.

SINCE LAST WEEK, HEALTH INSPECTORS HAVE TAKEN A TOTAL OF 250 VEGETABLE SAMPLES FOR EXAMINATION.

THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE FINDINGS AND THE NAME OF THE FARM IMPLICATED FOR THEIR NECESSARY ACTIONS.

SO FAR, NO CASES OF FOOD POISONING CAUSED BY THE CONSUMPTION OF PESTICIDE-CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

TO PREVENT FOOD POISONING CAUSED BY THE INTAKE OF PESTICIDE-CONTAMINATED VEGETABLES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ADVISED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES:

- * DON'T BUY VEGETABLES WITH AN OBVIOUS STRANGE SMELL;
- * WASH WELL BEFORE COOKING;
- * DIP VEGETABLES INTO CLEAN WATER FOR SOME TIME TO ALLOW PESTICIDES TO LEACH OUT;
- * BLANCH IN BOILING WATER AND POUR AWAY THE WATER USED FOR BLANCHING AS IT MAY CONTAIN DISSOLVED PESTICIDES; AND
- * COOK THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION.

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VIEWS ON LIVESTOCK WASTES CONTROL BEING CONSULTED

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VIEWS ON RECENT PROPOSALS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE POLLUTION BY LIVESTOCK WASTES HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THOROUGHLY AT A MEETING OF THE LIVESTOCK SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES THIS (THURSDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE MEETING, ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FORMAL CONSULTATION CHANNELS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, WAS ATTENDED BY 20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS IN THE RELATED FIELD.

THE PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT AND LANDS BRANCH, DR PATRICK HASE, REITERATED THAT THE PROPOSED MEASURES WERE NOT DESIGNED TO PUSH LIVESTOCK FARMERS OUT OF BUSINESS BUT TO ENSURE THAT THEY STAY IN BUSINESS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WISHED TO BE AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE AND WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE VIEWS OF THE FARMERS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THROUGH VARIOUS EXISTING CONSULTATION CHANNELS SO AS TO COME UP WITH A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

MEANWHILE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED LICENSING SYSTEM ON THE INDUSTRY, THE PROPOSAL THAT GEESE AND DUCK FARMERS BEING EXCLUDED FROM LICENSING CONTROL AND THE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA ALLOWANCE AND CAPITAL GRANT.

THE VIEWS OF THE FARMERS HAD BEEN NOTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

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JOURNEY TIME BETWEEN CAUSEWAY BAY AND CENTRAL GREATLY REDUCED

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THE RECENT COMPLETION OF A TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME AT CAUSEWAY BAY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED WESTBOUND TRAFFIC BETWEEN EASTERN HONG KONG AND CENTRAL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

INITIAL SURVEYS INDICATED THAT, IN THE MORNING PEAK HOURS, THE JOURNEY TIME BETWEEN TONG SHUI ROAD INTERCHANGE AND CANAL ROAD INTERCHANGE HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM ABOUT 20 MINUTES TO FIVE MINUTES, HE SAID.

THE SPOKESMAN HOPED THIS WOULD FURTHER ENCOURAGE MOTORISTS TO USE ROUTE 6 AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE HEAVILY CONGESTED ROUTE 1 TO TRAVEL BETWEEN KOWLOON AND HONG KONG.

/ROUTE 1

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ROUTE 1 STARTS FROM ABERDEEN, CROSSES THREE TUNNELS (ABERDEEN, CROSS HARBOUR AND LION ROCK) AND ENDS AT LOK MA CHAU BORDER CROSSING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID A SERIES OF ROAD WORKS AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT ALONG VICTORIA PARK ROAD, GLOUCESTER ROAD, ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR (IEC) AND HING FAT STREET OVER THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

ON IEC, THE WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY MARKINGS WEST OF OIL STREET HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF LANES FOR CENTRAL-BOUND TRAFFIC FROM ONE TO TWO.

BY WIDENING A SECTION OF VICTORIA PARK ROAD, THE TWO CENTRAL-BOUND LANES ARE EXTENDED TO CONNECT WITH GLOUCESTER ROAD.

IN GLOUCESTER ROAD, THE TWO CENTRAL-BOUND LANES ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY RE-DESIGNING THE LANE DESTINATIONS AND DIVERTING THE TRAFFIC BOUND FOR CAUSEWAY BAY AND HAPPY VALLEY INTO GLOUCESTER ROAD SERVICE ROAD, IN FRONT OF THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL.

THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC USING THIS ROUTE WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE AS A RESULT OF THE IMPROVED SITUATION AND THE OPENING OF TATE'S CAIRN TUNNEL, TOGETHER WITH THE EASTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, WHICH FORMED PART OF THE ENTIRE ROUTE 6, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

HE ADDED THAT A COMPLEMENTARY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME FOR EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON GLOUCESTER ROAD/VICTORIA PARK ROAD IN THE SAME AREA WILL COMMENCE IN AUGUST THIS YEAR FOR COMPLETION BY EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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FINANCIAL AID FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

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THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY (SFAA) ANNOUNCED TODAY (THURSDAY) THAT THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS' LOAN FUND AND THE SING TAO FOUNDATION STUDENTS' LOAN FUND ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATION FROM NEEDY STUDENTS IN FORM FOUR AND ABOVE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SFAA SAID THE TWO SCHEMES PROVIDED INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR STUDENTS OF POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

MAXIMUM LOANS MAY VARY FROM \$2,520 PER ANNUM FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT TO \$7,500 PER ANNUM FOR A POST-SECONDARY STUDENT. PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES.

APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR BOTH LOAN FUNDS.

/"SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

"SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR LOANS FROM EITHER LOAN FUND WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL UNDERTAKING TO REPAY THEIR LOANS BY INSTALMENTS OF AT LEAST 10 PER CENT OF THEIR MONTHLY SALARY FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THEIR STUDIES.

"THE LOANS WILL THEN BE PAID DIRECT INTO THEIR PERSONAL ACCOUNTS WITH A LOCAL BANK," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THESE LOANS ARE MADE ON YEARLY BASIS. NEW APPLICANTS, AND PRESENT RECIPIENTS WHO WISH TO APPLY TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE LOANS FOR THE COMING ACADEMIC YEAR, SHOULD COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FORM.

FURTHER DETAILS FOR APPLICANTS WHO INTEND TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB STUDENTS' LOAN FUND AND SING TAO FOUNDATION STUDENTS' LOAN FUND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

INSTITUTE WHERE APPLICANT IS STUDYING OR INTENDS TO STUDY -----	OFFICE WHERE STUDENT CAN OBTAIN AND MUST RETURN THE APPLICATION FORM -----	CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION -----
* CITY POLYTECHNIC OF HONG KONG	STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* HONG KONG BAPTIST COLLEGE	STUDENT FINANCIAL AID OFFICE	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC	STUDENT AFFAIRS UNIT	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* LINGNAN COLLEGE	STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG	ASSISTANT SECRETARY, STUDENT AFFAIRS	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG	DEAN OF STUDENTS	OCTOBER 15, 1991
* OTHER POST-SECONDARY COLLEGES, TECHNICAL INSTITUTES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS	STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY FIFTH FLOOR, CLUB LUSITANO BUILDING, 16 ICE HOUSE STREET, CENTRAL.	SEPTEMBER 14, 1991

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ENVIRONMENT HK 1991 ON SALE TOMORROW

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS SO FAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 10-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES WERE RECORDED IN AN ANNUAL REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT (EPD).

THE REPORT - ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1991 - WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE TOMORROW (FRIDAY).

THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE 187-PAGE REPORT, PACKED WITH DIAGRAMS AND FOR THE FIRST TIME COLOUR PICTURES, GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANY AND VARIED ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DURING 1990.

THE CHINESE VERSION OF THE REPORT IS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN LATE JULY.

AN EPD SPOKESMAN SAID THE YEAR 1990, COVERED BY THE REPORT, WAS A SPECIAL YEAR BECAUSE IT SAW THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE 10-YEAR PROGRAMME FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AS OUTLINED IN THE WHITE PAPER ON POLLUTION PUBLISHED IN 1989.

SUCH ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL (FUEL RESTRICTION) REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE REDUCED DRAMATICALLY THE AMOUNT OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE IN THE AIR IN MIXED RESIDENTIAL/INDUSTRIAL AREAS.

ALSO, SEVERAL ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH AIR POLLUTION PRODUCED BY MOTOR VEHICLES WERE FINALISED.

THIS STRATEGY INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO SMOKE EMISSION CONTROLS, THE INTRODUCTION OF UNLEADED PETROL, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AND MORE STRINGENT EMISSION CONTROL DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW CARS, AND ACTION TO RESTRAIN THE USE OF DIESEL.

THE YEAR 1990 SAW ALSO A VERY SATISFACTORY FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE DISPOSAL PLAN.

THAT PLAN ENVISAGED THE CLOSURE OF OLD REFUSE INCINERATORS AND A NUMBER OF SMALL, INEFFICIENT, URBAN LANDFILLS AND THEIR REPLACEMENT BY A SERIES OF REFUSE TRANSFER STATIONS FEEDING LARGE, ENVIRONMENTALLY WELL ENGINEERED AND OPERATED, LANDFILLS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS.

IMPROVED MEANS OF TACKLING WATER POLLUTION BECAME AVAILABLE WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1990, WHICH REMOVED EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING OF DISCHARGES OF EXISTING FACTORIES WITHIN WATER CONTROL ZONES, AND ABOLISHED THE 30 PER CENT PERMITTED INCREASE OF DISCHARGES WHICH THOSE EXEMPTED FACTORIES HAD PREVIOUSLY ENJOYED.

/ENVIRONMENT HONG

ENVIRONMENT HONG KONG 1991, AT \$30 A COPY, IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE AT GROUND FLOOR, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, CONNAUGHT PLACE, CENTRAL.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

FURTHER ENQUIRIES ON THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT CAN BE ADDRESSED TO THE FOLLOWING EPD OFFICERS:

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

MR BILL FARRELL TEL NO. 835 1102
MR SIMON HUI TEL NO. 835 1105

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

MR C.W. TSE TEL NO. 835 1088
MR RAYMOND LEUNG TEL NO. 835 1048

NOISE MR RAYMOND CHAN TEL NO. 835 1122

WATER AND WASTES

MR PAUL HOLMES TEL NO. 835 1234
DR DANIEL LAU TEL NO. 782 7300

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32,000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN READING SCHEME
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ABOUT 32,000 STUDENTS FROM 209 SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THIS YEAR'S READING AWARD SCHEME ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S LIBRARY SECTION AND THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS ASSOCIATION.

THE SCHEME AIMS AT HELPING STUDENTS DEVELOP GOOD READING HABITS, IMPROVING LANGUAGE SKILLS AND PROMOTING THE USE OF LIBRARIES.

PARTICIPANTS WERE REQUIRED TO READ NO FEWER THAN 10 ENGLISH AND CHINESE BOOKS AND WRITE A REPORT ON ONE OF THEM.

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PRIZES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, MR LI YUET-TING, ON SATURDAY (JUNE 29) AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE, NORTH POINT.

ATTENTION NEWS EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF THE READING AWARD SCHEME TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM ON SATURDAY (JUNE 29) AT THE HONG KONG TEACHERS' CENTRE, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, NORTH POINT.

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REVAMPED MATCHING GRANT SCHEME INTRODUCED

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THE MAXIMUM GRANT FOR EACH PROJECT UNDER THE MATCHING GRANT SCHEME (MGS) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1991-92 HAD BEEN RAISED FROM \$50,000 TO \$100,000 TO MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE TO BUSINESS AND ARTS GROUPS, THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (CFPA), MR PETER WOO, SAID TODAY (THURSDAY).

SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE DETAILS OF THE REVISED SCHEME, MR WOO POINTED OUT THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD CONTRIBUTE ONE DOLLAR FOR EVERY DOLLAR OF BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP RAISED BY THE APPLICANT, UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$100,000 PER APPLICATION.

MR WOO POINTED OUT THAT THE MGS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO PERFORMING ARTS ORGANISATIONS WHICH ALREADY RECEIVED RECURRENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

"FOR THESE GROUPS, THE COUNCIL WILL NOW BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE ONE DOLLAR FOR EVERY THREE DOLLARS OF BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP, PROVIDED THE PROJECT IS ELIGIBLE AND THE GROUP CAN SATISFY THE COUNCIL THAT THIS WILL NOT RESULT IN A DOUBLE SUBSIDY FROM PUBLIC FUNDS," HE SAID.

IN ORDER THAT MORE ARTS GROUPS CAN BENEFIT FROM THE SCHEME, HE SAID THE NUMBER OF GRANTS TO INDIVIDUAL ARTS ORGANISATIONS WOULD BE LIMITED TO TWO IN A FINANCIAL YEAR.

"NO RESTRICTIONS ARE SET ON THE NUMBER OF AWARDS IN RESPECT OF SPONSORSHIP BY ANY ONE BUSINESS," MR WOO SAID.

"THE SCOPE OF ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO INCLUDE PROJECTS WHICH DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERFORMING ARTS IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS WORKSHOP AND SEMINARS ON SUITABLE TOPICS.

"PREVIOUSLY, ONLY ACTUAL PROGRAMMES WERE ELIGIBLE FOR MATCHING GRANTS," HE ADDED.

IN ADDITION, GREATER EMPHASIS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE BENEFITS TO THE BUSINESS SPONSORS UNDER THE REVISED SCHEME, HE SAID.

"THE MATCHING GRANT MUST BE USED TO IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THE PROJECT TO THE SPONSOR RATHER THAN TO MEET A DEFICIT," MR WOO SAID.

ALSO SPEAKING AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY FOR RECREATION AND CULTURE, MR JAMES SO, URGED BOTH THE ARTS GROUPS AND THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO EXPLORE THE MUTUAL BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM ARTS SPONSORSHIP.

"THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR THE PERFORMING ARTS, IS A COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY AND REQUIRES THE JOINT AND UNIFIED EFFORTS OF BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS," MR SO SAID.

/HE SAID

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HE SAID THE ORIGINAL SCHEME LAUNCHED LAST YEAR HAD SHOWN ITS POTENTIAL AS AN INCENTIVE TO BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE ARTS, AS OVER \$500,000 WAS RECEIVED IN SPONSORSHIP WITH ONLY AN INVESTMENT OF \$200,000.

"WITH A BETTER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE SCHEME, WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP FOR THE ARTS IN THE YEARS AHEAD," HE ADDED.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT OF THE ARTS, A RECEPTION WAS HELD TODAY DURING WHICH COMMEMORATIVE CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO SPONSORS OF THE MGS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

PAMPHLETS ON THE REVISED SCHEME WERE DISTRIBUTED AT THE RECEPTION.

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UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS TO BE CLOSED
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THE BUILDING AUTHORITY IS SEEKING TO CLOSE THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS AT A BUILDING IN SHAM SHUI PO SO THAT THEY CAN BE DEMOLISHED WITHOUT DANGER TO THE OCCUPIERS AND THE PUBLIC.

THE UNAUTHORISED BUILDING WORKS ARE LOCATED ON THE ROOF OF NO. 73-75 NAM CHEONG STREET.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR CLOSURE ORDER UNDER THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE FROM THE HONG KONG DISTRICT COURT ON OCTOBER 2 WAS POSTED ON THE PREMISES TODAY (THURSDAY).

IT IS EXPECTED THAT DEMOLITION WORKS WILL START AS SOON AS THE CLOSURE ORDER IS ISSUED.

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND
MONEY MARKET OPERATIONS
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	DATE	\$ MILLION
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CLOSING BALANCE IN THE ACCOUNT ON	26.6.91	380
EFFECT OF FORWARDS TO BE SETTLED ON	27.6.91	-10
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS MORNING		+10
EFFECT OF OPERATIONS THIS AFTERNOON		NEUTRAL
TRADE WEIGHTED INDEX 114.2 *-0.1* 27.6.91		

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HONG KONG GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE FUND

CLOSING YIELDS OF EXCHANGE FUND BILLS

		26.6.91	27.6.91
MATURING IN	1 WEEK	7.64 PCT	8.07 PCT
	1 MONTH	7.45 PCT	7.31 PCT
	3 MONTHS	7.41 PCT	7.13 PCT
	6 MONTHS	7.40 PCT	7.13 PCT
	12 MONTHS	7.46 PCT	7.25 PCT
TOTAL BILLS TRANSFERRED		2,024 MN	4,504 MN

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